

Birmingham

ISSUE 412 APRIL 2020

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# WHAT'S ON MEDIA GROUP COVID-19 STATEMENT

The last few days have seen unprecedented measures being taken by the government in a bid to curtail the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Theatres, music venues, arts centres, museums, libraries, restaurants etc have all closed their doors to the general public for the time being.

Different venues are projecting different time scales for the closures, with further announcements being made daily. Some have announced that they're hoping to re-open at the end of April. At the time of its publication, all information contained within our April issue was correct to the best of our knowledge.

For the foreseeable future, we will use our social media channels to update our readers on further announcements, rescheduled dates and news of any forthcoming shows or events.

This is an extremely difficult time for everyone, including those working in the arts and event management, many of whom are self-employed. We're all in this together, and once this is over we hope we can once again come together to support the fantastic arts & entertainment offer that we have here in the UK.

In the meantime, physical and mental wellbeing takes top priority - so stay safe, be kind and keep your distance.

*Best wishes from the What's On team x*

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## New date for popular home design show

The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show, which, along with vast numbers of other events, has been postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak, has been rescheduled for July.

Commenting on the news, Nick Noble, commercial & events director for the show's organisers, Future plc, said: "we plan to hold the event in four months' time when we believe the situation in the UK will be much clearer and we can continue to maximise the opportunities and investment made by all our exhibitors. We would like to thank everyone for their support at this time and will continue to update the market over the next few weeks."

## Sir Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker! back in Brum



Star choreographer Matthew Bourne is bringing hit ballet Nutcracker! to Birmingham Hippodrome next year. Making a welcome return nine years after it last toured, the show stops off in the second city from Tuesday 9 to Saturday 13 February. Influenced by the lavish Hollywood musicals of the 1930s, Nutcracker! follows Clara's bittersweet journey to the candy kingdom of Sweetieland and features Tchaikovsky's critically acclaimed score. To book tickets, visit [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

## Jewellery Quarter launches new initiative

People who have a connection to the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter's Key Hill and Warstone Lane cemeteries are being asked to share their personal recollections as part of a brand new initiative.

The Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project is gathering stories and images of the cemeteries online. People for whom the

locations have particular memories can share their recollections at a Saturday 25 April afternoon get-together in Warstone Lane Cemetery. To keep up to date with the #JQCemeteryMemories campaign, follow the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project on twitter and instagram @JQCemeteries.

## Moseley Folk Festival line-up revealed

Birmingham's Moseley Folk & Arts Festival has revealed its line-up for 2020, with The Waterboys, Passenger, Richard Hawley, The Wonder Stuff, The Staves, Jade Bird, Gruff Rhys and Stephen Duffy all featuring. The festival takes place in Moseley Park from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 September. For more information, the full line-up, and to purchase tickets, visit [moseleyfolk.co.uk](http://moseleyfolk.co.uk)



## Military Wives hit the road

Following the success of the recently released movie about them, the much-loved Military Wives Choirs have announced they will be performing together in an eight-date concert

series in the autumn, beginning at Birmingham Town Hall (1 October). Now with over 2,000 members, the Military Wives Choirs is a charity that aims to bring women in the military community closer together through the practice of 'singing, sharing and supporting'. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [myticket.co.uk](http://myticket.co.uk)

## Laugh out loud with Joe Lycett & Friends

A comedy show featuring Birmingham funnyman Joe Lycett is set to raise cash for the Lord Mayor of Birmingham's Charity, which supports non-profit organisations and charities across Birmingham.



An Evening With Joe Lycett & Friends - The Mosquito Wing Part II (The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sunday 17 May) is a follow-up to a charity event held last year, which began as a joke when Joe - who currently goes by the name Hugo Boss - asked the Lord Mayor, Councillor Yvonne Mosquito, to cut the ribbon at an official ceremony for the opening of his new kitchen extension. After publicly raffling tickets to attend the official ceremony, Joe raised thousands of pounds for the Lord Mayor's Charity.

Tickets for this year's event are priced at just £20 and can be purchased [atgtickets.com/Birmingham](http://atgtickets.com/Birmingham).



## Strictly champion in hit musical

Former Strictly Come Dancing champion Kevin Clifton is to star in Baz Luhrmann's smash-hit production of Strictly Ballroom The Musical when it visits Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday 10 to Saturday 15 May 2021. After seven years on the hit BBC TV series, Kevin recently announced his departure from the show and is now looking forward to treading the boards in Strictly Ballroom. "When I was 10 years old, I first watched the movie that would become my favourite film of all time," says Kevin. "This is my dream role. Plus I get to work with Craig Revel Horwood again!" For more information, visit [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)



## Festival of hope

With the environmental crises and climate change in mind, the University of Birmingham's Arts & Science Festival is this spring aiming to shed light on the role that conversation, creativity and community play with regard to inspiring hope. The line-up of events includes Beast Feast, a three-day get-together featuring music, meetings, and ideas which takes place in the university's Bramall Music Building from 30 April to 2 May.



## Sean Foley unveils new season at the Birmingham Rep

New Artistic Director Sean Foley has announced his first full season of shows at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Highlights include the UK premiere of hit Broadway musical comedy Something Rotten, to be directed by Foley himself, and a new adaptation of Patrick McCabe's Breakfast On Pluto, an uplifting coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of the Troubles.

Commenting on the new season, Sean said:

"The REP was the world's first purpose-built repertory theatre, and has an unrivalled pioneering history in the UK theatre industry. I can only hope to build on its amazing legacy of developing national and international artists, debuting extraordinary new shows, and delivering great nights out for the people of Birmingham and the world." To check out the full programme and book tickets, visit [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk)

## Happy Birthday to Sampad!

Birmingham's leading South Asian arts & culture organisation, Sampad, is this month launching a year-long programme of specially commissioned events, performances and arts partnerships to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Sampad has played a significant role in promoting art and artists of Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi heritage within the second city. To find out more about the forthcoming programme of events, visit [sampad.org.uk](http://sampad.org.uk)



## Sheridan Smith to star as Cilla Black

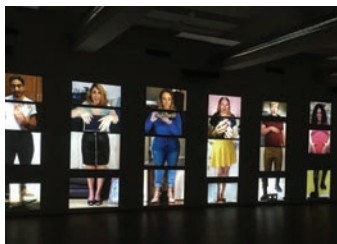
Bafta-winning TV star Sheridan Smith is to play the late Cilla Black when Cilla The Musical visits Birmingham's The Alexandra in the autumn.

The Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps favourite first played the much-loved singer in a 2014 television mini series. Cilla The Musical debuted in 2017 and comes complete with the singer's Swinging '60s hits, including Anyone Who Had A Heart, Alfie, Step Inside Love and Something Tells Me. The show stops off in Birmingham from Monday 2 to Saturday 7 November. Tickets can be purchased at [atgtickets.com](http://atgtickets.com)



## Get ready for Flatpack Festival

Birmingham's ever-popular Flatpack Festival returns for its 14th edition next month (Tuesday 5 - Sunday 10 May). Taking place in the heart of Birmingham's Digbeth creative quarter, the festival features a line-up of thought-provoking screenings and events. Highlights include an outdoor showing of hit Gene Kelly musical *Singin' In The Rain* - presented in the city's Centenary Square - and the two-day-long Colour Box, an event comprising a range of family-friendly activities, performances, interactive installations and film screenings. For more information, visit [flatpackfestival.org](http://flatpackfestival.org)



## Solihull Stink

A theatre company specialising in outdoor performances will present a version of David Walliams' *Mr Stink* at two Solihull locations this summer. Although perhaps best known for their Shakespeare adaptations, Heartbreak Productions present a wide range of shows. The family comedy will be performed in Brueton Park on 21 & 22 July, and then at Packwood House on 5 August.



[whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)



## Iconic show returns to the Hippodrome

Chichester Festival Theatre's Olivier Award-nominated production of *Singin' In The Rain* will be, er, storming into Birmingham Hippodrome next year (Tuesday 6 - Saturday 10 April 2021). The hit show has so far played to more than 750,000 people

and features classic songs including *Make 'em Laugh*, *Good Morning*, *Moses Supposes* and, of course, the iconic title track itself. For more information and to book tickets, visit [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

## Safari Park begins work on new lodges



West Midland Safari Park is upgrading its animal facilities and building on-site accommodation. Eight luxury Safari Lodges will be integrated into newly updated habitats for the venue's African elephants and cheetahs, providing guests with up-close & personal overnight wildlife experiences. Commenting on the project, the

Safari Park's Accommodation & Venues Director, Chris Kelly, said: "Conservation is at the forefront of our minds when designing and building the lodges, so as part of this project, our net biodiversity gain will increase by 30%, creating more habitats such as woodlands and wildflower meadows, encouraging native wildlife."

## New June date for Brum Comic Con

MCM Comic Con Birmingham has been rescheduled due to the coronavirus outbreak. The show will now take place at the NEC across the weekend of 27 & 28 June.

A spokesperson for the event said: "To all our fans, your tickets will be valid for the new MCM Comic Con Birmingham dates and no further action is needed on your part. More information on our guest line-up in June will be communicated as soon as we have it."



## Youth theatre group launched at The Alexandra

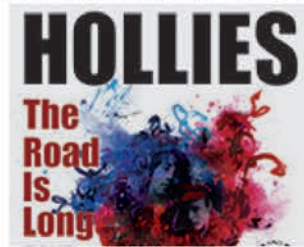
Birmingham theatre The Alexandra is set to launch its very own youth theatre for children and young people aged eight to 16 this month. Junior and senior sessions will run on Saturday mornings, led by an experienced theatre maker and drama practitioner. Each term will consist of a series of workshops and rehearsals themed around an upcoming visiting production. There will also be a short performance for family and friends at the end of every term.

Classes begin on Saturday 25 April, with spaces allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Anyone interested in joining or finding out further information should email [hollieblake@theambassadors.com](mailto:hollieblake@theambassadors.com)





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**SYMPHONY HALL**



**BLACK VOICES THE SHOW**  
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# A KILLER CALL





## A retro boardgame, horror movie and chick flick crossover, lighthearted musical parody Scream Phone is coming to Birmingham this month...

Scream Phone gives retro 'secret admirer' boardgame Dream Phone a killer twist and a sprinkling of comedy.

The musical spoof merges '80s and '90s teen chick flicks with horror movies to create a funny and dangerous journey through the music and stereotypes of those two decades.

The critically acclaimed production is the brainchild of Natasha Granger and Kerrie Thomason, the co-founders of Swipe Right Theatre, the company producing the show.

"Scream Phone is based on this very bizarre boardgame called Dream Phone, which Kerrie and I both had as kids," explains Natasha. "It's basically Cluedo but with a big pink phone, and instead of working out who the murderer is, you work out who your secret crush is! It's definitely a very gendered game. Some of the voices that come through the phone to tell you about your crush are really quite creepy. We thought about how that would make a good horror film, if you mixed it with plots such as *Scream*. So we've mixed the boardgame with a horror world and it's a really silly, fun outcome. Scream Phone is essentially a parody crossover of '80s and '90s horror and teen films. It's definitely a comedy, but it's a musical as well. We've got some really great songs inspired by classic '80s ballads and hits."

Characters in parodies often follow certain stereotypes, which is definitely the case here - at least to begin with...

"The characters we meet are definitely stereotypes, especially on the surface. They look and act just like the kind of girls you'd see in those teen movies. We definitely want to poke fun at and parody those stereotypes! We've got Melody, who's the bitchy cheerleader character and definitely the leader of the group. Then there's Stacey, who's very into her studies and definitely fits that stereotypically geeky character. Finally there's Janice, who's quite random and thinks she knows a lot about the world but everything just comes out wrong. There's a big twist at the end, too! Obviously I can't say what it is because I'd ruin the surprise, but all those stereotypes are flipped on their head and aren't quite as obvious as they seem at the

beginning."

"The first show that Kerrie and I wrote together was '90s pop musical *2 Become 1*. And now we've done Scream Phone! I think we really developed our comedy through writing *2 Become 1*. We started by trying to write this really nice musical, and then we realised that what we actually liked to do was comedy. Then, with Scream Phone, we were down in Brighton in my childhood room and we decided to play Dream Phone. There was definitely a bit of wine involved and we were finding the game really funny, plus we were already fans of '80s and '90s horror films, some of which are just hilarious. That's where the idea came from. When we write, we aim to make each other laugh, and then, if something does make us laugh, we find out if it works for an audience as well. We do a lot of previews to get feedback. We worked very closely with the director for Scream Phone, Tom Parry, in getting our structure right. Kerrie and I just bounce off each other, so writing seems like a very natural process."

Scream Phone premiered at London Vault Festival and has since been seen at the Edinburgh Fringe, where the production received rave reviews.

"We've been absolutely overwhelmed by how Scream Phone has done so far in terms of reviews and audience feedback. Our first show had amazing sales and feedback, so we were really worried that Scream Phone wouldn't live up to that. In Edinburgh and Brighton especially, we'd really built up a following for *2 Become 1*, so we didn't want to fall short of expectations. Luckily Scream Phone has gone down incredibly well, with people saying it's even better than *2 Become 1*. The show's received a lot of industry interest too, which has been amazing. We're thrilled!"

Since graduating from university, Natasha's primary role has been as a director and performer for children's theatre company Theatre Fideri Fidera - a stark contrast to Swipe Right Theatre.

"Kerrie and I also trained together, always doing a lot of comedy at university, so that was something I really loved doing. I got into children's theatre straight after uni - and

actually, surprisingly, the two have worked really well together in my career. Through doing the children's work, I've learned a lot about using improvisation - particularly responding to audiences shouting out or reacting to whatever's happening on stage, and in a way that really adds to the show. That definitely works well for the comedy element of Swipe Right Theatre too, especially because sometimes we do really late-night shows and people are having a laugh and have maybe had one too many. I've also been able to learn skills through doing children's theatre that I've then been able to bring across to our company. The same with writing, too. There are very different themes with Swipe Right on one hand and Theatre Fideri Fidera on the other, but it's all working well for me."

The future certainly looks bright for Swipe Right...

"We've got an idea for a new show that we've started to work on, but our main focus is getting this tour up and running because Kerrie and I also star in the show as Janice and Melody. We really want to make sure our tour of Scream Phone is of the same quality as we've presented elsewhere. Hopefully, in 2021 we'll be premiering something new, but we have a lot of interest in Scream Phone that could still give us some amazing opportunities. We've got a big London run and some interest in touring internationally too, so fingers crossed that all goes ahead."

Natasha is particularly excited to be bringing Scream Phone to Birmingham: "The Old Joint Stock has a reputation for programming really fun, different theatre, so I hope people are up for a laugh, a singalong and a dance-along! Scream Phone has also got that twist at the end and some really spooky elements too, so it's a fantastic night of entertainment. I think a pub-theatre like the Old Joint Stock is perfect for the rowdy, fun atmosphere that a parody generates."

**Scream Phone shows at The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, from Wednesday 22 to Saturday 25 April.**





## REVIEW: Pushkar High-quality cuisine at popular Broad Street Indian restaurant

Located in the vicinity of some of Broad Street's less elegant venues is award-winning fine-dining Indian eatery Pushkar. Taking its name from one of India's oldest cities, the critically acclaimed restaurant & cocktail bar is popular with Boris Johnson (make of that what you will!), Alfie Boe and the Indian cricket team.

Featuring tasteful and sophisticated decor, with a menu and ambience to match, Pushkar's kitchen is looked after by Executive Head Chef Chandra Singh. Chandra has worked with top TV chef Atul Kochhar in his Michelin-starred restaurant, Benares, and at London's award-winning fine dining restaurant, The Painted Heron. The talented chef has also held senior positions in several other top London restaurants, including

Bangalore Express, the Michelin-starred Tamarind and Cinnamon Kitchen.

On the occasion that we visited, and despite the developing situation regarding Covid-19, Pushkar was close to full. Supporting hospitality in the current climate, to whatever extent is possible, is an absolute must, so it was great to see so many happy and contented diners doing just that on a cold and wet Thursday evening.

As well as an extensive a la carte menu, Pushkar offers two five-course tasting menus - one meat/fish and one vegetarian - for £40.95 per person, with pairing wine flights at either £30 or £50 per person depending on whether you opt for 'captivating' or 'prestigious' wines. We opted for the meat/fish option and two pints of Kingfisher. I was feeling

slightly fragile from the night before, so the wine pairings weren't sounding too appealing to me, lovely though I'm sure they are!

We started off with a dahi puri chaat amuse bouche. Comprising nicely cooked, crispy and puffed puris filled with potatoes, boiled pulses and onion, and topped with yoghurt, a sweet chutney and pomegranate seeds, it was a pleasant way to kick off the evening's proceedings.

The next dish of crab meat balls with smokey mashed potato was probably my favourite of the night. Delicate in its presentation, the singular fried crab ball was bursting with intense Thai-inspired flavours. The smokey flavour from the perfectly seasoned mash added another taste sensation. I could have eaten it three times over!

Chicken tikka pie was the next dish we were served. Simple yet tasty, the pie featured perfectly cooked pastry and nicely cooked chicken pieces. The sweet berry chutney with which it was served ensured a fantastic flavour contrast.

Next up was another chicken dish, and the final savoury offering of the evening - pieces of nicely cooked free range chicken in a kadai sauce. Comprising a tomato base with onions, ginger, garlic and ground spices, it was served alongside a portion of pilau rice, laccha paratha (a multi-layered Indian bread) and a rich and creamy dal maharani.

For dessert we were presented with a chocomosa with vanilla ice-cream - pastry filled with warm, gooey chocolate sauce; what's not to love?!

The food at Pushkar is both beautifully presented and of a high quality. My only (very minor) criticism is that, rather than two consecutive chicken dishes, it would've been nice to see the tasting menu feature a different meat or fish option. Being a tasting menu, the portions are relatively small, so for the price tag, a little more variety would've been welcome.

Although, in my opinion, Pushkar isn't the very best Indian restaurant that Birmingham has to offer, it certainly makes for an enjoyable experience, and is a venue to which I would definitely be happy to return.

*Lauren Foster*

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
<b>OVERALL</b>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**Pushkar**  
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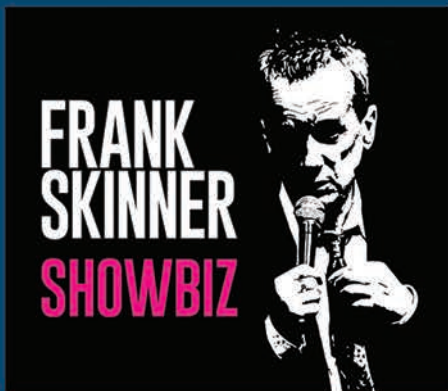
TUE 14 APR 7.30PM



MON 20 – SAT 25 APR  
CAP WED 22 APR 7.30PM



MON 4 – SAT 9 MAY  
6g THU 7 MAY 7.30PM



SUN 10 & MON 11 MAY



TUE 19 – SAT 23 MAY  
AD WED 20 MAY 2.30PM



MON 1 – SAT 6 JUN  
6g WED 3 JUN 7.30PM  
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## Purnell's picks up Readers' Award for a fifth consecutive year

Michelin-star eatery Purnell's has won the Best Independent Restaurant In The Midlands title for a fifth year running in What's On Media Group's 2020 What's On Readers' Awards. Owned by celebrity chef Glynn Purnell, the venue is a chic and contemporary fine-dining restaurant in Birmingham city centre.

## Birmingham Wine Weekend returns

Birmingham Wine Weekend returns to various venues around the city from 24 to 26 April.

The event features more than 20 participating venues, £4 taster glasses of wine, unique £4 wine cocktails, and a selection of £6 wine and canapé pairings.

## Brand new festival to launch in Birmingham

A brand new culinary event is launching in the second city this summer.

Birmingham Restaurant Festival will run from 24 August to 6 September. The new concept will give diners access to exclusively priced set menus and one-off ticketed events.

The experience is free and diners can choose from a selection of menus, which they then book with participating restaurants.

For more information, visit [birminghamrestaurantfestival.co.uk](http://birminghamrestaurantfestival.co.uk)



## Dishoom Birmingham launch delayed due to coronavirus

Dishoom Birmingham was intending to open its doors this month but is delaying doing so due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Paying loving homage to the old Irani cafés that were once part of the fabric of life in Bombay, Dishoom brings together food cooked in Hindu,

Muslim, Irani and Parsi traditions. The restaurant is located at the heart of Birmingham, at One Chamberlain Square, and can accommodate 330 guests.

For more details, visit [dishoom.com](http://dishoom.com)

## New springtime dishes and drinks at The Ivy Temple Row

The Ivy Temple Row in Birmingham has launched a selection of new dishes and drinks to welcome in the spring.

New food offerings include warm asparagus spears with truffle hollandaise, grilled chicken and watermelon salad, and pan-fried sea bass fillet served with marinated courgette and mixed peppers.

For those who follow either a vegetarian or vegan diet, the menu boasts chargrilled halloumi with giant cous cous, smoked aubergine and labneh, and quinoa and watermelon salad with roast sweet potato. Behind the bar, new cocktails include The Ivy VLS, which comprises Ketel One Citroen vodka with Fever Tree Mexican Lime and Yuzu soda.







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Image: Angela Kremer

## Varèse: Density

Conducted by Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, BCMG celebrates  
Varèse in collaboration with CBSO

Monday 4 May 2020, 7.30pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham, B3 5DQ

Sunday 10 May 2020, 4pm  
Queen Elizabeth Hall,  
Southbank Centre, London, SE1 8XX

CBSO Varèse Concerts:  
Thursday 7 May 2020, 7.30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Saturday 9 May 2020, 7.30pm  
Royal Festival Hall, London

BCMG & NEXT Musicians Side-by-Side

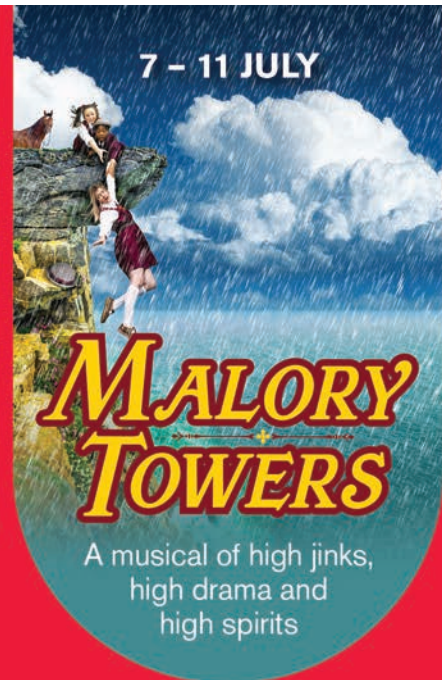
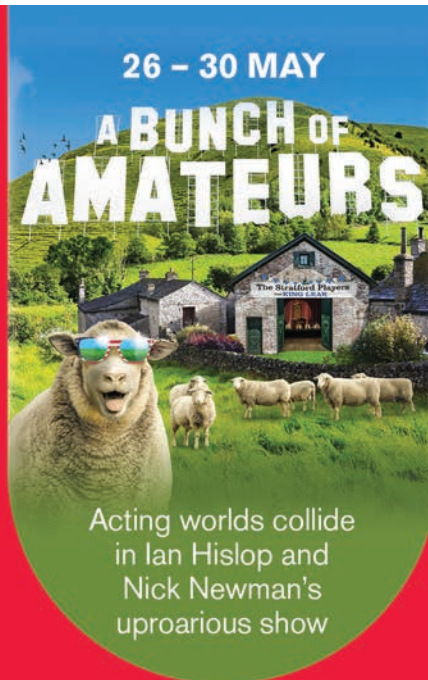
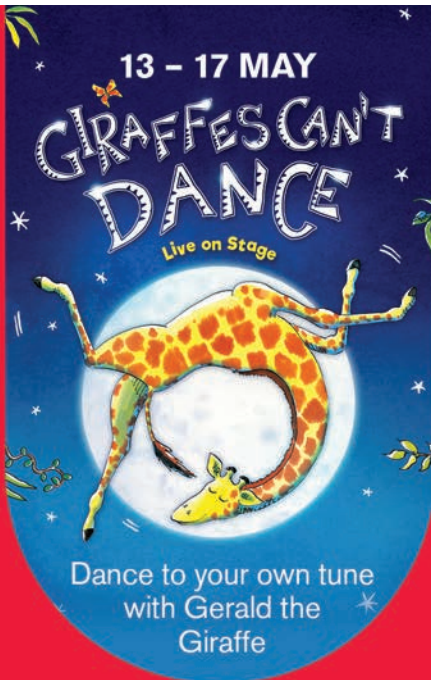
Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla Conductor  
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technically possible, Varèse's use of new instruments and  
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## Sakari Oramo & Royal Stockholm Philharmonic

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 25 April

A one-time music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sakari Oramo (pictured) returns to his old stomping ground with the orchestra for whom he's been chief conductor since leaving the CBSO in 2008.

The Royal Stockholm Philharmonic last performed in Birmingham some 29 years

ago. They are joined for this long-overdue return to the city by violinist Nicola Benedetti.

The evening's programme features Victoria Borisova-Ollas' Open Ground, Benedetti performing Prokofiev's second concerto, and Sibelius's Symphony No2.

## Ex Cathedra: St John Passion

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 10 April

A favourite at Eastertide, Bach's moving retelling of Christ's betrayal and death is one of classical music's most profound experiences. Sung in German with English surtitles, St John Passion is here performed by the Ex Cathedra Choir under the direction of its founder and conductor, Jeffrey Skidmore (pictured).

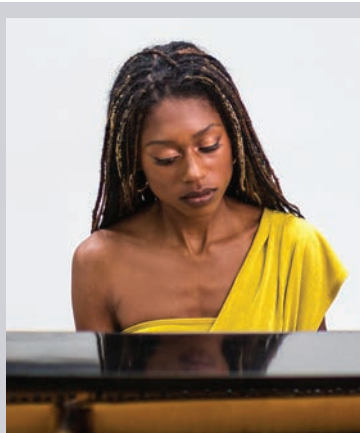


## Birmingham Bach Choir Easter Concert

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 14 March

One of the city's oldest and most distinguished musical groups, Birmingham Bach Choir has just completed its centenary year. Kickstarting a new season, the choir here gets its collective teeth into a programme of 20th-century English choral music for Eastertide.

Featured works include Britten's deeply spiritual festival cantata, Rejoice In The Lamb, and Leighton's great Mass For Double Choir. The concert also showcases a short piece by David Bednall which is based on the words of Richard Crashaw's 17th-century poem, The Dear Bargain.



## Isata Kanneh-Mason

The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Thurs 30 April

"I'm striving to change the fact that there's a big lack of diversity in classical music at the moment," says rising-star pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason, whose studies at the Royal Academy of Music began at the tender age of 10, two years after her first public performance. "Music should be for everyone, and my aim is to bring music to all kinds of people. Young people need to have someone they can be inspired by, so I think it's important to have a variety of role models in the classical music world."



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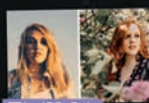
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## Harry Styles

Utilita Arena Birmingham (formerly Arena Birmingham), Wed 15 April

One Direction star Harry here brings his Love On Tour show to Birmingham in support of second studio album *Fine Line*.

The release debuted at number three on the UK albums chart and number one on the Billboard 200, making it Styles' second consecutive chart-topping album in the US. It also broke the record for the biggest sales debut by an English male artist in the States.



## Nathaniel Rateliff

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 28 April

Growing up in rural Missouri, Nathaniel Rateliff got his early music education from his family, who performed in the church band. He released three solo albums, in 2007, 2010 and 2013, before launching his own band, Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats, in 2015. Their self-titled debut album was a breakout success - now certified Gold in the US, it's sold over a million copies worldwide. In support of a forthcoming solo album, Nathaniel returns to his early acoustic days with his *And It's Still Alright* tour.



## Larkins

Castle and Falcon, Birmingham, Mon 17 April

Having stolen the show on the BBC Introducing stage at Reading and Leeds festivals last summer, Larkins have enjoyed signifi-

cant support from both Radio One and Radio X. Described as 'Manchester's next arena act' by the Manchester Evening News, the indie rock four-piece are stopping off in Birmingham as part of their biggest tour to date.

## Buzzard Buzzard Buzzard

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Tues 28 April

Tom Rees has likened the sound made by Buzzard Buzzard Buzzard, the Cardiff four-piece for whom he sings and plays guitar, to that of '1970s sheep in badly made wolves clothing'... Fortunately, various other comments he made to the NME in a recent interview were a little more straightforward: "I think we're pretty good," he said. "Our single came out and I listened to it first thing in the morning and cried by myself - and I've only ever cried to Glen Campbell's Wichita Lineman and John Lennon's Woman Is The N Of The World, so hopefully we're up there."

## Macka B & The Roots Ragga Band

The Mill, Birmingham, Fri 3 April

As a practising Rastafari, British-born Jamaican reggae artist & activist Macka B bases his music around the political and spiritual message of the religion. He's been performing around the world - both solo and with acts including The Wailers, Lee Perry and U-Roy - for more than 30 years.

## Nova Twins

The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham, Sun 26 April



"Who Are The Girls? is dedicated to all the people who are beautifully diverse and creating their own lanes," say Nova Twins Amy Love and Georgia South in speaking about their highly acclaimed debut album. "It's a celebration of those who feel like they don't fit in. The title is ironic, as there is little representation of diversity at the shows we play, and there wasn't any diversity to see when we were growing up!" Taking inspiration from N.E.R.D, The Prodigy and Missy Elliott, the duo create a remarkable depth of sound via a myriad of bass and guitar pedals.



# What's On Readers' Awards

## WINNERS announced...

With over 68,000 votes cast in the **What's On Readers' Awards 2020**, we are delighted to announce your winners...

### Best Midlands Large Theatre



**WINNER** Birmingham Hippodrome  
**RUNNER-UP** Wolverhampton Grand

### Best Touring Musical

**WINNER** Les Misérables  
**RUNNER-UP** The Rocky Horror Show

### Best Touring Play

**WINNER** The Girl On The Train  
**RUNNER-UP** An Inspector Calls

### Best Home-Produced Show In The Midlands

**WINNER** The Boy In The Dress - RSC  
**RUNNER-UP** The Snow Queen - The Old Rep, Birmingham

### Best Pantomime In The Midlands 2019/20

**WINNER** Snow White - Birmingham Hippodrome  
**RUNNER-UP** Aladdin - Theatre Severn

### Best Pantomime Dame In The Midlands 2019/20

**WINNER** Andrew Ryan in Snow White at Birmingham Hippodrome  
**RUNNER-UP** Brad Fitt in Aladdin at Theatre Severn

### Best Amateur Production

**WINNER** The Sound Of Music - Get Your Wigle On  
**RUNNER-UP** Shrek The Musical - Coventry Musical Theatre

### Best Kids Show



**WINNER** Birmingham Stage Company's Horrible Histories - touring  
**RUNNER-UP** The Tiger Who Came To Tea - touring

### Best Classical Production inc Opera



**WINNER** Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra: Movie Music  
**RUNNER-UP** Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: The Planets

### Best Orchestra/Choir

**WINNER** Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra  
**RUNNER-UP** CBSO

### Best Dance Production

**WINNER** Birmingham Royal Ballet's The Nutcracker  
**RUNNER-UP** Birmingham Royal Ballet's Beauty And The Beast

### Best Midlands Arts/ Cultural Festival



**WINNER** Birmingham Comedy Festival  
**RUNNER-UP** Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival

### Best Exhibition

**WINNER** Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year - Herbert Art Gallery & Museum and Wolverhampton Museum & Art Gallery  
**RUNNER-UP** Leonardo da Vinci: A Life In Drawing - Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

### Best Midlands Live Music Venue

**WINNER** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**RUNNER-UP** O2 Academy, Birmingham



### Best Midlands Music Festival



**WINNER** Shrewsbury Folk Festival  
**RUNNER-UP** Birmingham Pride

### Best Midlands Street Food Vendor

**WINNER** Urban Cheesecake  
**RUNNER-UP** Dick's Smokehouse

### Best Midlands Comedy Night

**WINNER** Comedy Carousel at The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**RUNNER-UP** Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club

### Best Midlands Food Festival

**WINNER** Shrewsbury Food Festival  
**RUNNER-UP** Ludlow Food Festival

### Best Market in the Midlands

**WINNER** The Market Hall, Shrewsbury  
**RUNNER-UP** Bullring Indoor Market, Birmingham



## and the winners in your region...

### Birmingham

#### Best Arts/Theatre Venue



**WINNER** The Old Rep, Birmingham  
**RUNNER-UP** Midlands Arts Centre

#### Best Live Music Venue

**WINNER** Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath  
**RUNNER-UP** The Jam House

#### Best Visitor Attraction



**WINNER** Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery  
**RUNNER-UP** Cadbury World

#### Best Music Festival



**WINNER** Birmingham Pride  
**RUNNER-UP** Moseley Folk & Arts Festival

#### Best Arts Festival

**WINNER** Birmingham Comedy Festival  
**RUNNER-UP** Birmingham Weekender

#### Best Food Festival/Event

**WINNER** Digbeth Dining Club  
**RUNNER-UP** BBC Good Food Show

#### Best Independent Bar/Pub



**WINNER** The Old Crown, Digbeth  
**RUNNER-UP** The Jekyll & Hyde

#### Best Outdoor Event

**WINNER** Frankfurt Christmas Markets  
**RUNNER-UP** The Legitimate Peaky  
 Blinders Festival - Digbeth

#### Best Indoor Event

**WINNER** BBC Good Food Show  
**RUNNER-UP** MCM Comic Con  
 Birmingham

#### Best Independent Restaurant



**WINNER** Purnell's in Cornwall Street  
**RUNNER-UP** Harborne Kitchen

#### Best Independent Coffee Shop

**WINNER** The Edwardian Tearooms at  
 Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery  
**RUNNER-UP** Cherry Red's Cafe Bar

#### Best Gallery Exhibition Venue

**WINNER** Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery  
**RUNNER-UP** Midlands Arts Centre



## Comedy previews from around the region

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### Tom Rosenthal

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Mon 6 April; Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Wed 8 April

An Edinburgh Fringe hit last summer, Tom Rosenthal's *Manhood* (the show, that is, not his penis) provides opportunities enough to enjoy a chuckle - providing you're okay with the subject of circumcision and enjoy a good dick joke or several. *Plebs* and *Friday Night Dinner* star Tom was circumcised as an infant and clearly isn't happy about it. Sure, it's a tradition in

many cultures, he acknowledges, but then so was witch-burning and slavery. Sports fans in the audience may be interested to know that Tom is the son of television presenter Jim Rosenthal, one of the broadcasters on whom Steve Coogan's Alan Partridge character was originally based.

### John Shuttleworth

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Sat 18 April; Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 24 April; New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Sat 25 April

Midlands-based lovers of light comedy here get the chance to enjoy another laughter-filled evening in the company of Sheffield's raconteur par excellence.

The creation of actor Graham Fellows - a one-time chartbuster with 1970s' hit, *Jilted John* - Shuttleworth has been making his presence felt on the UK comedy circuit for more than 30 years.

This latest show finds John a pale shadow of his former self. Years of strenuous DIY - not to mention playing his organ while perched on a multi-pack of Diet Sprite with no lumber support - has taken its toll... Expect classic songs, new stories, and the unmistakably pungent whiff of Deep Heat ointment...

### Andrew Maxwell

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 30 April; The Old Rep, Fri 22 May

Dublin-born funnyman and *I'm A Celebrity* star Andrew Maxwell has garnered a reputation for writing quality material at breakneck speed, to ensure he's always across the most topical and talked-about issues.

"I'll re-use material as long as it's still relevant," says Andrew, "but you have to keep challenging yourself."

And Andrew certainly does that. Previous gigs have included a maximum security prison in Dublin, the UDA on Shankill Road, the IRA on the Falls Road, and an illegal gay rave in the Middle East.

"If my first reaction to the prospect of doing a show is one of raw terror, I know I'm on the right path. I'm always open to a new experience, however scary!"

### Jack Barry

Birmingham Rep, Sat 25 April

Having previously provided tour support for James Acaster and Joe Lycett, Jack Barry here steps out on his own for a show that sees him addressing the fact that he doesn't think you've been laughing enough.

No surprise there, says Jack, what with the world having turned to s\*\*\*.

Jack's show is called *Alien* - by which he means the immigrant kind - and being a pot-smoking old hippie at heart, he'd be happy to do away with borders altogether. His timely message about acceptance will no doubt resonate with many in The Rep's audience, his line in humour with even more.

### Joel Dommett

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Wed 8 April; William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Sat 18 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 19 April; Evesham Arts Centre, Sat 2 May; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 28 May

"I absolutely love performing in small, intimate spaces," says *The Masked Singer* presenter Joel Dommett, a man who was once the face of MTV - until he was sacked at the age of 27 for being 'too old'. "I'd far rather do a small gig in front of 50 people, but be doing new stuff, than do old stuff in front of 5,000 people."

Joel is extremely committed to the business of keeping his act fresh. "I'm working on material pretty much all the time," explains the one-time Justin Bieber warm-up act. "In fact, I try to put in something new every time I go on stage. If there's something new in there, it brightens up the whole set and gives it more energy and excitement."





## Seann Walsh

Rose Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 3 April;  
Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 24 April

Seann Walsh is such a popular comic he could even give Real Madrid a run for their money when it comes to the acquisition of silverware. An award-winning star of television shows such as *Mock The Week*, the somewhat dishevelled comedian has been likened to the legendary Billy Connolly in terms of his gift for storytelling (although others have labelled him the new Dylan Moran, so take your pick).

His jokes aren't bad either, with two examples being as follows: "I don't understand swimming. You don't see fish going for a walk," and "Are city-centre beat officers police who rap?"

## Sukh Ojla

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Sat 25 April; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Sat 9 May; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Thurs 25 June



"Life Sukhs is about moving back in with your parents at a time when all your mates are buying houses and having babies," explains Sukh Ojla, in talking about her currently touring show. "It's about finding yourself crying into a cheese & onion pasty at Rochester train station on a Tuesday afternoon, living a double life, mental health and identity. In short, it's a searingly honest look at what happens when life doesn't go to plan."

An actor whose CV includes Judi Dench movie *Victoria* and Abdul, dystopian TV series *Black Mirror* and BBC soap opera *EastEnders*, Sukh is comparatively new to stand-up, presenting her first full-length show at the Edinburgh Fringe last summer.



## Chris Ramsey

Dudley Town Hall, Fri 3 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 4 April; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sun 5 April; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Fri 17 April; Dudley Town Hall, Sat 17 October; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 22 November

As well as being a highly rated stand-up, Geordie boy Chris has developed an impressive telly career, appearing on shows including *8 Out Of 10 Cats* and *Strictly Come Dancing* (reaching the semi-finals in 2019). He's scored a big hit in the podcast world, too; he and his wife, singer & actress Rosie

Winter, co-host *Sh\*ggged. Married. Annoyed*. Chris' gags include: "My venue for the Edinburgh Festival is a portacabin; it's literally a portacabin! I'm a Geordie, in a portacabin. I was going to call the show *Auf Wiedersehen Pet Live*."

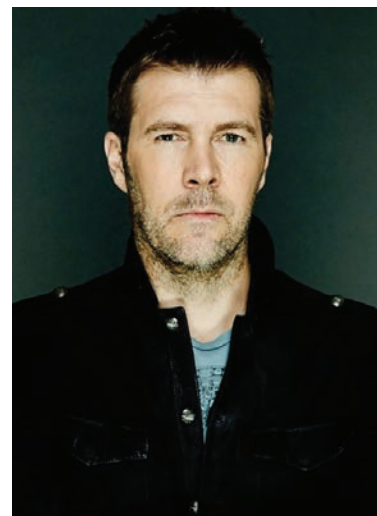
## Rhod Gilbert

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 4 April; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 6 April; Warwick Arts Centre, Sat 6 June; William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Fri 19 June

Welsh funnyman Rhod Gilbert has acquired a huge and still-growing following thanks to a high-energy brand of grumpiness that marks him out as one of the top comedians of his generation.

With several sell-out UK tours to his name, the multi-award winner is this month returning to the Midlands with brand new show *The Book Of John* - seven long years after he last went on tour.

Rhod's best-loved gags include: "In the Bible, God made it rain for 40 days and 40 nights. That's a pretty good summer for Wales," and "A spa hotel? It's like a normal hotel, only in reception there's a picture of a pebble."





# A MESSAGE OF HOPE





# Message In A Bottle is a new dance-theatre storytelling spectacular about refugees, humanity and hope. The production takes to the stage in Birmingham this month...

Determined and daring, three siblings parted by violence step out on their own extraordinary adventures...

Directed and choreographed by triple Olivier Award nominee and Birmingham Hippodrome Associate Kate Prince, Message In A Bottle has been astounding audiences in the West End. The piece is inspired by the iconic hits of 17-time Grammy Award-winning artist Sting.

"The production follows a family in a village as they're displaced due to war," explains associate choreographer and star of the show Lukas McFarlane. "It specifically focuses on three siblings in the family and their unique journeys and experiences of being refugees. It documents their attempts to find family, love and hope again in a new home."

Included among the Sting hits featured in Message In A Bottle are Roxanne, Every Breath You Take, Walking On The Moon, Fields Of Gold, Englishman In New York and Shape Of My Heart.

"What Sting speaks about in his music - subjects like politics and the world climate - is still really relevant today, even when you listen to his earlier works," says Lukas. "So many of his songs still ring true! Being a massive fan of his, Kate felt like his songs and lyrics would lay really beautifully on a story about refugees."

"Message In A Bottle is definitely more like a ballet in terms of the fact that there's no dialogue - the story is told through dance, movement and music alone. Dance is a universal language - the emotion and energy behind it can be understood across all languages and cultures - so that's really interesting when you compare it to a story about people who are forced to leave their home and adjust to a new environment."

Having won Sky One's hit TV show, Got To Dance, at just 19 years of age, Lukas is fast becoming a well-known and widely respected artist.

He has worked as a creative and choreographer on The X-Factor, The Voice and Strictly Come Dancing, and with artists including Taylor Swift and Celine Dion.

"In Message In A Bottle, I play the eldest brother. You get to see his attempts to find his version of family love after his own family is divided. Then, as associate choreographer, I worked with Kate on creating the dance. It's a wonderful hybrid of breaking and hip-hop styles, as well as contemporary. Kate has a massive background in hip-hop styles, but not necessarily contemporary, so I came in to make a contribution with that. I've helped Kate create this story through that hybrid movement."

"Working with her has been a gift - and that's putting it mildly! I've been such a massive fan of hers for so long, so when she reached out to me and said she was also a fan of mine, it was so humbling. I couldn't have asked for a better person to learn from in this realm, especially as I come from a TV commercial background, working with artists and in the music industry but with my training being in theatre."

"I'm so, so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with someone who is not only amazing at what she does, but who is also so kind and who cares so much about the stories she's telling and the company of dancers telling it. Kate is a very compassionate director and choreographer, and I feel very lucky to have worked with her."

"The biggest thing I've learnt from her is the power of storytelling; how even the tiniest, most minimalistic movement can contribute so much to an emotion or narrative. The beauty of theatre is that you're creating something which the audience can feel so palpably because it's right in front of them. That's very different to what I'm used to doing, with an audience watching something captured via a lens."

"Theatre is just so much more alive, and

feeling the audience's energy back from you is an incredible feeling."

"I'm the director of my own company - UnTitled Dance - and have self-produced three shows of my own, but to have worked in the West End is such a dream. Hopefully, with the knowledge I've gained and the experience of working with people like Kate, Sadler's Wells and Universal Music UK, doors will be opened for me to produce my own work on a larger scale. I'm a creative first and foremost - that's what I love doing."

Message In A Bottle will tug on your heartstrings, says Lukas: "The biggest thing we've tried to get across in the show is that hope and love prevail over everything else. While it's a really emotional story, we hope the audience is left with a sense of hope - a feeling that a sense of belonging can be created anywhere, and not necessarily just by blood either. Acceptance of who you are, no matter what your background is, can definitely be found."

"I'm obviously a little biased, but I honestly believe there's nothing else that's similar to what we've created. Message In A Bottle is so unique in that it is, essentially, a ballet, but from a more commercial narrative, about dance being the language of youth. It also tells such an emotional story. I promise that you will be left with lasting memories if you come to see it, whether what sticks in your mind is the incredible physicality of the dancers, the lighting, set & costume design, Sting's amazing music, or the actual story itself."

.....  
**Message In A Bottle shows at Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 April.**



## We Will Rock You

**Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 20 April - Sat 2 May; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 25 - Sat 30 May**

A pulsating homage to the music of Queen, *We Will Rock You* may be short on storyline, but it's got bags of energy - and just about as brilliant a soundtrack as any musical's ever likely to have. The show's frontline performers give it their all to excellent effect, while the sets and choreography ensure a visual spectacle to remember. For those who care about the plot, the story is set in a future where originality has been quashed, musical instruments banned, and a hero is needed to bring back rock music...

Yes, it's all a bit contrived, but how else are you going to glue together all of Queen's greatest hits in a single show?

A fantastic evening's entertainment for fans of Freddie & Co, so catch it while you can...



## Dial M For Murder

**The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 20 - Sat 25 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 9 - Sat 13 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 14 - Sat 18 July**



Samantha Womack and Tom Chambers star in Frederick Knott's erotic tale of betrayal, passion and murder - best known, of course, from its 1954 Alfred Hitchcock-directed film version starring Ray Milland and Grace Kelly. When Tony becomes convinced that wife Margot is having an affair, he devises a means of having her murdered while at the same time ensuring he has a watertight alibi. But not everything goes according to plan...

## Oliver Twist

**The REP, Birmingham, 29 April - 9 May**

This brand new version of the classic Charles Dickens story has been adapted for the stage by Bryony Lavery, the creative force behind previous Birmingham Rep favourites *Treasure Island*, *The Lovely Bones* and *Frozen*.

Telling the terrific tale of a young boy whose escape from the workhouse kickstarts a dangerous adventure in the twisted streets of old London town, the production is presented by Ramps On The Moon - a consortium of seven major theatres committed to putting D/deaf and disabled artists and audiences at the centre of its work.



## Priscilla Queen Of The Desert

**Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 13 - Sat 18 April**



Based on the movie of the same name, *Priscilla the stage show* has wowed both West End and Broadway audiences, picking up a coveted Olivier and an equally prestigious Tony Award along the accolade-strewn way. At its heart is an uplifting story of the friendship shared by three pals, who hop aboard a battered old bus and head off across Australia in search of love and romance.

The hit show comes complete with a dazzling array of costumes and a glorious selection of dancefloor favourites. Former *Strictly* winner Joe McFadden takes the lead role of Tick.





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Performance



BSL Interpreted  
Performance



Captioned  
Performance

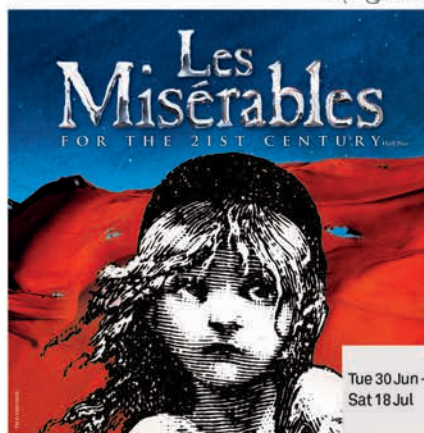
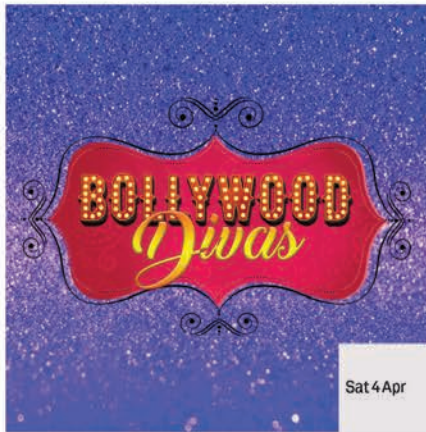


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## Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 14 - Sat 18 April; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 19 - Sat 23 May

Joe Pasquale makes a welcome return to the stage as the accident-prone Frank Spencer, the character created and made famous by Michael Crawford in the classic 1970s' sitcom bearing the same title.

"I don't do it as Michael's Frank Spencer, though," says Joe. "That would be an insult to Michael. I'm putting my own 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."

Joe is joined by Sarah Earnshaw as the long-suffering Betty and Susie Blake as Frank's disapproving mother-in-law, Mrs Fisher.

## Confessions Of A Cockney Temple Dancer

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 21 - Sat 25 April



Taking a journey from the temple rituals of India to the bad-boy streets of London, Shane Shambhu's bilingual solo work is a contemplation on both his own life and the experience of performing Indian dance in the UK. "I draw on my experience from differing artistic roles and practices," explains Shane. "In doing so, I unearth new creative pathways that challenge perceptions of performance and cultural identities."

## Up Pompeii

Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock, Wed 22 & Thurs 23 April

Following a vote by Ambient Nights' dedicated audience, Up Pompeii was selected as the show with which to celebrate the theatre company's 10th anniversary. For those not in the know, the production is based on a late-1960s BBC sitcom in which comedian Frankie Howerd starred as a slave in pre-eruption Pompeii - a place, it turns out, where risqué gags and double entendres were very much the order of the day...

## Jew...ish

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 3 & Sat 4 April

Starting out as a TV pilot, Jew...ish is described by its two stars as 'a pitch-black romantic comedy'. While it's questionable whether the show ever manages to get all that dark, let alone 'pitch-black', it definitely does hit the mark as a romcom. Focusing on the on-off intercultural relationship of TJ and Max, the story plays out against the colourful backdrop of Jewish family life and the trials & tribulations of the millennial generation.



## Chaplin: Birth Of A Tramp

The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 15 April

Charlie Chaplin's stellar Hollywood career was all the more remarkable given that his childhood had been spent in abject poverty. The son of an alcoholic father and a mother who would eventually succumb to psychosis, he was brought up in a late-19th



century London slum and twice sent to the workhouse before the age of nine...

The critically acclaimed Arrows & Traps are the company behind this psychological exploration of the silent-movie eras's biggest, brightest and perhaps most surprising star.

## The Delightful Sausage: Ginster's Paradise

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 23 April

Surreal northern double-act Amy Gledhill and Christopher-Louise Cantrill are the top talent behind this production, a show which the pair describe as 'a comedy nightmare that'll tear your soul apart'...

No ordinary night out at the theatre, then! The show finds the duo working as new 'salmon coats' at holiday camp Ginsters, a venue that offers hard-grafting Yorkshire folk the opportunity to kick back, relax and forget about the stresses and strains of everyday life. But can Amy and Chris keep their campers entertained, obedient and medicated?...





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## Volpone

**Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,  
Thurs 16 - Sat 18 April**

One of the greatest of all Jacobean plays, *Volpone* is a stylish example of playwright Ben Jonson at his very best.

Although the titular character seems to be on his last legs, he is, in truth, setting a trap for those about him who covet his fortune, not least among whom is his 'faithful' manservant Mosca...

African Caribbean ensemble Tangle present this centuries-old satire, a work of theatre which ably illustrates that some things, including man's propensity for avaricious and lustful behaviour, will never change.

## Friends! The Musical Parody

**Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 14 April;  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tue 5 May;  
Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock, Thurs 24  
September; Swan Theatre, Worcester, Fri 16  
October**

If it's not broken, don't turn it into a stage musical, would surely have been the advice that millions of *Friends* fans would've given the creative team who set out to make this show. So it's probably a good thing that those millions of fans were never actually canvassed for their opinion, because by all accounts *Friends! The Musical Parody* makes for a thoroughly enjoyable night out at the theatre.

Lovingly lampooning the hit TV sitcom from the 1990s, the show is a good-hearted romp through the series' most memorable moments, but with the addition of some high-energy song & dance routines. What's not to like?...

## Amsterdam

**Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 27 - Wed  
29 April; The REP, Birmingham, Tues 12 - Sat  
16 May**

Maya Arad Yasur's play begins in the modern day, when a nine-months-pregnant Jewish violinist living in a plush Amsterdam apartment finds an unpaid gas bill for 1,700 euros pushed under her door. Not only is the bill not owed by her, it is also dated 1944 - decades before the violinist was even born and a year during which Amsterdam was still

under Nazi occupation...

Billed as a 'strikingly original, audacious thriller', *Amsterdam* explores issues around the topical subjects of collective identity, foreignness and alienation, reconstructing horrific stories of the Holocaust in an admirably heartfelt attempt to make some sense of present-day political discourse.



## Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons

**Albany Theatre, Coventry,  
Wed 29 & Thurs 30 April**

When the government passes a law allowing each individual to speak a maximum of only 140 words per day, Bernadette and Oliver find themselves battling hard to negotiate the choppy waters of their relationship... Sam Steiner's dystopian drama has met with mixed reviews since debuting a couple of years back, but there's no denying it has plenty to say about the modern world and the importance of language. As Steiner himself observes: "Freedom of speech is all well and good, but it doesn't matter if we're not listening to each other."

## By The Waters Of Liverpool

**Malvern Theatres, Tues 14 & Wed 15 April**

Helen Forrester's autobiographical play, from her same-titled bestselling book, is set in the 1930s and finds the teenage Helen fighting a bitter battle with her parents for the right to educate herself and go out to work.

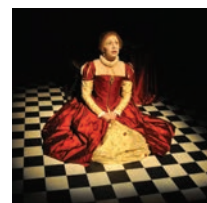
Life, however, has a habit of getting in the way of even the best-laid plans - and so it proves for Helen...

Following her family's fall from grace, she finds herself taken from school to work as an 'unpaid slave' looking after her siblings. But with Britain on the brink of war, the arrival in her life of a tall, strong seaman provides Helen with the chink of light for which she's been desperately searching...

## I, Elizabeth

**Bridge House Theatre, Warwick, Thurs 2 April;  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 7 & Fri 8  
May**

Dyad Productions, who are also touring *The Unremarkable Death Of Marilyn Monroe* to Midlands venues this spring, are the company behind this revealing study of the Virgin Queen. Written and performed by Rebecca Vaughan, the show is directed by Guy Masterson, whose homage to comedian Eric Morecambe won the Olivier Award for Best Entertainment in 2010.







## Blood Brothers

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 7 - Sat 11 April

If you're one of the comparatively few theatre-goers who hasn't yet caught up with Willy Russell's hit show, *Blood Brothers*, then here's a perfect opportunity to do so.

The story of twins separated at birth who're brought up in different social circumstances but remain inextricably linked, *Blood Brothers* isn't so much a musical as a play with music.

Former *New Seeker* Lyn Paul takes the lead role of Mrs Johnstone, with highlights including memorable songs *A Bright New Day*, *Marilyn Monroe* and the emotionally charged *Tell Me It's Not True*.

## Beach Body Ready

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Sat 25 April;  
Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent,  
Thurs 11 June



Hull-based theatre company The Roaring Girls have built their reputation around creating work that is fierce, feminist and fun - and latest offering *Beach Body Ready* is no exception. Created in the ensemble's semi-improvised style, the show 'sticks two fingers up' at everything the media says about how women should look.

"Summer has rocked up and coerced us all into thinking about how awful our bodies are," say the Girls. "Expect an evening of impassioned rants, cheesy fitness routines, informal chats and a beach trip on film, accompanied by a banging soundtrack."

## The Comedy Of Errors

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 25 April - Sat 3 October

Comedian Miles Jupp stars as Antipholus of Syracuse in this brand new Royal Shakespeare Company production of one of the bard's most popular offerings.

Shakespeare's forerunner to modern farce, *Comedy* is a superbly crafted catalogue of mistaken identity, adulterous liaisons and slapstick humour.

Two sets of identical twins are separated during infancy. When their paths cross again later in life, all manner of confusions ensue.

Matters are then further complicated by the involvement of an irate courtesan, an insistent jeweller and a mad exorcist!



## Quality Street

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,  
Tues 28 April - Sat 9 May



JM Barrie is best known, of course, as the creator of Peter Pan, but years before he ventured to Neverland, he penned a farce so popular that it gave its name to one of the UK's most famous brands of chocolate. When Captain Valentine returns from fighting Napoleon, he's disappointed to find Phoebe Throssel somewhat less glamorous than he remembers her. But Phoebe has a

plan to rekindle his interest, courtesy of her younger alter-ego, the wild and sparkling Miss Livvy... Presented by the ever-impressive Northern Broadsides.

## Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 10 & Sat 11 April; Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Wed 22 April; Lichfield Garrick, Sun 24 May; Malvern Theatres, Thurs 28 May; The Albany, Coventry, Thurs 11 June; The Place, Telford, Fri 12 June

Linda Nolan and X-Factor finalist Niki Evans are two of the four women enjoying an evening of fun and frivolity in this brand new musical comedy.

Described as a no-holds-barred romp through everything life throws at a modern-day woman, the show is unlikely to pull up any trees when it comes to originality. That said, having previously helmed *Hormonal Housewives*, its producers absolutely know the market they're playing to and are old hands at giving their audience a fantastic night out.

So if you fancy channelling your inner diva for a couple of hours, you know what you need to do...





## Horrible Histories: The Worst Of Barmy Britain

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Sat 11 April; Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sun 26 April; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 27 May

If you love the Horrible Histories series - and why the heck wouldn't you?! - then Barmy Britain is a show well worth catching. Alongside providing answers to such searching questions as 'what would happen if a Viking moved in next door?' and 'will you see eye to eye with Admiral Nelson?', the show also invites audiences to roar with laughter with Richard the Lionheart, light up their life with the great fire of London and find out if the Duke of Wellington gets the boot. In short, and as its publicity says, it's 'a truly horrible history of Britain - with all the nasty bits left in!'



## Shark In The Park!

Worcester Swan Theatre, Sun 5 April; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 6 April; Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 14 April; Rose Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 15 April

Nick Sharratt has illustrated over 250 books, around one-fifth of which have been by Tracy Beaker author Jacqueline Wilson. One of Nick's own is the hugely



successful Shark In The Park!, a children's story about a young lad named Timothy who goes to his local park to try out his new telescope. While there, he thinks he spots a shark - and not just on one occasion either, but several times in several places! The popularity of the book prompted Sharratt to write and illustrate two follow-ups - Shark In The Dark! and Shark In The Park On A Windy Day!. All three stories are featured in this highly rated stage show.

## Oi Frog & Friends!

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 10 - Mon 13 April; Lichfield Garrick, Sat 13 - Sun 14 June

Fifty-five minutes of frog-focused fun is the name of the game when this lively stage adaptation of Kes Gray and Jim Field's bestselling series of picture books stops off in Birmingham. Expect 'songs, puppets, laughs and more rhymes than you can shake a chime at', as a new day at Sittingbottom school dawns...

## The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 April; Lichfield Garrick, Tues 21 & Wed 22 April

Following on from a hugely successful West End season, the tea-guzzling tiger once again drops in on Sophie and her mum just as they're settling down for an afternoon cuppa...

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



## Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 7 - Thurs 9 April; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sat 18 & Sun 19 April; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Wed 24 & Thurs 25 June; The Place, Telford, Wed 16 & Thurs 17 September

If you've taken your little ones to any of the previous Peppa Pig stage shows - and enjoyed the experience of watching them having a fantastic time - you'll already know

that this latest production is well worth catching. Peppa Pig is heading out on a road trip with George, Mummy Pig and Daddy Pig, and there are plenty of adventures waiting to be had - including ones that involve dragons, dinosaurs, ice-creams and muddy puddles...



## Billionaire Boy

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 22 - Sat 25 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury Thurs 14 - Sun 17 May; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 23 - Sun 27 September

Birmingham Stage Company has impressive form when it comes to adaptations of David Walliams' work, so anybody wondering whether or not to check out this show should definitely grasp the nettle.

For those unfamiliar with the book, it tells the tale of how Mr Spud made and lost his billions, and how his son, Joe, became the richest boy in the world.





## Balletboyz: Deluxe

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 9 April;  
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 13 May

Fresh and inventive, the all-male Balletboyz company combine muscle with grace to present a distinctive style which fuses energetic dance with music and film.

This year celebrating their 20th anniversary, the company has performed their work more than 400 times around the UK and in 13 countries across the world, with more than 350,000 people having seen at least one of their productions.

The ensemble this month return to the Midlands with a brand new show that features work by some of the world's most innovative choreographers.

"Deluxe is going to be a night of entertaining and thought-provoking theatre that's been 20 years in the making," say Balletboyz Artistic Directors Michael Nunn and William Trevitt. "The beauty of our job has always been about finding and pursuing extraordinary talent and sharing that with as many people as we can. It really is that simple."



## Lewys Holt: Phrases & Footnotes

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 23 April

"While focusing on and loving dance," says Lewys Holt, "my practice also tends to include things that look more like stand-up comedy, storytelling or acting. The two shows I'm performing in Wolverhampton, Phrases and Footnotes, are solo contemporary dance works that fuse text, humour and improvisation. They are a subtle exploration of our innate need for connection and fear of loneliness."



## BalletLorent: The Lost Happy Endings

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 24 & Sat 25 April

Joanna Lumley narrates this family-friendly show, performed by award-winning dance-theatre ensemble BalletLorent.

A story by the former Poet Laureate, Dame Carol Ann Duffy, The Lost Happy Endings tells the tale of a forest-dwelling girl who, charged with guarding the happy endings to stories and fairytales, finds herself having to rewrite them after they're stolen by a wicked witch...

The Lost Happy Endings is the latest in BalletLorent's line of innovative family shows featuring diverse casts.

The Newcastle-upon-Tyne company was set up 27 years ago by choreographer Liv Lorent.

"I liked the magic, the mystery and the fairytale aspects of classical ballet very much," says Liv, "but what I wasn't so keen on was the amount of men in tights and crowns, or the strange mime gestures that were used to communicate narrative. "What I wanted more than anything was to perform work that would mean audiences came out of the theatre feeling differently to when they'd gone in. Like when you go to see a great movie."

## Bollywood Divas Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 4 April

The leading ladies of Indian cinema - or Bollywood, as it's otherwise known - are the subject of this special tribute show by trend-setting choreographer, designer and singer Shiamak Davar - a man whose CV includes choreographing the dance sequences for the 2011 Tom Cruise movie, Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol. Shiamak has scored hits with previous shows Spirit Of India and Spirit Of Bollywood, so is well-versed in mounting

glitzy productions boasting stunning visuals and breathtaking choreography. "The stage has always felt like home," says Shiamak, who is known as 'the guru of contemporary dance' in India. "Getting an instant response from a live audience is a real rush - a completely different feeling from cinema. There's something magical about creating movements using the entire stage, using sets and props. As such, the stage will always be my first love."



## Film

### The New Mutants

CERT 12a

Starring **Maisie Williams, Anya Taylor-Joy, Charlie Heaton, Alice Braga, Blu Hunt**  
Directed by **Josh Boone (USA)**

After the Endgame... the new mutants. These young super-beings are locked up in a secret facility and, having discovered their nascent powers, they want out... Based on the Marvel comic.

**Released Wed 8 April**



### The Assistant

CERT 15 (87 mins)

Starring **Julia Garner, Matthew Macfadyen, Kristine Froseth, Makenzie Leigh, Noah Robbins, Dagmara Domińczyk**  
Directed by **Kitty Green (USA)**

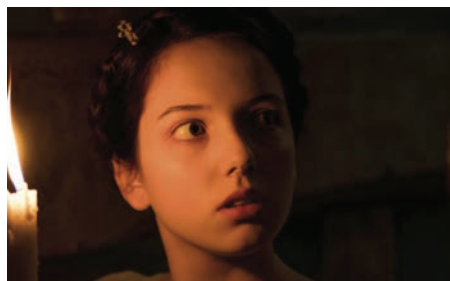
Probably the first of many new dramas investigating abuse in the workplace, this one focuses on a junior assistant working for a film production mogul. Coincidentally, the film's exteriors were shot outside the Tribeca building in Manhattan where one Harvey Weinstein used to work...

**Released Fri 3 April**

### Carmilla

CERT 15 (94 mins)

Starring **Jessica Raine, Hannah Rae, Devrim Lingnau, Tobias Menzies, Greg Wise**  
Directed by **Emily Harris (UK)**



Based on the 1871 Gothic novella by Sheridan Le Fanu, *Carmilla* tells the story of a sexually curious teenage girl (Hannah Rae) whose life is turned upside down with the arrival of a young woman recovering from a roadside accident.

**Released Fri 3 April**

[whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)



### Four Kids And It

CERT PG (110 mins)

Starring **Paula Patton, Russell Brand, Matthew Goode, Cheryl**, and the voice of **Michael Caine**  
Directed by **Andy De Emmony (UK)**

Based on the novel by Jacqueline Wilson, this family fantasy centres on a quartet of children on holiday in Cornwall who

come across a grumpy sand fairy (voiced by Michael Caine) that can bestow them with one wish a day. Lovers of children's literature will know that Ms Wilson, in turn, based her novel on E Nesbit's *Five Children And It*. Cheryl, formerly of *Girls Aloud*, apparently has a cameo.

**Released Fri 10 April**



### The Secret Garden

CERT PG

Starring **Colin Firth, Julie Walters, Dixie Egerickx, Edan Hayhurst**  
Directed by **Marc Munden (UK)**

Sent to live with her strict uncle, young Mary Lennox (Egerickx) discovers a magical garden on his Yorkshire estate. Based on the 1911 novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, the story has been filmed three times before and on several occasions for the small screen.

**Released Fri 10 April**



## Antlers CERT 15 (99 mins)

Starring **Keri Russell, Jesse Plemons, Jeremy T Thomas, Graham Greene, Scott Haze, Rory Cochrane, Amy Madigan** Directed by **Scott Cooper** (USA/Mexico/Canada)



The premise of a young boy harbouring a supernatural creature in a small Oregon town doesn't sound promising. However, the director has an impressive track record, including the Oscar-winning *Crazy Heart*, *Out Of The Furnace* and the criminally underrated *Hostiles*.

Released Fri 17 April

## Dream Horse CERT PG (113 mins)

Starring **Toni Collette, Damian Lewis, Owen Teale, Joanna Page** Directed by **Euros Lyn** (UK/USA)



A Welsh bartender (Collette) decides to breed a race horse, with financial aid from her fellow villagers. Based on a true story.

Released Fri 17 April

## Promising Young Woman CERT PG (113 mins)

CERT PG (113 mins)

Starring **Carey Mulligan, Bo Burnham, Alison Brie, Clancy Brown** Directed by **Emerald Fennell** (USA)

Cassie used to be promising, and then something happened. Time, then, for her to exact her revenge...

Released Fri 17 April



KIDS PICK

## Trolls World Tour CERT PG

With the voices of **Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, James Corden, Ozzy Osbourne, Rachel Bloom, Kelly Clarkson, Sam Rockwell** Directed by **Walt Dohrn** (USA)

DreamWorks' animated musical resurrection of the gonk troll fad was not as bad as people feared. In fact, it was

quite subversive and entertaining. Now comes the sequel in which Poppy and Branch discover there are other Troll tribes, all with their own specific taste in music. Could their love of bubble-gum pop be threatened?

Released Wed 13 April

## Finding The Way Back CERT 15 (108 mins)

CERT 15 (108 mins)

Starring **Ben Affleck, Al Madrigal, Michaela Watkins, Janina Gavankar** Directed by **Gavin O'Connor** (USA)



A former basketball player plagued by alcoholism is asked to coach his alma mater - and something extraordinary happens...

Released Fri 24 April

## Our Ladies CERT 15 (105 mins)

Starring **Eve Austin, Tallulah Greive, Abigail Lawrie, Sally Messham, Rona Morison, Marli Siu**

Directed by **Michael Caton-Jones** (UK)

When a gaggle of Catholic school girls is invited to Edinburgh to enrol in a choir competition, they see it as a chance to paint the town red...

Released Fri 24 April







## Yhonnie Scarce

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,  
Thurs 9 April - Sun 3 May

"Some people don't like my work; they find it too confronting," says Australian Aboriginal glassblowing artist Yhonnie Scarce. "But if you don't want to engage in this conversation, then the solution is simple - don't look at my art. But that doesn't mean it will go away."

Yhonnie, whose work explores the political nature and aesthetic qualities of glass, is undertaking a five-week residency at Ikon before presenting a new work in the venue's Tower Room. "To define the strength of our culture, it may seem strange to use glass," she says, "but it's not as fragile as most people would think. Glass can be very strong, and in that way it reflects the resilience of our people. It is a creation that has been witness to our journey, and one that still continues today."

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## Victoria & Albert: Our Lives In Watercolour

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sunday 31 May

Capturing the pomp and spectacle of the British court, the exploration and shaping of a modern nation, and a sense of the close-knit family at the centre of it all, *Victoria & Albert: Our Lives In Watercolour* is a touring exhibition from the Royal Collection. Throughout their marriage, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were enthusiastic patrons and practitioners of

the art of watercolour painting. They built up a collection of thousands of artworks and often spent happy evenings together organising their acquisitions into albums...

The exhibition is touring to mark the bicentenary of the births of both Victoria and Albert.

## Cranach: Artist And Innovator

Compton Verney Art Gallery, Worcestershire, until Sun 4 June

Lucas Cranach the Elder may be best known in modern times for his seductive paintings of the female nude, but back in his day - some 500 years ago - it was his paintings of German nobility and the leaders of the Protestant Reformation for which he was most admired. This exhibition of work by one of the most successful German artists of all time features paintings and illustrations on loan from the National Gallery, the Royal Collection, the British Museum and Waddesdon Manor.

The show also reflects on the enduring appeal of Cranach, whose work has been admired by a range of modern and contemporary artists, including Pablo Picasso.



## Cornwall As Crucible

Barber Institute, University of Birmingham, until Sun 17 May

This hugely popular exhibition takes as its inspiration the Barber's recently acquired Constructivist sculpture - Russian artist Naum Gabo's *Linear Construction In Space No1*. *Cornwall As Crucible* considers the relationships and networks that existed between artists who lived and worked in the county (and most particularly in St Ives) during the mid-20th century.

Featuring works by, among others, Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, Peter Lanyon and Sandra Blow, the installation examines the artists' development of a visual language that explored the boundary between representation and abstraction.

The show also investigates the impact which the distinctive Cornish landscape had on the work of the artists residing in the region.



## Made At MAC: Painting

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 25 April - Mon 31 August

Professional artist-tutor Helen Tarr's autumn 2019 project, *The Scottish Colourists: Creating Impact With Colour*, provided the inspiration for the paintings on display in this exhibition. Helen teaches *Practical Visual Enquiry & Art In Context* at Midlands Arts Centre, using her lessons to demystify the technical skills of painting and drawing.

Her *Scottish Colourists* project has seen her students immersing themselves in an artistic exploration of colour, line and form across the genres of landscape, portrait and still-life.



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## Zog & The Quest For The Golden Star

Warwick Castle, Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved book about an accident-prone young dragon named Zog provides the inspiration for

a 3D activity trail being launched at Warwick Castle this month. Visitors can explore the trail around the castle and its grounds, meet Sir Gadabout, learn all the skills needed to become a fully fledged dragon, and enjoy a special meet-and-greet with Zog himself.

## Alice in Easter Wonderland

Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust, Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

The caverns of Dudley Canal Trust are set to become a magically decorated Easter wonderland this month.

The Easter Bunny has teamed up with Alice, The Queen of Hearts and even The Mad Hatter to hide some giant eggs. Climb on board a boat and travel underground to find them, along the way enjoying Alice In Wonderland-themed scenes and sound & light shows. There's the chance to win a ton of chocolate, too!

Once you've finished your trip to Wonderland, enjoy a Tea Party with The Mad Hatter himself.



## Animal Easter Trail

RAF Museum, Cosford, Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

Back for a second year, RAF Museum Cosford's Animal Trail encourages families to make their way around the venue's hangars in search of animal friends. Once the fun task has been completed, participants can hand over their trail sheets in exchange for a much-deserved chocolate prize.

## Destination Space

Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham, Mon 6 - Fri 17 April

Thinktank is celebrating all things 'out of this world' this Easter.

Fun activities include weekday family theatre shows and the chance to learn all about satellites - how to spot them, what their uses are, and how they're likely to be deployed in the future.



## The Great Easter Dragon Egg Hunt

Ludlow Castle, Shropshire, Sat 4 - Mon 13 April

A pesky dragon has hidden its eggs in the grounds of Ludlow Castle, and the venue is asking budding knights and princesses to try and find them before they hatch and cause havoc!

There's a trail map available to help with searching the castle's nooks and crannies, and a special prize to enjoy at the end of it all.







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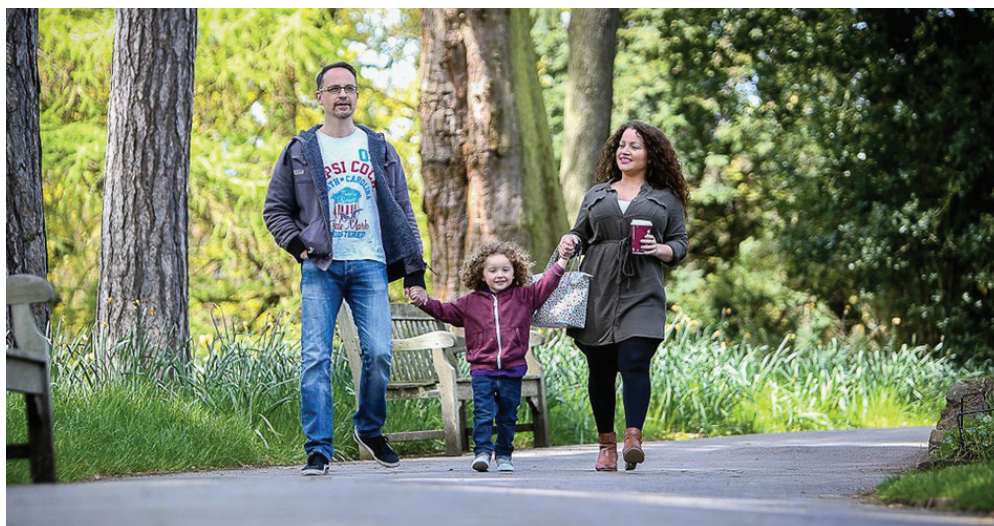
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## Easter Holiday Activities

Birmingham Botanical Gardens,  
Mon 13 - Fri 17 April

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is hosting daily activities for families to enjoy this Easter. As well as providing youngsters with the opportunity to sample a wide range of pursuits -

including bird watching and orienteering - the venue will also be welcoming Peter Rabbit on Wednesday the 15th for some special storytelling sessions. Bibbledy Bob, the garden's resident entertainer, will be in attendance a couple of days beforehand, on Easter Monday, providing plenty of fun and laughter down on the main lawn.



## Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt

various National Trust properties throughout  
the West Midlands

The mischief-making Easter bunny has been at it again, hiding clues for a special Easter Egg hunt at National Trust locations throughout the

Midlands.

Explore muddy woodlands, colourful gardens and interesting nature trails at numerous NT sites, with a chocolatey Cadbury treat as a special reward to enjoy at the end of your adventure.

## Easter Adventure Quest

Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire;  
Stokesay Castle, Shropshire and  
Witley Court, Worcestershire,  
Sat 4 - Sun 19 April



English Heritage is inviting children to take part in a 'legendary quest' at its Midlands properties this month. Intrepid adventurers and their families will need to crack a host of clues to track down dragon eggs hidden across the sites - after which they'll be rewarded with a certificate and some yummy treats from Hotel Chocolat.

## Easter Holidays at Compton Verney

Compton Verney Art Gallery &  
Park, Warwickshire, Tues 7 - Sun  
19 April

There are family-friendly activities aplenty to enjoy at Compton Verney this month. Visitors to the popular venue can take on the Egg Drop Challenge, track down all the escaped animals from the Folk Art Collection in the Easter trail, get creative with a range of crafty activities, enjoy storytelling, play musical instruments and sample games inspired by nature in the Forest School.







**Easter Fun at Ironbridge**  
Family activities 4-19 April  
[IRONBRIDGE.ORG.UK](http://IRONBRIDGE.ORG.UK)

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**Call 01743 234058**

**133<sup>rd</sup> Show**





## Easter Holiday Activities

British Motor Museum, Gaydon,  
Sat 4 - Sun 26 April

British Motor Museum is set to go 'Mini mad' this Easter, courtesy of a host of Mini-themed activities.

Families can explore the venue with the Fix It family trail or join Mini factory characters Victor or Patsy for a daily tour. Other attractions include the chance to design and make Minis in air drying clay workshops, and a traditional Easter egg hunt over the Easter weekend - complete with a 'Mini twist'!



## Easter at Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Shakespeare's Family Homes, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

There's plenty for youngsters to enjoy at Shakespeare's Family Homes this Easter. Attractions include a family marquee at Anne Hathaway's Cottage - complete with a selection of crafts based on some of Shakespeare's most popular plays - and an outdoor Sprites' Camp at the Shakespeare's Birthplace site (hosted by Puck from A Midsummer Night's Dream and Ariel from The Tempest!).

## Easter Extravaganza

Cadbury World, Bournville,  
Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

What better way to celebrate Easter than by visiting Cadbury World? Popular Cadbury characters Freddo and Caramel Bunny present their new live stage show every day during the holiday - while over the Easter weekend itself, children can check out the Easter egg trail or try their hand at making an Easter bonnet. Or both!



## Medieval St George's Day

Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, Sat 18 - Sun 19 April

Avoncroft is set to delve into the legend of St George this month, as the War of the Roses Federation re-enactors take over the site for a whole weekend and bring history to life. As well as action-packed reenactments, the two-day event features storytelling, archery competitions, the chance to dress up as a knight or a 15th century soldier, a St George Mummery play, living-history camps and medieval drills & combat experiences.



## Easter Holidays at Severn Valley Railway

Severn Valley Railway,  
Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

Severn Valley Railway brings the golden age of steam to life this Easter holiday - including the reintroduction of trains from Kidderminster.

On Saturday the 4th, to celebrate the grand reopening of the Loop Line from Kidderminster to Bewdley, visitors are invited to head back to the Victorian era courtesy of a host of activities along the line.

Other attractions include a brand new exhibition at The Engine House - telling the story of the railway between the 1870s and 1950s - and the chance to participate in a special Easter egg trail.



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Your week-  
by-week  
listings guide  
April 2020

# the list



Dita Von Teese: *Glamatrix* at The Alexandra, Birmingham - Sat 18 April

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

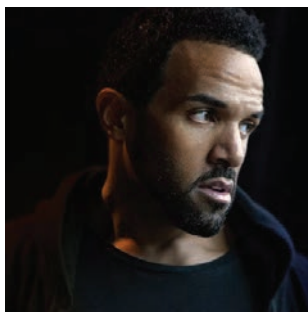
## What's On

Wed 1 - Sun 12 April



Romesh Ranganathan at  
Birmingham Hippodrome  
**Thurs 2 April**

Mon 13 to Sun 19 April



Craig David at Arena  
Birmingham  
**Sun 19 April**

Mon 20 to Sun 26 April



Mystery Jets at The Mill,  
Digbeth  
**Sat 25 April**

Mon 27 to Thurs 30 April



Jarrod Dickenson at  
Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**Thurs 30 April**



## THROUGHOUT APRIL

### 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

**WEBSTER AND HORSFALL: 300 YEARS OF INNOVATION** Archive material, watercolour paintings and objects from the museum's Science & Industry collection are here combined to tell the story of Webster & Horsfall, until Sun 4 Oct

### Grand Union

**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

**NEW: TRAINED ON VEDA** A malted loaf and evolving artwork by Laura Wilson, connecting bakeries and galleries through veda bread, Mon 6 Apr - Wed 30 Sept

### Ikon Gallery

**ÉTUDE NO 10 IN B MINOR** Italian artist Mariateresa Sartori explores the connection between music and language, until Sun 5 Apr

**DEAR NATURE** Major exhibition of Birmingham-born artist John Newling (b. 1952), until Sun 31 May

### MAC, Birmingham

#### 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

**CERAMIC COMMONS: 3D PRINTED CERAMICS COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITION** Ceramic Commons celebrates collaboration, open-source environment and digital 3D technology, until Sun 5 July

**NEW: MAXINE WALKER: UNTITLED** Poignant exploration of identity using photography to interrogate the

intricacies of skin, blackness and being, Sat 4 Apr - Sun 21 June

**NEW: CAROLINE WALKER: WOMEN'S WORK** An unique insight into Walker's artistic processes as a painter, Sat 4 Apr - Sun 28 June

### RBSA Gallery

**NEW: CANDIDATES 2020** Annual showcase of artwork by artists in the process of being elected as members & associates, Tues 7 - Sun 19 Apr

### The Barber Institute

**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, until Sun 11 Apr

**MATERNAL BONDS - IMAGES OF MOTHERHOOD** Spanning five centuries of work and showcasing prints by Marcantonio Raimondi, Hans Thoma and Käthe Kollwitz, alongside drawings by Dutch Golden Age artists Nicolaes Maes and Adriaen van Ostade, until Sun 24 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

### Other VISUAL ARTS

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

**NEW: NEOZOON COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION** Bringing together a collective of anonymous female artists based in Berlin, Fri 3 Apr - Sun 10 May, Centrala, Digbeth

**NEW: GAIA** Touring artwork by artist Luke Jerram showcasing the Earth as it appears from space, Mon 6 Apr - Mon 1 June, Millennium Point, Birmingham

**NEW: TEN ACRES OF SOUND** Experimental noise festival with sound installations and performances throughout the area, Fri 10 Apr - Sun 3 May, Artefact, Stirchley

**NEW: POST 2000: NEW WORKS** Recent paintings by Ernie Hudson, Mon 13 - Wed 22 Apr, A3 Project Space, Birmingham

**NEW: SILENT HISTORY** Mixed-media exhibit workers in the city, Tues 21 Apr - Tues 9 June, The Hive, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

## Gigs

**DIGDAT** Wed 1 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE ROSELLYS PLUS FRAGILE HEARTS** Wed 1 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

**D DOUBLE E** Wed 1 Apr, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

**THE STARLIGHT MAGIC HOUR + SPECIAL GUESTS** Wed 1 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**KNOXVILLE HIGHWAY** Wed 1 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

**SEED ENSEMBLE** Wed 1 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE** Wed 1 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**BARS AND MELODY** Thurs 2 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**FURY THE GRAND PRIZE** Thurs 2 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**SOUNDS OF SOUL** Thurs 2 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

**SOME SPROUTS + FAT CAT + AKANDE** Thurs 2 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**ASH SHEEHAN LIVE** Thurs 2 Apr, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**GENDER ROLES** Thurs 2 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

**ORCHARDS** Thurs 2 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**BIG HEATH** Fri 3 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE EVERLY BROTHERS DREAM** Fri 3 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**TEKNO DISCO X VOYAGE: HARE & HOUNDS TAKEOVER** Fri 3 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**YOU WIN AGAIN - THE BEE GEES TRIBUTE** Fri 3 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

**SOUNDS OF THE SIRENS + SAMANTICS** Fri 3 Apr, Dead Wax, B'ham

**RED LEMONS** Fri 3 Apr - Sat 4 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham



Roachford - O2 Academy, Birmingham

**PURE QUEEN** Fri 3 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**EMO DISCO - THE BLACK PARADE** Fri 3 Apr, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE LOTTERY WINNERS** Fri 3 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**PETE HYDE & THE VIELLARDS** Fri 3 Apr, The Blue Piano, Birmingham

**MACKA B & THE ROOTS RAGGA BAND** Fri 3 Apr, The Mill, Digbeth

**ELTON JOHN - 50 YEARS OF YOUR SONG** Fri 3 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**SUBMOTION ORCHESTRA** Fri 3 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**BECKY HILL** Fri 3 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

**MASTER CHARGER/FLEX BISON/SLUMP/SHOT DOWN ZED** Fri 3 Apr, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**COME TOGETHER WITH HEAVY SOL** Fri 3 Apr, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**ROACHFORD** Sat 4 Apr, O2 Academy, B'ham

**THE PROPHEC** Sat 4 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

**JOE BROWN IN CONCERT - 60TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR** Sat 4 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**KILLED A FOX (CRO) + MORE HUMAN THAN HUMAN** Sat 4 Apr, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**THE LAPELS WITH SUPPORT FROM STRIDE AND SAMMY ROGERS** Sat 4 Apr, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**SWEAT** Sat 4 Apr, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE CRAIC FOR CAROL** Sat 4 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**SIMON GOODALL AND THE BOURNE AGAIN SHADOWS** Sat 4 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**KROOKED TONGUE** Sat 4 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**THE SNAKE DAVIS TRIO** Sat 4 Apr, Pizza Express Live, B'ham

**DEFINITELY OASIS** Sat 4 Apr, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**CARIBOU** Sun 5 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**BRIDGES + SPECIAL GUESTS** Sun 5 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**GILBERT O'SULLIVAN** Sun 5 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**96 BITTER BEINGS** Sun 5 Apr, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

**THE TWANG** Sun 5 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**QUALITY ROOTS REGGAE NIGHT** Sun 5 Apr, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**DAVID REECE (PREVIOUSLY FROM ACCEPT + BONFIRE)** Sun 5 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham



## Classical & Easy Listening

**KATHY CHOW IN RECITAL** Programme includes works by Beethoven, Schumann, Debussy, Chopin & Prokofiev, Wed 1 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**CBSO: STRAVINSKY'S PULCINELLA** Featuring Kazuki Yamada (conductor), Alban Gerhardt (cello), Marta Fontanals-Simmons (mezzo soprano), James Way (tenor) & Antoin Herrera-Lopez Kessel (bass). Programme includes works by Fauré, Julian Anderson & Stravinsky, Thurs 2 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CBSO STRING QUINTET** Programme includes works by Monti, Bach, Strauss & Sousa, Thurs 2 Apr, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR EASTER CONCERT** Featuring Paul Spicer (conductor). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Leighton, Walton & Britten, Sat 4 Apr, St Philips Cathedral, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CHAMBER ENSEMBLE** Featuring Keith Slade (conductor). Programme includes works by Mozart, Stravinsky, Schoenberg & Copland, Sun 5 Apr, University of Birmingham

## Comedy

**BRING YOUR OWN BABY COMEDY** Wed 1 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**ROMESH RANGANATHAN** Thurs 2 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome



**PETE FIRMAN & THE AMAZING TBC** Thurs 2 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**DANA ALEXANDER, GARY LITTLE & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 2, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**BILL BAILEY, MIKE COX, SIMON LOMAS & WAYNE BEESE** Fri 3 Apr, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**RAY BADRAN, PHIL COOPER, HANNAH PLATT & JEREMY FLYNN** Fri 3 Apr, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

**TAT VISION II** Fri 3 Apr, The Glee Club,

Birmingham

**DANA ALEXANDER, GARY LITTLE, JOHN LYNN & TOM LUCY** Fri 3 - Sat 4 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JONNY AWSUM, MATT GREEN, DARIUS DAVIES & JAMES ALDERSON** Sat 4 Apr, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

**SIMON BRODKIN** Sun 5 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

## Theatre

**TARTUFFE** Brummie comedy about faith, family & #fakingit, until Sat 4 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

**PRESENT LAUGHTER** Amateur staging of Noel Coward's comic play, until Sat 4 Apr, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

**THE HIGH TABLE** Temi Wilkey's debut play - 'a heartbreaking family drama played out between the heavens and earth', until Thurs 9 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

**THE WINTER'S TALE** 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', until Fri 2 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BARNUM** Presented by the Peterbrook Players, Mon 30 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**LADYKILLER** Blood-soaked morality tale about victimhood... Tues 31 Mar - Thurs 2 Apr, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**CURTAINS** Jason Manfred stars in a whodunnit featuring '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, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**MURDER, MARGARET AND ME** 'Humour, thrills, sleuthing and pathos' combine, Tues 31 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Collaboration between Nottingham Playhouse & Nottingham Lakeside Arts, Wed 1 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

**BOSIE** One-man show about Oscar Wilde's lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, Wed 1 - Sat 4 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**MR PUNTILA AND HIS MAN MATTI** Newman University presents its version of Bertolt Brecht's anarchic story, Thurs 2 - Fri 3 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**AIDA** New production by Russian State Opera. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Fri 3 Apr, Belgrade



## 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.

Theatre, Coventry

**ANGRY BIRDS** Young Rep Seniors present a new punk musical, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

**JEW...ISH** Twisted millennial romcom which poses the question that should never be answered: is it ever okay to get back with your ex? Fri 3 - Sat 4 Apr, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**CARMEN** Russian State Opera present Bizet's tale of passion, jealousy & violence. Sung in French with English surtitles, Sat 4 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**MRS KAPOOR'S DAUGHTER'S WEDDING** Bollywood-style show, complete with dancing, singing and comedy, Sun 5 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

## Kids Shows

**SARAH & DUCK'S BIG TOP BIRTHDAY** Puppetry, storytelling & music combine in a production based on the BAFTA-winning CBeebies show, Sat 4 - Mon 6 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

## Cabaret

**AN EVENING OF PSYCHIC CONNECTIONS: PART 3** With medium Karen Archer, Sat 4 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

## Dance

**BOLLYWOOD DIVAS** Show paying tribute to the leading ladies of Bollywood - the world's largest film industry, India, Sat 4 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome

**HAVANA NIGHTS** A mix of Latin dances, with individual performances from Strictly's Graziano Di Prima, Sun 5 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

## Film

**INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:**

**MANDY (18)** Fantasy/Horror. Starring Nicolas Cage, Andrea Riseborough. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 27 Mar



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**Siobhan Phillips**  
Tuesday 28 April  
Tickets £19.50



**Only Fools & Boycie**  
Wednesday 29 April  
Tickets £20.50



**Andrew Maxwell**  
Friday 22 May  
Tickets £19.50



**Sofie Hagen**  
Tuesday 26 May  
Tickets £16.50

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# Spring at MAC



**The Great Race**  
Fri 8 & Sat 9 May

## Highlights

**Creative Camps** for ages 6-13  
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**The Laughing Sole Comedy Club for Kids**  
**Family Cinema / Free Exhibitions**



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**TRUE HISTORY OF THE KELLY GANG (18)** Biography/Crime. Starring George MacKay, Essie Davis. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 27, Mon 30 - Tues 31 Mar & Thurs 2 Apr

**DARK WATERS (12a)** Biography/Drama. Starring Mark Ruffalo, Anne Hathaway. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 30 Mar

**MILITARY WIVES (12a)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar - Thurs 2 Apr

**FANDO Y LIS (15)** Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Alejandro Jodorowsky, Diana Mariscal. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

**SEA WITHOUT SHORE (PG)** Drama. Starring Livia Rangel, Fernanda Lippi. Foreign language, subtitled. Followed by a live onstage Q&A with co-directors André Semenza and Fernanda Lippi. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

**THE WATERMELON WOMAN (15)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Cheryl Dunye, Guinevere Turner. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

**DIRTY DANCING (18)** Romance. Starring Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey. Brunch edition. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

**QUEER JAPAN (tbc)** Documentary. Followed by Q&A with director Graham Kolbeins. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

**CON AIR (18)** Crime/Thriller. Starring Nicolas Cage, John Cusack. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 28 Mar

**THE CALL OF THE WILD (PG)** Adventure/Drama. Starring Harrison Ford, Omar Sy. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 28 Mar

**TOP 3 & 'HAPPY ENDINGS' (tbc)** Film double bill. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

**GIRL AT MY DOOR (18)** Drama. Starring Doona Bae, Sae-ron Kim. Foreign language, subtitled. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

**CALL HER GANDA (tbc)** Documentary.

Foreign language, subtitled. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

**FACE/OFF (18)** Action/Crime. Starring John Travolta, Nicolas Cage. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

**THE ELEPHANT MAN (PG)** Biography/Drama. Starring John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

**END OF THE CENTURY (PG)** Drama. Starring Juan Barberini, Ramon Pujol. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 29 Mar

**KLUTE (15)** Crime/Mystery. Starring Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 1 Apr

**EMMA (U)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 1 & Fri 3 Apr

**ONWARD (PG)** Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Holland, Chris Pratt. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Thurs 9 Apr

**MISBEHAVIOUR (12a)** Drama/History. Starring Keira Knightley, Gugu Mbatha-Raw. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Thurs 9 Apr

**CALM WITH HORSES (15)** Drama. Starring Ned Dennehy, Barry Keoghan. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Sat 4, Mon 6 & Thurs 9 Apr

**SPYCIES (U)** Animation/Action. With the voices of Karen Strassman, Monsieur Poulpe. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 4 Apr

**TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM (12a)** Documentary. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 5 & Wed 8 Apr

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 3 Apr, showing at selected cinemas

**THE ASSISTANT (15)**

**CARMILLA (15)**

**THE UNCERTAIN KINGDOM (15)**

**THE SECRET GARDEN (PG)**

**THE NEW MUTANTS (12a)**



## Mrs Kapoor's Daughter's Wedding

The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 5 April

Bollywood dancing, live singing and comedy sketches combine in this well-reviewed show that promises to take its audiences on 'a kaleidoscopic journey'. YouTuber Parle Patel takes the title role of Mrs Kapoor, the mother of five girls and a woman who's eagerly looking forward to her eldest daughter's nuptials. A quartet of dhol players add to the fun with some infectious party vibes.

## Events

**COVENTRY FESTIVAL OF RUNNING** Part of a week-long festival of running, until Sun 5 Apr, Coventry City Centre

**TROLL-TASTIC ADVENTURE** Get ready for Trolls World Tour! until Sun 10 May, Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham

**JAWSOME SHARKS** The National Sea Life Centre is looking for brave adventurers for a brand new quest with the venue's Professor Finn... until Sun 10 May, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

**ALICE IN EASTER WONDERLAND** Travel underground through the magically decorated Easter Wonderland, Wed 1 - Sun 19 Apr, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

**PLANETARIUM LATES: EQUINOX 360 PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE** Performed live, entirely by one man, one instrument & projected in 360 degrees which immerses you into the sights & sounds of one of the biggest selling & acclaimed acts on the planet, Thurs 2 - Fri 3 Apr, Thinktank, Birmingham

**PLANET EARTH II - LIVE IN CONCERT** 'Sensational' footage from the award-winning BBC series, Fri 3 Apr, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

**ENGINEUITY EXPLORERS** Explore the contents of Mr Darby's Magical Box of Science Secrets, Fri 3 Apr, Engineuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK** Guided walk looking at the people, places and themes that have helped to shape the district, Sat 4 Apr, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**EASTER EGG TRAIL** Eggciting Easter egg trail, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**TOKFEST** Including meet & greets, live Q&As, games, chats and a hashtag challenge zone and more, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

**EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES** Enjoy 'mini madness' this Easter, Sat 4 - Sun 26 Apr, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

**TOY COLLECTORS FAIR** Explore over 500 stalls packed with all kinds of collectable toys, trains and models for sale, Sun 5 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

**GRIMM FAIRY-TALES AT SOHO** Immersive storytelling tour, Sun 5 Apr, Soho House, Birmingham

**FAIRY-TALE CRAFT: JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** Craft your own beanstalk pot and grow it to the castle in the sky, Sun 5 Apr, Soho House, B'ham



Emma - Artrix, Bromsgrove



Thurs 23 Apr 7.30pm

**KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS**  
Popular Swing band



Wed 29 Apr 7.30pm

**GEORGE EGG MOVABLE FEAST**  
Cooking & comedy show in the Studio



Mon 4 & Tues 5 May 2.30pm & 7.30pm

**ALL OUR YESTERDAYS**

Timeless Theatre Company present a colourful rollercoaster ride of nostalgia



Thurs 7 May 7.30pm

**ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW & THE LOW RIDERS**  
Superb musician and performer



Sun 17 May 7.30pm

**FAIRPORT CONVENTION**

Fantastic Folk Rock



Tues 19 May 7.30pm

**AN AUDIENCE WITH LESLEY GARRETT**  
Britain's most popular Soprano



Box Office: 0121 704 6962  
[www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk](http://www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk)

**The 39 Steps**

The Blue Orange Theatre  
23rd April - 2nd May 2020  
[www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk](http://www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk)  
118 Great Hampton Street, B18 6AD

**Blue Orange Arts**

**thinktank**  
Birmingham science museum

# A WHOLE WORLD OF FUN THIS EASTER

- Destination Space
- 4K Planetarium
- Dino Egg Hunt
- MiniBum & lots more!

[birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk)

Funded by: Birmingham City Council, Arts Council England, Millennium Point, Birmingham Museums



### Gigs

**SKENGDO X AM** Mon 6 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**JAMES DW LEESE + HANNAH BROWN + ALIYAH MENDES** Mon 6 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**TRIPPIE REDD - LOVE ME MORE TOUR** Tues 7 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**EVERYONE YOU KNOW / MASTER PEACE** Tues 7 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**CHILDCARE** Tues 7 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**LIONEL - A TRIBUTE TO LIONEL RICHIE** Tues 7 Apr, The Grand Theatre, W'hampton

**EASTER SPECIAL FT. SASASAS** Wed 8 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

**PUSSYCAT DOLLS** Wed 8 Apr, Arena Birmingham

**THE JIGANTICS PLUS OLIVIA ROSE DEAN** Wed 8 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

**NEW HOPE CLUB** Thurs 9 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**LOST GODS OF ENGLAND** Thurs 9 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**RICK ASTLEY** Thurs 9 Apr, Arena B'ham

**THAT PEDAL SHOW BAND** Thurs 9 Apr, The Asylum, B'ham

**BROTHER STRUT** Thurs 9 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

**THE COVASETTES + OUTLINE + LOWER LOVEDAY** Thurs 9 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**ALTOSTRATUS / PRAVITAS / ORPHEUS / BROCKEN SPECTRE** Thurs 9 Apr, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**IQ** Fri 10 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**RED RUM CLUB** Fri 10 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**PSYDOLL** Fri 10 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**DREADZONE** Fri 10 Apr, Hare & Hounds,



Pussycat Dolls - Arena Birmingham

Birmingham

**AN ORCHESTRAL RENDITION OF DR DRE: 2001** Fri 10 Apr, The Mill Digbeth, B'ham

**DIZZY LIZZY** Fri 10 Apr, Route 44, Birmingham

**TONY MACALPINE** Fri 10 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**CARIBBEAN ROCKS** Fri 10 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE REGGULITES** Fri 10 Apr, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**THE BUSINESS** Fri 10 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**EMILIA QUINN AND EMMA MORE** Fri 10 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

**SUBTERRANEANS** Fri 10 Apr - Sat 11 Apr, The Jam House, B'ham

**THE TERRY CLARKE BAND** Fri 10 Apr, The Blue Piano, B'ham

**THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE** Fri 10 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**THE HART OF ELVIS** Fri 10 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**LOVE BREAKERS / HELL'S DITCH** Sat 11 Apr, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**CUT GLASS KINGS** Sat 11 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**THE BLOW MONKEYS** Sat 11 Apr, Pizza Express Live, B'ham

**MOLLY KARLOFF / RAZE / 13 / SHADOW SMILE - SCRUFFY'S,** Birmingham Sat 11 Apr, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**THE GREATEST HITS OF MOTOWN - HOW SWEET IT IS** Sat 11 Apr, The Alexandra, B'ham

**DIE DAS DER PRESENT EASTER CLATTER-DAY** Sat 11 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**ANDY BENNETT + SPECIAL GUESTS** Sat 11 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**BROKEN MINDS PRESENTS: FABIO** Sat 11 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE STRANGE DOORS** Sat 11 Apr, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**DUTTY MOONSHINE BIG BAND** Sat 11 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**HRVY** Sat 11 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE LOVELY EGGS + SPECIAL GUESTS** Sat 11 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**WORLD CLASH: THE END** Sun 12 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**MASS DISTRACTION TOUR** Sun 12 Apr, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**SEVEN DRUNKEN NIGHTS - THE STORY OF THE DUBLINERS** Sun 12 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**SEAZOO** Sun 12 Apr, Dead Wax, B'ham

**THE TIN TIN'S RE-UNION PARTY 2020** Sun 12 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**GEKO: THE 22 TOUR** Sun 12 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**BALABAB'S GARDEN** Sun 12 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

### Classical & Easy Listening

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT: MUSIC FOR EASTER** Featuring Thomas Trotter (organ). Programme includes works by J.S Bach, Handel, Brahms, J.Dattas, R. Downes & Dupré, Mon 6 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**AGNES OBEL IN CONCERT** Mon 6 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**EX CATHEDRA: GOOD FRIDAY ST JOHN PASSION** Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Fri 10 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**PENDRYS MALE CHOIR** Fri 10 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Comedy

**TOM ROSENTHAL** Wed 8 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**THE MIGHTY KIDS BEATBOX COMEDY SHOW** Wed 8 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**DOM JOLY** Thurs 9 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**RACHEL FAIRBURN, MIKE WILMOT & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 9 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**RACHEL FAIRBURN, MIKE WILMOT, MICKY P KERR & ANDY ROBINSON** Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**STEVE HARRIS, NICK DOODY, THOMAS GREEN & DAVE LONGLEY** Sat 11 Apr, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

**GUZ KHAN, DALISO CHAPONDA, JOHN SIMMIT, SHABBA & JAY DROCH** Sun 12 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

### Theatre

**A GIRL IN SCHOOL UNIFORM (WALKS INTO A BAR)** Bold new play about 'crisis, darkness, cities and hope', Tues 7 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's iconic musical returns, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

**HOW TO SAVE A LIFE** 'Hilarious and heart-wrenching story' of one woman, one party and a cancer diagnosis, Wed 8 - Sat 11 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**HOWARD'S END** New play about comedian Frankie Howerd, Wed 8 - Sun 12 Apr, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**WOODLAND TALES WITH GRANDDAD** Intimate show for younger audiences, Thurs 9 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**EUROPEANA** New production which

compresses 100 years of European history into a fast-paced narrative, Thurs 9 Apr - Sat 25 July, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**CARMEN** Russian State Opera present Bizet's tale of passion, jealousy & violence. Sung in French with English surtitles, Fri 10 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**MADAMA BUTTERFLY** Russian State Ballet presents its version of one of the world's most exotic operas, Sat 11 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**WILDVIXEN'S BURLESQUE LEGEND'S EXTRAVAGANZA** Featuring headliners from across the globe, Sat 11 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

### Kids Theatre

**SHARK IN THE PARK** Family musical based on Nick Sharratt's popular books, Mon 6 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**RAPUNZEL: A TANGLED MUSICAL TALE** Immersion Theatre present a brand new musical version of the classic family tale, Tues 7 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY** The People's Theatre Company bring one of the world's best-loved nursery rhymes to life, Tues 7 - Wed 8 Apr, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**PEPPA PIG'S BEST DAY EVER** Brand new show for younger audiences, packed full of songs, games & laughter, Tues 7 - Thurs 9 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA** Family show packed with 'oodles of magic, singalong songs and clumsy chaos', Thurs 9 - Sun 12 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**OI FROG & FRIENDS!** Theatre for younger audiences combining songs, puppetry, laughter 'and more rhymes than you can shake a chime at', Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**KIDZ BOP WORLD TOUR** Interactive family-friendly concert experience, Sat 11 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### Talks

**SOUNDS OF THE 70S WITH JOHNNIE WALKER** Johnnie Walker takes his long-running BBC Radio Two show out on the road, Wed 8 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE PSYCHOLOGY OF A SERIAL KILLERS** Join expert forensics lecturer Jennifer Rees to explore one of



# EGG-CELLENT EASTER ACTIVITIES



Eggmerge yourself in our Easter Sunday egg hunt. Then, come and join us for a whole host of wonderful activities this Easter week, including Bibbledy Bob, award winning children's entertainer.

**12th-17th  
April 2020  
11am-3pm**

12th April  
Easter Sunday  
Easter  
Egg Hunt

For more information or to purchase general admission tickets, please visit:  
[birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk](http://birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk)


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# HOWARD'S END

BY MARK FARRELLY



starring SIMON CARTWRIGHT as FRANKIE HOWARD and MARK FARRELLY as DENNIS HEYMER directed by JOE HARMSTON

**CAN YOU IMAGINE BEING TERRIFIED OF YOUR OWN HAPPINESS?  
YOU CAN? THEN LET'S BEGIN...**

*Theatre* THE OLD JOINT STOCK  
8TH - 12TH APRIL WED-SAT @ 8PM  
SUN @ 3PM  
4 TEMPLE ROW WEST, BIRMINGHAM B2 5NY • OLDJOINTSTOCK.CO.UK • 0121 200 1892

Photo and Design: Steve Usherbone

## Spring is in the air at Avoncroft Museum

There's plenty to see & do at the Museum this April!



We'll be celebrating Easter with two of our renowned Family Fun Days, on Sunday 12th & Monday 13th April, when we'll be welcoming a herd of rather cheeky Alpacas to the Museum! As well as two weeks of 'egg-cellent' school holiday fun!

To round off the holidays, we'll also be welcoming the Wars of the Roses Federation to a living history weekend on Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th April. Watch Avoncroft transform into a medieval campsite, delve into the legend of St George & watch history come to life with archery competitions, storytelling, medieval drills & combat & children can even become a 15th century soldier!



[www.avoncroft.org.uk](http://www.avoncroft.org.uk)

Avoncroft  
Museum

whatsonlive.co.uk

## ARTRIX BROMSGROVE

### April 2020

	<b>Weekender</b> Friday 10 - Sunday 12 April <b>Easter Weekender</b> Music, Film, Food & Fun
	<b>Family Theatre</b> From 6 April <b>Easter Family Theatre</b> Incl: Shark in the Park and Puss in Boots
	<b>Music</b> Thursday 16 April <b>The Ultimate Classic Rock Show</b>
	<b>Music</b> Sunday 19 April <b>Kate Bush-Ka</b>
	<b>Workshops</b> From 20 April <b>New Workshops</b> including Lino Printing
	<b>Theatre</b> Thursday 30 April <b>Andrew Maxwell: Reality</b>

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Artrix, Slideslow Drive  
Bromsgrove, B60 1GN



forensic psychology's most troubling topics, Wed 8 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

### AN AUDIENCE WITH HARRY REDKNAPP

Join the I'm a Celebrity 2018 winner as he shares stories from his football and TV career, Thurs 9 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

## Dance

### RIVERDANCE: 25TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

Reinvention of the much-loved family favourite, Mon 6 - Thurs 9 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

### BURN THE FLOOR: ANYTHING YOU CAN DO

New dance show from Kevin & Joanne Clifton, Wed 8 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Kate Prince's new dance-theatre show fuses 'exhilarating dance styles, dazzling footwork and breathtaking athleticism' - all set to the music of Sting, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome

### REMEMBERING THE OSCARS

Aljaz and Janette return with a brand new show, Thurs 9 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**PARASITE (15)** Drama. Starring Kang-ho Song, Yeo-jeong Jo. Foreign language, subtitled. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 6 & Wed 8 Apr



### EOS: EASTER IN ART (12a)

Documentary. Directed by Phil Grabsky. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Tues 7 Apr; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 7 Apr

**LITTLE WOMEN (U)** Drama. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Apr

**ONWARD (PG)** Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Holland, Chris Pratt. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 10 Apr

**BACURAU (18)** Action/Adventure. Starring Bárbara Colen, Thomas Aquino. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 10 & Tues 14 Apr

**SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (PG)** Action/Adventure. Starring Ben Schwartz, James Marsden. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 10 -

Thurs 16 Apr

**RADIOACTIVE (12a)** Biography/Drama. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Rosamund Pike. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 10 - Thurs 16 Apr

**HERO (12a)** War/Drama. Starring Jet Li, Maggie Cheung. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 11 Apr

**PADDINGTON (PG)** Adventure/Comedy. Starring Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins. Followed by Teddy Bear's Picnic Party & a meet and greet with Paddington. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 11 Apr

**DOWNHILL (12a)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Will Ferrell. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 11, Mon 13 & Wed 15 Apr

**DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST (12a)** Drama/History. Starring Cora Lee Day, Alva Rogers. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 12 Apr

**CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (PG)** Adventure/Comedy. Starring Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 12 Apr

**MILITARY WIVES (12a)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 12, Tues 14 - Wed 15 Apr

**LIFE OF BRIAN (12a)** Comedy. Starring Graham Chapman, John Cleese. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 12 & Thurs 16 Apr

## Events

### DESTINATION SPACE - EASTER HOLIDAYS

Blast off into space this Easter with the latest Destination Space activities, Mon 6 - Fri 17 Apr, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

**GAIA** Installation allowing visitors to see the Earth as it appears from space, Mon 6 Apr - Mon 1 Jun, Millennium Point & Eastside Park, Birmingham

### EASTER ANIMALS CRAFT ACTIVITY

Weave your own Easter animal pompom, Tues 7 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**SPOTLIGHT TOURS FOR ALL** Talks on a range of themes designed to bring Aston Hall to life, Tues 7 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS** Featuring Easter egg hunts, crafts, activities and trails, Tues 7 - Thurs 9 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**EASTER EGG TRAIL** Find all the clues in the garden to complete the trail and win a prize, Tues 7 - Sun 19 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**ASTONISHING ART: DESIGN A SPRING CERAMIC** Explore the Hall, sketching as you go, then design and decorate your own ceramic plate and egg cup, Wed 8 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham



Burn The Floor - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**SMETHWICK ENGINE STEAMING DAY** The Smethwick Engine has recently undergone an extensive restoration project, Wed 8 Apr, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

**EXPLORE THE FACTORY FLOOR: EASTER EDITION** Explore the Smith & Pepper Company at your own pace, with guides along the way, Wed 8 Apr, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**CRAFTY WEDNESDAY - DRAGON MASKS** Scare your friends and family with your very own dragon mask, Wed 8 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, B'ham

**GUIDED TOUR: HERITAGE AND HISTORY OF THE BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS** Learn more about how the Gardens have evolved over time, Wed 8 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**GRIMM FAIRYTALES AT SOHO** Immersive storytelling tour, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Apr, Soho House, Birmingham

**FAIRY-TALE CRAFT: JACK AND BEANSTALK** Join Jack to craft your own beanstalk pot and grow it to the castle in the sky, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Apr, Soho House, Birmingham

**DRAGON EGG HUNT** Can you find the giant eggs hidden around the grounds? Wed 8 - Sun 12 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, B'ham

**EXPLORE & CREATE WORKSHOP** Hands-on family-friendly guided tour of the Smith & Pepper jewellery factory, complete with a workshop for children aged between seven and 11, Thurs 9 Apr, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**EASTER EGG BASKET CRAFT ACTIVITY** Make and decorate your own Easter basket, Thurs 9 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**MADE IN BIRMINGHAM: BANNER MAKING WORKSHOP** Join Birmingham Repertory Theatre's adult art group to create banners for their Made In

Birmingham performance over the Easter Holidays, Thurs 9 Apr, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

**UNICORN DAY** Featuring a unicorn makeover, a willow-weaving workshop and a mythical trail, Thurs 9 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**TALL TALES: JACK AND THE BEANSTALK FAMILY STORYTELLING TOUR** Interactive telling of 'a brand new tall tale', Fri 10 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**CADBURY EASTER EGG HUNT** Fill your Easter with family fun, delicious Cadbury treats, and eggciting egg hunts, Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Coughton Court, Alcester; Baddesley Clinton, Solihull; Packwood House, Solihull; Birmingham Back to Backs; Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton; Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

**EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA** Featuring bonnet competitions, an Easter egg trail and the brand new Freddo & Caramel Bunny live stage show, Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Cadbury World, Birmingham

**COLLAGE MAKING** Free drop-in session where you can make your very own collage, Sat 11 Apr, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

**THE GREAT EASTER EGG HUNT** The Easter bunny has been to Weoley Castle! Can you find all of the hidden eggs? Sat 11 Apr, Weoley Castle Ruins, Birmingham

**THE JOE & DIANNE SHOW** Featuring Strictly's Joe Sugg and Dianne Buswell, Sun 12 Apr, Arena B'ham

**ASTON IN WONDERLAND: A FAIRY TALE TAKEOVER** Visit Aston Hall and meet some of your favourite storybook characters, Sun 12 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**EASTER SUNDAY FUN** Sun 12 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**FAMILY FUN DAYS** Sun 12 - Mon 13 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove



## Gigs

**THE UKRANIANS** Mon 13 Apr, Centrala, B'ham

**THE MAGIC OF THE BEATLES** Mon 13 Apr, The Alexandra, B'ham

**KING KING** Tues 14 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**MUMM-RA + SPECIAL GUESTS** Tues 14 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**MR BEN & THE BENS** Tues 14 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SET IT OFF** Wed 15 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

**HARRY STYLES** Wed 15 Apr, Arena B'ham

**HUNGER MOON + SPECIAL GUESTS** Wed 15 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**HINDS + LISS** Wed 15 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**HOW SWEET IT IS** Wed 15 Apr, The Grand Theatre, W'hampton

**BOOMTOWN RATS** Wed 15 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**THE ELO EXPERIENCE** Wed 15 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**SEA GIRLS** Thurs 16 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

**SNOOP DOG** Thurs 16 Apr, Arena Birmingham

**HAPPYNESS** Thurs 16 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE LOST WORDS: SPELL SONGS** Thurs 16 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY** Thurs 16 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**STRESS RELEASE** Thurs 16 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

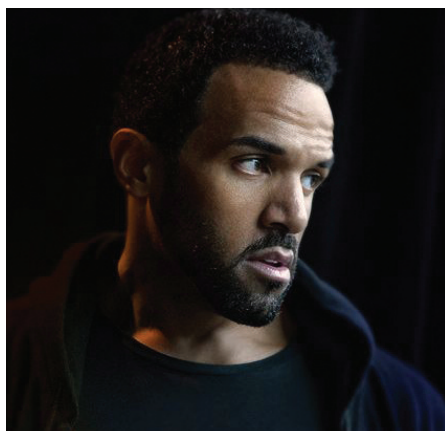
**THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC ROCK SHOW** Thurs 16 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE NIGHT CAFE** Fri 17 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THE DEAD FINKS & OCTOGOTH DOUBLE HEADLINER** Fri 17 Apr, Route 44, Birmingham

**LATINO FEST** Fri 17 Apr, Mama Roux's, B'ham

**THE KING ELVIS PRESLEY**



Craig David - Arena Birmingham

**LIVES ON** Fri 17 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**SMOOVE & TURRELL: STRATOS BLEU TOUR** Fri 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**BLACK RABBIT** Fri 17 Apr, The Blue Piano, Birmingham

**IMPERIAL AGE** Fri 17 Apr, The Asylum, B'ham

**SARA NIEMIETZ & W.G. SNUFFY WALDEN** Fri 17 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

**KREWZ CNTRL** Fri 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**TAKE THE FIFTH** Fri 17 Apr, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**AL MOSES + HEADSHRINKERS + EXTRAS + ROOKIE** Fri 17 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**LARKINS + SPECIAL GUESTS** Fri 17 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**THE ACACIA STRAIN** Fri 17 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

**PRINCE PARTY** Fri 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**PIGS PIGS PIGS PIGS** Fri 17 Apr, The Mill Digbeth

**ANOTHER SKY** Fri 17 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**CITYLIGHTZ** Fri 17 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

**RAK-SU** Sat 18 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**BIFF BYFORD - SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS** Sat 18 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**KARL LOXLEY: YOU RAISE**

**ME UP** Sat 18 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**THE URBAN VOODOO MACHINE** Sat 18 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**RENOUNCED** Sat 18 Apr, The Asylum, B'ham

**THE COUNTERFEIT STONES** Sat 18 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**FEMME METAL PRELIMINARY** Sat 18 Apr, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**THE LANCASHIRE HOTPOTS BEERHEMIAN RHAPSODY TOUR** Sat 18 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**JP COOPER** Sat 18 Apr, O2 Academy, B'ham

**PATTI BOULAYE 'ARETHA AND ME'** Sat 18 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

**CREEPER** Sat 18 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

**RAIN** Sat 18 Apr, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**THE WHITE BUFFALO** Sun 19 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**NAP EYES** Sun 19 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**KATE BUSH-KA** Sun 19 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**CRAIG DAVID** Sun 19 Apr, Arena B'ham

**CALLAGHAN** Sun 19 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**AS EVERYTHING UNFOLDS & I CRIED WOLF** Sun 19 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**LIFE** Sun 19 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

## Classical & Easy Listening

**ELGAR'S PIANO QUINTET** Featuring Jonathan Martindale & Stefano Mengoli (violins), Christopher Yates (viola). Kate Setterfield (cello) & Robert Markham (piano), Thurs 16 Apr, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**CBSO: ELGAR'S THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS** Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor), Anna Stéphany (mezzo soprano), Robert Murray (tenor) & James Platt (bass), Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**SIBERIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring Dmitry Vasiliev (conductor) & Freddy Kempf (piano). Programme includes works by Olga Viktorova, Rachmaninoff & Tchaikovsky, Fri 17 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## Comedy

**JOE LYCETT** Mon 13 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**PREACHER LAWSON** Wed 15 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**DAN NIGHTINGALE, CATHERINE BOHART PLUS COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**CHRIS RAMSEY** Fri 17 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**THE NOISE NEXT DOOR** Fri 17 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**DAN NIGHTINGALE, CATHERINE BOHART, KANE BROWN & NOEL JAMES** Fri 17 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**STEPHEN BAILEY, ELLIOT STEEL, STEVE SHANYASKI & PETE OTWAY** Sat 18 Apr, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

**DAN NIGHTINGALE, CATHERINE BOHART, NOEL JAMES & COMIC TBC** Sat 18 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**LAUGHING SOLE COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS** Sun 19 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**TOMMY SANDHU, HYDE PANASER, SLIM & EMILY LLOYD-SAINI** Sun 19 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

## Theatre

**PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT** Strictly winner Joe McFadden stars in a new production of the smash-hit musical, Mon 13 - Sat 18 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome

**LA BOHÈME** Brand new production of Puccini's romantic opera. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Tues

14 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**FRIENDS! THE MUSICAL PARODY** Hit musical that lovingly lampoons the popular TV sitcom, Tues 14 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**FROZEN** Psychological thriller about retribution, remorse and redemption, Tues 14 - Sat 18 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**CHAPLIN: BIRTH OF A TRAMP** Arrows & Traps explore how one of the world's most remarkable performers spun personal tragedy into universal comedy, Wed 15 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**THE CROFT** The Original Theatre Company present a true story which interweaves the past and the present. Gwen Taylor stars..., Wed 15 - Sat 18 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



**ME AND MY DOLL** Romantic comedy exploring the challenges, joys and pitfalls of allowing yourself to be vulnerable... Thurs 16 Apr, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE WIZARD OF OZ** Spring Pantomime adaptation of L Frank Baum's classic story, Thurs 16 - Fri 17 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**VOLPONE** Classic satire from African Caribbean theatre company Tangle, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE TEMPEST** Amateur staging presented by the Garrick Young REP Acting group, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

**ROMEO & JULIET** Shakespeare's iconic story of romantic woe is transported from Verona to Birmingham, Thurs 16 - Sat 25 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

**THE NOISE NEXT DOOR IN CHARGE** 'Side-splitting, jaw-dropping, time-travelling adventure that's fun for literally everyone', Fri 17 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**JON CULSHAW: THE GREAT BRITISH**



**TAKE OFF** Evening of unscripted, spontaneous comedy and conversation, with politicians, sports personalities and celebrities all up for a roasting, Fri 17 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**FLOWER CUTTERS** Coming-of-age thriller about friendship and betrayal, Fri 17 - Sat 18 Apr, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

**ILLUSION/DELUSION** Three new plays by playwright David Pollard, Sat 18 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

**BLAKE: MOVIE & MUSICALS** Sat 18 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

**MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL 2: CRUISING THROUGH MENOPAUSE!** Sequel to the smash-hit show, Menopause The Musical, Sun 19 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

## Kids Shows

**SHARK IN THE PARK** Family musical based on Nick Sharratt's popular books, Tues 14 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**PUSS IN BOOTS** Lyngo Theatre staging of the popular children's tale. CBeebies presenter Patrick Lynch stars, Tues 14 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE SOOTY SHOW** Featuring Sooty's flying car, Soo's singing unicorn and Sweep's levitating sausage! Wed 15 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**PEPPA PIG'S BEST DAY EVER** Brand new show for younger audiences, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

## Cabaret

**DITA VON TEESE: GLAMONATRIX** 'Uber-glamorous' burlesque show, Sat 18 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

## Dance

**BALLET CENTRAL** Featuring excerpts from Wayne McGregor's Symbiont(s) & Annabelle Lopez's Ochoa's Requiem For A Rose, Fri 17 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**CALM WITH HORSES (15)** Drama. Starring Ned Dennehy, Barry Keoghan. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 16 Apr

**DAVID ATTENBOROUGH: A LIFE ON OUR PLANET (PG)** Documentary. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 16 Apr

**MR. JONES (15)** Biography/Drama. Starring James Norton, Vanessa

Kirby. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 17 & Wed 22 Apr

**THE TRUTH (PG)** Drama. Starring Catherine Deneuve, Juliette Binoche. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 17, Mon 20 & Thurs 23 Apr

**1917 (15)** Drama/War. Starring George MacKay, Benedict Cumberbatch. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 17 - Thurs 23 Apr

**BEST BEFORE DEATH (12a)** Documentary. Bill Drummond and Tam Dean Burn will be performing two short plays live in the cinema both before and after the screening. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 18 Apr

**TOMMY (15)** Drama/Musical. Starring Roger Daltrey, Ann-Margret. Highbury Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 18 Apr

**LITTLE MERMAID (18)** Animation/Fantasy. With the voices of Jodi Benson, Samuel E. Wright. This is a sing-a-long brunch showing. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 18 Apr

**FOUR KIDS AND IT (tbc)** Family/Fantasy. Starring Paula Patton, Matthew Goode. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 18 Apr

**THE PAINTED BIRD (18)** Drama/War. Starring Stellan Skarsgård, Barry Pepper. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 18 & Tues 21 Apr

**LITTLE MERMAID (18)** Animation/Fantasy. With the voices of Jodi Benson, Samuel E. Wright. This is a sing-a-long showing. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 19 Apr

**MORVERN CALLAR (15)** Drama. Starring Samantha Morton, Kathleen McDermott. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 19 Apr

**PRESENT.PERFECT. (PG)** Documentary. Directed by Shengze Zhu. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 19 Apr

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 17 Apr, showing at selected cinemas

**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (tbc)**

**DREAM HORSE (PG)**

**ANTLERS (15)**

## Events

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY** Explore the home of one of the world's most revolutionary metal manufacturers, Mon 13 Apr, Soho House, Birmingham

**DINOSAUR FAMILY FUN RACEDAY** Meet Zeus (Europe's largest T-Rex), Triceratops, T-Rex and Raptor, chat to



Dita Von Teese: Glamonatrix - The Alexandra, Birmingham

Cory the talking dinosaur, train to be a ranger and cuddle the baby dinosaurs, Mon 13 Apr, Wolverhampton Racecourse

**DRAGON DAY** Dragon-themed activities, including crafts and dragon school, Mon 13 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

**EASTER ACTIVITIES** Fun activities with resident children's entertainer Bibbledy Bob, Mon 13 - Fri 17 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**POTTING SHED CRAFT ACTIVITY** Create your own plant pot using a range of craft materials, Tues 14 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS** Featuring Easter egg hunts, crafts, activities and trails, Tues 14 - Thurs 16 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**ASTONISHING ART: DESIGN A SPRING CERAMIC** Explore the Hall, sketching as you go, then design and decorate your own ceramic plate and egg cup, Wed 15 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**PETER RABBIT STORY TIME** Hop along to see Peter Rabbit, Wed 15 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**GRIMM FAIRYTALES AT SOHO** Immersive storytelling tour, Wed 15 - Thurs 16 Apr, Soho House, Birmingham

**FAIRY-TALE CRAFT: LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD** Help Little Red Riding Hood make a basket to take to her grandma's, Wed 15 - Thurs 16 Apr, Soho House, Birmingham

**MADE IN BIRMINGHAM: BANNER MAKING WORKSHOP** Join Birmingham Repertory Theatre's adult art group in creating banners for their Made In Birmingham performance over the

Easter Holidays, Thurs 16 Apr, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

**CARNIVAL MASKS AND WINDMILLS CRAFT ACTIVITY** Create a fabulous carnival mask and windmill, inspired by the colours in the garden, Thurs 16 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**KIDS JEWELLERY WORKSHOP** Design and create a bracelet or pendant, Thurs 16 Apr, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**GUIDED TOUR: HERITAGE AND HISTORY OF THE BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS** Learn more about how the Gardens have evolved over time, Thurs 16 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**TALL TALES: JACK AND THE BEANSTALK FAMILY STORYTELLING TOUR** 'Interactive telling of a brand new tall tale', Fri 17 Apr, Aston Hall, B'ham

**CRAFTY FRIDAY: UNICORN RACING** Design and create your own unicorn horns, attach them to hobby horses and race them through the Weoley Castle moat, Fri 17 Apr, Weoley Castle Ruins, Birmingham

**CAGE WARRIORS 114** Europe's leading MMA promotion returns for a third high-octane event. Sat 18 Apr, Arena Birmingham

**MEDIEVAL ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATION** Delve into the legend of St George as re-enactors bring history to life, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**ANDY AND THE ODD SOCKS** London-based five piece group aimed at younger audiences and fronted by CBeebies superstar Andy Day, Sun 19 Apr, The Old Rep, Birmingham



## Gigs

**ASHLEY HENRY** Mon 20 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**BRENDAN SCHAUB: 50 SHADES OF BROWN** Tues 21 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**RED CITY RADIO, GOOD FRIENDS & TEMPLETON PEK** Tues 21 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**MICROWAVE** Tues 21 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

**TRISH CLOWES' MY IRIS** Tues 21 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**WILL AND THE PEOPLE** Wed 22 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**BLACK PEAKS** Wed 22 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**HERMAN'S HERMITS** Wed 22 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**JAMES SAYER BAND** Wed 22 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

**LANTERNS ON THE LAKE + SPECIAL GUESTS** Wed 22 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**CATRIN O'NEILL & CHRIS KNOWLES, KAREN PFEIFFER & PAUL WALKER** Wed 22 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

**OSCAR LANG** Thurs 23 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUITS** Thurs 23 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**JOSEF** Thurs 23 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

**LAST GREAT DREAMERS** Thurs 23 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

**BAXTER DURY** Thurs 23 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**HEATHER PEACE** Thurs 23 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**TOSKA + SPECIAL GUESTS** Thurs 23 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**NOBLE JACKS** Thurs 23 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



*Mystery Jets - The Mill, Digbeth*

**BRAINSTORM** Fri 24 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THOMAS BENJAMIN ESQ + THE OUSE VALLEY SINGLES CLUB (SOLO)** Fri 24 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SIMPLE MINDS - 40 YEARS OF HITS** Fri 24 Apr, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

**THE SHOWHAWK DUO** Fri 24 Apr, The Mill Digbeth, Birmingham

**NOISE NOT MUSIC FESTIVAL 2020** Fri 24 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**ESOTERICA + SPECIAL GUESTS** Fri 24 Apr, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**NATASHA WATTS** Fri 24 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

**LAMB OF GOD** Fri 24 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**JOHN ADAMS** Fri 24 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**WARREN JAMES** Fri 24 Apr, The Blue Piano, Birmingham

**THE BEST OF FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS** Fri 24 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE PUPPINI SISTERS** Fri 24 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**DITCH DAYS** Fri 24 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**BEAT BROTHERS** Fri 24 Apr & Sat 25 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

**PAUL HEATON & JACQUI ABBOTT** Fri 24 Apr, Arena Birmingham

**THE HARA** Sat 25 Apr, O2 Academy, B'ham

**GODS OF RAP II** Sat 25 Apr, Arena B'ham

**ROY HEMMINGS: HITS OF MOTOWN** Sat 25 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**TOYAH & HAZEL O'CONNOR** Sat 25 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

**MALA (DEEP MEDI)** Sat 25 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**DEAN FRIEDMAN** Sat 25 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

**MYSTERY JETS** Sat 25 Apr, The Mill Digbeth

**BEXEY** Sun 26 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**SKINNY LIVING** Sun 26 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**NOVA TWINS + SPECIAL GUESTS** Sun 26 Apr, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**SIGNING OFF (LIVE UB40 TRIBUTE)** Sun 26 Apr, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**LUKE EVANS** Sun 26 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**LOS BITCHOS** Sun 26 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**GENUINE PANAMA** Sun 26 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**HOLY FUCK** Sun 26 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## Classical & Easy Listening

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER** Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Reger & W. Alcock, Mon 20 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**TAIWAN PHILHARMONIC: TCHAIKOVSKY NO. 6** Featuring Shao-Chia Lü (conductor) & Kit Armstrong (piano). Programme includes works by Yuan-Chen-Li, Saint-Saëns & Tchaikovsky, Mon 20 Apr, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**SIBERIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring Dmitry Vasiliev (conductor) & Freddy Kempf (piano). Programme includes works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninov & Tchaikovsky, Wed 22 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**CSBO & OSMO VÄNSKÄ** Also featuring Ning Feng (violin). Programme includes works by Sibelius & Beethoven, Wed 22 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**ASSASSIN'S CREED SYMPHONY A** multimedia symphony performance enabling audiences to experience the rich musical history of the franchise live in concert, Thurs 23 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**ANDRÉ RIEU WITH THE JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA** Thurs 23 Apr, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

**SAKARI ORAMO & ROYAL STOCKHOLM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Also featuring Nicola Benedetti (violin). Programme includes works by Victoria Borisova-Ollas, Prokofiev & Sibelius, Sat 25 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**K'ANTU ENSEMBLE** Sat 25 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

## Comedy

**PETE FIRMAN & THE AMAZING TBC** Tues 21 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

**JOE LYCETT** Tues 21 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**MARK STEEL** Thurs 23 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**ANDREW RYAN, FIN TAYLOR & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 23 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham

**SEANN WALSH** Fri 24 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham



**ROBIN MORGAN** Fri 24 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ANDREW RYAN, FIN TAYLOR, PAUL THORNE, ADAM STAUNTON & CELYA AB** Fri 24 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham

**JACK BARRY** Sat 25 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

**FREDDY QUINNE, ROBIN MORGAN, GAVIN WEBSTER & ANDREW ROBINSON** Sat 25 Apr, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

**BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT** Sat 25 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**ANDREW RYAN, FIN TAYLOR, PAUL THORNE & LINDSEY SANTORO** Sat 25 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ROUGH WORKS** Sun 26 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

## Theatre

**DIAL M FOR MURDER** Tom Chambers and Samantha Womack star, Mon 20 - Sat 25 Apr, The Alexandra, B'ham

**WE WILL ROCK YOU** Smash-hit musical by Queen & Ben Elton, Mon 20 Apr - Sat 2 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

**THE KITE RUNNER** Based on Khaled Hosseini's international bestselling novel, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**CONFESSIONS OF A COCKNEY TEMPLE DANCER** Join Shane Shambhu as he rips up ideas of race, language and culture via a mix of theatre, dance and film, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

**THE WEDDING SINGER** Amateur staging presented by Bournville Musical Theatre Company, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**PLEASANT ISLAND** Flemish documentary theatre-makers Silke Huysmans and Hannes Dereere travel to Nauru to investigate the consequences of a world intent on endless growth, Wed 22 - Thurs 23 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**SCREAM PHONE** Scream meets Clueless in a spoof horror musical, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Apr, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE DELIGHTFUL SAUSAGE: GINSTER'S PARADISE** 'Surreal sketch comedy nightmare that will tear your soul apart', Thurs 23 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**SILENT UPROAR: THANK YOU FOR DOING NOTHING** Production about the climate emergency and the men who profit from it, Thurs 23 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**THE 39 STEPS** A cast of four recreate 150 zany characters in John Buchan's fast-paced whodunnit, Thurs 23 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**THE WHY? EVENT** Show using



dramatisations, spoken word and dance to explore why people stay in domestic-abuse relationships, Fri 24 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**WESELE / WEDDING** Immersive one-woman comedy show, Fri 24 & Sat 25 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE EFFECT** Amateur staging of Lucy Prebble's drama concerning two young volunteers who agree to take part in a clinical drug trial, Fri 24 Apr - Sat 2 May, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

**SHEILA'S MENTAL HEALTH SHOW 7** One-woman show exploring anxiety and its effects on our beliefs, behaviours and relationships, Sat 25 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

**THE FATHER** The story of an elderly man with dementia, and his daughter, who is struggling to maintain a life of her own as she cares for him, Sat 25 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** Actor & comedian Miles Jupp makes his RSC debut, Sat 25 Apr - Sat 3 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

## Kids Shows

**THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA** Family show packed with 'oodles of magic, sing-along-songs and clumsy chaos', Tues 21 - Wed 22 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

**BILLIONAIRE BOY** Birmingham Stage Company present a new version of David Walliams' bestselling story, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Apr, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

## Dance

**LEWYS HOLT: PHRASES AND FOOTNOTES** Double bill of work fusing dance and text with a sprinkling of comedy, Thurs 23 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE LOST HAPPY ENDINGS** BalletLorent recreate Carol Ann Duffy's enchanting tale, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**CUNNINGHAM (U)** Documentary/Biography. Directed by Alla Kovgan. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 20 Apr

**MISBEHAVIOUR (12a)** Drama/History. Starring Keira Knightley, Gugu Mbatha-Raw. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 21 - Thurs 23 Apr

**PARASITE (15)** Drama. Starring Kang-

ho Song, Yeo-jeong Jo. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 24 - Tues 28 & Thurs 30 Apr

**ELVIS: THAT'S THE WAY IT IS (U)** Documentary/Music. Starring Elvis Presley, James Burton. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 22 Apr

**TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM (12a)** Documentary. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 24 Apr

**THE PERFECT CANDIDATE (15)** Drama. Starring Mila Al Zahrani, Nora Al Awadh. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 24 & Tues 28 Apr

**BLUE VELVET (18)** Mystery/Thriller. Starring Isabella Rossellini, Kyle MacLachlan. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 25 Apr

**LITTLE MERMAID (18)** Animation/Fantasy. With the voices of Jodi Benson, Samuel E. Wright. This is a sing-a-long brunch showing. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 25 Apr

**AND THEN WE DANCED (15)** Drama. Starring Levan Gelbakhiani, Bachi Valishvili. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 25, Mon 27, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Apr

**LADY BIRD (15)** Drama/Comedy. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 26 Apr



**SYSTEM CRASHER (15)** Drama. Starring Helena Zengel, Albrecht Schuch. Foreign language, subtitled. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 23 Apr; Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 26 & Wed 29 Apr

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 24 Apr, showing at selected cinemas

**FINDING THE WAY BACK (15)**

**OUR LADIES (15)**

**ANTLERS (15)**

## Events

**GUIDED TOUR: HERITAGE AND HISTORY OF THE BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS** Learn more about how the Gardens have evolved over time, Wed 22 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens



## The Kite Runner

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr

Adapted from Khaled Hosseini's bestselling novel, *The Kite Runner* takes its audience on a journey across time and continents, encompassing both the traumas of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the horrors of 9/11 some 22 years later. At its heartland, though, is the story of the friendship that exists between two youngsters - Amir, a well-to-do Pashtun boy, and Hassan, a Hazara who's the son of Amir's father's servant. The boys spend their days happy in one another's company and kite flying together - until, that is, their friendship is devastated and their lives shattered by a display of shameful cowardice on Amir's part...

**THE MURDER OF ALBERT BECKER** Enjoy Court 15 in a new and unique way. Interrogate suspects, follow clues and help the police solve the mystery of Albert Becker's death, Fri 24 Apr, Birmingham Back to Backs

**ST. GEORGE'S DAY** Medieval living history in the castle and reenactments in the castle grounds, Sat 25 Apr, Tamworth Castle

**SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS** Special programme to mark Shakespeare's 456th birthday, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Apr, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford Upon Avon

**WALES COMIC CON: TELFORD TAKEOVER** Celebrate the best of comics,

cosplay, media and more, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Apr, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

**THE 40TH CAROLE NASH INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE SHOW** The show is back with a special 1940s edition to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Apr, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford

**ST GEORGE'S DAY 2020** Featuring medieval reenactment, children's entertainers, face painting, crafts, and a walkabout with Smoked! the Dragon, Sun 26 Apr, Dudley Zoological Gardens



St George's Day - Tamworth Castle





Jarrod Dickenson - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## Gigs

**JIMOTHY LACOSTE** Mon 27 April, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**BON IVER** Mon 27 April, Arena Birmingham

**THE RHEINGANS SISTERS** Mon 27 April, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**WALK RIGHT BACK - THE EVERLY BROTHERS TRIBUTE** Mon 27 April, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**PURPLE THREAD + BAD BUG** Mon 27 April, The Sunflower, B'ham

**CASEY LOWRY + SPECIAL GUESTS** Tues 28 April, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**SONG SUFFRAGETTES** Tues 28 April, The Glee Club, B'ham

**NATHANIEL RATELIFF** Tues 28 April, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**NIGHTINGALES / PETER ASTOR / KAMURA OBSCURA** Tues 28 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**ALL SHOOK UP** Tues 28 April - Sat 2 May, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**BUZZARD BUZZARD** Tues 28 April,

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**OUR HOLLOW, OUR HOME** Wed 29 April, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THE FRATELLIS** Wed 29 April, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**CHON** Wed 29 April, The Asylum, B'ham

**FEBUEDER + SPECIAL GUESTS** Wed 29 April, The Sunflower, Birmingham

**BONFIRE RADICALS** Wed 29 April, The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

**BELINDA O'HOOLEY - INVERSIONS** Wed 29 April, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**JORDAN MACKAMPA** Wed 29 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**GUUNA B** Thurs 30 April, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**PROTOJE, LILA IKE & SEVANA** Thurs 30 April, O2 Institute, B'ham

**EMILY BURNS** Thurs 30 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**JARROD DICKENSON & DAVID FORD** Thurs 30 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**PETE AND BAS** Thurs 30 April, The Mill Digbeth

**GWEN DICKEY - THE VOICE OF ROSE ROYCE** Thurs 30 April, Birmingham Town Hall

**THOSE SNAKES & BATTALIONS PLUS SUPPORT** Thurs 30 April, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**IN FLAMES** Thurs 30 April, KK Steele Mill, Wolverhampton

**SHAMBOLICS** Thurs 30 April, Dead Wax, Birmingham



Bonfire Radicals - The Red Lion Folk Club

## Classical & Easy Listening

### GONZAGA BAND: FREDDI'S VESPER

Featuring Jamie Savan (director), Mon 27 Apr, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

### PETER DONOHOE PIANO RECITAL

Programme includes works by Haydn, Beethoven & Schumann, Mon 27 Apr, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**CONCERTGEBOUW WINDS** Programme includes works by Martínú, Janáček & Poulenc, Tues 28 Apr, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**CBSO: BEETHOVEN'S EROICA** Featuring Julian Rachlin (conductor / violin) & Sarah McElravy (viola). Programme includes works by Rossini, Mozart & Beethoven, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**MOZART FLUTE QUARTETS** Featuring Marie-Christine Zupancic (flute), Kirsty Lovie (violin), David BaMaung (viola) & Miguel Fernandes (cello). Programme includes works by Mozart, Andrew Norman & Varése, Thurs 30 Apr, CBSO Centre, B'ham

**ISATA KANNEH-MASON PIANO RECITAL** Programme includes works by Beethoven, John Field, Schumann, Chopin, Barber, Poulenc, Gershwin & Schumann, Thurs 30 Apr, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

## Comedy

**SIOBHAN PHILLIPS** Tues 28 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**KERRY GODLIMAN** Wed 29 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**BRUM CRAIC** Wed 29 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**IAIN STIRLING** Thurs 30 Apr The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**ANDREW MAXWELL** Thurs 30 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**SCOTT AGNEW, JENNY COLLIER & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 30 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

## Theatre

**AMSTERDAM** UK premiere of a 'strikingly original and audacious play', Mon 27 - Wed 29 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**NIKIPEDIA** Shared histories presented as a fusion of stand-up, theatre and stories down the pub, Tues 28 - Wed 29 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**LAVA** Story about friendship and human connection in the face of the inexplicable, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, The REP, Birmingham

**FLASHDANCE** New staging of the iconic film of the same name, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**ALL SHOOK UP** Solihull On Stage present a heartwarming tale about following dreams, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's award-winning production of JB Priestley's classic thriller, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



**ONLY FOOLS AND BOYCIE** Intimate evening with Only Fools And Horses actor John Challis, Wed 29 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**OLIVER TWIST** Bryony Lavery adaptation of Dickens' iconic tale, Wed 29 Apr - Sat 9 May, The REP, Birmingham

**BORED OFF MY TITS** Provocative account of one woman's journey back to herself via music, thrills and chat lines, Thurs 30 Apr - Fri 1 May, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

## Dance

**SNOW WHITE** Midland Theatre Ballet version of the classic fairytale, Thurs 30 Apr - Sat 2 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**RADIOACTIVE (12a)** Biography/Drama. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Rosamund Pike. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 27 - Tues 28 Apr

**STILL LIFE (15)** Drama. Starring Tao Zhao, Zhubin Li. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Wed 29 Apr

## Events

**2020 UNIBET PREMIER LEAGUE DARTS** Featuring some of the world's best darts, Thurs 30 Apr, Arena B'ham



# TAKING FLIGHT

DISCOVER DREAM DESIGN

25 JANUARY–14 JUNE 2020

Depart on a journey of invention and explore the evolution of flight in this immersive exhibition. No previous flying experience needed, so get ready to wing it.

#CovTakesFlight

Find out more: [transport-museum.com](http://transport-museum.com)

Exhibition created by TECH:SQUAD in partnership with Coventry Transport Museum. Designs by Firecatcher and objects on loan from Midland Air Museum.

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**COVENTRY  
TRANSPORT  
MUSEUM**

Driving curiosity

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

*Quinn*  
A JOURNEY

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14 February – 31 May 2020

A multimedia project by Lottie Davies. Curated by Dr Rachel Marsden, and produced by Elizabeth Wewiora and Charlie Booth.

#QuinnCoventry

Find out more [theherbert.org](http://theherbert.org)

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**COVENTRY  
OPEN2020**

Kite by © Jack Foster



29 February – 19 April 2020

This is the eleventh **Coventry Open**, an inspiring exhibition showcasing a range of talent from the West Midlands and Warwickshire. The work on display is selected by a panel of judges and produced in a variety of media, from painting and drawing, to sculpture and textiles.

#CoventryOpen2020

Find out more [theherbert.org](http://theherbert.org)





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