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ISSUE 404 AUGUST

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What's On

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Pet Shop Boys join production team for new stage version of My Beautiful Laundrette

Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe - better known as British pop duo Pet Shop Boys - have joined the production team for the upcoming stage adaptation of Hanif Kureishi's *My Beautiful Laundrette*.

The duo will create original music for the show, to help bring the 1980s drama to life.

A Belgrade Theatre Coventry, Curve Leicester, Everyman Theatre Cheltenham and Leeds Playhouse co-production, the show will run at the Belgrade from Tuesday 29 October to Saturday 2 November. It will form part of the venue's new B2 season, which is based around the theme of Love And Belonging.

Set in London during the Thatcher years, *My Beautiful Laundrette* tells the story of a young British Pakistani named Omar, who transforms his uncle's run-down launderette into a thriving business. After being confronted by a fascist gang, Omar recognises school friend Johnny and uses their history to diffuse the situation. As they renovate the launderette together, love blossoms between them...

Playing the role of Papa, Omar's father, is Gordon Warnecke, who starred as Omar in Stephen Frears' 1985 film version of the drama.

Tickets for the show are available to book now by calling the Belgrade box office on 024 7655 3055 or visiting belgrade.co.uk where prices are cheaper.

Science for all in Coventry and Warwickshire

Mind-bending performances, a peek into the future of healthcare and the chance to experience the cutting-edge of smart technology are among the programme highlights at this year's British Science Festival.

Held in partnership with the University of Warwick, the event takes place at numerous venues across Coventry & Warwickshire from Tuesday 10 to Friday 13 September.

For more information and to book tickets, visit britishsciencefestival.org

Plant power! A hip hemp celebration in Stoneleigh

The UK's largest gathering and celebration of hemp - 'the world's most beneficial and versatile plant' - is taking place this month at the National Agricultural & Environmental Centre in Stoneleigh (23 - 25 August).

Product Earth Expo & Product Earth Festival will be bringing together the UK's leading hemp-related industries, organisations and experts, along with a live music line-up that includes trip-hop legends Morcheeba and reggae master Kabaka Pyramid.

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.



All the fun of the circus heading for Resorts World

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, Circus-MASH is hosting Summer Circus School (between 11am and 3pm), providing participants with the opportunity to learn a variety of circus skills, including juggling, plate spinning, diablos, globe walking, wire walking and hula hooping.

For more information about Summer Circus School and a number of other circus-related events taking place at the venue this month, visit resortsworldbirmingham.co.uk

Classic Ibiza back in 2020

Following the resounding success of this year's show, Classic Ibiza will be returning to Ragley Hall in Warwickshire on Saturday 4 July 2020.

The 2019 edition of the event took place last month and featured live performances by the Urban Soul Orchestra, DJ Goldierocks and a host of vocalists in front of a sell-out crowd. Tickets for next year's event are now on sale. For more information and to book, visit classcibiza.co.uk/ragley



BBC's Satnam Rana to speak at wellbeing event

A BBC journalist who filmed her emotional battle against breast cancer will be among the keynote speakers at a pioneering event in Coventry this autumn.

Wolverhampton-born BBC Midlands Today correspondent Satnam Rana (pictured) was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017.

Satnam will share her experiences at the Being Well Festival at the Ricoh Arena on Thursday 24 October.

The event aims to promote happier, healthier lives by educating people about their health and general wellness.



Worcestershire Open Studios...

Worcestershire's largest free art event makes a welcome return over the August bank holiday weekend.

Now in its fifth year, Worcestershire Open Studios is an artist-led initiative that offers people the chance to speak to local artists and see where they create their work.

Over 180 artists are taking part and will be inviting visitors into their home studios, shared spaces and galleries. A full list of participating artists and an interactive map showing their locations can be found at worcestershire-openstudios.org

Myths, Monsters And Legends in Leamington Spa

Warwickshire-based Playbox Theatre is this month holding a day-long workshop for children aged seven to 11.

Focusing on the stories of Beowulf, King Arthur, the Minotaur and Robin Hood, Myths Monsters & Legends will explore mime, movement, role play, physical theatre and storytelling.

The event takes place at Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum on Friday 9 August.

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!



Plenty of family fun to enjoy at Worcester Festival 2019

This year's Worcester Festival takes place from Saturday 10 to Monday 26 August and offers a wide selection of events, activities and entertainments to enjoy, including workshops, music, crafts, quiz trails and a village-style fête. Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum and The Commandery both play host to family-friendly exhibitions, while hit kids' show Aliens Love Underpants stops off at the Swan Theatre. To check out the festival's whole line-up, visit worcesterfestival.co.uk

Date for Redditch panto auditions



Redditch's Palace Theatre will next month (1 September) be holding auditions for young people interested in appearing in its Christmas pantomime production of Cinderella. The theatre is looking for youngsters aged between nine and 12 who can sing and dance with confidence.

The pantomime cast features X-Factor winner Ben Haenow (pictured) as Prince Charming. For more information, visit redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk/news/cinderella-dance-auditions

All the car's a stage in Coventry

Coventry Music Museum has a special use for the car that featured in two-tone band The Specials' memorable Ghost Town video way back in 1981.

The video featured bass player Panter driving the band around London in a 1961 Vauxhall Cresta. The car was purchased by the museum in January and will this month be used as a stage for a series of one-off midday performances.

Commenting on the news, Museum Curator Pete Chambers said: "Expect the unexpected! This is unique, as are the performers. The car is much more than a photo opportunity, so we want to use it to its full potential.

"This is perfect, having creative people actually performing in our amazing car. I personally can't wait to see it."



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!

The organisers of the competition, Fields In Trust - a charity that legally protects parks and green spaces in perpetuity - recently revealed that the West Midlands region has more than 255,000 people whose nearest green space is more than a 10-minute walk from their home. With public sector cuts, the charity says that a lack of legal protection could lead to an increasing number of parks being sold off or developed. You can vote for your favourite park until noon on Monday 19 August, by visiting fieldsintrust.org/best-park/west-midlands

Henry VIII's wives in the Midlands



Smash-hit West Ender 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.



Finding love at the Coventry Belgrade

Themes of family, friendship and finding love dominate the Coventry Belgrade Theatre's B2 programme this autumn, with Bollywood musicals, gripping drama and an immersive theatrical party at Christmas among the season's highlights. The programme kicks off with *Hold-ing The Centre*, a powerful new drama by Birmingham writer Joan Carty, and also features brand new musical *Stardust* from Bring On The Bollywood creators Phizzical. New productions of *Frankenstein* and *My Beautiful Laundrette* also feature.

For full details, visit belgrade.co.uk

Australia's first female prime minister to give talk at Coventry peace forum

Australia's first female prime minister will speak at this year's internationally recognised peace forum in Coventry.

Julia Gillard has been confirmed as one of the keynote speakers at the RISING Global Peace Forum. She will talk about her time as Australia's first female head of state and the importance of education in sustaining global peace.

The event takes place at Coventry Cathedral from 13 to 14 November.

A starry time at Lichfield Cathedral

Lichfield Cathedral's Great Exhibition is this year celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing with a show that reveals 'the universe, galaxies, space, creation and light'.

Space: God, The Universe And Everything is a stunning visual spectacle created by the award-winning Luxmuralis artistic collaboration. The exhibition features internal Son-et-Lumiere, artworks and sound & light installations.

It's available to view on selected dates between 8 & 26 August.



Bridging the divide



An ambitious new outdoor experience called Bridge - produced by Coventry-based Imagineer Productions in collaboration with a talented creative team - is set to bring people together in 'new and playful ways'.

The initiative will see a temporary bridge located in the centre of Coventry for a three-day period, during which it will play host to outdoor performances of dance, comedy, theatre, circus acrobatics and live music.

Inspired by local people's stories, the performances are designed to create a 'thrilling and moving montage of the courage, compassion, imagination and humour needed to bridge a divide'.

Bridge visits Broadgate, Coventry, from Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 September, and Cathedral Plaza, Worcester, in July next year.

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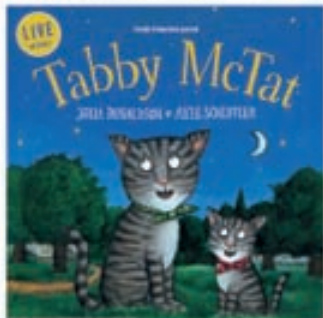
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NCO: DREAM, FANTASY, NIGHTMARE
SUN 18 AUGUST
6:30PM
TOWN HALL



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



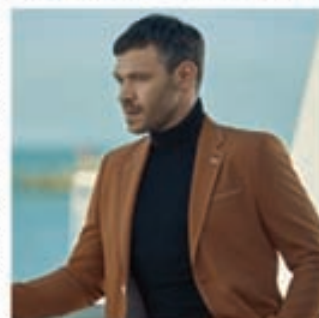
TABBY McTAT
TUE 20 – SUN 25
AUGUST, TIMES VARY
RELAXED PERFORMANCE
SUN 25 AUGUST
3PM
TOWN HALL



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



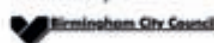
BRADLEY WIGGINS: AN EVENING WITH
FRI 20 SEPTEMBER
7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



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

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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!"

.....

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



SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

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FRANKENSTEIN
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REVIEW: Indian Brewery

A quirky independent restaurant with stylish food and a unique ambiance

Having charmed the tastebuds of Brummies with its irresistible fusion of Bombay-inspired street food and home-brewed craft beer, this pint-sized success story, born of Birmingham's very own Indian street food boom, has found itself a second home in Solihull.

Nestled among a gaggle of chain restaurants and bars, this 21st century tap house with a difference may seem unassuming at first glance, but don't be fooled by the muted exterior. Simply open the doors and let the 'good vibes' roll.

Channeling the authentic spirit of downtown Bombay, exposed brick arches, open-plan kitchen, industrial-style light fixtures and bistro-style benches are instantly brought to life by splashes of Hindi-style graffiti art, an explosion of stylish Bollywood posters and a dizzying array of quickfire advertisements in garish neons, yellows, blues and greens proclaiming 'there's always time for chai masala', 'try our famous fat

naans fresh to order' and - my personal favourite, standing proudly over the bar - 'by order of the Indian Brewery'. Add to this an infectious soundtrack of Bollywood-infused hits blasting out from the nearby jukebox and you're well on the way to a taste of contemporary Bombay!

But what is any Indian 'streatery' - quirky interiors aside - without an equally moreish range of meals just perfect for enjoying with friends? A quick glance at the menu - itself stylishly designed to resemble a Mumbai newspaper - reveals an innovative choice of dishes. These include everything from street-style finger-foods such as Pakora Pops (crunchy spinach, potato and onions served with dipping sauce), Bombay Bites (crispy chicken served with coriander chutney) and Roti Roll served with a choice of chicken tikka or paneer, to contemporary twists on classic comfort foods like Indian fish & chips (cod marinated in spicy batter served with

masala fries and tartar sauce), Juicy Keema Burger (served with cheese and chutney in a toasted buttermilk bun) and Fat Naans (served with a choice of chicken, vegetable or chilli fish topping). And for the eternally undecided, I strongly recommend diving into the Bombay Thali; a platter-style serving of house favourites including Tarka Dhal, Dhal Makhni, Saag, Chana, paneer, roti, rice, poppadom and salad. Perfect for sharing and not at all unreasonable at £19.50.

Settling into our booth, our Indian sharing experience kicked off with a choice of one of 11 tantalising cocktails. Each in its own way was inspired by the flavours of the Indian subcontinent, from Bailey's Chai (a compelling blend of Bailey's liquor, masala chai and whipped cream) through to the Mumbai-inspired Slum Dog, a warming blend of honey, ginger and whiskey. While I myself opted for a Bollywood Breeze - a tropical blend of coconut rum, pineapple juice and sweet agave syrup priced at £7.95 - my partner's eagle eye fell on the venue's impressive choice of craft beers, which included home-brewed Birmingham Lager served from the keg or by can alongside a choice of Indian pale ales, golden brewed Bombay Honey and Peacock ruby ales with hints of berry. A great example of local produce served with panache!

With our appetites well and truly whetted by the pungent aroma of mixed spice drifting from the nearby open-plan kitchen, our attention fell on the Mixed Grill - a carnivore's delight piled high with chicken tikka, lamb chops, sheek kebab, green tikka chunks, Indian fried chicken, tandoor wings, fresh cod pieces and Bombay bites, all stacked on a bed of glazed onions (£19.50).

The dish was a triumph on every level. Beautifully cooked to chargrilled perfection, the quality of the produce spoke for

itself. The grilled lamb chops in particular were a joy to eat, small but perfectly cooked in a light tandoori spice, whilst the fresh cod pieces, fried in an effortlessly light batter with just a hint of spice, added another surprising layer of texture to an already fantastic dish.

Despite the generous portion sizes, we couldn't head home without sampling a bowl of home-style Tarka Dhal - a hearty dish of red lentils cooked in turmeric and chilli and served with a side helping of roti bread and fresh salad. Delicately spiced with a rich seam of garlic and butter running through it, the dhal's richness was perfectly complemented by the fresh zestiness of the salad. The fluffy roti was not only delicious in itself but also the perfect choice for dipping and dunking street food style!

And for the sweet-toothed amongst you, don't leave without first sampling a dessert of Gulab Jamun (dough balls in syrup) or Nutella-filled Naan with ice-cream, garnished with chocolate drizzle!

This quirky independent restaurant comes complete with great service, stylish menu, a plentiful drinks offer and an utterly unique ambiance. The Indian Brewery is fiercely loyal to its independent roots, delivering time and again on the quality which first earned it an enviable reputation as a cornerstone of Birmingham's thriving street-food scene. I'll drink to that!
Katherine Ewing

Food:
Service:
Ambience:
Overall value:
OVERALL

Indian Brewery
52 Station Road
Solihull
B91 3RX
Tel: 0121 296 9000



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



The Fleece Inn

Situated in the beautiful village of Bretforton, near Evesham, The Fleece Inn is a great place to relax with a drink after enjoying a walk in the surrounding countryside.

With roaring open fires for the winter nights and an open garden and apple orchard for the summer months, the venue offers a friendly welcome all year round.

The pub keeps dog treats behind the bar, has water bowls available and even provides two types of 'dog beer'.

The Cross, Bretforton, Nr Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 7JE



The Fat Pug

This pub is a huge fan of 'man's best friend', with no prizes for guessing which breed is its particular favourite.

With an extensive menu offering everything from breakfast to stone-baked pizza, burgers and Sunday lunches, there's plenty for you to get your teeth stuck into. And if you happen to have a pug of your own, you can even add its picture to the Pug Wall of Fame behind the bar.

23 Guys Cliffe Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5BZ

Coffee#1

If you're more of a cappuccino than a cask ale kind of person, then you may want to check out Coffee#1.

The coffee shop chain has recently gone doggy-friendly in selected stores, welcoming well-behaved mutts with water bowls and the occasional treat.

Various locations in Warwickshire and Worcestershire, but with a number of exemptions - check coffee1.co.uk for your local dog-friendly branch

Ye Olde Saracen's Head



Ye Olde Saracen's Head, located just outside the picturesque village of Balsall Common, is a pub that's steeped in real community spirit and English charm.

Home to one of the only Jospur charcoal ovens in Warwickshire, the venue offers a menu featuring a variety of steaks, pizza from the wood fired oven and a selection of updated pub classics.

Balsall St, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7AS

The Nag's Head

Situated near to the stunning Malvern Hills is the quaint and delightful Nag's Head. This Good Pub Guide-recommended venue boasts traditional decor that includes exposed beams and fireplaces, making it a great place to cosy up with your dog. The pub prides itself on serving 'real ale and real food' - 14 ales, a popular lunch menu and a diverse evening menu to suit all tastes.

19-21 Bank Street, Malvern, WR14 2JG





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 LA. 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, Ratlinothope, 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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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 wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt and a dark tie. Her hair is dark and styled in a messy, spiky way. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is plain white.

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 Greenhouse 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.



JODIE PRENGER
AS MISS HANNIGAN

Annie

Until Sun 11 Aug

IT'S ELECTRIC! **GREASE** THE MUSICAL

FEATURING PETER ANDRE as ORE ODUBA as TEEN ANGEL

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West Side Story

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ON YOUR FEET!
A NEW MUSICAL

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Matthew Bourne's **ROMEO + JULIET**

Imagine a time when love is forbidden...

Tue 10 - Sat 14 Sep

Mawaan Rizwan Juice

Thu 12 Sep

Rosie Kay's Fantasia

Wed 25 & Thu 26 Sep

BILL KENWRIGHT PRESENTS WILLY RUSSELL'S **BLOOD Brothers**

Mon 30 Sep - Sat 12 Oct

THEATRE IN A HAT **EYE OF THE STORM**

Tue 8 & Wed 9 Oct

DADA MASILO **GISELLE**

Tue 15 & Wed 16 Oct

THEATRE IN A HAT PRESENTS THE LOST WORLD COMPANY'S **SOME LIKE IT HIP HOP**

Fri 18 & Sat 19 Oct

CIRCUS 1903

Fri 25 Oct - Sat 2 Nov



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



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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SAT 7 DEC 2019 – SUN 12 JAN 2020

DICK WHITTINGTON





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."



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.



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, Bubbenhall, Coventry & Brueton Park, Solihull, Thurs 1; Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire, Fri 2; Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, 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.

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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.



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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, Nell 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



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

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

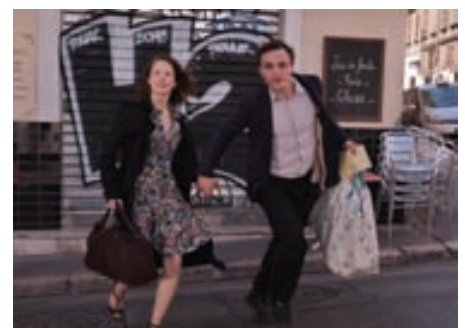
Transit

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



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.

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.

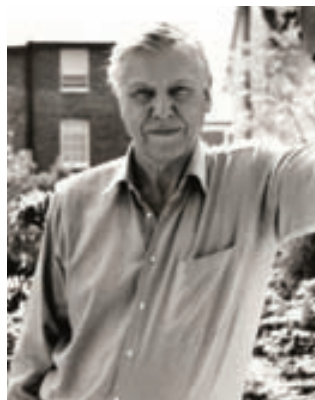


Faces Of Change: Nature’s Champions

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.



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.

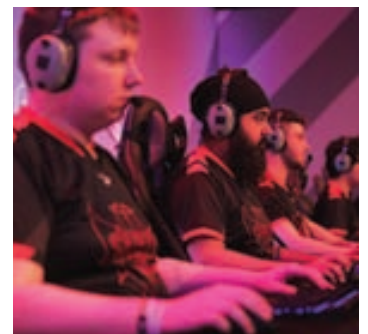


Insomnia65

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.



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COMICS

An exhibition from seven stories
The National Centre for Children's Stories

FROM:

REAL HEROES!

At Blists Hill
Victorian Town

TO:

SUPER HEROES!

At Coalbrookdale

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

Wednesday
28th August
11am-3pm

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For more information or to purchase general admission tickets, please visit:
birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

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Your support keeps the Gardens growing

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MOON PARTY • DESTINATION SPACE LIVE SHOW • 4K PLANETARIUM

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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'.

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.



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.

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

LEGAND 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



Black Country Living Museum, Dudley



Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

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

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

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



Interstellar at Coventry Cathedral - Friday 23 August

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

What's On

Thurs 1 to Sun 11 August



Amélie The Musical at
Malvern Theatres
until Sat 3 August

Mon 12 to Sun 18 August



I Am Turtle at
Swan Theatre, Worcester
Fri 16 August

Mon 19 to Sun 25 August



Alex Rex at The Tin Music &
Arts, Coventry
Mon 19 August

Mon 26 to Sat 31 August



Get Hands-On With History
at Kenilworth Castle
various dates in 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

Compton Verney Gallery, Warwick

A TEA JOURNEY: FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE TABLE Exhibition telling the story of how Britain's favourite drink became an everyday commodity, until Sun 22 Sept



ART IN THE PARK - GREEN DWELLING Installation by Dutch artist Krijn de Koning consisting of a collection of differently sized green blocks ranged across the Old Town Meadow, until Sun 15 Dec

Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

PUZZLES AND ILLUSIONS Family-friendly exhibition designed to get your brain working, Wed 31 July - Wed 28 Aug

NEW SANCTUARY Exhibition by Hilary

Beattie, Fri 30 Aug - Sun 27 Oct

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

EDUCATING RUGBY Explore the history of schools and colleges in Rugby with objects from the museum's social history collection, until Sat 7 Sept

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

WONDER - WHERE REALITY AND IMAGINARY COLLIDE Exhibition featuring urban landscapes, reimagined cartoon characters, a light pavilion, and creatures brought to life by augmented reality, until Sun 15 Sept

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

FIFTY OBJECTS; FIFTY STORIES EXHIBITION Curator Garston Phillips shares the tales, anecdotes and memories that have helped shape the museum for five decades, until Sat 9 Nov

Other VISUAL ARTS

DIGITAL DIORAMA Imagine a day in the life of a young William Shakespeare. Explore his experience through augmented realities and see Shakespeare's world through a new lens, until Sun 8 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

AN ENTERTAINMENT Exhibition showcasing the many entertainments on offer in Leamington over the past two centuries, until Sun 8 Sept, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum, Leamington Spa

THE PLAY'S THE THING Display of costumes and props from the archives, until Tues 31 Dec, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

FASHIONING PEACE: LIFE AND LIBERTY AFTER THE GREAT WAR EXHIBITION Exhibition exploring how the changes brought about through the Great War were reflected in clothing and fashion from 1918 through to the Roaring 20s, until Mon 12 Oct 2020, Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster

NEW WILDLIFE OF THE SEVERN PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION A selection of photographs curated by professional wildlife photographer Iain Green, who has been leading workshops for volunteers of all ages to reveal the amazing array of wildlife along the River Severn, Mon 5 Aug - Sun 1 Sept, The Hive, Worcester

NEW SCULPTURES IN THE GARDENS Exhibition of sculptures from the Oxford Sculptors Group, displayed throughout the Gardens. All sculptures are available for sale, Wed 21 Aug - Sun 8 Sept, Spetchley Park Gardens

Gigs

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

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

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

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 2 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK Fri 2 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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

BOURBON ALLEY Sat 3 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

FOYER FOLK : OIJAMAFLIP Sat 3 Aug, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore, Worcestershire

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

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

THE PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA Sun 4 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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

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

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

GORDON SOUTHERN, PAUL MYREHAUG, ANDREA HUBERT & AURIE STYLA Fri 2 - Sat 3 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

MICK FERRY (PICTURED), 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

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



SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK Celebration of the life and career of Rod Stewart, Fri 2 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

AS YOU LIKE IT Outdoor performance presented by Rain Or Shine Theatre

Company, Sat 3 Aug, Witley Court, Worcestershire

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Sun 4 Aug, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA Presented by The Stratford Shakespeare Company, Sun 4 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Presented by Everyman Youth Theatre, Sun 4 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

Kids Shows

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

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, Fri 2 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster

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

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE LION KING (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Donald Glover, Seth Rogen. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, until Thurs 15 Aug

ALADDIN (U) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Will Smith, Naomi Scott. Number 8, Pershore, Thurs 1 Aug

HANNAH (12a) Drama. Starring Charlotte Rampling, André Wilms. Foreign language, subtitled. Number 8, Pershore, Thurs 1 Aug

FREE SOLO (12a) Documentary. Starring Alex Honnold, Tommy Caldwell. Number 8, Pershore, Fri 2 Aug

VITA & VIRGINIA (12A) Biography/Drama. Starring Gemma Arterton, Elizabeth Debicki. Malvern Theatres, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Aug

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

TOY STORY 4 (U) Animation/Adventure.

With the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. Malvern Theatres, Fri 2 - Fri 9 Aug

JAWS (12A) Adventure, Drama. Starring Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw. Malvern Theatres, Sat 3 Aug

THE CAPTOR (12a) Biography/Comedy. Starring Ethan Hawke, Noomi Rapace. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 3 - Thurs 8 Aug

THE QUEEN'S CORGI (PG) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Julie Walters, Matt Lucas. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 3 - Fri 9 Aug

TOY STORY 4 (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 3 - Wed 14 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Thurs 1 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW (tbc)

Released from Fri 2 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

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

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

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



This Makes That With These

Coventry Transport Museum, until Sat 31 August

Across the school summer holidays, Coventry Transport Museum is inviting families to satisfy their curiosity and use their creativity in a series of interactive sessions, during which visitors can find out how things work and design some inventions of their own. There are a number of different This Makes That With These sessions to enjoy, including Noise Makers - inviting participants to explore how sound is made and amplified by vehicles - and Cars And Mechanics - taking a look at the different mechanics found in a car and figuring out how they work. For a full list of This Makes That With These subjects, visit transport-museum.com

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

SUMMER SMILES Drop-in art sessions

for all the family, until Sat 31 Aug, 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



Destination Space: The Moon - Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

BRITISH SCIENCE FESTIVAL

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE
10-13 SEPTEMBER 2019



The British Science Festival is coming to Coventry and Warwickshire this September!

Interested in comedy, music, arts and culture? Come along to the British Science Festival!

Our programme features over 100 FREE events, activities and performances from across the scientific and cultural spectrum.

Find out more:
britishsciencefestival.org

- BritishScienceFestival
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- britishscienceassociation

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THE ALBANY theatre

KARL LOXLEY
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BLACK MAGIC THE Little Mix SHOW

Wed 21 August



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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 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

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

LAMMAS DAY Celebrate this traditional event with resident Tudors, Thurs 1 Aug, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

SUMMER NIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL The festival comes to Kenilworth as part of its 2019 tour, Thurs 1 - Sat 3 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

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, 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

CIRCUS CREATIVE WORKSHOP Create your own greatest show using craft and recycling materials, Fri 2 Aug, Worcester Arts Workshop



Lammas Day - Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon



Classic Motorcycle Festival

Donington Park, Castle Donnington, Sat 3 - Sun 4 August

One of Europe's biggest celebrations of motorcycling through the decades, the Classic Motorcycle Festival boasts a packed schedule of races and the opportunity to check out hundreds of different bikes, not least among which will be some remarkably rare machines.

Fans' favourite Steve Parrish will once again be in attendance, with parades, demos and huge display areas further adding to a weekend of motorcycling magic.

BEETLEJUICE Tim Burton's hit movie, presented as part of the zoo's film festival, Fri 2 Aug, Dudley Zoological Gardens, Dudley

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

THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT Horror movie presented as part of the zoo's film festival, Sat 3 Aug, Dudley Zoological Gardens

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

SUMMER SATURDAYS Informal craft morning for families in the cafe/bar. Grab a coffee and join in with rock painting, Sat 3 Aug, Worcester Arts Workshop

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 Donnington

INTRODUCTION TO CANAL ART Julie Tonkin, one of the UK's leading canal

artists, teaches the traditions of folk canal art, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

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

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

Festivals

110 ABOVE FESTIVAL Line-up includes Swim Deep, Mystery Jets and Pale Waves, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Aug, Gosspall Hall Farm, Leicestershire

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



Jessica Lynn - *The Hare & Hounds*, Birmingham

Gigs

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

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
THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC Thurs 8 - Fri 9 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
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
BIFFY MCCLYRO Fri 9 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham
MICHALE GRAVES Fri 9 Aug, The Mill, Digbeth,

Birmingham
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
T.REXTASY 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 + PELICAAAN + SPIT + NAOMI JAN-DIO Sun 11 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham



Germein - *Scruffy Murphys*, Birmingham

Comedy

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

by Three Inch Fools, Sat 10 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

MACBETH Presented by Three Inch Fools, Sun 11 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

THE TEMPEST Performed by a mix of professional & community actors, Sun 11 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

Kids Shows

ELMER THE PATCHWORK ELEPHANT Based on the classic children's book of the same name, Wed 7 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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

GANGSTA GRANNY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' bestselling tale, Sun 11 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Leicestershire

ALIENS LOVE UNDERPANTS Zany tale based on the bestselling children's book of the same name, Sun 11 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

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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

EDUCATING RITA Starring Stephen Tompkinson and Jessica Johnson, Mon 5 - Sat 10 Aug, Malvern Theatres

UNDER MILK WOOD Malvern Theatre Young Company present Dylan Thomas's poignant portrait of a Welsh seaside town, Tues 6 - Fri 9 Aug, Malvern Theatres

MACBETH Presented by Three Inch Fools, Fri 9 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Outdoor staging presented by The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Fri 9 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL A small troupe of actors adopt a variety of disguises, accents and beards to present Baroness Orczy's classic adventure story, Sat 10 Aug, Priory Park, Malvern

TWELFTH NIGHT The Wilmore Singers present a rollercoaster ride through Shakespeare's magical tale, Sat 10 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Presented

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:

YESTERDAY (12a) Comedy/Fantasy. Starring Himesh Patel, Lily James. Number 8, Pershore, Mon 5 - Tues 6 Aug

APOLLO 11 (U) Documentary. Starring Buzz Aldrin, Joan Ann Archer. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 5 - Tues 6 Aug; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 9 Aug

TOY STORY 4 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. Number 8, Pershore, Tues 6 - Thurs 8 Aug

DIEGO MARADONA (12a) Documentary/Biography. Malvern Theatres, Tues 6 - Thurs 8 Aug

ANNA (15) Action/Thriller. Starring

Monday 5 - Sunday 11 August

Sasha Luss, Helen Mirren. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Aug

VITA & VIRGINIA (12A)

Biography/Drama. Starring Gemma Arterton, Elizabeth Debicki. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 7 - Tues 13 Aug

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

ARCTIC (12a) Adventure/Drama. Starring Mads Mikkelsen, Maria Thelma Smáradóttir. Number 8, Pershore, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Aug

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

THE CURRENT WAR (12a)

Biography/Drama. Starring Tom Holland, Benedict Cumberbatch. Malvern Theatres, Fri 9 - Thurs 15 Aug

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

DUMBO (PG) Adventure/Family. Starring Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton. Number 8, Pershore, Sat 10 Aug

THE QUEEN'S CORGI (PG)

Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Julie Walters, Matt Lucas. Malvern Theatres, Sat 10 - Wed 14 Aug

HORRIBLE HISTORIES: THE MOVIE - ROT- TEN ROMANS (PG) Comedy. Starring Nick Frost, Kim Cattrall. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 10 - Thurs 15 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 CREATIVE CAMP Join artists and WAW volunteers for a week of arts activities, Mon 5 - Fri 9 Aug, Worcester Arts Workshop

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

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

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' AND CURATORS' CLUB Take part in a holiday club exploring the past, Wed 7 Aug, Black

Country Living Museum, Dudley

NATIONAL PLAY DAY Dress up, play at shops, be an engineer and build a ring road or giant structures, Wed 7 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

KNIGHTS & PRINCESSES FAMILY FUN DAY Treat your very own knights and princesses to a day of royal activity, Wed 7 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

NATIONAL PLAY DAY Play experiences for both the young and young at heart, Wed 7 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

LITTLE SKIPPERS: FABULOUS FOSSILS A 45-minute boat trip followed by things to make and do, Wed 7 - Thurs 8 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

UNICORN RIDES Join the unicorn-themed pony rides through the enchanted woodland in the grounds of the Arboretum, Wed 7 - Mon 26 Aug, Arley Arboretum, Bewdley, Nr 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

FUN IN THE KITCHEN FAMILY EVENT Discover cookery through the ages and have a go at making some historic food fit for a feast, Thurs 8 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

PANORAMA TOWER OPEN DAY Enjoy panoramic views of Worcester from the top of the tower, Fri 9 Aug, Croome Park, Worcester

TALL TALES: GOLDDILOCKS 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

RAF DEFFORD AIRFIELD GUIDED WALK Exploration of the top-secret airbase, which was home to airborne radar testing & development during the Second World War and the early years of the Cold War, Sat 10 Aug, Croome Park, Worcester



The National BMW Festival - British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

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

LIVING HISTORY SHOW Family day out featuring up to 1,000 re-enactors spanning major periods from the Ancient Greeks through to the Second World War, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Aug, Spetchley Park Gardens

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

STAFFORDSHIRE CYCLING FESTIVAL Cycling experience for the whole family, Sun 11 Aug, Newcastle Under Lyme, Staffordshire

EQUESTRIAN DAY 2019 Featuring displays, 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

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



Kaiser Chiefs - Lakesfest, Eastnor Castle

SFMF 19

STRATFORD ON AVON
MUSIC FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 2019

FRIDAY 13 TO
SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER
AT STRATFORD PLAYHOUSE

Nine days of exciting music-making
by established musicians and the cream
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Patron: Henry Seymour
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President: John Lill CBE



Season Highlights

Thurs 29 Aug. £15

WE LOVE LITTLE MIX!

If you're a fan you're sure to L.O.V.E. We Love Little Mix! 2pm & 7pm



Fri 30 Aug. £10 2pm

MORGAN AND WEST: MORE MAGIC FOR KIDS!

Bigger, better, and more magic than before!



Sun 15 Sept. £17

BARNHART & HUXLEY HOT FIVE

Jazz and Jokes IV back and better than ever! Hosted by Malcolm Stent. 2.30pm



Tues 17 Sept. £12

KEITH SLATER'S SINATRA CELEBRATION

An afternoon of classic Sinatra. 2pm



Sat 21 Sept. £20

THE BEACH BOYZ

Good vibrations all round from this popular tribute. 7.30pm



Tue 24 & Wed 25 Sept. £16/£15

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August 2019 NEW SEASON ON SALE

2 - 7 August

YESTERDAY

A wacky, winning, immensely enjoyable comedy-drama with a fantastical premise.



5-8 August. 6-18 yrs

MARVEL US! MUSICAL THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL

Release your inner super-hero



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 Elton, 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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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

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

GIANT & THE GEORGES + ED STRONG + AAR-

RON ARMSTRONG-CRADDOCK Fri 16 Aug, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

THE GREATEST SHOW Fri 16 Aug, Level 25, Marco Pierre White, 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, Resorts World, B'ham

VERY SANTANA Sat 17 Aug, Stratford Play-

house, Stratford-upon-Avon

ANTARTIC MONKEYS / IDLE NOISE Sat 17 Aug, The Empire, Coventry

BEATFACTORY Sat 17 Aug, The World Bar, Resorts World, Birmingham

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

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

OASIIS Sat 17 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

FREE GALAXY Sat 17 Aug, The Tin Music and Arts, Coventry

THE REGGULITES Sat 17 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

DANNY WRIGHT Sun 18 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham



Free Galaxy - Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

Classical Music

JOHN BRIERLEY ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by JS Bach, Tues 13 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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 ROBINSON Thurs 15 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

ANDREW BIRD, JUNIOR SIMPSON, BARRY DODDS & ABIGALIAH 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

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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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



SISTER ACT Wing It Theatre present an amateur staging of the story of disco diva turned nun, Deloris Van Cartier, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 Aug, Albany Theatre, Coventry

HAIRSPRAY Family-friendly musical presented by The Grande Royale Theatre Company, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

LOVE LABOUR'S WON Naked Will combine a condensed version of Shakespeare's comedy with a devised imagining of the 'lost' sequel..., Sat 17 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

WING IT 10! Wing It Theatre celebrates its 10th anniversary by revisiting some of its biggest and best productions, Sun 18 Aug, Albany Theatre, Coventry

CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES! Wartime murder-mystery set in 1944, Sun 18 Aug, Henry Sandon Hall, Worcester

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING Outdoor staging performed by the Festival Players, Sun 18 Aug, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING Presented by the Boaty Theatre Company, Sun 18 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

Kids Shows

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

GANGSTA GRANNY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' bestselling tale, Fri 16 Aug, Coombe Abbey, Binley, Coventry

I AM TURTLE The Makeshift Ensemble tell a tale of shipwrecks & sea shells, Fri 16 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE LITTLE MERMAID Amateur staging performed by the Palace Youth Theatre, Sat 17 Aug, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

TOY STORY 4 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. Malvern Theatres, Tues 13 - Thurs 15 Aug

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (12a) Action/Adventure. Starring Tom Holland, Samuel L. Jackson. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 16 - Tues 20 Aug

ONLY YOU (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Natalie Arle-Toyne, Isabelle Barth. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 16 - Tues 20 Aug

PAVAROTTI (12a) Documentary/Biography. Starring Spike Lee, Princess Diana. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 18 - Mon 19 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

BIG CANVAS: KLIMT WORKSHOP Create a big canvas painting, enjoy being experimental with paint, bring your own ideas and use ideas based on the work of painter Gustav Klimt, Tues 13 Aug, Worcester Arts Workshop

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, Staffs

CASTLE TOURS Take a guided walk around the 11th century castle, Thurs 15 Aug, Dudley Castle

TUNNEL TEDS Take 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 STORYTELLING 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

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, mac, Birmingham

MONSTER TRUCK NATIONALS Sat 17 -



The MakeShift Ensemble's I Am Turtle - Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

new outdoor arts each year, Fri 16 - Sun 18 Aug, Rode Hall Parkland, Scholar Green, Cheshire

MORTON STANLEY FESTIVAL Line-up includes tribute bands Skabucks, Pure Queen, Led Hendrix & the Ryan Sparrow Band, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Aug, Morton Stanley Park, Redditch

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

FARGO FOOD FESTIVAL From fresh grown produce to artisan seasonings, delicious drinks, and of course some of the best street food around, FarGo hosts its first ever food festival, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Aug, FarGo Village, Coventry

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



Just So Festival - Rode Hall Parkland, Cheshire



Anderson .Paak & The Free Nationals - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Gigs

ALEX REX Mon 19 Aug, The Tin Music and Arts, Canal Basin, Coventry



THE LITTLE MIX SHOW - BLACK MAGIC Wed 21 Aug, Albany Theatre, Coventry

TECH N9NE Wed 21 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

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

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

DUANE CONN & THE CONNECTIONS Fri 23 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

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

KEITH JAMES: THE MUSIC OF YUSUF Fri 23 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

YOU RAISE ME UP Sat 24 Aug, Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE JERICHO RACKS Sat 24 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

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

SKABUCKS Sat 24 Aug, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

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

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 Howells, Elgar, Knussen and Weinberg, Wed 21 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GOING FOR AN ENGLISH SONG Featuring Wilhelm Theunissen (tenor) & Janine Parsons (piano). Programme includes works by Purcell, Haydn, Vaughan Williams, Roger Quilter, Ivor Gurney, Elgar, Britten and Ian Venables, Thurs 22 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

Comedy

STEVE SHANYASKI PLUS COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 22 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEVE SHANYASKI, CAREY MARX &

COMIC TBC Fri 23 - Sat 24 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Presented by the Festival Players, Tues 20 August, Swan Theatre, Worcester

TEACHERS Amateur staging of John Godber's comedy, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS Presented by Folksy Theatre, Wed 21 Aug, Bishops Wood Centre Garden, Stourport-on-Severn

WUTHERING HEIGHTS Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging

of Emily Bronte's haunting tale, Wed 21 Aug, Foundry Wood, Leamington Spa

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

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 TEMPEST Outdoor staging presented by Illyria, Fri 23 Aug, Rose Bank Gardens, Great Malvern

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

RICHARD III Reimagining of one of Shakespeare's most popular histories, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

ROMEO & JULIET BMH Productions present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's greatest love story, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

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

SAM & MARK LIVE! Children's TV royalty Sam & Mark, as seen on BBC's Big Friday Wind-Up and Copycats,



Festival Players: Much Ado About Nothing - Swan Theatre, Worcester

take to the road with a brand new live show, Wed 21 - Thurs 22 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

GANGSTA GRANNY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' bestselling tale, Fri 23 Aug, The Wood Norton, Evesham

Talks

THE HERITAGE OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN Talk by Bernard Lockett, Sat 24 Aug, Malvern Theatres

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

RORY'S WAY (12a) Drama. Starring Brian Cox. Number 8, Pershore, Mon 19 - Tues 20 Aug

THE DEAD DON'T DIE (15) Comedy/Fantasy. Starring Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 21 - Thurs 22 Aug

WOMAN AT WAR (12a) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, Jóhann Sigurðarson. Foreign language, subtitled. Number 8, Pershore, Thurs 22 Aug

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT (12a) Biography/Comedy. Starring Viveik Kalra, Nikita Mehta. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 23 - Thurs 29 Aug

THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2 (tbc) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Awkwafina, Tiffany Haddish. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 23 - Thurs 29 Aug

THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN (PG) Comedy/Drama. Starring Kevin Costner, Amanda Seyfried. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 23 - Thurs 29 Aug

THE LION KING (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Donald Glover, Seth Rogen. Number 8, Pershore, Fri 23 - Thurs 29 Aug

MIDSOMMAR (18) Drama/Horror. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 24 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

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

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 airbase, 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 SKIPPERS: WATERY WILDLIFE A DAY 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

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 - Sun 25 Aug, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth

INSOMNIA65 See your favourite YouTubers 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



Interstellar

Coventry Cathedral, Fri 23 August

Given the concert's name, you'd expect some 'stellar' music to be involved - and this 50th anniversary celebration of the Apollo 11 moon landing does not disappoint! The 50-piece Limelight Orchestra perform 'all things space, stars and interstellar' in a show that features tracks by, among others, David Bowie, Coldplay, Muse, ELO, Pink Floyd, Elton John and Simply Red. Oh, and there's a light & special effects show to enjoy too, not to mention some impressive NASA footage and an immersive 3D hologram presentation. Sounds to us like it could be a truly, er, 'out of this world' experience...

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

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 (pictured), BoyzIIa and Busted, Fri 23 - Sun 25 Aug, Fish Meadow, Upton-upon-Severn



BEERMAGEDDON FESTIVAL Line-up includes Face Up!, Kambrum 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, Fri 23 - Mon 26 Aug, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury



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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

WAYNE HUSSEY Thurs 29 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

ELIZA MAY Thurs 29 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

WE LOVE LITTLE MIX Thurs 29 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MACHINE GUN KELLY Fri 30 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

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

DANNY VAUGHN Fri 30 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

ARE YOU EXPERIENCED Fri 30 Aug, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

CLARION Sat 31 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham



LAURA JANE GRACE AND THE DEVOURING MOTHERS & FRANK LERO 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

FOREVER QUEEN Sat 31 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

THE SMALL FAKERS Sat 31 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

Classical

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL WITH RACHEL MAHON Mon 26 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

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

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

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



Get Hands On With History

Kenilworth Castle, Tues 27 August - Sun 1 September

Travel back in time this August bank holiday and discover what it was like to live, work and fight in a real-life castle. As the name of the event reveals, there's plenty of hands-on fun for youngsters to enjoy, whether it's learning to sword fight, shooting with a bow & arrow or having a go at junior jousting. And if you want to take a break from the all-action schedule, there's always Kenilworth Castle itself to explore.

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

A MERMAZING PIRATE ADVENTURE Family-friendly performance filled with 'fun, magic, original music & songs'... Tues 27 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE Mark Moraghan (Coronation Street) & Lucy O'Byrne (Evita) star in a brand new staging of the award-winning comedy, Tues 27 - Sat 31 Aug, Malvern Theatres

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Nostalgic rock-

'n'roll production featuring smash hits from the '50s, '60s, '70s & '80s, Thurs 29 Aug, Malvern Theatres

WEST SIDE STORY Youth production reimagining one of the most iconic musicals of all time, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

PRIVATE LIVES Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of Noel Coward's celebrated comedy, Sat 31 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Wigan Little Theatre Company reimagine Shakespeare's magical play for modern times, Sat 31 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

Little Miss Sunshine

Malvern Theatres, Tues 27 - Sat 31 August

Based on the Oscar-winning film of the same name, Little Miss Sunshine follows 10-year-old Olive and the rest of the Hoover family on an epic cross-country trek. Their goal is to make Olive a beauty pageant queen. But not everything goes quite according to plan...

"I think our show definitely pokes fun at the beauty pageant world," says Lucy O'Byrne, who stars in the production. "It's not really a massive commentary on beauty pageants, but we definitely do point out how silly it is having all those tiny children caked in makeup!"



THE TEMPEST Presented by Chipping Norton Youth Theatre, Sat 31 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

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

Events

SUMMER TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Take inspiration from some of the classic designs at the museum to create your own ceramic masterpiece, Mon 26 - Fri 30 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

STORY BRICKS WORKSHOP Learn about slab building and create your own story scenes and figures using air drying clay, Tues 27 Aug, Worcester Arts Workshop

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 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 racetracks, 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, Birmingham

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

BACK TO THE 80'S AND 90'S FESTIVAL 2019 Line-up includes Tony Hadley, Venga Boys and Heather Small (pictured), Fri 30 Aug - Sun 1 Sept, Cattow Farm, Coalville, Leicestershire



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