Coventry & Warwickshire

What’s On

ISSUE 412 APRIL 2020

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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
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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

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Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 5NX
Keep up to date:
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WHAT’S ON MEDIA GROUP
COVID-19 STATEMENT

The last few days have seen unprecedented measures being taken by the government in a bid to curtail the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Theatres, music venues, arts centres, museums, libraries, restaurants etc have all closed their doors to the general public for the time being.

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

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

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

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

Best wishes from the What’s On team x
SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

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*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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Managing Director: Davina Evans davina@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281708
Sales & Marketing: Lei Woodhouse lei@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281703 Chris Horton chris@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281704
Editorial: Lauren Foster lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281707 Brian O’Faolain brian@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281701
Abi Whitehouse abi@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281716 Lauren Cole lauren.cole@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281733
Subscriptions: Adrian Parker adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714
Contributors: Graham Bostock, James Cameron-Wilson, Katherine Ewing, Jenny Eli, Nanci Davies, Patsy Moss, Sue Jones
Publisher and CEO: Martin Monahan Accounts Administrator: Julia Perry julia@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281717

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Entertainment news from around the region

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

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

Military Wives hit the road

Following the success of the recently released movie about them, the much-loved Military Wives Choirs have announced they will be performing together in an eight-date concert series in the autumn, beginning at Birmingham Town Hall (1 October). Now with over 2,000 members, the Military Wives Choirs is a charity that aims to bring women in the military community closer together through the practice of ‘singing, sharing and supporting’. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit myticket.co.uk

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.

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

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TUE 19 MAY
7:30PM
TOWN HALL

THE SHIERs
MON 4 MAY
7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

BLACK VOICES
THE SHOW
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7:30PM
TOWN HALL

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FRI 8 MAY, 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

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

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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 who’s become pregnant and been thrown out everyone else. She also takes in a young girl who’s become pregnant and been thrown out 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 me. He’s since passed away, but 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.
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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 canal-side 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 fraiche, 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 pipper 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

whatsonlive.co.uk
THEATRE
Pleasant Island
by Silke Huysmans & Hannes Dereere / CAMPO
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DANCE / FAMILY
BALLETLORENT
The Lost Happy Endings
Fri 24 & Sat 25 Apr
Age 5+

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

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Sat 2 May

COMEDY / MUSIC
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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.

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, banjitar, 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 Gugnin piano
Beethoven • Mussorgsky

Sunday 3 May at 12 noon
Ben Goldscheider flute
Richard Uttley piano
Cherubini • Beethoven • Schulhoff
Rossini • 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 Gugnin 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

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Sunday 17 May at 3.00pm
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Susie Allan piano
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Founded more than half a century ago, the Stratford-upon-Avon Symphony Orchestra presents 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.

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

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.”

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.

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).

London Concertante:
The Four Seasons By Candlelight
Coventry Cathedral, Sat 4 April

Highly regarded Finnish conductor Osmo Vänskä (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.”

Whatsonlive.co.uk

CBSO: Osmo Vänskä
Malvern Theatres, Fri 24 April
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 saw this as a company of该剧 actors - and through the奂妞剧 potential for the season at the RSC. We were 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 Decameron 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.
WINNERS announced...

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

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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

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

Readers’ Awards 2020 Warwicks/Worcs.qxp_Layout 1  20/03/2020  16:9  Page 2

You can find a full list of winners at whatsonlive.co.uk
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.

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.

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.”

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!”
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*gd. Married. Annoyed. Chris’ gags include: “My venue for the Edinburgh Festival is a portacab in; 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.”

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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 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.”

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Message In A Bottle shows at Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 April.
Theatre from around the region

**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.
**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.

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**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.”

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**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.

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**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...

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**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 era’s biggest, brightest and perhaps most surprising star.

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**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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**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?

**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.

**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 desperately searching...

**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.”

**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.

**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.
Beach Body Ready

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

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

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...

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

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...

Blood Brothers

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.
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 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!

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...

Peppa Pig’s Best Day Ever
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 7 - Thurs 9 April; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sat 16 & 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.
Dance previews from around the region

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.”

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.

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.”

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 Dominczyk
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

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)
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

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 quite 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)
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
Visual Arts previews from around the region

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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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
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Events previews from around the region

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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Events previews from around the region

**Easter Holiday Activities**

**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.

**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 Fun at Ironbridge
Family activities 4–19 April
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133rd Show
Easter Holiday Activities

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

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

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

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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).

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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!

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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.

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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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[Image of a poster and a desk with books and scissors]

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Your week-by-week listings guide
April 2020

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
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 26 Apr

ARIEL SCHLESINGER: WAYS TO SAY Newly commissioned sculpture 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

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

THE PEOPLE DRESSED TO THE NINES A new installation by Reiko Sudo, 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

THE HERBET ART GALLERY & MUSEUM COVENTRY OPEN 2020 Exhibition showcasing a wide range of talent from the West Midlands and Warwickshire, until Sun 19 Apr

EXPLORING ELOI’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

THE HERBET ART GALLERY & MUSEUM MARYFLOWER400 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

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

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Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch
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NEW: FABRIC OF LIFE Exhibition featuring work that reflects the life journeys of five textile artists, Fri 24 whatsonlive.co.uk

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

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

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

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Other VISUAL ARTS
FASHIONING PEACE: LIFE AND LIBERTY AFTER THE GREAT WAR 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

AARON OLIVER: BABY & THE BEAST Exhibition exploring the visual world as if unknown, creating pieces that are ‘full of wonder and excitement’, Tues 7 Apr - Sun 3 May

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Gigs
DIGDAT Wed 1 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham
IRISH SESSION Wed 1 Apr, Katie Fitzgerals, 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
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
GUESTS Fri 3 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham
THE REAL THING ‘THE GREATEST HITS TOUR’ Fri 3 Apr, Malvern Theatres
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 Man’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
Wednesday 1 - Sunday 5 April

**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) & Antoni 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, Straus & Sousa, Thurs 2 Apr, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOR 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

**STRAFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Programme includes works by Brahms, Weber & Beethoven, Sun 5 Apr, Stratford Playhouse, 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 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 Rose 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

**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 Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**CARMEN** Russian State Opera present Bizet’s tale of passion, jealousy & violence. Sung in French with English surtitles, Sun 5 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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Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm
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The UK’s Largest Tropical Butterfly Paradise!
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Disabled access to all displays, carers free entry
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The Hatton Arms is better than ever!
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A fresh look & new menus
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THE ALBANY theatre

COMEDY CLUB
Fri 17 April

KENDAL MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL
Thurs 23 April

Sun 5 April

Sat 11 April

Mon 20 April

Sat 25 April

Wed 29 & Thurs 30 April

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whatsonlive.co.uk
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

Dance

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

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

Events

COVENTRY FESTIVAL OF RUNNING
Part of a week-long festival of running, until Sun 4 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 Midlands

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, Arrix, 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 - Tuess 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)

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

BODENHAM 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

ENGINITY EXPLORERS: Explore the contents of Mr Darby’s Magical Box of Science Secrets, Fri 3 Apr, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

EASTER CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL
Stack 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 HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
Enjoy ‘mini madness’ this Easter, Sat 4 - Sun 19 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 FAIR-TALES AT SOHO
Immersive storytelling tour, Sat 5 Apr, Soho House, Birmingham

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

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
Enjoy performances, stands, displays and rare breeds, Sun 5 Apr, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth

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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

whatsonlive.co.uk
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
Gigs

SKENGDO X AM Mon 6 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham
TRIPPLE 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 ASLEY Thurs 9 Apr, Arena B’ham
THE PEDAL SHOW Band Thurs 9 Apr, The Asylum, B’ham
THE COVASETTE'S + 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, Huntington Hall, Worcester
GLADYS KNIGHT: MIDNIGHT TRAIN TO GEORGIA Thurs 9 Apr, The Palace Theatre, Redditch
IQ Fri 10 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham
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 Pussycat Dolls - Arena 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, Atrix, Bromsgrove

Comedy

ARABELLA WEIR Wed 8 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Monday 6 - Sunday 12 April

Classical & Easy Listening

LUNCHEON 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, Atrix, Bromsgrove

Theatre

A GIRL IN SCHOOL UNIFORM (WALKS INTO A BAR) Bold new play about ‘crisis, darkness, cities and hope’, Thurs 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
BREAM HOUSE The Pantaloons 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 A hilarious and heart-wrenching story of one woman, one party and a cancer diagnosis, Wed 8 - Sat 11 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham
HOWARD’S END New play about comedian Frankie Howerd, Wed 8 - Sun 12 Apr, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham
WOODLAND TALES WITH GRANDDAD Intimate show for younger audiences, Thurs 9 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull
EUROPEAN NATION 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 MUSICAL RETELLING OF MICHELLE MAGORIAN’S MUCH ACCLAIMED WA Iterate tale, Fri 10 Apr, Symphony Hall, 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, The Glee Club, Birmingham
RACHEL FAIRBURN, MIKE WILMOT, MICKY P KERR & ANDY ROBINSON Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham
STEVE HARRIS, NICK DOODY, THOMAS GREEN & DAVE LONGLY Sat 11 Apr, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham
GUZ KHAN, DALISO CHAPONDA, JOHN SIMMIT, SHABBA & JAY DROCH Sun 12 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Kids Theatre

SHARK IN THE PARK Family musical based on Nick Sharratt’s popular books, Mon 6 Apr, Atrix, Bromsgrove
RAPUNZEL: A TANGLED MUSICAL TALE Immersion Theatre present a brand new immersive musical, Mon 6 Apr, Atrix, Bromsgrove

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April 2020

**ARTRIX**
BROMSGROVE

**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
Andrew Maxwell:
Reality

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**THE CORE**
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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

**Sun 17 May**
7.30pm
**FAIRPORT CONVENTION**
Fantastic Folk Rock

**Sun 17 May**
7.30pm
**AN AUDIENCE WITH LESLEY GARRETT**
Britain's most popular Soprano

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**COMING SOON...**

**BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE**

**13 - 17 MAY**
**GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE**
Dance to your own tune with Gerald the Giraffe

**26 - 30 MAY**
**A BUNCH OF AMATEURS**
Acting worlds collide in Ian Hislop and Nick Newman's uproarious show

**7 - 11 JULY**
**MALORY TOWERS**
A musical of high jinks, high drama and high spirits

*Box Office: 0121 236 4455 | BIRMINGHAM-REP.CO.UK*
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 ‘oddes of magic, singalong songs and clumsy chases’, 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

S.A.M’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 dance-theatre show fuses puppetry, original music and performance with the nastiest bits left in, Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome

REMEMBERING THE OSCARS Aliax 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 Grabecky. 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, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

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, 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, 6pm

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, Speetchely 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, stalls, sideshows, traders and more, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough

CADERBURY EGG HUNT Fill your Easter with family fun, delicious Cadbury treats, and exciting egg hunts, Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Caderaury House & Garden, Worcestershire

CEREMONIES & CELEBRATIONS

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

OLYMPIC EASTER TRAVEL 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 Development 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 Mclouaid** Wed 15 Apr, Huntington Hall, Worcester

**Sea Girls** Thurs 16 Apr, O2 Institute, B’ham

**Snoo Dog** Thurs 16 Apr, Arena B’ham

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

**Stress Release** Thurs 16 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**Sari Schorr** Thurs 16 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall, Worcester

**The Ultimate Classic Rock Show** 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 Old Time** Fri 17 Apr, The Palace Theatre, Solihull

**The Stiff Joints** Fri 17 Apr, The Marr’s Bar, Worcester

**Smore & Turrell: Stratos Bleu Tour** Fri 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**Imperial Age** Fri 17 Apr, The Asylum, B’ham

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

**Classical & Easy Listening**

**CBSO: Elgar’s The Dream of Gerontius** Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor), Anna Stéphanie (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 Vektorova, Rachmaninoff & Tchaikovsky, Fri 17 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**Rusi 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 Carousal 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, Albury Theatre, Coventry

**Dan Nightingale, Catherine Bohart, Kane Brown & Noel James** Fri 17 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**Stephen Bailey, Elliott Steel, Shy Shanyasky & Pete O’Day** Sat 18 Apr, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

**Dan Nightingale, Catherine Bohart, Kane Brown & Comic TBC** Sat 18 Apr, The Glee Club, B’ham

**Tommy Sandhu, Hyde Panasere, 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 Eliot’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, rescue 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 presents 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, 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** Peter Pan 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 ups for a roasting, Fri 17 Apr, Atrix, 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, Birmingham

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


THE WIZARD OF OZ
The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham
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

EASTER ACTIVITIES
The Norbury Players presents an amateur production of "The Secret Life of Pets" at The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, £5 per ticket, Sat 18 Apr, 7.30 pm. Call 0121 539 8003 for further information.

Kids Shows
SHARK IN THE PARK Family musical based on Nick Sharratt's popular books, Wed 15 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, Soot’s singing unicorn and Sweep’s levitating sausage! Wed 15 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA Based on Nick Sharratt's popular books, Sat 18 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

HOW MUCH IS THAT DRAGON IN THE WINDOW? The Norbury Players present an amateur production of "The Secret Life of Pets" at The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, £5 per ticket, Sat 18 Apr, 7.30 pm. Call 0121 539 8003 for further information.

Cabaret
DITA VON TEESE: GLAMATRIX ‘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, 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, Blakeley Hall, Birmingham

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, Blakeley Hall, Birmingham

Spring Steam Gala - Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Kidderminster whatsonlive.co.uk

Lyngo Theatre’s Puss In Boots - Artrix, Bromsgrove

WHATSONLIVE.CO.UK
Gigs
ASHLEY HENRY Mon 20 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
NICK PARKER & SARAH CASEY Mon 20 Apr, The Marr’s Bar, Worcester
BRENDAN SCHAUB, 50 SHADIES 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 PEFFER & 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
JOESEF 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
BRAINTORM Fri 24 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE UPROAR BEATLES Fri 24 Apr, Huntingdon

Classical & Easy Listening
LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Regier & 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 Vasilyev (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 Theatre
SARKI 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: MAYLOWER ON THE SEA Featuring Worcestershire Schools Chorus, Kenneth Woods & Neil Ferris (conductors), April Fredrick (soprano) & Kit Armstrong (baritone). Programme includes works by Copland, Tallis, Vaughan Williams, Higgins & Sawyers, Sat 25 Apr, Winchester Cathedral

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 Apr - 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 Piemier’s drama, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Comedy
PETE FIRMAN & THE AMAZING TBC Tues 21 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, B’ham
JOE LYCETT Tues 21 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham
SCOTT BENNETT, FREDDIE FARRELL, PAT MONAHAN & BARRY DODDS Wed 22 Apr, Huntington Hall, Worcester
MARK STEEL Thurs 23 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

Andrew Ryan, Fin Taylor & Comedy Carouse 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 Heniss Henin Night Fri 24 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch
Andrew Ryan, Fin Taylor, Paul Thorne, Adam Stannont & Celya AB Fri 24 Apr, The Glee Club, B’ham
Jack Barry Sat 25 Apr, The REP, Birmingham
Stock Theatre, Birmingham
THE DELIGHTFUL SAUSAGE: GINSER'S PARADISE ‘Surreal sketch comedy nightmare that will tear your soul apart’, Thurs 23 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
SILENT UPROAR: THANK YOU FOR DOING NOTHING Production about the climate emergency and the men who profit from it, Thurs 23 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
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 comedian & 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
EMMA (U) Comedy/Drama. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn, Rugby Theatre, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Apr
MULAN (tbc) Action/Adventure. Starring Liu Yifei, Donnie Yen. Atrix, 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)

Monday 20 - Sunday 26 April

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 BalletLorent recreate Carol Ann Duffy’s enchanting tale, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

FILM

INDDEPENDENT LISTINGS:
CUNNINGHAM (U) Documentary/Biography. Directed by Alla Kovnir. Atrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 20 - Thurs 23 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, Atrix, 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. Atrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 24 Apr
THE KITE RUNNER - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

ST GEORGE’S DAY CELEBRATIONS

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

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The List Warwickshire 27 - 30 April.qxp_Layout 1 19/03/2020 17:06 Page 1

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 Zofia Bowers (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 & 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

IAN 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 ‘strikingly original and audacious play’, Mon 27 - Wed 29 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

NIPKOW 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

LAW Story about friendship and human connection in the face of the inexplicable, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, The REP, Birmingham

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 BOYDIE 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 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’s 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

Gigs

JIMTHY 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 RATERLIF Tues 28 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HARE & HOUNDS / PETER ASTOR / KAMURA OBSCURA Tues 28 Apr, whatsonlive.co.uk

Nathaniel Rateliff - Symphony Hall, Birmingham
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 fairy tale, Wed 29 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**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

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**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

**ANOTHER 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

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**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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**STRATFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL**

9th May - 17th May 2020

**PLUS**

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
Michael Frayn
Hugh Pym
Camilla Cavendish
Miles Jupp
Peter James
James Shapiro

**Plus much more**

**Loads of events for families!**

**Ticket**

**ON SALE NOW**

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**“WOW! WHAT A NIGHT” TripAdvisor**

**JACK THE RIPPER**

Times: 7.30pm - 10.30pm
at the Tudor World
Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6EE

Friday 17th April 2020 | Friday 28th August 2020
Friday 25th September 2020 | Friday 30th October 2020
Friday 6th November 2020

For information call 01789 296070 or visit www.tudorworld.com
Online booking www.tudorworld.com

whatsonlive.co.uk
TAKING FLIGHT
DISCOVER DREAM DESIGN
25 JANUARY–14 JUNE 2020

Depart on a journey of invention and explore the evolution of flight in this immersive exhibition. No previous flying experience needed, so get ready to wing it.

#CovTakesFlight
Find out more: transport-museum.com

Exhibition created by TECH SQUAD in partnership with Coventry Transport Museum. Designs by Firecatcher and objects on loan from Midland Air Museum.

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COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM
Driving curiosity

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

Quinn
A JOURNEY

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 OPEN 2020

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