

Coventry & Warwickshire

ISSUE 412 APRIL 2020

What's On

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PHOTOGRAPH BY HUGO GLENNING

inside:

thelist

Your 16-page week
by week listings guide

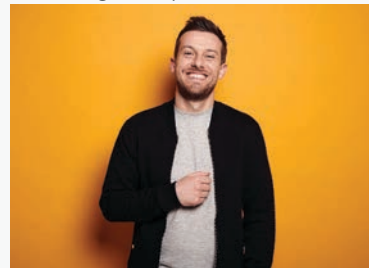
THE CROFT

Gwen Taylor stars in a chilling
drama at Coventry Belgrade



HAVIN' A LAUGH

Chris Ramsey stands up in
Leamington Spa



EASTER WITH ZOG

Children's favourite comes to
life at Warwick Castle





Bank Holiday VE Day

Fri 8 May, 10.30am – 5pm

Celebrate VE Day with Turner Prize nominee Simon Patterson's spectacular, vibrant explosions of colour.

Simon Patterson, *Landskip*, Compton Verney, 2000. Curated by Locus+



May Half Term Activities

The Printers' Workshop

Sat 23 – Fri 29 May, 11am – 4pm

Forest School

Tue 26 & Thu 28 May, 11am – 3pm

£3 per child, babes in arms FREE

See our website for further information

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Richard Jones : Escape

Fri 17 Apr 7.30pm



The Phil Beer Band

Sat 18 Apr 7.30pm



Flamenco Express

Sat 25 Apr 7.30pm



Guitar Heroes

Sat 2 May 7.30pm



Forbidden Nights

Thur 7 May 7.30pm



Vienna Festival Ballet: Swan Lake

Sat 23 May 7.30pm

Box Office: 01684 295074

Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 5NX

Keep up to date:



RosesTheatre



the.roses.theatre



@RosesTheatre

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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NEC, Birmingham

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For more information visit
homebuildingshow.co.uk/national



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To get **2 FOR 1 TICKETS** to the National Homebuilding & Renovating Show, saving you £18* visit homebuildingshow.co.uk/nectickets or call **0844 854 0503**** and enter code **MIDLANDS**

*Offer expires 3pm 25 March 2020. Saving based on one day door price ticket. A £1.75 transaction fee applies. Children 16 and under go free. **Calls cost 7p per minute plus network extras.



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What's On
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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 Sir 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

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,

whatsonlive.co.uk

sharing and supporting'. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit myticket.co.uk

From Beethoven to Bowie

The Stratford-upon-Avon-based Orchestra of the Swan will mark the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with a dedicated concert that places the composer's work alongside that of David Bowie.

Rebel Rebel examines the cultural relevance and far-reaching legacies of the two artists. The evening includes a new work entitled Ashes To Ashes, which sets a number of Bowie songs for chamber orchestra. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit orchestraoftheswan.org



Sister Sledge join the line-up at Nozstock 2020

Sister Sledge have been added to the line-up for this year's Nozstock The Hidden Valley music festival.

The legendary dance music stars, best known for their 1970s disco-era hits We Are Family, Lost In Music and He's The Greatest Dancer, will perform at the festival when it takes place at Bromyard in Herefordshire from 23 to 26 July. For more information about the event's 2020 line-up, visit nozstock.com



Creative learning at Coventry arts centre

Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre is hosting school summer term creative-arts workshops for the whole family to enjoy.

Taking place on Saturdays (and two days during May half term), Creative Learning Space provides youngsters with the chance to get involved with dance, drama, words & ideas, music and visual arts. The season opens on Saturday 25 April with a Family Dance Workshop inspired by BalletLorent's production, The Lost Happy Endings, which is showing at the venue that weekend.

For more information about the workshops, visit warwickartscentre.co.uk

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

Comic Con sets new June date



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."



Sheridan Smith to star as Cilla Black as hit musical returns

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 miniseries. 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

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.



There'll be Singin' In The Rain in Brum

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



West Midland Safari Park begins work on new luxury 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."

BBC antiques show at Coventry Cathedral



Long-running BBC TV series Antiques Roadshow will be filmed at Coventry Cathedral and the adjacent University Square on 8 September. The event is free to attend - so to see Fiona Bruce and other presenters from the show, just turn up on the day between 9.30am and 5pm... Antiques Roadshow last visited the region in 2019, when it was filmed at Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park.

Boost for British Motor Museum

A unique and record-breaking Triumph TR2 prototype sports car has been acquired by the British Motor Museum with £250,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

One of just three prototypes of the extremely successful 1953 Triumph TR2 model produced by the Standard Motor Company, the car is the only one known to have survived.

In May 1953, during speed trials at Jabbeke in Belgium, the Triumph TR2 reached a speed of almost 125 miles per hour, setting a record for a two-litre road car at that particular time.



Gareth Gates Footloose in Malvern!

Pop Idol star Gareth Gates will head the cast of Footloose The Musical when the hit show tours to Malvern Theatres, from Monday 13 to Saturday 18 July. Commenting on taking the role of Willard in the show, Gareth said: "I was born in 1984, the year Footloose the movie was first released. I used to watch the film lots as a kid, not knowing that some years later I'd be playing the 'cowboy who can't dance' on stages up and down the country. I'm a terrible dancer, so it's pretty much a case of life imitating art!"



Oktoberfest back at the racecourse

The world famous Oktoberfest returns to Worcester Racecourse on 31 October. The Bavarian-style festival will take place in one of Europe's largest bier tents and feature a large selection of traditional German foods, a line-up of authentic oompah bands from around the world, and (of course!) a mouthwatering selection of delightful beverages.

For more information, visit OktoberfestWorcester.co.uk



OI FROG & FRIENDS!
 FRI 10 – MON 13 APRIL
 TIMES VARY
TOWN HALL



THE HOLLIES
 SAT 9 MAY
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



KIDZ BOP WORLD TOUR
 SAT 11 APRIL
 6PM
SYMPHONY HALL



**STRICTLY COME DANCING:
 THE PROFESSIONALS 2020**
 SUN 17 MAY
 2:30PM & 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC
 SAT 2 MAY
 8PM
SYMPHONY HALL



DEAD RINGERS LIVE
 TUE 19 MAY
 7:30PM
TOWN HALL



THE SHIRES
 MON 4 MAY
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



BLACK VOICES THE SHOW
 FRI 22 MAY
 7:30PM
TOWN HALL



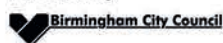
THE SHOW - A TRIBUTE TO ABBA
 ACCOMPANIED BY: LONDON SYMPHONIC ROCK ORCHESTRA
 FRI 8 MAY, 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO
 SUN 7 JUNE
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

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heritage
 lottery fund
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Dark and dangerous...

Brand new thriller comes to Coventry

The Croft stars Midlands-born Gwen Taylor, best remembered from 1980s sitcom *Duty Free* and, more recently, as Peggy Armstrong in the long-running ITV series, *Heartbeat*. What's On recently caught up with Gwen to talk about a chilling new stage show coming to The Belgrade this month...

Two women arrive at a former crofter's hut in the deserted village of Coillie Ghille. The remote Scottish Highlands seems the perfect place to get away from it all - until, that is, the two friends find themselves enveloped by The Croft's dark and dangerous history. Past and present collide as the tales of women from across The Croft's timeline are unearthed.

"The play is based on a true story that caught the attention of writer Ali Milles when she was on holiday in the Scottish Highlands," says Gwen Taylor, who stars in the show. "It's difficult to talk about the plot because I don't want to give too much away. The most important thing is The Croft itself, where so many historical things have happened. My character, for example, is alive in 1875, at the time of TB and clearances. I'm very much a believer in the fact that some buildings do feel like something awful has happened in them, and that the buildings themselves absorb that feeling. If you're a sensitive soul you can often feel that past. The Croft is about how the influence of my character, Enid - and what happened to her - carries through the decades and into the present day.

"The important thing is that it's a story about women. Enid is a bit of a trailblazer. A woman who's getting on a bit, being independent and living on her own in her day meant that she was seen as a witch by everyone else. She also takes in a young girl who's become pregnant and been thrown out by her parents. All these things mount up, so that the rest of the village hate her. So a lot of Enid's time in the play is spent trying to assert herself as an actual person. The story that plays out in Enid's time is then what reverberates through the rest of history to other female characters.

"I think female characters, thank god, are in ascendance in the theatre. There are some great characters about for strong women to play, and I'm so glad to be around to play Enid. She's honestly wonderful. She doesn't take any prisoners, she's her own woman and doesn't take kindly to people going against her. And that's putting it mildly!

"The Croft is a wonderful story about what women might have to give up in order to be themselves. I've played a number of roles within that theme over the years and it always satisfies me. I don't always want to play

harridans - I like playing 'nice' women as well - but it's nice to play women who you can understand and sympathise with in terms of why they are what they are. Maybe they haven't been treated so well in the past and that's made them the person they are today. I admire Enid a lot, which is what I love most about The Croft. But also, when I met the cast, I realised they're to-die-for! We're having such a great time because we all get on so well. It's quite a small cast; there's only five of us, but it's really lovely. Two of the cast even play more than one character - up to three - and brilliantly too! I stick to just Enid, mainly because she has so many layers of clothes on from the cold up there at The Croft, and she also gets very, very grubby. I'm very grateful that I don't have to do all those quick costume changes!"

Gwen has her own theory about why the 'thriller' genre is so popular: "I think everyone likes to be a little scared. I remember when I was young always dying to go and see the scary films I wasn't supposed to see. I wouldn't quite say The Croft scares you, but it's certainly intriguing and worrying. It certainly is a thriller, though, because of what happens. I think in some ways thrillers are a bit of catharsis: you get rid of and express some of your own fears by going through that experience alongside the characters. Obviously I'm not a psychologist so I could be talking total rubbish! I must say I do prefer psychological thrillers to the ones that jump out at you. Those ones that could happen to anybody, even in the house next door, with ordinary people, are the stories that really get to people. Ghosties and monsters just don't have that same effect. The Croft is all about understanding the minds of these different women; how they're affected by, and how they respond to, the things that happened there."

Despite having recently celebrated her 81st birthday, Gwen remains active on both stage and screen: "I couldn't do it if I didn't have the best husband in the world. He still loves driving and looks after me on tour. Touring is one of the most exhausting things you can do - whatever age you are. Of course, I would find a way anyway because I love continuing to work, but it's made much easier for me by my darling husband, Graham. It's a pleasure because we get to visit loads of new places, or

places we remember from the past, and share something very special. He becomes almost part of the company and gets on with everyone. At first I used to be a bit ashamed, punishing myself a little for not being able to tour alone, but so many tell me that I'm such a lucky cow to have my man with me! If he didn't come with me, I'd sometimes be away for months at a time without coming home to him, which I'd find very difficult. I don't want to sound like I've given up, but I don't think I can run for a train with two suitcases anymore, which is what I used to do when I was touring. After I've finished this tour, I'd love to do something either based in London - on screen or a play - or something that's shot on location, like when I was in *Heartbeat*. It's always lovely to be able to stay somewhere for a longer period of time for work. Touring is getting to be quite the challenge, as we have to be quite intrepid old people! I do get over the tiredness quite quickly and want to get onto the next project, but at the time it feels quite difficult. I'm quite a tough old bird, really!"

Gwen's long career hasn't been without its rich rewards.

"I don't think I can pick one particular career highlight. *Duty Free* was probably the most successful and managed incredible ratings for its time. That was probably the highlight of my comedy career. Then I did one of my husband's plays, called *Love*, which was wonderful. I liked *Heartbeat* too, because of the location and because I got to play someone a little naughty, which was fun. I also met my darling friend Peter Benson on *Heartbeat*. He's since passed away, but my husband and I still think about him quite a lot. He'd love The Croft! He used to recommend plays to me all the time, and I know he'd love this one."

As will Midlands theatre-goers, adds Gwen: "Come along and you'll see that it's a brilliant set, a great cast, and that you'll be intrigued, moved and taken aback. The Croft definitely offers something a little different."

.....

The Croft shows at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, from Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 April.



BOOK NOW 024 7655 3055 www.belgrade.co.uk

*Ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee. No booking fee applies if booked online.



REVIEW: The Hatton Arms

Innovation and tradition combine at the newly refurbished roadside revelation

Part of the historic Hatton Estate, this proudly independent restaurant & pub is situated on the Birmingham Road and boasts magnificent views of the surrounding Warwickshire countryside and Grand Union Canal.

Illuminated like a beacon beckoning you off the nearby highway, a sense of history pervades as you step across the threshold, passing beneath the centuries-old crest into the warm embrace of the cosy bar. Eclectic yet in every way in-keeping with the pub's 180-year history, low-hanging oak beams, stunning inglenook fire places, intimate wood-panelled corner booths and original stonework marry effortlessly with quirky contemporary flourishes including signature lampshades of varying designs, nautical-themed statement walls channelling The Hatton's canalside heritage, accent cushions in burnished orange & turquoise and an intriguing line in cultural curiosities, from up-cycled boating oars to 18th-century coach wheels. A feast for the eyes in every sense!

Entering the newly refurbished restaurant area - a beautifully light, bright space brimming

with character and packed out with expectant diners - a brief glance at the menu revealed an equally detailed and loving approach to locally sourced ingredients, from the award-winning Oxfordshire beef to the freshly made artisan bread delivered from nearby Stratford-upon-Avon each morning. Seasonal specials included grilled south coast mackerel served with beetroot & horseradish crème fraîche, pan-roasted sea trout fillet served with spinach and samphire risotto, crispy ham and lobster butter sauce, and - my personal favourite - duo of spring lamb served with buttered maris piper potatoes, onion puree, crushed peas, red wine jus and salsa verde. For lovers of a 'pub classic', there was no shortage of appetising options, from tried-and-tested favourites such as 'bangers & mash' and 'handmade pie' to chargrilled 'chuck steak' burgers and 28-day dry-aged Oxfordshire beef steaks. Surveying our options, a taster plate of starters arrived. Deliciously moreish and much too good to share, highlights included the leeky Welsh rarebit served on sourdough bread, a melt-in-the-mouth marriage of

cheddar cheese, fresh leeks and a hint of English mustard. The Devon crab and avocado toast with gruyere crouton was, likewise, not only exceptionally fresh but surprisingly light, despite the generous portion size. By far my favourite of the three, however, was the air-dried British beef served with watercress, parmesan shavings and truffle oil - a masterclass in quality.

For a taste of the East, my partner's choice of the spicy Thai seafood broth special was somewhat lacking in punch but a great choice for the calorie-conscious. And for those seeking a classic starter executed to perfection, you can't go wrong with the chicken liver pate with plum chutney and toasted sourdough.

Channelling my historic surroundings, the prospect of a main course of grilled Wellesbourne venison haunch was just too good to resist. Served 'field to fork' on a bed of root vegetable dauphinoise with fresh tender-stem broccoli, beetroot jam and game jus, the venison was cooked to absolute perfection. Its rich, earthy flavour was complemented beautifully by the sweetness of the beetroot jam and subtle fruit flavours of the game-jus. The broccoli, too, was perfectly executed, and cooked just the right side of picante: a fantastic example of great seasonal produce cooked with care and precision.

My partner's choice of pan-fried sea bass fillets served with Bombay potatoes, cucumber raita, Indian salad and curry oil was not only a refreshing addition to the menu but a fantastic example of The Hatton Arms' creative yet considered approach to great flavour combinations.

A brief glance over the dessert menu revealed plenty to tempt us back for a second sitting,

including a delicious line in locally sourced cheeses, as well as the ever-popular chocolate brownie served with vanilla ice cream, Baileys crème brulee and - in homage to homegrown, seasonal, British produce - rhubarb & ginger trifle served with fresh cream and custard.

Add to this a popular Sunday menu featuring a choice of meat and vegetarian roasts, all-day Fizz Friday promotions on Prosecco, and a regular programme of special events to enjoy with friends and family, and you have the perfect excuse to escape to the country.

Since closing its doors to the public in January to undergo an extensive refurbishment project, this popular 18th-century free house turned 21st-century pub has been *the* hot topic on the lips of Warwickshire foodies. Newly open for business, complete with stylish exterior porch extension and outdoor terrace area, a full refresh of its interior décor, updated menu and newly extended dining hours, the 'new and improved' Hatton Arms is, in every way, worth the hype.

Marrying old and new, style and substance, innovation and tradition, this roadside revelation has remained true to its historic roots whilst also moving with the times to deliver its own wholly unique take on seasonal produce, sourced locally where possible and served up with an extra helping of traditional Warwickshire hospitality.

Katherine Ewings

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

The Hatton Arms
Birmingham Rd
Warwick
CV35 7JJ
Tel: 01926 492427

warwick
arts centre

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS



CLASSICAL Siberian Symphony Orchestra

Wed 22 Apr

THEATRE

ACTORS TOURING COMPANY

Amsterdam

written by Maya Arad Yasur,
directed by Matthew Xia

Mon 27-Wed 29 Apr



CIRCUS

GANDINI JUGGLING

8 Songs

Sat 9 May

THEATRE

Pleasant Island

by Silke Huysmans & Hannes Dereere / CAMPO

Wed 22 & Thu 23 Apr



DANCE & CIRCUS / FAMILY

MOTIONHOUSE

WILD

Sat 2 May



COMEDY

Dead Ringers Live

with Jon Culshaw, Lewis MacLeod,
Jan Ravens, Duncan Wisbey

Fri 15 May



DANCE / FAMILY

BALLETLORENT

The Lost Happy Endings

Fri 24 & Sat 25 Apr
Age 5+



COMEDY / MUSIC

The Horne Section

Thu 7 May



COMEDY

Al Murray

Landlord of Hope & Glory

Sat 16 May

Box Office 024 7652 4524 warwickartscentre.co.uk
Warwick Arts Centre, The University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

f Warwick Arts Centre @warwickarts warwickarts

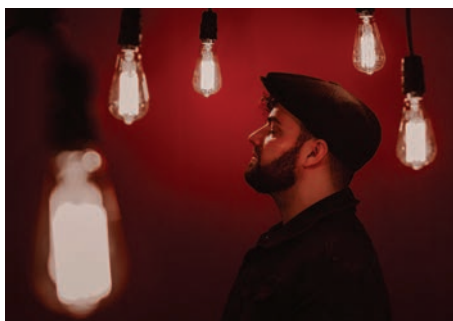
Warwick Arts Centre –
The region's biggest arts
and entertainment venue.

John Adams

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 24 April

With a tone to match Sam Smith and James Blunt, singer-songwriter and busker John Adams draws influences from the likes of James Morrison, Damien Rice and David Gray. Hailing from Aberdare in the South Wales valleys, John's acoustic approach and atmospheric piano accompaniment complement a unique and impressive vocal ability.

His hard work and impressive live performances have seen him build a strong fanbase of 50,000 online followers. With a steady 500,000 monthly listeners on Spotify, he's also racked up more than six million views on YouTube.



Holy Moly & The Crackers

The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry, Sun 26 April

Hailed for their making of 'riotous party music for the masses', Holy Moly & The Crackers are an ever-evolving folk-alt-rock band from Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Their new album, *Take A Bite*, combines rock'n'soul with pop-song craft, sharp indie-rock, vulnerable balladeering and psychedelic trips towards the Middle East. Notable festival performances include Glastonbury, Boomtown Fair, Bearded Theory and Beautiful Days.



Levellers

The Empire, Coventry, Thurs 30 April

Mark Chadwick and Jeremy Cunningham met in The Eagle pub in Brighton in 1988. Based on a mutual interest in left-wing politics, they decided to form The Levellers. The folk punk group's 1991 album, *Levelling*

The Land, was a huge success, entering the charts at number 14 and eventually going platinum.

Best known for singles *What A Beautiful Day*, *One Way*, *Liberty Song* and *15 Years*, the band visit Coventry this month as part of their current UK tour.

Leveret

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Sun 19 April

Leveret is a unique collaboration between three of England's finest folk musicians - Andy Cutting (button accordion), Sam Sweeney (fiddle) and Rob Harbron (concertina). Producing music firmly rooted in the English tradition but still sounding fresh and new, the trio have built a strong reputation as exceptional tunesmiths and captivating performers.

The Rheingans Sisters

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 27 April

The Rheingans Sisters have been described as 'a truly unique and unmissable act on the folk and world music stage'. And it's easy to see why. With their adventurous use of fiddles, voices, banjo, bansitar, tambourin à cordes, spoken word, dancing feet and percussion, they have developed a rich artistic approach to the deconstruction and reimagining of traditional music.

Lloyd Cole

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Tues 21 April

One-time lead singer of Lloyd Cole And The Commotions, with whom he released three albums in the 1980s, English singer-songwriter Lloyd has also enjoyed plenty of solo success. His self-titled debut album reached number 11, with follow-up offering *Don't Get Weird On Me Babe* charting at number 21.



Leamington Music Festival

Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

Largely Ludwig
1 – 5 May 2020

Celebrating Beethoven's 250th birthday with works by the great composer and his contemporaries

Friday 1 May at 7.30pm

Tom Poster *piano*

Sacconi String Quartet

Works by Beethoven including
Piano Concerto No 5 in E Flat 'Emperor'

Saturday 2 May at 12 noon

Veronika Klírová *flute*

Ben Dawson *piano*

Schulhoff • Martin Červenka
Martinů • Hummel

Saturday 2 May at 7.30pm

Andrey Gugnín *piano*

Beethoven • Mussorgsky

Sunday 3 May at 12 noon

Ben Goldscheider *flute*

Richard Uttley *piano*

Cherubini • Beethoven • Schulhoff
Rosetti • Schumann

Sunday 3 May at 7.30pm

Shaham Erez Wallfisch *Piano Trio*

Haydn • Beethoven

Monday 4 May at 12.30pm

Kinsky *Piano Trio*

Vranický • Beethoven • Fibich

Monday 4 May at 7.30pm

Tasmin Little *violin*

Andrey Gugnín *piano*

Beethoven • Brahms
Arvo Pärt • Beethoven

Tuesday 5 May at 12 noon

Ensemble 360

Weber • Beethoven
Rossini • Beethoven

Tuesday 5 May at 7.30pm

James Gilchrist *tenor*

Ensemble 360

Howard Skempton • Beethoven
Howard Skempton • Vaughan Williams

For full details visit

www.leamingtonmusic.org

Book on 01926 334418

Sunday 17 May at 3.00pm

Roderick Williams *baritone*

Susie Allan *piano*

"The Great Outdoors"

Works by Butterworth, Ireland, Warlock,
Gurney, Vaughan Williams and Britten



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ADAPTED BY MARIA ÅBERG AND JUDITH GERSTENBERG

A BREATHLESS RACE THROUGH
20TH CENTURY HISTORY

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London Concertante: The Four Seasons By Candlelight

Coventry Cathedral, Sat 4 April

Vivaldi's classic work, presented by candlelight in Coventry's magnificent cathedral... can there be a more enjoyable way to kickstart the Easter period? London Concertante chamber orchestra is the busiest ensemble of its kind in the

country, playing in excess of 100 concerts per year. Their Coventry gig also sees them performing compositions by Telemann and Bach, as well as another work by Vivaldi - his Concerto for 2 Violins in A minor.

Stratford-upon-Avon Symphony Orchestra

Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sun 5 April

Founded more than half a century ago, the Stratford-upon-Avon Symphony Orchestra present programmes of tuneful music from the 17th through to the 20th century. Their programme for this Easter concert comprises Brahms' Academic Festival Overture, Weber's Bassoon Concerto and Beethoven's sixth symphony. The orchestra is also holding a 'come & play day' early next month (3 May), for musicians who fancy getting involved with a play-through of Mussorgsky's Pictures At An Exhibition.



Siberian Symphony Orchestra

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 22 April

One of the world's most geographically remote orchestras here makes a rare stop-off in the west to present three exceptional pieces of music.

The programme begins with Rimsky-Korsakov's colourful Russian Easter Overture... The orchestra then joins Freddy Kempf as he plays Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No3, a piece often described as 'the Everest of piano concertos'.

The concert finishes with a performance of Tchaikovsky's autobiographical fourth symphony, a no-holds-barred work of music written in the aftermath of his disastrous marriage.

Tchaikovsky's notes on the symphony reflect the mood in which he found himself as he composed the piece. "All life is an unbroken alternation of hard reality with swiftly passing dreams and visions of happiness," he wrote gloomily. "No haven exists... Drift upon that sea until it engulfs and submerges you in its depths."

CBSO: Osmo Vänskä

Malvern Theatres, Fri 24 April

Highly regarded Finnish conductor Osmo Vanska (pictured) picks up the baton for this City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra away-day in Malvern.

He and the CBSO are joined for the evening by the breathtakingly talented Ning Feng, who will be performing Beethoven's Violin Concerto.

The concert programme also includes Beethoven's Romance No2 and two works by Jean Sibelius. The first sees the composer retelling the ancient Finnish legend of Pohjola's Daughter. The second (and bringing the concert to a close) is his monumental seventh symphony - a powerful work which perfectly illustrates why Sibelius said of himself: "Other composers mix colourful cocktails. I serve pure, cool water."



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).





LOOKING TO EUROPE

Projekt Europa is an exciting new season of work from the Royal Shakespeare Company, presenting world-class European theatre on UK soil...

Europeana, Peer Gynt and Blindness And Seeing are the three productions central to Projekt Europa - a season of work at the RSC in Stratford-upon-Avon which explores, celebrates and interrogates our relationship with Europe both before and after Brexit.

"We first started talking about Projekt Europa just after the UK's referendum on EU membership," explains RSC Associate Artist and co-curator of Projekt Europa, Maria Åberg. "So, of course, we were wondering what our response to this could be and what arena for debate we could create at the RSC. We decided really early on that we wanted this season to be a celebration of the diverse multitude of talent and approaches to making theatre in Europe - and in a way that looked into the future, rather than dwelling on any single political issue from the referendum. The RSC is positioned both geographically and culturally to tackle these issues. We have a responsibility and a unique opportunity to really put current issues out onto the floor for discussion. After all, Europe is a home of mythological ideas, folk tales, originating stories and literature that are the soil of most of Shakespeare's plays. The RSC seems a very logical place to present this season."

Aside from the three main productions typical of an RSC season, Projekt Europa has even more to offer...

"Originally, Projekt Europa was only supposed to be the three theatre productions being staged in the Swan, which is the standard programming for a season at the RSC. I felt that it was limiting us, in the sense that one of the things I was really desperate to include in the project was this kaleidoscopic multitude of perspectives, voices and nationalities on offer across Europe. So we commissioned writers to write monologues for Voices From The Edges Of Europe. These are inspired by questions around Europe and its future. In addition to that, we're doing a big project with the RSC's Next Generation ACT, which is a company of young people auditioned from areas of cultural deprivation around the country. Over the course of a year, they work together to create a performance. This year they're working with Swedish director Mattias Andersson, who's also the artistic director of Dramaten in Sweden, to create a new piece of work inspired by Boccaccio's Decamerone but based on their own stories.

"We've commissioned a fine arts photographer with a particular interest in European history to work on the whole season, who is doing both the standard production and rehearsal

photography and travelling around Europe to meet all the artists and writers in their place of residence. The portraits and interviews that come from that are all a bid to bring the individuals behind everything in Projekt Europa closer to the audience, making the season more personal than it otherwise would be."

Maria has also co-adapted and directed Europeana, which opens the Projekt Europa season. This stage adaptation of the satirical novel collides Barbie dolls with dictators and fleeting human moments with epic events.

"Europeana is a really slim novel - about 120 pages - and it calls itself a complete history of the 20th century, which in itself is a provocation because it's kind of impossible to summarise everything that happened in those hundred years. It's a really interesting piece of writing in that it isn't chronological and has a very interesting tone. It deals with ideas of memory - how we remember and what we choose to forget - and how that relates to who we are as a continent. It's a book that doesn't have any characters or necessarily any scenes. So as a challenge to a theatre-maker, Europeana is definitely extreme and that's part of the reason I wanted to do it. It's a proper race through the century, and the game we are trying to play is to reconstruct everything that happened in the 20th century in less than two hours. It's delicious! It's the perfect bit of material to start the season with because it completely embodies so many of the things we want to explore, both thematically and in theatrical approach. A lot of European theatre places a lot of weight on the dramaturg, which we don't usually do here in the same way that somewhere in Germany would. It's a whole different way of working from the actors than we might be used to, too!"

The other main Projekt Europa productions also resonate strongly today, Maria believes: Peer Gynt is a new 21st century staging of Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's epic European myth; Blindness And Seeing is based on the Nobel Prize-winning novels by José Saramago.

"Peer Gynt feels a little more contemporary than Europeana, dealing with our shared European history. It deals with our present condition: individualism and the effect of capitalism. That makes it all sound very theoretical, but it's also a very lyrical play about a man and his quest for understanding who he is. What's fantastic about Peer Gynt, aside from the material itself that will be familiar to some people, is that we've brought

over director Barbara Frey - one of the best directors working in Europe today. She's never done anything in the UK before, which was also something very important to us when putting together the Projekt Europa season. We want to present work that's going to be entirely unique to Stratford, that you can only see here this year, rather than it already having toured the festivals of Europe or been to the Barbican or elsewhere. We very purposefully looked for people who might not necessarily be familiar to a UK audience and whose work we thought would resonate. Barbara is also a trained musician, so her approach to Peer Gynt is also from a very musical perspective.

"Blindness And Seeing is also a very interesting proposal for the season because Tiago Rodrigues, who's the artistic director of the National Theatre in Lisbon, comes from the background of being both an actor and a playwright. He works very closely with the actors in developing the material and then, of course, directs it himself also. As a Portuguese artist, he has the work of José Saramago in his DNA, so it's a wonderful opportunity for him to explore that material and also for us to present it to a UK audience."

Projekt Europa audiences are surely in for a treat...

"I hope that people will be inspired by Projekt Europa and that it really will spark debate. I say that not in a flippant way, but that it's genuinely important that we keep engaging with the idea of Europe on a fundamental level - with the themes, shared history and individuals that make up the whole continent. Regardless of whether we're in the EU or not, we are, by definition, still Europeans. The legacy of Europe is the legacy of the UK - not exclusively, obviously, but it's something shared that doesn't go away or change because of the EU. Our intention isn't to force any kind of political idea on anyone who comes to the theatre; we just want to enlighten, entertain and provoke. I just hope people take away a continued and renewed engagement with Europe."

.....

Projekt Europa at the Swan Theatre opens with Europeana on Thursday 9 April, continuing until Saturday 25 July. Peer Gynt shows at the venue from Friday 1 May to Wednesday 23 September, and Blindness And Seeing from Saturday 1 August to Saturday 26 September.

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 Wiggle 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...

Warwickshire

Best Arts/Theatre Venue



WINNER Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
RUNNER-UP Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Best Live Music Venue

WINNER Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
RUNNER-UP The Empire, Coventry

Best Visitor Attraction

WINNER Warwick Castle
RUNNER-UP Coventry Transport Museum

Best Event

WINNER The Dragon Slayer at Warwick Castle
RUNNER-UP HSBC Let's Ride Coventry

Best Gallery/Exhibition Venue

WINNER Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
RUNNER-UP Coventry Music Museum

Best Festival

WINNER Godiva Festival
RUNNER-UP Leamington Food & Drink Festival

Best Food Festival/Event

WINNER Coventry Food & Drink Festival
RUNNER-UP Digbeth Dining Club at Coventry Cathedral

Best Independent Restaurant



WINNER Café Vin Cinq, Rugby
RUNNER-UP My Dhabba, Coventry

Worcestershire

Best Arts/Theatre Venue

WINNER Artrix, Bromsgrove
RUNNER-UP The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Best Live Music Venue

WINNER Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
RUNNER-UP The Queen's Head, Bromsgrove

Best Visitor Attraction

WINNER Severn Valley Railway
RUNNER-UP West Midland Safari Park

Best Event



WINNER Worcester Festival
RUNNER-UP Worcester Food Festival

Best Music Festival

WINNER Worcester Music Festival
RUNNER-UP Bromsgrove Folk Festival

Best Independent Restaurant

WINNER The Olive Branch Mediterranean Bistro & Wine Bar, Worcester
RUNNER-UP The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

Comedy previews from around the region



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*gged. 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*."

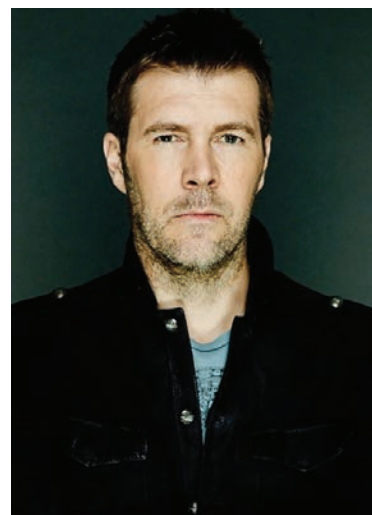
Rhod Gilbert

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

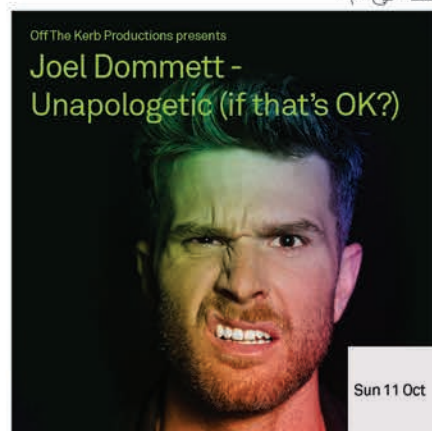
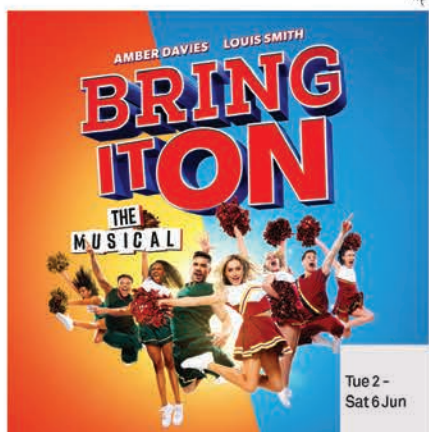
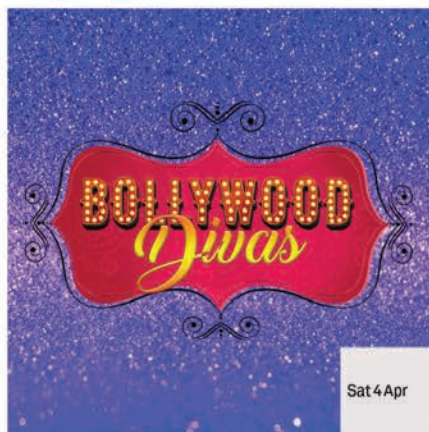


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Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em

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 Johnson 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.

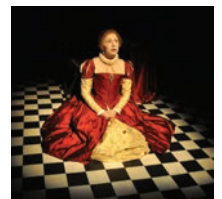
Life, however, has a habit of getting in the way of even the best-laid plans - and so it proves for Helen...

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."

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)

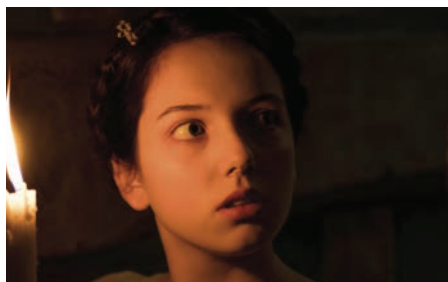
Starring **Julia Garner, Matthew Macfadyen, Kristine Froseth, Makenzie Leigh, Noah Robbins, Dagmara Domińczyk**
Directed by **Kitty Green (USA)**

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



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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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

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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 Mumming 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



An Inspector Calls at Belgrade Theatre, Coventry - Tues 28 April - Sat 2 May

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

What's On

Wed 1 - Sun 12 April



Phoenix Dance: Black Waters
at Malvern Theatres

Thurs 2 April

Mon 13 to Sun 19 April



Arabella Weir at
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Wed 8 April

Mon 20 to Sun 26 April



Make and Play Engineers at
Coventry Transport Museum

Wed 22 April

Mon 27 to Thurs 30 April



Nathaniel Rateliff at
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Tues 28 April

THROUGHOUT APRIL

Artrix, Bromsgrove

NEW: STUDIO 4 - EXPLORATION Artists explore the visual world as if unknown, creating pieces that are 'full of wonder and excitement', Tues 7 Apr - Sun 3 May



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

Compton Verney Gallery, Warwick

CRANACH: ARTIST AND INNOVATOR Featuring some of the artist's most beguiling paintings and illustrations, until Sun 14 June

FABRIC: TOUCH & IDENTITY Featuring works by Vivienne Westwood, Raisa Kabir and Cathy de Monchaux, and a new installation by Reiko Sudo, until Sun 14 June

ARIEL SCHLESINGER: WAYS TO SAY GOODBYE Newly commissioned sculpture in the park by Ariel Schlesinger that seeks to highlight the relationship between people and nature, until Wed 30 Sept

Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

RESISTANCE STITCH Primarily using machine embroidery and reverse applique techniques, James Fox challenges expectations regarding gender roles, work, culture and other aspects of people's social and personal lives, until Sun 19 Apr

NEW: FABRIC OF LIFE Exhibition featuring work that reflects the life journeys of five textile artists, Fri 24

whatsonlive.co.uk

Apr - Sun 31 May

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

FALSE MEMORY Exhibition challenging our perception of being able to accurately remember moments from the past, until Sat 30 May

IT'S A SMALL WORLD Social history exhibition featuring a collection of miscellaneous small-scale items, until Sat 5 Sep

The Core Theatre, Solihull

NEW: ART AT THE HEART COMMUNITY EXHIBITION Celebrating the creativity and uniqueness of community artists from ArtClubs, YouthArts, ArtLab and Adults classes, Wed 1 - Mon 20 Apr

NEW: ARTISTS FROM THE CORE COURTYARD GALLERY AND CENTRE OF ENGLAND ARTS Showcasing the different themes and mediums taught in Vicki Gorman's art classes, Wed 22 Apr - Mon 11 May

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

COVENTRY OPEN 2020 Exhibition showcasing a wide range of talent from the West Midlands and Warwickshire, until Sun 19 Apr

EXPLORING ELIOT'S COVENTRY Exhibition marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of author George Eliot and celebrating her connections with Coventry, until Sun 26 Apr

QUINN - A JOURNEY An installation by photographer, artist and writer Lottie Davies, until Sun 31 May

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

MAYFLOWER400 Exhibition featuring indigenous American and Canadian objects from the World Cultures Collection, presented in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's historic transatlantic voyage, until Sat 21 Nov

NEW: SKYSCAPE Exhibition viewing landscape art from a new perspective and including work by Rembrandt, Durer and Ruskin, Sat 4 Apr - Sat 27 June

Other VISUAL ARTS

FASHIONING PEACE: LIFE AND LIBERTY AFTER THE GREAT WAR EXHIBITION Exhibition exploring how the changes brought about through the Great War were reflected in clothing and fashion from 1918 through to the Roaring 20s, until Sat 31 Oct, Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster



Peggy Sue - The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

Gigs

DIGDAT Wed 1 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

IRISH SESSION Wed 1 Apr, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

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

THE FOUNDATIONS Thurs 2 Apr, The Palace Theatre, Redditch

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

THE ILLEGAL EAGLES Thurs 2 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

BIG HEATH Fri 3 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DIRTY VERTEBRAE Fri 3

Apr, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

LIVE WIRE THE AC/DC SHOW Fri 3 Apr, The Assembly, Leamington

THE EVERLY BROTHERS DREAM Fri 3 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

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

THIS IS THEN LAUNCH W/ ATTRITION + DJ MARK COOK Fri 3 Apr, The Tin Music and Arts, Coventry

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

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

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

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 3 Apr, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

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

THE REAL THING 'THE GREATEST HITS TOUR' Fri 3 Apr, Malvern Theatres

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

ROACHFORD Sat 4 Apr, O2 Academy,

Birmingham

LIONEL Sat 4 Apr, Bedworth Civic Hall

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



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

G2 DEFINITIVE GENESIS Sat 4 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Sat 4 Apr, The Palace Theatre, Redditch

BOUDICA PRESENTS: PEGGY SUE Sat 4 Apr, The Tin Music and Arts, Coventry

THE MANFREDS Sat 4 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE VIBRATORS Sat 4 Apr, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

GILBERT O'SULLIVAN "JUST GILBERT" Sun 5 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

THE TWANG Sun 5 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham

FEAST OF FIDDLES Sun 5 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

LONDON CONCERTANTE: VIVALDI THE FOUR SEASONS BY CANDLELIGHT Programme also includes works by Telemann & Bach, Sat 4 Apr, Coventry Cathedral

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

RUSSELL WATSON Sun 5 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Brahms, Weber & Beethoven, Sun 5 Apr, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

JIM DAVIDSON Fri 3 Apr, Bedworth Civic Hall

SEANN WALSH Fri 3 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

FRANKIE ALLEN Fri 3 Apr, Rialto Reborn, Coventry

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

RAW COMEDY Fri 3 Apr, Evesham Arts Centre

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

ADAM BLOOM, DIANE SPENCER, GARY DELANEY & JONNY AWSUM Sat 4 Apr, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

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

CHRIS RAMSEY Sun 5 Apr, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

PHIL WANG Sun 5 Apr, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Theatre

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

MACBETH Tread The Boards Theatre Company presents its version of Shakespeare's bloodiest tale, until Sun 26 Apr, The Attic Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

TWELFTH NIGHT Tread The Boards Theatre Company presents its version of Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identity, cross dressing & unrequited love, until Sun 26 Apr, The Attic Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

HEROES The Nonentities present Gerald Sibleyras' French comedy, Mon 30 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

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

CURTAINS Jason Manford stars in a 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, The Alexandra, Birmingham

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



The Winter's Tale

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Fri 3 Oct

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

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

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

"The sea divides families in all of our plays this summer," says RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran. "Themes of separation & loss and the restorative power of time connect all three of them. Each play is wonderfully different, yet at the same time they share a fascination with identity, the challenges of leaving your native land and the deep bonds of family."

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Collaboration between Nottingham Playhouse & Nottingham Lakeside Arts, Wed 1 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

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

ANNE BOLEYN Howard Brenton's award-winning portrait of an English heroine... Wed 1 - Sat 11 Apr, Loft Theatre Company, Leamington Spa

I, ELIZABETH One-woman show exploring Queen Elizabeth I's struggles in reconciling the desires of womanhood with the duties of sovereignty, Tues 2 Apr, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

I'M SORRY I'LL READ THAT AGAIN... AGAIN! Celebration of the radio show that gave birth to Monty Python's Flying Circus, Thurs 2 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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 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

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Sun 5 April

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Sat 25 April



Sat 11 April

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Kids Shows

RAPUNZEL: A TANGLED MUSICAL TALE
Immersion Theatre present a brand new musical version of the classic family tale, Sat 4 Apr, Evesham Arts Centre

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

THE BEAR Puppetry, music and storytelling combine in a show based on Raymond Briggs' book, Sun 5 Apr, Albany Theatre, Coventry

SHARK IN THE PARK Family musical based on Nick Sharratt's popular books, Sun 5 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Cabaret

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

Dance

PHOENIX DANCE: BLACK WATERS
Original work fusing western contemporary dance movement and classical kathak Indian dance, Thurs 2 Apr, Malvern Theatres



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

Talks

THE LUCKIEST GUY ALIVE: DR JOHN COOPER CLARKE Join the 'people's poet' as he shares works from his critically acclaimed new poetry collection, Sat 4 Apr, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

DARK WATERS (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Mark Ruffalo, Anne Hathaway. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 27 & Mon 30 Mar, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Apr; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 30 Mar

MILITARY WIVES (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 3, Mon 6 - Tues 7 & Fri 10 Apr

THE CALL OF THE WILD (PG) Adventure/Drama. Starring Harrison Ford, Omar Sy. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 28 Mar; Number 8, Pershore, Mon 30 Mar - Thurs 2 Apr

PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Noémie Merlant, Adèle Haenel. Foreign language, subtitled. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Apr

RICHARD JEWELL (15) Biography/Crime. Starring Paul Walter Hauser, Sam Rockwell. Rugby Theatre, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Apr

ONWARD (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Holland, Chris Pratt. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 3 - Sat 4, Mon 6 - Tues 7 & Thurs 9 Apr

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

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

MINI MUSEUM ENGINEERS | MARBLE RUNS Become a marble run specialist in a session using both giant and small marble runs, Wed 1 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum, West



Dr John Cooper Clarke - Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

Midlands

THE BODENHAM EASTER TRAIL Hunt for the Easter Bunny's carrots before collecting a treat from the Visitor Centre, Wed 1 - Sun 19 Apr, Bodenheim Arboretum, Kidderminster

MINI MAKERS Sessions for babies and toddlers, Thurs 2 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

PLANETARIUM LATES: EQUINOX 360 PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE Performed live by one man and one instrument, Thurs 2 - Fri 3 Apr, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

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

EASTER CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL Stock up on chocolate treats ahead of Easter weekend, Sat 4 Apr, FarGo Village, Coventry

FAMILY SATURDAYS: THIS MAKES THAT WITH THESE | IRON PEOPLE Deconstruct objects and reassemble different parts using the technique of soldering, Sat 4 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

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

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

TUDOR WORLD EASTER 2020 Be a detective and find out who stole the Easter eggs, Sat 4 - Sat 18 Apr, Tudor World, Stratford-upon-Avon

EASTER HOLIDAYS AT SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE TRUST Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

EASTER AT BECKETTS FARM Welcome new chicks into the world, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Beckett's Farm, Wythall, Nr

Solihull

SPRING SPECTACULAR Meet the new super-cute animal babies, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Hatton Adventure World, Warwick

ZOG & THE QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN STAR Brand new trail for Easter 2020, teaching budding dragons the skills they need to become fully-fledged dragons, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Warwick Castle

EASTER ADVENTURE QUEST Crack the clues as you and your family follow the trail, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Kenilworth Castle

EASTER ADVENTURE QUEST Crack the clues as you and your family follow the trail, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Witley Court, Great Witley



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

EDITION DOG LIVE Featuring performances, stands, displays and rare breeds, Sun 5 Apr, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth



MALVERN WELL DRESSING & WATER FESTIVAL

Saturday 2 May – Sunday 10 May 2020

Highlights

- Well Dressing Walks**
Explore the wells, springs and spouts on a self-guided walk or 'Walk The Wells' with the Malvern Spa Association 'Well Dressers'.
- Mini-Bus Tours**
Book a seat on one of our mini-bus tours, or bring your own mini-bus, and hire a Well Dressing Tour Guide from Great Malvern.
- Saturday 2 May - Monday 4 May 2020**
Well Blessings (Christian, Buddhist and Druid).
- Saturday 2 May 10.30am**
Sunday 10 May 11am
Florence Nightingale 200th Birthday commemorative guided-walk through Great Malvern.
- Saturday 2 May 2020**
Health and Wellbeing Fair in Rose Bank Gardens hosted by Malvern Town Council.
- Saturday 2 May 2020**
Great Malvern Summer Arts & Food Market in Priory Grounds by Boffy Markets.
- Sunday 3 May 2020**
11am - 1pm
Malvhina Extravaganza outside Priory Gatehouse.
- Saturday 9 May 2020**
'Water' Festival Family Fun Day in Priory Park (includes the Well Dressing Prize Ceremony & Water Cure Re-enactment) hosted by Malvern Hills District Council.
- Saturday 2 May - Monday 4 May 2020**
Music, Talks & Films.

VisitTheMalverns.org/WellAndWaterFest



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

Avoncroft Museum




A WHOLE WORLD OF FUN THIS EASTER

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

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Birmingham Museums



Pussycat Dolls - Arena Birmingham

Gigs

SKENGDO X AM Mon 6 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TRIPPIE REDD - LOVE ME MORE TOUR Tues 7 Apr, O2 Academy, B'ham

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

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Tues 7 Apr, Malvern Theatres

BANTER Tues 7 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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

PUSSYCAT DOLLS Wed 8 Apr, Arena B'ham

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

GEORGE MICHAEL - RANDALL BUTLER Thurs 9 Apr, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

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

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

CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS - A NIGHT AT

THE MOVIES Thurs 9 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

MARK HARRISON BAND Thurs 9 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

GLADYS KNIGHT: MIDNIGHT TRAIN TO GEORGIA Thurs 9 Apr, The Palace Theatre, Redditch

IQ Fri 10 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE CATENARY WIRES, PETE ASTOR, THE PRISTINES + THE SUNBATHERS Fri 10 Apr, The Tin Music and Arts, Coventry

RED RUM CLUB Fri 10 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DREADZONE Fri 10 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CARIBBEAN ROCKS Fri 10 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE BUSINESS Fri 10 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

SOUND OF THE SIRENS Fri 10 Apr, The Marr's Bar, Worcester



LOVE BREAKERS / HELL'S DITCH Sat 11 Apr, The

Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

GUNS OR ROSES Sat 11 Apr, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

CUT GLASS KINGS Sat 11 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

THE BLOW MONKEYS Sat 11 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

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

KITCHEN CLUB INDIE DISCO NO. 35 Sat 11 Apr, The Tin Music and Arts, Coventry

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

CARPENTERS GOLD Sat 11 Apr, Evesham Arts Centre

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

SEVEN DRUNKEN NIGHTS - THE STORY OF THE DUBLINERS Sat 11 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

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

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

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

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

ARABELLA WEIR Wed 8 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester



JOEL DOMMETT Wed 8 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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

TOM STADE Fri 10 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

CALAMITY JANE Amateur staging of a musical theatre classic, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Apr, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

THE GLEE CLUB 'Raucous' comedy concerning five hard-working hard-drinking miners and a church organist rehearsing for a local gala, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Apr, Malvern Theatres

BLEAK HOUSE The Pantoons present Charles Dickens' tale of love, skulduggery and spontaneous combustion, Wed 8 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE WIZARD OF OZ Join Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man and the cowardly Lion as they journey through Oz to meet the legendary Wizard, Wed 8 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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

HOWERD'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

GOODNIGHT MR TOM Amateur staging of Michelle Magorian's much acclaimed wartime tale, Fri 10 - Sat 18 Apr, Rugby Theatre

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

THE UNDOING OF POLLY BUTTON: A FOLK OPERA BY KATHERINE FEAR Musical retelling of the tragic life of Nuneaton resident Mary Green, Sat 11 Apr, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

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

ARTRIX BROMSGROVE

April 2020



Weekender Friday 10 - Sunday 12 April
Easter Weekender
Music, Film, Food & Fun



Family Theatre From 6 April
Easter Family Theatre
Incl: Shark in the Park and Puss in Boots



Music Thursday 16 April
The Ultimate Classic Rock Show



Music Sunday 19 April
Kate Bush-Ka



Workshops From 20 April
New Workshops
including Lino Printing



Theatre Thursday 30 April
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Spring
Highlights

Thurs 23 April 7.30pm
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS
Popular Swing band



Wed 29 April 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



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FAIRPORT CONVENTION
Fantastic Folk Rock



Tues 19 May 7.30pm
AN AUDIENCE WITH LESLEY GARRETT
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new musical version of the classic family tale, Tues 7 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

ROALD DAHL & THE IMAGINATION

SEEKERS Interactive theatre show fusing performance, games & play. Suitable for children aged six-plus, Tues 7 Apr, Number 8, Pershore

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 CURIOUS GARDEN Makeshift Ensemble fuse puppetry, original music and storytelling in an enchanting tale with an environmental theme, Thurs 9 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

SAM'S SAUSAGE SPECTACULAR

Children's theatre for kids aged between two and nine, Sat 11 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

RAPUNZEL: A TANGLED MUSICAL TALE

Immersion Theatre present a brand new musical version of the classic family tale, Sat 11 Apr, Albany Theatre, Coventry

HORRIBLE HISTORIES: THE WORST OF

BARMY BRITAIN History for younger audiences - with the nasty bits left in, Sat 11 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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

AN INTERESTING EVENING WITH STEVE

DAVIS A rare insight into how one of the country's sporting superstars has stood the test of time... Thurs 9 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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; Number 8, Pershore, Thurs 9 Apr

DOLITTLE (PG) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Robert Downey Jr., Antonio Banderas. Number 8, Pershore, Mon 6 & Wed 8 Apr

EOS: EASTER IN ART (12a)

Documentary. Directed by Phil Grabsky. 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; Number 8, Pershore, Fri 10, Tues 14 & Thurs 16 Apr

THE MAN WHO KILLED DON QUIXOTE

(15) Comedy/Adventure. Starring Adam Driver, Jonathan Pryce, Number 8, Pershore, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr

PETER RABBIT 2: THE RUNAWAY (12a)

Adventure/Comedy. Starring Margot Robbie, Elizabeth Debicki. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 10 - Sat 11, Mon 13 - Sun 19 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

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

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,



Roald Dahl & The Imagination Seekers - Number 8, Pershore

Millennium Point & Eastside Park, Birmingham

THIS MAKES THAT WITH THESE |

WRAPPED IN PLASTICS Explore the benefits and dangers of plastic, Tues 7 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

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

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

MAKE AND PLAY ENGINEERS | PLAYFUL

PROTEST FOR THE PLANET Use plastic bottles and bags, wooden off-cuts, old electrical equipment and big open-ended play resources to add to our collaborative 'Reuse? Reduce? Recycle? Protest' sculpture, Wed 8 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum Coventry, West Midlands

DRAGON EGG HUNT

Can you find the giant eggs hidden around the grounds? Wed 8 - Sun 12 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

PAINT POTS AND SPARKLES Explore colours and textures using paint, clay and collage materials, Thurs 9 Apr, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

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

HAPPY EASTER TRAIL Follow the wildlife trail around the Gardens, solve the puzzle and collect a yummy Easter treat, Thurs 9 - Mon 13 Apr, Spetchley Park Gardens, nr Worcester

TALL TALES: JACK AND THE BEANSTALK FAMILY STORYTELLING TOUR Interactive telling of a brand new tall tale of the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, Aston Hall, Birmingham

FESTIVAL OF POWER Action-packed Easter weekend for the whole family, featuring jet car shootout, monster trucks, stunts, sideshows, traders and more, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough

CADBURY EASTER EGG HUNT Fill your Easter with family fun, delicious Cadbury treats, and eggciting egg hunts, Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Croft Castle, Nr Leominster; Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcester; Croome Park, Worcester; Hanbury Hall, Droitwich; Coughton Court, Alcester; Baddesley Clinton, Solihull; Charlecote Park, Warwick; Packwood House, Solihull; Birmingham Back to Backs

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

OLYMPEGG EASTER TREASURE HUNT Enjoy an Easter treasure hunt around the castle and its grounds, Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

'IN SWEET MUSIC IS SUCH ART...' After-hours talk about the music used in Elizabethan and Jacobean theatres and performance, Sat 11 Apr, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

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

Gigs

THE MAGIC OF THE

BEATLES Mon 13 Apr, The Alexandra, B'ham

JAZZLINES TALENT

SHOWCASE Mon 13 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

KING KING Tues 14 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

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

BOOMTOWN RATS Wed 15 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

SARAH MCQUAID Wed 15 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

SNOOP DOG Thurs 16 Apr, Arena B'ham

HAPPYNESS Thurs 16 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

STRESS RELEASE Thurs 16 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

SARI SCHORR Thurs 16 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

THE ELO EXPERIENCE Thurs 16 Apr, The Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE NIGHT CAFE Fri 17 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE KING ELVIS PRESLEY LIVES ON Fri 17 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

HERMAN'S HERMITS Fri 17 Apr, The Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE STIFF JOINTS, PUFFIN + MORE Fri 17 Apr, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

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

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

KREWZ CNTRL Fri 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



Leveret - Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

THE ACACIA STRAIN Fri 17 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

PRINCE PARTY Fri 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ANOTHER SKY Fri 17 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

JESS SILK ALBUM LAUNCH Fri 17 Apr, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

CITYLIGHTZ Fri 17 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE OTHER SIDE OF BILLY Fri 17 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

RAK-SU Sat 18 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FLASHHEARTS, THE SECRETS THAT KILL US & HIJACK HOTEL Sat 18 Apr, Route 44, B'ham

STRAIGHTEN OUT (STANGLERS TRIBUTE) Sat 18 Apr, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

ULTRA 80S Sat 18 Apr, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

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

JOHNNY COPPIN Sat 18 Apr, Number 8 Community Arts

Centre, Pershore

ISLANDS IN THE STREAM Sat 18 Apr, Bedworth Civic Hall

THE COUNTERFEIT STONES Sat 18 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

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

THE PHIL BEER BAND Sat 18 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THOMAS TRUAX - NEW MUSIC MACHINES TOUR Sat 18 Apr, The Tin Music and Arts, Coventry

CREEPER Sat 18 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE WHITE BUFFALO Sun 19 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LEVERET Sun 19 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

NAP EYES Sun 19 Apr, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

KATE BUSH-KA Sun 19 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CRAIG DAVID Sun 19 Apr, Arena Birmingham

CALLAGHAN Sun 19 Apr, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

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

LIFE Sun 19 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham



The Phil Beer Band - The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Classical & Easy Listening

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

RUISI QUARTET Programme includes works by Purcell & Beethoven, Fri 17 Apr, Elmslie House, Malvern

Comedy

JOE LYCETT Mon 13 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PREACHER LAWSON Wed 15 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

CHRIS RAMSEY Fri 17 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

STUDIO COMEDY CLUB Fri 17 Apr, Albany Theatre, Coventry

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, B'ham

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

THE MILL ON THE FLOSS Amateur staging of George Elliot's autobiographical novel, Mon 13 - Sat 18 Apr, Talisman Theatre, Coventry

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

BY THE WATERS OF LIVERPOOL New staging of Helen Forrester's wartime play, Tues 14 - Wed 15 Apr, Malvern Theatres

FROZEN Psychological thriller about retribution, remorse and redemption, Tues 14 - Sat 18 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

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

CALAMITY JANE Amateur staging of a musical theatre classic, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Apr, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

A MONSTER CALLS Olivier Award-winning show based on Patrick Ness's novel, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Apr, Malvern Theatres

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

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

DOWNSIDE ABBEY Presented by Stourbridge Writers & Actors Group, Fri 17 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

RICHARD JONES: ESCAPE Evening of magic with the only magician ever to have won Britain's Got Talent, Fri 17 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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, Birmingham

THE WIZARD OF OZ Join Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man and the cowardly Lion as they journey through Oz to meet the legendary Wizard, Sat 18 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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

SHARK IN THE PARK Family musical based on Nick Sharratt's popular books, Wed 15 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA Family show packed with 'oodles of magic, sing-along-songs and clumsy chaos', Wed 15 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

HOW MUCH IS THAT DRAGON IN THE WINDOW? The Norbury Players present an amateur production Will Davies' popular story for children, Sat 18 Apr, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

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

SWAN LAKE Vienna Festival Ballet presents its version of one of ballet's best-loved stories, Mon 13 Apr, Evesham Arts Centre

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

Talks

TEACUPS AND TIARAS Bestselling author William Hanson presents the history of customs, tastes and manners, Fri 17 Apr, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Patton Oswalt, Kevin Hart. Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton, Tues 14 Apr

LITTLE WOMEN (U) Drama. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson. Number 8, Pershore, Tues 14 Apr

TOY STORY 4 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton, Wed 15 Apr

EATEN BY LIONS (12a) Comedy. Starring Antonio Aakeel, Emily Spowage. Norbury Theatre, Droitwich Spa, Wed 15 Apr

GREED (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Steve Coogan, Isla Fisher. Number 8, Pershore, Fri 17 Apr

MR. JONES (15) Biography/Drama. Starring James Norton, Vanessa Kirby. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 17 & Wed 22 Apr

JOKER (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro. Number 8, Pershore, Sat 18 Apr

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

L'HOMME DU TRAIN (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Jean Rochefort, Johnny Hallyday. Foreign language, subtitled. Malvern Theatres, Sun 19 Apr

RADIOACTIVE (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Rosamund Pike. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 19, Tues 21 - Thurs 23 Apr

Events

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



Lyngo Theatre's Puss In Boots - Artrix, Bromsgrove

THIS MAKES THAT WITH THESE : ROBOTS FOR A GREENER PLANET Explore environmental issues and the rise of eco-robots, Tues 14 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

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

MAKE AND PLAY ENGINEERS | PLAYFUL PROTEST FOR THE PLANET Use plastic bottles and bags, wooden off-cuts, old electrical equipment and big open-ended play resources to add to the venue's collaborative Reuse? Reduce? Recycle? Protest sculpture, Wed 15 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

SCULPTURE GALLERY FAMILY TOUR Join the Learning Team for a 30-minute talk and tour to find out more about the sculptures on display at the Herbert, Wed 15 - Wed 22 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

ART MASTERCLASS: SCULPTING WITH MODROCK Get messy with Modrock and create a sculpture to take home, Thurs 16 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

SPRING STEAM GALA From the distant clank of a goods train, to autotrains puffing back and forth, prepare to venture back in time, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 Apr, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

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, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove

THE VEGAN FESTIVAL Celebrate and explore all things vegan, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Apr, FarGo Village, Coventry



Spring Steam Gala - Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Kidderminster

Gigs

ASHLEY HENRY Mon 20 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NICK PARKER + SAOIRSE CASEY Mon 20 Apr, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

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

MICROWAVE Tues 21 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

LLOYD COLE Tues 21 Apr, The Assembly, Leamington

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

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

GOOD KARMA CLUB TOUR OSCAR LANG BIRMINGHAM Thurs 23 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RYAN YOUNG Thurs 23 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

BRAINSTORM Fri 24 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE UPBEAT BEATLES Fri 24 Apr, Huntingdon

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Ruts DC - The Marr's Bar - Worcester

Hall, Worcester

THOMAS BENJAMIN ESQ + THE OUSE VALLEY SINGLES CLUB (SOLO) Fri 24 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SIMPLE MINDS Fri 24 Apr, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

MARK LOCKHEART GROUP Fri 24 Apr, The Tin Music and Arts, Coventry

LAMB OF GOD Fri 24 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JOHN ADAMS Fri 24 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE BEST OF FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS Fri 24 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE PUPPINI SISTERS Fri 24 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

MAET LIVE Fri 24 Apr, Bedworth Civic Hall

DEFINITELY OASIS Fri 24 Apr, Kasbah, Coventry

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 Birmingham

DIZZY LIZZY / SOUL STRIPPER Sat 25 Apr, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

ROY HEMMINGS: HITS OF MOTOWN Sat 25 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE ULTIMATE COMMITMENTS & BLUES BROTHERS Sat 25 Apr, Evesham Arts Centre

HOW SWEET IT IS Sat 25 Apr, Malvern Theatres

MYSTERY JETS Sat 25 Apr, The Mill, Digbeth



BEXEY Sun 26 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HOLY MOLY & THE CRACKERS Sun 26 Apr, The Tin Music and Arts, Canal Basin, Coventry

ONE NIGHT IN DUBLIN Sun 26 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

SIGNING OFF (LIVE UB40 TRIBUTE) Sun 26 Apr, The Night Owl, B'ham

RUTS DC Sun 26 Apr, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

WALK RIGHT BACK - THE EVERLY BROTHERS STORY Sun 26 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

GENUINE PANAMA Sun 26 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

GORDON GILTRAP Sun 26 Apr, The Fleece Inn, Nr Evesham

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

CBSO & 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 Thurs 23 April, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

CBSO WITH OSMO VÄNSKÄ Also featuring Ning Feng (violin). Programme includes works by Sibelius & Beethoven, Fri 24 Apr, Malvern Theatres

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

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: MAYFLOWER ON THE SEA Featuring Worcestershire Schools Chorus, Kenneth Woods & Neil Ferris (conductors), April Fredrick (soprano) & David Stout (baritone). Programme includes works by Copland, Tallis, Vaughan Williams, Higgins & Sawyers, Sat 25 Apr, Worcester Cathedral

Comedy

PETE FIRMAN & THE AMAZING TBC Tues 21 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

JOE LYCETT Tues 21 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SCOTT BENNETT, FREDDIE FARRELL, PAT MONAHAN & BARRY DODDS Wed 22 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

STEVE HENN'S HENN NIGHT Fri 24 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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

ANDREW RYAN, FIN TAYLOR, PAUL THORNE & LINDSEY SANTORO Sat 25 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

THE WIZARD OF OZ: EASTER PANTO Bobby Davro stars, Mon 20 Apr, Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

KIPPS Worcester Operatic Dramatic Society present an amateur staging of the iconic British musical, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

AGNES OF GOD Swan Theatre Amateur Company present its version of John Pielmeier's drama, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE WEDDING SINGER Amateur staging presented by Bournville Musical Theatre Company, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

GUYS AND DOLLS Amateur production presented by Studley Operatic Society, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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 SOUND OF MUSIC Presented by Nuneaton Amateur Operatic Dramatic Society, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Apr, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

THE DELIGHTFUL SAUSAGE: GINSTER'S PARADISE 'Surreal sketch comedy nightmare that will tear your soul apart', Thurs 23 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

SILENT UPPOAR: THANK YOU FOR DOING NOTHING Production about the climate emergency and the men who profit from it, Thurs 23 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

COSI FAN TUTTE English Touring Opera present Mozart's story of young love and fidelity, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 Apr, Malvern Theatres

THE 39 STEPS A cast of four deliver 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

CLIVE ANDERSON: ME, MACBETH & I One-man show promising to be 'funnier than Shakespeare's greatest tragedy', Fri 24 Apr, Evesham Arts Centre

CHOICE GRENFELL Tribute to the comedienne & monologist Joyce Grenfell, Fri 24 Apr, Number 8, Pershore

WESELE / WEDDING Immersive one-woman comedy show, Fri 24 & Sat 25 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



HUMBLE BOY Amateur staging of Charlotte Jones' touching comedy, Fri 24 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

GIULIO CESARE English Touring Opera present a revival of Handel's epic opera of passion & revenge, Sat 25 Apr, Malvern Theatres

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL 2: CRUISING THROUGH MENOPAUSE! Sequel to the smash-hit show, Menopause the Musical, Sat 25 Apr, Bedworth Civic Hall

COME WHAT MAY THE 'ULTIMATE TRIBUTE' TO MOULIN ROUGE 'All-singing, all-dancing extravaganza', taking audiences on a journey through one of the 'greatest movie-

musicals of all time', Sat 25 Apr, Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

MR BENNET'S BRIDE Amateur staging of Emma Wood's prequel to Jane Austen's novel, Pride And Prejudice, Sat 25 Apr - Sat 2 May, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

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

IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE: IGGLEPIGGLE'S BUSY DAY Popular theatre show for younger audiences, Wed 22 - Thurs 23 Apr, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

BILLIONAIRE BOY Birmingham Stage Company present a new version of David Walliams' bestselling story, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Apr, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

HORRIBLE HISTORIES: THE WORST OF BARMY BRITAIN History for younger audiences - with the nasty bits left in, Sun 26 Apr, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

Dance

THE LOST HAPPY ENDINGS Ballet Lorent 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

MILITARY WIVES (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan. Number 8, Pershore, Mon 20 - Tues 21 Apr

MISBEHAVIOUR (12a) Drama/History. Starring Keira Knightley, Gugu Mbatha-Raw. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 20 - Fri 24 Apr; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 21 - Thurs 23 Apr

A QUIET PLACE II (tbc) Horror/Thriller. Starring Emily Blunt, Millicent Simmonds. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Apr

TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM (12a) Documentary. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 24 Apr



The Kite Runner - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

EMMA (U) Comedy/Drama. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn. Rugby Theatre, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Apr

THE GENTLEMEN (18) Comedy/Crime. Starring Matthew McConaughey, Charlie Hunnam. Number 8, Pershore, Sat 25 Apr

MULAN (tbc) Action/Adventure. Starring Liu Yifei, Donnie Yen. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 25 & 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

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLLECTION

Informal talk about some of the ways Shakespeare has been celebrated around the world, Mon 20 Apr, The Shakespeare Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THIS MAKES THAT WITH THESE:

WRAPPED IN PLASTICS Explore the benefits and dangers of plastic, Tues

21 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

MAKE AND PLAY ENGINEERS: EARTH DAY

Take part in an earthy craft, and take a mini wormery home with you to learn more about your local environment, Wed 22 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

KENDALL MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL Thrilling night of adventure with short films and talk from TV presenter, adventurer, explorer and naturalist, Dwayne Fields FRGS, Thurs 23 Apr, Albany Theatre, Coventry

PAINT POTS AND SPARKLES Chance to explore colours and textures, using paint, clay and collage materials, Thurs 23 Apr, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

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

CHEESE & CHUTNEY Featuring cheesy street food and loads of the best cheeses, chutneys, preserves, charcuterie and more, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Apr, FarGo Village, Coventry



St George's Day Celebrations - Tamworth Castle



Nathaniel Rateliff - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Gigs

JIMOTHY LACOSTE Mon 27 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BON IVER Mon 27 Apr, Arena Birmingham

THE RHEINGANS SISTERS Mon 27 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

WALK RIGHT BACK - THE EVERLY BROTHERS TRIBUTE Mon 27 Apr, The Alexandra, B'ham

PURPLE THREAD + BAD BUG Mon 27 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SONG SUFFRAGETTES Tues 28 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NATHANIEL RATELIFF Tues 28 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

NIGHTINGALES / PETER ASTOR / KAMURA OBSCURA Tues 28 Apr,

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BUZZARD BUZZARD BUZZARD Tues 28 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

OUR HOLLOW, OUR HOME Wed 29 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE FRATELLIS Wed 29 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CHON Wed 29 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

BONFIRE RADICALS Wed 29 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

BELINDA O'HOOLEY - INVERSIONS Wed 29 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

JORDAN MACKAMPA Wed 29 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GUUNA B Thurs 30 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

PROTOJE, LILA IKE & SEVANA Thurs 30 Apr,

O2 Institute, B'ham

EMILY BURNS Thurs 30 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JARROD DICKENSON & DAVID FORD Thurs 30 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PETE AND BAS Thurs 30 Apr, The Mill, Digbeth
ANDY RICHARDS BAND Thurs 30 Apr, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

THE BEACH BOYS TRIBUTE SHOW Thurs 30 Apr, The Palace Theatre, Redditch

GWEN DICKEY - THE VOICE OF ROSE ROYCE Thurs 30 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

THOSE SNAKES & BATTALIONS PLUS SUPPORT Thurs 30 Apr, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

SHAMBOLICS Thurs 30 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

Classical & Easy Listening

PETER DONOHUE PIANO RECITAL

Programme includes works by Haydn, Beethoven & Schumann, Mon 27 Apr, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:

ENGLISH MASTERPIECES Featuring Zoë Beyers (violin) & Kenneth Woods (conductor). Programme includes works by Adrian Williams, Vaughan Williams, Emily Doolittle & Elgar (arr. David Matthews), Wed 29 Apr, Great Malvern Priory, Malvern

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

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

LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH TALA

TARANG Thurs 30 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

NEW LONDON CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Featuring Robert Manasse (flute), Melanie Ragge (oboe), Neyire Ashworth (clarinet), Stephen Stirling (horn) & Michael Dussek (piano). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Nielsen, Poulenc & Mozart, Thurs 30 Apr, Malvern Theatres

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

SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME

Frank McGuinness' play about an Irishman, Englishman and an American, kidnapped and held hostage by unseen Arabs in Lebanon, Tues 28 Apr - Fri 1 May, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

IAN WAITE & VINCENT SIMONE: ACT TWO Join the Strictly Come Dancing duo for an evening of old-fashioned variety, Wed 29 Apr, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

LEMONS LEMONS LEMONS LEMONS Rethink Theatre present an amateur staging of Sam Steiner's play, set in a world where we're forced to say less, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Apr, Albany Theatre, Coventry

MRS. CHURCHILL - MY LIFE WITH WINSTON Informative portrayal of Winston Churchill's wife, Clementine, Wed 29 Apr - Sat 2 May, Malvern Theatres

OLIVER TWIST Bryony Lavery adaptation of Dickens' iconic tale, Wed 29 Apr - Sat 9 May, The REP, Birmingham



THAT'LL BE THE DAY Nostalgic extravaganza featuring impressions, comic sketches and music from the '50s, through to the '80s, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE NAVY LARK A cast of three bring

Monday 27 - Thursday 30 April

to life the classic days of radio comedy, Thurs 30 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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, B'ham

Shows For Kids

THE TWISTED TALE OF HANSEL & GRETEL Live music and comic theatre combine in an imaginative staging of the Brothers Grimm fairytale, Wed 29 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester



Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

RADIOACTIVE (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Rosamund Pike. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 27 - Tues 28 Apr

MISBEHAVIOUR (12a) Drama/History. Starring Keira Knightley, Gugu Mbatha-Raw. Number 8, Pershore, Mon 27 - Tues 28 Apr

AND THEN WE DANCED (15) Drama. Starring Levan Gelbakhiani, Bachi Valishvili. Foreign language, subtitled. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 27 - Tues 28 Apr

THE TRUTH (PG) Drama. Starring Catherine Deneuve, Juliette Binoche. Foreign language, subtitled. Number 8, Pershore, Thurs 30 Apr

Events

MINI MUSEUM ENGINEERS | DENS Build dens of all shapes and sizes, Wed 29 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

2020 UNIBET PREMIER LEAGUE DARTS Featuring some of the world's best darts, Thurs 30 Apr, Arena B'ham



An Inspector Calls

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 28 April - Sat 2 May

Anybody who's been fortunate enough to catch a production of JB Priestley's classic work will have no trouble understanding why it's been such a worldwide hit.

When Inspector Goole calls unexpectedly on the prosperous Birling family, his startling revelations not only shatter the foundations of their lives but also challenge them to examine their consciences...

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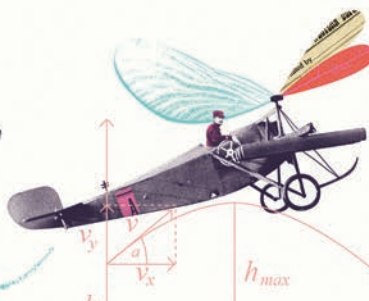
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Find out more: transport-museum.com

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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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

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