

warwick arts centre

# HIGHLIGHTS SPRING 2020



DIGITAL **SCREENING Grace Jones:** Bloodlight and Bami A film by Sophie Fiennes Thu 5 Mar















My Night with Reg Thu 12 - Sat 14 Mar



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Warwick Arts Centre -The region's biggest arts and entertainment venue.



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This publication is printed on paper from a sustainable source and is produced without the use of elemental chlorine. We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.



## New street artwork maps out Digbeth's nightlife

The vibrant nightlife of Birmingham's Digbeth area has been mapped out in a new street artwork recently unveiled in the historic city quarter.

The 16ft by 10ft Digbeth Nightlife creation - commissioned by Richard Hughes, owner of local bar & nightspot The Ruin, and produced by Midlands street artist Andrew 'Title' Mills - is located on the Little Ann Street side of The Ruin.

Illustrating the area's diverse range of evening attractions, the artwork features 37 venues offering live music & DJ sets, bars & pubs, games, entertainment and eateries.

It also includes Moor Street Station and Selfridges markers to aid with navigation.

#### The otters have arrived...

The UK's first ever sea otters have safely touched down at Birmingham's National Sea Life Centre following a 5,000-mile journey from Alaska as part of a pioneering education and conservation project.

The otters are now in quarantine at the venue's purpose-built multi-million pound Marine Mammal Rescue Facility, where they will become permanent residents.



#### **Botanical Gardens makes** historic bandstand appeal

Birmingham Botanical Gardens has launched an appeal to raise £75,000 towards the cost of restoring its historic bandstand, as part of ambitious plans to preserve and develop the prestigious 15-acre site.

The Taking A Stand! campaign aims to return the bandstand to its original 1874 glory, so that it can be used as an all-weather outdoor space for school groups and be a platform for music and other events. A JustGiving page has been set up to receive public donations: justgiving.com/campaign/takingastand

### Mayor backs plans for proposed new art venue

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street has pledged support to Digbeth-based art gallery & studios Grand Union as it leads a £3.25million project to turn a nearby grade II listed building, Junction Works, into a new contemporary art venue.

Alongside its involvement in the Junction Works project, Grand Union is this year also celebrating its 10th anniversary, presenting a 12-month-long series of exhibitions, projects, events and parties to mark the occasion. Details about the venue's exhibition & events programme can be found online at grand-union.org.uk

# Contemporary music in the great outdoors



Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) is partnering with the city's Ikon gallery to present an outdoor performance of John Cage's Ryoanji for flute with electronic sound projections and percussion.

The event takes place outside the Ikon in Brindleyplace on Sunday 29 March (at 3pm).

BCMG is also this month performing its NEXT Imaginary Places family concert - at Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre on 21 March - featuring a series of solos, duos, trios and ensemble pieces.

For more information, visit bcmg.org.uk

### Calling young folk stars of the future

One of the Midlands' leading music festivals is offering folk stars of the future a platform on which to showcase their talents and reach new audiences. Shrewsbury Folk Festival has opened



applications for its Launchpad stage, providing young musicians with the chance to gain experience playing at a major music event. The festival is looking for bands, duos or solo musicians aged 16 to 26 who live in Shropshire, Mid Wales or the West Midlands to pitch for one of the slots on the Launchpad stage, which is once again being sponsored by Midlands What's On magazine. Successful applicants will perform at least three 30-minute sets during this year's festival (at the West Mid Showground, 28 - 31 August).

To apply, send a short biography, links to performances (Soundcloud, YouTube etc) and your contact details to jo@shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk before 8 May. Only selected performers will be contacted.

# A Big Month Of Music in the city

March sees the West Midlands Music collective - comprising all 14 of the region's music services - promoting a unique and ambitious project called Big Month Of Music. The initiative has been designed to celebrate the musical achievements of children across the region and to invest in their musical learning in the long-term. It's anticipated that more than 140,000 children and young people will participate in the project. For more information, visit westmidlandsmusic.org.uk

### Frank Skinner talks Showbiz...

Following a completely soldout five-week run in the West End, local lad Frank Skinner is taking his critically acclaimed show, Showbiz, out on the road, with its final destination being Birmingham's The Alexandra on Sunday 10 May.

"The more people like this show, the more I want to do it," says Frank. "There were some places I didn't do on tour previously and some I did do that sold out extremely quickly. So now I'm refreshed, refuelled, and raring to get back out there."





#### Pie maker to cook up a treat as Waitress heads to Brum

Smash-hit Broadway and West End musical Waitress will stop off at Birmingham Hippodrome next year (Monday 29 March - Saturday 3 April 2021) as part of its first ever UK & Ireland tour.

Based on the 2007 movie, Waitress tells the story of Jenna, an expert pie maker in a small town

who dreams of a way out of her loveless marriage. A baking contest in a nearby county and the town's new doctor may offer her a chance at a new life, while her fellow waitresses offer their own recipes for happiness...

For more information about the show and booking tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com



# Alexander Stadium revamp approved ahead of Birmingham Commonwealth Games

Proposals for the redevelopment of Birmingham's Alexander Stadium have been approved by the council's planning committee - marking a major milestone in the preparations for the city's hosting of the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

At the heart of the wider effort to regenerate the Perry Barr area, the £72million plan will see the stadium become a high-quality venue for diverse sporting, leisure, community and cultural events in the decades to come.

The stadium will be the focal point of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, hosting the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the athletics events.



# Scriptwriters Enter Stage Write at Birmingham Hippodrome

The grand final of annual West Midlands scriptwriting competition Enter Stage Write takes place at Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday 11 March.

Competitors have been required to submit a 10-minute script, which will be performed live on stage during the final.

The top three scripts will be made into short films as well as performed as a stage play, and there will also be a cash prize of £1,000. Confirmed judges for the competition are: Chris Sudworth, Director of Artistic Programme at Birmingham Hippodrome; Sean Foley, the newly appointed artistic director of The REP, Birmingam; Darcia Martin, director of Hollyoaks and BBC's Call The Midwife; Lisa Walters, producer of Backlight TV's 4Stories series for Channel Four, and David Ralf of Bunker Theatre London. Tickets for the grand final are now on sale at birminghamhippodrome.com

### Brum panto debut for Jason Donovan

One-time teen heartthrob Jason Donovan will make his pantomime debut in this year's Birmingham Hippodrome production of Goldilocks And The Three Bears.

Former Neighbours star Jason will play the part of the Evil Ringmaster - a circus owner who threatens to bring down Dame Betty Barnum's Big Top and steal the three bears

Goldilocks runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Saturday 19 December to Sunday 31 January.

### Auditions for the stars of tomorrow

Young persons talent agency & school Stagebox are holding auditions at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday 15 March.

Stagebox auditions thousands of children each year in theatres across the country and trains company members during the school holidays to an unrivalled professional level.

The company also creates musical films on exclusive locations, and has racked up an impressive 13 million YouTube views.
Book your child's audition at: stageboxmusicaltheatre.co.uk



#### Zog hits the trail at Warwick Castle...

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's lovable dragon, Zog, is starring in a brand new 3D interactive trail at Warwick Castle this Easter. The trail will keep kids busy with a whole host of 'Zogtastic tasks', including the chance to learn a new set of skills - just like Zog did at Dragon School.

Commenting on the new attraction, Liam Bartlett, Operations Director for Warwick Castle, said: "We're thrilled that Zog is flying in to Warwick Castle. The interactive trail is great for kids of all ages and supports the key messaging from the storybook itself around tenacity, persistence and rising to the challenge."

#### Warm-up party for St Patrick's Day

Birmingham's Bullring & Grand Central are this month hosting 'the ultimate St Patrick's Day warm-up party'.

Taking place on Saturday 14 March and featuring live music and

dancing, the event will see the Celtic Clan taking to the stage to lead the celebrations with traditional Irish folk and party tracks. And be sure to check out Bullring's iconic Bull, which will be all dressed up for the occasion! For more information, visit bullring.co.uk.



### A seat for Carlos at Symphony Hall

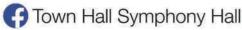
Birmingham Royal Ballet
Director Carlos Acosta has
been honoured with a plaque
for his very own seat in the
city's iconic Symphony Hall.
Carlos is only the second artist
to have a seat named after him
by the venue, the first being
singer Tony Bennett.
Speaking about his seat dedication, Carlos said; "Not even
in my wildest dreams could I
have imagined this happening.
I'm very grateful for this recognition, and I only feel further

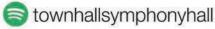
inspired to do my very best for the city of Birmingham."



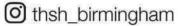
#### JLS Beat Again...

Award-winning boy band JLS will this autumn perform at Birmingham's Resorts World Arena as part of a mammoth UK and Ireland comeback tour. Following a seven-year hiatus, Aston, Marvin, Oritsé and JB will perform their Beat Again show at the city centre venue on Saturday 28 November, Friday 11 and Saturday 12 December.











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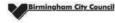
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# CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS

British-Nigerian family drama The High Table plays out between the heavens and earth while exploring queerness and tradition through humour. What's On caught up with the show's writer, Temi Wilkey, ahead of the production's run at The REP, Birmingham...

Tara and Leah are two women madly in love. Their perfect Nigerian wedding in London is fast approaching, but there's a spanner in the works: Tara's parents are refusing to attend. Watching over the unfolding drama from way above are three of Tara's ancestors, roused from their eternal rest to keep the family together...

The High Table charts the conflict between queerness and heteronormative expectations, showing how it affects the same-sex couple and Nigerian family at the play's centre.

"The main thing that doesn't match up to Tara's family's expectations is that she's marrying a woman," says The High Table's writer, Temi Wilkey. "I think Tara's parents have very much been in denial about her relationship, as it doesn't fit with what they hoped for her. They're hoping that this relationship will go away and that eventually she'll settle down with a man. I can definitely relate to the feeling of worrying that your relationship doesn't quite marry up with your family.

"A lot of The High Table explores queerness and tradition through humour. I want to unpack prejudices with a laugh and a bit of love! The High Table also explores how dangerous homophobia can be, especially when we go to scenes in Nigeria, as homosexuality isn't legal there, but also by exploring precolonial attitudes to queerness in Nigeria through the presence of Tara's ancestors in the play. That also gives it an element of magical realism that can be fun for me as a writer and for the audience."

What Temi and other artists firmly believe to be systemic bias in the world of theatre and wider storytelling threatened to derail The High Table even before it was written.

"Grayson Perry talks about The Default Man - a theory of sorts that explains what kinds of stories ourselves and the media see as important ones to tell. Theatre buys into that idea of appealing to the 'norm': the white, straight, male audience. That's why there are so rarely stories about anything outside that. Often, women's stories are quite difficult to get on stage anyway - let alone a story about a black

queer woman like in The High Table. The Default Man really is about systemic bias, how that happens and how it affects the arts and other parts of society.

"I think non-straight writers and those from ethnic minorities do hold back from topics they really want to write about because of this bias, as they believe it won't get staged. Playwrights also don't seem even to notice that they don't feel empowered to write certain stories. I was part of the Royal Court's Introductory Writers Group in 2017 and we had the brilliant Darren Chetty come and speak to us he was one of the contributors to the bestselling book, The Good Immigrant, It was really useful to hear him speak. Something like 97% of children's books depict only white children. So even from a really young age, you're seeing stories about white boys and hardly any ethnic minorities, let alone as you get older and want to see something on stage. I think people feel discouraged from telling these stories, but don't even recognise that they do. It's something we need to unlearn, and recognise that our stories are just as important as anyone else's."

How did we get to this point, then: from believing The High Table would never be staged to having it programmed in two different cities?

"We had a rehearsed reading of The High Table this time last year, which was with a brilliant playwright called Tom Wright, who had a play running at Park Theatre in London. He was giving opportunities for queer writers to have a rehearsed reading of their play. Tom mentioned the play to Bush Theatre when he came in for a meeting. He really championed it! I was also rehearsing here around that time for an acting role. Things went from there, I think when I fully realised it was programmed and it got closer to the play opening, I wanted to make sure that I did all the different identities within my writing justice. But I think the most important thing is that I'm writing something that feels true to myself."

As such, bringing The High Table to the stage means a great deal to Temi. And even some of her initial worries have been dispelled.

"You don't often see Black British stories on stage. Often, if you do see Black theatre in London, it's African-American - and I think it's really important that a Black British person can see themselves reflected on stage. We exist and we matter. That's the really rewarding aspect of staging The High Table. I think the challenges are that certain things could be lost. For example, the characters speak in Nigerian Pidgin English, and that was something I was worried about because I obviously want my audience to understand what I'm trying to say. But I think because the actors play their parts so well and audiences are always cleverer than you think, it has worked out."

Having trained with the National Youth Theatre REP company and boasting impressive acting credits, including BBC & HBO British drama Years And Years and multiple productions at the Royal Shakespeare Company, does Temi think acting has influenced her writing?

"Being an actor is such a huge part of myself that it's hard to unpick where personal influence ends and professional influence starts in my writing. When people have said very nice things about my writing, they say that they can tell someone who acts has written it because the dialogue is quite fun to say. Being an actor, there are characters in The High Table that I could definitely play. I want to write stories that I would want to act in, so I think that informs how and what I write."

Most of all, Temi hopes her play has an immediate and lasting impact: "I hope The High Table makes people laugh! I also hope it'll make people think and change their perspective on queerness and Africa. Queerness in Africa was around long before colonialism arrived, and it was colonialism that brought homophobia to the continent. I want The High Table to feel like a gift to queer people, especially queer people of colour."

The High Table shows at The REP, Birmingham from Wednesday 25 March to Thursday 9 April.



#### REVIEW: Laghi's Deli Exceptional food and impressive service at Italian gem

A firm favourite on Birmingham's thriving culinary scene, Laghi's Deli is an award-winning and authentic Italian restaurant, bar & delicatessen, located on Islington Row in Edgbaston.

Owner Luca discovered his passion for food whilst standing on a stool helping his mother make pasta at the age of four. Whilst his career took an alternative path, he always knew that if the opportunity to work with food came up, he would grasp it with both hands. Fast forward a number of years and Laghi's Deli was born...

The 40-cover restaurant focuses on traditional, handmade Italian cuisine, created with the highest-quality ingredients - Luca spent many months finding the very best Italian suppliers. The menu has been designed to evoke memories of 'old Italy' but with a modern twist.

Following the friendliest of welcomes, my partner and I were shown to our table by the fantastic restaurant manager, Roberto, who served us for the duration of our visit. We were instantly hit with an array of beautiful aromas - and that, allied with the relaxed atmosphere and friendly welcome, made for an excellent first

impression.

A glass of Italian prosecco in hand, we perused the mouthwatering menu. My attention was instantly drawn to the burrata served with parma ham and aubergine caviar.

Whilst waiting for our starters, we tucked into a bowl of the most delicious green olives and Laghi's take on a bread course, which comprised of nothing more than a homemade pizza base topped with sea salt and rosemary sprigs - no cheese, no garlic, no sauce. The quality of the dough is such that the dish doesn't require any further ingredients. I'm no stranger to good food, but I was genuinely surprised at how ridiculously tasty it was. Simplicity at its best.

Creamy burrata and salty parma ham is a heavenly combination, and Laghi's offering didn't disappoint. The addition of the aubergine caviar further elevated the dish, and I'd go so far as to say that it's the most enjoyable buratta dish I've ever eaten.

Roberto recommended trying the mussels special as our second starter. Being huge seafood fans, we were more than happy to do so. Featuring a sizeable portion of mussels, clams and two large langoustines, the dish was served with a creamy garlic sauce. A welcome recommendation indeed.

On to the main courses. My choice of black ravioli stuffed with crab and mascarpone was divine. The pasta itself was cooked wonderfully and the sweet crab and creamy mascarpone filling was nothing short of perfection.

And that's not all... To step things up a notch, the ravioli was served in a smoked provola fondue with an onion jam. If you like cheese (and crab, of course), order it! You won't be disappointed.

Following another recommendation, our second main course came in the form of a monkfish spaghetti. As with our other main, the homemade pasta was exemplary. The meaty monkfish chunks were cooked to perfection, and the dish was completed by a good portion of nicely seasoned spaghetti, with garlic and extra virgin olive oil, and some sweet tomatoes.

Laghi's boasts a dedicated pizza chef serving Neapolitan-style pizza made to order. Although our main courses were wonderful, my partner and I couldn't help but glare with envy every time we saw a pizza being delivered to a neighbouring table. Options include: mozzarella, truffle, mushroom and mascarpone; tomato sauce, mozzarella, red radicchio, pancetta, balsamic vinegar and parmesan shavings; and tomato sauce, mozzarella, scamorza cheese, fresh chilli, 'nduja and jalapeño. They even offer a takeaway service!

Although suitably full, we couldn't leave without trying the tiramisu. The standard of the food was so high that we were confident Laghi's take on the famous Italian dessert was going to be something special.

We weren't wrong. We were presented with what I can only describe as a large slab of the creamiest, most delicious tiramisu I've eaten in a long time, accompanied by a sweet and perfectly executed white chocolate and raspberry melt-in-the-middle fondant, and an exemplary espresso.

So many restaurants vow that their dishes are made with 'the highest-quality ingredients', but at Laghi's Deli, they most definitely are. The food is truly exceptional and equals that of any I've eaten in Italy. Luca, Roberto and the rest of the team fully deserve every plaudit that comes their way, and the Italian gem is, without doubt, one of my newfound favourite restaurants. Bellissimo! *Lauren Foster* 

Food: Service: Ambience: Overall value OVERALL



Laghi's Deli 22-24 Islington Row Edgbaston Birmingham B15 1LD Tel: 0121 455 0660

### **COMING SOON TO THE ALEXANDRA**



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**MON 16 - SAT 21 MAR Eg WED 18 MAR** 7.30PM



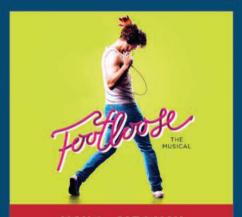
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**TUE 14 APR** 



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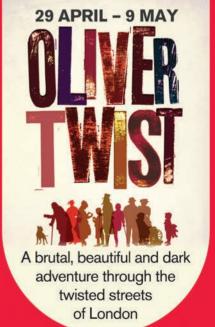














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# 3-2-1-BAKE!

#### The proof is in the pudding as we try out The Big Birmingham Bake...

A concept which trades on the popularity of The Great British Bake Off has arrived in the second city. The Big Birmingham Bake offers members of the general public the chance to live out their baking dreams.

Participants have 90 minutes to complete the monthly signature challenge in pairs (as outlined by the head baker) and compete against other novice bakers to win a prize.

Ingredients, equipment and a clear and detailed recipe are provided, meaning that competitors have pretty much everything they need in order to create a masterpiece - or not, depending on their ability!

Located in Digbeth, the city's cool quarter, a marquee boasting all the mod cons has been erected on an unused courtyard space in Floodgate Street. Adjacent to this 'Bake Off tent' is a shipping container which has been tastefully decorated with up-cycled furniture. This acts as a comfortable waiting area prior to your slot. There's also a bar to cater for your refreshment needs.

Within the Bake Off tent there are 12 baking stations, with all of the ingredients having been pre-weighed and the ovens pre-heated.

Head baker, Emma, informed us that we would be making baked doughnuts of both the ring and domed variety. We also had to make a crème patisserie to fill the domed doughnuts and a glaze for the ring ones.

After Emma shouted the iconic words, "3-2-1-bake!", we set to work. One of the lovely things about being in the tent was that you could set your own level of competition. To me, it felt extremely relaxed, with music playing and three staff regularly coming round to check you were okay. They also came round to take away used equipment to wash up. This was extremely helpful and meant contestants could focus on their baking.

Whilst you do have a recipe to follow, you are very much able to put your own stamp on your bakes by choosing flavours from 'creation corner'. We opted to make chocolate ring doughnuts with an orange glaze and popping candy, plus chocolate domed doughnuts with a vanilla crème patisserie, topped with Oreo cookies. There are plenty of options to choose from, however, so you're able to be as creative as you want.

At the end of the 90 minutes, everyone dis-

played their bakes on a silver board and cake stand and took them to the 'judging table' to be critiqued. Emma was enthusiastic and positive in her assessment, giving plenty of helpful pointers. Any criticisms were delivered gently. Despite our flavours being very good and having six near-identical doughnuts of each kind, our domed doughnuts were slightly under-baked. Rookie error!

The creations were then ranked, with the top three being announced and the victorious pair taking home a prize. Contestants were provided with a cake box in which to take home their doughnuts.

Safe to say, we were never going to be placed in the top three, but we did have an incredibly enjoyable afternoon and would do it again in a heartbeat. So if baking and having fun is your thing, then my heartfelt advice to you would be, wait for it, wait for it... 3-2-1-book!

The Big Birmingham Bake is currently booking until the end of August.

There are 24 tickets available per session. Head to thebigbirminghambake.com to book your tickets in advance.



# MAXINE WALKER: UNTITLED

#### representations of black womanhood showcased at Midlands Arts Centre...

From April to June 2020, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) presents UNTITLED – an exhibition displaying the works of Birmingham-born artist Maxine Walker.

Reintroducing a pioneering artist whose practice focused on representations of black womanhood, UNTITLED is a poignant exploration of identity by a young artist at the height of her career, using photography to interrogate the intricacies of skin, blackness and being.

Active between 1985–1997, this will be Walker's first solo exhibition in her home city

of Birmingham. The exhibition at MAC has been organised by Autograph, London curated by Renée Mussai and Bindi Vora, with additional loans from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and The Photographers' Gallery, London.

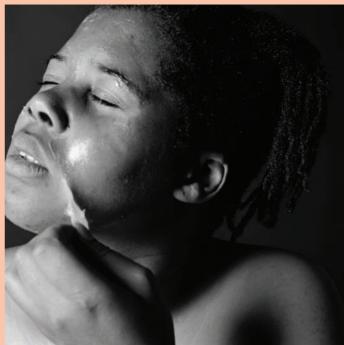
Deeply invested in creating dialogues that advocated black art practices in Britain, Walker was an influential artist and instrumental in co-founding platforms to give expression to black female photographers – including Monocrone Women's Photography Collective, Women + Photography and Polareyes.

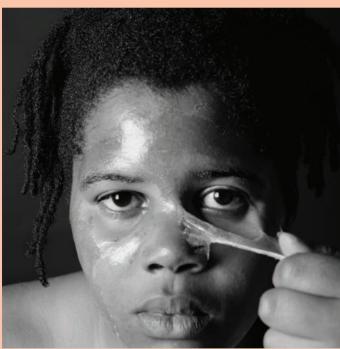
During this time, Walker regularly reviewed exhibitions and wrote features highlighting the work of her peers: international artists like Joy Gregory, Adrian Piper and Ingrid Pollard.

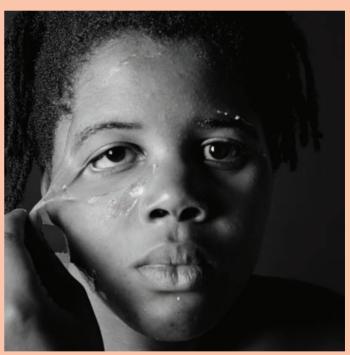
The exhibition at MAC will feature a selection of prints from the series Untitled (1997), framed prints from the series Black Beauty (1991), vintage photographs from The Bride (1989), plus eight framed photographs from the series Untitled (1995) on loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

"These works raise important questions









Images: Maxine Walker, Untitled, 1997. Courtesy of the artist and Autograph, London © Maxine Walker

about the nature of identity and challenge stereotypes. The artist explores the fabricated format of photo-booth photography, and depicts herself through a series of guises. "In contemporary society, the rise in 'selfies' and the growth in the need to capture the

'perfect image' offers a new context in which these works can be revisited, which we at MAC feel is particularly relevant and timely for our audiences." – Deborah Kermode, Chief Executive and Artistic Director, MAC. Walker's self-portraits invite viewers to explore complex notions of beauty, masquerade and vulnerability. In her seminal series of self-portraits Untitled (1997), the artist draws our attention to the features of her face in closely-cropped black and white photographs.

By magnifying the delicacy of her skin, Walker's performative works conjure a narrative that is more sinister than playful, intimating that her blackness cannot – must not – be stripped away.

These works were first published in a rare series of artists' monographs dedicated to black photographic practice, published by Autograph in the 1990s. Walker's monograph also featured her photo-booth-style self-portraits in colour, which appeared in this exhibition as original contact sheets. In this series, commissioned by Autograph and Ikon Gallery for the exhibition Self-Evident in 1995, curated by Mark Sealy, Walker transforms herself into myriad characters.

Maxine Walker: UNTITLED shows at Midlands Arts Centre's Arena Gallery from Saturday 4 April – Sunday 21 June

#### **Birmingham Bach Choir**

St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, Sat 21 March

One of the city's oldest and most distinguished musical groups brings to a close its centenary celebrations with a recital featuring organists who have been connected to the choir across the years. The programme features music by, among others, Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn and Igor Stravinsky.

#### **RBS Chamber Choir**

St Alban the Martyr, Highgate, Birmingham, Thurs 26 March

The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's hugely talented Chamber Choir, performing under the direction of Paul Spicer and accompanied by organist William Peart, here presents an eclectic programme that includes music by Joubert, Howells and Elgar.

#### Fitzwilliam String Quartet

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 20 March

Fitzwilliam is an ensemble with a long and illustrious history. The four Cambridge undergraduates who founded it in 1968 were befriended by Dmitri Shostakovich, who entrusted them with the Western premières of his last three quartets. The ensemble then became the first group to perform and record all 15. Inevitably the quartet's line-up has changed numerous times down the years, but the commitment to high-quality work remains very much intact.

This latest concert sees them presenting a programme that includes work not only by Shostakovich but also Beethoven and Hugo Wolf.





#### **Elektra: Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 21 March

"The blood mania appears as a terrible deformation of sexual perversity," wrote one horrified critic in reaction to Richard Strauss' Elektra when it premièred in 1909. Another was of the opinion that "the whole thing impresses one as a sexual aberration". It's fair to say that Strauss's modern and expressionistic one-act opera, composed to a German-language libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal, made some serious waves

back in the early 20th century.

Making use of Sophocles' famous Greek tragedy, the piece held up a mirror to the violent society in which Strauss lived - and that violent society most emphatically did not like what it saw reflected back...

Bournemouth's talented Symphony Orchestra here get their collective teeth into a brutal, bloodthirsty but ultimately brilliant classical work.

#### Carmina Burana

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 14 March

The emotionally charged choral music of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana is instantly recognisable the world over, having featured in an untold number of movie sound-



tracks and television commercials. The hugely popular work here receives another outing, this time courtesy of the City of Birmingham Choir performing alongside the London Concert Orchestra.

Soprano Ailish Tynan, tenor Oliver Johnston and baritone William Dazeley also contribute to what should be a truly impressive evening of musicmaking. Adrian Lucas (pictured) conducts...

#### **Quatuor Bozzini**

Barber Institute, Birmingham, Wed 18 March When it comes to forging collaborative projects, presenting new works and taking musical risks, Quatuor Bozzini's reputation is second to none. Indeed, the talented Canadian performers have even been dubbed 'one of the most daring string quartets in the entire world'. Their visit to Birmingham sees them per-

Their visit to Birmingham sees them performing a newly commissioned work by Michael Zev Gordon alongside pieces by Cassandra Miller and Dmitri Shostakovich.



#### The Cat Empire

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 19 March

For over a decade, Melbourne's finest genrebusting, multi-platinum-selling band have been showcasing their trademark high-energy gigs around the world.

Fusing ska, jazz, funk and rock with heavy Latin influences, the six-piece have built their reputation on chaotic and fiercely uplifting performances.

Their eight studio albums include Two Shoes, So Many Nights, Rising With The Sun and latest chart-topper Stolen Diamonds.



#### **Jamie Cullum**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 15 March

Platinum-selling musician, multi-instrumentalist and dynamic live performer Jamie Cullum visits Birmingham this month in support of latest album Taller.

Speaking about the title track, Jamie says: "Historically there have been jokes about my physical stature and being married to a taller woman (his wife is writer and ex-model Sophie Dahl), so I wanted to own it. Using this as a jumping-off point, it became a song about the need to grow within your relationship and meet each other eye to eye, allowing room for both darkness and light."





#### James Arthur

Arena Birmingham, Sat 7 March

James Arthur was recently awarded a disc for chalking up a billion streams on Spotify with his number-one song, Say You Won't Let Go. To put that achievement into perspective, only 18 records have ever reached the coveted one billion mark, and James is one of only 10 artists to hit the milestone number.

Impressive stuff indeed from the 2012 winner of The X-Factor...

The 32-year-old singer-songwriter visits Birmingham as part of a nationwide UK tour.

#### Lee Scratch Perry

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 21 March

Eighty-three-year-old Lee 'Scratch' Perry is one of reggae's undisputed pioneers, working with and producing for artists including Bob Marley, The Clash and The Congos. Best known for his rebel rasta tunes and riveting live performances, he visits Birmingham in support of new album Heavy Rain.

#### **David Gray**

Resorts World Arena, Birmingham, Sat 28 March

David Gray stops off in the Midlands this month to perform his album, White Ladder; on the occasion of the record's 20th anniversary. Featuring Babylon, the single that shot Gray to worldwide fame, the album will be performed (with all the original band members and equipment) alongside a selection of the singer's greatest hits.

#### Eliza Shaddad

The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham, Tues 10 March



A multilinguist with a philosophy degree, Eliza Shaddad studied jazz at London's Guildhall before self-producing her first EP. Her debut album, Future, released in 2018, garnered plenty of praise, with Rolling Stone, MOJO and the Sunday Times all weighing in with positive reviews. Named a Rising Star of 2019 by the BBC, Eliza's influences include Nina Simone, Billy Bragg, Bob Dylan and Bob Marley, to name but a few.



# WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

#### Elesha Paul Moses brings her Tina Turner tribute tour to Birmingham...

Elesha Paul Moses has paid her dues in the entertainment world. She's been striving for success in the music business for 20 years, via traditional grafting and TV talent shows.

She's now taken her singing career to a new level by starring in the mammoth tribute-show tour, What's Love Got To Do With It?, celebrating the music and life of rock & soul legend Tina Turner.

Elesha, 39, who lives in Hampshire and grew

up in Surrey, appeared on The X-Factor in 2010 alongside One Direction and winner Matt Cardle. She was in the same category as big-haired bongo-playing wild-card contestant Wagner.

She then reached the battle rounds - twice - on The Voice, first with will.i.am in a duo in 2013 and then with Tom Jones as a solo act a year later.

She had previously been mentored by

Mathew Knowles - Beyoncé's dad - on a Channel Four talent show.

Elesha is also touring the UK as the late, great Whitney Houston in Whitney: Queen Of The Night. The tour has included five sell-out shows at the Savoy Theatre in London's West End.

We spoke to Elesha about her love of performing - and about the challenges of playing two of music's most iconic stars...

You've been on the road with What's Love Got To Do With It? for a year now. How has it been, paying homage to a rock & soul legend like Tina Turner?

It's been incredible. Heading into the start of the show, I'd been pretty full-on with Whitney: Queen Of The Night, so didn't have too much time to think about it... Then it was full-on into touring mode for What's Love Got To Do With It? and we've been up and down the country ever since.

There's been so much love for the show from audiences and on social media; it's been amazing. I've been working hard on the vocals, and the band, backing singers and costumes are fantastic. We love being on the road and meeting all the fantastic fans. That's made preparing for the 2020 tour even more exciting, as we know what the reactions will be.

Fans have loved the show. What does it feel like to see such brilliant responses from the audience, and to receive the amazing reviews online?

It's surreal, especially for someone like me, as I'm really self-critical; I'm always thinking, 'What could I do better?', even when people are saying the show is fantastic. The comments we get are actually a little overwhelming, and we're so very grateful for each and every one of them. Seeing people in the audience having a brilliant night out, dancing and singing along, is what it's all about.

Whitney Houston and Tina Turner are very different artists. What's it like recreating these iconic performers live on stage?

Doing Whitney as well as Tina, you need a huge amount of stamina - vocally, physically and mentally - but in such different ways for each performance. Tina is much more the physical challenge, Whitney is the vocal challenge. But working hard to be at my best in both areas pays off on both shows.

They are such different-sounding performers. Each role strengthens my voice in such different ways, but that only helps make me better in each show.

Tina's not got a growl as such. People think it's shouting but it's not; it's a very particular tone that she has, and she's so free with her performance.

Then, when I'm on stage as Whitney, it's almost the opposite. You're so exposed and there's nowhere to hide, as it's a much slower,

more mellow pace of show.

Compare that to Tina and What's Love Got To Do With It?... Once you're on stage, there's no letting up from the moment you start. I love that very strong contrast between the two.

You have such a busy schedule, with the shows running alongside each other. With two young children, how do you manage that touring commitment with family life?

Mark, my husband, is amazing; I have the best man in the world. I definitely couldn't do it without him. My eldest daughter, Kookie, is turning eight soon, and she's only ever known me be a singer. So in some ways, she's used to it, but occasionally she'll say something. My little one, Teddy, doesn't know any different to the schedule we now have. I'm lucky she's so young.

For me, I'm able to shut it off to an extent, as I know this is all about building for their future. Whatever job you have, you have to balance family life. I also think we're so lucky to have things like Facetime now, so you can catch up easily and see them if you're away for a few days at a time.

What's your favourite song to perform as Tina Turner?

There are so many I love. Proud Mary is obviously so much fun, but I also love Typical Male and I Can't Stand The Rain. But for my absolute favourite, I'll go for Proud Mary. It always used to be Simply The Best, which people really loved and went mad for, but these days it's definitely Proud Mary.

Tina Turner is still such a huge name in music. Why do you think she's still so popular?

She's just such a great all-rounder, and she appeals to men as well as women. She's a great rock & roll artist. Her songs have never gone away. Even youngsters now, they know tracks like Proud Mary. You do those songs and they're all over it.

Tina's had difficult times too over the years, but she came through it. I think people like that side of her story too, as well as the brilliant music.

How did you get into singing and performing as a tribute artist?

When I first realised I could properly sing, I was about 13. I was always mimicking others, and that's how I taught myself. But that really big, belting voice wouldn't necessarily come out. Listening to people like Whitney Houston

and Mariah Carey, that kind of artist, was when it really came to me. Funnily, I didn't really listen to Tina Turner when I was younger. My parents played her music in the car, but it wasn't what I took to at the time.

I was singing in a club and a friend said, 'We should do something different'. I said, 'Shall we try Whitney or something?'. I went home, put down a couple of lines of Whitney and thought, 'Oh, I can sound like her'. It went from there - and a similar thing happened when I started with Tina.

You've been working in the music industry for a long time - you started writing with a record company aged just 17 and have been on TV talent shows. Can you tell us about the switch to the world of tributes?

I never used to do tributes. I was striving to do my own stuff and put out my own music. Things happened in my life. I was in-between things, not really knowing what to do. I didn't know how to get into the tribute business. At the same time, I felt that, by doing that, I would miss doing my own thing too. But I'd done my album and did lots of 'trying to make it' before doing the TV shows. I'd tried the traditional, old-fashioned methods to get signed. It was just never meant to be. So I decided it was time to take it away from being me and into being someone else.

How was your time on The X-Factor and The Voice, and what did you learn from the experiences?

When I did The X-Factor, I was in the same year as One Direction, Cher Lloyd and Wagner. Wagner was in Louis Walsh's Overs category with me, but I went home after the judges' houses round.

I was asked to audition for The Voice, and I first went when I was pregnant with Kookie - but I then realised the live shows would be on when I was due with her so had to back out. I auditioned again in 2013 as part of a duo, and again in 2014.

Doing both of those did give me a boost at the time, even though I ultimately wasn't successful. I don't know what people think of me as an artist having done those two shows, but I'm so grateful and glad to have moved on to what I'm doing now.

What's Love Got To Do With It? shows at Arena Birmingham on Thursday 19 March.



# Stewart Lee

#### Midlands-born comedian brings his new touring show to the region...

Last year, after three decades in the business, Stewart Lee was hailed by the Times as 'the world's greatest living stand-up'.
His current tourer is entitled Snowflake/
Tornado, a show which sees him, in his own words, "negotiating the thin line between has-been and legend".

#### What can audiences expect from your latest show. Stewart?

It's two one-hour shows back to back. Tornado is a story show about me sharing a venue with a famous American comedian and getting chased off by his private security team. Snowflake is a more discursive, ideasdriven hour, about how some people think political correctness has supposedly imposed on people's freedoms. I'm a 1980s snowflake liberal and very much a product of political correctness, but fans of shock and awe will find enough in both shows to flip their wigs. Every new tour, I tie myself in gut-wrenching knots worrying that time will finally be called on my career, but this show has got better reviews than ever, so I am cursed to continue.

# You're in the strange position of having won every award going, being able to shift a quarter of a million tickets on tour without needing to advertise, but by no means being a household name. Does that bother you?

Not really. To some extent I engineered it, by never going on panel shows or Live At The Apollo - it was easy to do this as I was never asked. Celebrity gets in the way of the art of being a stand-up, and it's a massive pain in the backside being even a bit famous. Me being recognised is embarrassing for the kids, and we've had to take legal advice on people threatening and harassing us. The last stand-up special, Content Provider, played to two million people on the iPlayer in 2018 and there was stuff about Brexit in it, so before it went out I grew a massive beard and let

myself go a bit so that I didn't get attacked in the street. The problem is, I can't seem to find my way back to normal now, so I look like a furry bin bag.

# You mentioned the dreaded B word there. Is talking about Brexit a problem? Do you change what you say in different parts of the country?

I don't really change what I say. The on-stage Stewart Lee is an artist imposing his arrogant vision on audiences. He's not there to entertain people. He just does what he does, and if they're entertained it's an accidental by-product of the performance! But in April 2017 the Daily Telegraph, the Daily Express, Shortlist, the Daily Mail, Breitbart and Spiked Online all ran versions of the same largely made-up story, saying I was having mass walk-outs because of doing jokes about Brexit, which was entirely untrue. In the end. the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Express made minor corrections online, but it does show you how they run fake stuff up to fit their agendas. I'm a graduate who works in the arts from a 78% remain-voting constituency, so obviously my attitude to Brexit reflects that. I wouldn't be as aggressive about it now as I was last time I toured, because I don't think anyone has got what they wanted, so it just seems like a massive tragedy. But I'm not going to change who I am or what I think, even if it did lead to losing audiences, which it doesn't seem to have done. They've gone up if anything! I didn't get into this to get big crowds. I got into it to be free to do what I want. People can come and see me if they want, but it doesn't make any difference to the work I produce. I'd do it anyway, to no-one."

#### Who were your comedy influences?

Well, when I was a kid, I liked The Two Ronnies, Monty Python and The Young Ones on TV. But I think it was Dave Allen who really went in, when I come to break down what it is I do now. I realised I wanted to be a stand-up when I was 16, watching this weird punk-comedian Ted Chippington supporting The Fall in Birmingham in 1986. He didn't have any proper jokes and just liked annoying everyone, and I thought it was the best thing I ever saw. At the Edinburgh Fringe in the late '80s, I was exposed to the Scottish shockcomic Jerry Sadowitz, the dry Jewish comic Arnold Brown, the surrealist Norman Lovett, the 'performance art'-driven Oscar McLennan, and the brilliant Irish storyteller Kevin McAleer, and they all remained cornerstones of what I was doing until I finally found my voice.

#### What about now? Who do you rate today?

I was very lucky to start out when the old 'alternative comedy' values were still in place, as I think modern stand-up is bland, marketdriven and unpleasant. I still love the work of my contemporaries, like Harry Hill and Simon Munnery. I think Daniel Kitson is the greatest living stand-up, and I would like my wife Bridget Christie's act even more than I do if I wasn't married to her and knew what she was really like. Paul Sinha from The Chase is a great stand-up. From the newer comics, I really like Rosie Iones - and Ghosts, by the Horrible Histories lot, is my favourite comedy TV show since Detectorists and This Country. I saw the husband from Ghosts in a tile warehouse and was quite star-struck. And of course, he didn't know who I was, so it was all very awkward.

Stewart Lee plays Malvern Theatres on Tuesday 3 March; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Thursday 12 & Friday 13 March; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday 31 May; and Lichfield Garrick on Thursday 9 July



Adam Kay Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 22 March

After watching an Adam Kay performance, Stephen Fry declared, "This made me very, very happy."

Numerous sell-out years at the Edinburgh Fringe and tens of millions of YouTube hits later, former obstetrician and gynaecologist Adam is this month visiting the Midlands with his popular touring show, This Is Going To Hurt: Secret Diaries Of A Junior Doctor. Expect splendidly silly spoof songs and some seriously shocking stories from the NHS frontline...

#### **Rob Auton**

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Thurs 19 March; The REP, Birmingham, Fri 20 March

Although Rob Auton recognises he's been lucky in life, he nonetheless finds day-to-day living a bit of a struggle. "I find it really hard to look at the news because it has such a bad effect on me," he explains. "That's why my shows tend to be about topics where my judgment hasn't been clouded."

The topics he's chosen have been 'yellow', 'the sky', 'faces', 'water', 'sleep', and now, 'time'. This focus on just the one subject per show distinguishes Auton from other stand-ups, many of whom tend to prefer a more scattergun strategy when it comes to the business of being funny.

One-liners include the winner of the 2013 Edinburgh Festival funniest joke award: "I heard a rumour that Cadbury is bringing out an oriental chocolate bar. Could be a Chinese Wispa."

#### **Josie Long**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 12 March; Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burtonupon-Trent, Fri 13 March

Josie Long's comedian pal, Nish Kumar, has referred to her as 'the David Bowie of stand-up' - a description he's used on account of the 37-year-old comic's impressive capacity for reinventing herself. London-born Long admits she likes to change her way of doing things every now and again. An example of this came post-Referendum, when despite being an enthusiastic but of course losing Remainer, she decided that her touring show would focus on the positives as Britain prepared itself for Brexit. Her latest on-stage offering is a tad more personal in nature, as Josie contemplates what she refers to as "the mind-bending intensity of new motherhood". Jokes include: "When I was a kid, I asked my mum what a 'couple' was and she said, 'Oh, two or three". And she wonders why

her marriage didn't work out..."

#### **Geoff Norcott**

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 4 March; The Civic, Stourport-on-Severn, Fri 6 March; William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Sat 7 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 25 March; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 27 March

Geoff Norcott is one of the sharpest tools in the comedy shed, presenting shows which feature observational humour, satire, and even the odd impression or two.

Being a former teacher, plenty of Geoff's gags relate to school experiences and the education system. He's also made something of a name for himself in the field of sports-related humour, a niche that's yielded him plenty of work both on television and radio... Geoff's Midlands appearances see him performing his latest touring show, Taking Liberties.



#### **Josh Widdicombe**

Dudley Town Hall, Thurs 19 March; The Place, Telford, Tues 31 March; Malvern Theatres, Fri 3 April; William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Sun 17 May

Peddling a nice line in exasperated, self-deprecating humour, Devonraised funnyman Josh Widdicombe pumps out cleverly crafted gags at a brisk pace, hitting the mark with the vast majority of his material.



Widdicombe's jokes include: "Hotdogs cause bum cancer - that was the original slogan for McDonald's before 'I'm loving it'."

There's also: "I've no idea what the storyline of Monopoly is. Seemingly I'm a tiny dog who repeatedly wins beauty contests, on his birthday demands £10 from everybody he can see, and then bankrupts himself to stay in a hotel when he owns four houses on the next street!"

#### **Ed Byrne**

The Place, Telford, Thurs 12 March; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 14 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 17 March; Walsall Arena, Tues 24 March

A highly regarded master of observational comedy, Ed Byrne admits to being a little uncomfortable about some of the 'more laddish' material he used in the early days of his stand-up career.

"My comedy reflected my life at that time - single and enjoying myself. Most of it was fairly harmless, but some of the stuff about an ex-girlfriend I can see was a bit angry, and I wouldn't do it now."

So 20-plus years after first dipping his toes into the decidedly dangerous waters of stand-up, does Ed still enjoy touring? "Apart from the travel involved, which no comic likes, I love it. You have people responding to something that you've written alone in your office, and the work comes alive in a roomful of people. I like the TV things I do, but nothing can beat a live comedy audience."

#### **Richard Herring**

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 28 March

Richard Herring has developed a reputation as one of the UK's most inventive and original comedians, cleverly using his real-life trials and tribulations to inform his highquality line in comic patter.

And he's certainly not a man to shirk big or controversial subjects when it comes to his live shows; previous tours have seen him ponder religion (Christ On A Bike), politics (Hitler Moustache) and penises (Talking Cock).

Richard is appearing in Birmingham this month as part of the city's two-day Podfest event.





Njambi McGrath Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 20 March

At age 13, Njambi McGrath was beaten up, knocked unconscious and left to die by her father. When she awoke, she walked for miles through the Kenyan countryside in her blood-covered nightdress in search of her mother, who had left the family home previously in fear of her life...

It goes without saying that life for London resident Njambi has improved immeasurably since that dark and dreadful day. Having travelled to the UK to 'lose herself', she

instead found herself embarking on a career as a stand-up comedian.

Her Birmingham stop-off sees her scrutinising not only her own history but that of the UK. "I think the country is traumatised," she said in a recent interview with the London Evening Standard. "You didn't conquer three-quarters of the world with pleases and thank-yous. It caused so much pain around the world, and now this country is going through a search for identity."

#### **Paul Tonkinson**

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury, Wed 11 March

Time Out Comedy Award winner Paul has been a regular on the UK laughter circuit since the 1990s and is perhaps best known from The Big Breakfast and The Sunday Show. Regularly booked by the UK Armed Forces, he was the first comic to perform in Iraq after the war officially ended and has used his experiences there as an inspiration for his comedy. "When I told my wife I'd spent much of the time lying on the floor," he says, "all I got in response was 'well we all like a lie down, don't we?"



# You're having a laugh!

We chat to Darrell Martin, founder of Just The Tonic comedy club, a new branch of which opens in Leamington Spa venue The Assembly this month...

# Tell us about your decision to open your next Just The Tonic (JTT) club in Learnington, Darrell...

I'll be honest... I got a phone call from the man who's reopened The Assembly. Once I asked a few questions, I realised what a stunning place it was, and that it could make for an amazing night out.

#### What made you decide to open your first club, in Nottingham, 26 years ago?

A love of comedy, being an unemployable graduate of philosophy & cultural studies and a recession that would not help me. I was also probably a dreamer and unrealistic.

#### What was the UK comedy scene like when you opened that first club?

There were a number of clubs in London, with the leading one being, obviously, the Comedy Store. Then there were two Jongleurs clubs, in Battersea and Camden - that was before they went national and then imploded - then a load of smaller clubs. Outside London, as I remember it, there was very little. Manchester had a small scene, with The Buzz Club on a Thursday being the best known, and there was, strangely, a great club in Hull called The Legged Dog. I think Newcastle had a weekend club, but really there was very little. Also, it wasn't really seen as a possible career. Comedians didn't see other comedians selling out arenas. It was a world full of misfits and characters who were all just happy that they weren't having to do day jobs. Well, it probably wasn't as simple as that, but to a 24-yearold it seemed that way... Big business was involved, but it wasn't as organised as now.

#### How do you decide who gets to appear at one of your venues? Do you have criteria that a comedian needs to meet - other than the obvious one of needing to be funny - in order to get the chance to perform?

We book loads of acts who we already know are great. We try and get comperes who are a bit different and really engaging with the audience. I can't stand comperes who just break up their routine into sections and talk at a crowd. A good compere needs to be a bridge between the audience and the show, not just 'tell jokes'. We also bring in newer acts that we find ourselves or that we get

recommended to us. We take eight new comedians to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe each year as part of The Big Value Comedy Shows, and when researching for that, we find new people. Also, every two or three months, I have a few days doing 'fantasy booking', where I trawl through the phone book/email list/ agents' numbers and see if any of those bigger comedians who are now off the circuit would like to come back. It's often three days wasted, but when it works. it's very exciting to be putting arena-filling acts back into the small venues.

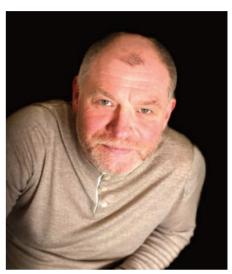
#### How does Just The Tonic differ from other established UK comedy clubs?

I think it's the effort we put into booking, and the fact that it's run by a performer. So we do our best to attract an audience that actually wants to see comedy, and we make sure that if there are people in there who are being a distraction to others, they are politely asked to leave. I think we have quite a maverick ethos. We're not rigid in what we want from performers. Often, there are people we book others don't. Because I see something in them. When you're a performer, sometimes you only need one person to believe in what you're trying to do, and that one person can allow you the freedom to grow without worry. We book a comedian called Eric Lampaert to compere. After a gig in Nottingham to about 400 people, he apologised because it hadn't been great. I said, 'Don't worry, I know you're funny'. I think he thought I was going to moan and groan. But all great comics have had duff nights. If they hadn't, then they would be bland and crowd-pleasing, and nothing new would ever happen.

# Can you recall any particularly memorable sets - performances which were real standout ones for whatever reason?

Doug Stanhope. I was talking to him backstage and then someone said, 'We're starting'. He just walked out and just seemed to carry on talking... for 120 minutes! It was astounding.

The first time I saw Johnny Vegas. I was at the Frog & Bucket in Manchester, having done a 10-minute open spot. He came up to me and said he'd seen me before supporting Rich Hall on tour and liked what I did. He'd actually



Darrell Martin, founder of Just The Tonic

heckled me on that night, asking me to do more... which is rare. He told me his name was Johnny Vegas - or he might have introduced himself as Michael Pennington - and that he was headlining. I thought, 'I bet you're shit' because I was booking really well-known acts at my club and hadn't heard of him. But when he went on, it was the most amazing performance I'd ever seen. I was absolutely stunned at how he managed to get the whole room laughing and singing. The bloke was totally crazy and fearless. When Johnny is on form, he's unrivalled.

Also Phil Kay in 1995. Sean Lock in 1996/'97... I could go on, but no one would keep reading.

# What would be your perfect Just The Tonic line-up, if you could bring together, say, four comedians for a single evening?

That's tricky because it would have to be four comedians from different stages in their career. I might have to stretch it out a bit. I'll name a couple of definite ones and then name a few others to choose from.

Definite compere: Ross Noble. Pure, joyful silliness, with the skill of making magic happen from the audience input and crafting it all into a wealth of material in his strange mind.

Headliner: Johnny Vegas 1996 - 1999 - and I reckon what's around the corner as he gets back into stand-up. He's got some of the best



scripted material, audience put-downs, audience interactions, live pottery, mayhem and off-the-cuff events to make each night unique, ended by rousing singalongs. Johnny is the most perfect and crowd-pleasing entertainer this country has known.

Others in the mix: Jenny Eclair - in-your-face-funny and no punches pulled; Jo Brand - brilliantly funny and one of the nicest people in comedy; Tim Vine - the best one-liners and silliness; Spencer Jones - the funniest man on the circuit at the moment; Daniel Kitson - if you know, you know; Sean Lock - the best scripted stand-up there is; Rich Hall - a great stand-up and musician. There are loads. This is impossible, to be honest.

# Is there a type of comedian who you simply won't book for JTT - or does anything and everything go, as far as you're concerned?

We don't book comedians who are rude to our staff. We have a strict no-dickhead policy. There are two people on that list.

There's also the odd comedian who's tried to do 'controversial' stuff who we don't book.

Not because we don't book controversial comedians, but because the ones I'm thinking of weren't actually funny and were just doing lowest-common-denominator jokes and trying to shock. It's okay to shock, but it must actually be funny. I often think, 'Who are you trying to impress? Your mum and dad aren't



here and we can all swear and be sick if we want to'.

I can't really say we have any rules about who we don't book. It's all very subjective.

# What would you say about UK audiences are the reactions your comedians receive pretty similar across the country or have you noticed any regional differences in terms of how audiences respond to JTT shows?

I can't really say that there are massive differences across the UK at our clubs. But I do know from personal experience that there are some regional clubs where the audiences really take convincing if you're not 'one of them'. I'm thinking in particular of myself dying on stages in Liverpool and Newcastle. I have a fairly strong southern accent and it definitely made the crowd difficult. 'Taxi' was the politest of the words shouted. At the one in Newcastle, I was tour support for Johnny Vegas, and we arrived really late. The room was heaving and everyone was shouting 'Johnny Johnny'. His voice came over the PA to a massive cheer, then he introduced his support act - me - and out came this southerner. It was 15 minutes I would like to be able to forget. After the interval, I was in the dressing room - behind the stage, too embarrassed to walk out through the crowd surrounded by empty glasses and fags, sitting under the light of a single bulb listening to



300 people cheering the mighty Johnny Vegas. That was another 90 minutes I wish I could forget. Great fun, to be honest.

#### What's your favourite joke?

What's 'ET' short for? He has little legs.

#### Who's your own personal hero of comedy and why?

I think from the history of comedy, possibly Tommy Cooper, because he just looked and acted really daft. Not sure if 'hero' is the right word. I loved The Young Ones and Monty Python when growing up. Then there's Spike Milligan - reading his books and poems as a kid and his O series.

#### What's the hardest thing about the life and profession of the stand-up comedian?

I think it can be quite lonely. There *is* camaraderie on the circuit, but the reality is that on those Friday and Saturday nights when most normal people are out socialising and spending time with family and friends, comedians are driving around the country entertaining half-drunk strangers they will never see again. I've missed friends' weddings, family events and things that are unrepeatable. It can be rubbish like that.

#### To find out more about Just The Tonic comedy nights, head to just the tonic.com







Some of the comedians heading to Just The Tonic in Leamington Spa - (L-R) Hal Cruttenden, Diane Spencer, Gary Delaney, Lou Conran, Tom Binns and Paul Foot.



# Talking about Jamie

Former Coronation Street regular Shobna Gulati and the man playing title character Jamie - Layton Williams - chat about the touring version of hit musical Everybody's Talking About Jamie, which visits Birmingham this month and returns to the Midlands in the summer...

Everybody's Talking About Jamie may have come from humble beginnings - it was inspired by a television documentary and premiered in Sheffield - but after only a matter of months it had transferred to the West End. Since then, the musical has enjoyed blockbusting success, with five Olivier nominations, an extensive UK tour and a forthcoming feature film version testifying to its incredible popularity.

The show follows Jamie New's quest for acceptance on his journey to becoming a drag queen...

"Jamie is a 16-year-old boy who wants to go to his school prom in drag," explains ex-Coronation Street star Shobna Gulati, who is touring with the hit musical having previously appeared in the West End version. "The musical follows the ramifications of that; on himself, his family and his small community in Sheffield."

Shobna's character, Ray, has a very important part to play in Jamie's upbringing: "Jamie is the product of an essentially single-parent household. Ray is the best friend of Jamie's mum, Margaret, and has been around to watch Jamie grow up; everybody thinks of her as the aunty or surrogate father figure. You always have to have that good cop, bad cop thing going on, and I think Ray and Margaret have often swapped those roles in bringing up Jamie. Ray doesn't go backwards to go forwards and she's very much into tough love, but she also spoils him rotten. I think every character's relationship to Jamie changes throughout the musical because Jamie himself evolves. From Ray's perspective, she's worried about Jamie's dream of being a drag queen because that's just the nature of family. She definitely supports him, but she also wants to protect him."

What does Shobna think has made Everybody's Talking About Jamie such a roaring success?

"I think the world as it stands likes to put people into boxes and divide us all up. The more you can gaslight somebody into believing they don't belong, the easier it is to control the masses. Considering these polemic times, Everybody's Talking About Jamie exists at exactly the right moment. The story is so popular because it gives everyone a chance to recognise that they can be a part of something. Everybody can be recognised in their own individual right, which is really important for anyone who feels like they're different or just on the periphery.

"Everybody's Talking About Jamie is about creating a space in which everyone can be who they want to be. I really love being in Jamie because of what it represents, the different people it represents and how it does that. The inclusivity of the show is incredible. Jamie is so out there and so inclusive as a piece, which hasn't always been my experience over the course of my career."

As well as relating to the show's ethos, Shobna can also connect with one of its musical numbers: "My favourite song has to be Wall In My Head, which comes at the beginning of the show, where Jamie is considering his life, how to get over certain obstacles that crop up and move past some personal demons. I think I relate to that song on a personal level because it's all about getting over that next wall, which is a true situation for every single one of us; I don't think anyone has hurdles they haven't had to overcome in life."

Not only has Shobna played Ray on stage, she will also appear as the character in the film version, scheduled for release in October.

"I feel so lucky to have worked with all the different Margarets that I have - each one has been absolutely astounding in their own right. The same with each Jamie. I think a lot of my joy at doing Everybody's Talking About Jamie is because of the extraordinary opportunities I've had to work with people. I've been lucky enough to tag along!

"The production has certainly given me an insight into myself. I've been in so many different renditions of the story, and what it brings to me is a sense of belonging."

Joining Shobna on tour is Layton Williams, who played Jamie in the West End. "Things be changing," he says. "People are waking up and realising that stories like Everybody's Talking About Jamie is what we want to see. We want to see everyone represented. This is a moment in history - a movement. I'm so proud to be a part of that! I'm a prime example that yes, we are absolutely moving in the right direction in terms of representation. I'm a non-white gay actor playing a part that was

once white - and now another mixed-race man has been cast in the West End version too.

"This musical tries to tell people to stay true to who they are, to be proud of themselves, and that if they're different or feel like they don't fit in, then there's a place for them in the world anyway. It's all about having hope.

"When we're young, we doubt ourselves, but it's just about knowing that things will get better. It's about surrounding yourself with your friends, family and people who you love. It also sends the message that people can change their minds! People's minds can definitely be opened. I hope that people think about all these things when they come to see the show."

Everybody's Talking About Jamie visits The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Monday 16 to Saturday 21 March and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 23 to Saturday 27 June.





#### The Book Of Mormon Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 4 - Sat 28 March

Devised by South Park creators Trey Parker & Matt Stone and Avenue Q co-creator Robert Lopez, The Book Of Mormon follows a mismatched pair of Mormon boys who are sent on a mission to deliver the news of the Latter Day saints to the people of a Ugandan village a place where war, famine, poverty and AIDS are of far more concern than religion...

Featuring songs Spooky Mormon Hell Dream, I Am Africa, Baptize Me, All American Prophet and Tomorrow Is A Latter Day, the show has proved to be a massive hit on both sides of the Atlantic, albeit a

controversial one.

"We weren't trying to get protesters," explains Robert. "We were trying to make a show that was about the way we felt about the best parts of religion. We were writing a show about it that was sort of for atheists and believers at the same time, because it summed up how we felt about it - that whether or not the stories are true, they do something that's good. Believing in something impossible makes you do impossible things."

#### The Woman In Black

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 31 March - Sat 4 April; Malvern Theatres, Mon 11 - Sat 16 May



Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt from the Susan Hill novel, The Woman In Black is a classic ghost story first performed in 1989. It has since become one of the West End's most successful plays.

Solicitor Arthur Kipp believes that his family have somehow been cursed by a mysterious woman in black. In an attempt to tell his story, and to exorcise the evil curse which he's convinced hangs over him, he hires a young actor to assist him in recounting his experiences...

#### The Sound Of Music

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 3 - Sat 7 March

One of the most popular family musicals of all time, Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound Of Music is best known from its mid-1960s film version starring Julie Andrews. The show tells the story of the Von Trapp family's World War Two flight across the mountains of Austria. Along the way, it features hit songs including: Edelweiss; My Favourite Things; Do-Re-Mi; Climb Ev'ry Mountain; The Lonely Goatherd; So Long, Farewell; and, of course, the title track itself.



#### **Cabaret**

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 31 March - Sat 4 April

When a show visits the region which, between its stage and screen ver sions, boasts multiple Oscars, Baftas and Tony awards, it makes sense to get along and check it out.

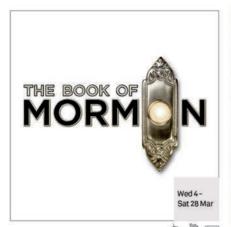
Cabaret is one such show.

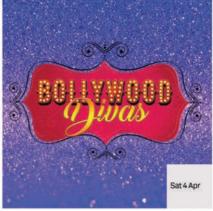


John Partridge here takes on the role of Emcee, with Kara Lily Hayworth stepping into the lead part of the legendary Sally Bowles, a nightly performer at the infamous Kit Kat Klub in early-1930s Berlin. Featuring 'show-stopping choreography, dazzling costumes and some of the most iconic songs in musical theatre' - including, of course, the famous title number - Cabaret is helmed by National Theatre Artistic Director Rufus Norris and choreographed by the Olivier Award-winning Javier de Frutos. Veteran song & dance star Anita Harris also features.

#### 0844 338 5000\* birminghamhippodrome.com

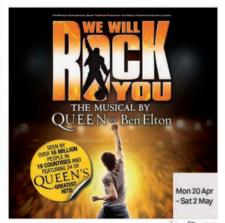
\*Calls cost 4.5p per min plus access charge



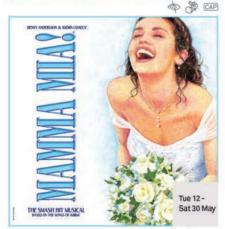


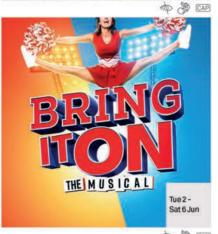


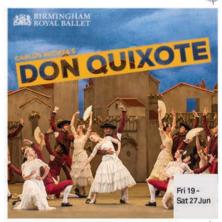


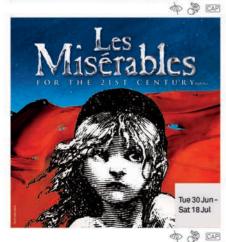


















One-woman show The Unremarkable Death Of Marilyn Monroe catches up with the blonde bombshell in the hour before her untimely death. The play's writer & director, Elton Townend-Jones, chats about a production that puts one of the 20th century's greatest icons centre stage...

From factory worker to pin-up model and onwards to Hollywood stardom, Marilyn Monroe was one of the 20th century's most iconic sex symbols.

Although Monroe's 1962 death by barbiturate overdose was ruled a suicide, many conspiracy theories continue to circulate.

Dyad Productions' The Unremarkable Death Of Marilyn Monroe aims to delve into the story of the film star's mysterious demise at the age of 36. The company specialises in work that relies on solo performer Rebecca Vaughan - who founded Dyad in 2009 - creating and taking centre stage in one-woman shows. These have included Austen's Women and I, Elizabeth.

Rebecca was joined by fellow writer, producer and actor Elton Townend-Jones shortly after she'd started the company.

"At Dyad we try to reveal new things about characters or famous figures, particularly women - strong women," explains Elton. "In the case of The Unremarkable Death Of Marilyn Monroe, it's an extremely intimate show. The play is a 90-minute monologue set in the room in which she dies. She reminisces, travelling back to unravel and peel away the layers of her life and display to us all her actual thoughts. It's really all about love. Not just amorous love, but love for relations and friends. That intimacy creates a kind of trust and authority that means you come to rely on what she says being true - at least to the character I've created in that moment.

"Marilyn really had very little agency. When men and women were signed up to certain film studios in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, they really had no control over their careers - nor even their personal lives to some extent. They were groomed by the studio to turn up at particular events and behave a certain way, or play a particular type of part in their movies. This show definitely aims to give Marilyn her voice back. I was really aware that I didn't want to make her look foolish or like a clown, which was the case with a lot of the media at the time she was alive."

Elton was inspired by Marilyn from an early age and has taken her influence with him throughout much of his personal and professional life: "When I was 12, I saw Some Like It Hot for the first time. I was really taken in by the film and by Marilyn. I then got it into my head that I wanted to do a stage production of Some Like It Hot, which never came to anvthing. But years later I became an actor, on the back of which I became a director and subsequently a writer too. I'd always identified with the vulnerabilities of Marilyn and always suspected there was more under the surface than we were being told. So when I came to Dyad Productions, I already knew that I wanted to explore her more.

"There are all kinds of conspiracy theories surrounding Marilyn herself and her death: her connection with the Kennedys, her miscarriages, her drug & drink problems, her succession of marriages. As I was in my 30s when Dyad Productions was founded, I'd had a lot more life experience than I'd had when I was a lot younger - I'd been around the block a bit, so to speak. I began to sympathise and empathise with things that were clear to me about Marilyn's personality. I researched to find out more

about her, then gradually brought together this idea of being alone with her in the final hour of her life. The more I found out about her, the more I became concerned that she was being overwhelmed by her public persona and by all the negativity that surrounded her. I wanted to find out about the person underneath and how she actually felt about her life."

Elton believes The Unremarkable Death Of Marilyn Monroe gives a unique and heartfelt insight into the woman who started life as Norma Jeane Mortenson: "Marilyn went through a lot. She had a very difficult childhood because she was abused. She lived away from her mother because her mother was a single parent who had to work full-time. So she was left in the interesting system of foster parenting in America, where the foster children still saw their actual parents at weekends. I spent a lot of time looking at press photos of Marilyn at different moments in her life and got ideas for my dialogue through a combination of what I thought about that moment of Marilyn's life and what I imagined she might be thinking. I got the actress who plays Marilyn, Lizzie Wort, to do a similar thing when I came to direct the show. But what I wanted to do, having done so much research, was fill in the gaps with my writing. I was able to draw out different bits of information and connect the dots in a way that I don't think anyone has done before. Whether or not they're true connections is another matter entirely - it's up to the audience to decide! Effectively what I'm writing is a work of fiction, so I do have artistic licence, but everything is based on true events, things she said and things she did. For example, Hollywood talked about how she was always late for work. It turns out she had really bad colitis, so it's unsurprising to me that she wasn't always able to be where she should've been. There were plenty of other people saying that she was a truly professional, underrated woman with a keen mind and a love of reading - a far more intelligent woman than her persona suggested. However, in my research I was able to connect all the negative stuff people said about her to genuine reasons why that might've been the case."

Elton is often asked how he's able to 'write like a woman': "With The Unremarkable Death Of

Marilyn Monroe, I wanted to be honest and true to both her voice and my own. I related to her also because my mother had several marriages, so I had several 'dads', and I've been an actor. I felt like I could write about Marilyn in such a way that revealed the true person behind the icon, but also make it a very personal work. I wanted to be able to say things that a lot of men don't write about when it comes to relationships, love and sex. I was able to do that in this show. A lot of people, particularly women, have come up to me after the show and asked how I've managed to really get into a woman's head and present her in an authentic way. For me, it's the same as getting into anyone's head, and that's just my job as a writer. I don't see different thoughts and responses to moments in life as only being attributed to a certain gender. I was brought up to be a feminist by my mother. I think that's often seen as a dirty word, but it's definitely stood me in good stead."

So how does Elton hope the audience responds to his play?

"I hope the immediate, surface response people have is to consider how complex and interesting Marilyn really was. I hope the piece reveals something the audience didn't know before, and that they feel empathy and sympathy for her. On a broader level, I hope that anyone watching acknowledges that people are going through their own difficulties and problems. Also, that even if you do feel like you're struggling in your own life, you should continue to be yourself and not let anyone grind you down.

"Forget the conspiracy theories, ignore what you think you know. Come along and see the truth behind the myth. Meet the woman behind the icon, and be there at the moment of her death, in an award-winning performance from a great, great actor. But bring a hankie, just in case..."

The Unremarkable Death Of Marilyn Monroe shows at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre on Wednesday 18 & Thursday 19 March, and then at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, on Friday 20 March.



#### The White Plague

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 17 - Sat 21 March

This well-reviewed work of immersive theatre sees its audience deprived of the sense of sight by virtue of pairs of whiteout goggles distributed prior to the show. The premise of the production is that a contagious virus which causes people to go blind has panicked the government into placing all affected individuals in unprepared quarantine facilities. But as the crisis becomes ever more extreme, so too does the behaviour of the people involved, with discrimination and exploitation twin evils that will seemingly have their day...

#### **Queer Lady M**

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 20 March As interpretations of Lady Macbeth go, this one is pretty 'out there'.

Gender-fluid artist Shane Gabriel presents his version of the scheming Lady M in a show that combines 'outrageous lip-syncing, cheeky dancing and sassy conversation' with drag, Shakespeare and devised performance. Derby theatre company 1623 are the power behind Gabriel's throne. They describe their production as 'a funny and moving exploration of a unique relationship between a fierce drag queen and her anxious alterego, who join forces to fight tragedy and celebrate queerness."

#### **Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 10 - Sat 14 March; The Alexandra, Tues 3 - Sat 7 March

Seen by tens of millions of people across the globe, Buddy is an enormously enduring and touchingly affectionate portrayal of one of rock'n'roll's earliest and brightest stars. Charting the singer's meteoric rise to fame and fortune, and following his career through to his very last performance, the show features timeless Buddy classics such as That'll Be The Day, Peggy Sue, Oh Boy, Rave On and Everyday.

#### The Vicar Of Dibley

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 24 - Sat 28 March The Richard Curtis-penned Vicar Of Dibley is another in a now-significant line of television sitcoms to be adapted for the stage, following in the laughter trail of other top-rated telly favourites such as Birds Of A Feather, Dad's Army and Porridge. The theatrical version is here presented by the highly rated All And Sundry and features three of the BBC TV series' most popular episodes: Engagement, Dibley Live and Love And Marriage.

#### **Circus Of Horrors**

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 4 March; The Place, Telford, Shropshire, Thurs 19 March; KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton, Fri 20 March

An off-kilter affair that bears more resemblance to a freak show than any modern definition of a circus, the one-time Britain's Got Talent act here presents a world beyond political correctness and taste.

With the performers dressed in a manner

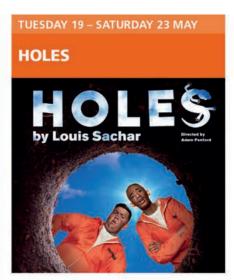
With the performers dressed in a manner reminiscent of The Rocky Horror Show, there's no denying the skill of those participating - or indeed the ensemble's sheer 'wow' factor.

As the production's title makes clear, Circus Of Horrors' latest offering is a celebration of a quarter century spent entertaining the masses.

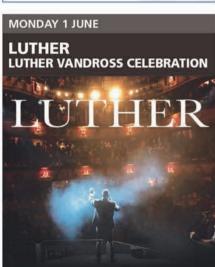


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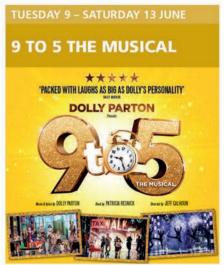


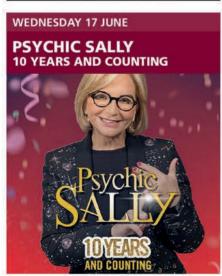


















Smash-hit West End musical Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story is visiting the Midlands this month on a 30th anniversary tour. We spoke to the two actor/musicians - AJ Jenks and Christopher Weeks - who are keeping the legend and music of Buddy Holly alive on stage...

Seen by tens of millions of people across the globe, Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story is an enormously enduring and touchingly affectionate portrayal of one of rock & roll's earliest and brightest stars.

Charting the singer's meteoric rise to fame and fortune, and following his career through to his very last performance at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, the show features timeless Buddy classics such as That'll Be The Day, Peggy Sue, Oh Boy and Rave On.

AJ Jenks and Christopher Weeks are the two actors sharing the part of Buddy in the 30th anniversary touring production of the show, alternating between the physically demanding lead role and the job of playing The Crickets' rhythm guitarist, Niki Sullivan.

"It's a massive musical phenomenon and it will probably be the biggest part of my career," says AJ. "Getting into the role of Buddy Holly is like Clark Kent but in reverse. The glasses go on and I'm Buddy!"

It was on the London stage that Buddy's legend took on a new life back in 1989. The first of the big 'jukebox' musicals, Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story proved to be a smash-hit in the West End. Touring across the world for the past 30 years, the show has introduced Buddy's music to subsequent generations.

"My dad is a massive Buddy addict," says AJ.
"His music was always on in the car when I
was growing up, so it didn't take a lot to draw
me to the show. So many other bands and

artists have been influenced by the music of Buddy Holly - from the Stones to The Beatles. I was screaming to get this part. I'd been working on getting it for the best part of a year.

"It's amazing to play such a musical legend. I still can't get over the thought of 'AJ Jenks playing Buddy Holly'. It's overwhelming. It feels like I've lucked out and won the lottery to get the part.

"Recalling the opening night of this tour last autumn still gets to me. In my final speech at the end, after the announcement of Buddy's death, I felt so emotional, I had to take a moment not to shed a tear. It dawned on me that this isn't just a normal show. It's a massive celebration of 30 years. It's scary, but I feel massively proud and honoured to be a part of it."

AJ is no newcomer to the show; he played the role of Ritchie Valens in a semi-professional production in 2018. But the 24-year-old is loving donning the trademark Buddy glasses and taking to the stage.

"It really takes a lot of energy. I do around four performances as Buddy a week. It's great to have a few days playing Niki while Chris does his thing. You have to be very careful. In the first show I really let rip on the night and afterwards felt a couple of croaks in the voice. I felt I'd gone too strong on it. I'm being quite a boring person at the moment; I'm protecting the voice, looking after myself.

"You've got to stay in shape for the role; you need endurance. You're throwing yourself around on stage with the guitar every five seconds, so you've got to be fit. Your body really aches in the morning. The best thing to do is get out and stretch, otherwise you seize up. I had a personal trainer for a while because I was starting to get a bit of a belly. I do a couple of 5km runs a week now to keep in shape."

Christopher Weeks plays Buddy for half of the performances. The 29-year-old actor/musician has previously played the role of Johnny

Gustafson in two touring productions of Cilla The Musical.

"It's amazing being involved in the show -Buddy has always been on my bucket list," says Christopher. "The response has been huge; audiences dancing, going mad, both for matinees and in the evenings.

"As an audience member you want to feel like you're there; there watching Buddy Holly; there at The Surf Ballroom, Clear Lake. That feeling of live music is like nothing else, and the crowd keeps you in the moment, keeps it exciting and fresh. You try not to think too much about the enormity of playing a legend because that could drown you. You're not playing a huge legend of the rock & roll world, you are that person, feeling what he feels. It's hugely exciting and wonderful to do."

Christopher first saw the show as a young child in the 1990s. He knew the original cast album inside-out, but Musical Director Dean Elliott has taken the songs back to the original Buddy Holly.

"We're so lucky with Dean, who played Buddy for five years," Christopher explains. "He's being very authentic with the music, which is very, very cool - from Buddy's rockabilly roots to the orchestral elements he incorporated later on."

Buddy's single-minded determination to push musical boundaries is clear for all to see in the show. He was considered a rebel in his time. So do the actors see anything of themselves in the role?

"I've always been a driven person in terms of my aims and goals, and Buddy was always driving himself forward," says AJ. "I wouldn't say I'm a rebel as Buddy was. I've always cared about my hair and he loves a good suit. I identify a lot with the character in the first act - going into the studio, being cheeky; I get that. The second act is a lot harder for me because he's grown up and is more stable - and as a person, I haven't grown up.

"Buddy fell in love with Maria Elena, proposing within five hours. I don't believe in love at

the moment - I've literally just split up with my girlfriend!"

Christopher adds: "As far as similarities with Buddy go - well, I feel like I'm rediscovering my youth in act one. I also remember the feeling of going off on tour while your wife is pregnant, as I have a baby.

"For me, you give yourself over to the script, which gets easier the more you rehearse. You know who Buddy Holly is, how he stands, how he holds his guitar. Then you let go and let whatever is happening affect you."

So what would the two Buddys like their audiences to take away from the show?

"It's a great education on Buddy Holly's life, music and a period of musical history that was so dramatic," says Christopher. "I'd like the audience to find out about how he lived his life, his relationship with his wife, Maria, and how brightly his star shone for that short amount of time. There's a feeling of loss and a feeling of awe at what he achieved. The feeling of warmth you get from seeing love. Take those three things away please."

"I just want them to have the best night they have ever had in the theatre," says AJ. "I've had some crap nights at the theatre, where I've walked out. I want to give everyone a show where they come out and feel a real buzz. In 18 months Buddy Holly blasted out 200 songs. It wouldn't happen now, and I don't think anyone else has done that.

"What I would love to happen is that there would be a kid in the audience thinking, 'I would love to do that'. Something clicks. If it inspires them to take up an instrument, get into theatre, get up on the stage, that would be fantastic."

Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story shows at The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 3 to Saturday 7 March and Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, from Tuesday 10 to Saturday 14 March.

# Easter at MAC



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### **Tartuffe**

The REP, Birmingham, Fri 20 March - Sat 4 April

Transferring the action of Moliere's famous comedy from the 17th century to 21st-century Birmingham, Anil Gupta and Richard Pinto the writing team who've updated the play have made the title character a Muslim cleric and turned the full glare of their spotlight on the contemporary British Muslim experience. Consistently funny and blessed with a vitality that wouldn't have been possible without the modern-day makeover, Tartuffe is alive with contemporary references, hugely and joyously accessible, cleverly punctuated by humorous interaction with the audience and chock-a-block with engaging performances. A Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company co-production, the show picked up plenty of plaudits during its Stratford run a couple of years back.

### The High Table

The REP, Birmingham, Wed 25 March - Thurs 9 April

Temi Wilkey's The High Table features hilarity, heartbreak, celestial beings and characters who speak in Nigerian Pidgin English - an interesting set of ingredients for a debut play! When Tara's excitement about her forthcoming marriage to girlfriend Leah is tempered by her homophobic parents' decision not to attend the ceremony, high up in the heavens, three of her ancestors are jolted from their eternal rest. But can they keep the family together?... "A lot of The High Table explores queerness and tradition through humour," explains Temi."I want to unpack prejudices with a laugh and a bit of love!"

### Man On The Moon

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 20 March

"I hope the show resonates," says writer & performer Keisha Thompson in talking about her play, Man On The Moon. "It's a Manchester story with a lot of Manchester references, so hopefully I can bring the audience into my world. I just want to connect on an emotional level, have fun, tell a story, take my audience on a journey - hopefully to somewhere they've never been before "

Telling the true-life tale of her efforts to connect with her reclusive father, Keisha's award-winning show uses poetry, looped sounds and storytelling to examine a wide range of checkpoints; from cultural displacement and religious confusions, to political paranoia and misplaced masculinity.

"The audience doesn't always need to know which bits are true and which bits aren't," continues Keisha. "It always starts with truth. What's important isn't the veracity of small details but the core message of the story."



### The 39 Steps

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Thurs 5 - Sat 28 March

Anybody who remembers the various film versions of John Buchan's classic spy thriller will be hard-pressed to call any of them 'humorous'. So it's a bit weird, to say the least, to think of Patrick Barlow's stage version of the story having bagged the Olivier Award for best new comedy. Nonetheless, that's exactly what it managed to do back in 2007, courtesy of some imaginative thinking on the part of its creative team.

So why not catch up with handsome hero Richard Hannay as he battles to remain

impressively stiff-upper-lipped in the face of dastardly murders and life-threatening encounters with double-crossing secret agents.

Oh, and there are some beautiful and mysterious women involved too, so it's not all bad news for our intrepid hero! Four fearless actors play no fewer than 120 roles in this real gem of a show.

### A Monster Calls

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 3 - Sat 7 March; Malvern Theatres, Wed 15 - Sat 18 March

Siobhan Dowd had a great idea for a kids' book but was dying. So fellow author Patrick Ness wrote the story for her. The result, A Monster Calls, came to widespread public attention when it was made into a film in 2016 starring Sigourney Weaver.

A dark fantasy, it tells the story of 13-year-old Conor, whose life has been turned upside-down by his mother's illness. But one night, things begin to change for the troubled teenager, when a yew tree outside his home transforms into a gnarled monster and pays him a visit...





### Once The Musical

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 10 - Sat 14 March; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 17 - Sat 21 March; Malvern Theatres, Mon 23 - Sat 28 March

Based on the 2006 cult feature film of the same name, Once is about two lost souls - a Dublin street busker, Guy, and a Czech musician, Girl - who unexpectedly fall in love. The musical follows the pair's lives over a period of five days.

"The story itself is definitely something everyone can connect to," says Daniel Healy, who stars as Guy. "We've all had those crossroads-moments in life, those real chances or decisions that people often look back on and wish they'd dealt with differently. Once is about that kind of a moment. It's a real urban fairytale: it's got great music with an Irish connection, a genuine story about love and loss, and a narrative about dreams coming true."

### Seeds

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 9 & Tues 10 March

With knife-crime offences in England & Wales having reached a record high, hate crimes having more than doubled over a seven-year period and racial hate crimes making up more than



three-quarters of offences, Mel Pennant's sensitively written story of motherhood, loss, and what's left behind after the worst has happened, has much to say about modern British society. Judith Jacob (Dark Heart) and Penny Layden (Belgravia) star.

### Augmented

The REP, Birmingham, Mon 9 - Wed 11 March Actress Sophie Woolley's new play, which she also performs, recounts and reflects on her own personal journey - from going deaf in her 20s to receiving cochlear implants and living, as she describes it, as a real-life 'cyborg'. "The play is about the impact on my closest relationships which my bionic hearing has had," explains Sophie. "And it's also about what this scientific, high-tech, biomedical miracle means for the future of humanity. I wanted to write the play because

I felt there was stigma and prejudice attached to cochlear implantation, and I wanted to overturn that narrative. It's actually quite hard to find positive stories about cochlear implants."

# Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?

Malvern Theatres, Tues 10 - Sat 14 March

Edward Albee's 1962 play is best remembered from its film version, which starred Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. The play focuses on a middle-aged couple named Martha and George and examines the spectacular decline of their marriage. As the couple wage war against one another - in the process drawing their young house-party guests into a series of all-or-nothing 'games' - it becomes increasingly hard for them to distinguish the line between fact and fiction... Presented by Melting Pot Theatre Company.

### The Glee Club

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 24 - Sat 28 March; Malvern Theatres, Tues 7 - Sat 11 April

Likened to Brassed Off but featuring barbershop harmonies, this raucous 2002 comedy visits the Midlands with a stunning success in the West End to recommend it. Richard Cameron's musical drama follows the fortunes of a colliery glee club whose director, a mining engineer named Phil, harbours a long-held secret. When the truth is finally revealed, the group's sense of solidarity is suddenly and seriously challenged...

### The Winter's Tale

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Sat 28 March - Fri 2 October

One of Shakespeare's later and lesser-known works, The Winter's Tale recounts the story of Perdita, who, after being lost at sea as a baby, is rescued and brought up by an old shepherd.

When she meets the king's son, Florizel, love blossoms amid the rustic revelry...

The production is being presented across the Royal Shakespeare Company's summer season, alongside new versions of The Comedy Of Errors and Pericles.

"The sea divides families in all of our plays this summer," says RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran. "Themes of separation & loss and the restorative power of time connect all three

of them. Each play is wonderfully different, yet at the same time they share a fascination with identity, the challenges of leaving your native land and the deep bonds of family."



### Roald Dahl & The Imagination Seekers

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 15 March

Get Lost & Found theatre company have dared to imagine something terrible: a world in which the words of legendary kids' author Roald Dahl are disappearing.

And not only from the pages of books but also from the minds of children...

Hats off, then, to an organisation known as the Ancient Guild of Tale Tenders, which thinks it's got what it takes to save the day by saving Dahl's stories - but only with the help of your sure-to-be-enthusiastic little ones! A theatrical and interactive experience featuring performance, games and creative play, the production has been designed to explore a number of Dahl's extraordinary stories, including Charlie And The Chocolate Factory, The BFG and The Twits.



### Milkshake! Live

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 7 March; Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Thurs 9 April; Malvern Theatres, Sat 16 May; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 6 September



Milkshake Monkey's desire to put on a new musical has hit the skids due to a nasty bout of rampant stage fright - so thank heaven that Fireman Sam, Noddy, Shimmer & Shine and all their friends are on hand to help out... If you've watched the TV series and/or been to a previous live production, you'll already know what to expect from a Milkshake! show. If not, get ready for an event that promises lots of laughter, bucketloads of family fun, bags of audience participation and plenty of singing and dancing.

### There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sun 22 March; Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Tues 7 - Wed 8 April

The People's Theatre Company - highly rated creators of the fabulous Don't Dribble On The Dragon - here bring one of the world's best-

loved nursery rhymes to life. Their show comes complete with colourful animal characters and numerous singalong songs, including If You're Happy And You Know It and Incy Wincy Spider... People's Theatre Co advise that their production is suitable for audience members aged two to 102!



### Zog

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 18 & Thurs 19 March; Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 26 December - Sun 10 January



With previous shows including Tiddler And Other Terrific Tales and Tabby McTat, it's fair to say that Freckle Productions know a thing or two about presenting stage adaptations of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler stories... Zog is at Madam Dragon's school and is determined to win himself a gold star. He's so determined, in fact, that he tries a little bit too hard and finds himself bumping, burning and roaring his way through years one, two and three...

### Sarah And Duck's Big Top Birthday

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sun 8 March; Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Dudley, Thurs 12 March; Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Thurs 24 March; Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 4 - Mon 6 April



Sarah and Duck are hitting the road this spring with a stage show that's sure to delight young fans of the Bafta-winning CBeebies series.

And the intrepid pair are not alone on their travels either. Favourite friends including The Ribbon Sisters, The Shallots, Flamingo & John and Umbrella are also all present and correct for this brand new production, getting together with Sarah and Duck to help arrange a special birthday party for Scarf Lady.



# TO BE FRANK

# Joe Pasquale chats about 'round two' of playing Frank Spencer in the stage adaptation of hit '70s TV show, Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em...

Before Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em embarked on its inaugural tour, the producers were adamant: the stage manager must be equipped with a well-stocked first-aid kit.

"Oh blimey, yes!" says the effervescent Joe Pasquale, who's once again taking on the role of Frank Spencer, the character made famous on TV in the 1970s by Michael Crawford, complete with the catchphrase, 'Ooh, Betty!'

"I do it all - hanging by my ankles and all sorts. During rehearsals the bloke choreographing the stunts fell down the stairs of the set and caught his knackers on the bannister. All he could suggest by way of reassurance was that I'd better wear a box. I mean, he was a professional stuntman and I had to do it every night!"

And now Joe's doing it all over again. Rave reviews and public support have led to Frank's return to the stage, but Joe wants to make something clear: "I don't do it as Michael's Frank Spencer; that would be an insult to Michael. I'm putting my personality into it.

"Frank isn't childish; he believes in what he's doing. The relationship between him and his wife, Betty, is a love story. He might always mess up, but she loves him anyway. For it to work, she has to; otherwise he'd just be an idiot."

Based on an original story about Frank trying to get on a TV talent show ("it's still set in the '70s, so you get the mustard wallpaper, tanktops and all the trimmings"), Joe loves that it's a family-friendly show. He nods his agreement when I suggest that with the Goes Wrong plays doing great business and successful recent revivals of comedies such as Noises Off, there seems to be renewed enthusiasm for family comedy.

"Some Mothers is two hours of surgically tight performance. It's a show without malice or aggression and is sweet, touching and very funny. It has real heart." And Joe believes giving people a good laugh is also timely: "People want comedy during times of uncertainty. Every single day of the first tour was a joy and a blessing. To get the audience laughing as much as they did was just wonderful."

The show's director and writer is Guy Unsworth. Joe freely admits that on meeting "this very well-spoken young lad who looked like an American football player", he questioned what Unsworth could possibly teach him about comedy.

"I soon realised that he's a natural. He suggests the smallest change - a tiny nuance to get the comedy out of a line - and he's always right. This kid is a classic comedy anorak who really knows his stuff. He's rewritten the script, ready for this new tour, and peppered it with even more jokes. And most of the original cast are back for the new tour too, which says a lot."

Joe is joined in the show by Susie Blake as Mrs Fisher - Frank's disapproving mother-inlaw. Spamalot co-star Sarah Earnshaw plays the long-suffering Betty.

"Susie is an experienced comic actress and she's brilliant in the show. Sarah's role is more difficult. She has to be softer and likable."

Joe confesses that, never having trained as an actor, he needed Guy's help: "He told me to do it as an absolutely proper role; no asides or ad-libbing. Putting me with really good actors also makes me raise my game. Sarah is a linchpin, and the relationship we have on and off stage is built on trust and affection."

Knowing her chum Joe so well that she can stop him deviating from the script almost before he thinks of doing so, Sarah can put the mockers on any Pasquale nonsense with nothing more than an imperceptible movement: "She'll give a tiny head shake that nobody else notices. It means 'I know you're about to do something, but don't!' She calls

me the Unstoppable Moron!"

Unstoppable is right. As well as Some Mothers, Joe constantly works on new comedy material, writes horror stories and is a talented artist - a skill he's been known to incorporate into his stand-up act.

"I'm really aware of my mortality, so you might as well live while you can," he says, waving aside any suggestion that the general schlepping of a long tour might be tiring.

"Touring in Some Mothers is a lot easier than my stand-up show. Then I usually do 40 onenighters. A week in one place is a holiday."

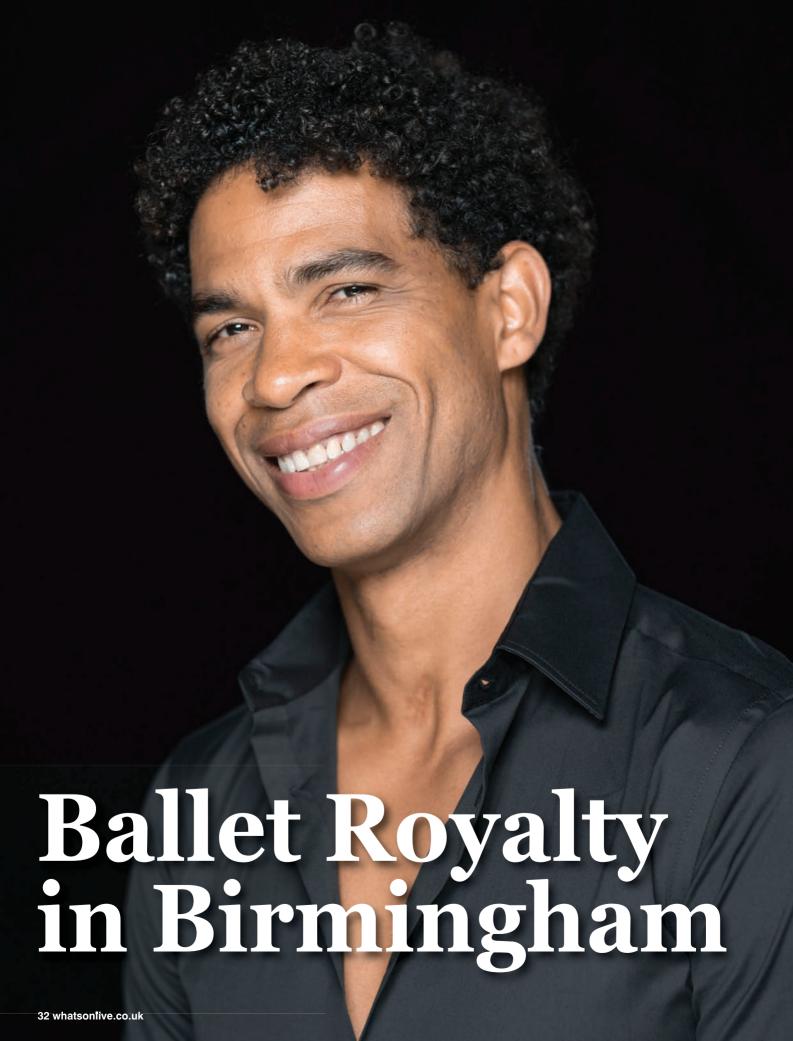
Joe is particularly looking forward to returning to Stoke-on-Trent with the show next month: "The theatre is welcoming and the audiences are great. I like to get out and about when I'm touring. I don't just sit there watching the telly; I get the local pamphlets from the hotel and go see whatever there is to see. I know Stoke fairly well, but there's always something new to learn about a place."

As for playing Frank, Joe knows he's likely to collect a few bumps and bruises along the way. But then he's used to 'industrial injuries,' having previously got himself stuck inside a bingo machine, broken his toe while tap dancing and dislocated a shoulder in panto.

"It's got danger written all over it for me. I wouldn't want to be my understudy!"

As for the future, there are hopes that Some Mothers may continue to delight audiences, both at home and abroad. Watch this space. But for now, go and see the show. I promise you won't regret it.

Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em shows at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Tuesday 14 to Saturday 18 April and The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 May.



### Cuban dancer extraordinaire and former principle at the Royal Ballet, Carlos Acosta talks about taking over as Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet...

Carlos Acosta is one of the world's most iconic ballet dancers. As well as working with both the Cuban and English national ballets, he was also a permanent member of the Royal Ballet, based at London's Royal Opera House, for 17 years.

The youngest son of a truck driver and a housewife, and raised in the slums of Havana, he represents an array of different cultures, all of which have heavily influenced both his life and his career.

And just as these influences came into play during Carlos' time as a dancer, so too will they impact as he takes on the challenges of a brand new role... the 46-year-old was recently appointed Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, replacing the long-serving David Bintley.

"The artist is a storyteller, always recollecting experiences," says Carlos, "and that's no different whether you're a dancer or a painter. I'm a human being with a past, and I'll bring all of that to the stage because everyone has different experiences of each emotion. I might have a distinctive interpretation of love, for example. My roots are very eclectic too, containing many different cultures from opposite sides of the globe: African, French, Chinese, Cuban. I feel like being from Cuba meant I was always in constant dialogue with the sun, and I think people there walk almost with a dancing step because of it. It's certainly a very colourful place! I think I bring the Cuban joy and happiness to the stage. I've also been very passionate and fearless in everything I do. For me, dancing was almost a way to survive because of my background; my life certainly could've gone a very different way. Dance became my refuge, my shelter and my best friend. That's what motivated me to go for this job with Birmingham Royal Ballet. I've always been one for breaking things and re-forming them into something new. I don't play it safe!"

Despite being classically trained himself, Carlos' company, Acosta Danza, has focused on a more contemporary style of dance.

"My name was mentioned for the Director post at Birmingham Royal Ballet and I was approached to interview for it. I thought it was crazy because I was already really, really busy. But I spoke to my wife and she encouraged me to go for it. She saw that this was an opportunity to take what I'd already achieved to a

different level and to go back to my roots as a ballet dancer. Since I retired from the Royal Ballet, I've been dancing more contemporary roles with Acosta Danza. After doing that, it's lovely to give back what I know about classical dance. I've been blessed by dancing with so many companies from around the world, and I really want to pass on that knowledge and passion so that it doesn't die with me. This is a noble opportunity for me to dance through others and positively affect both the individual dancers and the company as a whole.

"I want to present the Birmingham Royal Ballet brand as fresh, energetic and new. I want to do new things, be unpredictable and connect more with the mainstream ideas of dance and culture, whilst also preserving and performing the classics like Swan Lake at the highest possible level. I want the company to really tell the city's stories and to open up to its community more. I'm happy to do anything that's crazy!

"I also want Birmingham Royal Ballet to work with the very best creatives, institutions and companies from across the world, not only so that we can improve by comparing ourselves to them, but also so that they can act as ambassadors for us, going out and spreading the word that Birmingham is a leader in dance and the arts. We have all the elements in Birmingham to become a world leader, so that others look to us for inspiration. We just need to find a way of bringing it all together.

"I want Birmingham to have its own voice, rather than just riding the same vehicles that everyone else has for years. I hope for an entirely new ballet - new composition, choreography and story - to come from Birmingham Royal Ballet.

"Touring the UK is also fantastic and important, to get Birmingham's voice out there. I want us to continue to do that, but I want to do more in the Royal Opera House and abroad. We need to create a legacy."

So what excites Carlos about Birmingham Royal Ballet's programme for the upcoming year?

"Bringing choreographers who have never before been seen in Birmingham, or even the UK, is very important to me - whether that be through classical or more contemporary work. Our summer festival at Birmingham Hippodrome, Curated By Carlos, will be just like that. It will also bring together many more artists than just dancers. It'll be much more than you'd ever expect from a ballet company! There'll be robots, movies, literature and world premieres of dance.

"The festival will also feature my own production of Don Quixote, a ballet which has never been seen here before. It's a really vibrant, family ballet where nobody dies - which is rare, given the sometimes-gloomy themes of ballet! Don Quixote is a really uplifting, funny tale, and we hope to tour it in the future.

"My goal of getting the company back into the Royal Opera House will happen in the summer of 2021. It will be like a homecoming for myself and Birmingham Royal Ballet, and marks the end of the company's 30th anniversary year of moving up to Birmingham. Everything coming up at Birmingham Royal Ballet is about reaching out and connecting with different levels of our audience, whether they be local, national or international."

Carlos believes that 2020 could well be the start of something extraordinary from a personal point of view too: "I'm a firm believer that no one should be afraid of failure, because there's no such thing, really - everything is just an opportunity for learning. Sometimes you don't get it right - but with persistence, you will. I live my life seeing positives and opportunities to grow through my passion and enthusiasm, which I think is very much rooted in my past. There are obviously moments of sorrow in my life, but they're just as important to my overall journey. I'm very happy with the person I turned out to be because at one point I was definitely in danger of going off the rails, but I learnt from that as well.

"Life is never a linear journey: it has its twists and turns, ups and downs, but as long as you generally keep moving forward, you're doing great! I can't wait to embrace the opportunities that being Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet will present."

To find out more about what's coming up for Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2020/21, visit brb.org.uk

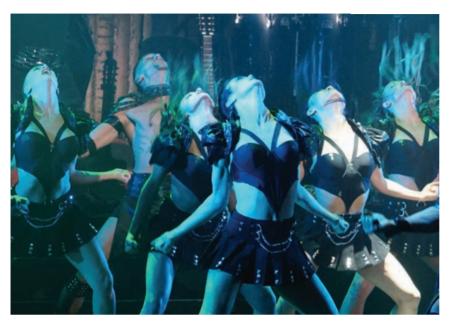
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### **Burn The Floor**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 26 & Fri 27 March; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 8 April; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 6 May

"Burn The Floor is the show that ignited a spark in me and changed me forever as a performer," says Kevin Clifton, who's starring in the hit production with his sister, Joanne. "Through Broadway, West End and touring all over the world, this show

has ripped apart the rule book, revolutionised our genre and inspired and shaped me as the dancer I am today. "In 2020, I'm delighted to say that I'm coming 'home' to Burn The Floor."



Sonia Sabri: Akaar Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 29 March

"We've always tried to create something which is groundbreaking and pioneering," says Sonia Sabri. "I feel proud to say that we've presented something that's very new and very different. We've long been at the forefront of creating new ideas, and that's exactly what we intend to continue doing."

Sonia's belief in the need to push the boundaries of dance is reflected in this

special performance event. "It aims to celebrate emerging and undiscovered talent," she explains, "and to support the interest and breadth of South Asian Arts being created across the Midlands." Featuring both individuals and groups, the show has previously included non-South Asian artists and performers presenting work with a South Asian flavour.

### **Ballet Theatre UK: Giselle**

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 7 March; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 19 March; Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Wed 1 April; Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Thurs 16 April; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 26 April

A surreal ballet first performed in 1841, Giselle tells the story of a girl who kills herself when she finds out that her suitor has kept his real identity concealed from her - pretending to be a peasant when actually he's a member of the aristocracy. When he and another suitor visit Giselle's unconsecrated grave, they find themselves in all manner of trouble due to the presence of the Wilis - ghosts of girls jilted by their lovers. It falls to the spirit of Giselle to save her suitors from beyond the grave...



### U.Dance WM 2020

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 29 March

Providing a regional youth dance platform, the organisers of U.Dance WM are promising an evening 'full of vibrant and exciting dance genres and themes, performed by some of the best young talents from across the West Midlands'. One of the groups who perform on the night will progress to One Dance UK's national U.Dance festival, which is being held in Glasgow this summer.





# Madame Butterfly reborn

DeNada Dance Theatre's Mariposa receives its world premiere at Birmingham's DanceXchange this month. A dance opera reimagining Puccini's Madame Butterfly, the work transports the action to the port of Havana...



The director of DeNada Dance Theatre, Carlos Pons Guerra, is one of contemporary ballet's most highly rated emerging queer voices. His latest project, a dance opera entitled Mariposa (meaning 'butterfly' in Spanish), which he's choreographed, is a transgender tragedy brimming with magical realism and drama.

Set to an original score by award-winning Spanish composer Luis Miguel Cobo, with libretto by French-Indian writer Karthika Nair, the production takes its inspiration not only from Puccini's Madame Butterfly but also from the sounds of the Caribbean.

Mariposa poses a question: in the turbulence of post-revolution Cuba - a world of neon

lights, cigar-smoke clouds, santería (voodooesque) spirits and economic uncertainty - will a young male sex worker sacrifice his gender in exchange for a better life with the foreign sailor he loves?

This brand new production is an exploration of what we are willing to give up to be loved and accepted.

"Mariposa is all about representing ethnically diverse LGBTQ+ narratives onstage," says Carlos. "It's therefore fantastic that it is opening its wings in a city as multicultural and diverse as Birmingham. We are very thankful for the generous and ongoing support of Birmingham-based arts organisations such as

DanceXchange, Dance Hub Birmingham and Birmingham Hippodrome, which continue to support me and DeNada Dance Theatre - and especially now, in the creation of this latest production. We really hope audiences from across the Midlands and further afield will be touched by this very special show - a dance version of one of the most iconic operas ever written."

DeNada Dance Theatre's Mariposa shows at Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, on Friday 27 & Saturday 28 March.



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Film highlights released in March...

# Blumhouse's Fantasy Island

CERT **15 (109 mins)** 

Starring Michael Peña, Maggie Q, Lucy Hale, Austin Stowell, Portia Doubleday, Michael Rooker Directed by Jeff Wadlow (USA)



Based on the cult TV series of 1977, this bigscreen version adds a decided note of horror. Here, the enigmatic Mr Roarke (Peña) facilitates his clients' wildest dreams on his remote tropical island, when those fantasies suddenly turn pear-shaped.

Released Fri 6 March

### Military Wives CERT 12a (113 mins)

Starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan, Jason Flemyng, Emma Lowndes Directed by Peter Cattaneo (UK)

When the wives of those fighting in Afghanistan form a choir, they become a media sensation... While inspired by a truelife phenomenon, this is a fictitious interpretation from the director of The Full Monty.

#### Released Fri 6 March



### Onward CERT tbc

With the voices of Tom Holland, Chris Pratt, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Octavia Spencer, Lena Waithe Directed by Dan Scanlon (USA)



Set in a world of elves, this Pixar cartoon centres on two teenage brothers who never knew their father, a wizard in a lost time of magic. But when they are entrusted with a magic staff, there's a chance to be reunited with their dad, if only the spell would work... From the director of Monsters University (2013).

Released Fri 6 March

### The Photograph CERT 12a

Starring Issa Rae, Lakeith Stanfield, Chelsea Peretti, Lil Rel Howery, Courtney B Vance, Kelvin Harrison Jr, Rob Morgan

Directed by Stella Meghie (USA)

Following her mother's death, a young woman finds a photograph in a safe deposit box that leads, unexpectedly, to answers about the past and a new romantic alliance. From the Canadian director of Everything, Everything (2017).

#### Released Fri 6 March



### **Sulphur And White**

CERT 15 (121 mins)

Starring Mark Stanley, Emily Beecham, Anna Friel, Dougray Scott Directed by Julian Jarrold (UK)

David Tait (Mark Stanley) is a mountaineer and City trader who seems to be going places fast. But a secret from his past is eating away at him, a secret he even keeps from the woman he believes could save him... Based on a true story.

#### Released Fri 6 March



### Bloodshot CERT tbc

Starring Vin Diesel, Eiza González, Sam Heughan, Toby Kebbell, Guy Pearce, Talulah Riley Directed by David Wilson (USA)

After a marine is assassinated, he is resurrected by a team of scientists with superhuman powers. Based on the superhero series published by Valiant Comics.

Released Fri 13 March

### **Calm With Horses**

CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring Cosmo Jarvis, Barry Keoghan, Ned Dennehy, Niamh Algar, Anthony Welsh, David Wilmot

Directed by Nick Rowland (UK)

A former boxer and father to an autistic son, Douglas 'Arm' Armstrong (Cosmo Jarvis) is forced to weigh up his options when he is asked to kill a man for the shady people



for whom he works... Adapted from Colin Barrett's short story collection Young Skins.

Released Fri 13 March

### Misbehaviour CERT 12a (106 mins)

Starring Keira Knightley, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Jessie Buckley, Keeley Hawes, Lesley Manville, Rhys Ifans, Greg Kinnear Directed by Philippa Lowthorpe (UK)



The Miss World pageant of 1970 was an event that shifted a number of goal posts. Held in London, it witnessed the birth of the Women's Liberation Movement as they stormed the stage of the Royal Albert Hall and disrupted the broadcast, claiming that the competition demeaned the fairer sex. Greg Kinnear plays the MC Bob Hope. Expect swimsuits.

Released Fri 13 March

### My Spy CERT 12a (99 mins)

Starring Dave Bautista, Chloe Coleman, Kristen Schaal, Parisa Fitz-Henley, Ken Jeong Directed by Peter Segal (USA)

A hardened CIA agent (Dave Bautista) finds his status quo upended when he's assigned to safeguard a precocious nineyear-old girl. It's hoped to be the first in a series.

Released Fri 13 March



### Fire Will Come CERT tbc (90 mins)

Starring Amador Arias Mon, Benedicta Sánchez, Inazio Brao, Nuria Sotelo Directed by Oliver Laxe (Spain/France/Luxembourg)

When an arsonist is released from prison, he returns to his rural village in Galicia, northwest Spain, where he tries to fit in with his troubled past. Winner of the Jury Prize at last year's Cannes festival.

Released Fri 20 March

### Radioactive CERT 12a (110 mins)

Starring Rosamund Pike, Sam Riley, Anya Taylor-Joy, Aneurin Barnard, Simon Russell Beale Directed by Marjane Satrapi (UK)



In spite of the serious nature of her films, Marjane Satrapi draws her material from unexpected sources. Both Persepolis (2007) and Chicken With Plums (2011), about the Iranian Revolution and suicide, collectively, were adapted from graphic novels. As is her latest, a biographical drama about Marie Curie (Pike), the pioneering physicist and chemist - and the only woman to win the Nobel prize twice.

Released Fri 20 March

### The Truth CERT PG (107 mins)

Starring Catherine Deneuve, Juliette Binoche, Ethan Hawke, Ludivine Sagnier, Clémentine Grenier

Directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda (France/Japan)



The stormy relationship between a mother and her daughter, a legendary French icon and a screenwriter, respectively, comes to a head when the former publishes her autobiography. From the director of the Palme d'Orwinning Shoplifters.

Released Fri 20 March



### The Painted Bird

CERT 18 (170 mins)

Starring Petr Kotlár, Nina Šunevič, Stellan Skarsgård, Udo Kier, Harvey Keitel, Barry Pepper

Directed by Václav Marhoul (Czech Republic/Slovakia/Ukraine)

When during the Second World War a young Jewish boy is sent to stay with relatives to avoid anti-Semitism, he finds himself having to fend for himself.

Based on the 1965 novel by Jerzy Kosiński, the film is shot in black-and-white and features scenes that many might find upsetting.

#### Released Fri 27 March



### Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway CERT PG

Starring Rose Byrne, Domhnall Gleeson,
David Oyelowo, with the voices of
James Corden, Elizabeth Debicki,
Daisy Ridley, Margot Robbie
Directed by Will Gluck (Australia/USA/India)



A rough approximation of Beatrix Potter's beloved bunny is back with more outrageous shenanigans when he, Peter, runs away from home. Expect lashings of risqué humour.

Released Fri 27 March

### Vivarium CERT 15 (97 mins)

Starring Imogen Poots, Jesse Eisenberg, Jonathan Aris, Danielle Ryan Directed by Lorcan Finnegan (Ireland/USA/Belgium/Denmark)

When a young couple sets off to find their perfect home they find themselves trapped in an endless housing estate of identikit buildings. Filmed in Liege, in Belgium.

### Released Fri 27 March



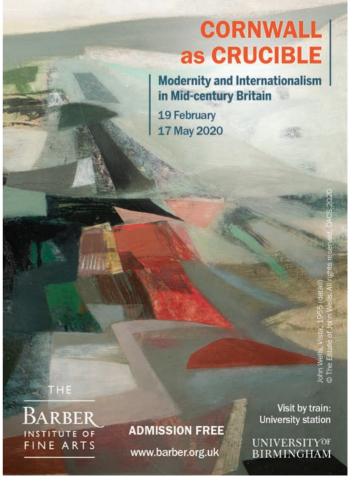


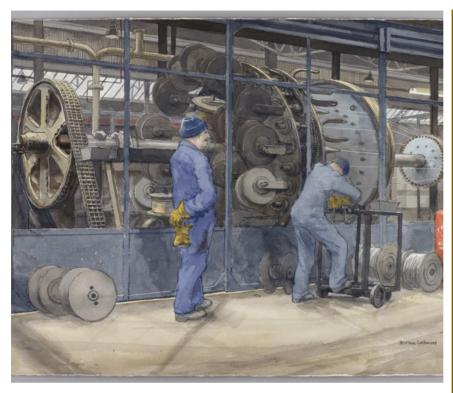
# Fabric: Touch And Identity

Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park, Warwickshire, Sat 14 March - Sun 14 June

The ways in which clothes and textiles conceal, reveal and seduce through the lenses of art, design, fashion, film and dance is explored in this 'playful and provocative' exhibition. Boasting works by Vivienne Westwood, Raisa Kabir and Cathy de Monchaux, the display also features a new, immersive installation by Reiko Sudo. Subjects explored in the show include the role of fabric in shaping and communicating identity, and the part it plays in expressing sensuality and sexuality in a variety of different cultures.







### Webster And Horsfall: 300 Years Of Innovation

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 4 October

Archive material, watercolour paintings, and objects from the museum's Science & Industry collection are here combined to tell the story of Webster & Horsfall, a company which has been at the heart of steel wire and rope manufacturing in Birmingham since 1720.

The watercolours on display are the work

of Arthur Lockwood, an artist renowned for his industrial paintings of Birmingham and the Black Country. Birmingham Museums acquired over 700 watercolours and sketches by the artist as part of the Lottery-funded Collecting Birmingham project. Lockwood died last year at the age of 85.

### **Phoebe Cummings: This Was Now**

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 7 Mar - Sun 31 May

Ceramics as a time-based medium is the subject under consideration in Phoebe Cummings' new exhibition.

One of the UK's most well-regarded ceramic artists, Phoebe is using her show to investigate the multiple ways in which transient sculpture might be recorded, both individually and collectively.

A new work in raw clay will evolve during the course of the exhibition, while the gallery space itself will operate as a site of live production and research, the public being invited to participate in the process of recording the changing work.

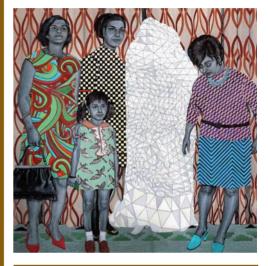
The sculpture will then be recycled and

the clay used in future works.



### 20 For 2020

The New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 5 July
A novel idea for an exhibition, 20 For 2020
features work by 20 artists from the New Art
Gallery's collections - one to represent every year
since the venue opened. They will each tell
individual stories about particular moments in
the history of the Gallery.



### Maternal Bonds: Images Of Motherhood

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, until Sun 24 May Countless images of Mary and Christ - the best-known mother & child of them all - and a wide range of allegorical and symbolic paintings & drawings bear testimony to the interest which artists across the centuries have shown in exploring issues connected to 'motherhood'. This Barber exhibition takes a look back at 500 years'-worth of artwork based around the subject. The show includes drawings by Dutch Golden Age artists Nicolaes Maes and Adriaen van Ostade.

### Journey To Justice

Library of Birmingham, until Mon 27 April

Human rights education charity Journey To Justice is the organisation behind this multimedia multi-arts civil rights travelling exhibition. As well as telling little-known stories of people who fought for freedom during the US civil rights movement, the presentation also explores the West Midlands' long history of action for social justice.

Janice Kelsey, who was involved with the Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963, and whose story is told in the exhibition, will visit in April.



# Homebuilding CRenovating Show

March 26-29 NEC, Birmingham

OFFICIAL SPONSOR



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- 500+ Exhibitors
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### The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 26 - Sun 29 March

• • • • • • • • • • • •

If you're hoping to renovate your home this year, The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show could well help bring that dream to life.

With 500-plus exhibitors showcasing thousands of products and services, visitors can gain plenty of inspiration for their DIY plans.

The show also includes daily seminars and 50 specialist masterclasses. There's an advice centre too, where visitors can have free and impartial one-to-one chats with a wide selection of experts, including architects, builders, finance specialists and insurance advisors.



### Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships 2020

Arena Birmingham, Wed 11 - Sun 15 March

Returning to Birmingham for its 110th edition, Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships brings together some of the best badminton players from England and across the world for five days of top-quality action. This year's championship also has the added attraction of being the last Super 1000 Olympic qualifying event.

### **Jawsome Sharks**

National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham, Sat 28 March -Sun 10 May

The National Sea Life Centre is

looking for some brave adventurers for a brand new quest with the venue's Professor Finn.

The mad professor is hoping to recruit a new team of Jawsome Rangers to help him in his mission to locate all of his missing Top Trumps cards and place them in the correct order. Along the way, guests will learn fun facts about the sharks and other amazing creatures that live in the aquarium. Once qualified, the new rangers will receive a very special reward to take home.



### Miniatura

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 21 - Sun 22 March

Some of the finest craftspeople in the world of miniatures this month grace the NEC for the springtime edition of Miniatura.

The show features an impressive selection of stalls selling a whole host of miniatures at a wide range of prices. Workshops and demonstrations also feature.







# 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL '20 TELFORD INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Indoor family fun this Easter, with over 50 FREE activities, inflatables, circus, sports, under 5 zone & so much more!

Save money when you book tickets in advance:

shropshirekidsfest.co.uk



# MCM Comic Con Birmingham

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 21 - Sun 22 March

Thousands of sci-fi fans, gamers, comic collectors, movie buffs and anime enthusiasts will once again descend on the NEC this month.

Among the well-known actors taking part in vari-

ous panel discussions, Q&As and meet-andgreets are Sherlock and Fleabag's Andrew Scott and Rob Wiethoff from Red Dead Redemption 2. New for 2020 is Pop Asia, available outside London for the first time and offering visitors all manner of Korean and Japanese fashion, food, and merchandise.



### The Big Bang Fair

NEC, Birmingham, Wed 11 - Sat 14 March

From sport and fashion to medicine and space, The Big Bang Fair helps young people explore the opportunities available to them in science, technology, engineering & maths (STEM). The event also features theatre shows, hands-on activities, interactive workshops, in-depth careers information and the opportunity to talk to scientists and engineers from leading companies across the UK.

# Shakespeare Week Super Saturday

Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust family homes, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 21 & Sun 22 March

Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust is putting a creative spin on this year's Shakespeare Week celebrations.

Little ones can visit the Trust's family homes to learn new art skills and produce beautiful finished creations to take home. All participants will receive a certificate and sticker and have the opportunity to dress up for a graduation selfie.

The Shakespeare Centre plays host to Super Saturday on the 21st, a free family fun day featuring Horrible Histories illustrator Martin Brown, Ricky Martin from CBBC's Art Ninja, and author and illustrator Marcia Williams.

### **Jigsaw Festival**

Coughton Court, Alcester, Warwickshire, Sat 7 - Sun 15 March

Coughton Court's popular Jigsaw Festival makes a welcome return this month.

Now in its seventh year, the event sees hundreds of donated jigsaw puzzles being put up for sale to raise vital funds for conservation work at the National Trust site. Past festivals have raised a total of £32,000. This year's funds will go towards Coughton Court's Secret & Sacred project, which takes a look at the unusual collection of objects gathered, kept and treasured by the Throckmorton family during their 600-year history in the property.











### **Practical Classics Car & Restoration Show**

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 27 - Sun 29 March

Practical Classics Car & Restoration Show comes complete with a brand new interactive feature this month.

Classic World is designed to bring together all the elements of owning a classic vehicle including the actual driving - and allows visitors to take a journey of discovery across four key areas - Work In Progress, Staff Car Sagas, Barn Finds Revisited and the Classic World Stage.

Special guests at the show include TV motoring restorers Ant Anstead from Wheeler Dealers, Car SOS' Fuzz Townshend, and Jimmy De Ville from Goblin Works Garage and Fifth Gear.



### **Troll-tastic Adventure**

Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham, Sat 14 March - Sun 10 May

Celebrating the release of the new Dreamworks movie, Trolls World Tour, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham is providing visitors with a 'Troll-tastic adventure' this spring.
Families can expect 'a glittery, rainbow-infused party like no other', with a host of activities including photo opportunities with favourite Trolls friends, brand new dance parties and numerous construction challenges.

### Meet the Octonauts

Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham, Sat 7 & Sun 8 March

To celebrate British Science & Engineering Week at Thinktank, Captain Barnacles and Kwazii from CBeebies show Octonauts will be meeting little ones across the weekend.

Elsewhere in the museum, families can take part in sealife object-handling sessions, watch a water science demo in the outdoor Science Garden, and get hands-on with Imagination Playground and some very special under-the-sea challenges!

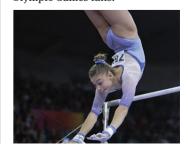


### Gymnastics World Cup 2020

Arena Birmingham, Sat 28 March

Top international gymnasts from all over the world are battling it out in Birmingham this month for a spot at the Tokyo Olympics. Twelve male and a dozen female gymnasts - included among whom are 12 world medallists and an Olympic champion - go head-to-head in a series of events to gain vital qualification points for their country.

As the only Olympic qualification event in Britain, and with more gymnasts taking part than ever before, this is a must-attend event for all gymnastics and Olympic Games fans.



# AND NOW FOR SOMETHING

Variety, so the old saying goes, is the spice of life - and when it comes to offering people something a bit different to try out, the West Midlands is a region that's definitely not lacking in options! Here are just a few of the maybemore-unusual activities which are available to sample not too far away from your very own doorstep...



### **DropShot Digbeth**

DropShot Digbeth is a multi-use activity destination which features a full cocktail bar, an array of craft beers, six Olympic-grade table-tennis tables, two shuffleboards, wood-fired pizzas and a sound system playing a mix of music to suit every taste.

The licensed entertainment venue is situated 50 yards from The Custard Factory, in the heart of redeveloped Digbeth.

**GREAT FOR** groups of friends. Prices start at £15 for two hours.

60 Heath Mill Lane, Deritend, Birmingham, B9 4AR



### **Escape Live**

Working in a team of between two and six people, you have 60 minutes to escape from a locked room. Everyone must work together to find the clues and solve the puzzles to make sure you get out in time. The escape rooms on offer include Peaky Blinders (Birmingham only), Room 13, The Lab and Time Machine.

**GREAT FOR** family days out, adult birthday parties and stag & hen dos. Prices start at £17.50 per person.

18 - 24 Constitution Hill, Birmingham, B19 3LY; Fargo Studios, 54 Grafton Street, Coventry, CV1 2HW; 31 Greenhill Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6LE



#### The Bear Grylls Adventure

The world's first adventure activity centre inspired by Bear Grylls himself.
Choose your challenge: high ropes, iFLY, shark dive, indoor archery, indoor climb, escape rooms, fear zone, indoor shooting, cage snorkel and a Royal Marines-inspired assault course.

Most activities are suitable for guests aged eight-plus.

**GREAT FOR** families, groups, schools and team-building exercises. Prices start at £12.50.

NEC, National Exhibition Centre, Marston Green, Birmingham, B40 1NT

### Flight Club

Flight Club is the world's first 'social darts' venue, presenting a supercharged version of the game that involves multiple players, patented dart-tracking technology and instant scoring, reimagining matches into fast-paced social experiences.

The feature bar serves a selection of craft beers and cocktails, alongside a seasonally inspired food menu.

**GREAT FOR** groups of friends. Prices are per booking, not per person. Each oche is £30 (peak) and £15 (off-peak) per 60 minutes.

13 Temple Street, Birmingham, B2 5BN

### **Roxy Ball Room**

Roxy Ball Room features its own brand of pool, ping-pong, shuffleboard, beer-pong and 10 full-sized bowling lanes.
Keeping the action flowing from the afternoon until late into the night, the social gaming concept has already proved popular at venues in Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester and Nottingham.

The venue serves a selection of craft beers, signature cocktails and liquor, as well as a full pizza & nibble menu - all set to the very best rock and indie soundtracks.

Roxy Ball Room is an 18-plus venue.

**GREAT FOR** adult parties. Prices start at £6 per person.

58 - 60 Heath Mill Lane, Deritend, Birmingham, B9 4AR

### **Chance & Counters**

Chance & Counters is a new boardgame bar & cafe located in the popular Custard Factory. Boasting a bright and industrial space which fits over 100 people, this quirky venue has nearly 500 games to choose from, a varied selection of new and popular boardgames to buy, 10 draught beer & cider lines, and food options including brunch, burgers, tacos and more.

**GREAT FOR** groups of friends or even a solo visit. Pricing is £5 per person for a four-hour session.

The Custard Factory, Birmingham, B9 4AA

# COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...



#### Love<sub>2</sub>Stay

Set within 22 acres of stunning landscape, Love2Stay features a caravan park, a selection of safari lodges and a wide range of activities.

The resort boasts plenty to see and do, including a natural swimming pool, an army-style assault course, paddle boarding and woodland den building. Whether you're visiting for a mini break or a longer period of time, Love2Stay is a great base from which to explore Shrewsbury and the surrounding area.

**GREAT FOR** family breaks and days out with friends. Activity prices start from £5 per person.

Emstrey Bank, Shrewsbury, SY5 6QS



#### The Floodgate

The Floodgate offers 'an experiential night out like no other'. Situated in Digbeth and serving up the latest on-trend cocktails, cold craft beers and tasty street food, the venue offers a world of neon colour and graffiti art. Sporty types can hit a home run at Bleachers BaseBall, slide their way to victory in CurlClub, or maybe even hit a hole-in-one on the 18-hole UV wonderland PitPat course (think crazy-golf meets pool!).

**GREAT FOR** hen & stag dos and adult birthday parties.

Prices start from £10 per person.

104-108 Floodgate Street, Birmingham, B5 5SR



### Jump In

While trampolines are the name of the game here, there's so much more to put a spring in your step. Why not start with the basketball court, where sports stars can reach for a slam dunk? If teamwork is more your thing, then the dodgeball court is a great place to dip and dive. There's even a toddler area for tiny tots to join in the fun, a twist ladder (Shrewsbury only), a balance beam (Warwick only), and great awardwinning party packages.

1 Henley Way, Shrewsbury, SY1 4YQ; Tachbrook Park, Hermes Cl, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwick CV34 6NW

### **Timberjacks**

Ever fancied trying your hand at one of history's oldest lumberjack sports? Well now you can! Timberjacks, which has sites in both Shrewsbury and Kidderminster, is the ultimate axe-throwing venue. Whether you're making a solo visit or attending as part of a team, grab an axe and have a go at hurling it at the target. Players also have the option of adding in-game extras, including apple smashing, target posters and the scoreboard challenge, where there's a cash prize to be won.

**GREAT FOR** hen & stag dos and adult birthday parties. Prices from £15 per person.

Flexspace, Unit 49, Shrewsbury SY1 3FE; Unit E Green Street, Kidderminster DY10 1RD

### Ninja Warrior UK

Inspired by ITV's hit programme, Ninja Warrior UK, this indoor obstacle course welcomes visitors of all abilities aged fourplus

Challenge your inner ninja by climbing, balancing, jumping and swinging across different obstacles.

The course features a number of levels of difficulty, meaning participants can gauge their progress en route to becoming a ninja warrior.

**GREAT FOR** kids and adult birthday parties. Prices start from £10 per person.

Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 4NB

### **NQ64**

Gaming venue NQ64 is a recent addition to Birmingham's buzzing creative & digital district. Combining a strong drink offering with retro gaming, it's the perfect place to unleash your inner child and get lost in a world of nostalgia.

Attractions include games such as Pac-Man, Donkey Kong, Track & Field, Street Fighter 2 and Space Invaders, as well as classic consoles like the N64, Megadrive and SNES.

**GREAT FOR** groups of friends or even a solo visit. There's no entrance fee and 15 tokens cost £6.

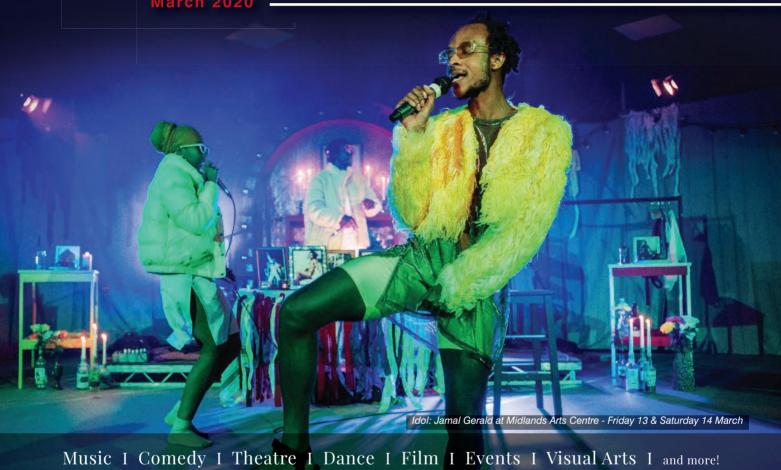
The Custard Factory, Gibb Street, Birmingham, B9 4BG







# Your week-by-week listings guide March 2020



# What's On

Sun 1 - Sun 8 March



Sasha Velour at The Alexandra, Birmingham

Mon 2 March

Mon 9 to Sun 15 March



Jax Jones at O2 Institute, Birmingham

Thurs 12 March

Mon 16 to Sun 22 March



The Last Quiz Night On Earth comes to Smethwick

Thurs 19 March

Mon 23 to Tues 31 March



Giovanni Pernice at Birmingham Town Hall

Fri 27 March

# thelist

### **THROUGHOUT MARCH**

# Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

### WHITWORTH WALLIS ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: LEANNE O'CONNOR

Leanne's work responds to the stained-glass and metalwork collection held within the Industrial gallery, the Museum Collections Centre and Community History & Archives Service in Smethwick, until Mon 1 June

**DRESSED TO THE NINES** Exhibition about dressing up and going out, from around 1850 to the present day, until Fri 4 Sept

BIRMINGHAM REVOLUTIONS - POWER TO THE PEOPLE Display exploring Birmingham's vibrant and varied history of protest and activism, until Fri 4 Sept

#### **Ikon Gallery**

NEW ÉTUDE NO 10 IN B MINOR Italian artist Mariateresa Sartori explores the connection between music and language, Wed 4 Mar - Sun 5 Apr

NEW JUDY WATSON EXHIBITION Comprehensive exhibition featuring new paintings, video and sculptural pieces, some of which were made in response to visits the artist undertook to see British sites of prehistorical significance, Wed 4 Mar - Sun 31 May



#### MAC, Birmingham

CRAFTING A BETTER FUTURE Exhibition raising awareness of homelessness, showcasing scarves made by members of the West Midlands Craft Group, until Sun 1 Mar

ART AND SOCIAL CHANGE: THE DISABILITY ARTS MOVEMENT Display of work by a civil rights group of artists and activists who fought the marginalisation of disabled people. Their work supported the struggle, which led to the passing of the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995, until Sun 22 Mar

THE INFLUENCE PROJECT Photography exhibition celebrating the impact of leading black musicians on contemporary sound and culture, until Sun 22 Mar MADE @ MAC: ALL ABOUT TEXTILES Exhibition of work from courses led by artist tutors Penny Dixon, Helen Lane, Claire Leggett and Rosie Moss, until Sun 19 Apr

NEW CERAMIC COMMONS: 3D PRINTED CERAMICS COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITION Ceramic Commons celebrates collaboration, open-source environment and digital 3D technology, Sat 7 MarSun 5 July

### **RBSA Gallery**

NEW RBSA OPEN 2020 Open submission exhibition that brings together artists working in painting, print, sculpture, textiles, drawing, jewellery and ceramics, Thurs 5 Mar - Sat 4 Apr

#### The Barber Institute

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

CORNWALL AS CRUCIBLE: MODERNITY AND INTERNATIONALISM IN MID-CEN-TURY BRITAIN Fresh look at artists working in and around St Ives during and after the Second World War, until Sun 17 May

CÉZANNE AND THE MODERN FRENCH PRINT Exhibition built around new loan Les Baigneurs, Petite Planche an 1896/97 lithograph by Paul Cézanne - and exploring a pivotal point in French avant-garde art, until Sun 7 June

NEW 50 YEARS - A CELEBRATION OF THE COIN COLLECTION The Barber celebrates the golden anniversary of its coin collection - one of the most significant in the world, Fri 27 Mar - Sun 11 Apr

### Other VISUAL ARTS

LOVE & SOLIDARITY, JAMIE CREWE New body of work taking inspiration from Radclyffe Hall's 1928 novel, The Well Of Loneliness, and using the ambiguous tensions it stirs to think about repulsive kinships with places, cultures, histories, communities and individuals, until Fri 17 Apr, Grand Union, Fazeley Street

HERSTORY An exhibition about gynaecology, access, stigma, politics of health, DIY and hacker culture, until Sat 25 Apr, BOM (Birmingham Open Media)

**NEW CONNIVEO** BBC New Creative Georgia Tucker combines virtual reality with a physical installation, Fri 6 -Sun 15 Mar, Stryx Gallery, Digbeth

# Gigs

MICHAEL KIWANUKA Sun 1 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

METAL TO THE MASSES Sun 1 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, Birmingham

PAUL CARRACK Sun 1 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**JULIAN COPE** Sun 1 Mar, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham



NASTY CHERRY Sun 1 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**LOVE FAME TRAGEDY** Mon 2 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ARCHIE FAULKS Mon 2 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, Birmingham

STAVES PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS Mon 2 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

PRETTY VILE EP LAUNCH / TBA / TWELVE TWELVE / P.E.T / MEEL DEEL Mon 2 Mar, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA: AFRO BOSSA Mon 2 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE WANTS + SPECIAL GUESTS Mon 2 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**SUPERGRASS** Tues 3 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE FORTUNATE SONS: TRIBUTE TO CREEDANCE CLEARWATER REVIVED Tues 3 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MOSA WILD Tues 3 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

IAMDDB Tues 3 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE JACQUES** Tues 3 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MARIKA HACKMAN Tues 3 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**CISSY STONE & HER** 

**BAND** Wed 4 Mar, The Jam House, B'ham

THE RUMJACKS + SPE-CIAL GUESTS Wed 4 Mar, The Castle & Falcon. Birmingham

**BORN OF OSIRUS** Wed 4 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

BEN WALKER Wed 4 Mar, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH WHIT-NEY Wed 4 Mar, Arena Birmingham

**ASH SHEEHAN** Thurs 5 Mar, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

T.REXTASY Thurs 5 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**0MAR** Thurs 5 Mar, The Jam House, B'ham

**SUCKERPUNCH** Thurs 5 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**THE PICTUREBOOKS**Thurs 5 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CHRIS BOWDEN PRE-SENTS: DAVE FERRIS Thurs 5 Mar, The Blue Piano, Edgbaston,

Birmingham

JADU HEART Thurs 5 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**GALA DISCO POLO** Fri 6 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GUY CHAMBERS 'GO GENTLE INTO THE LIGHT' Fri 6 Mar, Pizza Express Live, B'ham

**THE FRED SKIDMORE TRIO** Fri 6 Mar, The Blue Piano, B'ham

ANDY JOHN JONES & THE GINKGO MILK Fri 6 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**THE ORIELLES** Fri 6 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK, JOHN MCCUSKER & JOHN DOYLE Fri 6 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

FUTUREPAST ZINE WITH WEST NORWOOD CAS-SETTE LIBRARY Fri 6 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**BLACK PARADE** Fri 6 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

NSR PRESENTS: POWER 2020 Fri 6 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham CHOP SUEY! - NU -METAL **ANTHEMS** Fri 6 Mar, The Asylum, B'ham

**CHERRY SUEDE** Fri 6 Mar, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. SOUTHERN SMOKE Fri 6 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BULSARA AND HIS QUEE-NIES Sat 7 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KILLER BOB, SHEBREW AND SNOG THE DOG Sat 7 Mar, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**0H W0NDER** Sat 7 Mar, O2 Institute. B'ham

**QUILL** Sat 7 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MOSES BOYD Sat 7 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE RISING TOUR W/ SCARLET REBELS & RE-VIVAL BLACK Sat 7 Mar, Route 44, Birmingham

**ROBINSON - STONE** Sat 7 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**WAX ON** Sat 7 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JAMES ARTHUR Sat 7 Mar, Arena B'ham

**0H W0NDER** Sat 7 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE ACID EXPERIMENT X HERITAGE SOUNDSYS-TEM Sat 7 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RAXSTAR Sat 7 Mar, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham



FERGUS CHANNELL + DEMELZA + TRADIN FIVES + OLLY POWELL Sat 7 Mar, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**BLEACH** Sat 7 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

MAGIC LANTERN RAVE Sat 7 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BSWA FUNDRAISER 2020 Sun 8 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

**CONCERT PARAZITII** Sun 8 Mar, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

### Sunday 1 - Sunday 8 March

# Classical & Easy Listening

MICHAEL BALL & ALFIE BOE Sun 1 Mar, Arena Birmingham

DANIELA ROSSI IN CONCERT Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky arr. Dyens, Regondi, Jeffrey McFadden & J.S Bach Arr. Eduardo Isaac, Tues 3 Mar, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE BERYL CHEMPIN MEMORIAL MAS-TERCLASS WITH GABRIELA MONTERO Wed 4 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: A GERMAN REQUIEM Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor), Camilla Tilling (soprano), Florian Boesch (baritone) & CBSO Chorus. Programme includes works by Mozart & Brahms, Wed 4 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: JANACEK & BRAHMS Featuring Philip Brett & Kate Oswin (violins), Catherine Bower & Amy Thomas (violas), Eduardo Vassallo (cello), Wed 4 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

TIMOTHY RIDOUT (VIOLA) IN CONCERT Also featuring Yue Yu (viola), Samantha Oxborough (mezzo-soprano) & RBC musicians, Wed 4 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

MAX RAABE & PALAST ORCHESTER
Thurs 5 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham
BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONIC BRASS Featuring Stephen Roberts (director), Fri
6 Mar, The Barber Institute, University
of Birmingham

CBSO NOTELETS: CRASH BANG WALLOP! Featuring the CBSO Percussion Ensemble & Amy Thomas (presenter), Fri 6 - Sat 7 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

FRET AND FIDDLE Sat 7 Mar, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

FLUTE CHOIR & CLARINET CHOIR Featuring Emma Brown (Flute Choir conductor) & Kathryn Titcomb (Clarinet choir conductor). Programme includes works by Confrey, Ricky Lombardo, Stephen Sondheim & Stephen Schwartz, Sat 7 Mar, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

GABRIELA MONTERO PIANO RECITAL
Programme includes works by Schumann, Chick Corea, Shostakovich &
Montero, Sun 8 Mar, Birmingham
Town Hall



# Comedy

AHIR SHAH Sun 1 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**SUKH OJLA** Sun 1 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**TOMMY TIERNAN** Tues 3 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

RHYS JAMES Wed 4 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**GEOFF NORCOTT** Wed 4 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

TANYALEE DAVIS, LOUISE YOUNG & COM-EDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 5 Mar, The Glee Club, B'ham

TANYALEE DAVIS, LOUISE YOUNG, JOHN FOTHERGILL & PAT CAHILL Fri 6 - Sat 7 Mar. The Glee Club. Birmingham

SLIM, QUINCY, JUNIOR BOOKER, KAYLEIGH LOUDMOUTH, SMASH & KAT Sat 7 Mar, The Mill, Digbeth, B'ham

FREDDY QUINNE, ELLIOT STEEL, RUDI LICKWOOD & MICKY P KERR Sat 7 Mar, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

DANA ALEXANDER, KAT BOYCE, GLENDA JAXSON, CASSANDRA MARIA & AURIE STYLA Sun 8 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NOREEN KHAN, SHAZIA MIRZA, SUKH OJLA & GLENDA JAXSON Sun 8 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

### **Theatre**

VOLDEMORT AND THE TEENAGE HOG-WARTS MUSICAL PARODY Brand new Harry Potter-inspired show packed with 'magic, hormones & more than a few murders', until Sun 1 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

HAMLET The Crescent Theatre present a carefully cut version of Shakespeare's searing tragedy, until Sat 7 Mar. The Crescent Theatre. B'ham

EDITH IN THE DARK A haunting glimpse into the nightmarish inner world of an author whose reputation for cosy childhood innocence is only half the story, until Sat 7 Mar, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

FAUSTUS: THAT DAMNED WOMAN A radical retelling of Dr Faustus which sees Johanna Faustus selling her soul in order to time-travel across the centuries and change the entire course of history. But can she now escape eternal damnation? until Sat 7 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

THE BOY IN THE DRESS Based on David Walliams' bestselling book, with songs by Robbie Williams and Guy Chambers, until Sun 8 Mar, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

KING JOHN Shakespeare's rarely performed tale of a nation in turmoil vibrates with modern resonance, until Sat 21 Mar, The Swan Theatre,



The Whip - The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Stratford-upon-Avon

THE WHIP Provocative new play set in London at the dawn of the 19th century. Politicians gather to abolish the slave trade once and for all, but at what cost?... until Sat 21 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL 2 Cheryl Fergison, Nicole Barber-Lane, Rebecca Wheatley & Nicki French star in a 'heartfelt, reassuring and unflinching' look at the joys of menopause and friendship, Sun 1 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

FIRES OUR SHOES HAVE MADE Explosive piece of original gig theatre which gives a voice to underestimated and misrepresented youth, Tues 3 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LA CASA DE BERNADA ALBA Spanish Theatre Company presents its version of Lorca's masterpiece, Tues 3 -Wed 4 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ASK ME ANYTHING The Paper Birds asked young people living in today's world of mobile phones and Google to write to them and ask them anything. Nothing was off limits. They received over 100 letters from across the UK. This show is their reply, Tues 3 - Wed 4 Mar, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC** One of the greatest musicals of all time, featuring one of musical theatre's most iconic scores, Tues 3 - Sat 7 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

A MONSTER CALLS Olivier Award-winning show based on Patrick Ness's piercing novel, Tues 3 - Sat 7 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**BUDDY** Award-winning West End show which tells the story of the legendary Buddy Holly, Tues 3 - Sat 7 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham PATIENCE Join Birmingham Savoyguards as they journey into the topsy-turvy world of Gilbert & Sullivan, Tues 3 - Sat 7 Mar, The Old Rep, Birmingham

ADOLF One-man show in which Pip Utton, looking uncomfortably like the Führer, stands before a huge Nazi banner and addresses his party faithful, Wed 4 - Fri 6 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SPRING OPERA: THE ENCHANTED ISLAND Featuring musicians from the vocal & operatic department alongside Paul Wingfield (conductor) & Jamie Hayes (director), Wed 4 - Sat 7 Mar, Engine Room Space, Hartford Street, Birmincham

A PROFOUNDLY AFFECTIONATE PASSION-ATE DEVOTION TO SOMEONE (-NOUN)

Debbie Tucker's play explores how two people create a stable, consistent relationship without perfecting how to communicate either with each other or with themselves, Wed 4 - Sat 7 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE BOOK OF MORMON Outrageous musical comedy which follows the misadventures of a mismatched pair of missionaries, sent on a mission to a place that's about as far from Salt Lake City as you can get, Weds 4 - Sat 28 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

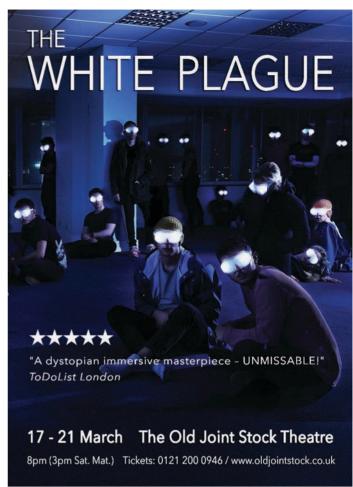
**DON'T PANIC!** The UK's only tribute to Dad's Army, Thurs 5 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE COUNTRY DIARY IN SONG New musical show celebrating Solihull author Edith Holden, the woman behind The Country Diary Of An Edwardian Lady, Sat 7 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE MISEDUCATION OF LUNA KHAN

Satirical performance questioning what identity and belonging mean in an increasingly globalised world, Sun 8 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry







### March 2020

Music

Friday 6 March

WOMEN IN ROCK

£19.50/£18

Music

Thursday 12 March

MARTIN TURNER: WISHBONE GOLD SPRING TOUR

£18

Comedy

Friday 13 March

CLIVE ANDERSON: ME, MACBETH & I

£19.50

Music

Saturday 14 March

90'S LEGENDS Chris Helme, Mark Morriss & Nigel Clarke

Chris Helme, Mark Morriss & Nigel Clarke £21.50



Music

Friday 20 March

£10



Cinema

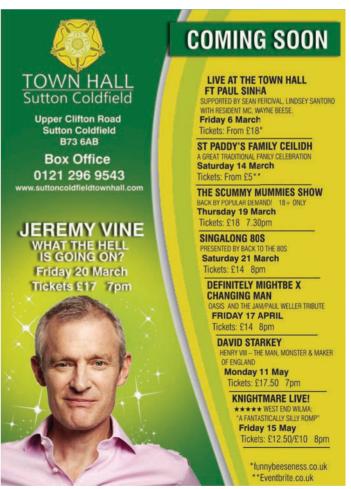
Tuesday 31 March

MICHAEL BALL & ALFIE BOE: BACK TOGETHER

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# thelist

# Sunday 1 - Sunday 8 March

## **Kids Shows**

MILKSHAKE! LIVE Starring Fireman Sam, Noddy, Shimmer & Shine, Digby Dragon, Wissper, Nella the Princess Knight and the Floogals, alongside two Milkshake presenters, Sat 7 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

BEASTLY BELLE Puppetry, film projections and an original musical score combine in a journey of discovery which explores perceptions of physical beauty, Sat 7 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

# **Cabaret**

**SASHA VELOUR - SMOKE & MIRRORS**Drag, visual art & magic combine in
Sasha's first one-queen theatre tour,
Mon 2 Mar, The Alexandra, B'ham



### **Dance**

**SAMPAD ASIAN SPRING** Annual South Asian dance extravaganza, Sun 1 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

BRENDAN COLE: SHOW MAN Music & dance extravaganza from the former Strictly star and his hand-picked championship dancers, Mon 2 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**SPIRIT OF THE DANCE** Smash-hit show taking audiences round the globe via a 'spellbinding' performance, Fri 6 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

TRIBE // STILL I RISE Defiant and uplifting debut from choreographer Victoria Fox, Sat 7 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

### **Talks**

NICHOLAS CRANE - THE MAKING OF THE BRITISH LANDSCAPE Amusing tales and observations from 10 years of presenting over 80 BBC programmes, Wed 4 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

TOM WATSON: DOWNSIZING The former

deputy leader of the Labour Party shares his honest and inspiring account of how he radically changed the way he ate, lost eight stone and reversed his type 2 diabetes, Wed 4 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

HIT THE ODE Unique performance poetry night, Fri 6 Mar, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

UNISLAM GRAND FINALS Culmination of the UK's premier student and young people's poetry event, Sun 8 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

# Film INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

JURASSIC PARK (12a) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Sam Neill, Laura Dern. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 29 Feb - Sun 1 Mar

THE PLAN THAT CAME FROM THE BOT-TOM UP (12a) Documentary. Directed by Steve Sprung. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 1 Mar

COLOR OUT OF SPACE (15) Horror/Sci-Fi. Starring Nicolas Cage, Joely Richardson. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 1 - Mon 2 Mar

JUST MERCY (15) Drama. Starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 1. Tues 3 & Thurs 5 Mar

ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK (15) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Kurt Russell, Lee Van Cleef. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 1 & Thurs 5 Mar

THE LOST BOYS (15) Comedy/Horror. Starring Jason Patric, Kiefer Sutherland. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 1 & Thurs 5 Mar; Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Tues 3 - Wed 4

THE MAN WHO KILLED DON QUIXOTE (12a) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Adam Driver, Jonathan Pryce. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 2 & Wed 4 Mar

WAVES (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Taylor Russell, Kelvin Harrison Jr. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 2 & Wed 4 Mar

MR. JONES (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring James Norton, Vanessa Kirby. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Tues 3 & Thurs 5 Mar

MILITARY WIVES (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Jason Patric, Corey Haim. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 6 Mar

EMMA (PG) Drama/Comedy. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Bill Nighy. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 6 -Thurs 12 Mar

THE LEGO MOVIE (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks. Followed by a Q&A with director Khaled El Haga. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 7 Mar

R00M T0 RENT (15) Comedy. Starring Juliette Lewis, Rupert Graves. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 7 Mar

**HEATHERS (15)** Comedy/Crime. Starring Winona Ryder, Christian Slater. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 7 Mar

PAW PATROL: READY RACE RESCUE (U) Animation/Family. With the voices of Anya Cooke, Cathal J. Dodd. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 7 Mar

RICHARD JEWELL (15) Drama. Starring Paul Walter Hauser, Kathy Bates. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 7, Mon 9 - Wed 11 Mar

ROLLING STONE: LIFE AND DEATH OF BRIAN JONES (15) Documentary. Starring Keith Altham, Phill Brown. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 8 Mar

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 6 March, showing at selected cinemas

MILITARY WIVES (12a)
ONWARD (tbc)
THE PHOTOGRAPH (12a)
SULPHUR AND WHITE (15)
BLUMHOUSE'S FANTASY ISLAND (15)

### **Events**

LEGO CITY: REPORT FOR DUTY

Complete the build challenges and become a LEGO City hero, until Sun 1 Mar, Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham

PJ MASKS Use all your creative skills and creature knowledge to help the PJ Masks avert disaster in the deep, until Sun 1 Mar, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

FEBRUARY FUTURES HALF TERM Activities aimed at encouraging children to investigate what the cars of their future might look like, until Sun 1 Mar, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW Meet with 200-plus wedding specialists, until Sun 1 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

MR CADBURY'S PARROT MINI-EGG SHOW Help Mr Cadbury's Parrot find out who's been after his precious treats, until Sun 29 Mar, Cadbury World, Rournvillo



**GEORGIAN DAY AT SOHO** Celebration of the Georgians, with a special focus on the women of the period to coincide with International Women's Day on the 8th of March, Sun 1 Mar, Soho House, Birmingham

FREE DAY One-day-only offer with free entrance to the venue, Sun 1 Mar, Aston Hall, Birmingham

TUDOR WOMEN GUIDED TOUR Specialist guided tour to mark International Women's Day, Sun 1 Mar, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

WEDDING FAYRE Get inspiration for your big day in this fundraising event showcasing the services of over 25 local suppliers, Sun 1 Mar, The Cube, Birmingham

CINEMA POSTER SALE Seize the chance to own a piece of MAC cinema history, with hundreds of posters available to purchase, Sun 1 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

THE ORIGINAL HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS
The world's most famous basketball
team is back, Mon 2 Mar, Arena Birmingham

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: A WOMAN'S WORK TOUR Special tour focusing on the women at Aston Hall. In celebration of International Women's Day, Wed 4 - Thurs 5 Mar, Aston Hall. Birmingham

CRUFTS & BEST IN SHOW 2020 Organised by the Kennel Club, the show celebrates the role dogs play in their owners' lives, Thurs 5 - Sun 8 Mar, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

ENGINUITY EXPLORERS New monthly activity club for children aged two to five, Fri 6 Mar, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire



CBSO NOTELETS: CRASH BANG WALLOP! Featuring the CBSO Percussion Ensemble & Amy Thomas (presenter), Fri 6 - Sat 7 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

GHOST TOURS Exclusive opportunity to venture into the Hall at night - so prepare for a scare, Sat 7 Mar, Aston Hall. Birmingham

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK CELEBRATION: MEET THE OCTONAUTS! Kids' TV favourites Captain Barnacles and Kwazii pay a visit, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Mar,

ULTIMATE DUBS 2020 Bringing together the Ultimate VW, Audi, Seat & Skoda show cars from all over Europe, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Mar, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

Thinktank Science Museum, B'ham

WEDDING FAYRE Meet suppliers, book a viewing, pick up your goody bag and discuss your big day with the experts, Sun 8 Mar, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove



# **MAY 12**

BIRMINGHAM Arena Birmingham











# thelist

# Monday 9 - Sunday 15 March

# Gigs

DECLAN J DONOVAN Mon 9 Mar, Hare & Hounds. Birmingham

**K0FI STONE** Mon 9 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

EMPLOYED TO SERVE Mon 9 Mar, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

GAFFA TAPE SANDY + BEACH RIOT Tues 10 Mar, Dead Wax, B'ham

ELIZA SHADDAD + SPE-CIAL GUESTS Tues 10 Mar, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

**TURNOVER** Wed 11 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**CLANNAD** Wed 11 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DAVE HASLAM: THE HAÇIENDA, MANCH-ESTER & COURTNEY LOVE Wed 11 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE LOST NOTES PLUS R JOHN WEBB Wed 11 Mar, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

GETRZ + GEN AND THE GENERATIONS + SPIT + SEDATED SOCIETY Wed 11 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

PHIL X & THE DRILLS Thurs 12 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DAVID KEENAN + SPE-CIAL GUESTS Thurs 12 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LAURA OAKES + JEN NORTH Thurs 12 Mar, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

JAX JONES Thurs 12 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

YORKSTON THORNE KHAN Thurs 12 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

THE INFLUENCE PRO-JECT PRESENTS: NEIGH-BOURHD #32 Thurs 12 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre. Birmingham

TURNSTILE, GAG, ONE STEP CLOSER & GLIT-TERER Thurs 12 Mar, The Mill, Digbeth

SWAMPMEAT FAMILY BAND SXSW FUNDRAISER Thurs 12 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KISSTORY PRESENTS THE BLAST OFF! TOUR Thurs 12 Mar, Resorts World Arena. B'ham

MARTIN TURNER Thurs 12 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**GHETTS** Fri 13 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**SHAWN JAMES** Fri 13 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, Birmingham

TRIGGER MCPOOPSHUTE + SYSTEM RESET & LEECH BLEEDERS Fri 13 Mar. Route 44. B'ham

**THE BLINDBOY PODCAST**- **LIVE** Fri 13 Mar, O2
Academy, Birmingham

**TORI KELLY** Fri 13 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

**FORMAT: SUGAR FREE** Fri 13 Mar, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

MOTORHEADACHE - THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO MOTORHEAD AND LEMMY Fri 13 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE M00D** Fri 13 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

**GRAND MAGUS** Fri 13 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

**PENGSHUI** Fri 13 Mar, The Asylum, B'ham

REEL NOTE CEILI BAND Fri 13 Mar, The Blue Piano, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM - ABDUC-TION, ANTRE & SUFFER-ING Fri 13 Mar, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**CRAIG CHARLES (DJ SET)** Fri 13 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ROCKET Fri 13 Mar -Sat 14 Mar, The Jam House, Birmingham STIFF LITTLE FINGERS Sat 14 Mar, O2

Academy, Birmingham LICE Sat 14 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, B'ham

AMONG THE ECHOES, NAKED LUNCH, KOBURG & SYNTH Sat 14 Mar, The Actress & Bishop,

Birmingham

LONDON CALLING: SAN-DINISTA 40TH ANNIVER-SARY Sat 14 Mar, Hare & Hounds. B'ham

ALY BAIN & PHIL CUN-NINGHAM Sat 14 Mar, Wade Street Church Hall, Lichfield

**THE SOUTHMARTINS** Sat 14 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ALESSI'S ARK + MICHAEL KING (BOAT TO ROW) Sat 14 Mar, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

BUGEYE + SPECIAL GUESTS Sat 14 Mar, St James' Wine Vaults, Birmingham

**POPPY** Sat 14 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

UPROAR: THE LASER SPECTACULAR 2 Sat 14 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JAHMÉNE Sat 14 Mar, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

METAL TO THE MASSES -HEAT 3 Sat 14 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

JAMIE CULLUM Sun 15 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Sun 15 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

RISING MERCH FACES OF DEATH Sun 15 Mar, Mama Roux's, B'ham



Jax Jones - O2 Institute, Birmingham

# Classical & Easy Listening

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Mathias, Vaughan-Williams, W.T. Best & Stanford, Mon 9 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

SWIFT TRIO Featuring Eleanor Tomlinson, Helen Herbert & Kate Allsop (recorders). Programme includes works by Maarten Benschop, Christopher Tye, Fang Fang, Telemann & Nachum Heymn arr. Michael Wolpe, Mon 9 Mar, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

PRE-CBSO CONCERT SHOWCASE Featuring Olga Eckert & Malfalda Galante (violins), Maria João Antunes (viola), Griffith Wadkin (cello) & Beth Haughan (piano). Programme comprises Dvorak's Piano Quintet in A, Tues 10 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBS0: BARTOK & BRUCKNER Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) & Piotr Anderszewski (piano), Tues 10 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**LUNCHTIME MUSIC** Featuring Phoebe Cheng (double bass) & Robert Markham (piano). Programme includes works by Bottesini & Franck, Tues 10 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Yannick Mayaud (conductor) & Ka Pek Ho (double bass). Programme includes works by Eshpai, Martin & Bottesini, Tues 10 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

PRIMROSE PIANO QUARTET Featuring Susanne Stanzeleit (violin), Dorothea Vogel (viola), Andrew Fuller (cello) & John Thwaites (piano), Tues 11 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

JESS GILLAM SAXOPHONE RECITAL

Also featuring Zeynep Özsuca (piano). Programme includes works by Graham Fitkin, John Harle and Gavina Bryars, Thurs 12 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

JOEL SACHS PIANO CONCERT Programme comprises Ives' Piano Sonata No.1, Fri 13 Mar, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY SINGERS AND UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CHOIR Fri 13 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: CARMINA BURANA Featuring Adrian Lucas (conductor), Ailish Tynan (soprano), Oliver Johnston (tenor), William Dazeley (baritone), City of Birmingham Choir & Winchester College Quiristers Children's chorus, Sat 14 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham

SELLY PARK SINGERS IN CONCERT: SPRING COLLECTION Featuring Paul Carr (conductor) & Dick Price (piano). Programme comprises Handel's The King Shall Rejoice, HWV 260, Sat 14 Mar, Selly Oak Methodist Church, Birmingham

UNIVERSITY CAMERATA Programme to include works by Gabrieli, Arvo Pärt, Poulenc, Parry, Joubert, Luke Byrne & Lisa Young, Sat 14 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

# Comedy

IVO GRAHAM Tues 10 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**SIMON EVANS** Wed 11 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH** Wed 11 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

GARRETT MILLERICK Thurs 12 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBIN-SON & COMIC TBC Thurs 12 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**STEWART LEE** Thurs 12 - Fri 13 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**RACHEL FAIRBURN** Fri 13 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham



DANNY MCLOUGHLIN, PHIL JERROD, ANGELOS EPITHEMIOU & COMIC TBC Fri 13 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEVE N ALLEN, ADAM MORRISON & PIERRE HOLLINS Fri 13 Mar, Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton

GEOFF BOYZ, STEVE HALL, AARON SIM-MONS & DAVE LONGLEY Sat 14 Mar, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JESSICA FOSTEKEW Sun 15 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

### **Theatre**

SEEDS The story of two mothers united in sorrow and sharing the hardship of protecting their sons one in life, one in death, Mon 9 - Tues 10 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AUGMENTED Sophie Woolley's brand new play is a personal story about the joy and conflict of being able to hear again after years of total deafness, Mon 9 - Wed 11 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

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# thelist

### Monday 9 - Sunday 15 March

THE CAT & THE CANARY Britt Ekland. Mark Jordon, Tracey Shaw, Marti Webb, Gary Webster, Ben Nealon & Eric Carter star in a new version of the popular murder-mystery, Mon 9 -Sat 14 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW Production giving voice to young people's concerns about the climate, Mon 9 -Sat 14 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coven-

LOUDER IS NOT ALWAYS CLEARER Humorous and moving story about one man's attempt to cope, fit in and be accepted, Tues 10 - Wed 11 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

MOVING BODIES One-man show combining storytelling with old wartime songs and an original soundscape to tell a darkly comic, heart-wrenching story, Tues 10 - Wed 11 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**ANNIE THE MUSICAL** Amateur staging presented by Knowle Musical Society, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

POET IN DA CORNER Coming-of-age story inspired by Dizzee Rascal's seminal album, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Mar, The REP Birmingham

ONCE Hit musical described as 'a ravishing love story with a bittersweet difference', Tues 10 - Sat 14 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SIX Acclaimed new musical in which the six wives of Henry VIII tell their stories... Tues 10 - Sat 14 Mar. Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**ENTER STAGE WRITE** Transition Stage Company celebrate new writing, Wed 11 Mar, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Egos, childish resentment and unspoken feelings rise to the surface in Jeremy Sams' comedy, Wed 11 - Sat 14 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

TRELAWNY OF THE WELLS Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Theatre Company present Arthur Wing Pinero's celebrated comedy, Wed 11 - Sat 14 Mar, The Old Rep, Birmingham

TOM N ROB: BREAK FREE A 'captivating' duet of comedic dance theatre and choice songs... Thurs 12 Mar, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

FORGET ME NOT - THE ALZHEIMER'S WHODUNNIT Rob Gee's acclaimed one-man show exploring how we perceive people with dementia, Thurs 12 Mar, Thimblemill Library, Smethwick

**BEST OF BE FESTIVAL** Companies from Belgium, Switzerland and Hungary showcase snapshots of storytelling, dance and physical theatre in three 30-minute shows, Thurs 12 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY Qweerdog The**atre's debut play explores the relationship between two brothers and their friend, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 Mar,

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MY NIGHT WITH REG Kevin Elyot's award-winning exploration of friendship, happiness and love in the shadow of the 1980s' AIDS crisis, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 Mar. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**CLIVE ANDERSON: ME, MACBETH & I** One-man show promising to be 'funnier than Shakespeare's greatest tragedy', Fri 13 Mar, Artrix, Bromsarove

IDOL - JAMAL GERALD A 'daring and unapologetic' examination of religion, pop culture and Black representation, Fri 13 - Sat 14 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**CONFESSIONS OF A COCKNEY TEMPLE DANCER** Shane Shambhu reimagines ideas of race, language and culture, Sat 14 Mar, Thimblemill Library, Smethwick

**LARGER THAN LIFE** Featuring songs from well-known West End and Broadway shows, Sat 14 Mar, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

JAMBOREE Oily Cart present a vibrant piece of gig-theatre made for and with teenagers who have profound and multiple disabilities. Sat 14 Mar. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE MARISHA WALLACE TOUR An evening with one of West End and Broadway's most highly acclaimed leading ladies, Sat 14 Mar, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

TUESDAY Alison Carr's story of an ordinary Tuesday that turns very strange when a tear rips the sky over a schoolvard. Sat 14 Mar. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AN EVENING WITH FRANKIE BRIDGE: OPEN Join the ex-member of The Saturdays as she talks about her battle with mental illness... Mon 9 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

#### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

ALL IS LOST (15) Action/Adventure. Starring Robert Redford. With live soundtrack. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 11 Mar

**ROLLING STONE: LIFE AND DEATH OF** BRIAN JONES (15) Documentary. Starring Keith Altham, Phill Brown. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 12

MISBEHAVIOUR (12a) Drama/History. Starring Jessie Buckley, Keira Knightley. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 13 Mar

AND THEN WE DANCED (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Levan Gelbakhiani, Bachi Valishvili. Electric Cinema,



Idol: Jamal Gerald - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Birmingham, from Fri 13 Mar

AND THEN WE DANCED (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Levan Gelbakhiani, Bachi Valishvili. Foreign language, subtitled, Flectric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 13 Mar

THE TRUTH (15) Drama. Starring Catherine Deneuve, Juliette Binoche. Foreign language, subtitled. Malvern Theatres, Fri 13 Mar; Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 13 Mar

LITTLE WOMEN (U) Drama. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Meryl Streep. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 13, Sun 15 - Thurs 19 Mar

THE PARAPOD MOVIE (15) Comedy. Starring Ian Boldsworth, Barry Dodds. Followed by a live onstage Q&A with Ian Boldsworth and Barry Dodds. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 14 Mar

### **IMMOBILIA CRIME STORY (15)**

Drama/Thriller. Starring Tarek Abdel Aziz, Hani Adel. Followed by a Q&A with director Khaled El Hagar. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat

**BILL & TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (U)** Comedy. Starring Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 14 Mar

#### THE ELEPHANT MAN (PG)

Biography/Drama. Starring Anthony Hopkins, John Hurt. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 15, Mon 16 & Thurs 19 Mar

### **Events**

ADULT NIGHT Use the facilities of Legoland and enjoy some creative play sessions, Wed 11 Mar, Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham

**GUIDED TOUR: HERITAGE AND HISTORY** OF THE BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GAR-DENS Learn more about how the Gardens were designed, the history of the Victorian glasshouses and how the visitor attraction has evolved over

time, Wed 11 Mar, Birmingham

**Botanical Gardens** 

THE BIG BANG FAIR 2020 Featuring theatre shows, interactive workshops & exhibits, and careers information from STEM professionals, Wed 11 Sat 14 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

YONEX ALL ENGLAND OPEN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020 Showcasing the best of badminton, the championship returns for the 110th time, Wed 11 Sun 15 Mar, Arena Birmingham

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM'S ARTS & SCIENCE FESTIVAL Week-long celebration of research, culture and collaboration, Wed 11 - Tues 17 Mar, The University of Birmingham

THE NATIONAL FRANCHISE EXHIBITION Entrepreneurs can explore franchise brands across a range of sectors, including fitness, food & drink, care, education and property. Fri 13 - Sat 14 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

**LEGO WEEKEND WORKSHOP** Take part in a range of Lego-themed activities, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Mar, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

THE PHOTOGRAPHY & THE VIDEO SHOW Try out the latest kit and listen to talks by legendary photographers and filmmakers, Sat 14 - Tues 17 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

TROLL-TASTIC ADVENTURE Whether you're a pop diva or a rock god, prepare for the Discovery Centre's Trolltastic Adventure, Sat 14 Mar - Sun 10 May, Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham

# thelist

# Gigs

**LOUISE REDKNAPP** Mon 16 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BAD//DREEMS+ SPE-CIAL GUESTS Mon 16 Mar, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

JON WILKS: MIDLIFE Mon 16 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre. B'ham

**PALACE** Tues 17 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

JIM MORAY Tues 17 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire



HAK BAKER Tues 17 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ANDY SHAUF / MOLLY SARLÉ Tues 17 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SQUID** Tues 17 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

ARGLE BARGLE Tues 17 Mar, The Jam House, Birmingham

**AFTER THE BURIAL** Tues 17 Mar, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

THE REGRETTES Wed 18 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE LAST INTERNA-TIONALE / THE HOT SOLES Wed 18 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS Wed 18 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

NF - THE SEARCH TOUR Wed 18 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH ROMEO (MAGIC NUM-BERS) Wed 18 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

STRAWBS DAVID COUSINS- STORIES AND SONGS PLUS PAUL HANDYSIDE Wed 18 Mar, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

**KIDA KUDZ** Wed 18 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

**ACOUSTIC CAFÉ** Wed 18 Mar, The Blue Piano, Birmingham

**LUCAS D & THE GROOVE GHETTO** Wed 18 Mar,
The Jam House, Birmingham

HOME FREE - DIVE BAR SAINTS WORLD TOUR Thurs 19 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**KORPIKLAANI** Thurs 19 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

HI-REZ & EMILIO ROJAS Thurs 19 Mar, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**THE CAT EMPIRE** Thurs 19 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS Thurs 19 Mar, The Jam House, Birmingham

**TWINNIE** Thurs 19 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**DUST & DUKES** Thurs 19 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MERRILL OSMOND Thurs 19 Mar, Pizza Express Live, B'ham

THE HYPNOTICS / BLACK BOMBERS Thurs 19 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CIGARETTE SOCIAL CLUB
Thurs 19 Mar, Hare &

Hounds, Birmingham
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO

WITH IT Thurs 19 Mar, Arena Birmingham QUILL Thurs 19 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

HIGHLY SUSPECT Thurs 19 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. THE LAST ROGUES Fri 20 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

YGODEH/THE MEDEA PROJECT/DIE-EGO CO-HEADLINE TOUR Fri 20 Mar, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

FLOWVERS + THE CROOKS + BOATS ON THE OCEAN Fri 20 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**BEKI BRINDLE BAND** Fri 20 Mar, The Blue Piano, Edgbaston,

**LEDDRA CHAPMAN** Fri 20 Mar, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

Birmingham

24HR GARAGE GIRLS FT SHOSH & HIGGO Fri 20 Mar, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

**HOLY YOUTH MOVEMENT**Fri 20 Mar, Dead Wax,
Birmingham

BOILER ROOM PRES, BASS & PERCS: BIRM-INGHAM Fri 20 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THIS FEELING Fri 20 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**HOLY YOUTH MOVEMENT** Fri 20 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**IONA LANE** Fri 20 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

WITCH TRIPPER PLUS SUPPORT Fri 20 Mar, Route 44, Birmingham

**URBAN INTRO** Fri 20 Mar - Sat 21 Mar, The Jam House, B'ham

**SKULL FOX** Sat 21 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

**LEE SCRATCH PERRY** Sat 21 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

VULA VIEL 'WHAT'S NOT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT' Sat 21 Mar, Pizza Express Live. B'ham

THE DARK SIDE OF PINK FLOYD Sat 21 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

POUT! Sat 21 Mar, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**ELECTRIC CAKE SALAD**+ **AUTUMN AVENUE** Sat
21 Mar, Dead Wax,
Birmingham

YELAWOLF Sat 21 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE NU + LA DHARMA +MYRIAM ADAMS + SUNDILE Sat 21 Mar, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**DANNY WORSNOP** Sat 21 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

**REWS** Sat 21 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**GRACE CARTER** Sun 22 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**NORDIC GIANTS** Sun 22 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHREYA GHOSHAL LIVE 2020 Sun 22 Mar, Arena Birmingham

**REAL LIES** Sun 22 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

# Classical & Easy Listening

A ROMANIAN PILGRIM'S PROGRESS CANTATA The Evangelic Choir & Orchestra are joined by Emanuel University Chamber Choir from Romania to bring to life one of the most significant works from English literature. Elisei Stefanescu conducts, Mon 16 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

FRANÇAIX WIND TRIO Featuring William Hammond (clarinet), Jacob Perkins (oboe) & Dominic O'Sullivan (bassoon). Programme includes works by Françaix, Arrieu & Azvedo, Mon 16 Mar, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME Featuring Kaethe Uken (clarinet), Karel Vrbik (violin), Flora McNicholl (cello) & Dobromir Tsenov (piano). Programme comprises Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, Tues 17 Mar, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

QUATUOR BOZZINI Featuring Clemens Merkel & Allisa Cheung (violins), Isabelle Bozzini (cello) & Stéphanie Bozzini (viola). Programme includes works by Cassandra Miller, Michael Zev Gordon & Shostakovich, Wed 18 Mar, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

CHACONNE: REIMAGINED Featuring Shi Ling Chin (violin), Wed 18 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

OPERA NORTH: ARYA SITAR CONCERTO
A unique evening of Sitar, orchestral
& choral music, Thurs 19 Mar, CBSO
Centre, Birmingham

FOSTER & ALLEN Thurs 19 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

LINAROL CONSORT Programme comprises Nouvelle Musique - innovative music for viols from the court of Philip the Fair, Fri 20 Mar, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

FITZWILLIAM STRING QUARTET Featuring Lucy Russell & Andrew Roberts (violins), Alan George (viola) & Sally Pendelbury (cello). Programme includes works by Wolf, Shostakovich & Beethoven, Fri 20 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHES-TRA: ELEKTRA Featuring Kirill Karabits (conductor) & Catherine Foster (Elektra), Sat 21 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WALSALL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: MAGIC OF THE MOVIES Sat 21 Mar, St Barnabas Chuch Centre, Erdington, Birmingham

BCMG: NEXT IMAGINARY PLACES FAM-ILY CONCERT Featuring Fraser Trainer (conductor). Programme includes Fabio Vacchi's Luoghi immaginari, Imaginary Places, Sat 21 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERTO PRIZE Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor). Programme includes works by Rachmaninov, Shostakovich & Krommer, Sun 22 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM MUSIC SOCIETY: VERDI'S MESSA DA REQUIEM Featuring Philharmonic Orchestra and University Chorus, Daniele Rosina (conductor), Julian Wilkins (chorus master) and Gweneth Ann Rand (soprano), Sun 22 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

# Comedy

TEO, VIO & COSTEL Mon 16 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**GARY DELANEY** Wed 18 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**LLOYD GRIFFITH** Wed 18 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MIKE BUBBINS, KEITH FARNAN & COM-EDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 19 Mar, The Glee Club, B'ham

**ALFIE BROWN** Fri 20 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**NJAMBI MCGRATH** Fri 20 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**ROB AUTON** Fri 20 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

MIKE BUBBINS, KEITH FARNAN, JOSH BAULF & COMIC TBC Fri 20 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHRISTIAN REILLY, PETER BUSH, STE-FANO PAOLINI & PETE OTWAY Sat 21 Mar, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

**BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT** Sat 21 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MIKE BUBBINS, KEITH FARNAN & COMICS TBC Sat 21 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ROUGH WORKS** Sun 22 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**FAMILY COMEDY SHOW** Sun 22 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHAZIA MIRZA, MAUREEN YOUNGER & ANNETTE FAGON Sun 22 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ADAM KAY** Sun 22 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOMMY SANDHU, EMILY LLOYD SAINI, SLIM & OMAR HAMDI Sun 22 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

### **Theatre**

MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD A moving and funny exploration of the lives of four generations of women in one family, Mon 16 - Wed 18 Mar, Birmingham Repertory Theatre

### Monday 16 - Sun 22 March

#### **EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE**

Layton Williams, Shobna Gulati & Shane Richie star in this 'funny, fabulous and feelgood' musical sensation, Mon 16 - Sat 21 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE MARISHA WALLACE TOUR An evening with one of West End and Broadway's most highly acclaimed leading ladies, Tues 17 Mar, Lichfield Carrick

**WANTED** Gazebo Theatre explores the stories of five ordinary yet extraordinary women who share a passion for standing up for what they feel is right, Tues 17 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE TWISTED TALE OF HANSEL & GRETEL Imaginative version of the Brothers Grimm classic, Tues 17 - Thurs 19 Mar, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**ON YOUR FEET!** Smash-hit musical inspired by the true love story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan... Tues 17 - Sat 21 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**BLOOD BROTHERS** Lyn Paul stars as Mrs Johnstone in Willy Russell's iconic play, Tues 17 - Sat 21 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE WHITE PLAGUE Interactive experience set in a city in which an epidemic has left people with every sense but their sight, Tues 17 - Sat 21 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BORN BAD Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Theatre Company presents Debbie Tucker Green's Olivier Award-winning tale... Wed 18 - Sat 21 Mar, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

NOSFERATU Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Theatre Company presents a new staging of FW Murnau's 1922 silent film, Wed 18 - Sat 21 Mar, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THE LAST QUIZ NIGHT ON EARTH New comedy from Box Of Tricks theatre company, Thurs 19 Mar, Thimblemill Library, Smethwick



MURDER WITH GHOSTS A play which sends up, and adds a new ghostly twist to, the popular Agatha Christiestyle stage whodunnit, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 Mar, The Dovehouse Theatre Company. Solihull

MAN ON THE MOON - KEISHA THOMPSON A journey through space and time, fuelled by love, fear and Afro-futurism, Fri 20 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

THE WHITE WITCH Immersive staging which takes audiences on 'a magical and musical journey through a world

of darkness into the light'... Fri 20 -Sat 21 Mar, King Edward's Hall, Birmingham

**TARTUFFE** Brummie comedy of faith, family & #fakingit, Fri 20 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, The REP, Birmigham

A BUNCH OF AMATEURS The Crescent Theatre Company presents its version of Nick Newman & Ian Hislop's 'engaging' comedy, Sat 21 - Sat 28 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

BESIDE THE SEA Planet Dance present a dance & musical theatre show for all the family, Sun 22 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

### **Kids Shows**

**Z0G** Smash-hit stage version of Julia Donaldson's much-loved book, Wed 18 - Thurs 19 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

### **Dance**

BOTIS SEVA: BLKDOG Genre-defying blend of hip-hop dance and free-form antics, Thurs 19 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

### **Talks**

ALEXIS CHABALA AND LORAYNE CRAW-FORD: ARTIST CURATOR TALK AND TOUR Join Alexis & Lorayne as they share their experiences of working with some of music's most influential artists, Wed 18 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

# Film

# INDEPENDENT LISTINGS: PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE (15)

Drama. Starring Noémie Merlant, Adèle Haenel. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 20 - Sun 22 & Tues 24 -Thurs 26 Mar

GREED (15) Drama. Starring Steve Coogan, Isla Fisher. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 20, Sun 22 -Tues 24 Mar; Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 21 - Tues 24 Mar

**OUTSIDE THE CITY (PG)** Documentary. Directed by Nick Hamer. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 22 Mar

ROCKETMAN (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Taron Egerton, Jamie Bell. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 22 Mar

ICE COLD IN ALEX (PG) Drama/War. Starring John Mills, Anthony Quayle. Highbury Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 22 Mar

THE ELEPHANT MAN (PG)
Biography/Drama. Starring Anthony



### On Your Feet

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 17 - Sat 21 March

Feel the rhythm of the music getting stronger as hit show On Your Feet! congas into the Midlands this month.

Visiting the region on the back of major successes in the West End and on Broadway, the production charts the journey of Emilio and Gloria Estefan from Cuba to Miami - and from anonymity to international superstardom.

Iconic numbers featured in the show include Rhythm Is Gonna Get You, Conga, Get On Your Feet, Don't Want To Lose You Now and 1-2-3.'.

Hopkins, John Hurt. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 22 Mar

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 20 March, showing at selected cinemas

A QUIET PLACE PART II (tbc) FIRE WILL COME (tbc) RADIOACTIVE (12a) THE TRUTH (PG)

### **Events**

CURATOR'S CHOICE: DRESSED TO THE NINES Join Dr Rebecca Unsworth, Research Assistant (Decorative Art) and curator of the Dressed To The Nines exhibition, for an informal gallery talk, Wed 18 Mar, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

MINI MUSEUM ENGINEERS | TRAVELLING THE WORLD How would you travel the world - by ship, on a bicycle or in a car? Play with maps and transport, Wed 18 Mar, Coventry Transport Museum

SEWING FOR PLEASURE INCLUDING FASHION & EMBROIDERY Featuring all the latest supplies and ideas, including fabrics, yarns, patterns and threads, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW Whatever your passion, be it knitting, cross

stitch, paper crafting, jewellery, dressmaking, felting or new craft trends, there's sure to be something to your liking, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2020 New collection of short films, Sat 21 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

MINIATURA - THE DOLLS HOUSE SHOW Specialist modelling show dedicated to model houses and all that goes in them, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

MCM COMIC CON Whether you're a fan of comic books, cosplay, video games, anime, movies or books, MCM Birmingham 'has it all', Sat 21 -Sun 22 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR View and purchase antiques and collectables from a wide variety of stallholders, Sun 22 Mar, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**TEA WITH A TWIST** Open to anyone aged 65-plus, and featuring live entertainment and a cuppa, Sun 22 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

VINTAGE AND VINYL FAIR Featuring a large selection of records, vintage accessories, clothing and homewares, Sun 22 Mar, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

COVENTRY FESTIVAL OF RUNNING The Coventry Half Marathon returns as part of a week-long festival of running, Sun 22 Mar - Sun 5 Apr, Coventry City Centre



YONEX 2020 All England Open Badminton Championships



**WITNESS** LEGENDS LIEM SWIEKING BEGIN

11 - 15 MARCH ARENA BIRMINGHAM



















# thelist

# Monday 23 - Tuesday 31 March

# **Gigs**

FRIENDSHIP Mon 23 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, Birmingham

BRASS AGAINST Mon 23 Mar, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

HUMANIST + SPECIAL GUESTS Mon 23 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

I PREVAIL Tues 24 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

**DIGDAT** Tues 24 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

GRAHAM GOULDMAN -HEART FULL OF SONGS Tues 24 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solibull

PICTISH TRAIL Tues 24 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NIMMO Tues 24 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CIGARETTES AFTER SEX Wed 25 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JIM BUCKLEY Wed 25 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**HAGGARD CAT** Wed 25 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth. Birmingham

**COLIN THACKERY** Wed 25 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

KERR FAGAN PLUS JOHN HOARE Wed 25 Mar, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

SAMBROSO ALLSTARS PERFORM THE BUENA VISTA Wed 25 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RAT BOY Thurs 26 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

**DANKO JONES** Thurs 26 Mar, The Asylum,

Birmingham

**WILL DOWNING** Thurs 26 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SUBWAYS - YOUNG FOR ETERNITY Thurs 26 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**SLOTFACE** Thurs 26 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FALSE HEADS + SPE-CIAL GUESTS Thurs 26 Mar, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

MR SAM & THE DED-NUTZ Thurs 26 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DARCY OAKE Fri 27 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

**RETRO VIDEO CLUB** Fri 27 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, Birmingham

LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE Fri 27 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**THE ALARM** Fri 27 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

**BLOSSOMS** Fri 27 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

**SMOKIN' ADE WAKELIN BAND** Fri 27 Mar, The
Blue Piano, Edgbaston, Birmingham

JOHN FISHER AND IDMC GOSPEL SOUL CHOIR, GOSPEL MUSIC TAKEOVER Fri 27 Mar, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

**LIGHTNING SEEDS** Fri 27 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

APOLLO SOUL Fri 27 Mar - Sat 28 Mar, The Jam House, B'ham

THE SLOW READERS CLUB Sat 28 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**SATINDER SARTAAJ** Sat 28 Mar, Symphony

Hall, Birmingham

A LOVE FROM OUTER SPACE Sat 28 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MARTHAGUNN Sat 28 Mar, Deadwax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**KOJEY RADICAL** Sat 28 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**DAVID GRAY** Sat 28 Mar, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

KEITH SWEAT AND MON-TELL JORDAN Sun 29 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

POWERHOUSE GOSPEL CHOIR PRESENTS SOUL SPIRIT Sun 29 Mar, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

**GREENTEA PENG** Sun 29 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

M HUNCHO Mon 30 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MAGNUM Mon 30 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

GZA - 25TH ANNIVER-SARY OF LIQUID SWORDS Mon 30 Mar, O2 Institute. B'ham

WILLIAM DUVALL (OF ALICE IN CHAINS) Tues 31 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BARENAKED LADIES Tues 31 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PEGGY SUE PLUS SUP-PORT Tues 31 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**GOLDFRAPP** Tues 31 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**NEON WALTZ** Tues 31 Mar, Deadwax, B'ham

# Classical & Easy Listening

SIMON HÖFELE TRUMPET RECITAL Programme includes a new commission from Miroslav Srnka, Mon 23 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THOMAS TROTTER ORGAN RECITAL Also featuring Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir & Paul Spicer (conductor). Programme includes works by Howells, Elgar & Zoltan Kodály, Mon 23 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PAN YICHENG PIANO CONCERT Programme includes works by Rachmaninoff, Mon 23 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

LUNCHTIME MUSIC WITH KAPOOR-LEUNG DUO Programme includes works by Beethoven, Beach & Saint-Saëns, Tues 24 Mar, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CASTALIAN QUARTET Programme includes works by Schumann & Beethoven, Wed 25 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE AVEX ENSEMBLE: BLADE RUNNER
Thurs 26 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham

RBC CHAMBER CHOIR Featuring Paul Spicer (director) & William Peart (organ). Programme includes works by Joubert, Howells, Patrick Gowers, Elgar & Kodaly, Thurs 26 Mar, St Alban The Martyr, Highgate, B'ham

LINES, REDGRAVE, MCCARTHY TRIO Featuring Tim Lines (clarinet), Rose Redgrave (viola) & Eliza McCarthy (piano), Thurs 26 Mar, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: 100 YEARS OF MOVIE MAGIC Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), Tommy Pearson (presenter) & Jonathan Martindale (violin). Programme includes works by Newman, Bliss, Steiner, Barry, Shore, Bernstein, Coates, Zimmer & more... Fri 27 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ENGLISH STRING ORCHESTRA Featuring Zoë Beyers (violin) & Kenneth Woods (conductor). Programme includes works by Mozart, Weinberg, Doreen Carwithen (arr.Woods) & Tchaikovsky (arr.Woods), Fri 27 Mar, Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School, Bromsgrove

FINAL PROJECTS ORCHESTRA Featuring Daniel Rosina (conductor), Tom Gant (clarinet), Oliver Lin (piano), Charlotte Sleet (mezzo-soprano). Programme includes works by Nielsen, Ravel & Berio, Fri 27 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

JOSHUA HUGHES ORGAN RECITAL Programme comprises Bach's Trio II in C minor BWV 526, Fri 27 Mar, Organ Studio, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY** Featuring Caroline Modiba (soprano).

Programme comprises Rossini's Petite messe solennelle, Sat 28 Mar, Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: OTHER WORLDS Featuring Jack Lovell (conductor) & special guest mezzo-soprano. Programme includes works by Dvorak & Elgar, Sat 28 Mar, St Paul's Church, Birmingham

SINGALONG WITH CBSO: VERDI'S RE-QUIEM Featuring Simon Halsey (conductor), Sat 28 - Sun 29 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BCMG CHERRY BLOSSOM CONCERT Programme comprises an outdoor performance of John Cage's Ryoanji for flute, Sun 29 Mar, Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE & FRIENDS Mon 30 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# Comedy

ANDREW BIRD, JOHN MOLONEY & COM-EDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 26 Mar, The Glee Club, B'ham

**CATHERINE BOHART** Fri 27 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**STEPHEN BAILEY** Fri 27 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, JOHN MOLONEY, CHARLIE BAKER & COMIC TBC Fri 27 - Sat 28 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SCOTT BENNETT, JOSH PUGH, JENNY COL-LIER & DAVE LONGLEY Sat 28 Mar, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

STAND UP COMEDY SHOWCASE Sat 28 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

### **Theatre**

MADAME OVARY Based on a real-life blog of a twentysomething creative and her battle to stay alive when diagnosed with cancer, Tues 24 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY All & Sundry return to the nation's 'favourite village' to recreate three episodes of the popular TV series live on stage, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's story of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with fateful consequences, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

EX-BATTS AND BROILERS Light-hearted and moving story of female friendship and industrial meat farming... Wed 25 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BUCKETS & 100 A play with a unique perspective on a universal dilemma how do you deal with the fact that time always runs out? Wed 25 - Sat 28 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham



Barenaked Ladies - O2 Institute, Birmingham

# thelist

## Monday 23 - Tuesday 31 March

KINKY BOOTS An unlikely pair find that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible, Wed 25 - Sat 28 Mar, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**COVENTRY GANG SHOW** Wed 25 - Sat 28 Mar, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE HIGH TABLE Temi Wilkey's debut play - 'a heartbreaking family drama played out between the heavens and earth', Wed 25 Mar - Thurs 9 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

**BOTTOM** Story about bums, Beyoncé and burnt fish fingers, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

URINETOWN Amateur staging by Birmingham Ormiston Academy Year 13 Musical Theatre, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Mar, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THE MAN WHO LEFT IS NOT THE MAN WHO CAME HOME Kevin Dyer's new play exploring the impact of war on the wives and families of the armed forces, Fri 27 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

LORD OF THE FLIES The Young REP seniors present an amateur staging of William Golding's classic tale of isolation, power, identity and violence, Fri 27 Mar - Sat 28 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

PRESENT LAUGHTER Amateur staging of Noel Coward's comic play, Fri 27 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

FRIENDS! THE MUSICAL PARODY Goodhearted romp through favourite moments from the hit TV show, Sat 28 March, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE WINTER'S TALE A moving new production which imagines 'a world where the ghosts of fascist Europe collide with the horrors of The Handmaid's Tale, before washing up on a joyful seashore', Sat 28 Mar - Fri 2 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

SARTAAJ LIVE An evening with songwriter, singer, composer, poet and actor Satinder Sartaaj, Sun 29 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BARNUM Peterbrook Players present their production about Phineus T Barnum - 'the world's greatest showman', Mon 30 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE NAVY LARK A cast of three bring to life the classic days of radio comedy, Tues 31 Mar, The Old Rep, Birmingham

MIDDAY VARIETY: A BIG AFTERNOON OUT Featuring Bob Brolly, Jimmy Cricket and singers May Marion & Mark Andrews, Tues 31 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**LADYKILLER** Blood-soaked morality tale about victimhood... Tues 31 Mar - Thurs 2 Apr, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CURTAINS Jason Manford stars in a 'hilarious whodunnit packed full of catchy songs, unforgettable characters and plot twists', Tues 31 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Stage adaptation of one of the world's most chilling tales, Tues 31 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MURDER, MARGARET AND ME 'Humour, thrills, sleuthing and pathos' combine in a unique play for lovers of crime fiction, Tues 31 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

### **Dance**

GIOVANNI PERNICE: THIS IS ME New show paying homage to the music and dances that have inspired the Strictly star's career to date, Fri 27 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall



MARIPOSA Carlos Pons Guerra's reimagining of Puccini's seminal opera, Madame Butterfly, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Mar, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

**U.DANCE WM 2020** Evening of dance from some of the West Midlands' best young talents, Sun 29 Mar, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

AKAAR Evening of 'wonder & passion' from Midlands-based Sonia Sabri Company, Sun 29 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

## **Podcasts**

TABLE MANNERS WITH JESSIE WARE
Jessie and her chef extraordinaire
mum, Lennie, chat with a guest from
the world of music, culture and politics over a three-course meal, Sat 28

RICHARD HERRING'S LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE PODCAST "The Podfather'

Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

(The Guardian) brings his award-winning podcast to Birmingham, chatting with a surprise guest from the city, Sat 28 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

**DRUNK WOMEN SOLVING CRIME** Join Hannah George, Catie Wilkins and Taylor Glenn as they welcome guests to test out their drunk detective skills, Sat 28 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

STANDARD ISSUE Comedian Sarah Millican joins the Standard Issue team as they bring their regular gigcast to Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

THE TWO SHOT PODCAST Heart-breaking, hard-hitting and honest podcast about people's stories. Hosted by actor Craig Parkinson (Line Of Duty), Sun 29 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

FILMS TO BE BURIED WITH WITH BRETT GOLDSTEIN Join comedian, actor, writer and swimmer Brett Goldstein and an extra-special guest as they talk life & death by way of the movies, Sun 29 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

# FIIM INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE ELEPHANT MAN (PG)

Biography/Drama. Starring Anthony Hopkins, John Hurt. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 26 Mar

PORTRAIT OF JASON (15) Documentary/Biography. Starring Jason Holliday, Shirley Clarke. Midlands Arts Centre, Thurs 26 Mar

MONSOON (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Henry Golding, Parker Sawyers. Midlands Arts Centre. Fri 27 Mar

SYSTEM CRASHER (PG) Drama. Starring Helena Zengel, Albrecht Schuch. Foreign language, subtitled. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 27 Mar

THE WATERMELON WOMAN (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Cheryl Dunye, Guinevere Turner. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

**DIRTY DANCING (PG)** Drama/Music. Starring Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

QUEER JAPAN (tbc) Documentary. Followed by Q&A with director Graham Kolbeins. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

CON AIR (18) Action/Crime. Starring Nicolas Cage, John Cusack. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

MILITARY WIVES (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Jason Patric, Corey Haim. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 28 - Tues 31 Mar

HAPPY ENDINGS Starring Eliza Coupe, Elisha Cuthbert. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

FACE/OFF (18) Crime/Sci-Fi. Starring John Travolta, Nicolas Cage. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

END OF THE CENTURY (15) Drama. Starring Juan Barberini, Ramon Pujol. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

KLUTE (PG) Mystery/Thriller. Starring Helena Zengel, Albrecht Schuch. Foreign language, subtitled. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

### **Events**

GUIDED TOUR: HERITAGE AND HISTORY OF THE BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GAR-

**DENS** Learn more about how the Gardens were designed, the history of the Victorian glasshouses and how the visitor attraction has evolved over time, Wed 25 Mar, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDING & RENO-VATING SHOW Featuring practical tips, inspiring advice and the latest products for renovating your home, Thurs 26 - Sun 29 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

GEORGIAN TASTE TOUR Explore the 18th century through your tastebuds, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Mar, Soho House, Birmingham

PRACTICAL CLASSICS CLASSIC CAR & RESTORATION SHOW Kickstart your classic restoration, Fri 27 - Sun 29 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

**EXPLORING THE COSMOS** A day of lectures from local & national astrophysicists, Sat 28 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

GYMNASTICS WORLD CUP 2020 Top international gymnasts battle it out for a spot at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, Sat 28 Mar, Arena Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM VEGAN FESTIVAL Featuring hot food stalls, cooking demos, talks, a puppet show and a yoga class, Sat 28 Mar, Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham

EDWARDIAN TEAROOMS LATE: DRESSED TO THE NINES Enjoy dinner and live music in the Edwardian Tearooms, then view the Dressed To The Nines exhibition after hours, Sat 28 Mar, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

CELEBRATION TALK & TOUR: WOMEN'S WORK IN THE JEWELLERY QUARTER Special costumed guided tour and talk celebrating the women of the Jewellery Quarter, Sat 28 Mar, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, B'ham

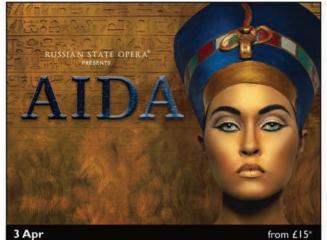
AUTISM EARLY BIRD Special early opening at Enginuity for families with children who would enjoy the museum at a quieter time, Sat 28 Mar, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

KWIK FIT BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAM-PIONSHIP Some of the finest racing drivers in the UK chase the biggest prize in British car racing, Sat 28 -Sun 29 Mar, Donington Park, Castle Donnington

JAWSOME SHARKS... AND FRIENDS Find the missing Top Trumps cards to become a Jawsome Ranger, Sat 28 Mar - Sun 10 May, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham



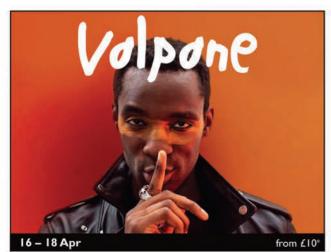


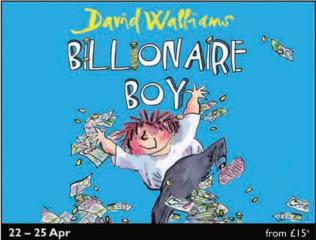














# 21-22 MARCH 2020 NEC BIRMINGHAM

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