

Staffordshire

ISSUE 412 APRIL 2020

What's On

FILM | COMEDY | THEATRE | GIGS | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS | FOOD staffordshirewhatson.co.uk



Tamworth Arts & Events

St George's Day Extravaganza

Saturday 25 April
Tamworth Castle Grounds

FREE EVENT

MEDIEVAL JOUST ARCHERY

CHILDREN'S ZONE
DRAGON

LIVING HISTORY ENCAMPMENT
WORKSHOPS & GAMES

For more information tel: 01827 709618 or visit our website:
www.tamworthartsandevents.co.uk

inside:

thelist

Your 16-page week
by week listings guide

BLOOD BROTHERS

Willy Russell's legendary show
visits Lichfield Garrick



TOM ROSENTHAL

from Friday Night Dinner
to Stafford Gatehouse



OOH, BETTY!

Joe Pasquale in Some Mothers
Do 'Ave 'Em at the Regent



gatehouse theatre



THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN

FRIDAY 17 APRIL
@ 7.30PM

SARAH MCQUAID

SUNDAY 19 APRIL
@ 7.30PM



DAVID HARPER UNEXPECTED TALES!

MONDAY 20 APRIL
@ 7.30PM

THE WITCHING HOUR

UNSETTLING TALES OF
ANTIQUARIAN TERROR!
TUESDAY 5 MAY
@ 7.30PM



I, ELIZABETH

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY
REBECCA VAUGHAN

THURSDAY 7 & FRIDAY 8
MAY @ 7.30PM

VORTICE DANCE COMPANY
PRESENT A LUXURIOUS VISUAL FEAT

DRACULA

TUESDAY 12 MAY
@ 7.30PM



GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

FRIDAY 10 & SAT 11 APRIL @ 7.30PM



ANSELL'S LES MUSICALS

FRIDAY 29 MAY @ 7.30PM

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR FULL LISTINGS

WHAT'S ON MEDIA GROUP COVID-19 STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best wishes from the What's On team x

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*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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New date for popular home renovating 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."

Classic Ibiza event raising funds at Weston Park



An event featuring some of dance music's most iconic tracks - performed live in the grounds of Weston Park - will this year lend its support to a local charity that helps Staffordshire children who have life-limiting illnesses.

Taking place on Saturday 18 July, Classic Ibiza will be raising funds for the Donna Louise Hospice For Children & Young People. For more information about the event and how you can contribute to raising cash for a good cause, visit classicismibiza.co.uk

Snow White to visit Stafford this Christmas

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs will be visiting Stafford Gatehouse Theatre this Christmas.

The venue's festive-season show will see the evil queen's stepdaughter hiding out in the woods with her vertically challenged pals from 11 December to 3 January. Prime

Pantomimes, the dedicated panto production company presenting the show, promise an 'extravaganza' that's 'bursting at the seams with audience participation, lavish sets, spectacular choreography, and a host of groan-worthy jokes and routines'. Tickets for the show are now on sale at staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Sir Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker! back in Brum

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



Comic Con rescheduled

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."

A Beauty of a show for the festive season

A 'spectacular' retelling of Beauty And The Beast will take centre-stage at the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme this Christmas. The venue's Artistic Director, Theresa Heskins, will return to the original version of the popular fairytale for her adaptation.

"Bringing new life to these classic stories is absolutely what we're about at the New Vic," says Theresa. "I enjoyed discovering the original version of Beauty And The Beast to create this new version for our in-the-round stage. It's a story about kindness, about love, about not judging people based on outward appearances - themes that feel apt for this time. And it's about magic, which is exciting to me as a director."

Beauty And The Beast runs from Saturday 21 November to Saturday 30 January.

For more details and to book seats, visit newvictheatre.org.uk

Gareth Gates Footloose in Stoke-on-Trent!

Pop Idol star Gareth Gates will head the cast of Footloose The Musical when the hit show tours to the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Monday 9 to Saturday 14 November. 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!"



Shropshire's first ever dog park...

Shropshire's first ever indoor dog park has opened in the town of Whitchurch. The idea of The Dogz Squad is to allow dogs 'to exercise their brains and explore new things'. The business's Whitchurch-based owner, Rebecca, is qualified in pet first-aid and has a diploma in pet psychology. She keeps up to date with research regarding 'canine enrichment' and would like to help local dogs exercise beyond just running around a field. At the moment, The Dogz Squad takes place at Whitchurch Civic Centre Sports Hall on Fridays from 6pm to 7pm. The business is in the process of sorting other sessions. To find out more, visit thedogzsquad.com



Saturday Kitchen chef Glynn at Shrewsbury Food Festival

Celebrity chef Glynn Purnell will bring a taste of TV's Saturday Kitchen to Shrewsbury Food Festival when he headlines the annual event at the town's Quarry Park on 27 & 28 June. Glynn will be joined at the popular get-together by some of the West Midlands' best chefs and around 200 producers. Commenting on news of his involvement, Glynn

said: "I worked in Shropshire for a brilliant spell when Hibiscus in Ludlow won two Michelin stars. It was a great time and I've always had a close association with the county. There are some brilliant producers, brilliant chefs and first-class restaurants, so I'm delighted to have been asked to headline the event."

Strictly Ballroom for Kevin Clifton

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 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday 5 to Saturday 10 October. 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 grandtheatre.co.uk



Sheridan Smith to star as Cilla Black

Bafta-winning TV star Sheridan Smith is to play the late Cilla Black when Cilla The Musical visits Birmingham's The Alexandra in the autumn. The Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps favourite first played the much-loved singer in a 2014 television 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



From Soweto to Wolves

The Grammy award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir will make their Wolverhampton Grand Theatre debut on Sunday 25 October.

The world-renowned performers picked up the 2019 'best world music album' Grammy for their record, Freedom.

The choir's Wolverhampton stop-off will see them performing a rousing selection of songs celebrating the life of Nelson Mandela. Their programme will also feature a number of international gospel classics - including a spine-tingling take on Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and an extraordinary rendition of Amazing Grace, which has been viewed more than 15 million times on YouTube.

For more information about the concert and to book tickets, visit grandtheatre.co.uk

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."



whatsonlive.co.uk

Iconic show returns to the Midlands



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

Hedgehog rescue centre seeks funds

A volunteer-run Shropshire hedgehog rescue centre is looking to raise funds through the launch of its first calendar. Pricklebums Hedgehog Rescue in Ludlow is planning to release a 2021 fundraising calendar featuring pictures and images of hedgehogs painted by local artists.

To help cover the costs of producing the calendar, the rescue centre is looking for sponsorship from local businesses. A spokesperson said: "We're hoping that local businesses might sponsor us to help cover some costs in exchange for advertising. We're hoping to get one company for each page."

Festival invites young folk to apply for funding

A trust that aims to support and help develop the careers of young folk performers is inviting applications for its 2020 round of funding.

Up to four awards of up to £1,000 each will be made to emerging musicians, dancers or singers by the Alan Surtees Trust, which was established in memory of the co-founder and director of Shrewsbury Folk Festival.

The closing date for applications is 30 April. Only successful candidates will be contacted and the recipients will be announced in June.

For more information and to apply for a grant, go to: alansurteestrust.org.uk.

Follow the trust on Twitter @ASurteesTrust or on Facebook @AlanSurteesTrust





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



THE HOLLIES
 SAT 9 MAY
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



KIDZ BOP WORLD TOUR
 SAT 11 APRIL
 6PM
SYMPHONY HALL



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



RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC
 SAT 2 MAY
 8PM
SYMPHONY HALL



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



THE SHIRES
 MON 4 MAY
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



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



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



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

BOOK ONLINE **thsh.co.uk**

THE PATH TO REDEMPTION



Set against the tumultuous events that led to the fall of Afghanistan's monarchy and the rise of the Taliban, Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* is one of the 21st century's bestselling novels - and the stage adaptation of the story is coming to Wolverhampton this month...

Khaled Hosseini's story of trauma, guilt and redemption follows central character Amir from his childhood into manhood.

It is Amir's relationship with his father, and his close but strained friendship with Hassan, that guides *The Kite Runner*'s narrative, which in turn is influenced by ethnically charged violence and the need to seek asylum.

"The Kite Runner is a journey that pretty much spans Amir's entire life up until his present day in 2002," explains David Ahmad, who plays the character. "Amir recounts his life and the choices he made that got him to that point. One choice from his childhood in particular he feels incredibly guilty for, and so *The Kite Runner* becomes the story of his path to redemption. It's definitely an epic journey. Essentially, he's a child who makes a mistake, and I think that's something which most people can relate to. A lot of people, especially at the end of act one, really don't like Amir. As a child, he's not a particularly likeable character. But the more I've lived with Amir, the more forgiveness I have for his actions, as I feel like I've been with him for so long - since the play was first staged in 2013, to be exact. He's a coward, sure, but at the end of the day he's a child who makes some poor choices. He certainly tries to work through them in the end."

This particular adaptation of *The Kite Runner* sticks as closely as possible to Hosseini's groundbreaking novel.

"I have to say that the play is such a faithful

adaptation of the book. Matthew Spangler did a wonderful job of really distilling the story into its key moments. Obviously there were lots of parts of the book that we simply couldn't fit in, but Matthew very cleverly picked out those essential moments to create the narrative arc of the play. People who've read the book don't often notice that we've left much out. It's a very successful adaptation - and very different to the film adaptation. I don't think the film worked particularly well. The play works much better because we've been able to keep the narrator character, where Amir relives parts of his life in front of the audience. That really helps create a better connection to the audience, as they go on the journey with Amir. It helps them feel part of the story."

Almost two decades after it was published, *The Kite Runner*'s deep exploration of human relationships, and the wider political statements that the novel makes, continue to resonate.

"The Kite Runner is just as important today as when it was written. There are so many facets to the story, and that's why it's so well-loved. There's part of the story that everyone can relate to, in terms of the characters' own personal emotions and experiences and wider politics. The story definitely still resonates with the current situation in the Middle East - and with the refugee crisis in Syria, in particular. A lot of *The Kite Runner* is about being an immigrant; about adapting to leaving so much behind and being faced with a whole new culture; about which characters embrace the

'new ways' and which ones feel a little left behind, clinging to the old. Sadly, these are all very real dilemmas for some civilians in the Middle East, and they don't look like they're going away any time soon.

"Interestingly, on the first day of rehearsals, we all sat down as a cast and told our stories - and while not being exactly the same experiences as Amir and his father had, they certainly had some similarities. For example, my father came to the UK from Pakistan in the 1960s. We all live with those experiences of feeling slightly different. Having that understanding of what life was like for my father trying to make his way in a very alien country makes me relate to the story on a personal level also.

"But this isn't just a political story; it's a story about people finding love, about regret, about the betrayal of a friend and a father-son relationship. There are so many aspects for the audience to connect with, and that's what *The Kite Runner* does so well. The story is such a rollercoaster, and Hosseini certainly fits a lot of gut-punches in there! It's so emotional. Certainly, the immediate reaction to the show is often one of silence, while the audience digests what's just happened. The main thing, though, is that there's still hope!"

The Kite Runner shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 April.



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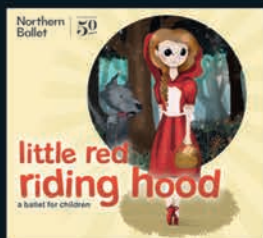
THE SMASH HIT FRESH OFF THE
WEST END
CABARET

TUE 31 MAR - SAT 4 APR
REGENT THEATRE



JOE PASQUALE IS FRANK
SPENCER IN
**SOME MOTHERS DO
'AVE 'EM**

TUE 14 APR - SAT 18 APR
REGENT THEATRE



NORTHERN BALLET'S
**LITTLE RED RIDING
HOOD**

SUN 3 MAY
REGENT THEATRE



THE MUSICAL PARODY
FRIENDS!

TUE 5 MAY
REGENT THEATRE



KEVIN AND JOANNE CLIFTON
FACE OFF IN
BURN THE FLOOR

WED 6 MAY
REGENT THEATRE



WALK RIGHT BACK
THE EVERLY
BROTHERS STORY

THU 7 MAY
REGENT THEATRE



THE NEW 25TH
ANNIVERSARY SHOW
RIVERDANCE

FRI 8 MAY - SUN 10 MAY
REGENT THEATRE



THE MUSICAL BY QUEEN
AND BEN ELTON
WE WILL ROCK YOU

MON 25 MAY - SAT 30 MAY
REGENT THEATRE

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC 2020
SAT 28 MAR **VH**

THE STORY OF GUITAR HEROES
FRI 3 APR **VH**

THE SHIRES
WED 29 APR **VH**

THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE
FRI 1 MAY **VH**

THE ELVIS TRIBUTE ARTIST WORLD TOUR
THU 7 MAY **VH**

IN THE AIR TONIGHT
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THU 4 JUN **VH**

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REVIEW: INFINITII

Sheer perfection at Staffordshire gem

Prestigious Indian street food eatery INFINITII is one of those restaurants that you'll find yourself still talking about months after paying a visit.

Located in the Staffordshire town of Abbots Bromley, INFINITII provides a modern twist on the textures and flavours of India, combining and celebrating diverse cooking techniques from multiple regions across the country.

The kitchen is fronted by award-winning chef Mamrej Khan, whose CV includes stints at the five-star Taj Hotels in Chennai, The Rose Garden in the Maldives and the Deluxe Palace Hotel in Bahrain.

On the evening my partner and I visited INFINITII, we sampled the five-course tasting menu - a chef's surprise. The restaurant showcases a unique concept whereby the menu is catered to the customer. Diners are asked three questions: do you have allergens or dietary requirements? Is there anything that you don't like? Is there anything on the menu which is a must-have for you? Your must-have choice(s) will be included within your specially designed menu.

We started off with a pint of Kingfisher and an INFINITII G&T Sweet Gin Cocktail, comprising Nelson's Rose & Raspberry Gin, juniper berries, cardamom and Fever Tree Aromatic Tonic.

INFINITII is in partnership with Nelson's, a Staffordshire-based distillery, so we felt it was only fitting to sample their creations. I'm not actually a big gin fan (bucking the trend, I know), but my selected drink was both refreshing and tasty. It may even have converted me, which is something I thought would never happen.

Our first course, light and crispy vadams - a modern but less oily alternative to poppadoms - were served with a homemade spiced tomato salsa and a fresh onion green salad.

They were swiftly followed by course number two - aloo brie tikki and kaffir lime lemon sole. A vegetarian dish (which can be made vegan by swapping the brie for a vegan cheese), the aloo brie tikki comprised spiced mashed potato cakes stuffed with gooey, melted brie and coated with cashew nut-flavoured breadcrumbs. The three potato cakes were served atop a sweet tamarind sauce alongside decorative swipes of vibrant rhubarb and honey and mustard sauces. The flavour combinations were simply stunning!

The fish dish featured a beautifully soft and delicate shallow fried lemon sole fillet marinated with ginger, garlic, curry leaf and paprika, served with mint lime olive oil - a healthier option which didn't

compromise on flavour whatsoever.

We were seriously impressed - and beyond excited about what was to follow!

My partner's must-have choice was rabbit varuval - wild rabbit meat marinated with home-ground spices and served with green chutney. Presented on the bone, the sweet rabbit was cooked to perfection, the coating showcasing just the right amount of spice. The green chutney, bursting with mint and coriander flavours, was the perfect accompaniment.

I'm a sucker for a bit of food theatre and INFINITII's smoky lamb tikka dish provided just that. Served inside a smoke-filled dome, which was lifted at the table, sat marinated boneless morsels of cinnamon-smoked lamb fillet, grilled to perfection in the restaurant's clay oven.

The smoky meat was served with roasted peppers & onion and accompanied by delicious green chutney and rhubarb sauce.

On to the main courses of duck lucknowi and machchi mango curry. The first of the two dishes featured seared barbery duck breast simmered in caramelised onion, tomato, yoghurt & cashew nut sauce. Bright orange in colour and sweet in flavour with its underlying hint of cashew, the sauce was absolutely phenomenal and definitely one of my highlights of the evening. The duck itself was cooked to absolute perfection.

The second dish featured soft pan-fried fillets of tilapia fish simmered in coconut milk, five-spice - a sweet & sour sauce of green mangoes - and served with a portion of nicely seasoned spiced potato. I adore a fish curry, and INFINITII's offering was up there with the nicest I've ever eaten. The perfectly cooked fish, the spicy, creamy sauce, and what is essentially Indian-inspired mashed potato, made

for the comfort-food dish of my dreams.

To accompany the two dishes there was a portion of saffron rice, a portion of rice flour roti (a healthier alternative to naan) and one of the richest, creamiest and downright tastiest dal makhani I'd ever eaten. I genuinely couldn't fault a thing - the food was sheer perfection.

Our final dishes of the evening were the desserts: a sweet and refreshing mango sorbet supplied by award-winning dairy farm Daltons, and a rich cinnamon dark & white chocolate mousse served with caramelised golden syrup and decorative swirls of mango sauce. Both were beautiful in taste and presentation. Indeed, the presentation at INFINITII is second to none, and in my opinion of Michelin-star quality.

My partner and I sat looking at each other in utter disbelief. How had we just enjoyed so much outstanding food for a mere £30 each?! INFINITII's tasting menu is value for money and then some! Our debut experience at the restaurant really couldn't have been any better. The food was exemplary and the flavours exceptional, with every course also showcasing excellent technical ability. The service was fantastic, the staff being both friendly and knowledgeable. Not surprisingly, I can't wait to return to sample some more of the delicious cuisine this gem of a restaurant has to offer.

Lauren Foster

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

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Purnell's picks up Readers' Award for a fifth consecutive year

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

Whitchurch Food & Drink Festival returns

Whitchurch Food & Drink Festival returns on Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 May at the town's Civic Centre. The free-entry event features an outdoor food court area comprising 60-plus stalls, a cookery-demonstration kitchen, cocktail-making classes and lots of activities for children to enjoy.

Frozen tea party in Shrewsbury

Calling little - and big! - princes and princesses everywhere... You can this month enjoy afternoon tea with two of your favourite-ever cartoon characters! Once Upon A Party, which takes place at The Peach Tree restaurant in Shrewsbury on Saturday 25 April, will see the ever-popular Snow Sisters providing entertainment and photo opportunities aplenty. To book, call the Peach Tree on 01743 355055.



Chocolate-themed fun run returns to Sandwell Valley

A fun run with a tasty twist is coming to the Black Country on Saturday 18 April. The region's chocolate lovers are in for a sweet treat as Birmingham St Mary's Hospice's Chocolate 5k & 10k run returns to Sandwell Valley Country Park. The popular event will see participants picking up goodies from numerous chocolate stations as they make their way around the course. All funds raised from the run will go towards

the hospice, which provides vital care and support to people living with life-limiting illnesses across Sandwell and Birmingham. Laura Nash, events manager at Birmingham St Mary's Hospice, said: "Whether you're into running or you just love chocolate, the Chocolate 5k & 10k is a great family-friendly event which allows you to enjoy tasty treats whilst you burn off the calories."

Dishoom Birmingham launch delayed due to coronavirus

Dishoom Birmingham was intending to open its doors this month but is delaying doing so due to the coronavirus outbreak. Paying loving homage to the old Irani cafés that were once part of the fabric of life in Bombay, Dishoom brings together food cooked in Hindu, Muslim, Irani and Parsi traditions. The restaurant is located at the heart of Birmingham, at One Chamberlain Square, and can accommodate 330 guests. For more details, visit the website dishoom.com



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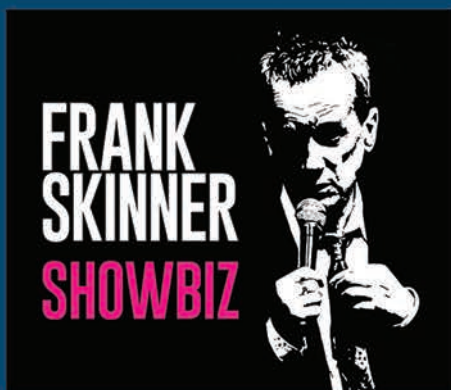
TUE 14 APR 7.30PM



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



MON 4 – SAT 9 MAY
6g THU 7 MAY 7.30PM



SUN 10 & MON 11 MAY



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



MON 1 – SAT 6 JUN
6g WED 3 JUN 7.30PM
AD EVERY PERFORMANCE



TUE 9 – SAT 13 JUN
6g WED 10 JUN 7.30PM



THU 18 JUN 7.30PM



TUE 30 JUN 7.30PM

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Opera Boys Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 5 April

Crossover artists have been big business for much of the 21st century, so there's little wonder that The Opera Boys continue to enjoy such a successful career.

Their classically trained voices combine in a powerhouse of vocal harmony to deliver a winning blend of opera, pop and everything

in between.

They visit Shrewsbury to perform a concert of songs from the shows - from timeless classics like *Les Miserables*, *Phantom Of The Opera* and *West Side Story*, to modern smash-hits such as *Jersey Boys*, *We Will Rock You* and *The Greatest Showman*

Carducci Quartet

STOP. Cafe Bar, Shrewsbury Museum, Thurs 23 April

Performing more than 90 international concerts each year, Carducci are regarded as one of the most successful string quartets in the business.

Their Shrewsbury 'chill-out concert' comprises an informal programme of relaxing 20th & 21st century works by composers including Philip Glass, Peter Gregson, Joby Talbot and Arvo Part.



Sakari Oramo & Royal Stockholm Philharmonic

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 25 April



A one-time music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sakari Oramo returns to his old stomping ground with the orchestra for whom he's been chief conductor since leaving the CBSO in 2008. The Royal Stockholm Philharmonic last performed in Birmingham some 29 years ago. They are joined for this long-overdue return to the city by violinist Nicola Benedetti.

The evening's programme features Victoria Borisova-Ollas' *Open Ground*, Benedetti performing Prokofiev's second concerto, and Sibelius's *Symphony No. 2*.

Russell Watson

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 5 April

Often referred to as 'the people's tenor', Russell Watson's soaring voice has garnered him a vast global army of appreciative fans.

The 53-year-old's debut album, *The Voice*, topped the classical charts and saw him become the first British artist to hold both the US and UK classical number-one slots. He plays Wolverhampton in celebration of the album's 20th anniversary.

Featured songs include Caruso, *O Sole Mio*, *Il Gladiatore*, *Nessun Dorma*, *You Are So Beautiful*, *Someone To Remember Me* and *Where My Heart Will Take Me*.



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).



Thursday 16th April at 7.30pm



Friday 17th April at 7.30pm



Saturday 18th April at 11am, 2pm & 4pm



Thursday 23rd April at 7.30pm



Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm



Thursday 30th April at 7.30pm



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Beardyman

Albert's Shed Southwater, Telford,
Thurs 30 April

Championed by the likes of Tim Minchin and Jack Black, Darren Alexander Foreman - or Beardyman, as he's better known - is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist, a groundbreaking live looping pioneer, a musical comedic talent and one of the world's best beatboxers. He's also a man who's collaborated with Fatboy Slim and Calvin Harris to produce a global phenomenon - the song Eat Sleep Rave Repeat - and whose popularity at festivals has seen him spend much of the last decade touring the world. He visits Telford with his Sheer Volume: The Initial Phase tour.



The Academic

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 22 April

Ireland's newest indie-rock sensations have come a long way since performing Battle of the Bands competitions at their local school. Comprising Craig Fitzgerald, Dean Gavin and brothers Matt and Stephen Murtagh, The Academic have accumulated a long list of sold-out headline shows, appeared at some of Europe's most high-profile festivals and performed opening slots for acts including The Strokes, Twenty One Pilots and Catfish And The Bottlemen. The future looks bright.



Calan

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton,
Sat 25 April

Calan have certainly found their musical niche, showcasing a unique instrumental blend of accordion, fiddle, guitar, Welsh pipes, Welsh harp and the percussive sound

of the Welsh clogs. Taking a contemporary approach by breathing new life into old traditions, they were voted best band at the inaugural Wales Folk Awards in 2019 and best international band at France's Lorient Festival. Expect a fast-paced and uplifting show from this fresh and vibrant five-piece.

Tankus The Henge

The Robin, Bilston, Thur 2 April

Tankus The Henge have been described as 'a psychedelic rock & roll octopus... only with four more legs.' Widely admired both for their songwriting and their live performances, the cult band's wildly eclectic funk-fuelled repertoire ranges from New Orleans-inspired swing to heavy rock riffs.

Dean Friedman

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury,
Thurs 23 April

Back by popular demand after his last sell-out show, Dean Friedman here presents another evening of infectious pop songs. The American singer-songwriter first came to prominence thanks to the chart success of hit single Ariel, a quirkily irresistible song about a free-spirited, pot-smoking, vegetarian Jewish girl in a peasant blouse who lived, as the lyric goes, "...way on the other side of the Hudson".

Wilko Johnson

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 25 April

Following a remarkable recovery from a diagnosis of terminal cancer, original Dr Feelgood guitarist Wilko Johnson has recently released *Blow Your Mind*, his first album of new material in decades. Famed for his blistering chop-chord strumming action, the 72-year-old formed the Wilko Johnson Band with Blockheads bassist Norman Watt-Roy, following a stint with Ian Dury & The Blockheads in the 1980s. Featuring former Blockhead Dylan Howe on drums, the trio is considered to be one of the most exciting R&B bands in the world today.



What's On Readers' Awards

WINNERS announced...

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

Best Midlands Large Theatre



WINNER Birmingham Hippodrome
RUNNER-UP Wolverhampton Grand

Best Touring Musical

WINNER Les Misérables
RUNNER-UP The Rocky Horror Show

Best Touring Play

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

Best Home-Produced Show In The Midlands

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

Best Pantomime In The Midlands 2019/20

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

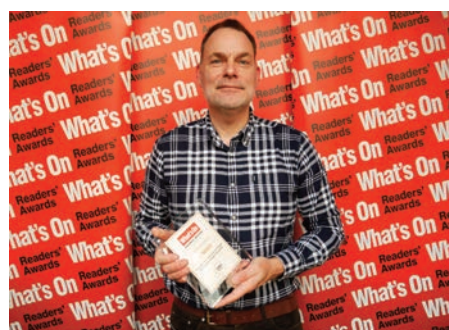
Best Pantomime Dame In The Midlands 2019/20

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

Best Amateur Production

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

Best Kids Show



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

Best Classical Production inc Opera



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

Best Orchestra/Choir

WINNER Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra
RUNNER-UP CBSO

Best Dance Production

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

Best Midlands Arts/ Cultural Festival



WINNER Birmingham Comedy Festival
RUNNER-UP Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival

Best Exhibition

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

Best Midlands Live Music Venue

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

Best Midlands Music Festival



WINNER Shrewsbury Folk Festival
RUNNER-UP Birmingham Pride

Best Midlands Street Food Vendor

WINNER Urban Cheesecake
RUNNER-UP Dick's Smokehouse

Best Midlands Comedy Night

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

Best Midlands Food Festival

WINNER Shrewsbury Food Festival
RUNNER-UP Ludlow Food Festival

Best Market in the Midlands

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



and the winners in your region...

Wolverhampton

Best Arts/Theatre Venue

WINNER Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
RUNNER-UP Dudley Town Hall

Best Live Music Venue

WINNER The Robin 2, Bilston
RUNNER-UP Dudley Town Hall

Best Visitor Attraction

WINNER Black Country Living Museum
RUNNER-UP Dudley Zoo & Castle

Best Event

WINNER Peaky Blinders Nights at Black Country Living Museum
RUNNER-UP Cosford Air Show

Best Gallery/Exhibition Venue

WINNER Wolverhampton Museum & Art Gallery
RUNNER-UP Dudley Museum at The Archives

Best Independent Restaurant

WINNER The Old Glasshouse, Dudley
RUNNER-UP The Summerhouse, Sedgley

Staffordshire

Best Arts/Theatre Venue

WINNER Lichfield Garrick Theatre
RUNNER-UP New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Best Live Music Venue

WINNER Lichfield Guildhall
RUNNER-UP Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

Best Music Festival

WINNER Staffs Fest
RUNNER-UP Lichfield Festival

Best Arts Festival

WINNER Lichfield Festival
RUNNER-UP The Big Feast, Stoke-on-Trent

Best Food Festival

WINNER Lichfield Food Festival
RUNNER-UP Stone Food & Drink Festival

Best Visitor Attraction

WINNER Lichfield Cathedral
RUNNER-UP Alton Towers

Best Event

WINNER The Cathedral Illuminated at Lichfield Cathedral
RUNNER-UP Scarefest at Alton Towers

Best Independent Restaurant

WINNER The Boat Inn, Lichfield
RUNNER-UP 1709 The Brasserie, Lichfield

Shropshire

Best Arts/Theatre Venue

WINNER Theatre Severn
RUNNER-UP The Place, Telford

Best Live Music Venue

WINNER Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury
RUNNER-UP Henry Tudor House, S'bury

Best Visitor Attraction

WINNER Ironbridge Museums
RUNNER-UP Attingham Park

Best Event

WINNER Shrewsbury Flower Show
RUNNER-UP Shrewsbury Wacky Races

Best Food Festival

WINNER Shrewsbury Food Festival
RUNNER-UP Ludlow Food Festival

Best Arts Festival

WINNER Shrewsbury Festival of Literature
RUNNER-UP Ludlow Fringe Festival

Best Music Festival

WINNER Shrewsbury Folk Festival
RUNNER-UP Let's Rock Shrewsbury

Best Gallery/Exhibition Venue

WINNER Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery
RUNNER-UP Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge

Best Independent Restaurant

WINNER Dough & Oil, Shrewsbury
RUNNER-UP Hundred House, Telford

Best Independent Coffee Shop

WINNER House Coffee Co, Shrewsbury
RUNNER-UP The Bird's Nest, Shrewsbury

Comedy previews from around the region



Tom Rosenthal

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

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

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

John Shuttleworth

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

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

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

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

Andrew Maxwell

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

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

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

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

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

Jack Barry

Birmingham Rep, Sat 25 April

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

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

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

Joel Dommett

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

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

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



Seann Walsh

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

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

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

Sukh Ojla

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



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

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



Chris Ramsey

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

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

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

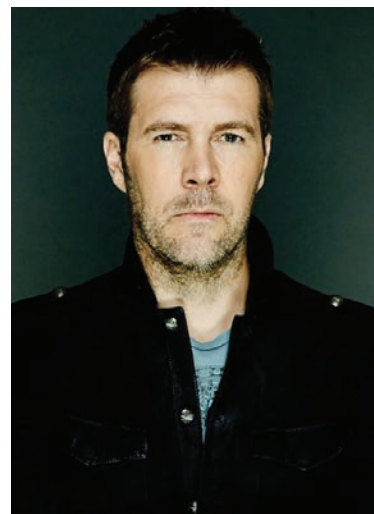
Rhod Gilbert

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

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

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

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



A MESSAGE OF HOPE



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Theatre is just so much more alive, and

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

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

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

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

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

We Will Rock You

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

A pulsating homage to the music of Queen, *We Will Rock You* may be short on storyline, but it's got bags of energy - and just about as brilliant a soundtrack as any musical's ever likely to have.

The show's frontline performers give it their all to excellent effect, while the sets and choreography ensure a visual spectacle to remember. For those who care about the plot, the story is set in a future where originality has been quashed, musical instruments banned, and a hero is needed to bring back rock music...

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

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



Dial M For Murder

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



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

Oliver Twist

The REP, Birmingham, 29 April - 9 May

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

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



Priscilla Queen Of The Desert

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 13 - Sat 18 April



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

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



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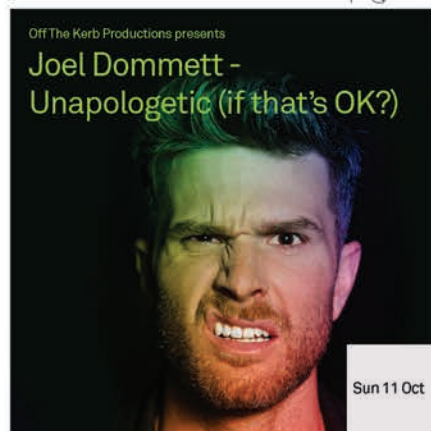
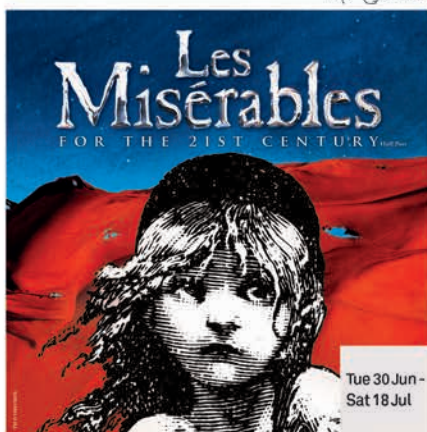
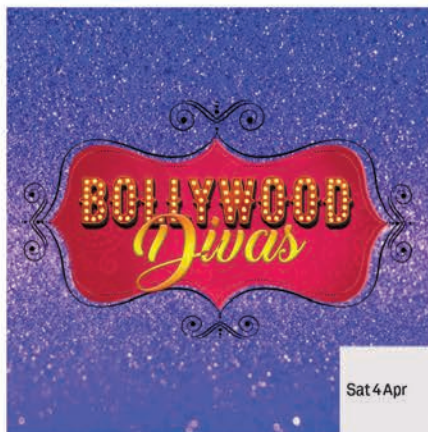


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Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em

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

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

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

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

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

Confessions Of A Cockney Temple Dancer

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 21 - Sat 25 April



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

Up Pompeii

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

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

Jew...ish

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

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



Chaplin: Birth Of A Tramp

The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 15 April

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



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

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

The Delightful Sausage: Ginster's Paradise

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 23 April

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

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



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Volpone

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Thurs 16 - Sat 18 April

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

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

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

Friends! The Musical Parody

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

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

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

Amsterdam

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

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

under Nazi occupation...

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



Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons

Albany Theatre, Coventry,
Wed 29 & Thurs 30 April

When the government passes a law allowing each individual to speak a maximum of only 140 words per day, Bernadette and Oliver find themselves battling hard to negotiate the choppy waters of their relationship...

Sam Steiner's dystopian drama has met with mixed reviews since debuting a couple of years back, but there's no denying it has plenty to say about the modern world and the importance of language. As Steiner himself observes: "Freedom of speech is all well and good, but it doesn't matter if we're not listening to each other."

By The Waters Of Liverpool

Malvern Theatres, Tues 14 & Wed 15 April

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

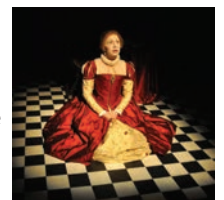
Life, however, has a habit of getting in the way of even the best-laid plans - and so it proves for Helen...

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

I, Elizabeth

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

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





Blood Brothers

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 7 - Sat 11 April

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

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

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

Beach Body Ready

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



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

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

The Comedy Of Errors

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

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

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

Two sets of identical twins are separated during infancy. When their paths cross again later in life, all manner of confusions ensue. Matters are then further complicated by the involvement of an irate courtesan, an insistent jeweller and a mad exorcist!



Quality Street

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



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

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

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

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

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

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

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



Horrible Histories: The Worst Of Barmy Britain

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

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



Shark In The Park!

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

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



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

Oi Frog & Friends!

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

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

The Tiger Who Came To Tea

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

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

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



Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever

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

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

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



Billionaire Boy

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

Birmingham Stage Company has impressive form when it comes to adaptations of David Walliams' work, so anybody wondering whether or not to check out this show should definitely grasp the nettle. For those unfamiliar with the book, it tells the tale of how Mr Spud made and lost his billions, and how his son, Joe, became the richest boy in the world.



Balletboyz: Deluxe

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

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

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

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

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



Lewys Holt: Phrases & Footnotes

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 23 April

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



BalletLorent: The Lost Happy Endings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bollywood Divas Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 4 April

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

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

The New Mutants

CERT 12a

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

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

Released Wed 8 April



EDITOR'S CHOICE

The Assistant

CERT 15 (87 mins)

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

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

Released Fri 3 April

Carmilla

CERT 15 (94 mins)

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



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

Released Fri 3 April

whatsonlive.co.uk



Four Kids And It

CERT PG (110 mins)

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

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

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

Released Fri 10 April



The Secret Garden

CERT PG

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

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

Released Fri 10 April

Antlers CERT 15 (99 mins)

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



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

Released Fri 17 April

Dream Horse CERT PG (113 mins)

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



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

Released Fri 17 April

Promising Young Woman CERT PG (113 mins)

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

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

Released Fri 17 April



KIDS PICK

Trolls World Tour CERT PG

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

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

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

Released Wed 13 April

Finding The Way Back CERT 15 (108 mins)

CERT 15 (108 mins)

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



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

Released Fri 24 April

Our Ladies CERT 15 (105 mins)

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

Directed by Michael Caton-Jones (UK)

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

Released Fri 24 April





Yhonnie Scarce

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

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

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

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Victoria & Albert: Our Lives In Watercolour

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sunday 31 May

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

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

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

Cranach: Artist And Innovator

Compton Verney Art Gallery, Worcestershire, until Sun 4 June

Lucas Cranach the Elder may be best known in modern times for his seductive paintings of the female nude, but back in his day - some 500 years ago - it was his paintings of German nobility and the leaders of the Protestant Reformation for which he was most admired.

This exhibition of work by one of the most successful German artists of all time features paintings and illustrations on loan from the National Gallery, the Royal Collection, the British Museum and Waddesdon Manor.

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



Cornwall As Crucible

Barber Institute, University of Birmingham, until Sun 17 May

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

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

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



Made At MAC: Painting

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

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

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

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Zog & The Quest For The Golden Star

Warwick Castle, Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

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

a 3D activity trail being launched at Warwick Castle this month.

Visitors can explore the trail around the castle and its grounds, meet Sir Gadabout, learn all the skills needed to become a fully fledged dragon, and enjoy a special meet-and-greet with Zog himself.



Animal Easter Trail

RAF Museum, Cosford,
Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

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

Destination Space

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

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

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



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 Hunt

Ludlow Castle, Shropshire,
Sat 4 - Mon 13 April

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

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





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Easter Holiday Activities

Birmingham Botanical Gardens,
Mon 13 - Fri 17 April

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

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



Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt

various National Trust properties throughout
the West Midlands

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

Midlands.

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

Easter Adventure Quest

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



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

Easter Holidays at Compton Verney

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

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





Easter Fun at Ironbridge
Family activities 4-19 April
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Ironbridge
BIRTHPLACE OF INDUSTRY

**Shrewsbury
Flower Show**

**Friday 14th & Saturday
15th August 2020**

Shropshire Horticultural Society
Charity Number 501564

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than a Flower Show**

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Call 01743 234058

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'!



Easter at Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

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

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

Easter Extravaganza

Cadbury World, Bournville,
Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

What better way to celebrate Easter than by visiting Cadbury World?

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



Medieval St George's Day

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

Avoncroft is set to delve into the legend of St George this month, as the War of the Roses Federation re-enactors take over the site for a whole weekend and bring history to life.

As well as action-packed reenactments, the two-day event features storytelling, archery competitions, the chance to dress up as a knight or a 15th century soldier, a St George Mumming play, living-history camps and medieval drills & combat experiences.



Easter Holidays at Severn Valley Railway

Severn Valley Railway,
Sat 4 - Sun 19 April

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

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

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

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*Your week-
by-week
listings guide*
April 2020

the list



Sarah McQuaid at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre - Sun 19 April

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

What's On

Wed 1 - Sun 12 April



Your Toys at The Brewhouse
Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent
Sat 11 April

Mon 13 to Sun 19 April



Mischief and Mystery in
Moominvalley at Arena Theatre
Sat 18 April

Mon 20 to Sun 26 April



St George's Day Celebrations
at Tamworth Castle
Sat 25 April

Mon 27 to Thurs 30 April



Sari Schorr at
The Robin, Bilston
Wed 29 April

THROUGHOUT APR

Bantock House Museum

NEW: THE HOGARTH PUPPETS

Exhibition looking at Britain's best-known puppet company, most famous for its 1950s' children's TV star, Muffin the Mule, Tues 7 Apr - Sun 28 June

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

WHITWORTH WALLIS ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: LEANNE O'CONNOR

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

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

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

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

New Art Gallery - Walsall

TOO RICH A SOIL Exhibition by three photographers presenting new work focused around portraiture, culture and female identity, until Sun 19 Apr

SARAH TAYLOR SILVERWOOD - KATHLEEN AND SALLY SERIES Body of drawings based on text and images abstracted from photographs, letters and documents relating to the two creators and donors of the Garman Ryan Collection, Kathleen Epstein (née Garman) and Sally Ryan, until Sun 7 June

NEW: 20 FOR 2020 Exhibition of work by 20 artists, one to represent each year since The New Art Gallery opened, until Sun 5 July

Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

NEW: BIRMINGHAM WATERCOLOUR: ANNUAL SPRING EXHIBITION Exhibition of work using water-based media, Sat 4 Apr - Sun 28 June

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery - Stoke-On-Trent

PDSA DICKIN MEDAL: EXTRAORDINARY ANIMALS IN ACTION Celebration of the animal heroes who displayed outstanding devotion and heroism in

whatsonlive.co.uk

times of difficulty and conflict, until Sun 19 Apr

KAPOW! Exhibition exploring the influence on art and design of cartoon and comic-book superheroes, super heroines and super villains, until Sun 27 Sep

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms

NEW: KIRSTY GIBBS - LOCAL LANDSCAPES AND FLORA Mixed-media exhibition of work inspired by the county of Shropshire, until Tues 21 Apr

NEW: MATT JENNESON Exhibition of work focusing mainly on the texture and colour of our surroundings, with the intention of achieving a level of abstraction, until Tues 21 Apr

Twenty Twenty Gallery, Ludlow

NEW: ZOË TAYLOR & SHARON GRIFFIN Exhibition featuring Zoë's painted landscapes and Sharon's ceramic sculptures, Sat 11 Apr - Sat 9 May

Weston Park

NEW: THE SOCIETY OF EQUESTRIAN ARTISTS EXHIBITION Mixed media show featuring 100-plus artworks covering most equestrian sports and subjects, Thurs 2 - Tues 28 Apr

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

MEERA SYAL: COMING HOME Meera Syal by photographer Jason Bell - on loan from the National Portrait Gallery, London, until Sun 5 Apr

WOLVERHAMPTON AND ME Installation using the story of the Mayor of Wolverhampton's family history to reflect on the wider history of the city and its people, until Sun 5 Apr

NEW: PHOEBE CUMMINGS: THIS WAS NOW Phoebe contemplates ceramics as a time-based medium, until Sun 31 May

Other VISUAL ARTS

PAINTING WITH WORDS 2020 Open exhibition celebrating the influence and inspiration of literature and language on the visual arts, until Sat 2 May, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry

NEW: YVETTE APPELBY Diverse exhibition of work using found objects to create magical scenes, Tues 14 Apr - Fri 22 May, Gallery3, Shrewsbury

NEW: IMPETUS Exhibition of work by The Society of Staffordshire Artists, Wed 29 Apr - Fri 29 May, Keele University, Staffordshire

Gigs

DIGDAT Wed 1 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

IRISH SESSION Wed 1 Apr, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

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

SEED ENSEMBLE Wed 1 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BARS AND MELODY Thurs 2 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TANKUS THE HENGE Thurs 2 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

BAD TOUCH Thurs 2 Apr, KK Steele Mill, Wolverhampton

THE SOUND OF SPRINGSTEIN Thurs 2 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ORCHARDS Thurs 2 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BIG HEATH Fri 3 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

DIRTY VERTEBRAE Fri 3 Apr, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

SUFFER Fri 3 Apr, KK Steele Mill, Wolverhampton

TEENAGE WEREWOLVES - NUTABT MOVEMENT Fri 3 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

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

LOVE DISTRACTION Fri 3 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

NIRVANA UK Fri 3 Apr, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

MICHAEL STARRING BEN Fri 3 Apr, The Place, Telford

ELO ENCOUNTER Fri 3 Apr, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

MERSEY BEATLES Fri 3 Apr, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

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

SOUNDS OF THE SIRENS + SAMANTICS Fri 3 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham



Roachford - O2 Academy, Birmingham

SEAN GAFFNEY BAND Fri 3 Apr, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

BIG O' AND THE TRAVELLING WILBURYS Fri 3 Apr, Brierley Hill Civic Hall

EMO DISCO - THE BLACK PARADE Fri 3 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

THE ELO TRIBUTE SHOW Fri 3 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE HARA + SPECIAL GUESTS Fri 3 Apr, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

SIMON JAMES, EMILIA QUINN, DONNA MARIE AND EMMA MOORE Fri 3 Apr, Ludlow Brewery Company, Shropshire

RYAN JARVIS + BEHIND THE MOON Fri 3 Apr, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

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

SUBMOTION ORCHESTRA Fri 3 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ROACHFORD Sat 4 Apr, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE RAT PACK IS BACK Sat 4 Apr, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth

THE SKA45S Sat 4 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

PROPE C Sat 4 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

ROCKFEST 2020 Sat 4 Apr, KK Steele Mill, Wolverhampton

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

HATS OFF TO LED ZEPPELIN Sat 4 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SUPREME QUEEN Sat 4 Apr, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

WHITESNAKES JOURNEY Sat 4 Apr, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

CUSTARD CONNECTION Sat 4 Apr, Albert's Shed, Southwater

THE BAR-STEWARD SONS OF VAL DOONICAN Sat 4 Apr, The Hive, Shrewsbury

SWEAT Sat 4 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HOUSEJAMMERZ Sat 4 Apr, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

JEFFREY FOUCALT Sat 4 Apr, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffordshire

AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS Sat 4 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

CARIBOU Sun 5 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HENGE Sun 5 Apr, Albert's Shed, Southwater

GUTTERSNIPE Sun 5 Apr, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

GILBERT O'SULLIVAN Sun 5 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

YES PLEASE - AN EVENING OF CLASSIC YES Sun 5 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

Classical & Easy Listening

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

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

SENIOR CITIZENS ORCHESTRA CONCERT Thurs 2 Apr, Walsall Arena

FOSTER AND ALLEN Thurs 2 Apr, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

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

TOBY SPENCE IN RECITAL Also featuring Michael Trainor (violin) & Iain Burnside (piano). Programme includes works by Tippett, Finzi, Britten & Philip Lancaster, Fri 3 Apr, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

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

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CHOIR: ST JOHN PASSION Featuring John Moore (conductor). Programme comprises JS Bach's The St John Passion, Sat 4 Apr, Shrewsbury Abbey

PIATTI QUARTET Featuring Nathaniel Anderson-Frank (violin), Michael Trainor (violin), Tetsuomi Nagata (viola) & Jessie Ann Richardson (cello). Programme includes works by Purcell, Turnage & Elgar, Sat 4 Apr, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

HALESOWEN ORCHESTRA: JOAQUÍN RODRIGO FANTASIA FOR GUITAR Featuring Christopher Hoggarth (conductor). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, McCunn, Rodrigo & Beethoven, Sat 4 Apr, Halesowen Cornbow Hall

THE MOON AND I World premiere of Rhian Samuel's new composition featuring Nardus Williams (soprano), Claire-Barnett-Jones (mezzo soprano), Tetsuomi Nagata (viola) & Gamal Khamis (piano). Programme includes works by Howells, Bridge, Lee Holby, Rhian Samuel & Liza Lehmann, Sat 4 Apr, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

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

THE OPERA BOYS Sun 5 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

A BRAHMS & SCHUMANN EXPERIENCE Featuring Richard Jenkinson (cello) & Benjamin Frith (piano), Sun 5 Apr, The Gateway, Shrewsbury

RODERICK WILLIAMS IN RECITAL Also featuring Iain Burnside (piano). Programme includes works by Butterworth, Rhian Samuel, John Ireland & Roderick Williams, Sun 5 Apr, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

BACH @ BART'S 6 Featuring Gary Cole (organ), Sun 5 Apr, St Bartholomew's Church, Penn, Wolverhampton

Comedy

RUSSELL KANE Wed 1 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

HENNING WEHN Thurs 2 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ROMESH RANGANATHAN Thurs 2 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome



BRENDAN RILEY, KATY TREV, JON PEARSON & DAN SMITH Thurs 2 Apr, Stourbridge Town Hall

BEN NORRIS, GARY DELANEY, JOSH PUGH & LUCY FREDERICK Thurs 2 Apr, The George Hotel, Lichfield

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

CHRIS RAMSEY Fri 3 Apr, Dudley Town Hall

PETE FIRMAN & THE AMAZING TBC Fri 3 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

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

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

CHRIS RAMSEY Sat 4 Apr, Theatre



Tartuffe

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

Transferring the action of Moliere's famous comedy from the 17th century to 21st-century Birmingham, Anil Gupta and Richard Pinto - the writing team who've updated the play - have made the title character a Muslim cleric and turned the full glare of their spotlight on the contemporary British Muslim experience. Consistently funny and blessed with a vitality that wouldn't have been possible without the modern-day makeover, Tartuffe is alive with contemporary references, hugely and joyously accessible, cleverly punctuated by humorous interaction with the audience and chock-a-block with engaging performances.

Severn, Shrewsbury

BILL BAILEY, MIKE COX, SIMON LOMAS & WAYNE BEESE Sat 4 Apr, Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Dudley

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

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

Theatre

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

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

THE WINTER'S TALE New production which imagines 'a world where the ghosts of fascist Europe collide with the horrors of The Handmaid's Tale, before washing up on a joyful seashore', until Fri 2 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

CABARET Award-winning production of Kander & Ebb's landmark musical. John Partridge, Kara Lily Hayworth & Anita Harris star, Tues 31 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

HANGMEN Stoke Rep Players present an amateur staging of Martin McDonagh's dark drama, Tues 31 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

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

CHICAGO Amateur production of the award-winning musical, presented by Tab Operatic Society, Tues 31 Mar - Sat 4 Apr, Stourbridge Town Hall

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

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

ENTERTAINMENT

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APRIL

HERMAN'S HERMITS

Saturday 4 April
7.30pm • £24

WIZARD OF OZ

Saturday 11 April
3.00pm & 7.00pm
£16.50 • Conc £14.50
Family £58

UP POMPEII

Wednesday 22 &
Thursday 23 April • 7.30pm
£13

BON JOVI EXPERIENCE

Friday 24 April
7.30pm • £22

LISA STANLEY

Saturday 25 April
7.30pm • £20



MAY

ROSE ROYCE

Saturday 23 May
7.30pm • £32

SWING TOWN

Sunday 24 May
7.30pm • £22



JUNE

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2020

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ALL SEATED SHOW

PSYCHOLOGY OF SERIAL KILLERS

WITH JENNIFER REES

WED 8 APR 2020

SAT 4 APR 2020
THE SKA45s

FRI 10 APR 2020
ULTIMATE 40

SAT 11 APR 2020
THE Black Country BEATLES
BLACK COUNTRY BEATLES

SUN 12 APR 2020



A BAND CALLED MALICE

MON 13 APR 2020



THE METEORS

MON 20 APR 2020



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FEATURING ORIGINAL MEMBER
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Robin2Music

Collaboration between Nottingham Playhouse & Nottingham Lakeside Arts, Wed 1 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD A Shropshire Youth Theatre production, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

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

ERIC'S FULL MONTY The latest installment in the life of Eric, complete with '60s music, Fri 3 - Sat 18 Apr, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

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

Kids Shows

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

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD Hiccup Theatre fuse puppetry & storytelling in a brand new version of the classic children's tale, Sun 5 Apr, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

Cabaret

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Variety show featuring vocal & comedy duo Dandy, comedian Ollie Spencer and musician Joe Thomas. Original Fizzog Emma Rollason pays tribute to Black Country comedienne Dolly Allen, Thurs 2 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

JAMES PHELAN - MINDBLOWN! James presents a unique magical prank show, Sat 4 Apr, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

BOX OF FROGS IMPROV COMEDY Evening of high-octane improvised comedy, Sat 4 Apr, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

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

Dance

GISELLE Ballet Theatre UK presents its

version of one of the greatest ballets of all time, Wed 1 Apr, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

HAVANA NIGHTS A mix of Latin dances, with individual performances from Strictly's Graziano Di Prima, Fri 3 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

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

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

TRUE HISTORY OF THE KELLY GANG (18) Biography/Crime. Starring George MacKay, Essie Davis. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 27 Mar - Thurs 2 Apr; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Apr

RADIOACTIVE (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Rosamund Pike. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 27 Mar - Thurs 2 Apr; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 27 Mar - Thurs 2 Apr

THE ELEPHANT MAN (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Sun 29 Mar

THE GOOD LIAR (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, North Shropshire, Mon 30 Mar

PARASITE (15) Drama. Starring Kang-ho Song, Yeo-jeong Jo. Foreign language, subtitled. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Mon 30 Mar

PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Noémie Merlant, Adèle Haenel. Foreign language, subtitled. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 2 Apr; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 3 - Tues 7 Apr

EMMA (U) Comedy/Drama. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Fri 3 & Mon 6 Apr

HAPPY AS LAZARRO (15) Drama/Fantasy. Starring Adriano Tardiolo, Agnese Graziani. Foreign language, subtitled. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 3 Apr

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 3 Apr, showing at selected cinemas

THE ASSISTANT (15)

CARMILLA (15)

THE UNCERTAIN KINGDOM (15)

THE SECRET GARDEN (PG)

THE NEW MUTANTS (12a)

Events

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

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

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

ENGINUIY EXPLORERS Explore the contents of Mr Darby's Magical Box of Science Secrets, Fri 3 Apr, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge

THE GREAT EASTER DRAGON EGG HUNT Egg hunters at the ready for a fun search... Sat 4 - Mon 13 Apr, Ludlow Castle, Shropshire

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA Easter fun on the farm, including animal egg treasure hunt, the Easter Eggspress and the Easter bunny, Sat 4 - Fri 17 Apr, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton-upon-Trent

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA The Easter Bunny comes to the farm, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

DINOSAUR EGG HUNT Search the farm for magical eggs - but beware the

dinosaur... Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry

CRACKING EASTER Follow the activity trail around the historic village, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

ANIMAL EASTER TRAIL Venture around the museum hangars and help find the venue's animal friends, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, RAF Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES Take a journey back to 1945, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

EASTER HOLIDAYS Work out the Easter Bunny's riddles to find the missing Easter eggs, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

EGG HUNT Help Ruby the Castle Dragon and her brother find the hidden eggs, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Tamworth Castle

EASTER HALF TERM Enjoy cargo nets, zip wires, log swings and ground-level trampolines, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

EASTER ADVENTURE QUEST Crack the clues as you and your family follow the trail, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, Stokesay Castle, Nr Craven Arms, Shropshire

EASTER HOLIDAY FUN Featuring fun, creative activities, factory tours, half-price children's meals and nature trails, Sat 4 - Sun 19 Apr, World of Wedgwood, Stoke-on-Trent

EASTER LADYBIRD TRAIL Hunt high and low for the Ladybirds who've made Powis their home this Easter, Sat 4 - Mon 20 Apr, Powis Castle and Garden, Welshpool

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



Easter Adventure Quest - Stokesay Castle, Craven Arms, Shropshire

LUDLOW SPRING FESTIVAL

FRI 15TH (EVENING ONLY)
SAT 16TH SUN 17TH
MAY 2020

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AUGUST 2020

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SAT 12TH
SUN 13TH
SEPT 2020



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SAT 30 MAY 20

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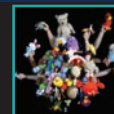
5 April, 11.30am & 1.30pm
**Hiccup Theatre with
Derby Theatre:
Little Red Riding Hood**
Tickets: £10/£36 family



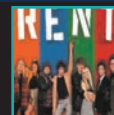
6 April, 1.30pm
**Ditto Theatre:
The Unexpected Adventures
of Darwin The Chimp**
Tickets: £8



8 April, 2pm
Land of Hope & Glory
Over two hours of timeless nostalgia
Tickets: £12/£10



11 April, 1.30pm
**Slot Machine Theatre:
Your Toys**
£10/£36 family



14 - 18 April, 7.30pm
Saturday matinee 2.30pm
**Little Theatre Company:
Rent**
Tickets: £12/£11



22 April, 7.30pm
**Dougie Mackay -
Supernatural: Mythic
Tales from Scotland**
Tickets: £7.50



29 April, 7pm
**Vienna Festival Ballet:
Swan Lake**
Tickets: £18.50/£16.50



12 - 16 May, 7.30pm
Saturday matinee 2.30pm
**Mellow Dramatics:
The Full Monty**
Tickets: £13/£11



22 May, 7.30pm
Fairport Convention
Tickets: £26

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Gigs

SKENGDO X AM Mon 6 April, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LLOYD COLE Mon 6 April, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

LISTENING SESSIONS: APRIL SHOWCASE Tues 7 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

LIONEL - A TRIBUTE TO LIONEL RICHIE Tues 7 April, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

JAMALI MADDIX Tues 7 April, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

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

PUSSYCAT DOLLS Wed 8 April, Arena Birmingham

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Wed 8 April, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

OYSTER 3 Wed 8 April, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley

NEW HOPE CLUB Thurs 9 April, O2 Institute, Birmingham

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

FRED ZEPPELIN Thurs 9 April, The Robin, Bilston

WOMAN LIKE ME, THE LITTLE MIX SHOW Thurs 9 April, Brierley Hill Civic Hall

RICK ASTLEY Thurs 9 April, Arena Birmingham

FANTASTIC 80S PARTY: EASTER THURSDAY SPECIAL Thurs 9 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

ALTOSTRATUS / IQ Fri 10 April, O2 Academy,



Pussycat Dolls - Arena Birmingham

Birmingham

ULTIMATE 40 Fri 10 April, The Robin, Bilston

SUTTON SOUL CLUB Fri 10 April, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

RED RUM CLUB Fri 10 April, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN Fri 10 April, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

GENE GENIE & THE LEMON SQUEEZERS Fri 10 April, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

DREADZONE Fri 10 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CARIBBEAN ROCKS Fri 10 April, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE REGGULITES Fri 10 April, The Night Owl, Birmingham

BEAR V VIPERS + PANDA LASAGNE Fri 10 April, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

DEEP LOVE FOUNDATION Fri 10 April, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

LUST FOR LIFE Fri 10 April, Albert's Shed, Southwater

HAND OF DIMES + SUPPORT Fri 10 April, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

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

LIKE A STORM Sat 11 April, KK Steele Mill, Wolverhampton

CUT GLASS KINGS Sat

11 April, Dead Wax, Birmingham

BLACK COUNTRY BEATLES Sat 11 April, The Robin, Bilston

WALK RIGHT BACK - THE STORY OF THE EVERLY BROTHERS Sat 11 April, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

WEEKENDERS Sat 11 April, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

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

BORN IN THE 80S Sat 11 April, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE UNDERCOVER HIPPIE Sat 11 April, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE RADIATORS Sat 11 April, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

THE RONALDOS Sat 11 April, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

DOMINO SUGAR Sat 11 April, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

PRINCE OF JOBURG Sat 11 April, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

THE UB40 EXPERIENCE Sat 11 April, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

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

ABBA - SWEDE DREAMZ Sun 12 April, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

90'S SILENT DISCO Sun 12 April, The Actress & Bishop, 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

LESLEY GARRETT Tues 7 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

Comedy

TOM ROSENTHAL Mon 6 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

SUSAN MURRAY, HARRIET DRYER & CHRIS ARNOLD Mon 6 Apr, Albert's Shed Bar, Shrewsbury

JAMALI MADDIX Tues 7 Apr, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

DOM JOLY Wed 8 Apr, Stourbridge Town Hall

TOM ROSENTHAL Wed 8 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

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

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

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

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

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

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

Theatre

THE UNEXPECTED ADVENTURES OF DARWIN THE CHIMP Ditto Theatre Company fuse storytelling, puppetry & movement to tell an original tale of friendship, family, and what it means to be home, Mon 6 Apr, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

GUSH! Interactive pop-culture extravaganza, Tues 7 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's

iconic musical returns, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

LAND OF HOPE & GLORY Old-style variety show to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Wed 8 Apr, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

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

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

PARTNERS IN RHYME... Join Central Youth Theatre as they take inspiration from much-loved children's authors to create rhyming poems and songs, Thurs 9 Apr, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

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

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

GREASE Presented by award-winning theatre group Get Your Wiggle On, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN New show described as being 'like an episode of Loose Women but with a lot more singing and dancing', Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

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

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

Kids Theatre

ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR Get Your Wiggle On take audiences on a magical journey through the rabbit hole, Mon 6 - Wed 8 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY The People's Theatre Company bring one of the

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world's best-loved nursery rhymes to life, Tues 7 - Wed 8 Apr, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

MILKSHAKE LIVE! Starring Fireman Sam, Noddy, Shimmer & Shine, Digby Dragon, Wissper, Nella the Princess Knight, the Floogals and two Milkshake presenters, Thurs 9 Apr, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

ONCE UPON A PANTO Journey to a land far, far away with The Voice finalist Lydia Lucy and Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Ricky K, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr, The Place, Telford

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

THE WIZARD OF OZ Join Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man and the cowardly Lion as they journey through Oz to meet the legendary Wizard, Sat 11 Apr, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

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

YOUR TOYS Slot Machine Theatre present a heartwarming story about friends pulling together, Sat 11 Apr, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent



Dance

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

Talks

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

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SERIAL KILLERS Join expert forensics lecturer Jennifer Rees to explore one of forensic psychology's most troubling topics,

Wed 8 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

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

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (U) Comedy/Musical. Starring Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor. Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 6 Apr

THE GOLDFINCH (15) Drama. Starring Ansel Elgort, Nicole Kidman. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 6 Apr

EASTER PARADE (U) Musical/Romance. Starring Judy Garland, Fred Astaire. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Mon 6 Apr

FROZEN II (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel. Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire, Mon 6 Apr

DOLITTLE (PG) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Robert Downey Jr., Antonio Banderas. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 6 - Tues 7 & Thurs 9 Apr; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Mon 6 Apr

SUNSHINE ON LEITH (PG) Comedy/Musical. Starring Paul Brannigan, George MacKay. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 6 & Fri 10 Apr

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Patton Oswalt, Kevin Hart. Walsall Arena, Tues 7 Apr

DARK WATERS (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Mark Ruffalo, Anne Hathaway. Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 7 Apr

EOS: EASTER IN ART (12a) Documentary. Directed by Phil Grabsky. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Tues 7 Apr

WOMAN AT WAR (12) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, Jóhann Sigurðarson. Foreign language, subtitled. Walsall Arena, Wed 8 Apr

TOY STORY 4 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. Walsall Arena, Wed 8 Apr

THE GREAT BUSTER - A CELEBRATION (U) Documentary/Biography. Starring Buster Keaton, Peter Bogdanovich. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Apr

THE LION KING (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Donald Glover, Beyoncé. Walsall Arena, Thurs 9 Apr

ONWARD (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Holland, Chris Pratt. Wem Town Hall, North

Shropshire, Fri 10 - Sat 11 & Wed 15 Apr

BACURAU (18) Action/Adventure. Starring Bárbara Colen, Thomas Aquino. Foreign language, subtitled. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 9 Apr

THE SECRET GARDEN (tbc) Drama/Family. Starring Dixie Egerickx, Colin Firth. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 10 - Thurs 23 Apr

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

OFFICIAL SECRETS (15) Biography/Crime. Starring Keira Knightley, Matt Smith. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 11 Apr

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

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

MILITARY WIVES (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan. Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 10 - Sat 11 & Tues 14 Apr; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Fri 10, Tues 14 & Thurs 16 Apr

Events

EASTER HOLIDAYS - POND DIPPING Explore an underwater world as you dip oxbow ponds for mini beasts to identify, Mon 6 - Fri 10 Apr, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

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

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

EASTER BUNNY GROTTTO Eggsplare the Easter woodland to find all of the hidden eggs before meeting the bunny himself in his burrow, Tues 7 - Fri 10 Apr, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

EASTER POTTERY PAINTING Choose from flowers, mini bottle ovens and special Easter-themed pieces made on site, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Apr, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

LITTLE SKIPPER - ALICE IN WONDERLAND Take on the playing card hunt, make yourself some white rabbit ears and concoct a magical potion, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Apr, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

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

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

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

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

EASTER HOLIDAYS - EASTER COOKING Make delicious Easter treats, such as deviled chicks, cotton tail biscuits and hot cross buns, Fri 10 Apr, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

CADBURY EASTER EGG HUNT Fill your Easter with family fun, delicious Cadbury treats, and eggciting egg hunts, Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury; Carding Mill Valley & The Shropshire Hills, Church Stretton, Nr Shrewsbury; Benthall Hall, Broseley, Shropshire; Sunnycroft, Wellington, Shropshire; Chirk Castle, Wrexham; Erddig Hall, Wrexham; Powis Castle and Garden, Welshpool, Powys; Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth; Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton; Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

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

CREATURE CREATIONS Design your own creepy crawlies in the craft tent, Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

HAVE-A-GO ARCHERY Try your hand at archery with a qualified instructor, Fri 10 - Mon 13 Apr, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

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

LITTLE SKIPPER - ALICE IN WONDERLAND Take on the playing card hunt, make yourself some white rabbit ears and concoct a magical potion, Sat 11 Apr, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

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

EASTER SUNDAY FUN Sun 12 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Gigs

THE METEORS Mon 13 April, The Robin, Bilston

KING KING Tues 14 April, Birmingham Town Hall

MR BEN & THE BENS Tues 14 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SET IT OFF Wed 15 April, O2 Institute, B'ham

HARRY STYLES Wed 15 April, Arena B'ham

HOW SWEET IT IS Wed 15 April, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BOOMTOWN RATS Wed 15 April, Birmingham Town Hall

SEVEN DRUNKEN NIGHTS- THE STORY OF THE DUBLINERS Wed 15 April, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SEA GIRLS Thurs 16 April, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SNOOP DOG Thurs 16 April, Arena B'ham

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

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Thurs 16 April, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HARDLINE + SUPPORT Thurs 16 April, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

THE GUITAR LEGENDS Thurs 16 April, The Robin, Bilston

TRISH CLOWES Thurs 16 April, The Gateway, Shrewsbury

MICHAEL SCHENKER FEST Thurs 16 April, KK Steele Mill, Wolverhampton

THE NIGHT CAFE Fri 17 April, O2 Academy, Birmingham

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

THE FIZZ Fri 17 April, Lichfield Garrick

WHITE TYGER Fri 17 April, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

FLEETWOOD BAC Fri 17 April, The Robin, Bilston



Sarah McQuaid - Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

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

THE DOORS ALIVE Fri 17 April, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

THE OXLEY-MEIER GUITAR PROJECT Fri 17 April, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

HEAVY BEAT BRASS BAND Fri 17 April, Albert's Shed, Southwater

MAGIC OF MOTOWN Fri 17 April, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BOXSTOCK FEATURING HOLLOWBELLY Fri 17 April, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

PRINCE PARTY Fri 17 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PIGS PIGS PIGS Fri 17 April, The Mill Digbeth

PHIL BEER BAND Fri 17 April, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

ONE NIGHT IN DUBLIN Fri 17 April, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

SOMEONE LIKE YOU (THE ADELE SONGBOOK) Fri 17 April, The Place, Telford

MARK LOCKHEART Fri 17 April, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE VS CHANGING MAN Fri 17 April, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

RAK-SU Sat 18 April, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THROUGH THE DECADES Sat 18 April, Brierley

Hill Civic Hall

PROBABLY ROY Sat 18 April, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE MANFREDS Sat 18 April, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

SUN RECORDS Sat 18 April, Lichfield Garrick

SONS OF CLOGGER Sat 18 April, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

LIFE I KNOW Sat 18 April, The Hive, Shrewsbury

ELECTRICK LIVE ORCHESTRA Sat 18 April, The Robin, Bilston

UNREALBLOOD Sat 18 April, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

BOXSTOCK FEATURING THE DUSK BROTHERS Sat 18 April, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

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

JP COOPER Sat 18 April, O2 Academy, B'ham

NICK HELM - PHOENIX FROM THE FLAMES Sat 18 April, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

SOUNDS OF WALES Sat 18 April, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

A BEAUTIFUL NOISE Sun 19 April, Lichfield Garrick

KARNATAKA Sun 19 April, The Robin, Bilston

REBECCA LOEBE AND EMILY MAE WINTERS Sun 19 April, The Hive, Shrewsbury

SARAH MCQUAID Sun 19 April, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Classical & Easy Listening

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

RUSSELL WATSON Thurs 16 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

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

THE SOUTH WALES MALE CHOIR: SOUNDS OF WALES Also featuring local singer/songwriter Emma Linney & renowned poet Michael Carding, Sat 18 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Comedy

JOE LYCETT Mon 13 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SIMON BRODKIN Tues 14 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

PREACHER LAWSON Wed 15 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RUSSELL KANE Fri 17 Apr, Dudley Town Hall

CHRIS RAMSEY Fri 17 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

KATIE ARNSTEIN Fri 17 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

GARY DELANEY, STEVE HARRIS, LINDSEY DAVIES & RYAN GOUGH Fri 17 Apr, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

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

JOEL DOMMETT Sat 18 Apr, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

ROSS NOBLE Sat 18 Apr, The Place, Telford, Shropshire

EDDY BRIMSON, KATIE TRACEY, OMID SINGH & DAMION LARKIN Sat 18 Apr, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

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

LOL COMEDY NIGHT Sat 18 Apr, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

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

JOEL DOMMETT Sun 19 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

Theatre

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

LA BOHÉME 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

AIDA Russian State Opera present Verdi's timeless & emotional opera. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Tues 14 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

SOME MOTHERS DO 'AVE 'EM Joe Pasquale stars as the accident-prone Frank Spencer, Tues 14 - Sat 18 Apr, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

RENT Amateur staging of Jonathan Larson's iconic musical, Tues 14 - Sat 18 Apr, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

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

SPONTANEOUS POTTER Entirely improvised Harry Potter comedy play, Wed 15 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

MIDSUMMER Reform Theatre Company present a story of two thirtysomethings sitting in a bar waiting for something to turn up... Thurs 16 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

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

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

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

SEXY LAMP Original songs and storytelling combine to shed light on how ridiculous the showbusiness industry can be..., Fri 17 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

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

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

BLAKE: MOVIE & MUSICALS Sat 18 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

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

Kids Shows

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

MR MEN & LITTLE MISS STAGE SHOW Happyland bursts to life in a series of colourful and timeless stories told through puppetry and music, Tues 14 Apr, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

MISCHIEF AND MYSTERY IN MOOMINVALLEY Based on the much-loved Moominland novels by Tove Jansson, Sat 18 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton



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

Cabaret

THE LADYBOYS OF BANGKOK: FLIGHT OF FANTASY Glamorous showgirls recreate magical movie moments, Tues 14 Apr, The Place, Telford

TRES TRES CABARET Featuring performers from the international

cabaret scene, Fri 17 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

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

Dance

GISELLE Ballet Theatre UK presents its version of one of the greatest ballets of all time, Thurs 16 Apr, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

REMEMBERING THE OSCARS Aljaz and Janette return with a brand new show, Fri 17 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

BAIT (15) Drama. Starring Edward Rowe, Mary Woodvine. Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 14 Apr

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (PG) Action/Adventure. Starring Ben Schwartz, James Marsden. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Tues 14 Apr

FUNNY FACE (U) Comedy/Musical. Starring Audrey Hepburn, Fred Astaire. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 14 Apr

THE CALL OF THE WILD (PG) Adventure/Drama. Starring Harrison Ford, Omar Sy. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Tues 14 Apr

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

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH: A LIFE ON OUR PLANET (PG) Documentary. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 16 Apr; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 16 Apr

UNDER THE TREE (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Steinþór Hróar Steinþórsson, Edda Björgvínsdóttir. Foreign language, subtitled. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 17 Apr

MISBEHAVIOUR (12a) Drama/History. Starring Keira Knightley, Gugu Mbatha-Raw. Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 17 - Sat 18 & Tues 21 Apr

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

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

MILITARY WIVES (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Sat 18 Apr

THE GOOD LIAR (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 18 Apr

AND THEN WE DANCED (15) Drama. Starring Levan Gelbakhiani, Bachi Valishvili. Foreign language, subtitled. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Sun 19 Apr

Events

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

DINOSAUR FAMILY FUN RACEDAY Meet Zeus (Europe's largest T-Rex), Triceratops, T-Rex and Raptor, chat to Cory the talking dinosaur, train to be a ranger and cuddle the baby dinosaurs, Mon 13 Apr, Wolverhampton Racecourse

EASTER POTTERY PAINTING Choose from flowers, mini bottle ovens and special Easter-themed pieces made on site, Mon 13 Apr, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

EASTER HOLIDAYS - POND DIPPING Explore a fascinating underwater world as you dip oxbow ponds for mini beasts to identify, Mon 13 - Fri 17 Apr, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

SPOTLIGHT TALKS FOR ALL Delve deeper into the history of the grand old mansion, Tues 14 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham

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

MAKER'S CLUB Holiday club for kids aged nine to 15, Tues 14 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

EASTER BUNNY GROTTTO Eggsplode the Easter Woodland to find all of the hidden eggs before meeting the bunny himself in his burrow, Tues 14 - Wed 15 Apr, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry

BUILD YOUR OWN SCARECROW Help the Walled Garden team scare away the birds in time for summer planting by recycling your old clothes into a scarecrow, Wed 15 Apr, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

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

CRAFTY WEDNESDAY - EASTER Drop-in Easter themed craft activities, Wed 15 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, B'ham

MINI BEAST'S MANSION MAKING Make a natural mansion for the mini beasts around your home and garden, Wed 15 Apr, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

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

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

LITTLE SKIPPER - ALICE IN WONDERLAND Take on the playing card hunt, make yourself some white rabbit ears and concoct a magical potion, Wed 15 - Thurs 16 Apr, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM: BANNER MAKING WORKSHOP Join Birmingham Repertory Theatre's adult art group in creating banners for their Made In Birmingham performance over the Easter Holidays, Thurs 16 Apr, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

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

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

FAMILY RAG RUG ANIMALS Learn traditional techniques of rag rug making, but with a modern twist, Thurs 16 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

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

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

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

SHOW THE LOVE DAY Local climate and nature-focused organisations show how you can help make a difference, Sat 18 Apr, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

BUMBLEBEE SAFARI Discover what the buzz is all about in the Walled Garden, where a guide will show you how to catch and identify the resident bumblebees, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Apr, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford



Gigs

ASHLEY HENRY Mon 20 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD
HART Mon 20 April, The Robin, Bilston

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

WILL AND THE PEOPLE
Wed 22 April, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BLACK PEAKS Wed 22 April, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE ACADEMIC + LAURAN HIBBERD Wed 22 April, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE DARIUS BRUBECK QUARTET Thurs 23 April, New Vic Theatre, Staffordshire

JOESEF Thurs 23 April, O2 Institute, B'ham

DEAN FRIEDMAN Thurs 23 April, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

BAXTER DURY Thurs 23 April, O2 Institute, Birmingham

HEATHER PEACE Thurs 23 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RUSH, A JOYOUS JAMAICAN JOURNEY
Thurs 23 April, Brierley Hill Civic Hall

FROM THE JAM Thurs 23 April, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

NOBLE JACKS Thurs 23 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

UK SUBS Thurs 23 April, The Robin, Bilston

BRAINSTORM Fri 24 April, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SPLIT MILK SOCIETY + SUPPORT Fri 24 April, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

VERTIGO BAND Fri 24 April, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

DUB PISTOLS Fri 24 April, Albert's Shed, Southwater

THE WEST COAST EAGLES Fri 24 April, Lichfield Guildhall



Faustus - Ludlow Brewery Company, South Shropshire

BON GIOVI Fri 24 April, The Robin, Bilston

SIMPLE MINDS - 40 YEARS OF HITS Fri 24 April, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

THE TINA TURNER EXPERIENCE Fri 24 April, The Place, Telford

CANTERBURY TALES Fri 24 April, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

LAMB OF GOD Fri 24 April, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RALPH MCTELL Fri 24 April, New Vic Theatre, Staffordshire

THE PUPPINI SISTERS Fri 24 April, Birmingham Town Hall

BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Fri 24 April, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

OASISH Fri 24 April, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

PAUL HEATON & JACQUI ABBOTT Fri 24 April, Arena Birmingham

THE HARA Sat 25 April, O2 Academy, B'ham

GODS OF RAP II Sat 25 April, Arena B'ham

T.REXTASY - 'GET IT ON'
Sat 25 April, The Robin, Bilston

LISA STANLEY Sat 25 April, Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

CALAN Sat 25 April, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

WALK RIGHT BACK Sat 25 April, Lichfield Garrick

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

TAKE THAT - SHINE SAT
25 April, The River

Rooms, Stourbridge

TOYAH & HAZEL O'CONNOR Sat 25 April, Birmingham Town Hall

SUKH OJLA: LIFE SUKHS
Sat 25 April, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE JAM'D Sat 25 April, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

THE INDIGO MACHINE
Sat 25 April, Albert's Shed, Southwater

REGIME Sat 25 April, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

WILKO JOHNSON Sat 25 April, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MYSTERY JETS (RESCHEDULED) Sat 25 April, The Mill Digbeth

BARRY STEELE IN THE ROY ORBISON STORY
Sat 25 April, The Place, Telford

BEXEY Sun 26 April, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SKINNY LIVING Sun 26 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GHETTO FUNKULAR Sun 26 April, Albert's Shed, Southwater

LUKE EVANS Sun 26 April, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FAUSTUS Sun 26 April, Ludlow Brewery Company, Ludlow, South Shropshire

KATIE'S CABARET Sun 26 April, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

HOLY FUCK Sun 26 April, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



Classical & Easy Listening

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Reger & W. Alcock, Mon 20 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TAIWAN PHILHARMONIC: TCHAIKOVSKY NO. 6 Featuring Shao-Chia Lü (conductor) & Kit Armstrong (piano). Programme includes works by Yuan-Chen-Li, Saint-Saëns & Tchaikovsky, Mon 20 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

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

CARDUCCI STRING QUARTET Programme includes works by Philip Glass, Peter Gregson, Joby Talbot & Arvo Part, Thurs 23 Apr, STOP. Cafe Bar, Shrewsbury Museum

THE STAFFORDSHIRE BAND: ST GEORGE'S DAY CONCERT Fri 24 Apr, Walsall Arena

Q THE MUSIC SHOW: THE JAMES BOND CONCERT SPECTACULAR Fri 24 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

THE STAFFORDSHIRE BAND AND GUESTS: ST GEORGE'S DAY CONCERT Featuring guest choirs Voices In Harmony & Viva Musica, Sat 25 Apr, Dudley Town Hall

DI XIAO: TO SPRING Programme includes works by Christian Sinding, John Ireland, arr. Kris Lennox, Yiqiang Sun, Mendelssohn, William Mason, Tchaikovsky, Medtner, Grieg & Debussy, Sat 25 Apr, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

SAKARI ORAMO & ROYAL STOCKHOLM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Also featuring Nicola Benedetti (violin). Programme includes works by Victoria Borisova-Ollas, Prokofiev & Sibelius, Sat 25 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

ROSS NOBLE Mon 20 - Tues 21 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

JOE LYCETT Tues 21 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ARABELLA WEIR Wed 22 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MATT FORDE Thurs 23 Apr, Theatre

Severn, Shrewsbury

MARK STEEL Thurs 23 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

ANDREW RYAN, FIN TAYLOR & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON
Thurs 23 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham

SEANN WALSH Fri 24 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

ROBIN MORGAN Fri 24 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW RYAN, FIN TAYLOR, PAUL THORNE, ADAM STAUNTON & CELYA AB
Fri 24 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham

JACK BARRY Sat 25 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

FREDDY QUINNE, ROBIN MORGAN, GAVIN WEBSTER & ANDREW ROBINSON
Sat 25 Apr, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

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

DAVID BADDIEL Sun 26 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Theatre

DIAL M FOR MURDER Tom Chambers and Samantha Womack star, Mon 20 - Sat 25 Apr, The Alexandra, Birmingham

WE WILL ROCK YOU Smash-hit musical by Queen & Ben Elton, Mon 20 Apr - Sat 2 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE KITE RUNNER Based on Khaled Hosseini's international bestselling novel, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CONFESSIONS OF A COCKNEY TEMPLE DANCER Join Shane Shambhu as he rips up ideas of race, language and culture via a mix of theatre, dance and film, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

GREASE Amateur staging performed by Stoke Youth Theatre Group, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

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

MADE IN DAGENHAM - THE MUSICAL Amateur staging presented by Tamworth Musical Theatre Company, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

UP POMPEII Ambient Nights present a romp through ancient Pompeii, Wed 22 - Thurs 23 Apr, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

SCREAM PHONE Scream meets Clueless in a spoof horror musical, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Apr, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE DELIGHTFUL SAUSAGE: GINSTER'S

PARADISE 'Surreal sketch comedy nightmare that will tear your soul apart', Thurs 23 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

JULIET & ROMEO Dance, comedy & theatre combine as Lost Dog imagine what life would have been like for the world's best-known lovers, if they have lived... Thurs 23 Apr, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

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

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES Amateur staging presented by Stourbridge Theatre Company, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Apr, Stourbridge Town Hall

INSPECTOR DRAKE AND THE BLACK WIDOW Amateur staging of David Tristram's comic play, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Apr, The Belfrey Theatre, Wellington, Shropshire

THE 39 STEPS A cast of four deliver recreate 150 zany characters in John Buchan's fast-paced whodunnit, Thurs 23 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL 2: CRUISING THROUGH MENOPAUSE! Sequel to the smash-hit show, Menopause the Musical, Fri 24 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE HARD WAY One-woman show by musician and composer Louise Jordan, Fri 24 Apr, Clungunford Parish Hall, Nr Craven Arms, South Shropshire

THE CANTERBURY TALES 'Riotous and rollicking' retelling of Chaucer's medieval masterpiece, Fri 24 Apr, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

BEACH BODY READY The Roaring Girls smash their way through ingrained fears, food insecurities and toxic advertising, Sat 25 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

JULIET & ROMEO Dance, comedy & theatre combine as Lost Dog imagine what life would have been like for the world's best-known lovers, if they had lived... Sat 25 Apr, Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall, Shrewsbury

SHEILA'S MENTAL HEALTH SHOW 7 One-woman show exploring anxiety and its effects on our beliefs, behaviours and relationships, Sat 25 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

THE FATHER The story of an elderly man with dementia, and his daughter, who is struggling to maintain a life of her own as she cares for him, Sat 25 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA An evening of opera scenes and extracts performed by pupils of Shrewsbury School, Sun 26 Apr, Maidment Auditorium, Shrewsbury School

Kids Shows

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA Family show packed with 'oodles of magic, sing-along-songs and clumsy chaos', Tues 21 - Wed 22 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

Dance

LEWYS HOLT: PHRASES AND FOOTNOTES Double bill of work fusing dance and text with a sprinkling of comedy, Thurs 23 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Talks

DAVID HARPER UNEXPECTED TALES! Improvised show 'packed with tales of embarrassing moments, funny celebrities, historical stories, journeys through time, world records, disastrous TV appearances and more'... Mon 20 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

KNIVES OUT (12a) Crime/Comedy. Starring Daniel Craig, Chris Evans. Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 20 Apr; Sparc Theatre, Bishop's Castle, South Shropshire

THE CURRENT WAR (U) Biography/Drama. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Oliver Powell. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 20 Apr

MRS LOWRY AND SON (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring Vanessa Redgrave, Timothy Spall. Sparc Theatre, Bishop's Castle, South Shropshire, Tues 21 Apr

PARASITE (15) Drama. Starring Kang-ho Song, Yeo-jeong Jo. Foreign language, subtitled. Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 21 Apr

ELVIS: THAT'S THE WAY IT IS (U) Documentary/Music. Starring Elvis Presley, James Burton. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Wed 22 Apr

SYSTEM CRASHER (15) Drama. Starring Helena Zengel, Albrecht Schuch. Foreign language, subtitled. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 23 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)



Lost Dog's Juliet & Romeo - various venues

Events

THE MURDER OF ALBERT BECKER Enjoy Court 15 in a new and unique way. Interrogate suspects, follow clues and help the police solve the mystery of Albert Becker's death, Fri 24 Apr, Birmingham Back to Backs

BEER FESTIVAL 2020 Featuring even more beer, a selection of locally sourced food and some great live music, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Apr, Middleport Pottery, Burslem, Staffordshire

BIG FISH LITTLE FISH The award-winning family rave returns with a Pirates & Mermaids theme, Sat 25 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

AUTISM EARLY BIRD Special early opening for families with children who would enjoy the museum at a quieter time. This would particularly suit those with ASD or other sensory processing differences, Sat 25 Apr, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

ST. GEORGE'S DAY Medieval living history in the castle and reenactments in the castle grounds, Sat 25 Apr, Tamworth Castle

EPICO THE DRAGON Join Sir Aurelius Jones, the pirate knight, and Epico the Dragon for an interactive adventure, Sat 25 Apr, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

WALES COMIC CON: TELFORD TAKEOVER Celebrate the best of comics, cosplay, media and more, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Apr, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

THE 40TH CAROLE NASH INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE SHOW The show is back with a special 1940s edition to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Apr, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford

ST GEORGE'S DAY 2020 Featuring medieval reenactment, children's entertainers, face painting, crafts, and a walkabout with Smoked! the Dragon, Sun 26 Apr, Dudley Zoological Gardens

DAWN CHORUS WALK Wake up with the feathered friends of Shugborough at first light, Sun 26 Apr, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford



St George's Day Celebrations - Tamworth Castle



Sari Schorr - The Robin, Bilston

Gigs

JIMOTHY LACOSTE Mon 27 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham
BON IVER Mon 27 Apr, Arena Birmingham
BLUES CARAVAN Mon 27 Apr, The Robin, Bilston
NATHANIEL RATELIFF Tues 28 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
OUR HOLLOW, OUR HOME Wed 29 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE FRATELLIS Wed 29 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham
CHON Wed 29 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham
THE SHIRES Wed 29 Apr, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent
SARI SCHORR Wed 29 Apr, The Robin, Bilston
FEBUEDER + SPECIAL GUESTS Wed 29 Apr,

The Sunflower, Birmingham
BONFIRE RADICALS Wed 29 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham
WHITECHAPEL + DYSCARNATE + VEXED Wed 29 Apr, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
BELINDA O'HOOLEY - INVERSIONS Wed 29 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
JORDAN MACKAMPA Wed 29 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
GUVNA B Thurs 30 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham
PROTOJE, LILA IKE & SEVANA Thurs 30 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham
BEARDYMAN Thurs 30 Apr, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford
ARTHUR BOCANEANU Thurs 30 Apr, The Gateway, Shrewsbury
WE'LL MEET AGAIN Thurs 30 Apr, Walsall

Arena & Arts Centre
EMILY BURNS Thurs 30 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
JARROD DICKENSON & DAVID FORD Thurs 30 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
PETE AND BAS Thurs 30 Apr, The Mill Digbeth
ANDY RICHARDS BAND Thurs 30 Apr, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge
GWEN DICKEY - THE VOICE OF ROSE ROYCE Thurs 30 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall
THOSE SNAKES & BATTALIONS PLUS SUPPORT Thurs 30 Apr, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham
IN FLAMES Thurs 30 Apr, KK Steele Mill, Wolverhampton
SHAMBOLICS Thurs 30 Apr, Dead Wax, Birmingham



In Flames - KK Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

Classical & Easy Listening

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
WE'LL MEET AGAIN Vintage Trio The Bluebird Belles celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day with the sounds of Vera Lynn, Anne Shelton, Gracie Fields & many more... Thurs 30 Apr, Walsall Arena
JUAN PÉREZ FLORISTÁN PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Gershwin, Bartók, Ginastera, Beethoven & Schubert, Thurs 30 Apr, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Comedy

SIQBHAN PHILLIPS Tues 28 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham
RUSSELL KANE Wed 29 Apr, The Place, Telford
KERRY GODLIMAN Wed 29 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham
IAIN STIRLING Thurs 30 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham
SCOTT AGNEW, JENNY COLLIER & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 30 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham

Theatre

SISTER ACT Amateur staging presented by Curtain Call Theatre Company Shrewsbury, Tues 28 - Wed 29 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
NIKIPEDIA Shared histories presented as a fusion of stand-up, theatre and stories down the pub, Tues 28 - Wed 29 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
LAVA Story about friendship and human connection in the face of the inexplicable, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, The REP, Birmingham
FLASHDANCE New staging of the iconic film of the same name, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's award-winning production of JB Priestley's classic thriller, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
QUALITY STREET JM Barrie farce, written years before he penned Peter Pan, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 9 May, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

ONLY FOOLS AND BOYCIE Intimate evening with Only Fools And Horses actor John Challis, Wed 29 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

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

MADE IN DAGENHAM THE MUSICAL Amateur staging presented by Musical Theatre Stafford, Wed 29 Apr - Sat 2 May, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ONE SIDE LIES THE SEA Pentabus Theatre Company explore 'the brilliant communities that inhabit our coastline'. Thurs 30 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BORED OFF MY TITS Provocative account of one woman's journey back to herself via music, thrills and chat lines, Thurs 30 Apr - Fri 1 May, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

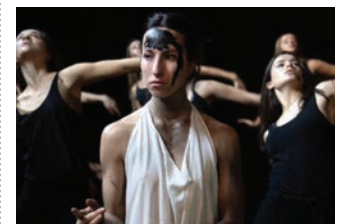
KIPPS Mad Cow present an amateur staging of the iconic British musical, Thurs 30 Apr - Sat 2 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

CHICAGO THE MUSICAL Backstreet Theatre Company present an amateur staging of Kander & Ebb's landmark musical, Thurs 30 Apr - Sat 2 May, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

Dance

SWAN LAKE Vienna Festival Ballet presents its version of one of ballet's best-loved stories, Wed 29 Apr, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

JV2 Triple bill including a new work by Jasmin Vardimon, Thurs 30 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton



Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE GOOD LIAR (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen. Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 27 Apr
APOLLO 13 (PG) Drama/History. Starring Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton. Walsall Arena, Tues 28 Apr
SOME LIKE IT HOT (12) Comedy/Music. Starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis. Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 28 Apr

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