

Birmingham

ISSUE 404 AUGUST 2019

What's On

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OUR FIRST HOME-GROWN YOUTH MUSICAL PRODUCTION

West Side Story

BASED ON A CONCEPTION OF JEROME ROBBINS

BOOK BY **ARTHUR LAURENTS** MUSIC BY **LEONARD BERNSTEIN** LYRICS BY **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**

ENTIRE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY
JEROME ROBBINS

Originally Produced on Broadway by Robert E. Griffith and Harold S. Prince
By Arrangement with Roger L. Stevens

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inside:

thelist

Your 16-page week
by week listings guide

TABBY McTAT

children's classic on stage at
Birmingham Town Hall



MOSELEY FOLK...

Jake Bugg joins the line-up at
popular Midlands festival



THE MONSTER

knock-out five-day event
returns to Birmingham's NEC



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Greased Lightnin'! - new touring production of Grease The Musical roars into the Hippodrome page 24

Wunderbar



Eddie Izzard talks touring, Trump and transvestism...

feature page 8

Home Of Metal



two icons of music talk about the new exhibition at BMAG

feature page 16

Shake your body!



Gloria Estefan's story told on stage at the Hippodrome

feature page 30

the list



Your 16-page week-by-week listings guide

page 51

inside:

4. First Word

10. Food

19. Festivals

24. Theatre

33. Film

36. Visual Arts

41. Events



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What's On

MEDIA GROUP



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Everybody's talking about... Everybody's Talking About Jamie!

Smash-hit musical *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* is heading for the Midlands next year on its first ever UK tour - with Shane Richie and Layton Williams reprising the roles they played in the West End version.

Jamie New is 16, lives on a council estate in Sheffield, doesn't quite fit in and is terrified about the future. Supported by his mum and surrounded by his friends, he overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness and into the spotlight... With an original score of catchy pop tunes by lead singer-songwriter of *The Feeling*, Dan Gillespie Sells, and writer Tom MacRae (*Doctor Who*), the show visits the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from 16 to 21 March and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from 23 to 27 June 2020.

Half marathon route to showcase city centre

The route for this year's Great Birmingham Run will showcase the best of the city centre plus popular spectator spots in Bournville and Cannon Hill Park.

Starting on New Street, the half marathon (Sunday 13 October) will pass the famous Rotunda, Selfridges and St Martin's Church before taking thousands of participants into south Birmingham.

The event is expected to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for local and national charities. All finishers will receive a medal, tee-shirt and goodie bag.

Anybody interested in taking part in the run can sign up to do so at greatrun.org/great-birmingham-run

Making dreams come true

Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) is once again running its large-scale performance project, *Dreams*.

The initiative offers ballet students of all ages the chance to perform on stage alongside some of the Company's dancers in a special public performance of a much-loved ballet.

This year's project focuses on *Swan Lake*, with a presentation of the production taking place at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday 23 February.



Brummies on the oche...



The world's first 'social darts' venue has arrived in Birmingham.

'Reinventing darts for the 21st century', Flight Club is located in the heart of the city, on Temple Street. The venue's 'supercharged' version of the traditional game involves multiple players, patented dart-tracking technology and instant scoring.

Since kick-starting in 2015, and with venues already established in London, Manchester and Chicago, Flight Club has welcomed more than one million players who, between them, have thrown just short of 90 million darts.

Expect that number to surge now that the Birmingham venue has opened!

For more information about Flight Club, visit flightclubdarts.com/birmingham

It's Top Trumps time at the Classic Motor Show!

This year's Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show at Birmingham's NEC is taking as its theme the iconic card game of Top Trumps. Motoring enthusiasts will be able to enjoy the game in a number of ways as they explore the show's various displays.

Commenting on the news, Show Director Lee Masters said: "We're hoping everyone involved in the show, but especially the vehi-

cle clubs, will be just as excited by the Top Trumps theme as we are."

The show takes place at the NEC from 8 to 10 November.

Bewonderment Machine at Cannon Hill Park

An artist-built cycle-powered carousel is set to delight youngsters visiting Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre on Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 August.

The Bewonderment Machine is a kinetic public sculpture that provides 'a magical journey for small children'.

The invention combines found objects, puppetry, machinery and music with the aim of 'empowering the very young to care, to be curious and to believe in their own strength'.

Sir Ian raises £140k for Birmingham theatre

Sir Ian McKellen's recent visit to Birmingham Repertory Theatre raised an impressive £140,000 for the theatre's REP First campaign.

The three-year initiative aims to raise £1million in order to ensure that the venue can continue 'to nurture the region's talented young artists, commission exciting new works, welcome new audiences and reach out to the communities of Birmingham and beyond'. Sir Ian brought his one-man show, *Ian McKellen On Stage*, to The REP as part of his 80th birthday celebrations. More than 2,400 people bought a ticket to see him perform.



Tara Fitzgerald joins Prism cast

Tara Fitzgerald has joined Robert Lindsay in the cast of Prism, which shows at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from 3 to 12 October ahead of a UK tour.

Written and directed by the award-winning Terry Johnson, the play tells the true story of Jack Cardiff, 'a man who made Hollywood's greatest divas beautiful, and who lived a life as colourful as his cinematography'.

Fitzgerald previously appeared at The REP in a highly acclaimed production of Ibsen's A Doll's House. Tickets for Prism are now on sale at birmingham-rep.co.uk

Christmas Slade

The local band who sang everybody's favourite Christmas song are playing Birmingham's O2 Institute2 this festive season (22 December).

Black Country glam-rockers Slade scored a massive hit in 1973 with Merry Christmas Everybody, a song that remains so popular it generates an estimated £500,000 per year in royalties.

Indeed, vocalist Noddy Holder has even referred to it as his pension scheme!

Get active at Dropshot bar

A new activity bar has opened in an up-and-coming area of Birmingham's Digbeth. Dropshot's entertainment & multi-use activity venue features music, Olympic-grade table-tennis tables and deck shuffleboards among its many attractions.

It also offers specially prepared pizzas cooked in a wood fired pizza oven, a range of craft beers, bar food and classic and modern cocktails.



Birmingham Weekender returns with three days of free fun

Birmingham Weekender is returning with three days of free performances in Digbeth from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 October.

A collaboration between individual artists and regional arts organisations, the event is being organised by Culture Central - a 'collective voice' for arts & culture in the city - and aims to 'shine a light on Birmingham's rich arts and cultural offer'.

Commenting on the festival, Culture Central's Director, Steve Ball, said: "We will be programming innovative works and new commissions, all with the aim of highlighting the fantastic wealth of artists and cultural organisations - of all sizes - that exist in our city, as well as encouraging family audiences to visit Digbeth for what will be an unforgettable festival experience."

Thursday family fun

Visitors to Selfridges Birmingham on Thursdays during August can take advantage of a number of free family-friendly experiences. In collaboration with Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, the department store is hosting a series of exclusive activities, including lego labs, craft & science workshops and history-related entertainment.

Pokémon bar to pop up in Birmingham

Midlands-based Pokémon enthusiasts have the opportunity to hunt, catch and battle their characters in real-life this autumn.

A bar inspired by the much-loved monster-catching game is set to 'pop up' in Birmingham for the day on Saturday 26 October, and then again on Saturday 30 November.

A spokesperson for The Pokebar, as it's called, said the pop-up, which is the first of its kind, will be offering Pokémon-inspired burgers and Pokémon-themed games and cocktails. Local DJs will spin tunes throughout the day. Fancy dress is 'highly encouraged', with prizes awarded for the best dressed.





Henry VIII's SIX wives to visit Brum

Smash-hit West End **SIX** is coming to the Midlands. Nominated for five 2019 Olivier Awards, the show sees the six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their personal stories, 'remixing 500 years of historical heartbreak into a 75-minute celebration of 21st century girl power'. The yet-to-be-announced cast will be backed by the show's all-female band, The Ladies In Waiting. **SIX** runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 July 2020.

West Midlands parks compete for national title

Twenty-four parks in the West Midlands are vying for the title of UK's Best Park. And they need your vote! You can vote for your favourite park until noon on Monday 19 August by visiting fieldsin-trust.org/best-park/west-midlands

Ladywood leisure



Birmingham's newest leisure centre has opened in Ladywood. The state-of-the-art facility includes a 130-station gym packed with the latest fitness equipment, a 25-metre swimming pool, sauna & steam room, and dedicated areas for free weights and swimming lessons. The centre also has a cafe for people wanting to enjoy a post-exercise chill-out.

Critically acclaimed docu-drama to visit Birmingham this autumn

A critically acclaimed docu-drama, which 'uncovers the truth' behind the controversial 2014 UK government inquiry into alleged extremism in Birmingham schools, is visiting the city's Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) in the autumn. Drawing on more than 200 hours of interviews conducted with teachers, students, parents and governors, *Trojan Horse* is written by Helen Monks and Matt Woodhead, who said: "When we first started researching the subject, we thought we were going to be writing about an event that had happened in the past. But it soon became clear that the trauma *Trojan Horse* caused has not left the city. So much is still left unresolved for the people it most affected." The production visits MAC from 19 to 21 November.

East Meets West photo competition

Birmingham Museums Trust and China West Midlands 2020 have launched a competition encouraging photographers to explore the West Midlands and capture moments where the cultures of East and West collide. The competition, which is now under way and runs until Sunday 20 October, will see 25 winning photographs being displayed at Birmingham's Museum of the Jewellery Quarter next year. For full entry criteria, visit chinawestmidlands.com/photo-competition



Operation Mindfall

A leading global provider of experiential entertainment has launched a brand new citywide adventure in Birmingham. Operation Mindfall is the latest innovation from Escape Hunt and sees players using augmented reality and geolocation technology as they take to the streets to try and save the world. The game is open to teams of between two and four players. For more information, visit escape-hunt.com

CircusMASH at top visitor attraction



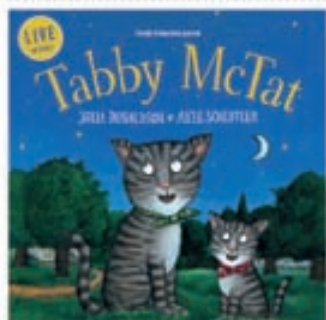
Resorts World Birmingham is welcoming back local circus favourites for a summer series of weekly family-fun sessions, all for free. Taking place every Friday in August, CircusMASH is hosting Summer Circus School, providing participants with the opportunity to learn a variety of circus skills. For more information about the circus school - and other circus-related events taking place at the venue this month - visit resortsworldbirmingham.co.uk



**NCO: DREAM,
FANTASY,
NIGHTMARE**
 SUN 18 AUGUST
 6:30PM
TOWN HALL



**BRAVERY TO
THE BELL
STARRING
FLEUR EAST**
 SUN 22 SEPTEMBER
 5:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



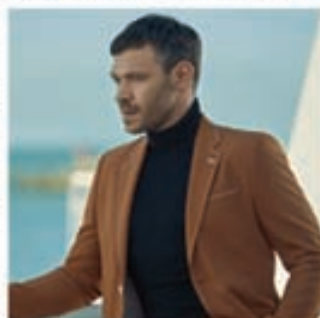
TABBY McTAT
 TUE 20 – SUN 25
 AUGUST, TIMES VARY
**RELAXED
PERFORMANCE**
 SUN 25 AUGUST
 3PM
TOWN HALL



**HAPPY MUM,
HAPPY BABY:
LIVE**
 SUN 29 SEPTEMBER
 7:30PM
TOWN HALL



**HARRY POTTER
AND THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE™
IN CONCERT**
 WED 11 SEPTEMBER
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



**AN EVENING WITH
WILL YOUNG
PLUS SPECIAL
GUESTS**
 FRI 4 OCTOBER
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



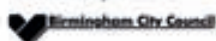
**BRADLEY
WIGGINS: AN
EVENING WITH**
 FRI 20 SEPTEMBER
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



**BELINDA
CARLISLE –
RUNAWAY HORSES
30TH ANNIVERSARY
TOUR**
 SUN 6 OCTOBER
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

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WUNDERBAR

Stand-up comedian Eddie Izzard stops off in Birmingham next month with his latest touring show, Wunderbar. What's On caught up with him to talk comedy, politics, Donald Trump and being transgender...

Birmingham welcomes stand-up legend, actor and political activist Eddie Izzard next month. Fans of Eddie's alternative comedy revel in the stream-of-consciousness style that often results in surreal and fantastical side-splitting moments. The show he's presenting, Wunderbar, is most likely his final comedy hurrah before he embarks on a career in politics.

"I feel like we're at a time when half of the UK and half of the US have decided to return to 1930s' politics, so I've taken a word from another language and used it in a very positive way because I'm very against the whole Trump and Brexit hate towards foreigners. So I've done this show in English, French and German - improvising in all languages as well - because I just wanted to make a posi-

tive statement across borders. I spent a few months in Paris and also in Germany and started doing the show in French and German before going into English. I also want to perform in as many countries as possible, especially seeing as when I started in stand-up there were a lot of places I couldn't perform because of the Iron Curtain."

The Wunderbar tour has already been to Australia, New Zealand, parts of Europe and the United States.

"I want to stand to be an MP, so I wanted to make sure this show had a comprehensive span of time and goes all the way from the Big Bang up to the present day. My fear of the universe is there, so I've got my own feeling about how the universe works - and how I understand it - in the show too. I'm not sure if my thinking about the universe is 100% correct, but who knows!"

Wunderbar doesn't need to change much from country to country, as Eddie firmly believes that his humour translates well into a number of different countries and languages.

"Humour is a human quality that's the same all the world round. There's a mainstream sense of humour, where comedians talk about sports stars or take the piss out of people on television, brand names in the shops, political people, that kind of thing. Sometimes those jokes can't change country because, apart from the obvious language change, the references to politicians, TV, everyday things, would have to change too. Obviously my humour is more alternative, so anyone across the world who has a kind of humour where they like things like Monty Python will like my stuff too. Then you've just got to make sure your references all match up.

"For example, you can talk about KitKats because they're sold in most places around the world. If your punchline somehow ends up being something to do with KitKats, you perhaps wouldn't have to change things. You could say, 'I hit him with a KitKat'. But maybe you wouldn't be able to say, 'I hit him with a Curly Wurly' outside of the UK, unless you explained what a Curly Wurly was as part of your show. I think I've got the hang of making my humour quite universal; I just have to check my references. If you talk about human sacrifice, everyone around the world is going to know what you're talking about. I'd say 85 to 90% of subjects can travel to different countries."

Eddie got his first laugh in front of an audience at the age of 12. He abandoned plans to solely pursue a career in drama and instead decided to focus on comedy.

"Monty Python would really be the central influence on my career. I wanted to do sketch comedy originally but I couldn't really get that going. Then Billy Connolly and Richard Pryor came through as stand-up icons. Billy really had this way of talking to a massive audience as if it was one on one. Richard had this great

character work that I loved. But overall, Python was really the bedrock of my influences. My stand-up really is based on a narrator I've developed that talks to the audience, and then doing these little sketches that I think are quite Python-esque."

Eddie finds it interesting to compare the average age of his audiences in different countries: "I don't think audiences have changed that much over the years in Britain. I think we've always been pretty switched on, and I always assume the intelligence of the audience. I also don't think I appeal to a more mainstream audience, so people who come to my shows know I'm going to take them in a pretty weird direction. So my audiences have grown through word of mouth about my strange comedy. I think there's been less of this kind of comedy in Central and Eastern Europe, but as younger generations are coming through they're watching more stuff in English, so the age of my audience is different over there, and up into Russia also. The audience is slightly older in Britain because they grew up with that Monty Python style of comedy. I think it's interesting because it seems to be that whenever you start to be popular in a country, that audience follows you through."

Eddie believes that the state of the nation's politics is to blame for the recent rise in homophobia: "In the UK, America and other countries across Europe, there's been this rise in the far right like there was back in the '30s. We can see Donald Trump being racist and sexist daily. Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson seem to be the best of friends with Trump in that regard. The politics of the country seems to have given people permission to go back to hatred again. We seem to be going backwards, and that's something we must all fight against.

"I ran my 27 marathons in memory of the 27 years Nelson Mandela served in prison in South Africa. Of course, I ran with my painted nails and, when I came back to the UK, a friend asked me to go into the school his daughter was at. In the classroom, children of eight or nine were engaging in conversation about LGBTQ communities, racism and sexism. It's unfortunate that the simplicity of using hatred to control politics and hate being more powerful than love in politics is on the rise at the moment. We need to fight this with every breath in our bodies."

But Eddie also thinks there are some brilliant examples of progress being made: "I think we're at a turning point, where we're not judging women for not wanting to look overly

feminine or calling them masculine for not liking heels and makeup. When I came out as transgender in 1985, I'd known since I was four - so since 1967. By then I just wanted to express myself and be honest about who I was. I'm under the impression that this kind of thing must be genetic, must be coded into who you are as a person. You don't just get up one Tuesday and decide that's who you are; you've always been that way. We're not choosing a different lifestyle, we're just expressing what's inside us. Some women like to throw on heels and a skirt, and I do too! I remember thinking when I was a kid that I loved skirts just as much as girls did, but I also had all my boy's stuff.

"I think that's perhaps why I'm so keen on women's football. I just love how the sport is full of athletically strong women who, at some points in history, would've been called strange and masculine but now are out there backing themselves and giving their opinions. It's now the 21st century and we need more examples like women's football, where colour, race, sexuality doesn't matter; it's all about who you are as a person and what you add to your community. I think they're a great example to us all."

Charity work is close to Eddie's heart, but the Mandela Marathons were also about inspiring the average Joe to get out there and do themselves and others some good...

"When I thought about doing the Mandela Marathons it was because I really wanted to raise money for a good cause and also to inspire people. I think I look like a pretty average guy. David Beckham looks amazing and has amazing fitness, so people almost expect him to be able to do amazing things. But people look at me and think, 'Well, that's just a guy!' I can put a look together and do a bit of comedy, but I don't look like David Beckham. So I've had people come to me and say that they've been inspired by what I've done, and that really is an honour."

For now, touring Wunderbar is Eddie's focus, and he would encourage anyone who is, or thinks they might be, a fan of his unique style to go along and see the show: "I mean, I see it every night and I still find it funny! Plus, I think this could be my last tour before I go off into politics, so catch me while you can - especially if you've seen my stuff before and liked it."

.....

Eddie Izzard plays the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 September

Trio of new menus at Brindleyplace eatery

Brindleyplace-based Maribel has unveiled a trio of new menus - a lunch & early evening menu, an a la carte menu and a tasting menu.

The lunch & early evening menu, offering diners two courses for £22 and three for £27, features dishes including confit duck leg, beans cassoulet and smoked celeriac risotto. The a la carte offers three courses for £39, while the nine-course tasting menu is £65 with a £55 accompanying wine flight.

Popular pizza joint opens in Birmingham

Rudy's Neapolitan Pizza has opened a branch on Bennetts Hill in Birmingham city centre.

The popular eatery prides itself on creating a 'relaxed neighbourhood' atmosphere whilst still retaining the rustic aesthetic of a traditional Neapolitan pizzeria.

The top place to eat pizza in the UK, according to Tripadvisor, Rudy's has also achieved worldwide acclaim. Indeed, it was recently named the 10th best pizza joint in the world by city-guide publishers Big 7 Media.

200 Degrees to open its second coffee shop in central Birmingham

Speciality coffee roaster 200 Degrees opens its second coffee shop in central Birmingham on Monday 19 August. Located on Lower Temple Street, the venue will sell roasted and cold nitro brew coffee, teas, smoothies, milkshakes, salads, soups, sandwiches, cakes and pastries. Plenty of vegan and gluten-free options will also be available, either to eat in or take out.



New restaurant concept Craft Dining Rooms brings the best of British to Birmingham's Convention Centre

New modern British restaurant Craft Dining Rooms has opened in Birmingham's International Convention Centre on Broad Street.

Celebrating British culinary craft, the new venue shines a light on artisan producers by bringing together the best produce from farmers, cheese mongers, brewers, distillers and vintners.

The menu includes beef wellington with Wiltshire truffle, roasted sea trout with Isle of Wight tomatoes and Cornish day boat turbot. Patrons can also enjoy cocktails made from a range of British gins, vodkas and spirits, shaken and stirred table side.

Executive Chef Nick Evans said: "Launching Craft Dining Rooms is a chance to work with the incredible range of produce that can be found on our shores, using the fields, farms and surrounding seas of the British coast as our larder and paying homage to some classic British dishes." For more information, visit craftdining.co.uk

Award-winning restaurant serves up a taste of Mexico

Award-winning Mexican eatery Chilango has opened on Birmingham's Colmore Row.

The restaurant's menu is made up of burritos, tacos, nachos and salads, all of which are created with top-quality fresh ingredients.

Chilango's co-founder and CEO, Dan Houghton, said: "We are very excited to open our second restaurant outside of London. Birmingham has a great food scene, which we are delighted to be a part of, and has a fantastic buzz and vibrancy, which perfectly aligns with why we started Chilango. We hope to welcome all Birmingham's Mexican food fans for vibrant food, flavours and experience."



COMING SOON TO THE ALEXANDRA



THE ALEXANDRA STAGE EXPERIENCE
SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

WED 21 – SAT 24 AUG



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

MON 26 – SAT 31 AUG



DOLLY PARTON
presents
AMBER DAVIES
AS JOY BECK
9 to 5
THE MUSICAL

FRI 6 – SAT 14 SEP



EDDIE IZZARD
WONDERBAR

TUE 17 – SAT 21 SEP



BOEING-BOEING
A MORE COMEDY
MUSICAL BY BOB FOSSE
STARRING
TOM USTON, DANIEL CASEY, EMILY HEAD AND SUE BLAKE
WITH CLASSIC COMEDY

TUE 8 – SAT 12 OCT



Ed Kravitz presents **THE EXORCIST**
INSPIRED BY THE EVENTS

TUE 15 – SAT 19 OCT



DIVERSITY

FRI 1 – SUN 3 NOV



JASON MANFORD
STARRING
CURTAINS
A MUSICAL WHODUNNIT
FROM THE CREATORS OF
CHICAGO & CABARET

TUE 5 – SAT 9 NOV



AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
EST. 1952
MUSICAL

MON 11 – SAT 16 NOV
AD THU 14 NOV 7.30PM

AD AUDIO DESCRIBED | CAP CAPTIONED | R RELAXED |  SIGNED

THE
ALEXANDRA
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**The master
of all chefs...**

MasterChef maestro John Torode is appearing at Shrewsbury Flower Show this month. The popular Aussie chef chatted to What's On about his plans for the event - and shared some handy cooking tips into the bargain!

Australian chef John Torode has lived in the UK for many years, becoming a household name as a judge on MasterChef. This month, he takes Shropshire down under, as he cooks up a storm headlining the Food Hall stage at Shrewsbury Flower Show.

"The Flower Show is full of variety," says John. "Once you've entered, you can just wander past the cookery demonstrations and get something extra out of it aside from the horticultural aspect of the show. I think it's a great event!"

So what can we expect from John's demos?

"I'll just be going back to the real basics of how and why we cook. Plus, how the world is changing and how food is changing with that. I want to go back to the basic ingredients and help people discover how to treat them.

"There'll also be a little bit of Asian inspiration in there, as that's really in keeping with modern cooking and what a lot of us are wanting to cook. I want people to understand how to make good food that everyone wants to eat without the fuss."

Not surprisingly, food is a huge driving force in John's life: "I started cooking when I was really, really young. I cooked with my grandmother when I was about six, and I've just learnt and developed from there. I started cooking professionally when I was 17, doing an apprenticeship in Australia. I like how cooking inspires travel and happiness and gets people smiling. I love having a barbie outside, or a nice warm roast on a winter's day. I just love how food gives people a sense of calm and such a good feeling. That's what really inspires me: food is a great language within itself."

Although John loves food as much as he ever did, his days of cooking in restaurants are now behind him: "I'm old! Anyone who's a chef knows that you spend your time doing 'all-day-ers' - starting at 7am in the morning and finishing at midnight. When you're a parent, you can't do those sorts of hours anymore because you'd never get to see your family, and it's completely exhausting. I still cook every single day, so I haven't stepped away from the stove in that regard; I just don't cook in restaurants anymore. But that doesn't mean that I won't do it again.

"Being behind the stove all the time is really hard work. I mean, I was cooking professionally for 33 years before I stepped away from it,

so that's a long time to work in a kitchen. The break is nice. It means I can take my time to pass on a bit of knowledge to other people, like at the Shrewsbury Flower Show. I think passing on that knowledge is more important now than ever. Getting people involved and excited about cooking is key."

There's still a lot of confusion in John's mind about why we don't champion our own produce here in the UK: "You guys are really rubbish at talking about your own produce! When I came to the UK, I was keen to discover all about your food. I was so impressed with all the meats you have, particularly rare breeds. I was shocked when I spoke to farmers and they told me that you guys rarely use the stuff and often buy it from elsewhere. I just never got it. You have great crabs in Dorset, oysters in Scotland, fish in the North East - you've got lovely kippers and smoked haddock, some of the best smoking and curing of meats and fish - and just the most brilliant strawberries in the world! Your raspberries are incredible too, and the asparagus grown here is definitely the best in the whole world. You guys are just terrible at shouting about it, and now here I am, an Aussie, doing it for you!"

Quality over quantity is John's food motto: "My advice is to buy quality rather than just going for the cheapest option, cook it well and then eat smaller quantities of the meat, to share the cost out a bit more. For example, if you buy a quality steak, it can easily be shared between two people rather than just being for one. I think the more we think about what goes in our mouths, the more conscious we will be of food quality in general. Food consciousness really fascinates me. We wouldn't pour chemicals and acids all over our hands, but we don't seem to think about the consequences of putting similar stuff into our stomachs. People look after their skin with all kinds of products and then go to the shop to buy the worst kind of processed junk in the world to eat. It's madness. We don't seem to consider what we put inside our bodies as much as what affects the outside. I definitely think it's something we all need to think about more.

"I don't think meats are just an environmental issue. I'm not a politician and won't be standing on my soapbox talking about scientific proof of environmental damage, but the fact is, as a nation, we eat too much, full stop. It's not just an issue with meat. We eat too much and we waste far too much, too. We're a nation who is very fortunate indeed to have so many re-

sources, and I don't wish to take that away from anyone, but I think every so often we could think, 'I probably don't need that'. I'm as guilty as everybody else of overeating, so it's something we all need to think about."

The biggest mistake we make when cooking, says John, is over-complicating our food: "The best dishes are those that are simple. Anything that's difficult to consume is because people have made it far too complicated with far too many flavours, which then all clash. A piece of fish with a little bit of rosemary and a glass of wine is all you need sometimes. Food is the same as art or music in that respect. If you tried to mix every genre of music together, from classical to punk to grime and reggae, then put them all into one song, you would hurt everyone's ears. It's the same with food. Putting too many different things on one plate simply doesn't work and is often a little bit frightening too. I think a lot of people are scared of cooking because they think good food has to be complicated."

Anyone looking to be a success in their own kitchen can start by learning five particular skills, says John...

"Go back to basics, start right at the beginning and get a good foundation. There are five basic things people should know: how to make a really good stew, which can then be turned into a pie or a ragu for pasta, as that teaches you how to flavour properly and is really versatile; how to roast a joint of meat, whether that be chicken or otherwise, and then you can slowly add in the side dishes; how to make a great tomato sauce, which can then be used for pasta, pizza bases, put over a piece of fish, served with a piece of meat or turned spicy with some chillies or BBQ flavouring; how to make a sponge pudding; and last of all, everyone should know about custard because that one basic technique can become ice cream, a filling for a tart, or it can just be served over your sponge pudding. If you know those five things, you've grasped the basics of cooking. Then you can really start to change and build on those techniques. You can become very, very good at many different dishes just by using those five things as a starting point."

John Torode takes to the stage in the Food Hall at Shrewsbury Flower Show on Friday 9 & Saturday 10 August. To see the full programme or to book tickets, visit shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk.



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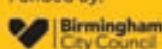
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BARKING BRUM

Here are just some of the positively pawfect venues that you and your furry friend(s) could visit this summer...



The Rose Villa Tavern

Situated in the heart of the Jewellery Quarter, The Rose Villa Tavern features stylish leather chairs, stunning antler chandeliers and impressive tilework from floor to ceiling within its Grade II listed building.

If the weather's on your side, take advantage of the venue's large outdoor area and bask in the sun. Stop by for some delicious cocktails, or sample great food in the form of chicken wings and hot dogs. And there'll likely be some other dogs in evidence too, for your four-legged friend(s) to make buddies with.

172 Warstone Lane, Jewellery Quarter, B18 6JW

The Physician

Winner of the National Pub & Bar Awards' 'best pub in the county' title, The Physician is located in the leafy suburb of Edgbaston.

A huge, reclaimed wooden bar sits at the heart of the building and houses eight local cask ales, 50 wines and an array of spirits. Visitors can enjoy a drink or two in the garden room or the pub's terrace garden.

Harborne Road, Edgbaston, B15 3DH



Otto

Since opening back in 2016, Otto has proven to be a popular choice for Jewellery Quarter locals and visitors alike.

The restaurant serves distinctive cocktails, beers and wines and uses the best locally sourced ingredients to produce highly commended woodfired pizzas in its rustic pizza kitchen.

14 Caroline Street, Jewellery Quarter, B3 1TR



The Prince of Wales

If you and your pup are looking for something a little different, The Prince of Wales in Moseley may be the ideal stop-off. Not your average pub, the venue is home to four bars, a heated marquee and even has its own tiki bar - Mo-tiki. With a selection of live music, street food and local ales, what's not to love?

118 Alcester Road, Moseley, B13 8EE



Brewhouse & Kitchen

Located on the outskirts of Sutton Park is the dog-friendly Brewhouse & Kitchen.

One for the beer connoisseurs, the pub brews its own unique craft beers on-site in a microbrewery. It also matches every dish on its food menu to a style of beer. Cheers!

8 Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1QD





HOME OF METAL

With Black Sabbath having recently brought down the curtain on their spectacular 50-year career, a new exhibition in Birmingham is paying homage to the four working-class lads from Aston. What's On spoke to band members Tony Iommi and Geezer Butler to find out more about the godfathers of Heavy Metal...

Fifty-one years ago in the Aston district of Birmingham, Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osbourne and Bill Ward came together to play music. The band they formed pioneered a new kind of sound called Heavy Metal - and the rest is history...

Black Sabbath have since enjoyed phenomenal global success, selling more than 75 million albums worldwide and producing iconic songs such as Paranoid, War Pigs and Iron Man.

Now a new exhibition is paying homage to one of Birmingham's most famous bands.

Created by Home Of Metal in collaboration with the boys themselves and designer Morag Myerscough, Black Sabbath - 50 Years is currently on display at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

"It just felt natural," says Geezer Butler, Sabbath's bass player and main lyricist, in explaining how the band invented Heavy Metal. "To other people it may have felt like a new genre of music, but to us it just felt like an extension of the bands that we liked, like Hendrix, Cream and Robert Johnson. We just made songs for ourselves. We didn't think

'this is rock' or 'this is metal' or anything like that; it was just music to us."

Black Sabbath - 50 Years brings together never-before-seen iconic artefacts and treasured personal items sourced directly from the band members. Highlights include Ozzy Osbourne's crucifix, Tony Iommi's home studio and outfits worn on stage at some of the band's most infamous shows.

These are displayed alongside rare memorabilia, portraits and collections from Sabbath's devoted global fanbase - including a recreation of super-fan Stephen Knowles' living



room, which is a homage to the foursome. In addition, there's a display of over 3,000 portraits of Black Sabbath fans from across the world, showcasing the incredible breadth and diversity of the band's loyal following.

"It really does make you feel nostalgic," says guitarist Tony Iommi. "Some of this stuff I haven't seen for years and years, and some of the stuff I've never seen before. It's great! You wonder what's happened to the last 50 years. It really is amazing."

The Black Sabbath story began when the four lads were looking to use music as an escape from a life of factory work.

"The main reason we all got together is because we were literally two streets away from each other," explains Geezer. "None of us had cars or bikes or anything, but we were able to walk to each other's houses. And there was a community centre that we could use for free every morning from 9am to 11am."

"We also used to see each other playing at a club in Birmingham called Penthouse," Tony recalls. "There were three floors of music and it used to go on late. Geezer was in a band called Rare Breed, and I was there with another band, Filth, so we all got to know each other. It worked out well!"

In the early days, Sabbath were met with an abundance of bad press and criticism from music journalists.

"When we first started, we couldn't really get work here," Tony reveals. "There were two places that we could play - our houses and a place called The Pokey Hole - and it really was a pokey hole! We had to go to Europe before we could break ground. We ended up going to Germany and Switzerland and building up small pockets of fans. We were playing to three or four people sometimes; it was unbelievable. Eventually we built a following in all these places. That's how we had to do it. We then came back to England when the first album was in the charts. We had all these gigs

that we were getting £10 a night for. It just went from there."

So how does it feel to have inspired an entire genre of music?

"It's absolutely amazing," says Geezer. "We were put down by the press for so long, but we didn't care about that because we always sold out gigs in America. Then bands like Anthrax covered Sabbath Bloody Sabbath and Metallica cited us as a major influence, and we were sort of going like, 'What?!' Then this whole slew of bands came out citing us as their main influence. We didn't really think about it until that happened."

Despite growing up in a conservative and religion-dominated culture, Geezer's lyrics draw heavily on his fascination with the black arts.

"I was brought up as a strict Catholic - we used to go to mass every Sunday. This one time, we had these missionaries come from Africa, and this one guy had a big, long, black cloak on and scared the hell out of me. He was saying, 'You're all going to go to hell, you're all going to die', and I gathered that that wasn't what religion was supposed to be about. I'd heard about Satan and thought I'd just go and see what he was saying. I didn't practise anything. I used to like science fiction and Dennis Wheatley kind of books; they inspired me lyrically. The only Sabbath songs that were actually about Satan were ones that Ozzy wrote, and they were a warning against Satan. It was becoming a big thing back in the '60s - an antidote to the flower power thing."

Even after 50 years of stardom, both Tony and Geezer remain impressively humble.

"We're just normal people," says Tony. "We've had bands on with us and they were 'real stars' - and these were bands that were supporting us! We've never been like that; we've never been that way. We're just regular people, and I'm glad we're like that. When you see those sorts of people, people who

have no time for you, I don't believe in all that."

Geezer is very much in agreement: "I think when you've had such a working-class background and been brought up working class, you always think, 'This can't last, we're eventually going to have to go back to our working-class origins'. It keeps us down to earth. Especially with a Birmingham accent!"

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

So when did it hit them that it really was 'The End' for Black Sabbath?

"For me," says Geezer, "it was probably when I arrived back in L.A. After we did that last show in Birmingham, we went into a studio and did some bonus tracks to show people how we rehearsed and stuff like that, so I still felt like we were on tour. I got back to LA and probably about a month later it was like, 'Oh, bloody hell, that's it!'"

Geezer also plays in a band called Deadline Ritual. "Yeah, it's just something to do - gets me out of the house. There's only so much Bargain Hunt you can watch!"

Although the life of the band has been very well documented over the years, is there anything that we don't know about Black Sabbath that the pair are willing to tell us?

Whilst Geezer reveals that they're all vegans, Tony jokingly and unsurprisingly replies: "Oh there's a lot! So many things have happened over the 50 years. We could go on and on about things that nobody else would know, but we're not going to..."

The End.

.....

Black Sabbath - 50 Years shows at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery until Sunday 29 September.

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Shrewsbury Folk Festival

Greenhouse West Midland Showground,
Fri 23 - Mon 26 August

A highlight of any folk fan's calendar, this four-day fest brings together centuries of musical tradition in one picturesque setting. Steeped in history, the border town of Shrewsbury makes an ideal backdrop for the festival's mash-up of modern, medieval and everything in between, where grassroots cultures collide in dynamic fusion styles. Take along the whole family for dance and workshops as well as live music.

What's On is pleased once again to be sponsoring the festival's Launchpad, an element of the event which is designed to showcase local and up-and-coming talent.

Line-up includes: Kate Rusby, Andy Fairweather Low and the Low Riders ft the Hi Riders Soul Revue, Oysterband, Eddi Reader, Martyn Joseph, Skerryvore, Faustus, Martin Barre, Steve Knightley, Mankala, Blair Dunlop (pictured), Grace Petrie and Jiggy.

Creamfields

Daresbury Estate, Halton, Cheshire,
Thurs 22 - Sun 25 August

Having celebrated its 20th edition a couple of years back, Creamfields unleashes the energy of Cream's Liverpool club nights in the open space of Halton's Daresbury Estate. Cutting-edge live acts unite with world-class DJs for a hedonistic four-day dance party. Since launching in Winchester, the brand has evolved into an international phenomenon beloved of ravers, trailblazers and experimenters the world over.

Line-up includes: Swedish House Mafia, Calvin Harris (pictured), Tiësto, deadmau5, Adam Beyer and Cirez D, The Chemical Brothers, Martin Garrix, Carl Cox, Above & Beyond, The Black Madonna, Fatboy Slim, Duke Dumont, Fisher and Jauz.



Farmer Phil's Festival

Gatten Farm, Ratlinghope, Shropshire,
Fri 9 - Sun 11 August



Launched in a corner of one of Farmer Phil's fields near Shrewsbury, this boutique gathering aims to offer something for everyone, featuring rock, dance, acoustic folk and everything in between. Camping for the full week is included in the ticket price. A brilliant opportunity to enjoy a summer getaway with the family.

Line-up includes: The Neville Staple Band, Lindisfarne, Slim Chance, Jilted Generation, The Undercover Hippy (pictured), 3 Daft Monkeys, Neck, Sasha and The Shades, Black Water County, The Stiff Joints, The Spitfires, Emily Capell, Michael Messer's Mitra and The Mighty Vipers.

Camper Calling

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire,
Fri 23 - Sun 25 August

Following warmly received events from 2016 to '18, Camper Calling returns to the stunning grounds of Warwickshire's Ragley Hall for its fourth family-friendly outing.

This year's event boasts a superb musical line-up, craft and dance workshops, lake activities, tree climbing, vehicle displays, a kids club and some seriously tasty food & drink.

Line-up includes: Skunk Anansie, The Fratellis, Ash, The Feeling, Artful Dodger, Sleeper, Tony Christie, Lucy Spraggan, Mr Motivator, The Stickmen, Beans On Toast (pictured), Thrill Collins, Eliza And The Bear, Gypsy Unit and Hackney Colliery Band.



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	Wednesday 18th	Jazz at The Cathedral Hotel Pre-Season Friendly Jam Session
OCTOBER	Fri 20th - Sat 21st	AUTUMN BEER FESTIVAL
	Wednesday 2nd	L2F quiz at The Duke of York
	Saturday 5th	Roxy Magic
	Sunday 6th	Kitty Macfarlane
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 16th	Jazz at The Cathedral Hotel Chris Bowden quartet
	Fri 18th - Sun 20th	L2F - THE LICHFIELD FESTIVAL OF FOLK
	Sunday 27th	Hipkiss with Patsy Gamble
	Friday 1st	Gordon Giltrap
DECEMBER	Saturday 9th	Ian Parker
	Wednesday 20th	Jazz at The Cathedral Hotel Nick Dewhurst Band
	Saturday 30th	Jo Harman
	Sunday 1st	Geoff Lakeman
	Wednesday 4th	Kim Cypher Band
	Saturday 7th	Bob Fox
	Sunday 8th	The Get Back Beatles
	Wednesday 18th	Jazz at The Cathedral Hotel Lichfield Jazz Big Band Xmas Special
Saturday 21st	Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies A Northumbrian Christmas	

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Moseley Folk & Arts Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham,
Fri 30 Aug - Sun 1 Sep

Tucked away behind Birmingham's busy streets, the beautiful Moseley Park is one of the city's hidden gems, transformed each year into an enchanting escape by one of the Midlands' best-loved music festivals.

Traditional folk & low-fi acoustic sets blend seamlessly with dreamy electropop, psychedelia and indie favourites against a magical backdrop of bright hippie colours, lush foliage and a beautiful lake.

New for 2019 is a rich programme of arts & crafts, comedy & cabaret, poetry & literature and talks & debates.

Line-up includes: Don McClean, Jake Bugg (pictured), Public Service Broadcasting, The Zutons, Richard Thompson, Lucy Rose, Edwyn Collins, Daoiri Farrell, Peggy Seeger, Tunng, Israel Nash, Charles Watson, Boat To Row, Bird In The Belly, The Drystones.

Sunshine Festival

Fish Meadow, Upton-upon-Severn,
Worcestershire, Fri 23 - Sun 25 August

Back with a fantastic mix of big-name pop acts and retro stars, the heart of England's 'favourite family festival' returns to Upton-upon-Severn for its 10th year.

As well as featuring a line-up assembled to appeal to every generation, the event also includes a disco, a karaoke and a range of fun activities for kids to enjoy. Fancy dress is encouraged.

Line-up includes: Scouting For Girls (pictured), Boyzlife, Peter Andre, 10CC, East 17, The Osmonds, 911, Showaddywaddy, Curiosity Killed The Cat, Jedward, Claire Sweeney, S Club, Judge Jules.



Towersey Festival

Thame, Oxfordshire, Fri 23 - Mon 26 August

Folk spirit goes to the heart of Towersey Festival, which traces its roots back to 1965, when local villagers united to buy a field from wealthy landowners.

After raising funds to drain, plough and reseed the area, they started an event which has gone on to become one of the UK's finest folk festivals.

In honour of its origins, profits are paid back into village facilities and local charities.

Line-up includes: Newton Faulkner, Hot House Flowers, The Selecter, Seth Lakeman, Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel, From The Jam, Fisherman's Friends, The Unthanks (pictured), Oysterband, Steve Knightley, Beans On Toast.

Green Man Festival

Brecon Beacons, Wales,
Thurs 15 - Sun 18 August

Known for its ethical business model and quality line-ups, Green Man has scooped numerous awards and accolades during its 17 years in operation. Alongside an amazing array of folk, world, indie, electronic and psychedelic music, it also boasts literature, film, comedy, theatre, ceilidhs, all-night bonfires and secret gigs, all surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Brecon Beacons.

Music line-up includes: Four Tet, Father John Misty, Eels (pictured), Stereolab, Yo La Tengo, Sharon Van Etten, Amadou & Mariam, Maribou State, Khruangbin, Idles, Broken Social Scene, Car Seat Headrest, Whitney, Big Thief, Aldous Harding, The Growlers and Richard Thompson.



A black and white portrait of singer-songwriter Grace Petrie. She is leaning forward, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She has dark, spiky hair and is wearing a dark velvet jacket over a light-colored collared shirt and a dark tie. Her hands are clasped in front of her.

Queer as folk

**Singer-songwriter Grace Petrie chats politics,
musical influences and Donald Trump
ahead of her Midlands festival date...**

sYou're playing at Shrewsbury Folk Festival this year. Have you played there before, and what can the audience expect from your performance?

I haven't played there on my own. I've been a part of a couple of other shows, so it's my debut show there in my own right. I'm a protest singer, so I sing a lot of shouty songs about politics, and obviously in this current climate, I don't have a lack of things to write about. I'm a socialist, feminist, political singer really, so it's all lefty stuff. I'm a proud queer artist as well, and that's quite a big part of what I write and sing about. It's definitely not for the faint-hearted.

You're sharing the line-up with some big names - Kate Rusby, Oysterband, Skerryvore, to name but a few. Who are you most looking forward to seeing?

I'm going to be hanging around as much as I can, although I'm due at the Edinburgh Fringe the day after. I'm really looking forward to seeing Kate Rusby. I played her festival, Underneath The Stars, last year and had a great time but didn't get to see her because we weren't performing on the same day. So she'll definitely be a highlight for me.

When did your interest in politics begin?

I think it was when the government changed in 2010. I saw austerity coming in and the impact that that was making across the country. Being gay, I was quite concerned and alarmed when Theresa May was appointed in the role of women & equalities minister because her record on LGBT legislation is not good. That was the tipping-point that inspired me to start writing. I wrote a song called Farewell To Welfare back in 2010. It was the first thing that I'd ever written about politics. It wasn't intentional; I just got cross one day and wrote a song that was basically a three-minute rant. For whatever reason, that really struck a chord with audiences and they started talking to me more about politics. I started getting more interested in activism and campaigns, and it became more of a self-sustaining thing.

Your political writing reflects what's bothering you most. What's currently bothering you most?

Well, we live in incredibly reactionary times, and in general I'm finding it all quite terrifying, to be honest. The rise of the far right in general. I think it's often the case that minorities are a real indicator for the overall political direction that we're moving in. I think the minorities are treated as the canary in the coal mine, and I feel, not to harp on

about this, that as a gay person, the sharp, steep rise in homophobia and transgender phobia that I've seen in Britain in the last six months is awful. There was a viral story about a homophobic attack on a queer couple in London, for example. That isn't unconnected to the protests outside schools in Birmingham about LGBT education, and that itself is not unrelated to the treatment of trans people in the mainstream media across the world, and that is not unrelated to Donald Trump's presidency. The key to all of this is solidarity between our communities and between our minorities. I think that it's very easy for us to lose sight of the bigger picture when we're all just focusing on our one little corner. I'm writing lots about that at the moment.

Will the potential second term of Donald Trump feature?

I imagine so. He keeps me very busy! I've got a lot of material about him already, but all I can do is keep going. I make these jokes on stage that I started writing songs to try and make the world a better place, but I think I seem to be making things worse! I'll keep going and hope the trend turns at some point.

Did you always want to be a performer?

I did always want to, I think. I started playing the guitar when I was 13, but before that, as a young child, I played the piano. I've always been a bit of a show-off. Music was the obvious place to take the narcissist energy that I have. I've been tremendously lucky with growing up in the time that I have done because I think that I've been a completely DIY outfit from the beginning. Everything that I've ever done has been self-published. I think that's the great thing with living in the internet age. If I'd been born 20 years earlier, I don't think I would've been able to have the career that I've had. It's definitely what I wanted to do, and every day I can't believe how lucky I am that I pulled it off.

You've brought out six albums. How much has your music evolved over time?

It's evolved a lot. I'm delighted to be playing Shrewsbury Folk Festival because I came into folk quite late in comparison to my peers. I had this quite inaccurate impression of what folk music was. I grew up listening to Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell, and I didn't really know anything about traditional folk music. I play in a six-piece band called Coven, and we've done Shrewsbury before - that's with O'Hooley & Tidow, Lady Maisery and me, and we make a six-piece feminist collective. It's those guys who I really got influenced by. I'd never really experienced the folk club scene

before. My background is punk really, and I've worked in comedy a lot. Folk has certainly inspired my songwriting on this last album, and what I'm writing at the moment has a pure folk influence.

Speaking of influences, who's been your biggest musical influence?

Singer-songwriter is where it is for me. I absolutely love Bob Dylan, Tracy Chapman, Joni Mitchell - people with a message to what they're singing. Bruce Springsteen. I'm very much more a lyricist than I am a musician. A 'poetry set to music' type of thing.

Who do you relate to most as an artist?

There's an Australian singer-songwriter called Darren Hanlon. He's absolutely phenomenal and a beautiful wordsmith. And there's a guy called Gavin Osborn, who's based in South West England and writes beautiful songs. I've been lucky to do some touring with him.

Billy Bragg invited you to appear on Glastonbury's Leftfield stage in 2010. How did that come about?

I went to a gig of his, was totally starstruck and thrust one of my homemade home-printed CDs at his chest. He was very gracious about it. I never expected to hear from him, and then a couple of weeks later, I got an email saying, 'Do you want to come and play at Glastonbury?' I absolutely couldn't believe it, I was just blown away. I will never forget it.

What plans have you got for the future?

I've got some really exciting things happening next year, which I'm not allowed to say too much about. I'm going to get to play in some beautiful faraway places that I haven't been to before, which is really exciting for me. I'm hoping there will be another album out in the autumn of next year - I'm writing a lot at the moment. I had an album out in September just gone, and I'm kind of bored of it already, so I need to get into the next round of songs. I'm on tour throughout this October too, so I'm really looking forward to that and whatever other opportunities happen along.

Grace Petrie plays Shrewsbury Folk Festival on Friday 23 August

Shrewsbury Folk Festival takes place at Greenhous Meadow from Fri 23 - Mon 26 August. For more information on line-up and tickets, visit shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk



Grease The Musical

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 13 - Sat 24 August

Dust off your leather jackets, pull on your bobby-socks and get ready for the most fun-filled high-octane rock'n'roll party of them all. Grease is the original high-school musical, featuring all the unforgettable songs from the hit movie, including You're The One That I Want, Grease Is The Word, Summer Nights, Hopelessly Devoted To You, Sandy and Greased Lightnin'.

The cast includes singer Peter Andre and Ore Oduba who both play

Teen Angel in selected performances at the Hippodrome (check the theatre's website for full details).

"The character of The Fonz in the TV series Happy Days is definitely my rebellious '50s inspiration for this part," explained Peter in a recent interview with What's On. "The Fonz was a legend, and he and Grease's lead male character, 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!"

The Girl On The Train

Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Mon 26 - Sat 31 August;
Malvern Theatres, Mon 21 - Sat 26 October

First a bestselling book, then a hit film, The Girl On The Train took the world by storm. Now, a touring stage adaptation of Paula Hawkins' 2015 novel is rolling into the Midlands, with EastEnders star Samantha Womack in the lead role of Rachel Watson. "There's actually a lot more licence with theatre to do the dream-like flashback and memory scenes from the book," says Samantha. "This means that you can access Rachel's brain in those scenarios a lot more than I think you can with the film."



Circus Raj

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham,
Sun 4 August



Given that they perform extreme feats of bravery and come complete with acrobats, aerialists, contortionists, a fakir, dancers, musicians, stiltwalkers and costumed characters, it's little wonder that Circus Raj are referred to as a 'supergroup' of 'elite' street circus artistes.

Ringmaster and fakir, 'the incredible Govinda', was one of three circus-troupe members to appear in Disney and Tim Burton's live-action remake of Dumbo, which was released in cinemas earlier this year.

Educating Rita

Malvern Theatre, Mon 5 - Sat 10 August

A modern comedy classic, Willy Russell's Educating Rita has been a regular choice with theatre companies ever since its first production by the RSC.

The story of a working-class Liverpool woman's hunger for education, and her relationship with Frank, her unhappy, alcoholic professor, is best known from its 1983 film adaptation starring Michael Caine and Julie Walters. A typical Russell comedy, it manages to be both thought-provoking and funny. Stephen Tompkinson stars as Frank.





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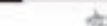


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COME TO THE CABARET!

The landmark musical visits the Midlands next month, with West End star John Partridge taking on the iconic role of Emcee. What's On spoke to the former EastEnders actor and MasterChef winner to find out more...

Complete with kicklines and burlesque costuming, Cabaret has all the razzle dazzle you'd expect from a show-stopping musical. But even all of the legendary Kit Kat Klub's incredible decadence can't hope to conceal the sinister backdrop against which Cabaret unfolds: the rise of Nazism in Germany. Set on the cusp of 1930s Berlin, the musical's characters navigate a world of showgirls, seedy nightlife and burgeoning antisemitism.

Previous stars of Cabaret have included Judi Dench, Alan Cumming, Will Young and Emma Stone - a fact that leaves John Partridge, who's playing the character of Emcee, in no doubt whatsoever that he has big shoes to fill...

"It's an honour to be starring in this production," says John. "I feel a great amount of privilege to be a caretaker of such a great work and to be walking in the footsteps of such performance giants. It's also incredibly daunting because, for an actor, there's no bigger challenge than taking on a task such as this, but there's also no bigger reward. Cabaret is an iconic show and its music is legendary. I really can't wait to have the opportunity to perform in such a classic."

The show is directed by Rufus Norris - the artistic director of the National Theatre - and features choreography by the Olivier Award-winning Javier De Frutos.

"Rufus has a great sense of vision," says John. "Let's not forget that the subject matter and choreography were already groundbreaking when the show was first released. Rufus' production pays a great homage to the original, as it very carefully modernises the production while keeping its very essence alive. I think that's the best way to rework a classic: to have the fibre of the original within the revisited and revised work. Rufus managed to do that really well, which is why I think this particular production has been so successful."

John's character of Emcee is a complex one: "He has so many layers. He's both a performer and an observer. He's there to inform, educate and entertain the audience. He's a narrator and orator of sorts, while also being a showman. He's all the things I wish to be! Emcee really is a gift of a role, but it's also not for the faint-hearted. I'm sure there are ways to get the character very wrong, and I just hope that I don't do that!"

So what are the show's highlights as far as John is concerned?

"It's so difficult to pick out a favourite part.

My eyes are bigger than my belly, as my mother always said! Obviously I love Willkommen because it's one of the best opening numbers of any musical ever written; it's truly spectacular, and this production's staging of it is legendary in its own right. It's a modern classic. Money has to be another standout. The lyrics, the choreography, the timing, and all of that together - just wow! I think if you wrote an equation for a musical number, it would equal Money. Lyrically, it's the one I'm looking forward to doing the most.

"Also, If You Could See Her is particularly poignant right now. Listening to the actual words of that song and their meaning is so incredibly powerful and so politically relevant today. The rise of antisemitism in the UK and within our own political system is alarming, to say the least. Once again, with these classic shows, you can definitely say they never go out of style. As much as we think we progress, human nature seems to be constant in some way, and I think the timely relevance of Cabaret really shows how society maybe hasn't progressed as much as we presume. I don't think I'm going to enjoy singing If You Could See Her, but regardless of that fact, it's still a very important narrative to tell."

The homophobia rife in Cabaret is also something that resonates strongly with John...

"I'm currently rehearsing a piece called The View Upstairs, which premieres at Soho Theatre, London. It follows a largely forgotten piece of LGBTQ+ history, where 32 people lost their lives in a fire in New Orleans in 1972.

"On top of that, it's currently the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. We had the Orlando shooting in 2016, where 49 people lost their lives. A few weeks ago, two women on a bus in the UK were brutally attacked for being gay. People ask why we have a Pride festival when there's no festival for being heterosexual. I think there's never a time not to demand to be seen, to be heard and to have equal rights - be that the LGBTQ+ community, religious groups or just general humanity. I'm an openly proud gay man, but my sexuality wasn't something I considered as much when I was younger. I think my perception of the world has changed as I've got older, and I'm more aware than ever that all these voices need to be heard. Cabaret covers all these bases and shows us exactly why we must continue to listen."

John is very much looking forward to visiting

the region with the show: "Midlands audiences are very vocal. They let you know exactly how they feel, whether that be good or not so good! I love that, because it's a great barometer for how you're doing as a performer. When you're touring and doing the same show night after night, it's always good to have someone keeping you in check, and Midlands audiences definitely do that!"

Looking back over his career, does John have a particular highlight?

"I honestly can't pick one! I'm really, really fortunate that I came into this business at 16, went straight into Cats in the West End and am now about to turn 48. So I've been doing this for 32 years professionally. I've appeared in over 20 West End shows, countless UK tours and even had a TV career. I think that while I can't pick out a highlight, my favourite thing about my career is its longevity. The fact that I'm still able to do what I love, and that I'm lucky enough that producers still want to hire me, is amazing."

There's not a lot John hasn't done in his career, but he still has one stand-out dream: "There's one show I haven't been in, and that hasn't been to the UK, actually - The Boy From Oz. I would absolutely love to be in it. Hugh Jackman won a Tony Award for it on Broadway. So if anyone's interested in producing The Boy From Oz starring John Partridge, feel free to contact me at any time!"

John showcased his culinary talents last year by winning Celebrity Masterchef: "I'm an avid cook. I'm just in the process of organising the photo shoots for my first book, a food memoir called There's No Taste Like Home, which comes out in April 2020. There are over 100 recipes in it. My food narrative is very much connected to my history. I think food is like a great piece of theatre or a concert. You can hear a certain song and be transported back to an exact moment in time, and I think food is exactly the same. My earliest food memories, the food of my childhood, the food my mum and nan made me, school dinners - they all evoke strong memories for me, and that's what I draw on in this first book."

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Cabaret shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 3 to Saturday 7 September; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, from Tuesday 22 to Saturday 26 October, and at Festival Theatre Malvern from Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 November.



Heartbeat Of Home

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Thurs 29 - Sat 31 August

Thirty-three world class dancers and live musicians from across the globe here come together to present a production that's enjoyed plenty of positive reviews as it's made its way around the world.

Produced by the team behind Riverdance, the show has been described as 'an exuberant, sexy tribute to the diversity of dance', 'a brilliantly orchestrated dance & music spectacular', and 'a multicultural dance epic'. In short, it's so revered that it may well prove to have the legs of Riverdance (high-kicking ones, of course!) and still be wowing audiences decades from now. The high-octane show features dynamic components of traditional Irish, Latin, hip-hop, Afro-Cuban and contemporary music. It also benefits from the input of award-winning Irish composer Brian Byrne, a man whose CV includes projects with both Katy Perry and the legendary Barbra Streisand.

Check out the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon this August...



The Taming Of The Shrew

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

Possibly the most famous of all stories about the battle of the sexes, *The Taming Of The Shrew* can be a bit of a problem play nowadays, its subject matter sitting less than comfortably in the modern age of #MeToo. Director Justin Audibert is not a man to be fazed by such difficulties, however, so is here having his female actors play male roles and vice versa.

Venice Preserved

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

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

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

The Provoked Wife

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 7 September

Familiar television face Caroline Quentin stars in John Vanbrugh's rarely performed Restoration romp that shocked 17th century society. When Lady Brute, tired of her drunken husband and loveless marriage, takes a young lover, not everything goes according to plan, with scandal suddenly threatening to ruin her life...

Measure For Measure

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Thurs 29 August

The darkest of Shakespeare's comedies, *Measure For Measure* is usually considered a

problem play, which basically means that it asks more questions than it answers. The structure is simple enough. Poor old Angelo is left in charge of an anarchic Vienna, whilst the Duke pretends that he has work overseas. Instead, he uses the opportunity to spy on his diligent though misguided deputy, waits for a mistake, then reappears to make Angelo a convenient scapegoat for Vienna's woes.

A stitch-up or just judicial authority? No wonder politicians of all parties quote Shakespeare to justify their dark deeds...

As You Like It

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

The storyline of *As You Like It* revolves around the character of Rosalind, banished by her usurping uncle to the Forest of Arden, where her exiled father is already living. Revelling in the naturalness of their surroundings, Rosalind and her companions - cousin Celia and Touchstone the fool - find a happiness they hadn't known existed...

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DICK WHITTINGTON



STAYIN' ALIVE

**Richard Winsor takes to the stage as Tony Manero
in a new production of Saturday Night Fever...**



The theatrical version of Saturday Night Fever is strutting its stuff in Coventry next month. What's On caught up with star of stage and screen Richard Winsor to find out how he feels about walking in the 'boogie shoes' of lead character Tony Manero...

From being a principal ballet dancer at Sir Matthew Bourne's New Adventures and starring in BBC's Casualty, to dancing to Bee Gees hits up and down the country, Richard Winsor really has done it all.

Richard, who also took on the lead role of Tony Manero on Saturday Night Fever's previous tour, is looking forward to strutting his stuff once again.

"I'm honestly so excited to be returning to play Tony," he says, "but I also know it's going to be very different to the last time I toured with this production. There's quite a new cast - only five people, including myself, are returning performers - so it's going to feel quite fresh for me. Plus, there are some new ideas I want to throw into the mix in terms of developing my character."

Although he has a liking for musicals in general, Richard is particularly drawn to Saturday Night Fever: "Mainly I like stage shows that have a bit of grit and drama. The film is very gritty; it's really quite dark in places with its depiction of 1970s austerity and drugs, sex and rock'n'roll. Initially I was approached to be in Saturday Night Fever after I'd left Casualty. I was interested in the brand new production in particular, rather than the other touring version that's been around for ages, because the new show really goes back to the film to make it raw and authentic."

Playing the character of Tony Manero was also a very attractive prospect for Richard: "The chance to play Tony, to put my own spin on the character and make my mark on the production as a whole, was really an opportunity I couldn't miss. There's always the fear of copying John Travolta, because he made the role so iconic in the original movie, but as an actor, you've got to really take the nitty gritty

of the character and see what he's about. I definitely came into this to play Tony Manero rather than to imitate John Travolta. So that also makes this role very rewarding. Then, finally, the opportunity to combine my dance background with my acting career was perfect for me."

Tony's passion for dance and his ambitious nature is something that Richard relates to: "To a certain extent, I do see parts of myself in Tony. When I was younger - so before I worked with Matthew Bourne - and wanted to pursue dancing as a career, it did seem like an uphill battle, and one in which I was also trying to discover my own identity, much like Tony is. Tony is always striving for something different, something new that no one else is trying for, to get away from the mundane reality of everyday life. I can relate to that in my own performance aspirations, for sure."

So which moments in the show really stand out for Richard?

"One of my favourite scenes is the first club one because Tony slowly starts to command the attention of everyone around him and ends up sort of taking over the club. Then the family scenes also stand out for me as really providing Tony with some depth of character. My favourite song from the production is Should Be Dancing, which ends the first act with a massive number. Should Be Dancing is such a good song and made even more brilliant by our powerful live band."

Richard has some theories as to why Saturday Night Fever continues to be such a popular story: "I guess the music is the driving force behind this show, and the music of the Bee Gees is so timeless. I think some of the themes are also very relatable. Even though it's set in the 1970s, there are definitely things that are relevant now, such as misogyny, race, religion

and issues with kids drinking too much and taking drugs. Family struggle is also at the heart of Saturday Night Fever. It's just a great, timeless piece of theatre that will appeal to people wanting not only a feelgood factor but also a bit more depth."

Richard is hoping to make the most of his success on both stage and screen, and certainly doesn't want to choose between the two: "I wouldn't say I feel more at home on the stage, despite my long history of performing there because of my dance background. Television requires a very different kind of focus as an actor. I wouldn't say I prefer one or the other. I do love the feeling you get performing to a live audience. You get that instant reception which you don't get from television, and I love the vibrancy of the theatre audience, especially with a show like Saturday Night Fever, where they're so into the story and the music. But I do prefer a bit of variety in my career. Overall, I'd like to do more theatre, particularly straight plays, and some drama on TV."

For now, though, bringing Tony Manero to life on stage in the Midlands is very much Richard's focus, and it's a challenge that he's certainly looking forward to: "I would say that Saturday Night Fever is not only a big, beautiful crowd-pleaser with insane songs played live by a big band and perfect Bee Gees singers - it's actually like you have the three Bee Gees there on stage singing every harmony - the show is also a really hard-hitting, gripping drama. This production really is the full package, so you'd be crazy to miss it!"

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Saturday Night Fever shows Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, from Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 September.





Tabby McTat

Birmingham Town Hall,
Tues 20 - Sun 25 August

A lifestyle that provides shelter and plenty of home comforts would suit most cats, but it doesn't suit Tabby McTat. Tabby's problem is that he remembers his old life with his now-missing friend, Fred the guitar player.

So Tabby forsakes the good life and hits the streets in search of his long-lost buddy...

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

The Tiger Who Came To Tea

The Place, Telford, Sat 10 & Sun 11 August;
Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 15 -
Wed 16 October

Direct from the West End, the tea-guzzling tiger drops in on Sophie and her mum just as they're settling down for a thirst-quenching cuppa...

Adapted by David Wood OBE from the late Judith Kerr's 1968 book, this 55-minute Olivier Award-nominated show comes without an interval, features singalong songs and boasts plenty of magic - not to mention a big stripy tiger, of course!



Gangsta Granny

Throughout August on the following dates:
Ryton Pools, Bubbenthal, Coventry & Brueton
Park, Solihull, Thurs 1; Hartlebury Castle,
Worcestershire, Fri 2; Attingham Park, Shrews-
bury, Sat 3; Packwood House, Solihull, Wed
14; Coombe Abbey, Warwickshire, Fri 16;
Wood Norton Garden & Terrace, Evesham,
Fri 23

The ever-popular Heartbreak Productions make a welcome return with their brand new open-air adaptation of David Walliams' best-selling book.

Ben's no lover of Friday nights - and why would he be? After all, Friday nights mean having to stay at Granny's house, where he's not only bored senseless but also has to eat an unholy trinity of cabbage dishes - cabbage soup, cabbage pie and cabbage cake. But experiences can sometimes be deceptive, and Ben soon finds out that there's way more to his boring old Granny than meets the eye...

Special Delivery

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham,
Fri 9 & Sat 10 August

Puppet and mask theatre company A Bird In The Hand are the creatives behind this simple without-words story for youngsters aged three-plus.

Caught in a downpour, a postman realises that all of his packages have lost their labels. His efforts to work out the intended recipients sees him finding out more about the people to whom he delivers on his round - an experience that inspires him to bring a little bit of sunshine into all of their lives...



Rhythm Of The Dance

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 3 August

This well-established production has been dancing its way across the globe for 20-plus years, stopping off in more than 50 countries and entertaining in excess of seven million people. A flamboyant festival of flailing feet and fiddles, the show presents dance, music, songs and culture from across the ages, from pre-Celtic times through to the 21st century. It also features a cast of world and Irish champion dancers and a host of strikingly talented traditional musicians.



Fairy Tales Reconstructed

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 19 - Fri 23 August

Lichfield Garrick Theatre is this 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 is suitable for children aged between eight and 16 and culminates in a sharing of the work with participants' friends and families.





Gloria Estefan - On Your Feet! photo shoot

SHAKE YOUR BODY!

Feel the rhythm of the music getting stronger as hit musical *On Your Feet!* - the story Of Emilio & Gloria Estefan, congas into the Midlands next month...

Gloria Estefan started her career as the lead singer for Miami Sound Machine, who had previously been called Miami Latin Boys. The group were a rip-roaring success in the 1980s, with their iconic and varied hits including *Conga*, *Anything For You* and *Rhythm Is Gonna Get You*.

Marrying bandmate Emilio and taking his surname in 1978, Gloria went on to become a 1980s icon. The couple were living the dream, but thought it had come to an end when Gloria broke her back in a bus crash in 1990.

On Your Feet! tells their story, one of music, dancing, love, passion, terror, heartache and resilience. The show hits the road off the back of a very successful West End run.

"It's been phenomenal - people seem to love it," says Gloria. "There are people who've written to say they were entertained or cried or were reminded of different times in their lives through the songs. That's the point of the show - to connect with people on a very human level, which is what we've always tried to do."

Although all the events in *On Your Feet!* did actually happen, Oscar-winning writer Alexander Dinelaris has taken the odd liberty here and there.

"It's all true," Gloria confirms, "although maybe not always in chronological order. It's the same with the songs - they've been moved around to suit the story. The only thing that's not true is Emilio having a six-pack, as he does in the show. He doesn't really have washboard abs!"

Although Gloria isn't starring in the musical herself, she's been incredibly pleased with the casting for *On Your Feet!*.

"What's impressive to me is how much love and devotion everyone who's played me in the show so far has put into it, and how much they identify with me. These have mostly been Cuban-American girls like me, so they're kind of telling their own story too, and that makes me feel very happy and proud."

So which elements of the show does she most enjoy?

"There are a couple of really big numbers. *Tradición* is spectacular - and then of course there's *Conga*, where you literally see how it grows and grows then explodes in joy. I co-wrote *If I Never Got To Tell You* with my daughter, Emily. My daughter couldn't be in the show because she hadn't been born during the timeframe, so I tried to wedge her in there somewhere in any way possible. It's beautiful that she comes through in the only original song. In the musical it's a very poignant song; it's my mum telling me the things she wished she'd told me before coming to visit me in hospital after the bus crash."

Both Latin sounds and Britpop were major influences on Gloria when she was growing up.

"The old Cuban standards were always playing in our house, and I sang as soon as I could talk. Music was big in our household. Then I started listening to the British Invasion. I remember pulling into a laundromat parking lot with my mother and hearing *Ferry Cross The Mersey*. My hair stood on end. I didn't want to get out of the car, I was so enraptured. That song really is like a *Bolero* in its rhythm. British bands were listening to a lot of Latin music and The Beatles recorded *Besame Mucho*. All that mixing of sounds had a huge impact on me, and so I had all this musical vocabulary to draw from."

Miami Latin Boys became Miami Sound Machine when Gloria joined as lead singer.

"The name switch was Emilio's idea. I didn't want him to add my name to the band because we were successful and I was happy with my bandmates, nor did I want it to be just 'Gloria Estefan'. But he was like 'People are identifying with you, they think you're beautiful and sexy, they need to know your name'."

Down the years, the Estefans have certainly ploughed plenty of furrows musically: "Our biggest challenge was when we put out *Conga* and it was so massive. It meant that when we wanted to release something completely different, like *Bad Boy*, it didn't go down well

with the record company. Then we wanted to release *Words Get In The Way*, and they were even more confused because it's a ballad. We talked them into it. We didn't want to be locked into the dance thing. After that song became huge, it freed us up. Every time you create something, you can't let it paralyse you. You have to move forward.

"One time they even told Emilio to get rid of me because it was the time of bands with male leads. Yes, Fleetwood Mac had two female singers but they also had male singers, and there was Madonna and Cyndi Lauper, but that was a new thing in music. The record company even told Emilio to get rid of the horns and the percussion section. We fought to stay true to who we are, and I'm proud we didn't compromise."

The bus crash in 1990 had a profound impact on Gloria: "There must be some mechanism in our brains where you remember before and after, but you don't remember the actual moment of impact. I remember everything except the actual breaking of my back. I grew up taking care of my wheelchair-bound father, so I knew what my family might have to face with me. I just wanted to be independent and walk again."

"Then I started getting all these letters from people. They kept throwing the song *Get On Your Feet* back in my face, and I saw it as an opportunity to somehow inspire people through my perseverance. I rehabilitated six or seven hours a day - first in the pool because I couldn't walk - and I had electrodes attached to my muscles so they wouldn't die. Getting back on stage was euphoric. It was how I imagine climbing Mount Everest would feel. I had overcome so many obstacles and I'd worked so hard. It was just amazing."

.....

On Your Feet! shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 3 to Saturday 7 September, and visits Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 March 2020.



Once Upon A Time in... Hollywood

CERT 18 (162 mins)

Starring **Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Kurt Russell, Timothy Olyphant, Dakota Fanning, Luke Perry, Emile Hirsch, Bruce Dern, Al Pacino, Damian Lewis, Jack Nicholson**
Directed by **Quentin Tarantino (USA)**

After *Endgame*, this has to boast the biggest cast of the year, in a speculative comedy-drama set in an alternate Tinseltown reality. Leonardo DiCaprio plays an actor down on his uppers (inspired by Burt Reynolds) who is contemplating a move to Italy to jump on the spaghetti Western bandwagon. There are real characters in the mix, too, with Margot Robbie as Sharon Tate, Damon Herriman as Charles Manson and Damian Lewis as Steve McQueen (brilliant casting). The film has received glowing reviews, although some criticised its length (162 minutes).

Released Wed 14 August



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in August...

The Angry Birds Movie 2

CERT PG (96 mins)

With the voices of **Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Danny McBride, Leslie Jones, Nicki Minaj, Awkwafina**
Directed by **Thurop Van Orman (Finland/USA)**

The first film - based on the video game so beloved by David Cameron - was pretty dire, so the only way is up (one hopes). Here, we have an all-new character, a technically advanced purple bird voiced by Leslie Jones, who threatens the very future of our feathered friends and those irritating green pigs.

Released Fri 2 August



Animals

CERT 15 (109 mins)

Starring **Holliday Grainger, Alia Shawkat, Fra Fee, Dermot Murphy**
Directed by **Sophie Hyde (Australia/Ireland)**



Two best friends living it up in Dublin find their lives dramatically altered when one of them - Laura, a struggling writer - becomes engaged to a man who doesn't drink. Based on the 2014 novel by Emma Jane Unsworth.

Released Fri 2 August

The Art Of Racing In The Rain

CERT PG (109 mins)

Starring **Milo Ventimiglia, Amanda Seyfried, Kathy Baker, Martin Donovan, Gary Cole** and the voice of **Kevin Costner**
Directed by **Simon Curtis (USA)**

In the maudlin wake of *A Dog's Purpose* and *A Dog's Journey*, we now have this adaptation of Garth Stein's book in which a dog (voiced by Kevin Costner) reflects on his place in the human world. From the director of *My Week With Marilyn*, *Woman In Gold* and *Goodbye Christopher Robin*.

Released Fri 9 August



Blinded By The Light

CERT 12a (117 mins)

Starring **Viveik Kalra, Hayley Atwell, Rob Brydon, Kulvinder Ghir, Neli Williams**
Directed by **Gurinder Chadha (UK)**

Yet another musical this time takes its inspiration from the memoir of the British-Pakistani journalist Sarfraz Manzoor, *Greetings From Bury Park: Race. Religion. Rock'n'Roll*. And, yes, it takes its title from the 1973 song by Bruce Springsteen, who gave the film his blessing to use his music.

Released Fri 9 August



Playmobil: The Movie

CERT U (99 mins)

Starring **Anya Taylor-Joy, Gabriel Bateman**; with the voices of **Jim Gaffigan, Adam Lambert, Meghan Trainor, Daniel Radcliffe**
Directed by **Lino DiSalvo (France)**



The wonderful thing about cartoons is that any country can join in the game, with the addition of English-language voice-over artists. This comedy-adventure follows two live-action characters as they get caught up in an animated universe featuring the collectible Playmobil toys. What's the French word for Lego?

Released Fri 9 August

Dora And The Lost City Of Gold

CERT tbc

Starring **Isabela Moner, Eugenio Derbez, Michael Peña, Eva Longoria, Danny Trejo, Benicio del Toro** Directed by **James Bobin (USA)**

A big-screen spin-off of the Nickelodeon TV series, the film follows the intrepid teenage explorer Dora on a whole new adventure - to high school. But soon the lure of the jungle and a confounding mystery leads Dora back where she belongs: fighting for her life in the South American rainforest.

Released Fri 16 August



Good Boys

CERT 15 (89 mins)

Starring **Jacob Tremblay, Keith L Williams, Brady Noon, Will Forte, Molly Gordon**
Directed by **Gene Stupnitsky (USA)**

A sort of flipside to the recent Booksmart, this high school comedy follows three sixth grade boys as they struggle to make it in time to the Big Party. Jacob Tremblay you will remember from the excellent Room (2015) and Wonder (2017).

Released Fri 16 August

Transit

CERT 12a (101 mins)

Starring **Franz Rogowski, Paula Beer, Godehard Giese**
Directed by **Christian Petzold (Germany)**

In Nazi-occupied France, Georg adopts the identity of a dead writer in the hope of fleeing Marseille. He then falls in love with the writer's wife... Adapted from the 1942 novel by Anna Seghers.

Released Fri 16 August



UglyDolls

CERT U (87 mins)

With the voices of **Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas, Janelle Monáe, Blake Shelton, Pitbull, Wanda Sykes**
Directed by **Kelly Asbury (USA)**

If one should groan at the thought of another U-rated computer-animated comedy featuring inanimate objects, think again. Yes, the critters who want to be loved for what they are may look predictably annoy-

ing, but there's music afoot. There are original songs from none other than Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas and Janelle Monáe, and the director previously brought us Spirit: Stallion Of The Cimarron, Shrek 2 and Gnomeo & Juliet. Besides, the producer is none other than Robert Rodriguez, on whose story the screenplay is based.

Released Fri 16 August

Angel Has Fallen CERT tbc

Starring Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Jada Pinkett Smith, Lance Reddick, Tim Blake Nelson, Piper Perabo, Nick Nolte
Directed by Ric Roman Waugh (USA)

There's another terrorist threat afoot but Secret Service agent Mike Banning is forced to sort out his own problems first - he's just been framed for an assassination attempt on the President. Gerard Butler previously played Banning in Olympus Has Fallen and London Has Fallen.

Released Wed 21 August



Crawl CERT 15 (87 mins)

Starring Kaya Scodelario, Barry Pepper, Ross Anderson, Anson Boon
Directed by Alexandre Aja (USA)

It's just one thing after another. When Haley (Scodelario) finds herself caught in the middle of a hurricane, she realises that she cannot find her father. And then she gets trapped in the basement and finds that the rising water has paired her with some very hungry alligators.

Released Fri 23 August

Pain And Glory CERT 15 (113 mins)

Starring Antonio Banderas, Asier Etxeandia, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Penélope Cruz, Raúl Arévalo, Cecilia Roth
Directed by Andrea Di Stefano (UK/USA)

The last thing former convict Pete Koslow (Kinnaman) wanted was to be back behind the bars of Bale Hill Prison, New York. But this time he has a mission - and is acting undercover for the FBI.

Released Fri 30 August



EDITOR'S CHOICE

Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw CERT tbc (134 mins)

Starring Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idris Elba, Vanessa Kirby, Helen Mirren, Eiza González, Eddie Marsan
Directed by David Leitch (USA)

Few series have provided such a consistently high calibre of entertainment. In fact, the F&F franchise, if anything, constantly seems to raise the bar. Hobbs & Shaw is actually a spin-off, featuring Dwayne Johnson as the federal agent Luke Hobbs with Jason Statham as his arch

nemesis Deckard Shaw. However, the rivals are forced to pool their resources when a cyber-genetically enhanced terrorist (Idris Elba) emerges with a pathogen deadly enough to wipe out the human race. Vanessa Kirby, who portrayed Princess Margaret in TV's The Crown, plays Deckard's sister Hattie, who also happens to be a field agent for MI6. Filming took place in London and Glasgow - a change from the more recent exotic locations of the F&F series.

Released Thurs 1 August

A Million Little Pieces

CERT 15 (113 mins)



Starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Billy Bob Thornton, Charlie Hunnam, Giovanni Ribisi, David Dastmalchian, Juliette Lewis
Directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson (UK)

At a rehabilitation clinic in Minnesota, James Frey (Taylor-Johnson), an alcoholic and drug addict, is helped in his recovery by a Mafia boss. Based on James Frey's fictionalised memoir of the same name.

Released Fri 30 August

The Mustang CERT 15 (96 mins)

Starring Matthias Schoenaerts, Jason Mitchell, Gideon Adlon, Connie Britton, Bruce Dern
Directed by Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre (USA/France/Belgium)

Roman Coleman (Schoenaerts) is a violent criminal - he has left his partner brain-damaged for life - and is placed in a rehabilitation programme. As part of his recovery, he is assigned to train a wild mustang, a horse with whom he forms an unusual bond. The film has received rave reviews.

Released Fri 30 August





Wonder: Where Reality And Imaginary Collide

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 15 September

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



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Jenna Naylor: Bedlam Festival Commission

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 31 August - Sunday 17 November

"I create collections of vegetable monstrosities and otherworldly specimens," explains Jenna Naylor, "exploring ideas around genetic manipulation and scientific experimentation, hybrid species and evolution."

Jenna here turns her hand to 'decorating' the walls of Midlands Arts Centre's (MAC) Community Gallery by drawing directly

onto them, creating what she describes as 'a menagerie of strange creatures'. Jenna's work has been commissioned by the Bedlam Festival, an initiative which uses art to raise awareness of mental health issues. Her 'menagerie' is intended to be a starting point for a growing collection of drawings contributed by participants of workshops at the Uffculme Centre and MAC.

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sunday 1 September

Wolverhampton Art Gallery is this summer hosting the prestigious Wildlife Photographer Of The Year show for a fourth time.

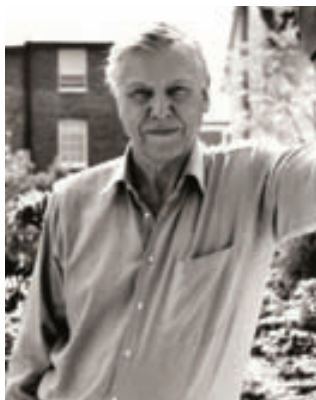
Now in its 54th year, the competition annually receives tens of thousands of submissions from amateur and professional photographers in around 100 countries. Featuring awe-inspiring images capturing fascinating animal behaviour and breathtaking landscapes, the exhibition is visiting the Midlands after premiering in London.

Faces Of Change: Nature's Champions

Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, until Sun 8 September

Portraits of environmental activists, poets, artists, politicians, campaigners, gardeners, broadcasters and scientists all feature in this celebration of 'champions of nature and the natural world'.

A partnership exhibition between the National Trust and London's National Portrait Gallery, Faces Of Change features portraits from the 19th century to the present day, with contemporary subjects including broadcaster Sir David Attenborough and animal welfare and agriculture campaigner Prince Charles.



The Paper Museum: The Curious Eye Of Cassiano dal Pozzo

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, until Sun 1 September

Cassiano dal Pozzo's 17th century paper museum was a magnificent attempt to document and record all human knowledge. Consisting of 10,000-plus watercolours, drawings and prints, the museum features subjects as diverse as antiquities, architecture, zoology, botany & geology, social customs & ceremonies, costumes, portraits, topography and military maps. Most of the museum was acquired by George III and remains in the Royal Collection.

The Barber exhibition forms part of an ongoing collaboration between the venue and the Royal Collection Trust.



Watt In The World

Library of Birmingham, until Sat 2 November

The centrepiece of the Lunar Society's James Watt Bicentenary programme, Watt In The World features all manner of memorabilia connected to the legendary engineer, from notebooks detailing his experiments to Sir Thomas Lawrence's highly regarded 1812 portrait of him.

Other featured memorabilia includes furniture, silver, scientific instruments, works on paper and personal items. There's also silverware by Matthew Boulton, with whom Watt entered into partnership to manufacture an improved steam engine incorporating his innovation of the separate condenser.

10 REASONS TO VISIT IRONBRIDGE

Situated on the River Severn, the beautiful visitor attraction of Ironbridge Gorge is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to 10 fascinating museums paying tribute to the area's vibrant history. With an extensive programme of school summer holiday activities taking place at the museums, we've compiled a list of fun and fabulous things to do in Ironbridge this month...

Unleash your inner artist...

at Jackfield Tile Museum

Discover magnificent tile displays at what was once the centre of British tile production. See, touch and walk on tiles as you wander through the recreated pub, tube station and church.

This month, Jackfield is holding tile-decorating work-

shops on weekdays.

Participants can create their own ceramic masterpieces by taking inspiration from the designs they see around the museum. Discover the Victorian tube-lining technique and add colourful glazes. And once you're finished, you can leave your tile at the museum to be fired in a kiln, after which it will be posted to your home.



Discover the power of technology...

at Enginuity

Get hands-on at the interactive Enginuity and change the way you view the world...

Test your senses, see how you can generate electricity using water, and try to build the strongest bridge you possibly can!

This month, the venue is hosting daily drop-in themed craft workshops entitled Kapow: The Summer Of Comic Art. Activities include collagraph printing,

building a 'painting machine' and decorating pencil cases. Enginuity's list of attractions also includes a soft play area for younger children, meaning there really is something for every member of the family!



Enjoy an eerie experience...

in the Tar Tunnel

Located on the bank of the River Severn, this eerie brick-lined tunnel is open on Wednesdays throughout the summer holi-

days as part of the Coalport China Museum site tour. Visitors can marvel at the treacle-like bitumen which oozes through the gaps in the walls of a tunnel that's dug into the hillside.

Step back in time...

at Blists Hill Victorian Town

Set across 52 acres, Blists Hill Victorian Town is an interactive experience featuring authentic shops and cottages.

Costumed demonstrators are on hand too, to share the stories of the Victorian characters they're role-playing.

Enjoy old-fashioned fun at the Victorian fairground, have a go at a Victorian school lesson or try your hand at candle dipping. Summer holiday visitors to Blists Hill can follow the Queen's Lost

Luggage Trail, sample the Clay Mine Experience and get hands-on with a host of entertaining and educational activities, including tea packing, making a mini steam engine and designing a poster at the Victorian printing press.

And make sure you don't miss this month's ever-popular Blists Hill In Steam weekend. Taking place on 17 & 18 August, the event offers visitors a rare opportunity to check out an array of Victorian steam-powered machines, all of which will be in full working order.



Find out about the industries that shaped history...

at Coalport China Museum, Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron and Broseley Pipeworks



Three hundred years ago, Ironbridge became a symbol of the Industrial Revolution - and these three museums provide a remarkable insight into industries that shaped the town's history. Not only entertaining but educational, the museums make for a great day out and provide plenty of memorable moments for visitors of all ages to enjoy - from a trip to the abandoned factory of Broseley Pipeworks, to a wander around the stunning exhibits at Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron.

Visitors can marvel at the extraordinary artistic talent at Coalport China Museum, find out why Victorians loved to puff on Broseley pipes and discover how iron changed the world. Coalport China Museum is an ideal place to take the kids this summer holiday, with the museum hosting family-friendly clay craft workshops. Participants can try their hand at sculpting air-drying clay, or use quick-drying paint to decorate a money box, fridge magnet or ceramic flower.

Enjoy a meal...

at The Furnace Kitchen

This brand new contemporary restaurant is located in Coalbrookdale and operates under the expert eye of local celebrity chef Marcus Bean.

Boasting barista-made coffee, homemade cakes, oven-roasted pizzas and a separate kids' menu, The Furnace Kitchen is

open during museum hours and has both indoor and outdoor seating available.



Marvel at the river valley model...

at the Museum of the Gorge

The Museum of the Gorge provides an overview of the history of Ironbridge and the industries that shaped it.

Perhaps the most engaging attraction at the venue is the 12-metre replica of the Gorge as it was in 1796, complete with intricately built model houses, model people and even boats sailing along the river! Be sure to check it out...

Get dressed up...

at Rosehill House

The two Darby Family homes - Rosehill House and Dale House - provide visitors with a fascinating insight into the Quaker

family's daily life. Visitors to Rosehill have the opportunity to dress up in the many period costumes supplied by the museum - and make-believe they're back in the days of the Industrial Revolution!



Be inspired...

at free-to-visit exhibitions

Ironbridge is playing host to a brand new exhibition this summer.

Comics: Explore And Create Comic Art showcases a mix of both iconic comic art and illus-

trations by current creators. The display includes artwork featuring Dennis the Menace, Minnie the Minx, Captain America and Wonder Woman. Meanwhile, visitors to Jackfield Tile Museum can check out The British Wildlife Photography Awards Exhibition.

Enjoy the views...

at the Iron Bridge and tollhouse

For 240 years tourists have been flocking to see the world's first iron bridge, from which the surrounding area took its name. As well as the impressive structure itself, there are spectacular views to enjoy and an information point in the old tollhouse.



Visit ironbridge.org.uk to check out the Ironbridge Gorge Museums' full summer holiday programme

More Upcoming Events...

'Morris Gang' Dancing

Blists Hill, Sun 18 August

The Blists Hill Morris Gang entertain the crowds by performing traditional dances with which visitors can join in.

Tubelining Course

Jackfield Tile Museum, Fri 6 September

Under the direction of Craven Dunnill Jackfield's professional tile decorators, visitors can create eight tiles of their own.

Comedy & Curry Night

Enginuity, Fri 6 September

Prepare to laugh the night away in the Engine Shop with comedians Ian Stone, Kate Lucas and Jonathan Elston.



Shrewsbury Flower Show

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th August 2019

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132nd Show



Shrewsbury Flower Show

The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury,
Fri 9 & Sat 10 August

Taking place for the 132nd time, the Shrewsbury Flower Show is one of the country's premier horticultural festivals and as usual features a *blooming* good programme of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

Highlights of the two-day event include guest appearances by celebrity chefs and gardeners,

arena acts, competitions, numerous workshops, a children's area and impressive floral displays. Both days are brought to a close by a magnificent fireworks display.

This year's show includes guest appearances by Masterchef's John Torode and Love Your Garden's David Domoney (pictured).

Evening entertainment comes from Queen tribute band Gary Mullen & The Works - taking to the stage on the Friday night - and the chart-topping Scouting For Girls on the Saturday.

Teach Rex

The Hangar, Wolverhampton,
Thurs 1 August

Wolverhampton welcomes a very special prehistoric guest on the first day of the month.

Teach Rex offers a unique, interactive and family-friendly dinosaur experience, allowing children of all ages to get up close and personal with the mighty Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Along the way, they'll learn about the evolution of science, get to enjoy some splendid tunes and even have a good ol' dance.

All of which sounds like monstrous good fun to us!



Staffordshire Cycling Festival

Newcastle-under-Lyme town
centre, Sun 11 August

Heading to Newcastle-under-Lyme for the first time, Staffordshire Cycling Festival promises a packed day of fun for the whole family to enjoy.

Top of the bill is the first ever professional cycle race in the town. Some of the UK's best teams have signed up for the inaugural Newcastle Grand Prix - a fast and furious high-adrenaline circuit around the town centre.

While the early-evening pro race is undoubtedly the headline event, there's plenty more entertainment to enjoy throughout the day. Highlights include Granny Turismo - the world's first and only shopping trolley dance & display team - and the chance for young cyclists to take advantage of drop-in sessions with British cycling coaches.

Summer Lates

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
every Friday in August

The Black Country Living Museum is once again hosting its highly popular Summer Lates evenings.

For just a fiver, visitors entering after 5pm can enjoy family-friendly entertainment until 8pm every Friday in August.

This year sees each evening being themed around a different decade, from the Roaring '20s to the Swinging '60s, and features themed music, theatre and, we're reliably informed, 'plenty of loffs to boot'!



Beware The Moon

Dudley Castle, Fri 2 & Sat 3 August



Dudley Castle once again hosts an open-air cinema event this month.

In partnership with Flatpack Festival, the historic venue presents a double bill of movies with a decidedly creepy twist - Tim Burton's Beetlejuice (Fri the 2nd) and The Blair Witch Project (Sat the 3rd).

Hot food, a licensed bar and mood-lighting further add to the fun, and as always there'll be a surprise or two thrown in for good measure - so be prepared to be spooked!



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Müller Grand Prix Birmingham

Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, Sun 18 August

A key fixture on the IAAF Diamond League calendar, the Müller Grand Prix Birmingham brings the world's very best athletes to the UK's second

city for an afternoon of top-class sporting endeavour.

Competitors at previous meetings have included British legend Sir Mo Farah, 800m world record holder and double Olympic champion David Rudisha and New Zealand shot putter Valeria Adams.

Teddy Bears Picnic

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Wed 28 August

Birmingham Botanical Gardens once again hosts this ever-popular event.

Not only is there a picnic with your fluffy friends to enjoy, there's also arts & crafts, a bouncy castle, fairground rides and an opportunity to win a year's free family membership to the Gardens by taking part in the Teddy Bear trail.



Falconry Day

Hawkstone Park Follies, Shropshire, Fri 2 & Fri 30 August

Falconry Day happens twice in August - once at the start of the month and once at the end - and offers visitors the chance to enjoy Shropshire Falconry's impressive birds of prey. The event provides the opportunity to actually handle the birds, an experience that comes at an additional cost of £5 per person. All funds raised go directly to the organisation, to help look after the birds and support its educational work.



Art In The Park

Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa, Sat 3 & Sun 4 August

Warwickshire's largest arts festival this month returns to Leamington Spa with a great big splash - by taking the theme of 'water'.

The event is being held not only throughout Jephson Gardens but also in the Pump Rooms Art Gallery and gardens.

The weekend will see more than 240 artists exhibiting, demonstrating and selling original pieces of art work.

Live music is provided by 17 bands, with 14 workshops also featuring.

The festival is this year honouring the town's famous philanthropist, Doctor Henry Jephson.



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The Monster

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 16 - Tues 20 August

Following last year's sell-out weekend, The Monster returns for another knock-out five-day event.

This year's get-together is set to be bigger and better than ever, with a mega line-up of brand new activities and games to enjoy, including

Boozy Bingo, Giant Unicorn and Flamingo Ball Pits, Drag Queen Karaoke, Glitter Wheel of Wonder, Mega Beer Pong and more new course obstacles.

For the first time in The Monster's history, the event also includes a two-day children's special (19 & 20 August), featuring a selection of elements created with youngsters aged between seven and 15 in mind.

The Vintage & Handmade Festival

RAF Museum, Cosford, Sat 17 & Sun 18 August

If you love one-off handcrafted pieces and all things retro vintage, then make sure you check out the Vintage & Handmade Festival.

After the success of 2018, the event has expanded to showcase more than 50 local creators with a passion for handmade, hand-crafted and carefully selected vintage wares.



The British Showjumping National Championships and Stoneleigh Horse Show

NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, Tues 6 - Sun 11 August

There'll be plenty of horing around at Stoneleigh Park this month, with the venue hosting six days of non-stop equestrian competition.

National Showjumping Finals taking place there include the Retraining of Race-horses (ROR) Championship, the Bronze and Silver Leagues, the Stepping Stones Championship and the coveted HOYS Wildcard Series. Trade stands and children's activities also feature...

The Stoneleigh Horse Show, meanwhile, begins on Friday the 9th.

The event features a wide variety of classes - from mountain and moorlands to working hunters and miniatures - as well as Horse Of The Year Show qualifying opportunities.

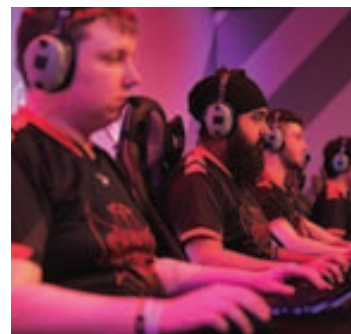


Insomnia65

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 23 - Mon 26 August

Insomnia returns for another four-day games-fest this August bank holiday, bringing together e-players from across the country and beyond and welcoming all levels and ages.

Table-top RPG, stage shows, creative cosplay, exclusive releases and merchandise all feature, celebrating the very best in gaming culture.



Shakes-paw's Day

Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 24 August

Take your furry friends to Anne Hathaway's Cottage this month and celebrate National Dog Day. The picturesque 500-year-old cottage is the perfect spot for a picnic - or why not dig into the barbecue provided... Visitors who take along their dogs will enjoy 30% off normal admission price, with the event featuring plenty of activities to entertain both animals and people alike. An 'alternative dog show' offers prizes for waggiest tail and best recall.



IRONBRIDGE.ORG.UK

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TO: **SUPER HEROES!**
At Coalbrookdale

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Dragon Slayer

Warwick Castle, selected dates from
Wed 7 - Mon 26 August

Back for 2019 following a hugely successful run last year, Warwick Castle's Dragon Slayer show promises action-packed fun for the whole family to enjoy.

Taking place in the evenings, the show features

displays of stunt riding, horseback fire-jousting and a 'dazzling' confrontation between Guy - a heroic figure likened to Robin Hood and Saint George - and his nemesis, the fire-breathing dragon.

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'.

The Festival Of Quilts

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 August

Attracting more than 25,000 visitors from all over the world, The Festival Of Quilts makes a welcome return to the NEC this month.

Highlights of this year's event include: 800 hung competition quilts; 400-plus workshops from leading quilting tutors (the most extensive workshop programme in the festival's history); talks, lectures and demonstrations; a full social events programme, including the Quilters' Guild's 40th anniversary celebrations; and over 300 exhibitors offering essential supplies.



The International Festival Of Glass

Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge,
Fri 23 - Mon 26 August

The International Festival Of Glass celebrates and showcases the skill and innovation of makers both local and international. This year's theme - explored through technology, science, art and imagination - is Placemaking, a design approach that encourages people to participate and develops a sense of belonging.

Oswestry Balloon Carnival

Cae-Glas Park, Oswestry,
Sat 24 & Sun 25 August

Oswestry Balloon Carnival returns in aid of Nightingale House Hospice this month, with more than 25 hot air balloons taking to the skies across the bank holiday weekend.

Away from the balloon displays, there's plenty of family fun to be had. Visitors can also browse around market stalls, check out food vendors and enjoy a farmers' market.



Boulton Goes To Bollywood

Soho House, Birmingham,
Sun 4 August

Birmingham gets to enjoy an 'Indian summer' this month, as Soho House hosts a 'jam-packed' day of Bollywood-inspired celebrations. Taking place in the grounds of the Boulton family home, the event features live performances from Desi Nach, a bhangra drumming workshop, a henna artist, food stalls, face painting, crafts and numerous sporting activities.



ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS THIS AUGUST!



National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham



Blists Hill, Ironbridge



Drayton Manor Theme Park

The Midlands is home to an abundance of enjoyable and exciting places to visit, catering for people of all ages and from all walks of life. Whatever you're looking for to keep the kids entertained this summer, you're sure to find somewhere and something that fits the bill.

Our What's On directory features just a selection of the best places to visit across the region this summer.

Birmingham

ASTON HALL This 17th century red-brick mansion hosts numerous family activities throughout the season. Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

BBC BIRMINGHAM Go behind the scenes of some of your favourite shows with informative and entertaining tours. The Mailbox, Birmingham, B1 1RF

BECKETT'S FARM The venue hosts a number of family events, including cookery classes for young and old, and has a farm shop and restaurant on site. Wythall, Birmingham B47 6AJ

BIRMINGHAM BACK TO BACKS Restored 19th century courtyard of working people's houses. Hurst Street, Birmingham, B5 4TE

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS The gardens span 15 acres, with four glasshouses hosting a variety of climates, from tropical rainforest to arid desert. Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TR

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Explore over 40 galleries displaying various eras of art and a diverse exhibition programme. Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

BLAKESLEY HALL Discover a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens just a few miles from the heart of the city. Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

LEGOLAND DISCOVERY CENTRE Discover the ultimate indoor Lego playground, with three rides, 10 Lego build & play zones, a 4D cinema and much more... King Edwards Rd, Birmingham, B1 2AA

CADBURY WORLD Discover the origin of everyone's favourite sweet treat, from the cocoa beans in the Aztec jungle to the making of Cadbury confectionery. Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1JT

CANNON HILL PARK Opened in 1873, Cannon Hill comprises 80 acres of formal parkland and 120 acres of conservation and woodland plantation. Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8RD

EASTSIDE PARK Birmingham's first central city park in over 130 years is situated just a stone's throw from the Bullring Shopping Centre and New Street Station. Birmingham City Centre, B4 7AP

LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM The Library is a major cultural destination, providing a dynamic mix of events, activities, performances, resources and access to expert help for learning, information and culture. Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 2EP

LICKEY HILLS COUNTRY PARK Covering 524 acres, the park is a place for family fun, whether that be

walking the dog, cycling, horse riding or maybe just enjoying the views and a cup of tea. Rednal, Birmingham, B45 8ER

MAC MAC hosts a huge range of theatre, music, comedy, dance, creative and craft courses, family shows, film and free exhibitions. Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH

MUSEUM OF THE JEWELLERY QUARTER The museum tells the story of Birmingham's renowned jewellery and metalworking heritage. Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA

NATIONAL SEA LIFE CENTRE The centre features over 2,000 creatures and 60-plus displays, including a million-litre underwater tropical tank, Nemo's Kingdom, turtle breeding and much more. Brindley-place, Birmingham, B1 2HL

RESORTS WORLD Boasting the largest casino in the UK, a shopping mall, restaurants and cinemas. Birmingham, B40 1PU

SAREHOLE MILL The 250-year-old working watermill is famous for its association with Lord Of The Rings author JRR Tolkien. Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD

THINKTANK SCIENCE MUSEUM Thinktank features over 200 interactive exhibits on science and discovery, a programme of workshops, shows and demonstrations, and a digital planetarium. Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Shropshire

ATTINGHAM PARK An elegant 18th century mansion house with Regency interiors. Set within an expansive deer park, there are riverside walks, a woodland sculpture trail and family events to enjoy. Shrewsbury, SY4 4TP

CARDING MILL VALLEY Covering almost 5,000 acres, with stunning views of the Shropshire and Welsh hills. An important place for wildlife, geology and archaeology. Church Stretton, SY6 6JG

CHOLMONDELEY CASTLE A Gothic castle - a product of the early 19th century - that stands on a high rise above a lake. The castle is surrounded by lawns, a variety of mature trees and gardens. Whitchurch, SY14 8AH

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS The place where the Industrial Revolution was born is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with 10 award-winning museums to visit. Ironbridge, TF8 7DQ

RAF COSFORD The museum houses one of the largest aviation collections in the UK. Over 70 historic aircraft are displayed in three wartime hangars on an active airfield. Shifnal, TF11 8UP

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK An oasis of calm and beauty on the banks of the River Severn, this 51-hectare award-winning park is a place for quiet enjoyment of the countryside. Bridgnorth, WV15 6NG

SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Housed within the town's Grade II Victorian music hall and one of the country's rare 13th century mansions, the venue features a broad range of artefacts alongside a rolling programme of contemporary art. Shrewsbury, SY1 1LH

TELFORD STEAM RAILWAY A heritage railway located at Horsehay and formed in 1976. The railway is operated by volunteers on Sundays and bank holidays. Telford, TF4 2NF

THE BRITISH IRONWORK CENTRE The centre boasts a varied collection of beautifully decorative metal items, some of which are faithful reproductions of ironwork no longer seen today. There's also a collection of animal sculptures to admire. Oswestry, SY11 4JH

THE QUARRY PARK Shrewsbury's 29-acre parkland hosts numerous events throughout the year, including the Shrewsbury Flower Show (10-11 August). SY1 1JA

Staffordshire

AERIAL EXTREME Ever fancied swinging about, high up in the trees? Now's your chance with Aerial Extreme's tree-mendous course at the Trentham Estate. Trentham, ST12 9HR

ALTON TOWERS Enjoy a mix of fantastic rides and attractions, offering unlimited fun for kids of all ages, families and thrill-seekers. Alton, ST10 4DB

BIDDULPH GRANGE COUNTRY PARK Originally part of the larger Biddulph Grange Estate, this is a 73-acre wooded hillside site with a large lake, ponds and meadows. Stoke-on-Trent, ST8 7TZ

CENTRAL FOREST PARK Located in the heart of Stoke, Central Forest Park is a green space providing facilities for walking, cycling, dog walking, informal sports and skateboarding. Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 6AZ

CHURNET VALLEY RAILWAY Take a journey back to the classic days of railway travel on a rural line that



Warwick Castle

passes through beautiful countryside known as Staffordshire's 'Little Switzerland'. Froghall, ST10 2HA

DRAYTON MANOR THEME PARK A definite stop-off venue for thrill-seekers, featuring all manner of white-knuckle rides. Also offers a range of rides that are somewhat less challenging. And with a zoo on site, it's a venue that's got plenty for kids and adults of all ages to enjoy. Tamworth, B78 3TW

HANLEY PARK Hanley Park and the adjacent Cauldon Grounds are open to the public. Features include three play areas: toddler, sensory and adventure (including aerial slide). Shelton, ST1 4DX

PEAK WILDLIFE PARK Large walk-throughs allow you to come face to face with exotic and endangered animals from across three continents. Leek, ST13 7QR

TAMWORTH CASTLE From its origins back in Anglo Saxon times through to the Victorian era, Tamworth Castle boasts a wealth of history. Explore how the castle developed over the centuries and learn about the families who called it their home. Tamworth, B79 7NA

THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Exhibits include the world's greatest collection of Staffordshire ceramics, a World War Two Spitfire, decorative arts & natural history, and items from the Staffordshire Hoard. Hanley, ST1 3DW

THE WEDGWOOD MUSEUM The home of one of the most interesting ceramic collections in the world. The galleries tell the story of Josiah Wedgwood, his family, and the company he founded over two centuries ago. Stoke-on-Trent, ST12 9ER

Warwickshire

BADDESLEY CLINTON A secluded estate set in the heart of the Forest of Arden. With guided talks, walks through the gardens and activities for children such as pond dipping and garden trails. Warwick, B93 0DQ

BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM The museum features the world's greatest collection of classic, vintage and veteran British cars. Gaydon, CV35 0BJ

CHARLECOTE PARK This grand 16th century country house comes complete with deer park and is a National Trust property. Warwick, CV35 9ER

COMPTON VERNEY The Georgian house is set in more than 120 acres of Grade II listed classical parkland landscaped by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the most eminent landscape architect of the 18th century. Warwick, CV35 9HZ

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK Set in 160 acres of parkland and gardens, Cotswold Wildlife Park now has one of the UK's largest zoological collections. Burford, OX18 4JP

COVENTRY MUSIC MUSEUM The museum offers activities to interest and delight youngsters, and a studio in which visitors can try their hand at composing and music-making. CV2 4ED



Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM The museum houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world. Now fully open after a £9.5million redevelopment programme. CV1 1JD

HATTON ADVENTURE WORLD An attraction for families with children up to the age of 12. Hatton, CV35 8XA

HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM A family-friendly museum, with activities that run throughout the school holidays. Coventry, CV1 5QP

KENILWORTH CASTLE A vast complex of ruined fortifications and palatial apartments spanning over five centuries. CV8 1NG

RAGLEY HALL The venue offers plenty of family entertainment, including an adventure playground, 3D maze, boating and a woodland walk. Alcester, B49 5NJ

SHAKESPEARE BIRTHPLACE TRUST Six unique properties - Shakespeare's Birthplace, Harvard House, Hall's Croft, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Mary Arden's Farm & Shakespeare's New Place.

STONELEIGH ABBEY Visitors to the Abbey can learn about the house's history through a guided tour of the west wing. CV8 2LF

STRATFORD BUTTERFLY FARM A unique opportunity to watch hundreds of the world's most spectacular butterflies flying around. Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7LS

WARWICK CASTLE Experience over 1,000 years of history. Aside from visiting the castle itself and looking at the battlements, towers, turrets and interiors, there are also jousting events, the Horrible History show and Time Tower to keep you entertained. CV34 4QU

Wolverhampton & Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE MUSEUM Restored to its Edwardian glory, Bantock House sits within 43 acres of parkland and offers activities for all ages. Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY A lively programme of changing exhibitions featuring the best of contemporary ceramics, glass, jewellery, textiles, metal, woodwork and more. Wolverhampton, WV14 7LU

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM A tribute to the traditional skills and enterprise of the people who once lived in the heart of industrial Britain. Dudley, DY1 4SQ

DUDLEY CANAL TUNNEL TRUST Enjoy guided boat trips through the tunnels, accompanied by videos, lifelike reconstructions and stunning music & light shows. Dudley, DY1 4SB

DUDLEY CASTLE AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS Home to more than 1,300 animals, with up to 200 species. At the heart of the site sits the ruins of an 11th century castle. Dudley, DY1 4QF

HIMLEY HALL & PARK An 18th century building set in 180 acres of Capability Brown-landscaped parkland. Dudley, DY3 4DF



Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

SANDWELL PARK FARM A fully restored working Victorian farm with grazing meadows, a traditional farmyard, walled kitchen gardens, Grade II listed buildings, a small museum and award-winning tea rooms. West Bromwich, B71 4BG

WIGHTWICK MANOR & GARDENS A manor house filled with an important collection of Pre-Raphaelite and arts & crafts pictures and furnishings. Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY Explore more than 300 years of art, including regular world class touring exhibitions. Wolverhampton, WV1 1DU

Worcestershire

AVONCROFT MUSEUM A fascinating museum of historic buildings spanning seven centuries which have been rescued from imminent destruction and carefully rebuilt, timber by timber or brick by brick, on a beautiful open-air site in the north of Worcestershire. Bromsgrove, B60 4JR

BERRINGTON HALL Created by architect Henry Holland, the hall is one of a small number of his buildings to survive intact. As well as being able to explore the family rooms and servant quarters, guests can take part in activities or relax by the lake. Nr Leominster, HR6 0DW

BROCKHAMPTON ESTATE Set in 1,700 acres of estate, the romantic Manor House dates back to the late 14th century and is accessible via a small gatehouse and over a moat. Nr Bromyard, WR6 5TB

CROFT CASTLE The castle is located deep in the heart of the Herefordshire countryside, surrounded by 1,500 acres of historic woodland, farm and parkland. Home to the Croft family for nearly 1,000 years, this castle has many intriguing stories to uncover. Yarpole. Nr Leominster, HR6 9PW

CROOME PARK Explore what remains of a secret wartime air base and discover how thousands of people lived and worked there during the 1940s. Worcester, WR8 9DW

EASTNOR CASTLE DEER PARK The castle is set within the dramatic beauty of the Malvern Hills and surrounded by a beautiful deer park, arboretum and lake. Ledbury, HR8 1RL

HARTLEBURY CASTLE A Grade I listed building which was built in the mid-13th century as a fortified manor house. Kidderminster, DY11 7XZ

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY A full-size standard-gauge railway line which runs regular steam-hauled passenger trains, for tourists and enthusiasts alike, between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, a distance of 16 miles. Bewdley, DY12 1BG

THE MALVERN HILLS A wide variety of walks, from short and gently graded slopes to more strenuous options. WR14 3EY

WITLEY COURT One hundred years ago, Witley Court was one of England's great country houses, hosting many extravagant parties. Today, it's a spectacular ruin, the result of a disastrous fire in 1937. Great Witley, WR6 6JT

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Your week-
by-week
listings guide
August 2019

the list



Elmer The Patchwork Elephant at Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham - Wed 28 August

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

What's On

Thurs 1 to Sun 11 August



Lucinda Williams at
Birmingham Town Hall
Fri 2 August

Mon 12 to Sun 18 August



Andrew Bird at
The Glee Club, Birmingham
Thurs 15 - Sat 17 August

Mon 19 to Sun 25 August



Private Lives at
The Pavilion, Smethwick
Wed 21 August

Mon 26 to Sat 31 August



West Side Story at
Birmingham Hippodrome
Thurs 29 - Sat 31 August

THROUGHOUT AUGUST

Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

WITHIN AND WITHOUT: BODY IMAGE AND THE SELF Exhibition examining how social, historical and cultural factors affect body image, and how this is expressed through objects and artworks, until Sun 1 Sept

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



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

Ikon Gallery

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

MAC, Birmingham

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

HOME OF METAL: HAND OF DOOM Collection of portraits of Black Sabbath fans wearing the ubiquitous battle jacket, until Sun 1 Sept

BEN VENOM: ALL THIS MAYHEM Exhibition of work by San Francisco-based artist Ben Venom, featuring large-scale textile pieces, customised jean jackets and clothing, until Sun 8 Sept

MADE @ MAC: FAMILY FUN AT MAC Exhibition of work produced by families who have taken part in a wide range of courses at MAC, until Sun 3 Nov

RBSA Gallery

NEW PAUL BROWN RBSA A selection of busts, figures and masks in clay, representing Paul's ongoing interest in capturing the movement and attitude

of the human form, Mon 12 Aug - Sat 28 Sept

NEW LORD ARBSA Terry's favourite subjects are united in this exhibition, which takes the theme of finding beautiful colour in all manner of places, Mon 19 Aug - Sat 28 Sept

The Barber Institute

LADY BARBER'S LIFE AND LEGACY Display celebrating the 150th anniversary of Lady Barber's birth, until Sun 8 Sept

THE FACE OF FASHION Presentation celebrating portrait miniatures, which were popular in Europe from the early 17th century until around the 1850s, until Sun 8 Sept

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

Other VISUAL ARTS

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

NICK HYNAN: GENDER BLENDING Thought-provoking exhibition which sees local photographer Nick Hynan chronicling Birmingham's gender-blending culture, until Mon 26 Aug, Birmingham LGBT Centre

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

FORWARD - GWEN WILKINSON Exhibition of photographic work inspired by Birmingham's industrial, political and social history, until Sat 7 Sept, Argentea Gallery, Birmingham

INSPIRE 2019 This is the fourth year of the Inspire youth art competition but the first year the exhibition has been held at Blakesley Hall, until Sat 14 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

JACK'S ADVENTURES WITH SALT Geologists investigate the secrets of salt using magnets, until Fri 20 Sept, Birmingham City University

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM Display of photographs from the University Heritage Archive Collection of the Cadbury Research Library, until Fri 31 Jan, Birmingham City University

Gigs

NED DOHENY Thurs 1 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MUMFORD AND SONS EXPERIENCE Thurs 1 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE REAL THING Thurs 1 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

GRUESOME, ABSOLUTION, VIOLATED FLESH Fri 2 Aug, The Flapper, B'ham

TYLA'S DOGS D'AMOUR PLUS THE DIRTY STRANGERS Fri 2 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

JOHNNY 2 BAD Fri 2 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

1215 Fri 2 Aug, The World Bar, Resorts World, Birmingham

THE PRIMITIVES Fri 2 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RAVE FOR DANNY Fri 2 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LUCINDA WILLIAMS Fri 2 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall



A NIGHT OF BOOGIE WOOGIE AND BLUES Fri 2 Aug, Level 25, Marco Pierre White, Birmingham

ERADIKATOR Sat 3 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

KEEP OFF THE BRASS Sat 3 Aug, Level 25, Marco Pierre White, Birmingham

BLACK COUNTRY BEATLES Sat 3 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

MOTHER POPCORN Sat 3 Aug, The World Bar, Resorts World, B'ham

THE FAUNA / ALL THESE SQUARES / THE COMMON / DOMINIC EDWARD Sat 3 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

THE ELO ENCOUNTER Sat 3 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SITHU AYE WITH THE STANDARDS Sun 4 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

HYSTERIA (DEF LEPPARD) Sun 4 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SAGE FRANCIS & B.DOLAN ARE EPIC BEARD MEN Sun 4 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Comedy

PAUL MYREHAUG PLUS COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 1 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

FAT PENGUIN IMPROVISED COMEDY

SHOW Thurs 1 Aug, The Patrick Kavanagh, Moseley, Birmingham

GORDON SOUTHERN, SAM AVERY, RICHARD MASSARA & HAYLEY ELLIS Thurs 1 Aug, The George Hotel, Lichfield

GORDON SOUTHERN, PAUL MYREHAUG, ANDREA HUBERT (PICTURED) & AURIE STYLA Fri 2 - Sat 3 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham



MICK FERRY, JULIET MYERS, ANDREW ROBINSON & PETE OTWAY Sat 3 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

ANNIE Jodie Prenger stars as Miss Hannigan in a new version of the much-loved rags-to-riches tale, until Sun 11 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

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, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

CIRCUS RAJ Featuring acrobats, aerialists, contortionists, a fakir, dancers, musicians, stiltwalkers and costumed characters, Sun 4 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Kids Shows

IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends are back in a brand new live show - Igglepiggle's Busy Day!, Wed 31 July - Sun 4 Aug, The REP, Birmingham

GANGSTA GRANNY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' bestselling tale, Wed 31 July - Thurs 1 Aug, Brueton Park, Solihull

TREASURE ISLAND Family fun with sea shanty songs and audience participation, Fri 2 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

TOY STORY 4 (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, until Thurs 8 Aug

NEVER LOOK AWAY (15) Drama/History. Starring Tom Schilling, Paula Beer. Foreign language, subtitled, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Tues 30 July - Thurs 1 Aug

HOBBS & SHAW (12a) Action/Adventure. Starring Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 2 Aug

MARIANNE & LEONARD: WORDS OF LOVE (12a) Documentary/Music. Starring Leonard Cohen, Judy Collins. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 2 Aug

OLDBOY (18) Action/Drama. Starring Min-sik Choi, Ji-tae Yu. Foreign language, subtitled. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Aug

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Patton Oswalt, Lake Bell. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Wed 7 Aug

YESTERDAY (U) Comedy/Fantasy. Starring Himesh Patel, Lily James. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 2 - Wed 7 Aug

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (12a) Action/Adventure. Starring Tom Holland, Samuel L. Jackson. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Aug

ROCKETMAN (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Taron Egerton, Bryce Dallas Howard. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Aug

A STAR IS BORN (18) Drama/Music. Starring Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper. This is a "with brunch" screening. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 3 Aug

THE MATRIX (15) Action/Sci-Fi. Starring Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 3 & Wed 7 Aug

THE FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS (15) Comedy/Horror. Starring Jack MacGowran, Roman Polanski. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 4 Aug

FIVE SEASONS: THE GARDENS OF PIET OUDOLF (U) Documentary. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 4 - Wed 7 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Thurs 1 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW (tbc)

THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2 (PG)

ANIMALS (15)

BALANCE, NOT SYMMETRY (15)

CHARMING (PG)

Events

WW2 IN THE CASTLE Try your hand at firefighting, learn about war-time communications, have a go at decoding secret messages and meet the billeting officer, until Thurs 1 Aug, Tamworth Castle

LITTLE SKIPPERS: WATERY WILDLIFE A 45-minute boat trip followed by things to make and do, until Thurs 1 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

KIDZ CLUB Discover 'amazing' rides, endangered animals and be ready to face your VertiGo, until Thurs 1 Aug, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Staffs

SUMMER TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Take inspiration from some of the classic designs at the museum to create your own ceramic masterpiece, until Fri 2 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

D-DAY CHALLENGE Take part in a special challenge to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, until Tues 20 Aug, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

GET HANDS-ON WITH HISTORY Whether it's learning to sword fight, shooting with a bow & arrow, or transforming into a little lord or lady, there's plenty of hands-on fun to keep the kids entertained, until Sat 24 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

PICTURE THIS! FAMILY DRAWING TOUR Series of special interactive drawing tours for the whole family, until Tues 27 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

DESTINATION SPACE: THE MOON Family show to mark the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, until Fri 30 Aug, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

SUMMER HOLIDAYS AT AVONCROFT MUSEUM Six weeks 'jam-packed' with family activities for all ages, until Fri 30 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

SUMMER SMILES Drop-in art sessions for all the family, until Sat 31 Aug,



Destination Space: The Moon

Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham, until 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.

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

THIS MAKES THAT WITH THESE New family session taking place every Tuesday and Saturday, until Sat 31 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

LEGO CITY Enjoy character appearances and new building activities, explore what a city of the future would look like and build an awesome creation or several, until Sun 1 Sept, Legoland Discovery Centre, B'ham

THE BLACK COUNTRY AT PLAY Celebration of games and toys from childhood to adulthood, until Sun 1 Sept, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

FREDDO'S TREASURE TROVE Ahoy me hearties! Cadbury's Freddo has donned his captain's hat to show youngsters what it takes to become a pirate on the seven seas, until Sun 1 Sept, Cadbury World, Birmingham

SUMMER OF SPITFIRE Attractions include cockpit tours of the world's oldest Spitfire Mk 1, daily storytelling sessions and the chance to grab a Spitfire selfie, complete with props and costumes, until Sun 1 Sept, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

HISTORIC HEROES Uncover inspiring stories and follow in the footsteps of



Freddo's Treasure Trove - Cadbury World, Birmingham

A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC AND SONG OF IRELAND

ONE NIGHT IN DUBLIN

FEATURING AWARD WINNING LIVELY IRISH BAND
THE WILD MURPHYS

A night of hits from the Emerald Isle's greatest performers:
THE DUBLINERS THE POOGIES THE SAW DOCTORS STEVE EARLE FLOGGING MOLEY
BRENDAN SHINE DANIEL O'DONNELL NATHAN CARTER FOSTER AND ALLEN
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THE SNOW QUEEN

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER
- MONDAY 30 DECEMBER

0121 359 9444 oldreptheatre.co.uk

BRIAN YEATES ASSOCIATES PRESENTS

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT

FEATURING
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EMMA ROLLASON AS 'DOLLY ALLEN'
What a great night... just like it used to be!

4 Oct 19	SOLIHULL The Core	0121 704 6962
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16 Oct 19	BRIDGNORTH Theatre On The Steps	01746 766477
23/24 Oct 19	KIDDERMINSTER Rose Theatre	01562 743745
27 Nov 19	REDDITCH Palace Theatre	01527 65203
12 Mar 20	TAMWORTH Assembly Rooms	01827 709618
13 Mar 20	WORCESTER The Swan	01905 611427
2 Apr 20	LICHFIELD Garrick	01543 412121

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NOW BOOKING

SUTTON SOUND CLASH
LIVE SKA BAND THE INTERPRETERS & NORTHERN SOUL DJ
Sunday 25 August BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL
Tickets: £10adv, £15std 5.30pm

SUTTON SOUND CLASH
LIVE PUNK BAND THE UNDERCOCKS & REGGAE DJ CHRIS LOUCA
Friday 27 September
Tickets: £10adv, £15std 7.30pm

SINGALONG POWER ROCK
Friday 18 October
Tickets: £10 8pm

PETER PAN - THE MUSICAL
PRESENTED BY SUTTON MUSICAL YOUTH THEATRE
Tue 29 Oct - Sat 2 Nov
Tickets: £19, £15 under 18

THE DREAMBOYS
Friday 22 November
Tickets: £37.50 / £24.50 7.30pm

FREEDOM '19
GEORGE MICHAEL TRIBUTE CONCERT
Saturday 30 November
Tickets: £23.50 7.30pm

SNOW AT CHRISTMAS
BRIDGNORTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Sunday 1 December
Tickets: £20, £15 over 65s, £10 Students & under 18s 6.30pm

Funny Business presents
JONATHAN PIE
The Raymond & Mr Timpkins Review.
Jo Enright / Wayne Beese
Friday 23 August, 8pm
Tickets* £22/£18

*LIVE AT THE TOWN HALL BOOKINGS
WWW.FUNNYBUSINESS.CO.UK

Black Country heroes, until Sun 1 Sept, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

SUMMER TREASURE HUNT Follow the clues and find a pirate treasure chest in the garden, until Sun 1 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER OF FUN Featuring a host of events, shows, activities and meet & greets, until Sun 1 Sept, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

GREAT SUMMER ADVENTURE Family fun including laser combat, foam parties and tractor safaris, until Sun 1 Sept, Hatton Adventure World, Warwick

MOON LANDING MAIZE MAZE Find and solve space-themed puzzles to help the lunar crew fix their spacecraft and return home safely, until Mon 2 Sept, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton Upon Trent

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

RETURN TO THE FAIRY BALL Trail and scavenger hunt in preparation for Arley Arboretum's annual Fairy Ball, until Sun 8 Sept, Arley Arboretum, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

THE FALCONER'S QUEST Up to 70 high-flying birds of prey take to the skies in a display of aerial acrobatics, until Sun 3 Nov, Warwick Castle

TEACH REX Learn about the evolution of science surrounding the Tyrannosaurus Rex with the help of 'some very special T-Rex guests', Thurs 1 Aug, The Hangar, Wolverhampton

THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS Europe's premier patchwork & quilting show features displays of textile art and thousands of quilts from all over the world, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

NIMROD TOURS Step on board the Nimrod XV249 and learn about its intelligence-gathering role in the Royal

Air Force, Thurs 1 - Sat 31 Aug, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

SUMMER NIGHTS Extended opening hours means there's even more time to experience the four-mile safari drive-through and encounter the animals, Thurs 1 Aug - Sun 1 Sept, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

TALL TALES: CINDERELLA STORY TOUR Interactive telling of Cinderella. Help equip Cinders with everything she needs, then join in the dancing at Prince Charming's ball, Fri 2 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

NATURE EXPLORERS Explore and learn about the nature around you, Fri 2 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

SUMMER LATES Enjoy summer fun for a fiver every Friday evening this month, Fri 2 - Fri 30 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

PROMS AT THE ARBORETUM Live performances set against the backdrop of the Arboretum at dusk, Sat 3 Aug, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire

DAY OF DANCE Morris dancing troupes from all over the country descend on the Severn Valley Railway for a day of dance, Sat 3 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

NOT ANOTHER COMIC CON Featuring special guests, panels, competitions and a raffle, with proceeds going to Birmingham Children's Hospital, Sat 3 Aug, Aston University Guild Of Students, Birmingham

CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE FESTIVAL One of Europe's biggest celebrations of motorcycling through the decades, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Aug, Donington Park, Castle Donington

ROYALS AND ROUNDHEADS Immerse yourself in the 17th century as the English Civil War is reenacted, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidder-



Summer Treasure Hunt - Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

minster

ART IN THE PARK 2019 Showcase of for-sale art, with live demonstrations from Midlands artists and craftspeople, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Aug, Jephson Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa

NATIONAL METRO & MINI SHOW Show dedicated to two iconic marques and celebrating 60 years of the Mini, Sun 4 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

Festivals

DRUNKEN MONKEY ROCK FESTIVAL Line up includes Coda, Creedence Clearwater Review and Sam's Town, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Aug, Wellan Road, nr Upton, Worcestershire

COOMBE WEEKENDER Line up includes The Libertines, Tom Grennan and Circa Waves, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Aug, Coombe Abbey, Coventry



Classic Motorcycle Festival - Donington Park, Castle Donington

Summer at the Valley

From princesses and superheroes to go-karts and sandpits, there are plenty of activities to enjoy this summer at Sandwell Park Farm!

Join us this summer holiday for animal interactions, Victorian games and you can also meet our farmers!

Remember to dress up as your favourite princess or superhero from 10th - 15th August to win a small prize and take part in tiara and mask making activities around the farm.

Take part in our farm letter hunt to have a chance to win a free six month family pass!

Sandwell Park Farm
Saber's Lane, West Bromwich
B71 4BB

www.sandwell.gov.uk/sandwellvalley

sandwellvalley



Jessica Lynn - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Gigs

AFTER THE BURIED, FSTS, GHOST IRIS, OVERTHRONE Mon 5 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

SKEGGS Mon 5 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CHAPTER 13 Mon 5 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JOE DOLMAN + WILL NAISBITT + ELLIE POOLE Tues 6 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JESSICA LYNN Wed 7 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KNOXVILLE HIGHWAY Wed 7 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

TWELVE TWELVE + P.E.T + THE EARNEST SPEARS + THE MARILYNS Wed 7 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE BROKEN ORCHESTRA Thurs 8 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birm-

ingham

CYDONIA KNIGHTS - TRIBUTE TO MUSE Thurs 8 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

FEED ME MILK + HIT THE FLOOR + DAN PELOW + MATT MASON + JEN NORTH Thurs 8 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

AMAZING ARETHA Thurs 8 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

CREAM LIMOUSINE Fri 9 Aug, The World Bar, Resorts World, B'ham

THE INTERPRETERS Fri 9 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

GERMEIN Fri 9 Aug, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

JOHN COGHLAN'S QUO Fri 9 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

BIFFY MCCLYRO Fri 9 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

MICHAEL GRAVES Fri 9 Aug, The Mill, Digbeth

SUPERCAT Sat 10 Aug,

O2 Academy, B'ham

ARETHA: QUEEN OF SOUL Sat 10 Aug, The Night Owl, B'ham

THE HOUSE & GARAGE ORCHESTRA Sat 10 Aug, Digbeth Arena, Birmingham

ASTROBOYS + MAYDAY + CONOR COLEY + RELLA Sat 10 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

TREXTASY Sat 10 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

AESTHETICS + S.T. MANVILLE + JESSIE REED Sat 10 Aug, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

HEY PABLO! Sat 10 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

PRETTY VILE + KICK THE CLOWN + PELICAAN + SPIT + NAOMI JANDIO Sun 11 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE PAT MCMANUS BAND Sun 11 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

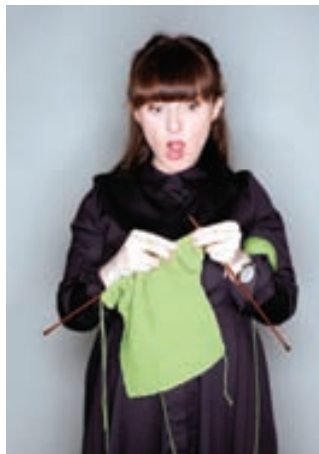


Germein - Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

Comedy

MATT REED, TANYALEE DAVIS & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 8 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

JO ENRIGHT (PICTURED) & LINDSEY SANTORO Fri 9 Aug, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham



MATT REED, TANYALEE DAVIS, STEVE HARRIS & DAMIAN CLARK Fri 9 - Sat 10 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE LONGLEY, CHRIS STOKES, PAUL PIRIE & SAM AVERY Sat 10 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

ANNIE Jodie Prenger stars as Miss Hannigan in a new version of the much-loved rags-to-riches tale, until Sun 11 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

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, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

AMÉLIE THE MUSICAL Danny Mac & Audrey Brisson star in a new musical based on the much-loved film, Mon 29 July - Sat 3 Aug, Malvern Theatres

Kids Shows

MADAGASCAR: A MUSICAL ADVENTURE JNR Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they bound onto the stage in the musical adventure of a lifetime! Fri 9 - Sat 10 Aug, Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

SPECIAL DELIVERY Show without words fusing puppetry and silliness, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Talks

CELESTE BARBER - CHALLENGE ACCEPTED Join the comedian and social media star as she talks about some of her most famous images and the stalkers, fans and comments that get under her skin, Thurs 8 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

OUR TIME (18) Drama. Starring Carlos Reygadas, Natalia López. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 5 - Thurs 8 Aug

APOLLO 11 (U) Documentary. Starring Buzz Aldrin, Joan Ann Archer. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 9 Aug

ALIEN (15) Horror/Sci-fi. Starring Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 9 Aug

TOLKIEN (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Nicholas Hoult, Lily Collins. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 9 - Wed 14 Aug

LATE NIGHT (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Emma Thompson, Mindy Kaling. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 9 - Wed 14 Aug

THE QUEEN'S CORGI (PG) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Julie Walters, Matt Lucas. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 9 - Thurs 15 Aug

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT (12a) Biography/Comedy. Starring Viveik Kalra, Kulvinder Ghir. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 9 - Thurs 15 Aug

PULP FICTION (18) Crime/Drama. Starring John Travolta, Uma Thurman. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 10 Aug

LIFE OF BRIAN (12a) Comedy. Starring John Cleese, Terry Jones. This is an outdoor screening. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 10 Aug

GREASE (U) Music/Drama. Starring Olivia Newton-John & John Travolta. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 10 Aug

ENTER THE DRAGON (18) Action/Crime.

Monday 5 - Sunday 11 August

Starring Bruce Lee, John Saxon. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 11 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 9 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN (PG)

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT (12A)

PLAYMOBIL: THE MOVIE (U)

Events

SUMMER TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS

Take inspiration from some of the classic designs at the museum to create your own ceramic masterpiece, Mon 5 - Fri 9 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

ZOO CLUB Activities themed around animals, wildlife, nature and zoos for children aged between eight and 14, Tues 6 - Thurs 8 Aug, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

THE BRITISH SHOWJUMPING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND STONELEIGH HORSE SHOW

Six days of non-stop equestrian competition, tradestands

and children's activities, Tues 6 - Sun 11 Aug, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth

KNIGHTS & PRINCESSES FAMILY FUN DAY

Treat your very own knights and princesses to a day of royal activity, Wed 7 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

DRAGON SLAYER Featuring displays of fearless horseback fire-jousting, 'perilous' stunt riding and a 'dazzling' confrontation between Guy and his nemesis, the fire-breathing dragon, Wed 7 - Mon 26 Aug, Warwick Castle

NATURE DAY: LIVE BUGS! Get up close with all manner of creepy crawlies as Sarehole Mill invites you to see the Bug Lady. Take part in river dipping and finding insects and wildlife around the venue, Thurs 8 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

TALL TALES: GOLDBLOCKS Interactive telling of the famous story, Fri 9 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW One of the country's premier horticultural festivals, featuring a diverse programme of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Aug, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

ULTIMATE STREET CAR 'The largest, loudest, hottest and fastest modified

car festival in Europe', Fri 9 - Sun 11 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough

BATTLE PROMS Featuring 'dramatic and breathtaking pyrotechnic effects with cannon fire and fireworks', Sat 10 Aug, Ragley Hall, Alcester

SUNDOWN CINEMA Enjoy movies 'beneath the stars' in the venue's outdoor arena, Sat 10 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

ASTON ALIVE: A TASTE OF HISTORY Experience a taste of Aston Hall's past through the history of food and drink, Sat 10 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

CONVOY IN THE PARK 'The UK's biggest celebration of all things trucking', Sat 10 - Sun 11 Aug, Donington Park, Castle Donington

STEAM ON THE ROAD Weekend showcasing 'the very best of steam on the road and steam on the rails', Sat 10 - Sun 11 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

SUMMER FESTIVAL Event featuring food & drink, hand-crafted artisan products, street food, live music and children's entertainment, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Aug, World of Wedgwood, Stoke-on-Trent

EQUESTRIAN DAY 2019 Featuring dis-

plays, demonstrations and rural attractions, Sun 11 Aug, Dallas Burston Polo Club, Warwickshire

THE NATIONAL BMW FESTIVAL Featuring more than 1,000 BMWs. Organised by the BMW Car Club UK, Sun 11 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

Festivals

BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR Line up includes Sabaton, Parkway Drive and Scorpions, Thurs 8 - Sun 11 Aug, Catton Hall, Derbyshire

LAKEFEST Line up includes Kaiser Chiefs, Happy Mondays and James, Thurs 8 - Sun 11 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

FARMER PHIL'S MUSIC FESTIVAL Line up includes Lindisfarne, The Neville Staple Band and Slim Chance, Fri 9 - Sun 11 Aug, Gatten Farm, Ratlinghope, South Shropshire

STATFOLD BARN FESTIVAL Brand new for 2019. Line-up includes Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Boyzlife, Tony Christie, Toploader, S Club 3 & Bootleg Beatles, Fri 9 - Sun 11 Aug, Statfold Barn Railway, Tamworth



FINAL WEEKS

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The Black Seeds - The Glee Club, Birmingham

Gigs

THE BLACK SEEDS Tue 13 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MINAMI DEUTSCH Tues 13 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RAKETKANON Wed 14 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SECRET RULE Wed 14 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THANK YOU SCIENTIST, EFFIGY FOR SLEEP, ARCHETYPE Thurs 15 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

PRAM Thurs 15 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LYNETTE WALTERS & BAND Thurs 15 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

ALMOST EASY Thurs 15 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MÖTLEY CRÜDE & POISON Thurs 15 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE SPECIALS LTD Fri 16 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

GIANT & THE GEORGES + ED STRONG + AARON ARMSTRONG-CRADDOCK Fri 16 Aug, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

BLACK ANGUS (ACDC) AND SACK SABBATH Fri 16 Aug, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

DEFINITELY MAYBE & TONY MCCAROLL Fri 16 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

RHINO AND THE RANTERS (FINAL SHOW) Fri 16 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLIND IN BIRMINGHAM Fri 16 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

REVOLVER Fri 16 Aug, The World Bar, Re-

sorts World, B'ham

TOMMY HUNT WITH THE SIGNATURES Sat 17 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

BEATFACTORY Sat 17 Aug, The World Bar, Resorts World, B'ham

THE VCR, CHARM OFFENSIVE & HONEY FACTORY Sat 17 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BELIEVE - THE CHER SONGBOOK Sat 17 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

OASIS Sat 17 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

THE REGGULITES Sat 17 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

DANNY WRIGHT Sun 18 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

JOHN LENNON UK Sun 18 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

GOT TO SING CHOIR: THIS IS US! Back by popular demand, a wall of sound awaits you as Got 2 Sing Choirs from across the Midlands proudly presents 'This is Us!' - a spectacular concert of roof-raising popular songs with an audience participation finale, Sun 18 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

NCO: DREAM, FANTASY, NIGHTMARE Featuring Caroline Hobbs Smith (conductor) and National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain Under 12 Orchestra. Programme includes works by Mussorgsky, Humperdinck, Shostakovich, Herrmann & Williams, Sun 18 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

ANDREW BIRD, JUNIOR SIMPSON & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBISON Thurs 15 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BARBARA NICE'S SUMMER SPECIAL Fri 16 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham



ANDREW BIRD, JUNIOR SIMPSON, BARRY DODDS & ABIGOLIAH SCAMAUN Fri 16 - Sat 17 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TEZ ILYAS, SAM AVERY, STEVE HARRIS & PIERRE HOLLINS Sat 17 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, DANNY SUTCLIFFE, ADAM STAUNTON & CARL JONES Sat 17 Aug, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

TEZ ILYAS, DAVEY ASH, TONY BURGESS & DAMION LARKIN Sat 17 Aug, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Theatre

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, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

GREASE THE MUSICAL Nikolai Foster's brand new production stars Peter Andre & Ore Oduba who both play Teen Angel at selected shows, Tues 13 - Sat 24 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

Kids Shows

GANGSTA GRANNY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' bestselling tale, Wed 14 Aug, Packwood House, Solihull

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

TOY STORY 4 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Tues 13 Aug

APOCALYPSE NOW - THE FINAL CUT (15) Drama/War. Starring Martin Sheen, Marlon Brando. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Tues 13 Aug

PULP FICTION (18) Crime/Drama. Starring John Travolta, Uma Thurman. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 14 Aug

ONCE UPON A TIME... IN HOLLYWOOD (18) Comedy/Drama. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Wed 14 Aug

THE LION KING (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Donald Glover, Seth Rogen. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 16 - Thurs 22 Aug

TELL IT TO THE BEES (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Holliday Grainger, Anna Paquin. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 16 - Thurs 22 Aug

MIDSOMMAR (15) Drama/Horror. Starring Florence Pugh, Jack Reynor. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 16 - Thurs 22 Aug

WITHNAIL & I (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Richard E. Grant, Paul Mc-



Thank You Scientist - The Flapper, Birmingham

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Gann. Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham, Sat 17 Aug

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)

Animation/Family. With the voice of Jodi Benson, Samuel E. Wright. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 17, Sun 18 & Wed 21 Aug

THE WIZARD OF OZ (U) Adventure/Family. Starring Judy Garland, Frank Morgan. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 17, Sun 18 & Thurs 22 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 14 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

ONCE UPON A TIME IN... HOLLYWOOD (18)

DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD (PG)

GOOD BOYS (15)

TRANSIT (tbc)

UGLYDOLLS (U)

Events

SUMMER TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS

Take inspiration from some of the classic designs at the museum to create your own ceramic masterpiece, Mon 12 - Fri 16 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire



COASTER CLUB Become a ride designer for the day, learn all about how Drayton Manor's rides work and enjoy some exclusive ride time, Tues 13 Aug, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth, Staffs

MAKE AND PLAY ENGINEERS - BUILDING IT UP Will you build the longest bridges, the highest towers, the sturdiest walls - or even a life-size car? Wed 14 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

SLIME WORKSHOP Make your very own gooey slime to take home, Wed 14 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

LITTLE SKIPPERS: CANAL LIFE A 45-minute boat trip followed by things to make and do, Wed 14 - Thurs 15 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

COASTER CLUB Become a ride designer for the day, learn all about how Drayton Manor's rides work and enjoy some exclusive ride time, Thurs 15 Aug, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

CASTLE TOURS Take a guided walk around the 11th century castle, Thurs

15 Aug, Dudley Castle

TUNNEL TEDS Bring along your furry friend for a ted-tastic day of bear-themed fun on and around the canal, Fri 16 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

THE GREATEST SHOW Pull up a ringside seat with a sparkling 'arrival cocktail' as Level 25 presents a four-course themed dinner interspersed with 'the best in live entertainment', Fri 16 Aug, Marco Pierre White, Birmingham

TALE TALES: RAPUNZEL FAMILY STORY-TELLING TOUR Interactive telling of the much-loved fairytale, Fri 16 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE MURDER OF ALBERT BECKER There's been a murder at the Back to Backs - can you help solve the mystery? Fri 16 Aug, Birmingham Back to Backs

NATURE EXPLORERS Explore and learn about the nature around you, Fri 16 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

MAGICFEST BIRMINGHAM Players come together to play Magic: The Gathering, 'the world's most popular trading card game', Fri 16 - Sun 18 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

THE WESTERN MOTORHOME SHOW One of the UK's largest annual country & western festivals, Fri 16 - Sun 18 Aug, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

THE MONSTER Following last year's sell-out weekend, The Monster returns for another knock-out event, Fri 16 - Tues 20 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

SUNDOWN CINEMA Enjoy movies 'beneath the stars' in the venue's outdoor arena, Sat 17 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

GUIDE DOGS USE YOUR SENSES 5K RUN Walk, jog or run a 5K family-friendly fun run. Use your senses and change the lives of families living with sight loss, Sat 17 Aug, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth

THE BEWONDERMENT MACHINE The Bewonderment Machine is an artist-built cycle-powered carousel, 'a kinetic public sculpture and a magical journey for small children', Sat 17 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

MONSTER TRUCK NATIONALS Sat 17 - Sun 18 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough

VINTAGE AND HANDMADE FESTIVAL Featuring all things retro vintage and one-off handcrafted pieces, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Aug, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

MÜLLER GRAND PRIX BIRMINGHAM Bringing the very best athletes in the world to the Midlands for one jam-packed afternoon of top-quality athletics, Sun 18 Aug, Alexander Stadium, Birmingham

'MORRIS GANG' DANCING Blists Hill Morris Gang entertain the crowds with traditional dances, Sun 18 Aug, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire



The Greatest Show - Level 25 @ The Cube, Birmingham

Festivals

JUST SO FESTIVAL The multi award-winning Just So is dedicated solely to children and their families, offering astonishing arts, unique experiences and the chance to see the best in new outdoor arts each year, Fri 16 - Sun 18 Aug, Rode Hall Parkland, Scholar Green, Cheshire



Food & Drink

GIN & JAZZ CLUB Start your weekend off the right way; with a gin cocktail in hand, listening to the best live jazz around at mac's new Gin and Jazz Club, Fri 16 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

DR EAMERS' - GIN TASTING Join Dr Eamers' Emporium founder Jordan Lunn for an excellent evening of gin tasting, Sat 17 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

ARTRIX

August 2019

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2 - 7 August

YESTERDAY

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9 August

APOLLO 11

Experience the momentous days and hours in 1969 when humankind took a giant leap.



9 August

ALIEN

Ridley Scott's heart-stopping, skin-crawling sci-fi masterpiece, still terrifying after 40 years.



10 August

ARTRIX VINTAGE FESTIVAL

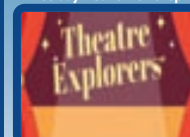
Sing-a-long Grease, Live Music, Swing Dance & Vintage Fayre



12 - 14 August. 14 - 19 yrs

THEATRE EXPLORERS SUMMER SCHOOL

From Page To Stage - A three day theatre workshop



COMING SOON: The Queen's Corgi - Saturday Matinee, Vita & Virginia, John Blek, The Current War Country Chix, Miranda Sykes, Photograph, Andy Fairweather Low & the Low Riders, Blinded by the Light The Carpenters Experience, Once Upon A Time In Hollywood, The Strawbs 50th Anniversary Concert Chantel McGregor, Brainstormers Comedy, Dear Zoo Live!, Theo's Comedy Skool, Forever Eilon, Pain & Glory National Theatre Live: One Man, Two Guvnors Encore, Paul Foot: Image Conscious, The Counterfeit Sixties Playmobile: The Movie - Saturday Matinee, Ralph McTell, Graham Wilson - Living The Dream...

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Box Office: 01527 577330



British Sea Power - Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

Gigs

BRITISH SEA POWER Wed 21 Aug, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

SKINNY MOLLY FEATURING MIKE ESTES Wed 21 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

TECH N9NE Wed 21 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

REMODE - TRIBUTE TO DEPECHE MODE Thurs 22 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

ANDERSON .PAAK & THE FREE NATIONALS Thurs 22 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HARD GRAFT Fri 23 Aug, The World Bar, Resorts World, Birmingham

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 23 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE MAJOR TOMS Fri 23 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

TRUMAN DINOSAUR + VELVET TIDES + THE NEW RIGHTEOUS MOOD + SLEEPY HEADS Fri 23 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

A BAND CALLED MALICE Fri 23 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

PANKAJ UDHAS Fri 23 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CELEBRATING PHIL LYNOTTS 70TH BIRTHDAY - TWO DAY CONVENTION Fri 23 - Sat 24 Aug, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

BON GIOVI Sat 24 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE ESTATES + THE CHASE + SHEMP + THE NEW CONSISTENT Sat 24 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

STRING BAND BOOGIE Sat 24 Aug, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

THE COLOUR SIX Sat 24 Aug, The World Bar, Resorts World, B'ham

ARTURO TAPPIN Sat 24 Aug, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

SKABUCKS Sat 24 Aug, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

DEFINITELY MIGHT BE + ADORED Sun 25 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

GENE GENIE & THE LEMON SQUEEZERS Sun 25 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE PJJ, NORTH BY NORTH, KICK THE CLOWN & KINDS OF LIGHT Sun 25 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Classical Music

CBSO: ELGAR'S CELLO CONCERTO Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) and Sheku Kanneh-Mason (soloist). Programme includes Howell, Elgar, Knussen and Weinberg, Wed 21 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: MIGRA CONDUCTS MAHLER'S FOURTH Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) and Lina Dambrauskaitė (soprano). Programme includes Ravel, Stravinsky and Mahler, Sun 25 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY Mon 19 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

STEVE SHANYASKI, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 22 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

STEVE SHANYASKI, CAREY MARX & COMIC TBC Fri 23 - Sat 24 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JONATHAN PIE, JO ENRIGHT, THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVIEW, WAYNE BEESE Sat 24 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Dudley

SEAN MEO, ADAM STAUNTON, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH & BARRY CASTAGNOLA Sat 24 Aug, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

KANE BROWN, NICO YEARWOOD, SPECIAL P, FUNMBI OMOTAYO & JUNIOR BOOKER Sun 25 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

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, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

PRIVATE LIVES Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of Noel Coward's celebrated comedy, Wed 21 Aug, The Pavilion, Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick



TREASURE ISLAND Little Arden Theatre Company presents its version of Robert Louis Stevenson's swash-buckling tale, Wed 21 Aug, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN The Alexandra Theatre's Stage Experience showcases the talents of young West Midlands performers in a major production supported by a professional creative team, Wed 21 - Sat 24 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS Presented by Folksy Theatre, Sat 24 Aug, Martineau Gardens, Edgbaston, B'ham

Kids Shows

TABBY MCTAT Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's heart-warming tale of friendship & loyalty, interwoven with original songs and a sprinkling of magic, Tues 20 - Sun 25 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

SAM & MARK LIVE! Children's TV royalty Sam & Mark, as seen on CBBC's Big Friday Wind-Up and Copycats, take to the road with a brand new live show, Wed 21 - Thurs 22 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS

HORRIBLE HISTORIES: THE MOVIE - ROT-TEN ROMANS (PG) Comedy. Starring Nick Frost, Kim Cattrall. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 23 - Mon 26 Aug

THE DEAD DON'T DIE (15) Comedy/Fantasy. Starring Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 23 - Wed 28 Aug

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT (12a) Biography/Comedy. Starring Viveik Kalra, Nikita Mehta. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 23 - Thurs 29 Aug

BALANCE, NOT SYMMETRY (15) Drama. Starring Laura Harrier, Bria Vinaite. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 24 Aug

MATILDA (PG) Comedy/Family. Starring Danny DeVito, Rhea Perlman. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 24, Sun 25 & Wed 28 Aug

HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Chieko Baishō, Takuya Kimura. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 24, Sun 25 & Thurs 29 Aug

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (18) Biography/Drama. Starring Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton. Event includes wine tasting. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 25 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 21 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

ANGEL HAS FALLEN (tbc)

CRAWL (15)

PAIN AND GLORY (15)

Events

DESTINATION SPACE: THE MOON Family show to mark the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, until Fri 30 Aug, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Family-friendly selection of activities, both inside and outside the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, until Fri 30 Aug, various RSC venues across Stratford-upon-Avon

SUMMER HOLIDAYS AT AVONCROFT MUSEUM Six weeks 'jam-packed' with family activities for all ages, until Fri 30 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

THIS MAKES THAT WITH THESE New family session taking place every Tuesday and Saturday, until Sat 31 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

LEGO CITY Enjoy character appearances and new building activities, explore what a city of the future would look like and build an awesome creation or several, until Sun 1 Sept, Legoland Discovery Centre, B'ham

THE BLACK COUNTRY AT PLAY Celebration of games and toys from childhood to adulthood, until Sun 1 Sept, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

FREDDO'S TREASURE TROVE Ahoy me hearties! Cadbury's Freddo has donned his captain's hat to show youngsters what it takes to become a pirate on the seven seas, until Sun 1 Sept, Cadbury World, Birmingham

SUMMER OF SPITFIRE Attractions include cockpit tours of the world's oldest Spitfire Mk 1, daily storytelling sessions and the chance to grab a Spitfire selfie, complete with props and costumes, until Sun 1 Sept, RAF Cosford, Ironbridge

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

SUMMER TREASURE HUNT Follow the clues and find a pirate treasure chest in the garden, until Sun 1 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER OF FUN Featuring a host of events, shows, activities and meet & greets, until Sun 1 Sept, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

GREAT SUMMER ADVENTURE Family fun including laser combat, foam parties and tractor safaris, until Sun 1 Sept, Hatton Adventure World, Warwick

'THE MINISTRY OF WILD THINGS' NEEDS YOU - SUMMER FAMILY TRAIL Become an agent for the ministry and help track and map Croome's landscape, until Sun 1 Sept, Croome Park, Worcester

SPACE RANGERS: ALIEN RESCUE New interactive experience for the summer holidays, until Mon 2 Sept, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton Upon Trent

MOON LANDING MAIZE MAZE Find and solve space-themed puzzles to help the lunar crew fix their spacecraft and return home safely, until Mon 2 Sept, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton Upon Trent

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

RETURN TO THE FAIRY BALL Trail and scavenger hunt in preparation for Arley Arboretum's annual Fairy Ball, until Sun 8 Sept, Arley Arboretum, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

THE FALCONER'S QUEST Up to 70 high-

flying birds of prey take to the skies in a display of aerial acrobatics, until Sun 3 Nov, Warwick Castle

MINI MOTORISTS Under-fives activity mornings, allowing them to discover, through play, the world's largest collection of historic British cars, Mon 19 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

SUMMER TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Take inspiration from some of the classic designs at the museum to create your own ceramic masterpiece, Mon 19 - Fri 23 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

RAF DEFFORD AIRFIELD GUIDED WALK Take a walk around the top-secret air base, which was home to Airborne Radar testing & development during the Second World War and the early years of the Cold War, Tues 20 Aug, Croome Park, Worcester

ZOO CLUB Activities themed around animals, wildlife, nature and zoos for children aged between eight and 14 years, Tues 20 - Thurs 22 Aug, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

MURDER AT THE CASTLE There's been a murder at the castle. Use your investigative skills to find the culprit, Tues 20 - Thurs 22 Aug, Tamworth Castle

MAKE AND PLAY ENGINEERS - ROBOT MAKEOVERS Use your imagination, get innovative and find out all about coding and robotics, Wed 21 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

PEPPA PIG MEET AND GREET Peppa Pig and George make personal appearances at intervals throughout the day, Wed 21 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

KNIGHTS & PRINCESSES FAMILY FUN DAY Treat your very own knights and princesses to a day of royal activity, Wed 21 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

LITTLE SKIPPER: WATERY WILDLIFE A 45-minute boat trip followed by things to make and do, Wed 21 - Thurs 22 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

JUNIOR DRAG RACING FUN DAY Featuring junior dragsters, demonstration vehicles, car-crushing monster trucks and stunts, monster truck rides and other family activities, Thurs 22 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough

TALL TALES: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST STORY TOUR Interactive telling of the much-loved fairytale, Fri 23 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE BIG FEAST 2019 Featuring the event's most jam-packed programme yet, including two UK premieres and performances by local, national and international acts, Fri 23 - Sat 24 Aug, Stoke-on-Trent City Centre

PRODUCT EARTH EXPO 2019 The UK's only hemp, CBD & cannabis event that highlights the complete business eco-system of the plant, its many varieties, derivatives and uses, Fri 23 -



Summer holiday fun at Avoncroft, Bromsgrove

Sun 25 Aug, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth

INSOMNIA65 See your favourite YouTubeers from across the globe, play some of the latest games, experience virtual reality, relive the past in the retro zone, and try a new level of gaming in the tabletop zone, Fri 23 - Mon 26 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF GLASS Festival celebrating and showcasing the skill and innovation of the glass industry and makers, both historic and contemporary, local and international, Fri 23 - Mon 26 Aug, Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley, Stourbridge

SHAKES-PAW'S DAY Celebrate National Dog Day in the historic gardens of Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Sat 24 Aug, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

MÜLLER BRITISH ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS The best in Britain go head to head, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Aug, Alexander Stadium, Birmingham

HAVE-A-GO ARCHERY Try your hand at archery with a qualified instructor, Sat 24 - Mon 26 Aug, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

BIG FUN RUN COVENTRY 5K 2019 Suitable for all the family - under-fives go free, Sun 25 Aug, War Memorial Park, Coventry

Festivals

CREAMFIELDS Line-up includes Calvin Harris, Swedish House Mafia and The Chemical Brothers, Thurs 22 - Sun 25 Aug, Daresbury, Cheshire

CAMPER CALLING Line up includes Skunk Anansie, The Fratellis and Ash, Fri 23 - Sun 25 Aug, Ragley Hall, Alcester

SUNSHINE FESTIVAL Line-up includes Scouting For Girls, Boyzlife and Busted, Fri 23 - Sun 25 Aug, Fish Meadow, Upton-upon-Severn

BEERMAGEDDON FESTIVAL Line-up includes Face Up!, Kambrium and Left For Red, Fri 23 - Sun 25 Aug, Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Kate Rusby, Skerryvore and Grace Petrie (see interview on page 22), Fri 23 - Mon 26 Aug, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury



The Fratellis - Camper Calling, Ragley Hall, Alcester

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Gigs

BODEGA / WORKING MENS CLUB Wed 28 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, B'ham

ONCE AND FUTURE BAND Wed 28 Aug, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

GEOFF TATE - OPERATION MINDCRIME Wed 28 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

ELIZA MAY Thurs 29 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

WE LOVE LITTLE MIX Thurs 29 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

IAN PARKER & AYSLEY LISTER Thurs 29 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

MACHINE GUN KELLY Fri 30 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ANDY CROSBY - ROCKETMAN Fri 30 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

HOLLY AND THE HOTRODS Fri 30 Aug, The World Bar, Resorts World, B'ham

BEANS + MAKE YOU MELT + GWYNNE Fri 30 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SUE / MALLAVORA / HIGH KNUCKS Fri 30 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

DANNY VAUGHN Fri 30 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

CLARION Sat 31 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LAURA JANE GRACE AND THE DEVOURING MOTHERS & FRANK IERO AND THE FUTURE VIOLENTS Sat 31 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FUNK FACTORY Sat 31 Aug, The World Bar, Resorts World, Birmingham

ROBERT OWENS Sat 31 Aug, The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SOUND OF SPRINGSTEEN Sat 31 Aug, Lichfield Garrick

THE SMALL FAKERS Sat 31 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

RAINBOW RISING Sat 31 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

LET THERE B/DC Sat 31 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

Comedy

DANA ALEXANDER, LUKE TOULSON & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 29 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DANA ALEXANDER, LUKE TOULSON, SIMON WOZNIAK & MIKE NEWALL Fri 30 - Sat 31 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

CHRISTIAN REILLY, DANNY CLIVES, OTIZ CANNELLONI & CRAIG MURRAY Sat 31 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Greg Doran directs a new version of Shakespeare's 'problem play', until Thurs

29 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

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

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN Samantha Womack takes the lead in an adaptation of Paula Hawkins' gripping novel, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

WEST SIDE STORY Youth production reimagining one of the most iconic musicals of all time, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

Kids Shows

ELMER THE PATCHWORK ELEPHANT

Based on the classic children's book of the same name, Wed 28 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

MORGAN & WEST'S - MORE MAGIC FOR KIDS Morgan & West mix 'brain-busting illusion and good old-fashioned tomfoolery, Fri 30 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

GANGSTA GRANNY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' bestselling tale, Sat 31 Aug, Bodymoor Heath Lane, Kingsbury, Sutton Coldfield

Dance

WONDERLANDS National Youth Ballet present a programme of original works, Thurs 29 - Fri 30 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

HEARTBEAT OF HOME High-octane dance & music extravaganza fusing cultures from around the world, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Aug, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS

MOANA (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson. The Lichfield Garrick, Fri 30 Aug

MEMORY: THE ORIGINS OF ALIEN (18) Documentary. Starring Bijan Aalam,



Elmer The Patchwork Elephant

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Wed 28 August

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.

Tim Boxell. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Aug

APOCALYPSE NOW - THE FINAL CUT (15) Drama/War. Starring Martin Sheen, Marlon Brando. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Aug

PAIN AND GLORY (15) Drama. Starring Antonio Banderas, Penelope Cruz. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 30 Aug - Thurs 5 Sept

SPEED (18) Action, Adventure. Starring Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock. Event includes craft beer. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 31 Aug

THE QUEEN'S CORGI (U) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Rusty Shackleford, Jo Wyatt. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 31 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 30 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

THE INFORMER (15)

A MILLION LITTLE PIECES (15)

THE MUSTANG (15)

MY SPY (tbc)

Events

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Family-



National Youth Ballet's Wonderlands - The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

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GET HANDS-ON WITH HISTORY Whether it's learning to sword fight, shooting with a bow & arrow, or transforming into a little lord or lady, there's plenty to



Pirates And Mermaids

National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham, until Sun 8 September

Avast, me hearties, it's time to get yer timbers well'n'truly shivered by visiting the Sea Life Centre, joining a team, hunting for buried treasure and picking up a prize if you find all the booty!

And that's not all... Visitors can also meet the Sea Life mermaids, learn how to tie knots like a real pirate or speak in a mermaid's language, colour a pirate hat or mermaid crown, and have their photo taken with a pirate and/or a mermaid.

And when they've finally had enough of all that fun, they can grit their teeth, grasp the nettle, take the bull by the horns and yes, walk the dreaded plank (but luckily not end up in Davy Jones' Locker!)...

keep the kids entertained, Tues 27 Aug - Sun 1 Sept, Kenilworth Castle

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC If you go down to the Gardens today, you're sure of a big surprise... Wed 28 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

MAKE AND PLAY ENGINEERS - RAMPS AND RACERS Practise your engineering skills and make the highest ramps, the fastest racers and the longest race-tracks, Wed 28 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

CASTLE TOURS Enjoy a walk around the 11th century castle, Wed 28 Aug, Dudley Castle

LITTLE SKIPPERS: FABULOUS FOSSILS A 45-minute boat trip followed by things to make and do, Wed 28 - Thurs 29 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

TALL TALES: CINDERELLA STORY TOUR An interactive telling of Cinderella. Help equip Cinders with everything she needs, then join in the dancing at Prince Charming's ball, Fri 30 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

NATURE EXPLORERS Explore and learn about the nature around you, Fri 30 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, B'ham

CLASSIC VEHICLE DAY Classic vehicles from yesteryear at stations along the line, Sat 31 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

Festivals

MOSELEY FOLK FESTIVAL Line up includes Don McLean, Jake Bugg and The Zutons (pictured), Fri 30 Aug - Sun 1 Sept, Moseley Park, B'ham



BACK TO THE 80'S AND 90'S FESTIVAL 2019 Line up includes Tony Hadley, Venga Boys and Heather Small, Fri 30 Aug - Sun 1 Sept, Cattows Farm, Heather, Leicestershire

West Side Story

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 August

Presented as part of the theatre's 120th birthday celebrations, this is Birmingham Hippodrome's first home-grown youth production for the main stage.

One of the best-known musicals of the 20th century, West Side Story sees street gang The Sharks invading the territory of their rivals, The Jets.

As trouble brews, Tony - the best friend of Jets leader Riff - meets and falls in love with Maria, the sister of Sharks leader Bernardo... It's a gritty enough story, but it's Bernstein and Sondheim's incredible score which really brings the show to life, featuring numbers like Somewhere, Tonight, America, Maria, Gee Officer Krupke!, I Feel Pretty, One Hand and Something's Coming.



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