



Worcestershire

ISSUE 425 JUNE 2022

What's On

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

Starring

MICHELLE COLLINS as Miss Scarlett

and

DANIEL CASEY as Professor Plum



THE HILARIOUS WHODUNNIT PLAY

Mon 20 - Sat 25 June
malvern-theatres.co.uk



inside:

LET IT RAIN!

critically acclaimed musical returns to the Midlands



HAMLET

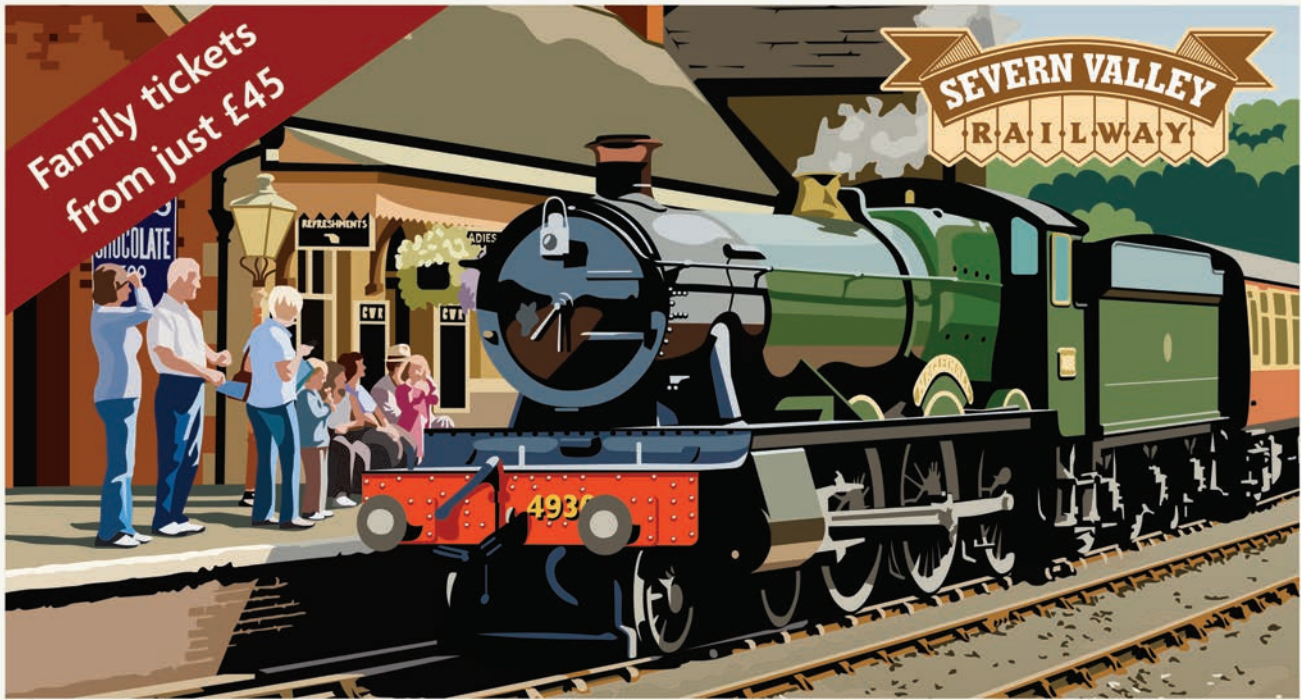
Shakespeare's tragedy gets the Oddsocks treatment...



SAFARI PARTY

celebrating the jubilee at West Midlands Safari Park





YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS

Book your tickets now: SVR.CO.UK | 01562 757 900

Tamworth Arts & Events by arrangement with Tony Denton Promotions presents

TAMWORTH CASTLE GROUNDS

SATURDAY 23 JULY 2022

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC CONCERT ORCHESTRA

*performing
Music from the Movies*

PLUS



RUSSELL WATSON & THE OVERTONES

GATES 5.00PM
SHOW STARTS 6:30PM

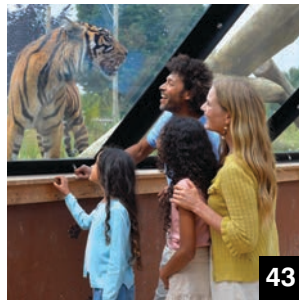
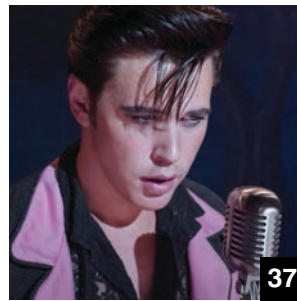
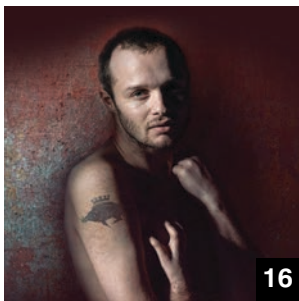
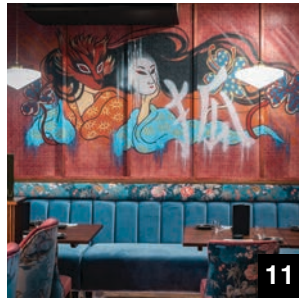
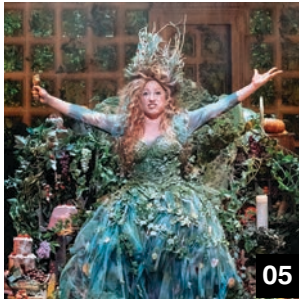
TICKETS: ADULT (18+) = £37.50
YOUTH (10-17) = £27.50 (WITH FULL PAYING ADULT)
CHILD (9 & UNDER) = FREE (TICKET STILL REQ.)
FAMILY TICKET (2ADULT+2YOUTH) = £115

Tickets available from www.ticketmaster.co.uk
www.tamworthartsandevents.co.uk | www.rpco.co.uk

ticketmaster® A&E Tamworth
Borough Council

Tickets may be subject to booking fee. Promoter has the right to change the line-up.

Tamworth Castle Grounds, Holloway, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7NA



INSIDE:

- First Word **4**
- Food **11**
- Gigs **15**
- Festivals **19**
- Theatre **22**
- Dance **28**
- Film **36**
- Visual Arts **40**
- Events **45**



Managing Director: **Davina Evans** davina@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281708
 Sales & Marketing: **Chris Horton** chris@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281704
 Editorial: **Lauren Foster** lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281707 : **Brian O'Faolain**
brian@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281701 : **Abi Whitehouse** abi@whatsonlive.co.uk
 01743 281716

Subscriptions: subscriptions@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714 Contributors: Graham Bostock, Lauren Cole, Katherine Ewing, Diane Parkes, Ellie Hutchings, Patsy Moss, Steve Adams, Steve Taylor, Sue Hull
 Publisher and CEO: **Martin Monahan** Accounts Administrator: **Julia Perry** julia@21std.com 01743 281717

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

All works appearing in this publication are copyright. It is to be assumed that the copyright for material rests with the magazine unless otherwise stated. No part of this publication may be reproduced, or stored in an electronic system, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recording or otherwise, without the prior knowledge and consent of the publishers.



Follow us at:

- [whatsonwarwickshire](https://www.facebook.com/whatsonwarwickshire)
[whatsonworcestershire](https://www.facebook.com/whatsonworcestershire)
- [@whatsonwarwicks](https://twitter.com/@whatsonwarwicks)
[@whatsonworcs](https://twitter.com/@whatsonworcs)
- [@whatsonwarwicks](https://www.instagram.com/@whatsonwarwicks)
[@whatsonworcs](https://www.instagram.com/@whatsonworcs)

Award win for £2.4million Coventry creative art hub

A £2.4million creative art hub in Coventry has scooped a prestigious award. The Daimler Powerhouse Creation Centre won the West Midlands Community Benefit category at the RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) Awards.

Led by Warwickshire property, development & construction company The Wigley Group - which owns the site on Sandy Lane Business Park - the project saw the only remaining part of the Daimler car factory turned into the first purpose-built art production facility in Coventry. The win means the venue will now battle it out in the grand final in London in October.



Winter light trail set to illuminate the dark nights

Tickets are now on sale for Coombe Abbey's winter light trail (18 November - 2 January). Described as 'a spectacular, illuminated experience full of wonder and intrigue', the mile-long trail through the venue's historic grounds features 'stunning lighting elements and fabulous light play'.

Tickets must be booked online in advance and can be purchased at luminate.live

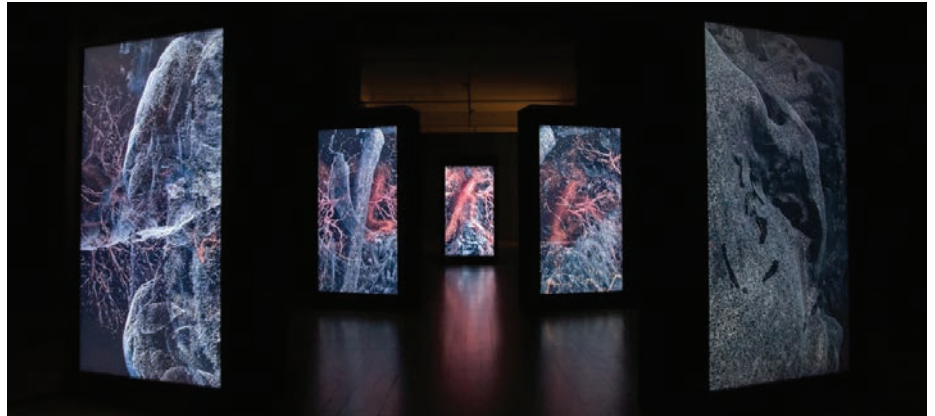


Poetry at the heart of new Warwickshire festival

A new poetry & spoken-word festival is being held at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre next month (15 - 17 July).

Titled Skylines, the event features more than 30 poets - including national and local talent, household names and winners of the Costa Book and Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year awards.

For more information about the festival, visit skylinescoventry.co.uk



Second exhibition for new digital art gallery

Coventry's recently launched digital art gallery is hosting a second exhibition - and it's one that's making a return to the city. As part of the launch programme for new venue The Reel Store, leading art collective Marshmallow Laser Feast (MLF) is presenting a five-screen, real-time interactive installation entitled *The Tides Within Us*.

The immersive artwork is part of an ongoing exploration into 'the world beyond the limits of our senses' and investigates the flow of oxygen through the cardiovascular system.

The Tides Within Us originally formed part

of MLF's *Observations On Being* project, which was exhibited at Charterhouse Heritage Park in Coventry's London Road Cemetery last summer.

Commenting on the installation, MLF's Ersin Han Ersin said: "In this and other works we have created, we are seeking to repair our broken connection with nature through the experience of art. Placing the audience in the centre of a human inner system, we aim to bring them closer to an understanding of our interconnectivity by simply looking at our own bodies and seeing the rivers and tides through the journey of oxygen."

Midlands grassroots live music gets cash support

Arts Council England has announced that part of a £1.5million fund has been ring-fenced within National Lottery Project Grants to support the Midlands' grassroots live-music sector.

Commenting on the news, Peter Knott, Midlands area director for Arts Council England, said: "Grassroots live-music venues perform a vital role in the music ecology of the Midlands. As well as inspiring the next generation of talent across a huge range of musical genres, these are the places where many artists first cut their teeth, and they spark a special connection between audiences and professional musicians."

Popular flower show to return in August

Shrewsbury Flower Show makes a welcome return late summer following a two year absence enforced by the pandemic.

One of the world's longest independent flower shows, the prestigious event takes place in the town's Quarry Park on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 August. Attractions include stunning floral displays, show gardens, equestrian competitions and arena entertainment. A dedicated food hall, crafts marquee and large trade stands area also feature, as do Fleurs de Villes - delightful floral mannequins that take pride of place in the Dingle Marquee. For further information, and to purchase tickets, visit: shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk



Family fun as Bromsgrove makes its debut

A brand-new two-day event is launching in Bromsgrove this month.

Bromsgrove Festival is a collaboration between Digbeth Dining Club and Bromsgrove Rugby Club, transforming the club premises into a festival site for up to 5,000 people each day. Taking place on Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 June, the festival features live music, family entertainment, a funfair, a host of street-food vendors, a craft beer bar, cocktail bars and much more.

Tickets for the event are now on sale at skiddle.com

Outdoor panto by the River Avon

Shiver your timbers and splice the mainbrace - a swashbuckling adventure is next month taking place on the banks of the River Avon in Tewkesbury.

Roses Theatre's (Almost) Treasure Island is a 'family-friendly and fun-tastic' summer panto that comes complete with the chance to win prizes for the best-dressed pirate.

The show is being presented at the town's Victoria Gardens from 1 to 3 July. To book tickets, visit rosetheatre.org

A Dickens of a show at the Swan

Midlands theatre company Hotbuckle is currently touring a new stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' epic novel, Great Expectations. Telling the story of orphan-boy Pip's journey to manhood, the production makes a Worcestershire stop-off at The Swan Theatre on Thursday 9 June. To book tickets, visit worcestertheatres.co.uk



Dickens' festive classic returning to the RSC for Christmas

David Edgar's critically acclaimed adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol returns to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon this autumn - and will continue to show there across the festive season.

Directed by Rachel Kavanaugh, the production premiered at the RSC five years ago and runs from Wednesday 26 October to Sunday 1 January. Commenting on the news, David said: "When we premiered the show in 2017, millions were already relying on food banks, and beggars

haunted city streets. Covid and the cost-of-living crisis have made economic inequality - and raw poverty - an even more pressing reality. And yet - in the way the nation came together around the NHS to combat the pandemic - we have been reminded of the selflessness and generosity of spirit which lies at the heart of Dickens' enduringly optimistic story."

For more information about the production and to book tickets, visit rsc.org

Stacey Dooley talks



Television personality Stacey Dooley is stopping off in the Midlands early next year as part of a UK tour.

Her new show - In Conversation With Stacey Dooley - will support her yet-to-be-released book, Are You Really OK? Understanding Britain's Mental Health Emergency.

Stacey visits Birmingham's Glee Club on 5 February... To purchase tickets, visit fane.co.uk/stacey-dooley

Godiva leads the way as local events company brings Queen's Favourites to jubilee pageant

Coventry live-events production company Imagineer is working in collaboration with Midlands artists and participants to bring all The Queen's Favourites to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant on 5 June.

Imagineer's 20-foot-high Godiva - dressed in a new frock - will lead a procession of corgis, horses, swans and boats, highlighting the ingenuity and industry of the West Midlands.

The Pageant will wind through the streets of Westminster and along The Mall past Buckingham Palace, telling the story of the Queen's record reign and highlighting how society has changed during the last 70 years.

For more information, visit imagineer-productions.co.uk



Leamington Music to present summer opera

Leamington Music is this month staging its first-ever opera performances.

Taking place at Playbox Theatre at The Dream Factory in Warwick on Sunday 26 June, a double bill featuring Charpentier's *Les Arts Florissants* and Offenbach's *Mesdames de la Halle* will be presented by Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, with Ex Cathedra founder Jeffrey Skidmore conducting.

A second summertime Leamington Music concert - featuring the Choir of Clare College Cambridge and taking place in Warwick's Collegiate Church of St Mary's on Tuesday 5 July - features a programme of work marking the 150th anniversary of composer Ralph Vaughan Williams' birth.

Both concerts form part of the first Warwick Choral Festival. Visit leamingtonmusic.org to book tickets.

Queen's Baton Relay Midlands route unveiled

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games has unveiled the route that the Queen's Baton Relay will take in the West Midlands this summer.

Highlights include a visit to the Kidsgrove Pump Track in Newcastle-under-Lyme on 18 July, a journey by coracle on the River Severn the following day and a visit to the Black Country Living Museum on the 24th. As the Baton gets closer to the host city, it will be abseiled from Galton Bridge (on the 25th) and transported by barge on the Grand Union Canal (on the 26th). For more information, visit birmingham2022.com

Supersized festive Elf to pay a Christmas visit

Elf: A Christmas Spectacular will make a two-day stop-off at Birmingham's Resorts World Arena this festive season (Thursday 22 & Friday 23 December).



The hit Hollywood blockbuster movie has been supersized into a live arena spectacular, complete with a massive stage featuring film backdrops and a mobile stage which travels the auditorium, ensuring that everybody gets a close-up view of the action... You can bag yourself a seat for the show by visiting theticketfactory.com



Bugsy Malone heading to the Belgrade this autumn

A new production of director Alan Parker's theatrical version of his 1976 movie, *Bugsy Malone*, will visit the Coventry Belgrade in the autumn. Featuring hit numbers *My Name*

Is Tallulah, *You Give A Little Love* and *Fat Sam's Grand Slam*, the show stops off at the venue from Tuesday 13 to Sunday 18 September. For tickets, visit belgrade.co.uk

Coventry citizens demand a greener, culture-filled future

Coventry citizens want a greener, culture-filled, democratic future, according to the findings of the UK's first



Citizen's Assembly on Arts & Culture.

The Citizen's Assembly brought together 50 people of different ages, ethnicities, gender and income who were randomly selected to represent the demographic make-up of Coventry. Over a six-week period and taking into account evidence presented by expert witnesses, the Assembly considered the question: How will art, culture and creativity shape a better future for Coventry? To discover more about the group's findings and recommendations, check out talkingbirds.co.uk/A4TP

The city owned and operated most of the buses in Birmingham until 1969, each proudly wearing the coat-of-arms on the distinguished colours of dark blue and cream. The Transport Museum has gathered and restored an impressive number of the buses from across the years, starting in 1913. Visitors can enjoy free bus rides as part of their entry fee.

Oily Cart brings Sound Symphony to Coventry

A highly interactive, sensory music performance for autistic young people is this month being presented by theatre company Oily Cart at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre. Titled *Sound Symphony*, the show provides a sensory-rich environment, where audience members will be able to feel music through their whole body. To find out more, visit warwickartscentre.co.uk



New exhibition on show at transport museum

An exhibition 'celebrating the life and times of Birmingham City Transport buses' continues to show this month at Transport Museum Wythall.

There's something for everyone at **Symphony Hall** and **Town Hall**



**On record:
In Conversation
with Xhosa Cole**

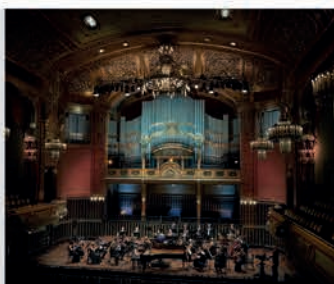
Fri 3 Jun
**Justham
Family Room &
Jane How Room**



**Beyond the
Bricks of Brum
feat. BBC Symphony
Orchestra,
Black Voices,
Casey Bailey, Sanity**

Fri 17 Jun
Symphony Hall

**Concerto
Budapest
Symphony
Orchestra**
Thu 9 Jun
Symphony Hall



ABC
Mon 20 Jun
Symphony Hall



**Elvis Costello
& the Imposters**
Mon 13 Jun
Symphony Hall



**George Benson
in Concert:
Special Guest
Sunny War**
Tue 28 Jun
Symphony Hall

Brum Craic
Tue 14 Jun
**Jennifer Blackwell
Performance Space**



**Adam Ant:
Special Guest
Laurie Black**
Wed 6 Jul
Symphony Hall



Macy Gray
Thu 16 Jun
Town Hall

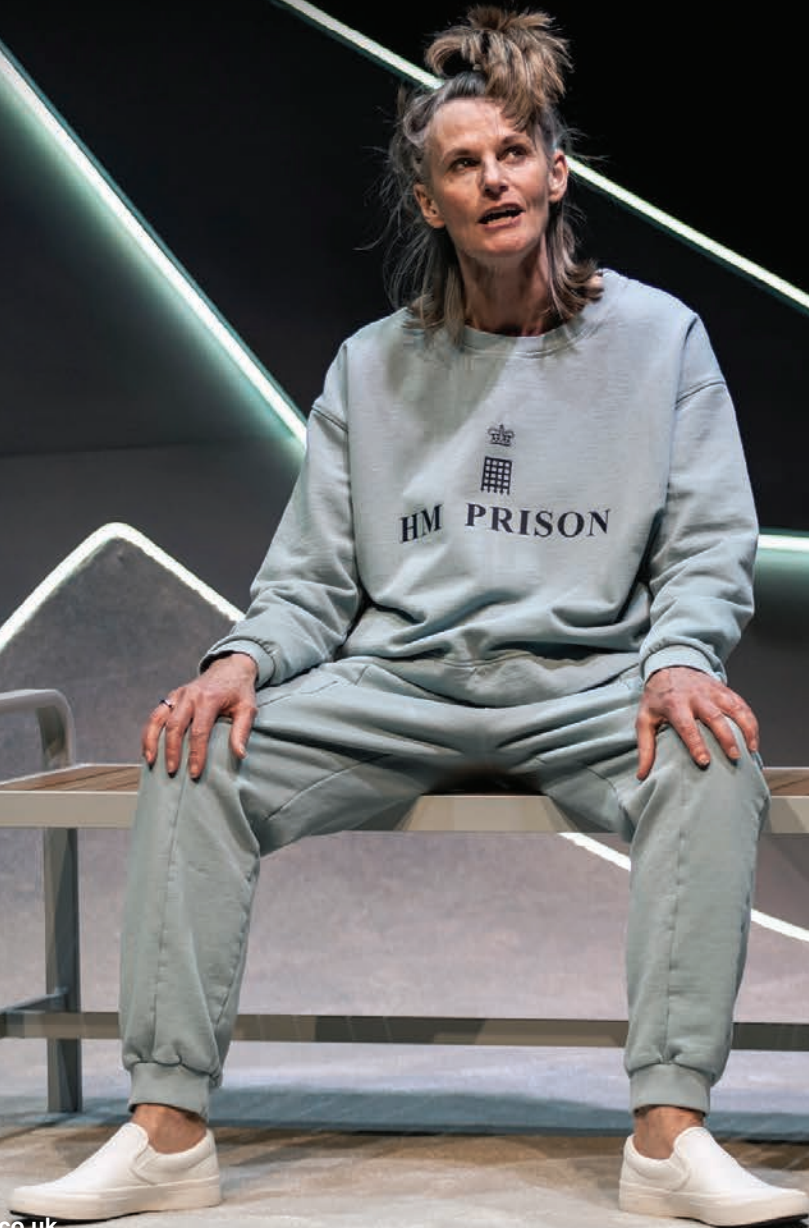


**George
Thorogood &
The Destroyers
Good to be Bad Tour:
45 Years of Rock**
Tue 26 Jul
Symphony Hall

Book Online: **bmusic.co.uk**

After the horse has bolted

Only Fools And Horses actors reunite in a two-hander adapted for the stage by Beautiful Thing playwright Jonathan Harvey



Starting life as a series of books, Ladies Of Letters went on to become a BBC Radio Four favourite and a 10-episode television show. Now adapted for the theatre, the humorous two-hander reunites Gwyneth Strong and Tessa Peake-Jones - perhaps best known as Cassandra and Raquel in long-running TV sitcom Only Fools And Horses. What's On recently caught up with Gwyneth to find out more about the new stage show...

"It's a bit of a shock to the system," laughs Gwyneth Strong in talking about two-hander comedy Ladies Of Letters, in which she reunites with old pal Tessa Peake-Jones. "There's quite a lot of words to say, being as there's only two of us on stage. When you say 'yes' to things like this, you know they're going to be tricky, but we've been working very hard and long days, and it's worth it. It's nice, good fun, and lovely to be with Tessa after all these years."

The new stage play reunites Gwyneth and Tessa professionally for the first time since they appeared together in iconic TV sitcom Only Fools And Horses.

Ladies Of Letters - created by Carole Hayman and Lou Wakefield - began life as a series of books that traced a Royal Mail-powered back'n'forth between two elder women - Vera and Irene. Having met once, the characters struck up a correspondence, exchanging news and opinions, subtly and not so subtly trying to out-do each other, and offering support when the chips were down. Adapted for a BBC Radio Four series in 1997, which ran for over a decade and starred Patricia Routledge and Prunella Scales, it transferred to television in 2009, with Anne Reid and Maureen Lipman as Vera and Irene.

"I do remember hearing it on Radio Four and thinking it was very funny," recalls Gwyneth, who'd previously worked with writers Lou and Carole while at London's Royal Court Theatre. "I really liked it, and then I heard the names Carole Hayman and Lou Wakefield come up at the end, and I thought, amazing! I didn't know it was them who'd written it!"

Despite the appeal of the earlier radio and TV incarnations, both Gwyneth (Vera) and Tessa (Irene) decided to steer clear of any old recordings.

"We haven't gone back to listen to it again because I think it might confuse us. Neither of us have it in our heads - I only heard it all those years ago - which I think is best because we've got to make it our own."

Ladies Of Letters' premise may be simple, but it's also highly effective.

"They get very much into a one-upmanship that brings out lots of comedy - hopefully - and pathos. It's very interesting, the mix that it is, and I don't think there's anything you can compare it to, which is a good thing."

Though sharing common ground - both Irene and Vera are widows who live alone - their rivalry, spanning everything from offspring to recipes and household tips, makes for some beautifully observed comedy. On the surface, it may seem a little (dare we say it?) comfortable, but brewing in the background are very real concerns and darker themes.

"It *can* be quite dark. A word that wouldn't have been around when they first made the radio series is 'frenemy', and they are definitely 'frenemies' - the two ladies need each other, and that works; they keep hooking back in. It's quite lively - and fruity in parts too, which we like!"

Adapting the series of (occasionally poisoned) penned exchanges for the stage is acclaimed writer Jonathan Harvey (Corrie, Gimme Gimme Gimme, Beautiful Thing). Though he keeps in the spirit of the original, his input has given the production a contemporary sheen, allowing characters to engage with such 21st-century issues as climate change.

"Jonathan's done an amazing job in adapting the letters to a fully blown story, and it's amazing how much of it was in the original book. He's done a magical job with weaving it all together and updating the bits that needed updating. He's made the women a bit younger than they were, and that's given them a bit more scope to talk about different things. He's a great writer."



Gwyneth and Tessa first met in 1988 after they joined the cast of BBC One sitcom Only Fools And Horses. Gwyneth starred as Cassandra, the partner of Nicholas Lyndhurst's Rodney, while Tessa was Raquel, the long-term (and long-suffering) girlfriend of David Jason's London chancer, Derek 'Del Boy' Trotter.

Written by John Sullivan (who'd previously created Citizen Smith, starring Robert Lindsay), Only Fools And Horses followed Del Boy's exploits as he attempted to better himself with get-rich-quick schemes that consistently ended in disaster. The series ran from 1981 to 2003 and remains hugely popular today, with regular repeats and even a West End stage musical.

"I first saw Tessa when I went to see her first episode. I was rehearsing, and they asked if I wanted to see a recording of the show; I'd never seen one before, live.

"So the first time I actually saw her was on the set - which was really funny - and we met really briefly after.

"Actually, at the beginning, we didn't know if we would be involved together, or even any more, because we were both booked originally, I think, for one episode each."

Both Cassandra and Raquel were instant hits, becoming vital characters for the rest of the show's life.

Discussing the series' enduring popularity, Gwyneth says: "It has this life of its own that just goes on and on, which is delightful. Obviously, we knew that we were in this very successful show back then, but we never thought we'd be talking about it 30 years later.

"It seems to be able to entertain all generations, and doesn't seem to have dated in the way that other shows perhaps have.

"John Sullivan was such a wonderful writer, so we always had this incredible material, which was a joy to read even before it was in the hands of all the other talent involved in the show."

Gwyneth Strong (main image) stars alongside Tessa Peake-Jones (left) in Ladies Of Letters at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, from Tues 7 to Thurs 9 June.



13 – 18 Sept

From £15*



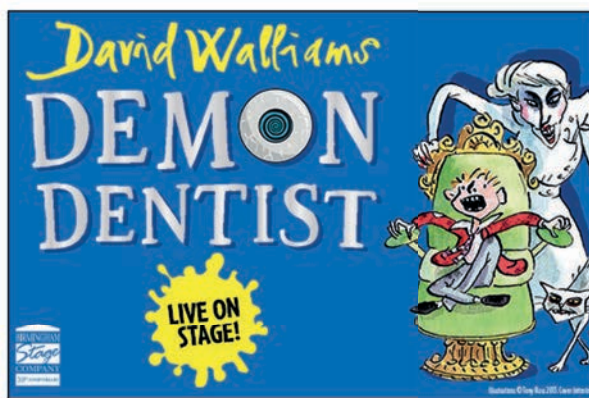
27 Sept – 2 Oct

From £15*



4 – 8 Oct

From £18*



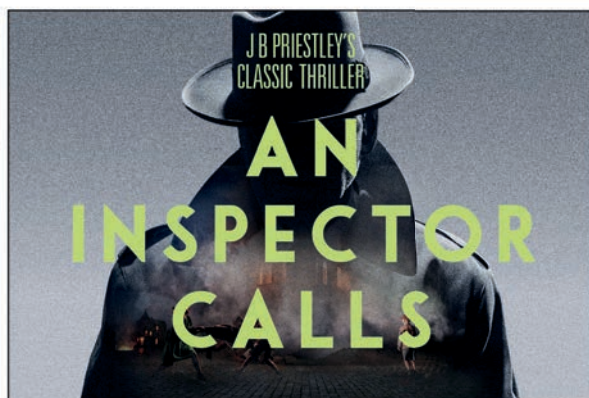
26 – 29 Oct

From £15*



1 – 5 Nov

From £15*



28 Feb – 4 Mar

From £15*

BOOK NOW www.belgrade.co.uk

*Ticket price includes a £1.50 booking fee.



REVIEW: Kibou Japanese eatery proves a hit in Solihull

Solihull's culinary scene is saturated with big-name chains, but things have definitely started looking up in the past few months. Fine dining restaurant Toffs By Rob Palmer opened in March (Rob previously led Hampton Manor to its first Michelin star), followed by the multi-award-winning Japanese kitchen & bar, Kibou, in April.

Already operating in Cheltenham, London and Clifton (so granted, it is a chain - but a small one!), Kibou is known for its bold and beautiful interiors, handmade sushi and Japanese-inspired cocktails.

The restaurant looks welcoming. The exterior features a colourful and eye-catching installation of Japanese golden acers. The interior mixes opulent, lush fabrics with traditional Japanese block prints and geisha murals. It's been cleverly structured to create multiple areas: the cocktail bar, the spacious restaurant featuring a range of table and booth seating, and the open sushi bar. It also boasts a 25-cover outside terrace, perfect for alfresco dining on a hot summer's day/evening. If we ever see any of those, of course.

I've eaten the majority of Kibou's

menu (probably more than) 10 times over, just not at Kibou itself. Japanese cuisine is up there with my very favourites, and I visit my local independent restaurant once a month without fail. The menus are very similar, which means it's tempting to compare the two. Not that that's much of a problem - the restaurants are 60 miles apart.

The menu is divided up into: sharers & small plates (think pork gyoza, takoyaki, bao buns and tempura); large plates (ramen, katsu curry and maki udon); and sashimi (traditional hand-pressed nigiri and signature sushi rolls). Sharing and mixed sashimi/sushi platters are also available, as well as plenty of vegan dishes and Japanese-inspired desserts.

We start with drinks. An Asahi for my partner and a highball for me. I'd almost always opt for the lager, but given the popularity, I feel it's a wise move. Simplicity at its best, the Ginko features classically paired ingredients - Roku gin, ginger, lemon and soda. I'm not a massive fan of gin - or at least I thought I wasn't. My eye is drawn to the 'sweet and sour' note on the menu. A botanical gin from one of Japan's

most renowned whisky producers, its sharp citrus flavour converts me. I order another.

The wakame arrives first. A seaweed salad with mirin and sesame, it's one of my go-to dishes. It helps add a freshness to the mostly fried dishes that kickstart the majority of our Japanese meals. Another go-to, ebi tempura. Cooked nicely, the juicy prawns are lightly battered and boast just the right amount of crisp.

Kibou's bao buns come with a choice of four different fillings: marinated duck with teriyaki sauce; chicken karaage with sriracha mayo; softshell crab tempura with crab sauce; and seasonal mushroom tempura with tonkatsu sauce. We opt for the crab. As with the prawns, the crab tempura is cooked to perfection - and there's a generous helping, too. The bun itself is fluffy and comforting, while the contrasting flavours from the creamy crab sauce and the sharp beni shoga that accompany the dish are a winning combination.

A menu item that can't be found in my local restaurant is ebi stak. Essentially it's a Japanese take on prawn toast, with the addition of nori (Japanese seaweed) and a wasabi mayo. You may or may not be aware that over 95% of wasabi served in restaurants is fake, but I could eat the delicious horseradish blend mayo that Kibou serve over and over again. In a sandwich? Yes. With fries? Yes. On a spoon straight out of the jar? Yes. The toast itself is tasty too - universes away from the often dry and overcooked version you get from your local takeaway on a Friday night. You can actually taste the prawn and not just copious amounts of oil. Thankfully.

I know we've over-ordered when the two special sushi rolls arrive. They are huge! Luckily we're able to take away what we can't eat. The Volcano roll features salmon, avocado and tobiko, dipped in tempura batter, fried

and drizzled with special Kibou sauces. The Fuji roll features mixed seafood futomaki coated in panko breadcrumbs, deep-fried and drizzled with sriracha mayo and unagi sauce. Kibou is known for its handmade sushi for a reason. Firstly, the presentation is stunning - this is true for every dish we order. Bright and colourful, with edible flowers to match, they're an Instagram lover's dream. Do I take a picture? Yes. More importantly, though, they taste good. Having food that looks great but tastes awful is entirely pointless. Or should be, anyway! The seafood tastes as fresh as you're going to get in Solihull town centre. The rice is prepared well, and the amalgamation of sauces makes for a taste sensation with a welcome kick.

We finish our Kibou experience (unfortunately we are too full to sample anything from the dessert menu) with a ramen. It's my least favourite part of the meal, mostly due to the broth not being quite to my taste (I feel it needs stronger depth in flavour). The 'lightly battered' chicken thigh is under-seasoned and turns soggy very quickly. In hindsight, I should have opted for the pork. That said, the broth is elevated with a generous helping of soy sauce and I enjoy it nevertheless.

I agree with our waitress when she says 'we needed this in Solihull'. The place is rammed. Admittedly, I'm visiting not long after Kibou has opened, but the restaurant is a great addition to the region, and one which will be thoroughly deserving of the huge success it seems certain to enjoy.
Lauren Foster

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

Kibou
134 High Street
Solihull
B91 3SX
Tel: 0121 387 2400



BIRMINGHAM2022.COM/FESTIVAL
#B2022FESTIVAL

LET'S

GO

GO

GO

OUT

LET'S GO OUT,

A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY
IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

@sister_minor



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Made possible with
**Heritage
Fund**

Him & Me

Five minutes with Strictly stars Anton du Beke and Giovanni Pernice ahead of their visit to the Midlands this month...

Congratulations Anton on becoming a full-time judge on Strictly, and to Giovanni for winning the glitter ball and a BAFTA.

Anton - Thank you. I'm honoured to be part of the show that I love, I enjoy being able to give advice to the couples, to help them improve every week. And I know what they are going through, having been on the other side of the table for so many years. And a huge congratulations to this one..! (Anton gestures towards Giovanni).

Giovanni - Thank you, thank you, thank you! I was always the bridesmaid and never the bride, but finally... And I'm so happy to win with Rose. Such a special person and such a special message behind it.

How did the idea of doing a tour together come about?

Giovanni - I had an idea that I would love to do a tour with my idol. I know Anton is such a busy man, so we had been back and forth for a couple of years to see if we could make it work with our schedules. We managed to do some shows in 2021, and now we get to do the most phenomenal, beautiful and fun show touring around the country again.

Anton - I can only agree, he says it so beautifully. I'm so fond of him.

Is there anything new we can expect in this year's show?

Giovanni - We have some beautiful new cast members, plus a few familiar faces from 2021. We have more set, more lights, more costumes, and now we have a Strictly Come Dancing champion in the show too!

Anton - I knew it wouldn't be long before that came up.

Giovanni - I was in about 104 finals, so I was due to win at some point.

What have you both been doing recently?

Giovanni - We've both been working out, to give the people what they want!

Anton (to Giovanni) - You look tremendous, by the way!

What makes this tour different to all the others?

Giovanni - The fact that you have a legend on stage - and also a rising-star legend - is something special!

Anton - A rising-star legend? We should have called the show that!

Giovanni - Plus, we are very different in terms of dance styles...

Anton - And age. It's wonderful for me, as I love his enthusiasm. So, in that respect, we are very similar. He's a wonderful person, and I love spending time with him. He's a wonderful dancer and an absolute stage presence.

Giovanni, what was the best advice Anton gave you when you started Strictly Come Dancing?

Giovanni - He said to always keep your feet on the ground. Everyone is replaceable, so enjoy, but stay grounded and don't become a diva!

Anton - Then he didn't do any of it!

Giovanni - Well, I didn't speak English at the time, so I didn't understand any of it!

Anton, what English dish would you suggest Giovanni tries?

Anton - Something deep-fried.

Giovanni - I have tried bangers and the smash.

Anton - You mean 'bangers and mash'?

Giovanni - Yes! And toad in the hole.

Anton, who would you like to see Giovanni dance with on Strictly this year?

Anton - If it was a same-sex partner... Luke Evans. Or, I know who would be great... Holly Willoughby.

Giovanni - I would love to dance with Holly Willoughby on the show. We would have so much fun and she would do amazing. You're a judge now, Anton, but if you were still dancing on the show, I would pick Mary Berry for you.

Anton - We would be the cherry on the cake!

Giovanni - I like what you did there!

.....

Anton & Giovanni bring their Him & Me tour to Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury on Tues 14 & Wed 15 June and The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sat 9 July



Summer Music
by *Candlelight*



EX CATHEDRA
Jeffrey Skidmore conductor
George Parris associate conductor

A magical concert of choral music and readings inspired by nature, summer holidays, sea and sunshine – performed by candlelight at dusk by "one of Britain's very best choirs" (New York Times).

14 Jun – Shrewsbury
 15 Jun – Hereford Cathedral
 16 Jun – Wolverhampton
 21 Jun – Birmingham
 25 Jun – London

www.excathedra.co.uk



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Birmingham City Council




ORCHESTRA OF The Swan

Peter and the Wolf

Saturday 18 June 4.00pm

A Family Concert that features Prokofiev's much-loved tale of a fearless boy and a ferocious wolf.

Prokofiev Peter & the Wolf
 Narrator **Zeb Soanes**
 Conductor **Rebecca Miller**

Tickets: £15 (£5 concessions)
www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk

Sunday 26 June at 7.30pm
Playbox Theatre at The Dream Factory
 Stratford Road | WARWICK

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire



SUMMER OPERA
 DOUBLE BILL

Charpentier | **Offenbach**
Les Arts Florissants | *Mesdames de la Halle*

Conducted by **Jeffrey Skidmore**
 Directed by **Stuart Barker**

Warwick's summer opera house presents a contrasting double bill with Marc-Antoine Charpentier's baroque classic followed by Jacques Offenbach's one-act comedy written in the same year as his ever-popular *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

In a romp around a Parisian market, we meet an ostentatious drum major and three comely market vendors with surprisingly deep voices - English dialogue and surtitles for French arias.

Pre-show talk at 6.30pm on Charpentier and Les arts florissants by Prof Graham Sadler and Dr Shirley Thompson of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire - free entry and followed by a glass of French wine.

Tickets: £20 unreserved
 (Students & Children £1)



PLAYBOX THEATRE

Tuesday 5 July at 7.30pm
 St Mary's Church | Warwick

Choir of Clare College, Cambridge
 George Gillow & Samuel Jones organ
 Graham Ross conductor

A Vaughan Williams Legacy



The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge and conductor Graham Ross, after three very successful concerts in Leamington, make their debut in St Mary's Church, Warwick to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Ralph Vaughan Williams as part of the **Warwick Choral Festival**.

A sublime programme featuring music from the great composer along with Wylykynson, Judith Weir, Howard Skempton, William Denis Browne, Howells, Eric Whitacre, Stanford, and Parry.

Tickets: £15 and £25 unreserved
 (Students & Children £1)

Booking open now | www.leamingtonmusic.org | 01926 334418

Classical music from across the region...



The London Concertante: Vivaldi's Four Seasons

Coventry Cathedral, Fri 17 June; Worcester Cathedral, Fri 24 June

While it's a given that they take the business of musicmaking extremely seriously, there's certainly nothing stuffy about the London Concertante.

Indeed, 50 percent of people who attend a performance by this 31-year-old chamber orchestra are first-time classical music concert-goers - a statistic which speaks volumes for the ensemble's commitment to remaining at all times light-of-touch and refreshingly accessible.

Although most readily associated with the music of Mozart, Beethoven and Bach, the

Concertante here turn their attention to Italian Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi and his most famous work...

Portraying both dramatic and serene scenes of spring, summer, autumn and winter in a pastoral setting, The Four Seasons' concertos are nowadays familiar not only to classical music aficionados but also the wider public, thanks to regularly featuring in popular culture. In fact, according to IMDb, the composition has been used, to one degree or another, in at least 100 different films and television shows.

Armonico Consort

Malvern Theatres, Wed 22 June;
The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick,
Thurs 30 June

Now here's an absolute treat for royalists and/or people of a certain vintage... the ever-brilliant and hugely talented Armonico Consort pay their respects to Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of her platinum jubilee by recreating the highlights of her 1953 coronation service.

Featuring works by Parry, Handel, Walton and Vaughan Williams, the concert is narrated by former ITV News royal correspondent Nicholas Owen. Christopher Monks conducts.



CBSO: Handel's Messiah

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 8 June



The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Chorus here gets its teeth into the challenge of performing Handel's magnificent choral masterpiece for the very first time. A work which tells the story of Christ's Nativity, Passion, Resurrection and Ascension, the Messiah features the rousing Hallelujah Chorus and is one of classical music's best-known works. Baroque specialist Richard Egarr is the conductor while Mary Bevan (pictured) showcases her skills as soprano.

Ex Cathedra: Summer Music By Candlelight

Hereford Cathedral, Wed 15 June; St Paul's Church, Birmingham, Tues 21 & Wed 22 June

Jeffrey Skidmore (pictured) once again picks up the baton to conduct Birmingham's highly rated early music ensemble, on this occasion in a concert that Ex Cathedra confidently predict will see people heading for home singing of summertime.

The programmes for these annual get-togethers, presented by candlelight as dusk falls, move seamlessly from seasonal favourites to rare, rediscovered, contemporary and lighter repertoire.



The Sixteen: The Choral Pilgrimage 2022

St Mary's Church, Warwick, Sat 4 June

The Sixteen were formed by conductor Harry Christophers more than 40 years ago with the aim of providing a fresh insight into Baroque, early classical and more contemporary music.

With over 100 recordings under their belt and numerous accolades to their name, they return to the Midlands this month to perform a concert comprising Hubert Parry's Songs Of Farewell, three short pieces by Thomas Campion, a new work by Cecilia McDowall and a selection of medieval carols.





Ragnar Kjartansson

The Sky in a Room

25 June – 3 July 2022

Daily performances, 2-7pm

St Mary Magdalene
Tanworth-in-Arden B94 5AL

No need to book, just drop in
Free, donations welcome

   ikongallery

ikon-gallery.org

IKON artesmundi

ST MARY MAGDALENE
TANWORTH IN ARDEN

AMGUEDDFA CYMRU -
NATIONAL MUSEUM WALES

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity no. 528892. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
Photo Hugo Glendinning.

Live music from across the region...

Rammstein

Coventry Building Society Arena, Sun 26 June

Rammstein are a Berlin-formed pyromaniac nu-metal band whose trademark stage show includes flames, lasers and gimmicks galore. Fronted by lead vocalist Till Lindemann, the band's line-up has remained unchanged throughout their 28-year history. Something else which has also stood the test of time is their approach to songwriting, with Lindemann writing and singing the lyrics over instrumental pieces the rest of the band have completed beforehand.



Abel Selaocoe

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 17 June

Genre-busting South African cellist Abel Selaocoe moves seamlessly across a plethora of genres and styles, from collaborations with world musicians and beatboxers, to concerto performances and solo classical recitals. Combining virtuosic performance with improvisation, singing and body percussion, Abel is the co-founder of both the Kabantu ensemble and the Chesaba trio, both of which have performed with partners from a variety of musical backgrounds.



James Bay

Worcester Racecourse, Sat 11 June

For the best part of a decade, Hertfordshire-born James Bay has been one of the nation's finest young singer-songwriters. The hit-maker behind multi-million-selling

singles *Hold Back The River* and *Let It Go* has also enjoyed top-five album success with *Chaos And The Calm* and *Electric Light*. Headlining this Live After Racing event, James will be performing songs from his much-anticipated third album.

The Beat

hmv Empire, Coventry, Fri 17 June

Along with their contemporaries, The Specials, Madness and The Selecter, The Beat became an overnight sensation following the release of their debut single, an infectious cover of the Smokey Robinson classic *Tears Of A Clown*, which went straight into the UK national charts at number six.

Having toured alongside artists such as The Clash, The Police and David Bowie, the legendary 2-Tone, ska and reggae group, led by vocalist Dave Wakeling, are here celebrating their 40th anniversary.

The Rezillos

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Fri 10 June

Following their inception in 1976, The Rezillos ripped into the music scene through a shared love of '60s garage rock. Although emerging at the same time as other punk rock groups, the band didn't share the nihilism of their contemporaries, choosing instead to take a more lighthearted approach to their songs.

Despite still touring, they've only ever released two albums - *Can't Stand The Rezillos* in 1978 and *Zero* in 2015.

Sari Schorr

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Wed 29 June

Coming from humble beginnings working the music scene in the legendary South Bronx of New York and on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Sari Schorr first burst onto the blues rock scene in 2016 with critically acclaimed debut offering *A Force Of Nature*, an album which was produced by iconic British blues pioneer Mike Vernon, who's worked with the likes of David Bowie, Eric Clapton and Fleetwood Mac. With a career that's going from strength to strength, the operatically trained tornado visits Worcester having recently been inducted into the New York Blues Hall of Fame.



Credit: Jean-Philippe Huguénet

THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING



Arthur Hughes talks about starring in a ground-breaking new production of Richard III that marks the first time the Royal Shakespeare Company has cast a disabled actor in the title role.

Arthur Hughes described it as “a dream come true” when he found out he’d been cast as Richard III, one of the most murderous and despised characters in Shakespeare’s canon. But there was rather more to it than a desire to play the villain, even though he admits that was a big part of it.

“It’s great fun to play the bad guy!” he laughs. “Bad people are interesting to play because I don’t believe people are inherently bad. You’re a product of the atmosphere and environment you grow up in, and Richard gets a bad rep if he did all the things they say he did in history.

“Certainly in the play he’s very bad, but he’s a product of an environment that breeds that, and he’s characterised as an inherent villain because of his shape and because he’s disabled, and that hangover has pervaded our culture for the last 500 years. ‘Deformed in body, deformed in mind’ is the old Elizabethan philosophy, which we know is absolute nonsense.

“But when people think of villains they think of Richard III, and they think hunchbacked, crooked, deformed... and that means evil. Those words are all horrible, and in modern terms the way we think of disabled people has changed, but they are still often portrayed as villains.”

Arthur has another good reason to be pleased about playing the crippled king (whose unearthed skeleton displayed curvature of the spine but no ‘withered hand’ as per the Bard’s other description), since he himself is disabled. The actor, who identifies as ‘limb different’, was born with a condition known as radial dysplasia, which affects one in 30,000 people. He has no thumb or radius bone on his right arm, and his right wrist is disfigured.

His delight at winning the role - he made his RSC debut as Richard, Duke of Gloucester, in this spring’s Wars Of The Roses - is tempered by a recognition of the ongoing battle faced by disabled actors.

“I’m thrilled not only to be playing this title role at the RSC, but also that a major production of this play is putting disability centre stage. It’s sadly rare in many plays to find a leading disabled character, and with this production I hope we prove that disabled talent deserves to be in the spotlight.”

Arthur is best known for his role as Ryan McDaniel in Netflix’s The Innocents and last year starred in Channel Four care-home

drama Help, with Jodie Comer and Stephen Graham. He argues that having disabled actors playing disabled characters brings an authenticity to a production, as “only they understand what it is to be different and ‘other’ - looked at differently and treated differently”.

Not having to affect any form of disability also means he can concentrate on other aspects of his performance as well as understand Richard and the world he lived in.

“The play is set in a very cruel, patriarchal ableist world - as are most of Shakespeare’s plays, because that was the world at the time - but I think I can see it much clearer. You don’t have to labour on what you think life is like for a disabled person, it’s just your truth.”

The new production will be the last to be helmed by the RSC’s outgoing artistic director, Gregory Doran, and is especially poignant in the wake of his husband Antony Sher’s death last year. Sher’s 1984 performance as Shakespeare’s ‘bottled spider’ is widely regarded as the greatest ever seen.

“It’s obviously quite a poignant production for Greg to be doing Richard so soon after losing Tony,” agrees Arthur. “But Greg himself has spoken about this - it’s nearly 40 years since Tony’s performance, which by today’s standards couldn’t and shouldn’t happen.

“The representation of disabled people is getting better, so even though [Tony’s portrayal] has gone down in history as one of the great performances, I’m glad history has moved on so we hopefully won’t see those type of performances where non-disabled actors play disabled parts.

“It’s a great reclaiming, I think, and hopefully this will be the first of many around the world where we see major large-scale productions with a disabled Richard.”

Arthur sighs when I say it shouldn’t be a big deal for a disabled actor to be playing a lead role in 2022, but his casting has been a big part of the hype surrounding this production.

“I know. And not just because it’s Richard - you just don’t see many leading disabled actors, full stop. It’s great to have Richard III reclaimed, but why not a disabled Macbeth, Hamlet, Iago or Othello?

“That’s the next step. It’s great to have the

most famous disabled character in the English-speaking language, or at least one of them, being played at the Royal Shakespeare Company by a disabled actor, but the next step is casting other leading roles where the disability is just incidental.”

Like when deaf actor William Grint was brilliant (and hilarious) as the second merchant in the RSC’s acclaimed production of A Comedy Of Errors last year...

“Yeah, William’s a great actor. But that’s exactly it - this kind of integration within productions doesn’t need to be ‘oh we’re a disabled production now’. There should be fully disabled-led productions as well, of course, but it’s more about integration and incidental characters as well as telling disabled stories. Being there is telling a story in itself.”

Speaking of telling stories, Arthur has got to see the entire story arc of Richard, having portrayed him in Wars Of The Roses, the final part of the Henry VI trilogy and effectively this play’s prequel.

“I feel so lucky to play Richard in both of these plays. It’s a real gift for an actor to play both, because so much of Wars Of The Roses’ story unlocks who he is in Richard III and you really see his rise to power.”


The corruption, lies and deceit that facilitate Richard’s unscrupulous ascent to the throne draw a number of parallels with the modern world, making the play as alarmingly relevant today as it’s ever been.

“Leaders who are patently unsuitable for power are the ones that power always attracts,” suggests Arthur. “Look in our country, Russia, America, almost anywhere - the upper echelons of power are always full of the same type of people, doing the same type of things. If you wrote Boris Johnson as a character in a play, no one would believe that it could be a real person!

“But these people are fascinating to behold, and the similarity between Shakespeare’s characters and real-life politicians is the entertaining and frightening thing. And it’s why these plays can be done over and over again, because they always have something to say about what’s going on.”

.....
Richard III runs at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre from Thursday 23 June to Saturday 8 October.

BIRMINGHAM 2022 FESTIVAL PRESENTS A
CHINA PLATE AND BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME PRODUCTION



**TO THE
STREETS!**

A NEW MUSICAL

BOOK BY
ROY WILLIAMS

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
TIM SUTTON

DIRECTED BY
CHRISTOPHER HAYDON

An uplifting new musical bursting with ska, calypso and rock 'n' roll. Inspired by the Bristol Bus Boycott, performed in the heart of communities across the West Midlands.

Handsworth Park, Birmingham*

Fri 19 Aug 1.45pm & 7.45pm /
Sat 20 Aug 1.45pm & 7.45pm

Windmill Hill, Warwick Arts Centre

Wed 24 Aug 7.45pm / Thu 25 Aug 7.45pm

West Park, Wolverhampton*

Sun 28 Aug 1.45pm & 7.45pm

Doors open at 12 noon (when performance starts at 1.45pm) and 6pm (when evening performance starts at 7.45pm), with pre-performances at 12.30pm (matinees) and 6pm (evenings).

*Subject to licence

Produced in association with Warwick Arts Centre, City of Wolverhampton Council and DRPG Creative.

Generously supported by Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, Birmingham City Council and Blueprint: Without Walls R&D Investment Fund.

BOOK BY PHONE 024 7652 4524
BOOK ONLINE warwickartscentre.co.uk

Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

WARWICK

ARTS

CENTRE

Festivals coming to the region in June and July...



Nozstock: The Hidden Valley

Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard,
Thurs 21 - Sun 24 July

Intimate, eccentric and family-friendly, Nozstock is a unique festival taking place away from the hustle and bustle of life and boasting outstanding views of the Herefordshire countryside.

Alongside its impressive line-up of music acts, the event also features comedy, theatre, games, workshops and opportunities to learn 'funky new skills'.

2022 line-up includes: Sister Sledge, Bill Bailey, Andy C ft. Tonn Piper, Calyx & Teebee with LX One, Huey Morgan, The Craig Charles Funk And Soul Club, Flava D, Gentleman's Dub Club, Submotion Orchestra, Ibibio Sound Machine (pictured), Break, Utah Saints and Rosie Jones

Lichfield Fuse Festival

Beacon Park, Lichfield, Fri 8 - Sun 10 July

Fuse was founded in 2001 and is now established as one of the Midlands' largest free music & arts festivals.

As well as a line-up of music that spans genres as diverse as rock, afrobeat, RnB/soul, ska, pop, folk, jazz and reggae, the event also features a selection of family activities.

Circus skills, dance displays & workshops, open mic & poetry sessions, sports challenges, belly dancing and food & drink outlets further add to the festival's line-up of attractions.

2022 line-up includes: Blue Nation, Homecoming UK, The Allergies, The Equators, The Clause (pictured), The Bar-Steward Sons Of Val Doonican and Lucas D & The Groove Ghetto



Lichfield Blues & Jazz

Cathedral Hotel, Lichfield,
Thurs 9 - Sun 12 June

Having launched in 2015, this ever-growing festival has become a firm favourite on Lichfield's cultural calendar.

The four-day get-together celebrates the best in local jazz & blues talent as well as showcasing quality musicianship from further afield.

A blues & jazz-themed Sunday morning service 'like no other' will take place at Wade Street Church on the 12th.

2022 line-up includes: Julian Smith with the Tom Morgan Trio, Thomas Atlas Band (pictured), Staffordshire Jazz East Big Band and Nick Dewhurst Quartet



Alder Fest

Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, Sat 16 July

Popular Shropshire attraction Alderford Lake is launching a brand-new festival this summer.

Alongside the event's live-music line-up, there's also plenty for the family to enjoy, from Disney singalongs and a 12ft T-Rex, to dance workshops with AJ & Curtis Pritchard, a silent disco and circus acts.

An 'extraordinary' 120-person aquapark will be open throughout the day.

Camping tickets are available, providing access to the camping field from 12pm on Friday the 15th to 10am on Sunday the 17th.

2022 line-up includes: FIVE, The Feeling (pictured), Blazin' Squad, Toploader, Scouting For Girls, Planet ABBA, Take On This, Spice Girls - The Experience and Mini Mix



Warwick Folk Festival

Castle Park, Warwick, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 July



Established more than 40 years ago, Warwick Folk Festival boasts the very best in contemporary and traditional folk arts from the UK and beyond.

As well as an extensive line-up of performers, the four-day camping event features ceilidhs, workshops, acoustic concerts, singarounds, an extended craft fair, a range of real ales and on-site catering.

Taking place at Castle Park for the first time, the festival's principal venues and camping spaces will be together on one site, retaining the special atmosphere for which the event has become known.

2022 line-up includes: Show Of Hands, Seth Lakeman, Spiers And Boden (pictured), The Young'uns, Nancy Kerr, Will Pound And Jenn Butterworth and Inlay



Wherefore art thou, Doreen?

Actor Gill Jordan talks about her role in an ambitious new production of Romeo + Juliet at Stafford Castle - and explains why she's taking a break from playing her most famous character: Black Country 'lazy cow' Doreen Tipton...

After two years of cancellations, the Stafford Festival Shakespeare returns this month with an ambitious showpiece production of Romeo + Juliet.

Up to 11,000 people are expected to attend performances of the Bard's classic romantic tragedy, which will be presented against the magnificent backdrop of historic Stafford Castle.

The spectacle is likely to be made even more special by the fact that the festival is this year celebrating its 30th anniversary.

No one is more excited about the show than Gill Jordan. The Staffordshire actress is best known as her comic creation, Lazy Cow Syndrome sufferer and Queen of the Black Country Doreen Tipton. Hapless benefits scrounger Doreen, who was co-created by Gill and comedy writer David Tristram, became an online sensation back in 2012, since which time she's evolved into one of the UK's best-loved comic characters.

For the time being at least, Gill is stepping away from the role to play the Nurse in Romeo + Juliet.

"I can't wait to get started," she gushes in her cheery Black Country twang. "I'm talking to you and my heart's really going as I'm so excited about it."

The role couldn't have come at a better time for the actress, who made the decision last year to take a break from playing Doreen and return to mainstream acting.

"I got to a point with Doreen where I'd done almost 10 years. I was starting to think, where are we going with it, and I thought I'd like to get back to doing other stuff.

"When I was talking to my agent about where I want to go this year, I said I'd love to do some classical work, I'd love to do Shakespeare. And it was during the pantomime [Gill, as Doreen, starred alongside Jason Donovan in Goldilocks And The Three Bears at Birmingham Hippodrome] that Tim contacted my agent and asked if I'd play the Nurse. I was jumping for joy!"

Despite becoming synonymous with Doreen over the past decade, Gill's keen for people to see her in other roles. After all, she's been treading the boards for nearly 40 years!

Having trained at the Birmingham School of Speech and Drama, she then toured the UK with a number of theatre companies and also set up her own company, Sundial, which focuses on historical first-person interpretative theatre. Her love for the latter sprang from doing immersive character work at an interactive brewing museum in Leeds, a job that led to her being cast as Charlotte Bronte during the Bronte Festival in Haworth. Sundial went on to provide resident professional on-site interpreters at Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust for nearly 20 years, with Gill and colleagues playing a range of characters at Blists Hill. They performed Victorian music hall and texts by Shakespeare and Dickens, amongst many other classical writers, but she has never done Romeo And Juliet.

"I've always brought history into my work, so to be able to immerse myself into this great period of British history - through the costume, the castle backdrop - is all part of the excitement for me."

Gill also believes the character of the Nurse, who often lightens the mood, is ideal for her.

"It's the perfect role for me as a character actress, and it's one of the best roles in the play. Hopefully I'm going to portray her beautifully", she says, bursting into laughter.

"That's a perfect word for it really, because the character is so lovely, and she's one that people can relate to - the down-to-earth one."

Gill definitely won't be tempted to slip in any Doreenisms, even though she admits that some elements of the Nurse are 'quite pantomimey'.

"Oh no, she'll be very different from Doreen. If someone said they wanted Doreen to play the Nurse, then Doreen could play the Nurse because you can do anything with any character, but I don't want to bring Doreen into this."

As much as Gill's keen to labour the point that she needs a break from her alter-ego, she's quick to acknowledge the character's popularity and importance to her career.

"I do get it. People are interested in her, they've followed us for 10 years, so she's part of their lives. And she's part of my life, and she'll never not be, but right now I want my life to be more about Gill Jordan the actor doing different things."

One of those different things is upcoming Netflix fantasy drama The Sandman, which stars an array of big names including Jenna Coleman, David Thewlis, Stephen Fry and Tom Sturridge. Filming at the world-famous Shepperton film studios in Surrey was evidently quite an experience for the girl from the Black Country.

"Just going down to Shepperton was really exciting because I'd never been before, and it was wonderful. It was full-on special effects and incredible to watch it all taking place.

"We were part of a small ensemble of about six actors with a much bigger group of extras all dressed like us, and we were the main disciples of Charles Dance's character."

The similarity in scale with the upcoming production at Stafford Castle isn't lost on Gill, and she's counting her blessings to have hit the post-Doreen ground running.

"Oh yeah. And to think it's all going to be live theatre is amazing - the Sandman was all special effects and studio work. But to be doing these two different projects within a year is great. That's why I love doing what I do - because I'm still excited at 54. I'm like a little kid! If you're not excited, it's time to move on, and I've never wanted to move on from acting. It's all I've ever wanted to do."

Romeo + Juliet shows at Stafford Castle from Fri 24 June to Sat 9 July



Singin' In The Rain

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 6 - Sat 11 June

A musical romantic comedy set in the era when the talkies hit Tinseltown, the MGM film of *Singin' In The Rain* is a glittering jewel in the Hollywood crown.

Made 70 years ago and starring the irrepressible Gene Kelly, it boasted unforgettable numbers like *Broadway Melody*, *Moses Supposes* and *Make 'Em Laugh*. The most memorable song of them all, of course, was the title track itself, performed by Kelly during a brilliantly choreographed scene in which he danced in a downpour.

Not surprisingly, the film has translated extraordinarily well to the stage, with Tommy Steele and Paul Nicholas among the UK musical-theatre stars to have put on their dancing shoes and splashed around in the puddles.

And speaking of puddles, there should certainly be no shortage during this touring version of Jonathan Church's critically acclaimed production, with every performance coming complete with 14,000 litres of water... Getting wet may never have been more fun!

The Rocky Horror Show

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 13 - Sat 18 June

Hook up your fishnets, tighten your corsets and prepare to 'do The Time Warp again'... *The Rocky Horror Show* is returning to the Midlands (complete with *Strictly Come Dancing* winner Ore Oduba!).

Richard O'Brien's cult production tells the tale of the straight-laced Brad and the deliciously corruptible Janet, who arrive at the castle of the alien transvestite Frank N Furter and witness the birth of the monster, Rocky.

Along the way, they take the audience through a selection of love-'em-or-loathe-'em musical numbers, including *Sweet Transvestite*, *Damn It Janet* and *The Time Warp*.

Great fun's a guarantee - particularly if you get into the spirit of things and attend the show dressed in your very best stockings and suspenders (as many patrons do)!



Hamlet The Comedy

The Church Green, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Tues 7 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 14 - Thurs 16 June; The Place, Telford, Fri 17 June; Tamworth Castle, Sun 19 June; Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July; Victoria Gardens, Tewkesbury, Sun 17 July; Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 22 - Sat 23 July; Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Sun 24 July

Zany funsters Oddsocks make a welcome return with another sizzling summertime special. On this occasion, they're turning their attention to Shakespeare's best-known tragedy to create yet another of their much-loved laughter fests.

"Our inclusive approach means that varied communities across the UK are able to engage with theatre," say the company's founders and husband-and-wife team, Andy Barrow and Elli Mackenzie. "We aim to tell good stories in a fun, informative way, gently challenging people's perceptions and the way in which they react to theatre."



★★★★★
"A NIGHT OF SNEER DELIGHT"
SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
MON 6 - SAT 11 JUN



BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
On Your Marks
24 New Nudes
Lazuli Sky
THU 23 - SAT 25 JUN

ON! MARIUS
I AM HERE
SUN 3 JUL

WE WILL ROCK YOU
THE MUSICAL BY QUEEN AND BEN ELTON
'A KIND OF MAGIC. SPECTACULAR. MAGNIFICO!'
MON 4 - SAT 30 JUL



Jumprov!
SAT 16 JUL

The CHER Show
A NEW MUSICAL
TUE 2 - SAT 6 AUG



Les Misérables
TUE 9 - SAT 27 AUG



BIRMINGHAM 2022 FESTIVAL PRESENTS
A CHINA PLATE AND BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME PRODUCTION
TO THE STREETS!
FRI 19 - SUN 28 AUG
PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH WARWICK ARTS CENTRE AND DRPC #B2022FESTIVAL

Beautiful
The Carole King Musical
TUE 30 AUG - SAT 3 SEP



OH THE COLOR PURPLE
TUE 13 - SAT 17 SEP



Amina Khayyam Dance Company
Kantha Katha-K
TUE 20 & WED 21 SEP

RAMBERT DANCE IN PEAKY BLINDERS
THE REDEMPTION OF THOMAS SHELBY
TUE 27 SEP - SUN 2 OCT





Waitress

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Tues 28 June - Sat 2 July

“Waitress is one of my favourite shows and definitely my favourite soundtrack,” reveals Chelsea Halfpenny, who takes the lead role of Jenna in this touring version of the hit musical. “You can’t help but love the characters. And it’s so funny. I don’t think people expect it to be funny, but it really is.” Waitress’ storyline sees expert pie-maker Jenna accidentally fall pregnant while trapped in a loveless marriage. After developing romantic feelings for her new doctor, she decides to search for the recipe for happiness. She is helped in her endeavour by fellow waitresses and close confidantes Becky and Dawn... “Waitress tackles some really hard-hitting topics in a way that some musicals don’t,” Chelsea continues, “and I think that strikes a chord. It shows that humans are flawed and that we all make mistakes, which really resonates with people. Every night is brilliant, the audience reaction has been incredible, and everyone goes away feeling full of love.”

The White Card

The Rep, Birmingham, Tues 7 - Sat 18 June

“The White Card stages the discussions which we have privately about the roles of art, race, suffering, discrimination and patronage, out loud and beyond what is comfortable to say and hear.” So speaks Claudia Rankine, the writer behind this thought-provoking new work. Telling the story of a wealthy white couple and the talented Black artist they invite to dinner, it focuses on the hot topics of white privilege, cultural appropriation and representation. The piece is directed by Natalie Ibu. “Although set in America, the play is just as relevant in the UK,” says Natalie, “a country where a young Black girl can be strip-searched at school or a Black man can be stopped and searched, simply for wearing a coat on a sunny day. I think there’s never been a more urgent need for this play and the discussions it will force about race in the UK.”

Mrs Kapoor’s Daughter’s Wedding

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sat 11 June

Mrs Kapoor’s Daughter’s Wedding scored a big hit when it toured pre-pandemic, and with its winning blend of relatable comedy

and Bollywood glamour, there’s every chance its welcome return this month will be accompanied by a further cascade of plaudits. The show’s storyline is wafer-thin, but where the production really scores is in its celebration of all things Bollywood, imaginatively blending dancing and singing to create a party atmosphere that’s clearly enjoyed by performers and audiences alike.



Richard III

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 23 June - Sat 8 October

The hunch-backed, crooked, wicked, murderous and machiavellian Duke of Gloucester, better known - once he’s ascended the throne, of course - as Richard III, is perhaps the most powerful and evil of all theatre villains. Shakespeare’s brutal play follows Gloucester’s blood-soaked trail as he

uses all his skills as a lover, a liar, a trickster and a tyrant to seize power and become the King of England. Arthur Hughes, who played Gloucester to great critical acclaim in the RSC’s springtime production of Henry VI Part Three - retitled Wars Of The Roses - continues in the role.

Offside

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Thurs 16 June

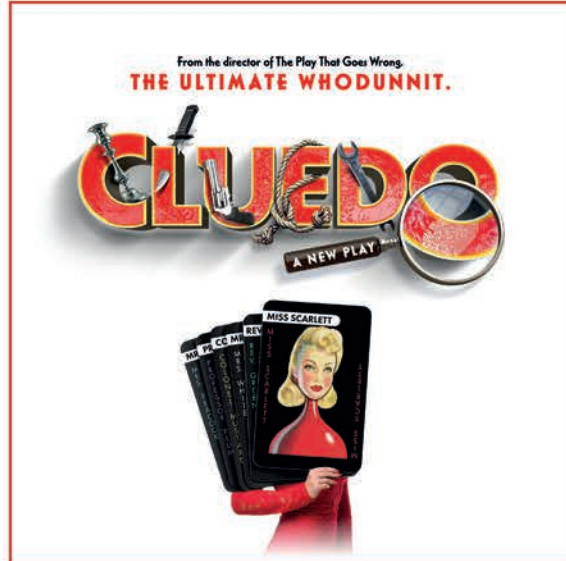
Turning the spotlight on the still-raging struggle for gender equality, lively three-hander Offside follows the story of four women from across the centuries as they battle for the right to play football and, like men, be judged according to their ability. Punchy, lyrical and dynamic, Sabrina Mahfouz and Hollie McNish’s critically acclaimed offering is visiting Birmingham as part of a tour to mark the Women’s European Football Championship.



WHAT WILL YOU SEE NEXT?



MON 04 - SAT 09 JUL
FOOTLOOSE



MON 11 - SAT 16 JUL
CLUEDO



SUN 24 JUL
ROB LAMBERTI -
A CELEBRATION OF THE SONGS
& MUSIC OF GEORGE MICHAEL



WED 27 JUL
THE SIMON &
GARFUNKEL STORY

tz

Twycross Zoo
IN THE HEART OF CONSERVATION

NOW FEATURING:

THE
GRUFFALO®
DISCOVERY LAND



They're not all
teeth, you know

Sumatran tigers also have five different types of whiskers to detect their prey
Find out more on a fun packed day out!

BOOK TODAY AT

twycrosszoo.org

And now for something a little different...



The Healing Gardens Of Bab

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Symphony Hall and other Birmingham City Centre locations, Mon 27 June - Sun 17 July

Inspired by Babylon's hanging gardens - one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World - The Healing Gardens Of Bab sees Fierce transforming a number of locations in Birmingham city centre with unique installations, art and events for everybody. The Healing Gardens are described by Fierce as "a paradise that uplifts alternative expressions of gender, sexuality and family. The gardens are a space to reflect on the violent erasure enforced by British Empire and to celebrate the many sexual identities that are not translatable into English." The project provides numerous ways to get involved. These include costume workshops, performance opportunities, crafting and talks & discussions.

Jinx Monsoon & Major Scales

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Wed 8 June

Actor Jerick Hoffer as alter-ego Jinx Monsoon here reunites with Richard Andriessen, as composer and musician Major Scales, in a show that imagines a time some 43 years hence in which the pair take one final desperate shot at stardom.

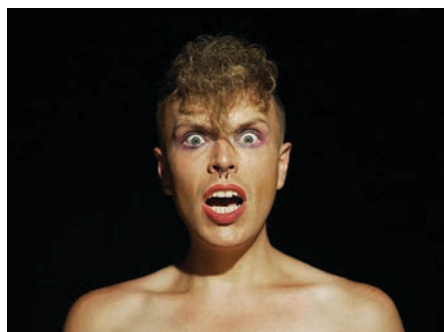
Jinx will be exceedingly familiar to followers of US reality TV series RuPaul's Drag Race, winning the fifth season of the show back in 2013, while Major Scales has become the drag star's faithful companion across various endeavours over the past few years.

Last delighting UK audiences three years ago with hit show The Ginger Snapped, the duo have built up a significant British following and look set to be regular and welcome visitors to these shores in the years to come.



Tropicana

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 17 & Sat 18 June



Eighties synth-pop provides the soundtrack to 'queer cabaret icon' Aidan Sadler's award-winning Tropicana, a show that's described as 'an exploration of body image, heteronormativity and sometimes wearing a dress round the house on a muggy day'. Aidan scored a big hit with Tropicana at Edinburgh last year, earning effusive praise for energetic performances of golden oldies including Human League's Don't You Want Me and a-ha's Take On Me. Although the stand-up aspect of the show wasn't as universally praised by critics, the occasionally self-conscious delivery of the material was a small and unimportant spanner in the works of a night out that otherwise hit the mark in so many ways. An impressive rendition of Wham!'s Club Tropicana rounded the show off nicely and ensured the audience headed for home with an '80s-inspired spring in their step.

In Our Skin

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Fri 10 - Sat 11 June

"The aim is to create a kind of conversation about perceptions of sexuality," explains In Our Skin director & project creator Greg Homann, "and about how these perceptions raise social and cultural tension points." South African-born playwright Greg has drawn on 50 hours of interviews with 28 participants to create this brand-new work of theatre, a piece which integrates verbatim text with video and original music. Presented by six actor-musicians, the show connects the lives of gay men from two diverse cities: Birmingham in the West Midlands and Johannesburg in South Africa. The production is being presented as part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival.



Key To The City

Birmingham 2022 Festival initiative unlocks hidden treasures, surprise views and intriguing secrets...

A special key which unlocks Birmingham's hidden treasures, surprise views and intriguing secrets is to be given to thousands of people.

This month, for the Birmingham 2022 Festival, the ornamental key associated with the Freedom of the City ceremony is being replaced with a real one.

The City of 1,000 Trades will become the City of 15,000 Keys when the Key To The City project begins (on 28 May). The keys will open 22 locks in locations around Birmingham and Solihull. They will be presented at an exchange site under the departure board at Birmingham New Street Station.

For six weeks - until 10 July - in a free ceremony, anyone will be able to award the Key to the City to whoever they want, for whatever reason – from thanking them for

being a good friend or partner, to wearing great shoes. Then the recipient of the key has until 7 August to explore 'Birmingham's secrets'. These include access to a Harry Potter-like secret entrance at Platform One of New Street Station, the 18th floor terrace at 103 Colmore Row and hidden artwork behind a door at the Ikon Gallery. The key-recipients can also open Northfield Community Garden, observe prayers at Green Lane Masjid and unlock a door in the brick arch over the canal at 230-year-old Minworth Green Bridge at the city's edge.

The key comes with a passport revealing the full list of locations. Recipients could get a new perspective on a sporting venue, enjoy after-hours access to familiar public places such as Touchwood Shopping Centre, and make use of their key-given right to open display cases and rooms across the city.

Key To The City is being presented by the Birmingham 2022 Festival and Fierce, the Birmingham arts organisation providing the local knowledge for the project's creator, artist Paul Ramirez Jonas. Paul first held Key To The City in his home city of New York in 2010. Among the places to which the key provided access were a hidden door in the Brooklyn Museum and gates on the George Washington Bridge.

Birmingham will be the second host of Key To The City.

"Only Birmingham and New York are crazy or brave enough to tackle it!" laughs Paul. "The way I work is to think of an idea that's completely impossible and fantastical, then pare it down to something practical and within budget, but which still has the magic you need for a public project to capture people's imagination. One such first



impossible thought was, 'Why don't we make a key that will open the cage to the lions in the zoo?'

"Fierce have been fantastic to work with to bring the project to Birmingham. They've introduced me to wonderful spaces like the tunnel beneath New Street Station. There's something very Harry Potterish about that, the city extending under our feet via a secret door on Platform One.

"Some people will want to be competitive and tick off every location, but I think it's more than a game. Having a key might make you notice more about what's closed to us and why. Ultimately I hope people think, 'Why are we so afraid of each other?'"

Key To The City is sponsored by Yale, which has been making all the keys at its factory in Portobello, Willenhall and fitting the special locks. The key is a master one which opens padlocks, door locks and display cases.

There is no need to register in advance for the key exchange, which takes place from 11am to 7pm every day until 5 June, and then from Wednesdays to Sundays. Just turn up in pairs, or solo to be partnered up.

Fierce has been trying to bring Key To The City to Birmingham for 10 years, but such a large-scale project needed major funding. Now it's happening in Fierce's 25th anniversary year thanks to the £12million cultural festival around the Commonwealth

Games.

Artistic Director Aaron Wright says: "We've had more than 200 conversations in order to get 22 locations. The project captures people's imaginations. Many places were keen to be involved but encountered health & safety, insurance and security issues. One site we really wanted but which didn't work out was a secret tasting room at the Cadbury factory.

"It's often easier if places have 24/7 security, such as Touchwood Shopping Centre in Solihull. That's built on a public right of way, so they keep it open late for people to walk through. But the Key To The City will open it between midnight and 6am.

"We wanted sites which pose a question or have a unique perspective, and places you wouldn't normally see which are right under your nose. The key has an interesting psychological effect, giving the holder a sense of power.

"Most journeys in Birmingham happen around where you live or from your suburb to the centre. We're giving people the motivation to explore other parts of the city, and it's as much about the journeys as the destinations."

Louisa Davies, senior producer of Birmingham 2022 Festival, says: "We commissioned Key To The City because there's often a lot of activity in city centres

during festivals, but we want events to happen all over Birmingham and beyond. "We loved the idea of thousands of people going on adventures in their own city during the Birmingham 2022 Festival. It feels like it shouldn't be allowed, and there's something about that that's really exciting. I love the sense of ownership the key gives and the democratising of an honour."

The honour goes back to medieval days, when the gates of walled cities were guarded and locked at night. The literal key to the city meant the freedom to enter and leave at will. The Freedom of the City is one of Birmingham's oldest surviving ceremonies, given to a person or a military unit for their service. Regiments with the honour are allowed to march into the city 'with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed'. Civilian recipients have included Joseph Chamberlain, members of the Cadbury family and former CBSO conductor Sir Simon Rattle. But now, 15,000 ordinary people can have the Key To The City as well. Where will yours take you?

.....
For more information about the project, visit birmingham2022.com/festival





On Your Marks

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 June

This mouthwatering triple bill - inspired by the Commonwealth Games and presented as part of Birmingham International Dance Festival and Birmingham 2022 Festival - marks the first time Birmingham Royal Ballet has performed with dancers from Director Carlos Acosta's other company, the Cuba-based Acosta Danza.

"Acosta Danza have, for a long time, performed a really popular work called 12 by Jorge Crecis," explains Carlos. "Now Jorge has upgraded this work so it has 12 dancers from Acosta Danza and 12 dancers from BRB in a new version called 24. It's all about celebrating sports and mathematics and is a really fun crowd-pleaser."

The triple bill also features the world premiere of Interlinked, a commission from Brazilian choreographer Juliano Nunes, and Will Tuckett's Lazuli Sky - which the company premiered in October 2020 to reduced audiences because of Covid.

"Juliano is a brilliant choreographer and is working with the Australian composer Luke Howard on the new commission, which has the Commonwealth Games in mind," Carlos explains. "And this is also a chance for everyone who couldn't see Lazuli Sky before to come and experience it now. It's a great piece by Will, who is from Birmingham, and uses augmented reality in a really amazing way."

GODIVA
FESTIVAL | 2-4 SEPT 2022

THE LIBERTINES

TOM GRENNAN

BANANARAMA

Plus lots more acts over the weekend, family attractions and licensed bars.

Early bird tickets

Book now and save £££

www.godivafestival.com/buytickets

Brought to you by: Coventry City Council

In association with: Freeradio GHR GREATEST HITS RADIO



Michael Flatley’s Lord Of The Dance The Alexandra, Birmingham, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 June

Since catapulting traditional Irish music and folk dance into the limelight back in the mid-1990s (ably assisted in so doing by the similarly sensational Riverdance, of course), Michael Flatley’s choreographed adventure, Lord Of The Dance, has become an international phenomenon.

This Birmingham stop-off forms part of a nationwide tour to celebrate

25 years of the hit show. The last quarter-century has seen Lord Of The Dance visit over 1,000 venues in a total of 60 countries and entertain in excess of 60 million people. If you’ve not yet been among them, then this is the perfect opportunity to catch up with one of the world’s most successful dance extravaganzas.

Autin Dance Theatre: Out Of The Deep Blue

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 26 June

Birmingham-based Autin have been performing across the Midlands and further afield since 2013. “We draw on contemporary social issues and events to make work which is beautifully crafted, accessible and relevant,” says founder Johnny Autin. “The company has a reputation for creating powerful performances, catapulting audiences into intense dance-worlds which we hope will resonate with them long after they leave the auditorium.”

Out Of The Deep Blue finds the ensemble heading outdoors and combining dance, movement and puppeteering to explore the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.



Strictly Presents: Keeep Dancing!

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 26 June

The latest production from the Strictly Come Dancing stable of shows sees 2020 finalist and EastEnders star Maisie Smith joining forces with 2021 semi-finalist and CBBC presenter Rhys Stephenson.

The duo are accompanied by the show’s professional dancers, Neil Jones, Gorka Marquez, Jowita Przystal and Nancy Xu.

An extra-special treat for Strictly fans comes in the form of live music from The Wanted’s Max George, who competed in the 2020 series of the long-running BBC One show.

Mi Flamenco

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 12 June



“Our inspiration comes from how flamenco speaks to us, and we are constantly evolving to find ways of expressing that voice to our audiences; to intrigue and inspire.”

So say the long-established Mi Flamenco, a company widely admired for productions which seamlessly blend engaging imagery and soul-stirring music with evocative dance.

Their Shropshire visit sees them presenting brand-new touring show Echoes.

GET DANCING!



Credit: @ROWD_CTR photo by Ttu Makkonen

Birmingham International Dance Festival will turn the city into a dance floor this month, and Lucie Mirkova, Head of Artistic Programmes for the festival, is promising to get everyone up on their feet...

Produced by FABRIC (the new strategic organisation created by the recent merger of Birmingham's DanceXchange and Nottingham's Dance4) Birmingham International Dance Festival (BIDF) is presented this year in partnership with Birmingham 2022 Festival. Taking place across the city's public spaces and theatres BIDF is already the largest event of its kind in the UK. But this year's offering promises to be bigger and better than ever before, with an extensive programme showcasing not only talent from around the West Midlands but also artists from across the Commonwealth, to tie in with the city's hosting of the Commonwealth Games.

The jam-packed programme showcases some of the best in current choreography, online screendance and professional industry events, including nine world and 11 UK premieres. Much of BIDF is free and outdoors, with opportunities for everyone to join in the dancing across the city.

"The overarching theme for this year's festival, and for the festival going forward, is to see Birmingham as a dance floor," explains Lucie Mirkova, Head of Artistic Programmes at FABRIC.

"We have created an array of incredible opportunities in public spaces where people can come together, join in and experience the joy of dance."

Lucie's background gives her an appreciation of the benefits of inclusive dance as she founded a community dance company in her home city of Prague before going on to study choreography. She arrived in the UK in 2010 to take an MA in Arts Management & Policy, before beginning work on BIDF in 2013.

BIDF's participatory events aim to bring local people together to share their stories. Tappin' In is one such initiative. Taking place on 18 June, the free-to-attend mass-participation tap-dancing and storytelling 'extravaganza' will see Brindleyplace stage Birmingham's biggest tap lesson, with people from across

the West Midlands being invited to take part in a performance of the classic tap dance routine, Shim Sham.

Also bringing together people from across the region are inclusive dance collective Critical Mass. Uniting young people with and without disabilities from all over the West Midlands, the ensemble made their debut performance as part of Wondrous Stories - the event which kicked off Birmingham 2022 Festival - and will be participating in the opening ceremony of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Critical Mass 2022 is a £1 million project funded by the Spirit of 2012 charity, to encourage the legacy of London 2012. The world premiere of Critical Mass' show, SENSE, will open BIDF in Centenary Square. It will be followed by a deaf rave from London-based Deaf DJ, performer, festival curator and events organiser Troi Lee.

Through these community and participation events BIDF will be showcasing more than 450 individuals on a global stage. A world first in inclusive community activity.

BIDF's outdoor programme also includes a return to Handsworth Park to present an amazing weekend of dance. "Our first visit last year was a huge success, bringing the festival right into the heart of the community" says Lucie, 'so this year the programme is even more ambitious with live music, workshops, performances and the world premiere of two new Hip Hop dance performances by Midlands artists, commissioned in partnership with Punch Records and Gallery 37."

The festival also features a fascinating theatre programme featuring artists from across the Commonwealth, designed to celebrate Games coming to Birmingham this summer, BIDF is encouraging collaborations between local and Commonwealth artists.

"This festival is about the intersection between the global and the local," explains Lucie. "Our aim is to reflect Birmingham and the people who live here, as well as put a

spotlight on things that are happening around the globe.

"We're doing that through our programme, by looking at the journeys and identities of our artists and how they approach their art, but also through the local and global working together. We have international artists working with local audiences as well as local artists working alongside international performers. That mix is at the core of what we're doing at the festival."

This spotlight perhaps shines brightest during the second weekend of BIDF, which is themed Dance Around The World. The jam-packed programme, bringing together UK and global dance, includes an experimental dance-battle contest called KRE8!, a daring circus performance inside a huge 7m high rotating hourglass, and thrilling UK premieres from Belgium, Spain, France and Canada.

Lucie explains that supporting Midlands-based artists to grow is a core goal of BIDF, and the festival's primary motivation is to open up new ways for local communities to experience dance. And from ceilidhs and swing dance to silent discos and urban fusion, there's something for everyone at this year's event.

"The overall ambition for us is for everyone to see dance and dancing as part of their life. Birmingham International Dance Festival creates the opportunity for people to try things for free and without any commitment, and then maybe they'll enjoy something new that will become part of their lives.

"I hope that people will feel joy and feel empowered by the sense of togetherness and community."

.....
Check out our selection of Birmingham International Dance Festival highlights on page 33. For further information on all events, visit: bidf.co.uk



DEVA Photo by Parag Dhanani



Tappin' In Photo by Doug Peters PA Wire



Folk Dance Remix Photo by Alan Hong

**BIRMINGHAM
INTERNATIONAL
DANCE FESTIVAL**

17 JUNE – 3 JULY 2022
A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF DANCE



BIDF.CO.UK
@BHAMDANCEFEST



**AMAZING UK AND
INTERNATIONAL
DANCE,
PLUS LIVE MUSIC,
CLASSES, WORKSHOPS
& FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

**ON STAGE
AT BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME &
MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE**

**FREE OUTDOOR
PROGRAMME
IN CENTENARY,
CHAMBERLAIN &
VICTORIA SQUARES,
BRINDLEY PLACE
& HANDSWORTH PARK**

PRODUCED BY

FUNDERS

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

FABRIC DANCE4 AND
DANCEXCHANGE
TOGETHER

FABRIC Charitable Incorporated Organisation (charity registration number 1106268)



supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**Birmingham
City Council**



supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Made possible with
 **Heritage
Fund**

DISCOVER BIRMINGHAM AS A DANCING CITY

Birmingham International Dance Festival makes a welcome return this month (17 June - 3 July). The largest festival of its kind in the UK, the event offers an amazing programme of spectacular dance for people to enjoy. As well as performances in Birmingham's theatres, the 2022 edition of the festival is taking over the city's public spaces, presenting three FREE-to-attend family-friendly outdoor weekends and providing lots of opportunities to take part. Check out our selection of highlights below...

BIRMINGHAM IS A DANCEFLOOR

Fri 17 - Sun 19 June

The festival opens with dance in Centenary, Chamberlain and Victoria Squares - as well as Brindleyplace - as a programme of FREE family-friendly performances and workshops transforms the city centre into a stage.

Be inspired and join in!

Attractions include a Midlands talent takeover, a mass tap shim sham, a rave for tots, an interactive queer silent disco, and folk dance reimagined. There's even yoga!



DANCE AROUND THE WORLD

Thurs 23 - Sun 26 June

The festival's second weekend offers a high-energy line-up of the best of international and UK outdoor dance, presented across the city centre. Attractions include a daring circus performance inside a huge 7m-high rotating hourglass, Contemporary and Hip Hop dance, with four UK premieres from Belgium, Spain, France and Canada.

BIDF FOR HANDSWORTH PARK

Sat 2 & Sun 3 July

A weekend of stop-in-your-tracks dance activities for all the family to enjoy. Highlights include performances by international dance companies, brand-new hip-hop commissions, live music and a local Midlands Talent Takeover of the stage.



MIRAGE BY CIE DYPTIK

Victoria Square, Fri 17 - Sun 19 June

Fences, barbed wire, rusty metal sheets and hanging flags provide the backdrop to an athletic performance featuring traditional dances inspired by the experience of the inhabitants of a camp on the West Bank.



TIMELESS BY JOLI VYANN

Victoria Square, Fri 24 - Sat 25 June

Daredevil performers combine dance, circus and theatre on a 7m-high rotating hourglass to tell the poignant story of civilisation's fragile relationship with climate change. Are we running out of time?



HIPPOS BY ZUM ZUM TEATRE

Centenary Square, Sat 25 & Sun 26 June;
Handsworth Park, 3 July

Charming and joyful - are they humans disguised as hippos or are they hippos searching for their identity? A wonderful show for all the family.



GHOST BY TENTACLE TRIBE

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome,
Fri 24 June

Elements of martial arts, contemporary and street dance are combined in a physical score that echoes the subtle pulse of respiration. From technical feats to dreamlike sequences, Ghost is a welcome breath of air.



BLOOD, WATER, EARTH BY KAHA:WI DANCE THEATRE

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome,
Tues 28 & Wed 29 June

Weaving performance video and music to affirm First Nation womxn's kinship relationship to all living entities.



BYGONES BY OUT INNERSPACE DANCE THEATRE

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 30 June

Ghostly architecture, puppeteering and illusions to tease our sense of reality. Bygones celebrates how we are shaped by what we overcome, and how something challenging can lead to something beautiful.



For all Birmingham International Dance Festival events, visit: bidf.co.uk



SOUNDS OF THE CITY

Birmingham Music Archive's Jez Collins goes 'On Record' to discuss two music-focused elements of Birmingham 2022 Festival - a series of live interviews and a unique album that celebrates the city's diverse musical past and present...

The Birmingham 2022 Festival, a six-month celebration of local culture and creativity, is now well under way, with a wide variety of projects and events timed to coincide with the city's hosting of the Commonwealth Games.

The festival has huge ambitions, not only to unite people from around the Commonwealth in tandem with the 11-day sporting spectacle, but also to entertain and engage with more than 2.5 million people in person and online, as well as embrace local culture and provide a creative legacy for Birmingham and the wider West Midlands.

It's a ridiculously tall order, but with more than 200 projects across the region - embracing art, dance, theatre and more - there should be something for almost everyone, and with virtually all events being free to attend, no excuse not to join in.

One of the festival's musical components is a series of live podcast recordings featuring conversations with local musicians and other people connected with the music industry. Another component is a multi-artist, multi-genre concept album of songs built around the theme of Birmingham.

Both are helmed by Jez Collins, founder-director of Birmingham Music Archive, an online resource that documents and celebrates all aspects of music activity in the city.

The two projects are designed to reflect Birmingham's diverse communities, as well as the range of music the city has produced.

The live interviews, conducted by broadcaster Satnam Rana and radio journalist Adrian Goldberg, are also aimed at inspiring the next generation by showing the range of opportunities the music industry can provide.

"The idea was to have people in the room so we could document everything from bhangra music to sound systems to punk, through to managers and people who have really contributed to our music culture," explains Jez. "We wanted to make sure we capture the past but also celebrate the contemporary nature of music making in the city, because it's a great city and so much amazing music comes from here, and is coming from here."

Despite running the archive, Jez says he doesn't believe in nostalgia. He reels off the city's musical icons without taking breath - Andy Hamilton, The Move, Spencer Davis Group, ELO, Black Sabbath, Judas Priest, Steel Pulse, UB40 and Duran Duran were just some of the acts namechecked in our conversation - but Jez has as much, if not

more, enthusiasm for contemporary artists such as James Indigo, Bambi Bains and Elle Chantelle.

"We don't amplify these people and what they're doing enough, so we wanted to make sure it wasn't just about looking back at the good old days. It's good to look back, but what I'm interested in is how do we learn from the past and how does it influence our future."

Chantelle is one of 22 people featured in the podcasts, on a list that includes promoters, managers, venue owners and entrepreneurs as well as musicians, all at different stages in their careers. Recorded at Symphony Hall, the events are free to attend (though tickets must be booked in advance) and Jez has been surprised at how open the guests have been.

"All the conversations have been really revealing - I've been taken aback a bit, so I think we've got the pitch right. Personal experiences are what it's all about, as the connections and background all feed into it. And their background is Birmingham - they're all from here or live here.

"We go right back to their school days, how they first got interested in music, what their parents were like, what they listened to as a teenager... all those issues. So you get a real richness of where that person has come from, where their influences and inspirations came from and their journey, I guess. That tells the story of the individual, of the community, of the city and our music. Because music doesn't just exist in a vacuum - people don't just wake up and make it, it's a product of their environment.

"It's all about connecting it all and saying there are people who look like you, talk like you, went to school where you did, worked where your parents worked, who have gone on to have a career in music. You don't have to be a multi-million-selling artist - there are many different ways to work in music, whether that's as a manager, working at a venue or being in a band, and we're just trying to connect that. This is a city of music, and here are some of the people who have had amazing careers in that industry."

Jez's enthusiasm for the project, for Birmingham and for the city's music scene is simultaneously boundless and infectious - and there's clearly a chip on his shoulder about the way in which the city is often ignored in national conversations about music.

"People say Manchester's a great music city, or Liverpool's a great music city, or London, but for me this city is the best... it creates

music of all different kinds," he says, claiming that the variety is a strength, and more important than having an identifiable (and often mono-cultural) sound: "There's never a sound of this city - there are *multiple* sounds in the city."

The latter is perfectly encapsulated by On Record, a unique all-star concept album that features 11 original songs written and recorded by artists from a diverse range of genres - from Afrobeat, Asian electronica and trip-hop to folk, garage rock, jazz and reggae.

"We'll probably get a little bit of stick because there's no metal on there!"

The task of reflecting music from across the city, as well as making a coherent album, was a challenging one.

"The hardest part of putting the album together was who to leave out, but all the artists represent Birmingham's incredibly rich and brilliant music past, present and future, as well as the many and varied cultures and communities of the Commonwealth and beyond who call the city home."

All the artists were tasked with providing a musical response to the word 'Birmingham', and Jez says they all responded brilliantly.

"What we've had back is what we're calling a sonic love letter to Birmingham, because the songs and the lyrics have really highlighted how important Birmingham has been to these artists. You might not like all the music, but I think the album gives an insight into the city and its incredibly diverse communities, and I think that's what's really pleasing about it.

"We really believe in it, and the festival organisers really believe in it too. I think it's the only dedicated music project for the festival, so they want to get the music played in stadiums when spectators are there, during ceremonies, medal presentations and so on.

"When people hear it, (a) I think they'll like the music, and (b) they'll also have this small window into who we are, and I'm hoping that will start to shine a spotlight on our contemporary music making, which is incredible."

.....

On Record is released on 17 June in physical and digital formats. For more information, visit birmingham2022.com/festival and birminghammusicarchive.com

Film highlights in June...

Lightyear CERT PG (100 mins)

With the voices of **Chris Evans, Keke Palmer, Dale Soules, Taika Waititi, Peter Sohn, Uzo Aduba**
Directed by **Angus MacLane**

This is the definitive origin story of Buzz Lightyear - the hero who inspired the Toy Story toy - and sees Chris Evans lending his voice to the legendary Space Ranger.

"The phrase 'a dream come true' gets thrown around a lot, but I've never meant it more in my life," says Chris. "Anyone who knows me knows that my love for animated films runs deep. I can't believe that I get to be a part of the Pixar family and work with these truly brilliant artists who tell stories unlike anyone else. Watching them work is nothing short of magic. I pinch myself every day."

Released Fri 17 June



Dashcam CERT 15 (82 mins)

Starring **Annie Hardy, Amar Chadha-Patel, Angela Enahoro, Seylan Baxter, James Swanton, Caroline Ward**
Directed by **Rob Savage**

This found-footage, shot-on-an-iPhone horror flick finds LA musician Annie escaping her pandemic lifestyle by visiting old band mate Stretch in the UK. Following a bust-up between the pair, Annie steals the car Stretch uses for a food delivery service, and when an order comes in, she decides on a whim to take the job. But this is no ordinary delivery: a frail, elderly woman named Angela - who's apparently being followed by someone looking to do her harm - needs to be delivered to a safe address out of town.

It isn't long before Annie starts to realise she may well have bitten off more than she can chew...

First shown in the UK at the London Film Festival, Dashcam has been called 'the most polarising horror in years'. Its director, Rob Savage, previously scored a hit with the chiller Host.

Released Fri 3 June



Elizabeth: A Portrait In Parts CERT tbc (89 mins)

Directed by **Roger Michell**



Notting Hill director Roger Michell, who died last autumn, is the man behind this watch-it-from-the-comfort-of-your-own-home celebration of Her Majesty The Queen, released to coincide with her platinum jubilee weekend.

Although the film should have no trouble finding an audience, it's a tall order for its director to offer something fresh and imaginative when walking the well-trodden path of Elizabeth II documentaries. To his great credit, Michell meets the challenge head-on. The film manages to be not only an absorbing chronicle of the life of the world's longest-serving monarch, but also a nostalgic homage to the times through which she has lived - and in particular to the lost and deferent Britain of her early years on the throne, a place bearing little resemblance to the country over which she now reigns as a 96-year-old.

Released on Prime Video on Fri 3 June

Jurassic World: Dominion

CERT tbc (146 mins)

Starring **Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Dichen Lachman, Sam Neill, Daniella Pineda, Jeff Goldblum** Directed by **Colin Trevorrow**

Dominion takes place four years after Isla Nublar has been destroyed. Dinosaurs now live - and hunt - alongside humans all over the world. It's a fragile balance, one which will reshape the future and determine, once and for all, whether human-beings are to remain the apex predators on a planet they now share with history's most fearsome creatures...

The latest offering from the \$5billion Jurassic Park franchise, Dominion is certain to do some 'monster' summertime business at the box office, with its producers promising a movie replete with never-before-seen dinosaurs, breakneck action and astonishing new visual effects.

Released Fri 10 June





Elvis CERT tbc (159 mins)

Starring **Austin Butler, Tom Hanks, Olivia DeJonge, Dacre Montgomery, Kodi Smit-McPhee, David Wenham**
Directed by **Baz Luhrmann**

Written & directed by Oscar-nominated visionary Baz Luhrmann and boasting a rave review from Priscilla Presley, this epic, big-screen spectacle explores the life and music of the boy from Tupelo who went on to become the brightest star in the world.

Elvis' story is seen through the prism of his complicated 20-year relationship with his enigmatic manager, Colonel Tom Parker (played here by no less a luminary than Tom Hanks).

As told by Parker, the film follows Presley's story from initial fame to unprecedented stardom, the narrative playing out against the backdrop of America's evolving cultural landscape and loss of innocence.

Austin Butler stars as the king of rock & roll, giving a performance that's received a massive thumbs-up not only from Priscilla but also Jerry Schilling, a member of Elvis' legendary Memphis Mafia.

Released Fri 24 June

Good Luck To You, Leo Grande CERT tbc (97 mins)

Starring **Emma Thompson, Daryl McCormack, Isabella Laughland** Directed by **Sophie Hyde**



Widow and retired RE teacher Nancy Stokes is on the lookout for something her marriage didn't provide: good sex.

She hopes to find the gratification she seeks in the arms of Leo Grande, a young sex worker with whom she aims to get discreetly 'down and dirty' in an anonymous hotel room in Norwich. But Leo's bringing more to the party than good looks and sexual know-how - as Nancy soon finds out...

Good Luck To You, Leo Grande made a big splash at this year's Sundance Festival and finds Thompson and Peaky Blinders star McCormack in fine and amusing form.

Released Fri 17 June

Spiderhead CERT tbc (106 mins)

Starring **Chris Hemsworth, Miles Teller, Jurnee Smollett, Nathan Jones, Tess Haubrich, Charles Parnell** Directed by **Joseph Kosinski**

This genre-bending and darkly funny psychological thriller sees brilliant visionary Steve Abnesti (Thor star Chris Hemsworth) running a state-of-the-art penitentiary in which inmates wear a surgically attached device that administers dosages of mind-altering drugs in exchange for commuted sentences.

There are no bars, no cells, no orange jumpsuits in Spiderhead - incarcerated volunteers are free to be themselves. But when two subjects - Jeff and Lizzy - form a connection, their path to redemption takes an unexpected turn, as Abnesti's experiments start pushing at the boundaries of free will...

Released on Netflix on Fri 17 June



The Black Phone

CERT tbc (102 mins)

Starring **Ethan Hawke, Jeremy Davies, James Ransone, Madeleine McGraw, Kellan Rhude, Mason Thames** Directed by **Scott Derrickson**



Abducted by a sadistic killer and trapped in a soundproof basement, 13-year-old Finney Shaw is in a lot of trouble. But then a disconnected phone on the wall begins to ring, and Finney discovers that he can hear the voices of the killer's previous victims. What's more, they're all determined to ensure that what happened to them doesn't happen to Finney...

Adapted from a short story, The Black Phone was director Scott Derrickson's go-to project when creative differences saw him walking away from Marvel Studios' recently released second Doctor Strange movie.

Released Fri 24 June

Nozstock the Hidden Valley

PARALLEL WORLDS

21-24
JULY 2022

ORCHARD STAGE

SISTER SLEDGE • ANDY C FT. TOWN PIPER • BILL BAILEY
GENTLEMAN'S DUB CLUB • SUBMOTION ORCHESTRA
THE CRAIG CHARLES FUNK & SOUL CLUB

GARDEN STAGE

CALYX & TEEBEE W/ LX ONE
FLAVA D • DIRTY DIKE W/ DJ SAMMY B-SIDE
HUEY MORGAN DJ SET

CUBICLES

SECRET SET
BREAK • KANINE
RANDALL • LEVELA

SEVEN OTHER STAGES

UTAH SAINTS • SONNY WHARTON • DARK ARTS CLUB
PLUS 100S MORE ACTS, KIDS AREA AND THEATRICALS APLENTY
GO TO WWW.NOZSTOCK.COM FOR FULL LINEUP

Birmingham 2022 Festival Presents

BLOOD & FIRE

Our Journey Through Vanley Burke's History

Exhibition curated by Birmingham Museums Trust,
Vanley Burke, Candice Nembhard and Paul Goodwin

25 May – 30 October
Soho House Museum

Free Entry

Donations Welcome



SOHO HOUSE



Supported by public funds from
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Generously supported by Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund
birminghammuseums.org.uk



Birmingham
Museums



A cool place to stay...

The Rotunda. A building that needs no introduction. A Brummie favourite. A candle in the sky. A beacon for the city.

Built in 1965 as an office block, the 82-metre cylindrical tower has had an eventful history, including an IRA bombing in 1974 and the threat of demolition in 1993. Thankfully, it was saved by English Heritage and given a Grade II listed building status in 2000.

It sat empty for a few years until multi-award-winning developers Urban Splash and Birmingham-based Glenn Howells Architects were brought in to give it the look that it still sports today.

Boasting floor-to-ceiling windows and wrap-around balconies on the top floor, it took around two-and-a-half years to lovingly restore the building.

As well as 199 residential apartments (there was a three-hour frenzy in 2005 which saw people sleeping out overnight in a bid to snap up a piece of the famous landmark!), the Rotunda boasts 35 Staying Cool apartments across its top five floors. These are made up of studios, one and two-bedroom apartments, duplexes and penthouses. Costing between £99 to £750 per night, these can be booked all year round.

Located right between Birmingham's two main train stations, the Rotunda is just three minutes on foot from Birmingham New Street and Moor Street. It has Zara in its basement and Selfridges as its corner shop. Better still, it's a short walk away from some of Birmingham's best restaurants, pubs, bars and attractions: Brindleyplace, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, China

Town, Digbeth, The Roundhouse, Adam's, Library of Birmingham, Purecraft, The Mailbox - the list goes on. In fact, its location could not be any more convenient for people wanting to pay the UK's second city a visit.

Sounds good, right? Well, this is just the start...

I was lucky enough to spend the night in one of Staying Cool's beautiful apartments back in April, and I couldn't recommend it more. It was perfect in every way.

We were greeted by Gavin, Staying Cool's friendly and welcoming manager. In speaking with him when booking, I'd mentioned that I was visiting Birmingham to watch Steve Coogan's new Alan Partridge touring show, Stratagem. The welcome card I received featured some classic Partridge one-liners, and there was a bottle of bubbly chilling in the fridge. Personal touches like this make all the difference. All hotel staff should take a leaf out of Gavin's book.

My partner and I, along with two friends, were booked into one of the four-person penthouse suites on the 20th (top) floor. There was a real 'wow factor' from the moment we opened the door - from the stylish decor and the impressive cleanliness, to the personal touches previously mentioned and the balcony. Oh, the balcony! On a clear day, you can see for miles. Fortunately, when we visited, the weather was on our side and we enjoyed breathtaking views both day and night.

The furnishings are all design-led and

colourful statement pieces, while wall art features locally shot '60s-themed photography to reflect Rotunda's birth decade. Every minor detail has been thought through here.

After many a laugh in the company of Mr Partridge at Utilita Arena Birmingham, we headed back. Our original plan was to go to a few bars, but it felt wrong not to make the most of the penthouse. After all, it's not every day opportunities like this arise.

A few drinks and a natter later and we were all out like lights, not least thanks to our seriously comfortable beds!

Not only are the apartments and penthouses perfect for groups of friends and romantic getaways, they're fantastic for families too. They feature home-from-home kitchen facilities - including popcorn makers and juicers, new bean-to-cup coffee machines and roasts from local coffee indie Quarter Horse - board games, televisions showing all Freeview channels and more.

We didn't want to leave. We woke up to a beautiful day. We'd all enjoyed a glorious sleep and the sun was shining. We sat on the balcony basking, enjoying the sounds of a guy playing steel drums on the street below. Check-out is midday. We stayed until 11.55am. I could happily have stayed another night. Or five.

For more information, or to book your stay at Staying Cool at the Rotunda, [click here](#). What's On readers get 10% off stays using the code WON10



Image credit: Jaskirt Boora

PEOPLE, PLACE AND SPORT

JASKIRT BOORA & MULTISTORY

A PHOTOGRAPHIC CELEBRATION OF LOCAL
COMMUNITIES AND SPORT IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

4 JULY - 31 AUGUST

SANDWELL VALLEY COUNTRY PARK



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Made possible with
**Heritage
Fund**

The Sky In A Room

Bring together a prestigious Birmingham art gallery, a talented Icelandic artist, a well-known Italian song and a quintessentially English church, and what do you get? A five-star performance in the heart of the Warwickshire countryside, that's what. Or, to put it another way, **The Sky In A Room...**

"Il Cielo in una Stanza is the best song I know about the transformation of space," says Icelandic artist Ragnar Kjartansson.

He is talking about the famous composition written by Italian singer-songwriter Gino Paoli and released in 1960. The song sits at the heart of Ragnar's 2018 creation, *The Sky In A Room*.

"Gino got the idea [for *Il Cielo in una Stanza*] when lying in bed in a brothel with a woman he had fallen in love with," explains Ragnar. "Thinking of that lovely moment and how feelings transform space, how the walls of the room changed into endless woods, he got that melody into his head."

Ragnar's *The Sky In A Room* earned plenty of plaudits and five-star reviews when it was first presented four years ago. The project involves professional singers taking turns to perform an ethereal arrangement of *Il Cielo in una Stanza*. Simultaneously playing a

church organ, the singers repeat the song uninterrupted for five hours a day for nine days, like a neverending lullaby.

The Sky In A Room is being presented by Birmingham's Ikon gallery as a major off-site project. It takes place deep in the Warwickshire countryside in Tanworth-in-Arden, in the village's Grade I listed, 14th century St Mary Magdalene Church.

Quintessentially English and recently renovated, the church is perhaps best known for being the location of the interred ashes of singer-songwriter Nick Drake. A Tanworth resident, Drake died in 1974 at the age of 26 from a drug overdose.

The repetitive-performance aspect of *The Sky In A Room* is also evident in other works by Ragnar. The 46-year-old's artistic practice engages multiple mediums, creating video installations, performances, drawings and paintings that make use of myriad historical and cultural references.

An underlying pathos and irony connect his works, with each deeply influenced by the comedy and tragedy of classical theatre. The artist blurs the distinctions between mediums, likening his films to paintings, his performances to sculpture. Throughout, Ragnar conveys an interest in beauty and its banality, and uses durational, repetitive performance as a form of exploration.

For the Reykjavik-based artist, hearing *Il Cielo in una Stanza* performed time and time again is an absolute pleasure. "It is a song all Italians know," he says. "It is almost the Italian national anthem of love. Space and love. An ode to the transformation of space. *The Sky In A Room*."

***The Sky In A Room* takes place at St Mary Magdalene Church in Tanworth-in-Arden, from 25 June to 3 July. The work will be performed daily from 2pm to 7pm.**



In The Que: Celebrating The Que Club

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,
until Sun 30 October

Birmingham Music Archive has developed and curated this fascinating exhibition, a sensory homage to a legendary venue which was located in one of the city's most beautiful buildings - the Grade II listed Methodist Central Hall.

Providing a significant space in which the city's rave and dance culture could evolve and thrive, the Que Club also hosted concerts by big-name performers including David Bowie and Blur. Club nights at the venue included Atomic Jam, Flashback and House of God, while BBC Radio One used the space for its Essential Mix nights, during which DJs Carl Cox, Paul Oakenfield and Sven Vath entertained on-site partygoers and millions of listeners alike.

Celebrating the promoters, musicians, performers and ravers who came together in the venue, In The Que features a wide range of memorabilia, including personal artefacts, photographs, flyers and posters, as well as a brand-new 35 minute movie.



Photograph (detail) by Terence Donovan © Terence Donovan Archive.



BIRMINGHAM2022.COM/FESTIVAL
#B2022FESTIVAL



Alyssia Rajania 3 months, Indy Buray Rajania 40, Surinder Buray 66, Sarjit Kaur 90, 2021. By Julian Germain

GENERATIONS BY JULIAN GERMAIN

GRAIN PROJECTS AND MULTISTORY

PORTRAITS WHICH CELEBRATE THE FAMILIES OF BIRMINGHAM & THE BLACK COUNTRY

23 MAY - ONGOING

OUTDOOR LOCATIONS ACROSS BIRMINGHAM AND SANDWELL



THE
BARBER
INSTITUTE OF
FINE ARTS

DÜRER

THE MAKING OF A
RENAISSANCE MASTER

17 JUNE — 25 SEPTEMBER

In association with



ADMISSION FREE

www.barber.org.uk

Visit by train:
University station



Yayoi Kusama in her Shinjuku studio, Tokyo, 2016 (c) Alex Majoli, Magnum Photos



Magnum Photos: Where Ideas Are Born

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Thurs 2 June - Sun 16 October

This thoroughly engaging exhibition comprises more than 80 photo portraits of famous and influential 20th-century artists, created by 20 critically acclaimed photographers from the world-renowned Magnum agency.

Images of Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Frida Kahlo, Francis Bacon, Ai Weiwei and Yayoi Kusama all feature in the show. The photos were taken in the artists' studios by photographers whose aim was

to capture the precise moment at which the subject's creativity took hold and new ideas were born...

Magnum photo agency was founded in 1947 with the aim of protecting photographic authorship and documenting the realities of post-war life. Collectively owned and run by its member photographers, the agency has permanent offices in London, New York, Paris and Tokyo.

Abdulrazaq Awofeso: Out Of Frame

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Fri 10 June - Mon 29 August

Abdulrazaq Awofeso's solo exhibition forms part of Arrivals, an Ikon programme concerned with the international movement of people and ideas, which is being presented to coincide with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Featuring all-new work, the exhibition includes a multitude of small, figurative sculptures that embody the modern city, where people from all walks of life come together. The figures have been individually crafted and painted by the artist and are made from wooden forklift pallets. Utilised to transport goods around the world, the pallets here work as a metaphor for human migration.



Last chance to see - three exhibitions we recommend checking out before they finish...

Be Yourself: Everyone Else Is Already Taken

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Sun 26 June

Dubbed 'England's most eccentric dresser' by Vogue, Daniel Lismore is a walking, talking sculpture. From haute couture to thrifted finds and vintage fabrics, body adornment using fashion and all kinds of curiosities are at the heart of his art.



Coventry-born Daniel has brought his work home with Be Yourself; Everyone Else Is Already Taken, an exhibition that includes a major installation of 50 3D sculptures inspired by the Terracotta Army. Joining his artworks are archives and other personal items which fully explore his journey from budding child artist to living as his true self today.

Sharon Walters: Seeing Ourselves

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, until Sun 26 June

Sharon Walters' first solo exhibition features intricate paper cut pieces which 'unapologetically celebrate and uplift' Black women beyond the monolith. "Through my carefully constructed hand-assembled images, curated programmes and collaborations, I simultaneously reference under-representation whilst using art as a form of self-care," Sharon recently explained to Grazia Magazine. "The process of creating acts is an extension of my optimistic outlook on life. At its heart, Seeing Ourselves is an insight into my own experiences as a woman from the African diaspora, and I make the conscious decision to re-frame them in a celebratory and uplifting light."



Hokusai's Great Wave: Reflections of Japan

Worcester City Art Gallery, until Sat 2 July

A significant exhibition exploring the extraordinary influence of Japanese art and culture, Hokusai's Great Wave: Reflections of Japan features newly researched Japanese ukiyo-e prints and Samurai armour from the Worcester City and Worcestershire County collections.



The show also includes 19th-century Japanese illustrated books and ceramics from the Museum of Royal Worcester, Hokusai's Great Wave from Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and contemporary woodcuts from Tate.

Creating a splash!

Jonathan Church's critically acclaimed musical returns to the Midlands...



Into every life a little rain must fall - and for Midlands-based musical theatre fans, there's a positive deluge heading their way this very month, courtesy of the currently touring stage version of hit Hollywood movie *Singin' In The Rain*...

The Chichester Festival Theatre & Stage Entertainment production of *Singin' In The Rain* - directed by Jonathan Church - is out on a UK & Ireland tour to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the famous MGM movie.

For those not in the know, its storyline revolves around the character of Don Lockwood, a huge star in 1920s Hollywood, who is suddenly tasked with the challenge of helping turn silent movie *The Duelling Cavalier* into a talkie. Trouble is, his co-star, Lina Lamont, has a terrible speaking voice, and she and Don have been playing the happy couple to appease the publicity department, which complicates his burgeoning romance with chorus girl Kathy Selden.

The film version of *Singin' In The Rain*, starring Gene Kelly, was surprisingly not the huge hit its now-iconic status suggests. Most critics loved it, but it was only up for a couple of Oscars, and the one major award it bagged was a Golden Globe for Donald O'Connor. Time has been kind to the movie, though, with many film historians citing it as the greatest screen musical ever. It is currently ranked fifth on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 best films.

Sticking faithfully to the original story but including a few additional songs, the stage musical premiered at the London Palladium in 1983. Directed by and starring Tommy Steele, it ran for nearly two years. It opened on Broadway in 1985 and returned to the West End in 1989 with Broadway star Don Correia.

In the 1990s, Paul Nicholas took it on tour around the UK, and there were revivals in 2000 at the National Theatre and 2004 at Sadler's Wells, the latter of which featured Adam Cooper in the lead as well as on duty as choreographer. Adam went on to play Don again at Chichester Festival Theatre in 2011 and in the West End in 2012, returning to the show at Sadler's Wells last year ahead of this year's tour.

Adam is making guest appearances on a few of the tour dates, as is Faye Tozer of *Steps* fame as Lina Lamont and Kevin Clifton as Don's comedy sidekick, Cosmo Brown. However, the bulk of the tour sees the role of Don played by Sam Lips, with Charlotte Gooch as Kathy, Ross McLaren as Cosmo and Jenny Gayner as Lina.

Charlotte is back as Kathy having played the aspiring starlet in London and Japan. She considers *Singin' In The Rain* to be the perfect tonic for troubled times. "It's nice to have some old-school musical escapism. It gives everyone a nice, joyous feeling for a couple of hours and an escape from the darkness that is the outside world right now. It's romance, it's comedy, and there's a happy ending. It's all-singing, all-dancing, all-acting, and Kathy is such a joyful character. Everything about her is cheeky, loveable and wholesome, and I love bringing all that to life."

Asked to name a favourite number in the show, she cites *Good Morning*. "We have so much fun," she says of goofing around with Sam and Ross. "We're meant to be playing and bantering with each other, and we genuinely are. I also love the encore, in which we all get to splash around in the water. I still have moments where I'm thinking, 'It's raining! Inside a theatre!' Who normally gets to do that for a living?!"

Ross McLaren was in the ensemble in a Paris production of the show and played Cosmo in Japan. He humbly classes himself as a 'jack of all trades and master of none': "You have to be able to sing, dance, act and really rise to the occasion. Cosmo is a comic character with so many brilliant lines, and he does full-out dances and full-out harmonies. I have to bring my A game."

Ross's previous musical theatre credits include *Sleepless*, *Big The Musical* and *White Christmas*, but having been in *Doctors* on TV for the past year and a half, he adds: "It was a bit of a shock to the system to get back into dance. I've danced since I was four, but I was out of practice."

So how does he feel about taking on a role that Donald O'Connor played to comedy perfection in the film? "Gene Kelly said that O'Connor was the best comic actor he'd ever worked with, and that's a tough act to follow. I'm rewatching the film and learning from him - and it was great to see Kevin Clifton's take on the role too. You have to put a lot of yourself into it, so I'm bringing my own take to it as well."

As Lina Lamont, Jenny Garner shared the part with Faye Tozer at Sadler's Wells and played it full-time in Japan. A stage veteran who's been in everything from *Annie* and *Spamalot* to *Chicago* and *Legally Blonde*, she was drawn to the squeaky-voiced character of Lina because: "I'm a sucker for comedy. I absolutely love making people laugh, so it's a gift of a role. Lina's not as stupid as she appears at the beginning, and you want her naivety to come across because you don't want the audience to hate her."

Deliberately singing out of tune isn't as hard as it seems or indeed sounds. "People have said to me you need to be able to sing well to sing out of tune, and I'm grabbing onto that! It's a lot of fun, but you don't want to go too far with it, otherwise it can make it unbelievable. Playing the truth with Lina is important."

Japanese etiquette meant that audiences over there were instructed not to laugh, talk or cheer during a performance. "But they'd applaud at the end of a number and not stop," Jenny says. "That's how they expressed their enjoyment. Now I'm looking forward to being on tour over here, getting a more vocal reaction, making everyone laugh and giving them a really good time. Laughter really is the best medicine, isn't it?"



Singin' In The Rain shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Mon 6 - Sat 11 June

Take your pick! - here are a few of our favourite attractions across the West Midlands



Bear Grylls Adventure

Exhibition Way, Marston Green, B40 1PA beargryllsadventure.com

Celebrity adventurer Bear Grylls has certainly pulled out all the stops with this popular visitor attraction. Activities include high ropes, indoor archery, indoor climbing, escape rooms and a Royal Marines-inspired assault course. The 'more courageous' can challenge themselves to the Fear Zone, or maybe venture to the depths of the deep blue sea with Shark Dive, in the process getting 'up close and personal' with black tip reef sharks and cownose rays.

Fancy experiencing the thrill of free-falling at 12,000ft without having to jump out of a plane? Then iFly is for you. The weightless adventure takes place in a wind tunnel and comprises two one-minute flights to get the adrenaline pumping.

Visitors can also unleash their inner lumberjack with the attraction's latest activity - axe-throwing.

PRICES: Activities start from £20pp with online advance tickets

Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

Utilita Arena Birmingham, King Edwards Road, B1 2AA
legolanddiscoverycentre.com/birmingham

Legoland Discovery Centre is a great place to share creative play time with your little ones. The venue houses a city builder area, a duplo farm, two rides - Kingdom's Quest and Merlin's Apprentice Ride - and a 4D cinema. Perhaps the most impressive attraction at the centre, though, is Lego Miniland. Built from more than 1.5 million Lego bricks, Miniland is a replica of Birmingham. The model includes Lego constructions of Bullring, the BT Tower, The Mailbox and the Library of Birmingham.

PRICES: £18.30 online off-peak, £22.95 online peak, adults and pre-schooler £15 (online only)

National Sea Life Centre

The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL visitsealife.com/birmingham

Housing more than 2,000 creatures - including a colony of gentoo penguins, black-tip reef sharks and a giant green sea turtle - National Sea Life Centre Birmingham features a world-class rescue Marine Mammal facility, which homes the UK's first-ever sea otters, Ozzy and Olain.

Other Sea Life Centre highlights include a 4D cinema, the zebra shark in Shark Lagoon and the Clownfish Kingdom tunnel.

The centre also boasts the UK's only 360° Ocean Tunnel, in which visitors can marvel at hundreds of underwater creatures while enjoying the truly unique experience of 'walking through the sea'!

PRICES: £20.65 online off-peak, £22.95 online peak

British Motor Museum

Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire, CV35 0BJ
britishmotormuseum.co.uk

Home to the world's largest collection of historic British vehicles, the British Motor Museum tells the stories of the people and places behind the cars.

Themed trails, touch-screen exhibits, an interactive zone, costumed guided tours, and a varied programme of themed activities make for an inspiring day out.

PRICES: Adults £14.50, children £9, under-fives go free



Severn Valley Railway

Kidderminster: Station Dr, DY10 1QX
Bridgnorth: 2 Hollybush Rd, WV16 4AX
svr.co.uk

Operating mainly steam-hauled passenger trains between Bridgnorth, Bewdley and Kidderminster, this much-loved railway transports visitors on a journey of about 16 miles along the beautiful Severn Valley. The journey includes a stop-off at the Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley, where passengers can check out massive locomotives, enjoy themed exhibitions of unique railway vehicles and meet Gordon the Blue Engine.

Those starting their journey at Bridgnorth will also have the option of stop-offs at Bewdley and Kidderminster, the latter of which boasts a railway museum.

PRICES: 'Freedom of the Line' adult tickets £25, child £16.50, Family Saver (two adults and up to four children) £65



Save over
35% with a
combi-ticket to
these attractions!





Twycross Zoo Norton-Juxta-Twycross, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 3PX twycross.org

Explore Twycross Zoo's 100 acres and say hello to over 60 species and more than 400 animals - including some of the rarest on the planet!

The zoo is also the only place in the UK to have all four types of great ape - the chimpanzee, orangutan, gorilla and bonobo. Earlier this year Twycross opened its brand-new Gruffalo Discovery Land, inspired by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's

bestselling children's book. With the help of the story's much-loved characters, the four-acre immersive attraction provides young visitors with the chance to learn about the importance of conservation and the natural world.

PRICES: £21.95 adult, child (2-16 years) £17.40, under-tuos free. All tickets must be prebooked online.

West Midlands Police Museum

Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, B4 6BJ museum.west-midlands.police.uk

The new West Midlands Police Museum opened its doors a couple of months back and showcases more than 200 years of policing history. The lock-up was built in 1891 and during its time housed more than one million prisoners. The cell doors closed for the final time in 2016.



As well as bringing together an unrivalled collection of police artefacts, the museum also offers a range of hands-on activities, providing visitors with the opportunity to play the role of detective at a crime scene, examine evidence in a forensics lab, take their own police 'mugshot' and dress up in police uniforms from years gone by.

PRICES: £9 adult, child (3-15 years) £5.50, under-threes free.

Tamworth Castle

Lady Bank, Holloway, Tamworth B79 7NA tamworthcastle.co.uk

Step back in time and sample 900 years of history at Tamworth Castle. Wander the chambers and hallways and get a real sense of how the Saxons, Normans, Tudors and Victorians spent their time in the castle. Venture up the castle tower to enjoy 360° views of Tamworth, including St Editha's Church and the surrounding castle grounds. Meanwhile the Battle & Tribute exhibition includes a display of the Staffordshire Hoard and features Saxon weapons and a range of real and replica items.

PRICES: £9.95 adult, child (2-15 years) £7.50, under-tuos free.



Drayton Manor Resort

Nr Tamworth, B78 3TW draytonmanor.co.uk

Drayton Manor annually welcomes over one million visitors and is home to the hugely popular Thomas Land attraction. There's also a 15-acre zoo to enjoy, where you'll find many species of animal from all over the world, including meerkats, Sumatran tigers, kangaroos and exotic birds. Those looking for adrenaline-pumping fun need look no further than Drayton's four main white-knuckle rides - Apocalypse, Maelstrom, Shockwave and Pandemonium. And just in time for half term, the venue has opened a brand-new Vikings area, featuring rides and attractions inspired by ancient gods and legends.

PRICES: £27.50 online, under-fours online £11



Roundhouse Birmingham

1 Sheepcote St, Birmingham B16 8AE roundhousebirmingham.org.uk

Acting as a heritage enterprise and independent charity, Roundhouse Birmingham was created through a partnership between the Canal & River Trust and the National Trust.

From exploring the iconic building, to taking walking tours of the city and kayaking on Birmingham's network of canals, the venue hosts a variety of volunteer-supported activities, providing visitors with a great opportunity to learn about the city's history.

PRICES: Activities vary in price from £9 - £30

ELEVEN EPIC EXPERIENCES



NEW FOR 2022
AXE THROWING

X The Bear Grylls

ADVENTURE

INDOOR/OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE

BOOK YOUR NEXT DAY OUT NOW AT
WWW.BEARGRYLLSADVENTURE.COM

Our pick of Jubilee events across the region



Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 June

The Severn Valley Railway is putting on a celebration fit for a Queen to mark Her Majesty's platinum jubilee. Crowning the first day of the event will be the unveiling of locomotive 34027, complete with its new name - Elizabeth II - new number - 70 - and purple livery, specially commissioned to mark the jubilee. In a nod to the 1953 coronation, there will be 1950s-themed entertainment at each station,

including a pop-up milk bar and juke box at The Engine House, a vintage fairground ride at Bridgnorth and live music at Kidderminster. The Engine House will also be hosting a hand-built Paddington-themed exhibition, presented courtesy of BrickLive, and a display of work by photographer Jack Boskett, showcased under the title From Railways To Royalty.

Penkrudge Jubilee Open Air

Penkrudge Sports & Recreation Centre, Wed 1 - Sun 5 June

Penkrudge Open Air returns for five days of live music and entertainment over the jubilee weekend. Each day of the festival has its own theme: Rock Royalty on Wednesday the 1st features a Queen tribute act and local band Shine. Then there's Pop Legends on Thursday the 2nd (Take That, Dolly Parton and Pink tributes), Battle Of The Decades on the Friday ('60,'70s & '80 tributes) and Motown Legends on the Saturday (with tributes to Diana Ross, Lionel Ritchie, Michael Jackson and Marvin Gaye). The festival is brought to a conclusion on Sunday the 5th with jubilee celebrations featuring the D Day Darlings and D Day Juniors.

A Platinum Jubilee Tea

Cadbury World, Bournville, Sat 4 & Sun 5 June

Cadbury World is celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee with its very own tea party over the jubilee weekend. Taking place in a specially decorated marquee, the event features appearances by Cadbury characters and family entertainers. Refreshments are available in the form of drinks and cakes.



CBSO 2021/22: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Concert

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 2 June

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra here pays its own tribute to Her Majesty with a special concert featuring a selection of works from throughout her 70-year reign. The repertoire for the evening includes music from the coronation, works dedicated to The Queen and HRH The Princess Margaret, compositions from across the Commonwealth, personal favourites of Her Majesty and even bagpipes, in former Master of the Queen's Music Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' An Orkney Wedding, With Sunrise.

Birmingham Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Victoria Square, Birmingham, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 June



Victoria Square is hosting a free four-day celebration to mark the jubilee weekend. The festivities start on Thursday the 2nd with a DJ and street entertainment, followed by live music. Beacons will be lit after 9pm as part of a nationwide initiative. There's further music and street entertainment on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with a jubilee concert being broadcast live from Buckingham Palace on Saturday.

Bostin' Jubilee Bash

The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, until Sun 5 June

Don your best red, white & blue outfits and step back in time to sample jubilee celebrations across more than 100 years - from Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897, all the way through to this month's platinum parties for Elizabeth II. Visitors are welcome to offer a helping hand to the museum's characters, who will be setting up for the jubilee celebration with craft activities and party decorating. A grand parade will then make its way through the museum, with a special performance of God Save The Queen over on the boat dock.



NOW OPEN!

Use your Ninja skills to work your way around courses based on the hit TV show, plus a giant inflatable. For younger Ninjas (ages 0-6), we have the Mini Ninjas soft play area too.

Will you beat our famous Warped Wall?

Fun, safe and for all ages and abilities, come and see us to start your own Ninja journey.

Bookings and Offers:

ninjawarrioruk.co.uk/walsall



ADVENTURE PARK

WALSALL

Crown Wharf Retail Park, Walsall WS2 8LL



Half-term events previews from around the region



Circus Vegas NEC, Birmingham, until Sun 5 June

Circus Vegas merges Las Vegas traditions and contemporary styles with extreme stunts and classic clown escapades. Acts include Edy the Clown and the Danguir Troupe, the latter of whom will be performing a never-before-seen-in-the-UK

high-wire & wheel-of-death stunt. Roller-skating, hula-hooping, comedy trampolining, juggling and stunt riding also feature in a show that's promising to offer 'something for everyone'.



Safari Street Party

West Midland Safari Park, until Sun 5 June

West Midland Safari Park's Safari Street Party sees gates opening earlier than usual, at 9.30am, with entertainment running daily from 10.30am to 5.15pm.

Attractions include towering giraffe stilt-walkers, a Caribbean steel band and a bubblelogist. There's also a kids' craft club in the Safari Academy, where youngsters can make safari-themed crowns and check out a selection of animal artefacts.

Throughout the week, the park will be fundraising for the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, with the charity's friendly and knowledgeable team on hand to educate families about giraffes and the lives they live in the wild.

Lego Legends

Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham, until Sun 5 June

Legoland Discovery Centre is celebrating the country's emergency services with a host of themed activities.

Youngsters can track down the heroes in Miniland, try their hand at building an emergency-service vehicle to race down the zipwire, check out the Lego City short film in the 4D cinema and meet Lego police hero Max. Plus, as a special thank-you to the emergency services, Blue Light cardholders can purchase tickets to the event for only £9.99 per person.



Midlands Air Festival

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 June



Back for a fourth year, the Midlands Air Festival sees over 100 hot-air balloons take to the skies above Ragley Hall for twice-daily mass ascents at dawn and dusk. The show also features flying displays from World War Two warbirds, World War One air displays, fast jets, helicopters, gyroplanes, high-energy aerobatic displays, aerial ballet & flying circus acts, and parachute & formation display teams. A musical firework grand finale rounds off the fun.

Dino Week

National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton-upon-Trent, until Sun 5 June

There's a roar-some half-term experience to enjoy at the National Forest Adventure Farm's new Raptor Ranch, where dinosaurs including the terrifying T-Rex are ready and waiting to greet visitors. Youngsters can learn how to tame the ferocious beasts in a special 'dino training camp' and sample a one-on-one encounter with a dinosaur. And if they're brave enough, they can also have a go at the Raptor Run, where they're challenged to collect dino eggs while evading the clutches of the not-to-be-messed-with velociraptor.



Family Fun Day

Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire, Sun 5 June

Eastnor Castle is offering families an activity-filled day out this half term, with attractions including a junior obstacle course, a knight's maze, rope swings and an adventure playground, all of which are included in the general admission price.

Four-legged friends are also welcome, and visitors can bring their own picnics to enjoy in the grounds.

The castle tea room and ice cream parlour will be serving up treats throughout the day.



Shropshire Horticultural Society
Charity Number: 501564



Shrewsbury Flower Show

FRIDAY 12 & SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2022

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK!

Tickets Now on Sale!



AMY JONES - SATURDAY NIGHT



THE RONNIES - FRIDAY NIGHT



PHIL VICKERY



TOBY BUCKLAND



PENNY MEADMORE



DAVID DOMONEY



FLEUR DE VILLES

Arena Entertainment

Live Music

TV Gardening Experts

Celebrity Chef

Floral Marquees and Show Gardens

Choirs, Massed Bands and Fireworks Finale

Shopping opportunities in the Food Hall, Home & Craft Marquee and Trade Stands

Day tickets £30 Evening ticket £20 Membership £70

For further information call: 01743 234058

Facebook ShrewsburyFlowerShow Twitter @shrewsflowershw Instagram shrewsburyflowershow

SHREWSBURYFLOWERSHOW.ORG.UK

Events previews from around the region



BBC Good Food Show Summer NEC, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 June

Boasting tasty food, mouthwatering recipes, and in-the-kitchen entertainment served up by some of the nation's most celebrated chefs, the summer edition of the BBC Good Food Show makes a welcome return. TV chefs including Dame Mary Berry, James Martin (pictured) and Nadiya Hussain will be sharing their culinary skills and cooking

live on stage. The show's ever-popular shopping village, meanwhile, provides visitors with plenty of opportunity to 'taste, try and buy' a wide range of delicious produce from an impressive selection of food & drink suppliers.

Midsummer Carnival

Warwick Castle, Sat 11 June - Sun 10 July

Warwick Castle's brand-new Midsummer Carnival is promising to be 'the ultimate Tudor solstice celebration'. Bringing the past to life, the event will take visitors back in time to meet famous figures from history, including Queen Elizabeth I and William Shakespeare. 'Thrilling horse shows and exciting trick riding' in a purpose-built arena also features, as do minstrels and jugglers, live poetry and sure-to-be-fun 'knight schools' both for children and adults.



Time Travel Tram

West Midlands Metro Route, until Fri 30 September

As part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival, Time Travel Tram launches living history into the 21st century by transporting a carload of passengers back in time onboard the West Midlands Metro. This immersive experience thrusts participants into a time slip, transforming the view from their tram window into 'a 3D visual extravaganza' of people and places from the region's past. The trip is accompanied by a contemporary soundtrack created by some of the West Midlands' most highly rated musicians and performers.



BBC Gardeners' World Live NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 June

Green-fingered visitors to BBC Gardeners' World Live will, as usual, find plenty to delight them. Attendees can take ideas and inspiration from the show gardens or Beautiful Borders displays, pick up tips and tricks from the likes of Monty Don and Alan Titchmarsh (pictured), or enjoy an exclusive garden

walk or one of the all-new 'plant expert' tours. This year also marks the BBC's 100th anniversary. To celebrate, the Floral Marquee will feature a host of displays inspired by some of the Corporation's most popular radio and television programmes from across the decades.



A small and friendly farm situated in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside, home to some of the very best alpacas in the country.

Meet, walk and feed these curious creatures!



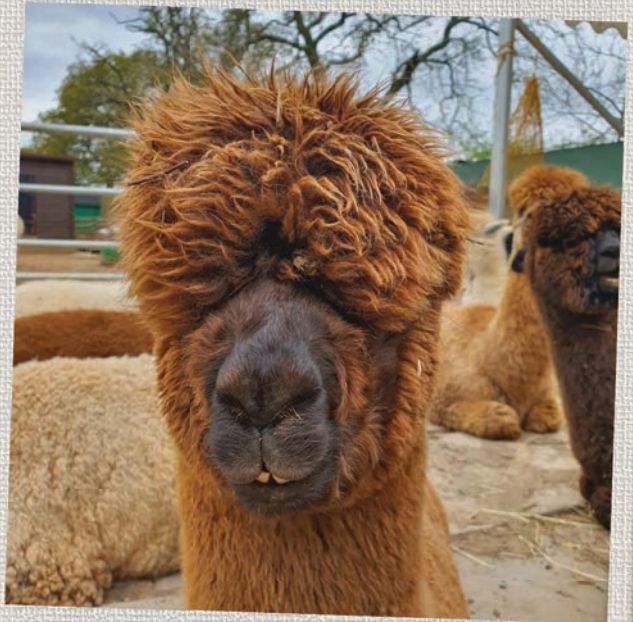
PLUS Get up close and personal with our cheeky meerkats!

Dexter Lane Hurley, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 2JQ

www.luckytailsalpaca.com

Email: lucky.tails.alpacas@gmail.com

Tel: 07753333784



Events previews from around the region



The World Of Park & Leisure Homes Show

NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, Fri 10 - Sun 12 June

The World Of Park & Leisure Homes Show returns to Warwickshire this month after a two-year absence.

The biggest event of its kind in the UK, the show features around 40 state-of-the-art leisure lodges and residential park homes.

It also offers visitors the chance to check out the latest designs and innovations, meet leisure-lifestyle experts and discover locations across the UK and beyond in which to enjoy weekend breaks and holidays.

Armed Forces Weekend

National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, Sat 25 & Sun 26 June

National Memorial Arboretum is holding its Armed Forces Day celebrations across a full weekend this year.

A Service of Tribute will be held in the amphitheatre on the Saturday, where visitors will be able to give thanks to the UK Armed Forces.

Climbing walls, segways, archery, a Red Arrows simulator, a World War Two assault course, military bands and a food & craft fair also feature across the weekend.



Sarehole Mill Bio-Blitz

Sarehole Mill, Birmingham, Sat 25 June



Join the Natural Science Curator and explore Sarehole Mill's outdoor spaces, including its historic courtyard and Woodland Realm, making a record of the plants, animals and insects that you find there.

The data which people collect will then be shared with regional wildlife data-collecting programmes and apps, the aim being to provide a better understanding of 'the world around us and our contribution to it'. Each child will receive a 'bug collector' to take home, to help study their finds, as well as a spotter's guide and worksheet.

The Royal Three Counties Show

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Fri 17 - Sun 19 June

Food, farming and alfresco entertainment are on the agenda at this year's Royal Three Counties Show.

Some of the UK's finest livestock will compete for the title of best in show, in one of the largest livestock competitions in the country.

The event's new Food & Drink Festival, meanwhile, will feature international street food stalls, a cider show, local chefs cooking up a storm in the theatre and daily children's cookery workshops.

Main-arena entertainment comes courtesy of the Red Devils Freefall Team and Bolddog Lings Motocross Stunt Display Team, while the Countryside Arena hosts a selection of vintage machinery.



Potfest By The Lake

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Fri 17 - Sun 19 June

Transforming the lawns of Compton Verney into a vibrant artisan ceramics market, Potfest will showcase the work of over 80 of the UK's finest ceramics artists and artisan pottery makers.

Spread across three large open-sided marquees and three open-fronted aisles, the show features a variety of work - from large-scale sculptural pieces and fine jewellery, to functional domestic ware and contemporary, decorative pieces. All items are for sale from the artists who made them.



BLACK COUNTRY BEATS

Black Country Beats
Sat 7 May - Sun 4 Sep 2022
Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Celebrating popular music in
the Black Country between the
1970s and 2000s.

Free admission

Slade • Aisha • Robert Plant • **Goldie**
Beverley Knight • **Babylon Zoo**
Macka B • **Capital Letters** • Azaad
Ned's Atomic Dustbin
Weapon of Peace • **Skippa and Lippy**
Cornershop • **The Wonder Stuff**
Pop Will Eat Itself • The Sahotas
The Mighty Lemon Drops
and others

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



*It's like Vegas
on Wheels!*

CIRCUS VEGAS

BIRMINGHAM SAT NAV
B40 1NT

NOW ON! UNTIL SUN 5 JUNE

**FOR GREAT
DISCOUNTS CALL
07494 774 008
OR 07494 774 009**
and quote promo code **ELVIS**
Must book 24hours in advance. Offer not valid with any
other discount or against tickets already purchased.

**FROM THE PRODUCERS OF
CIRCUS EXTREME**

Follow us on

nec
thenec.co.uk

Ticket Sales & Information www.circusvegasuk.com

BIG TOP BOX OFFICE 07494 774 008 OR 07494 774 009 | BOOK NOW! ONLINE www.ticketmaster.co.uk

Events previews from around the region



The Creative Craft Show NEC, Birmingham, Fri 24 - Sun 26 June

A dream for knitting, cross stitching, paper crafting, jewellery & dressmaking enthusiasts, the Creative Craft Show boasts more than 100 stalls and offers the very latest in supplies and innovative ideas. As well as getting their hands on all sorts of

goodies at the event - from kits, charts and patterns to fabrics, yarns, threads and buttons - crafters can also seek out advice from industry experts and take part in a selection of interactive workshops being held across the weekend.

Classic & Vintage Commercial Show

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Sat 11 & Sun 12 June

Commercial vehicle fanatics will be in seventh heaven at this two-day show, which features hundreds of pre-2002 lorries, vans and pick-ups.

Vehicles on display include vans such as Ford Transits, Morris Minors and J Types, lighter lorries from Austin, Bedford, Dodge and Ford Thames, and 'big boys' including AECs, Atkinsons, ERFs, Fodens and Leylands. An autojumble further adds to the show's appeal.



The National Cycling Show NEC, Birmingham, Sat 18 & Sun 19 June

Described as an 'immersive retail experience', the National Cycling Show is a one-stop shop for all your cycling needs. The event brings together experts from

across the industry, with this year's special guests including Sir Chris Hoy, Team GB's Kye Whyte and Guinness world record holder Mimi Anderson.

The Big Bang Fair

NEC, Birmingham, Wed 22 - Fri 24 June

With the support of over 100 organisations, The Big Bang Fair is an annual celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for seven to 19-year-olds.

The event offers a combination of theatre shows, interactive exhibits and careers information, along the way providing young people with the chance to meet hundreds of scientists and engineers.





TEARS FOR FEARS
 THE TIPPING POINT WORLD TOUR
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
 ALISON MOYET
 THE SHIRES
 1ST JULY 2022
 TELFORD
 QEII ARENA



TOM GRENNAN
 STEREO
 TOM GRENNAN
 TOM GRENNAN
EVERING
 PLUS SPECIAL GUEST
 Ella Henderson
**SATURDAY
 2 JULY
 2022**
**TELFORD
 QEII
 ARENA**
 AN ORCHARD LIVE PRESENTATION
 BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
 PRIMARY TALENT INTERNATIONAL



BRYAN ADAMS
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
FEEDER
3 JULY 2022
QEII ARENA TELFORD
 ORCHARD LIVE BY ARRANGEMENT WITH LPD PRESENTS



GIGANTIC.COM | ORCHARDLIVE.COM
 TICKETSTELFORD.COM

Orchard.LIVE

the list

Your week-
by-week
listings guide
June 2022



Dragons & Mythical Beasts at Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry - until Sun 3 July

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

What's On

Wed 1- Sun 5 June



Prophecy exhibition at
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
until Sun 26 June

Mon 6 - Sun 12 June



Angela Barnes at Assembly
Festival Garden, Coventry
Fri 10 June

Mon 13 - Sun 19 June



Ballet Cymru: Dream at
The Roses, Tewkesbury
Sat 18 June

Mon 20 - Thurs 30 June



May Queen at Belgrade
Theatre, Coventry
Sat 25 June - Sat 2 July

THROUGHOUT MAY

Visual Arts

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

PORTRAIT ARTIST OF THE YEAR Curated by one of Sky Arts' Portrait Artist Of The Year judges, Kathleen Soriano, this display features a selection of artwork produced across the years by professional and amateur painters who've taken part in the series, until Sun 5 June

PORTRAITS FROM THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY Pieces on show include portraits of dub poet & writer Benjamin Zephaniah, Turner Prize-winning artist Gillian Wearing, the late former politician Mo Mowlam, Olympian Denise Lewis and artist Sonia Boyce, all of whom have connections of one sort or another to the Midlands region, until Sun 4 Sept

DAVID BATCHELOR: COLOUR IS Large-scale survey exhibition featuring works from the artist's 'treasure trove' studio which have never before been seen in public, Sat 25 June - Sun 2 Oct, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

DANIEL LISMORE: BE YOURSELF, EVERYONE ELSE IS ALREADY TAKEN Dubbed 'England's most eccentric dresser' by Vogue, Coventry-born Daniel Lismore is a walking, talking sculpture. From haute couture to thrifted finds and vintage fabrics, body adornment using fashion and all kinds of curiosities are at the heart of his art. This impressive exhibition includes a major installation of 50 3D sculptures inspired by the Terracotta Army, as well as archives and other personal items which fully explore Daniel's journey from budding child artist to living as his true self today, until Sun 26 June

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

PROPHECY Exhibition inspired by George Eliot's novel, Middlemarch, until Sun 26 June



Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

PAINTING WITHOUT NUMBERS: NORTH WARWICKSHIRE DEVELOPING ARTISTS GROUP Showcasing the work of seven artists who have discovered, or rediscovered, their creative talents, until Sun 10 July, Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

THE IPRESS STYLE Showcasing the original costumes worn by characters Harry Palmer, Jean Courtney and cast in the recent hit ITV spy drama *The Ipress File*, until Sat 9 July

Worcester City Art Gallery

HOKUSAI'S GREAT WAVE: REFLECTIONS OF JAPAN Major exhibition exploring the extraordinary influence of Japanese art & culture in the West. Exhibits include Japanese prints and Samurai armour as well as pieces from Tate and Museum of Royal Worcester, until 2 July

Elsewhere:

THREADS THROUGH CREATION EXHIBITION Inspired by the first pages of the Bible, textile artist Jacqui Parkinson reimagines an amazing story in brilliant silks, dazzling metallic leathers, gold leaf - and more than eight million stitches! until Sun 5 June, Worcester Cathedral

PIONEERING COVENTRY: THE POST-WAR PHOTOGRAPHY OF RICHARD SADLER A focus on the life and work of Coventry's pre-eminent post-war photographer, Richard Sadler. Featuring prints, projections, talks and guided visits, until Thurs 30 June, The Old Grammar School, Hales Street, Coventry

THE SKY IN THE ROOM Icelandic artist Ragnar Kjartansson's project sees professional singers repeat the song *Il Cielo in una Stanza* uninterrupted for five hours a day for nine days, Sat 25 June - Sun 3 July, St Mary Magdalene, Tanworth-in-Arden

BRITISH SOCIETY OF MASTER GLASS PAINTER CENTENARY TOURING EXHIBITION Featuring 60 panels celebrating the unique art of glass, Tues 14 - Wed 22 June, Worcester Cathedral

MACHINE MEMOIRS: SPACE A 360-degree exhibition which uses artificial intelligence to reimagine two million publicly available images taken by satellite and telescopes, transporting visitors from the centre of Coventry to the deepest regions of outer space, until Sun 4 Sept, The Reel Store, Coventry



Bombay Bicycle Club - hmv Empire, Coventry

Gigs

ASHANTI + TREY SONGZ + MARIO Wed 1 June, Utilita Arena, B'ham

ODD SOUL + MADELYN Wed 1 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

YOUNG CULTURE BAND Wed 1 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HANG MASSIVE Wed 1 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ACTION BRONSON + THE ALCHEMIST + EARL SWEATSHIRT Wed 1 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KATE NASH Wed 1 June, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Wed 1 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GILBERT O' SULLIVAN Wed 1 June, Birmingham Town Hall

MARGARITA WITCH CULT + UNSCHOOLING MUTES Thurs 2 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MAJOR TOMS + THE ENIGMA STRING QUARTET + KATE O'MALLEY ON SAX Thurs 2 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NOISY Thurs 2 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

STAND ATLANTIC + CON + CRASHFACE Thurs 2 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TEDDY SWIMS Thurs 2 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

KENNYHOOLA Thurs 2 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ERIC GALES Thurs 2

June, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

THOMAS TRUAX Thurs 2 June, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

THE SANDY DENNY EXPERIENCE Thurs 2 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE BEST OF QUEEN Thurs 2 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE SCRIPT Thurs 2 June, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

BNXN (BUJU) Fri 3 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

ROACHFORD Fri 3 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

LUNA KISS + MEXICAN PAINKILLER + BOMBS FOR BREAKFAST Fri 3 June, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB Fri 3 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Fri 3 June, Albany Theatre, Coventry

BUZZCOCKS Fri 3 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MING CITY ROCKERS + MODERN LITERATURE + UNO VAS + STEP FORWARD + CROOKED HOOKS + FALLEN HOUSE Sat 4 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LUNAR C Sat 4 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SPORTS TEAM + AKEMI FOX + BABY QUEEN + BAD SOUNDS + MANY MORE Sat 4 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GOSPEL REVISITED Sat 4 June, Birmingham

Town Hall

WALK RIGHT BACK - THE STORY OF THE EVERLY BROTHERS Sat 4 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE UNDERTONES + HUGH CORNWELL Sat 4 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE MODS AND ROCKERS SHOW Sat 4 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS TRIBUTE Sat 4 June, Malvern Theatres

OF KINGS AND CAPTAINS Sat 4 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourport

JEFF BECK + SHARON CORR Sat 4 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE RHEINGANS SISTERS Sat 4 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



DUBLIN LEGENDS Sat 4 June, The Benn Hall, Rugby

THE MACHINE RAGES ON Sat 4 June, Marris Bar, Worcester

A VISION OF ELVIS Sat 4 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

DADI FREYR + MICKEY CASTILLO Sun 5 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE FABULOUS COURETTES + TURNING BLACK LIKE LIZARDS Sun 5 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourport

Classical Music

CBSO: QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CONCERT Featuring Ben Gernon (conductor) & John Suchet (presenter). Programme includes works by Walton, Grainger, Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Coates, Selacoe, Wiseman, Loewe & Maxwell Davies, Thurs 2 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Kenneth Woods (conductor). Programme includes works by Elgar arr. Donald Fraser, George Walker, David Matthews, Doreen Carwithen & Elgar, Fri 3 June, Worcester Guildhall

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL Featuring Marcus Farnsworth (baritone) & Eric McElroy (composer/pianist), Fri 3 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

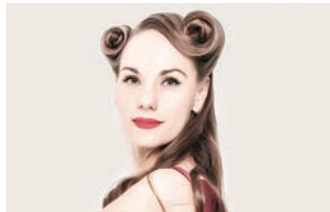
WM PLATINUM JUBILEE ANTHEM WORLD PREMIERE WITH CBSO Featuring Simon Halsey (conductor). Programme includes the world premiere of Jubilee Anthem Lighting Our Way by Oliver Hayne, Sat 4 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WORCESTERSHIRE SAXAPHONE QUARTET LUNCHTIME CONCERT Featuring Louisa Davidson (soprano sax), Clare Peters (alto sax), Kate Moroni (tenor sax) & Sue Sneath (baritone sax). Programme includes quartets from Bach to tango, Sat 4 June, Great Malvern Priory

THE ELGAR CHORALE IN CONCERT Featuring Piers Maxim (conductor), Sat 4 June, St Martin's in the Cornmarket, Worcester

THE CARICE SINGERS: HARK TO THOSE SOUNDS! Programme includes various works by Elgar & Coleridge Taylor, Sat 4 June, St Martin's, Worcester

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Kenneth Woods (conductor), Ian Skelly (host), April Fredrick (soprano - pictured) & Marcus Farnsworth (baritone). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Ian Venables & Elgar, Sat 4 June, Worcester Cathedral



THE SIXTEEN: THE CHORAL PILGRIMAGE 2022 A programme of English choral music centred around Parry's emotional Songs of Farewell, Sat 4 June, St Mary's Church, Warwick

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: MAHLER'S SEVENTH SYMPHONY Featuring Michael Lloyd

(conductor), Sun 5 June, Leominster Priory

THE ELGAR FOR EVERYONE FAMILY CONCERT Featuring the ESO Advanced Chamber Choir, ESO Intermediates Orchestra, ESO Beginners Orchestra & James Topp (conductor). Programme includes works by Bach, Brahms, David Burndrett, Richard Rodney Bennett & Ruth Gipps, Sun 5 June, Bromsgrove School

Comedy

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, MIKE WILMOT & HELEN BAUER Thurs 2 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOE LYCETT Fri 3 - Sat 4 June, Birmingham Hippodrome



ERIC RUSTON, ROGER MOREHOUSE, MIKE WILMOT & HELEN BAUER Fri 3 - Sat 4 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KANE BROWN, TOMMY SADDHU Sun 5 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

TWELFTH NIGHT Heartbreak Productions wrap up Shakespeare's theme of obsessive love and its subterfuges in a 'Love Island meets Big Brother' package, Tues 31 May - Wed 1 June, Leamington Rugby Club

WOULD YOU BET AGAINST US? Brummie and lifetime Aston Villa fan Paul Hunter's 'funny, poignant, and uplifting' show about challenging expectations and proving people wrong, until Sat 4 June, Birmingham Rep

WARS OF THE ROSES The climax to Shakespeare's three-part Henry VI saga of nationhood and power, until Sat 4 June, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

PREPARE TO MEET THY TOMB Spoof murder-mystery featuring a cast of over-the-top characters, Wed 1 - Sat 11 June, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

MUCH ADD ABOUT MURDER Heartbreak Productions present an original murder-mystery where five suspects are put under the spotlight... Fri 3 - Sat 4 June, Leamington Rugby Club

YOU CHOOSE Brand-new interactive family show based on Pippa Goodhart's book, Fri 3 - Sun 5 June,



Dragons & Mythical Beasts - Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

THE WIZARD OF OZ Journey over the rainbow in this new version of L Frank Baum's classic story, Sun 5 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

Kids Shows

BILLIONAIRE BOY New production of David Walliams' bestselling children's story, Wed 1 - Sun 5 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DRAGONS & MYTHICAL BEASTS Fantastical family show where audiences can come face to face with some of the most magnificent monsters and terrifying beasts ever to walk the earth, until Sun 3 July, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

THE QUEEN'S KNICKERS A regal children's musical featuring songs, silliness... and a corgi or two! Wed 1 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

EXCITING SCIENCE Fun & fact-filled entertainment featuring experiments from the world of science, Wed 1 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

MARK THOMPSON'S SPECTACULAR SCIENCE SHOW Exploring the strange and magical properties of matter with exploding elephant's toothpaste, vortex-generating dustbins and howling jelly babies, Thurs 2 June, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE QUEEN'S KNICKERS A regal children's musical featuring songs, silliness... and a corgi or two! Sun 5 June, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE The People's Theatre Company invite young audiences to help them celebrate Molly's sixth birthday with singalong songs and games, Sun 5 June, The Civic, Stourport

Light Entertainment

AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE Laughter, cabaret, mystery and glamour, Wed 1 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

RU PAUL'S DRAG RACE: WERK THE WORLD Join the queens of the critically acclaimed show for a choreographed extravaganza. Contributors include Asia O'Hara, Kameron Michaels, Vanessa Vanjie and Yvie Oddly, Wed 1 June, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

Events

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JU-BEE-LEE FAMILY FUN DAYS Series of pollinator-themed events and activities, Tues 31 May - Wed 1 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

MAY HALF-TERM FAMILY ACTIVITIES Fuel your kids' imagination with a range of jubilee activities, until Sun 5 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

SAFARI STREET PARTY Celebrate with music, entertainment and much more fun over Whit Week, until Sun 5 June, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster



MAY HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES Henry VIII is looking for a seventh wife and needs your help. Find all the objects around the museum to avoid being

THE ROSES

Tewkesbury's Theatre

More online: www.roses theatre.org



Some Enchanted Evening

Sat 11 June 7.30pm



The Simon & Garfunkel Story

Thu 16 June 7.30pm



Ballet Cymru: DREAM

Sat 18 June 7.30pm



Spiers & Boden

Wed 22 June 7.30pm



Totally Tina!

Fri 24 June 7.30pm



Rich Hall's Hoedown Deluxe

Sat 25 June 8pm

Box Office: 01684 295074

Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 5NX

Keep up to date with the latest news and events:

RosesTheatre
 the.roses.theatre
 @RosesTheatre

Top-notch outdoor theatre

presented by **Illyria**

Touring summer 2022!

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

The Pirates of Penzance

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Includes performances in:
Alcester, Birmingham, Derby, Droitwich, Kenilworth, Northamptonshire Nottingham, Shrewsbury, Stoke-on-Trent, and Wolverhampton.

illyria.co.uk

Individual venues might not host all three titles. Check tour dates online.
Photo: @GordonScammell

HAMLET THE COMEDY

14-16 June
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
belgrade.co.uk
024 7655 3055

17 June
The Place, Telford
theplacetelford.com
01952 382382

9-10 July
Midlands Arts Centre
macbirmingham.co.uk
0121 446 3232

14-16 July
Markeaton Craft Village, Derby
derbylive.co.uk
01332 255800

20 July
Nottingham Castle
nottinghamcastle.org.uk

21 July
Coach House, Matlock
oddssocks.co.uk
0333 666 3366

22-23 July
Mary Arden's Farm, Wilmcote
oddssocks.co.uk
0333 666 3366

24 July
Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
oddssocks.co.uk
0333 666 3366

executed for incompetence, until Sun 5 June, Tudor World Museum, Stratford-upon-Avon

KIDS RULE! Celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee with historic performers, hands-on activities and fresh-air family fun, until Sun 5 June, Kenilworth Castle

ROYAL REVELRY AND FAMILY TRAIL Turn yourself into a majestic queen or king by creating your very own crown and sceptre, until Sun 5 June, The Commandery, Worcester

LEGO LEGENDS Celebrate the awesome work of the emergency services teams with some brick-tastic themed activities, until Sun 5 June, LEGOLAND Discovery Centre, Birmingham

WHITSUN PIRATE INVASION Swashbuckling pirate-themed adventure, activities & entertainment, until Sun 5 June, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

MARDI GRAS Carnival-inspired takeover featuring 'an explosion of colours, sounds, entertainment, and themed food from the Deep South and around the world', until Sun 19 June, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

PEPPA PIG Meet Peppa as she dives into an adventure and makes friends with some of the ocean's most incredible animals, until Sun 3 July, National SEA LIFE Centre, Birmingham

FREDDO'S FESTIVAL OF FUN The famous frog goes on a musical journey with his very own festival, until Sun 9 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville

FUNTOPIA A fun-filled festival designed for visitors up to 10 years old, Wed 1 June, Coombe Abbey Park, Coventry

MUSEUM AFTER HOURS: JUBILEE Live music and cocktails in the atmospheric setting of the gallery, Wed 1 June, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

NATURE EXPLORERS AT SAREHOLE MILL Nature Explorers encourages children and their grown-ups to get hands-on with nature in the grounds of Sarehole Mill and the wider area, Wed 1 June, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

SMETHWICK ENGINE STEAMING DAY Check out the power of the engine first hand after its recent extensive restoration, Wed 1 June, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

FAMILY WORKSHOPS Featuring citizen science, writing activities and environmentally friendly crafts, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 June, The Dell Forest Garden, Stratford-upon-Avon

EXPLORE BLAKESLEY Chance to explore Blakesley Hall, a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens built in 1590, Wed 1 - Sun 5 June, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

FABULOUS FIFTIES Celebrate the decade when the Queen first came to the throne, Thurs 2 June, Hartlebury Castle

MIDLANDS AIR FESTIVAL Spectacle featuring over 100 hot-air balloons, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 June, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

PICNIC IN THE PARK Celebrate Her Majesty's platinum jubilee in style with a picnic hamper, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE The biggest platinum jubilee party outside of London across the 16-mile line, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Kidderminster

JUBILEE JUBILATIONS AT THE COMMANDERY A day of living history, crafts and trails, Fri 3 June, The Commandery, Worcester

KENILWORTH SPORTING QUEENS JUBILEE PARTY Four-day celebration featuring parties, children's events, beer & ale days and sporting activities, Kenilworth Sporting Football Club, Fri 3 June, Warwickshire

STUDLEY'S JUBILEE JAMBOREE A 'quintessentially English village fete', complete with competitions, displays, stalls and food & drink, Fri 3 June, Studley Sports and Social Club, Warwickshire

A TALE OF TWO MONARCHS Enjoy a queen's garden party whilst a 17th-century king's army and forces of parliament clash on the fields of Avoncroft, Fri 3 - Sun 5 June, Avoncroft Museum, Worcestershire

UK GAMES EXPO All aspects of the tabletop gaming hobby are represented under one roof, Fri 3 - Sun 5 June, NEC, Birmingham

PICNIC IN THE PARK Family activities including flagmaking and memory-making crafts, Sat 4 June, Bancroft Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

KENILWORTH SHOW Warwickshire's largest one-day agricultural show, Sat 4 June, Stoneleigh Road, Warwickshire

JAGUAR BREAKFAST MEET Owners of Jaguar vehicles unite to make a varied display, Sat 4 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

VINTAGE IN THE VILLAGE Featuring vintage clothing & accessories, homeware, vinyls, cakes and live music, Sat 4 June, FarGo Village, Coventry

NATIONAL METRO & MINI SHOW Display of hundreds of cars outside the museum, Sat 4 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA Enjoy a special themed afternoon tea with a range of sweet & savoury delicacies, Sun 5 June, Royal Shakespeare Theatre Rooftop, Stratford-upon-Avon

PLANT HUNTERS FAIR Find great value,



Kids Rule! - Kenilworth Castle

top quality, traditionally grown plants for every type of garden, Sun 5 June, Arley Arboretum, Worcestershire

HARTSHILL ARTS FESTIVAL AND BIG JUBILEE LUNCH Featuring 70 pieces of artwork created by members of the Hartshill community, Sun 5 June, Michael Drayton Junior School, Warwickshire

QUIET AT THE AQUARIUM A quieter Sea Life experience that aims to provide a more comfortable visit for those with autism and other sensory requirements, Sun 5 June, National SEA LIFE Centre, Birmingham

VINTAGE MOTORSPORT FESTIVAL

Highlights will likely include cars from as far back as the 1920s and championships for cars from vintage, pre-war and historic eras, Sun 5 June, Donington Park

FAMILY FUN DAY Family fun with garden games and a zip-wire on the Valley Lawn, Sun 5 June, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

ROYAL PLATINUM JUBILEE TEA PARTY AND CONCERT A Sunday afternoon of light music and a festive tea party in one of Worcester's most beautiful locations, Sun 5 June, Henry Sandon Hall - The Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester

THE ROSES

A swashbuckling jig on the banks of the Avon!

ALMOST

TREASURE ISLAND

In Victoria Gardens, Tewkesbury

Friday 1 - Sunday 3 July

Box Office: 01684 295074

www.roses theatre.org



The Rezillos - The Assembly, Leamington Spa

Gigs

MAYDAY PARADE Mon 6 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CONAN GRAY Mon 6 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RUN THE JEWELS Mon 6 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KEITH JAMES: THE SONGS OF LEONARD COHEN Tues 7 June, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

FLAT WORMS Tues 7 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ROXANNE DE BASTION + BAR PANDORA Tues 7 June, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry



SORRY Wed 8 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DELILUH Wed 8 June, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

FAITH NO MORE Wed 8 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JIMMY WEBB Wed 8 June, Birmingham



Queen + Adam Lambert - Utilita Arena

Town Hall

ALICIA KEYS Thurs 9 June, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

BIG SHIP ALLIANCE FEATURING ROBBIE LEVI + DJ COMMISSIONER BENJI + DJ FITZ Thurs 9 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JON SPENCER & THE HITMAKERS + QUASI Thurs 9 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TALON Thurs 9 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE CARPENTERS STORY Thurs 9 June, The Alexandra, B'ham

WE ARE (NOT) DEVO Fri 10 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE HIGH KINGS Fri 10 June, Birmingham Town Hall

THE REZILLOS Fri 10 June, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

IDLE NOISE Fri 10 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

EMMA BLACKERY + BRONNIE Sat 11 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

UK FLEETWOOD MAC + GIANT AND THE GEORGES + MATT TREGORATHA Sat 11 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE SONGS OF RICHARD RODGERS & OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN Sat 11 June, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

JACK LUKEMAN Sat 11 June, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

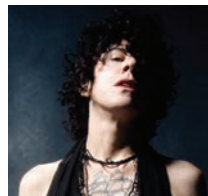
CHRIS CONNOR IS ELVIS Sat 11 June, The Rialto, Coventry

ULTIMATE BOWIE Sat 11 June, Albany Theatre, Coventry

SOUL TRAIN Sat 11 June, The Benn Hall, Rugby

THE REMAINS (RAMONES TRIBUTE) Sat 11 June, Marris Bar, Worcester

LP Sat 11 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham



MARTY WILDE AND THE WILDCATS Sat 11 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE CELINE DION SONGBOOK Sat 11 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE SOUND OF SPRINGSTEEN Sat 11 June, Malvern Theatres

A CLASSICAL QUARTET TRIBUTE TO MEAT LOAF BY CANDLELIGHT Sun 12 June, The Rialto, Coventry

QUEEN + ADAM LAMBERT Sat 11 - Sun 12 June, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

TALON - THE ACOUSTIC COLLECTION Sun 12 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Laura Veirs Sun 12 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Walton, Bull, Gibbons, Anon, JC Bach, Coates, Binge & Elgar, Mon 6 June, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: HANDEL'S MESSIAH Featuring Richard Egarr (conductor), Mary Bevan (soprano), Reginald Mobley (counter tenor), James Gilchrist (tenor) and Christopher Purves (baritone), Wed 8 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CONCERTO BUDAPEST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Andras Keller (conductor) & Angela Hewitt (piano). Programme includes works by Bartók, Mozart & Beethoven, Thurs 9 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN SOME ENCHANTED EVENING Featuring Martin Yates (conductor), Scott Davies, Gina Beck, Alice Fearn & Rob Houchen (vocalists), Fri 10 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: SYMPHONY OF REMEMBERING Featuring Michael Collins (conductor) & Rachel Mahon (organist). Programme includes works by Arvo Pärt, Vaughan Williams, Mozart, Derek Nisbet, Mahler & Poulenc, Sat 11 June, Coventry Cathedral

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: MAHLER'S SEVENTH SYMPHONY Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor), Sun 12 June, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, IAN STONE & ABIGAIL SCHUMANN Thurs 9 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

POLSKI KLUB COMEDY Fri 10 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

AL MURRAY'S GIG FOR VICTORY Fri 10 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

EDDY BRIMSON, ROB ROUSE & DAISY EARL Fri 10 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourport

ANGELA BARNES: WORK IN PROGRESS Fri 10 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry



ROSIE JONES: WORK IN PROGRESS Sat 11 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

LUKE KEMPNER Sat 11 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

ED BYRNE Sun 12 June, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

ABI CLARKE & PETER RETHINASAMY: WORK IN PROGRESS Sun 12 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

SEANN WALSH: WORK IN PROGRESS Sun 12 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

RUSSELL KANE Sun 12 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

COUNT ARTHUR STRONG Sun 12 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

Theatre

LADIES OF LETTERS Only Fools And Horses actors Tessa Peake-Jones and Gwyneth Strong come together in Jonathan Harvey's staging of the BBC Radio Four drama of the same name, Tues 7 - Thurs 9 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN Journey back to the glamour of Hollywood in the Roaring '20s with Jonathan Church's critically acclaimed production, Mon 6 - Sat 11 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE WHITE CARD Claudia Rankine's first published play questions whether society can progress when whiteness remains invisible, Tues 7 - Sat 18 June, The Rep, Birmingham

JANE EYRE Heartbreak Productions' adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's classic follows the eponymous heroine as she battles many ordeals, aided by 'astounding acrobats and jaw-dropping jugglers', Wed 8 - Thurs 9 June, Leamington Rugby Club

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG Amateur staging of the Sherman brothers' musical adventure, Wed 8 - Fri 10 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

PRESENT LAUGHTER Amateur staging of Noel Coward's comic play, Wed 8 - Sat 18 June, Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

GREAT EXPECTATIONS Hotbuckle theatre bring comedy, mystery, violent melodrama and suspense to Dickens' classic tale, Thurs 9 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

TETHERED & VOLCANO DOUBLE BILL Georgie Bailey's award-winning play, Tethered, deals with hope, loss and 'the resilience we have on others'.

Proforca Theatre Company's **Volcano** is a one-man show about self-confrontation, Fri 10 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

A WINTER'S TALE The Shakespeare Institute delve into the mystery of the missing queen... Fri 10 - Sat 11 June, The Rep, Birmingham

PLAYBOY OF THE WEST INDIES Mustapha Matura's classic play has been transformed into a brand-new musical rooted in the Caribbean, Fri 10 June - Sat 2 July, The Rep, Birmingham



MRS KAPOOR'S DAUGHTER'S WEDDING Bollywood dancing, live singing and comedy sketches combine in a show that follows the build-up to a huge Asian wedding, Sat 11 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

TWELFTH NIGHT Heartbreak Productions wrap up Shakespeare's theme of obsessive love and its subterfuges in a 'Love Island meets Big Brother' package, Sun 12 June, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

Kids Shows

AWFUL AUNTIE Heartbreak Productions presents David Walliams' popular story, which follows orphan Stella Saxby as she pits her wits against her awful Aunt Alberta to save Saxby Hall, Fri 10 - Sat 11 June, Leamington Rugby Club

IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends are back in fun-filled live show Igglepiggle's Busy Day, Fri 10 - Sat 11 June, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



MIGHTY KIDS BEATBOX COMEDY SHOW Award-winning comedian Jarred Christmas and world champion beatboxer Hobbit present a brand-new show packed with interactive jokes, silliness, beatboxing and epic sounds... Sun 12 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

ERROL'S GARDEN Interactive musical featuring catchy songs, big ideas and

passion for plants. Suitable for children aged three to 11, Sun 12 - Mon 13 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Dance

B-SIDE HIP-HOP FESTIVAL Annual festival bringing together 'extraordinary artists and breathtaking acts' from across all four elements of hip-hop - breakin', graffiti, DJing and MCing, Sat 11 - Sun 19 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

Light Entertainment

JINKX MONSOON & MAJOR SCALES - TOGETHER AGAIN, AGAIN! RuPaul's Drag Race winner Jinx Monsoon and musical prodigy Major Scales return to the UK with their 'most outrageous, salacious and sacrilegious show yet', Wed 8 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

ANDY EASTWOOD'S MERRY MUSICAL MATINEE Midday variety featuring comedian Gerry Graham and Britain's Got Talent ventriloquist Steve Hewlett, Thurs 9 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



BINGO AT TIFFANY'S Join award-winning character comedian Tracey Collins (Tina Turner Tea Lady), appearing as her creation Audrey Heartburn, for an evening of bingo games, raucous singalongs and glamorous dancing, Fri 10 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Events

THREE COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW Thurs 9 - Sun 12 June, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

WORLD OF PARK & LEISURE HOMES SHOW Providing plenty of inspiration for a leisure-led lifestyle, Fri 10 - Sun 12 June, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

MORNING EXPLORERS Early opening for people and families with children on the autistic spectrum, living with a sensory processing disorder or who have other special needs, Sat 11 June, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

CLASSIC & VINTAGE COMMERCIAL SHOW Featuring hundreds of pre-2002



Mighty Kids Beatbox Comedy Show - Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

commercial vehicles, including lorries, vans and pick-ups, Sat 11 - Sun 12 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

BLOOMING GARDENS AT WITLEY COURT Explore Witley Court's beautiful historic gardens at their blooming best with talks, music and self-led tours, Sat 11 - Sun 12 June, Witley Court, Worcestershire

MIDSUMMER CARNIVAL Warwick Castle presents 'the ultimate Tudor carnival celebration', Sat 11 June - Sun 10 July, Warwick Castle

THE COSFORD AIR SHOW Telling a 70-year story of aviation and royalty, this year's show will celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee 2022, Sun 12 June, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton



Theatre & Film Highlights



11/6 **La Traviata** Screening
Encore screening of Verdi's *La Traviata* on the glittering Sydney Harbour stage.



14-18/6 **Made in Dagenham**
A musical version presented by Queensbridge Musical Theatre (12+)



19/7 **Twelfth Night**
Heartbreak Productions' outdoor performance of Shakespeare live in Brueton Park. See website.



On Yer Bike Solihull
A Solihull community musical play to coincide with the Queen's Baton Relay events 26/7 in Jubilee Gardens, 29-30/7 at The Core Theatre



3/8 **Awful Auntie**
Adaptation of David Walliams' best selling book, outdoors in Brueton Park. See website.



9 Dec-2 Jan '23 £20-£22 (£80 family 2+2)
Beauty and the Beast
Traditional family pantomime. Book early!

This is not a full list - see website for full listings.

Buy online anytime at www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk
Box Office: T: 0121 704 6962 9.30am-2.30pm Mon-Sat



Elvis Costello & The Imposters - Symphony Hall

Gigs

TATE MCRAE + ALEXANDER 23 Mon 13 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS Mon 13 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

KINGS OF LEON Mon 13 June, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

MADISON VIOLET Mon 13 June, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham



CROWDED HOUSE Tues 14 June, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

DEATH VALLEY GIRLS Tues 14 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TLC Tues 14 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE UTOPIA STRONG Wed 15 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CODY PENNINGTON COUNTRY SHOW Wed 15 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TEMS Wed 15 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BILLY IDOL + THE GOGO'S Wed 15 June, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK - THE ROD STEWART STORY Wed 15 June, The

Alexandra, B'ham

BILLIE EILISH Wed 15 June, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

RORY AND THE ISLAND Thurs 16 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ROME STREETZ Thurs 16 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PARQUET COURTS Thurs 16 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MACY GRAY Thurs 16 June, Birmingham Town Hall

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Thurs 16 June, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE TAKE THAT EXPERIENCE Thurs 16 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE ILLEGAL EAGLES Thurs 16 June, Malvern Theatres

WOLFGANG FLUR + PETER DUGGAL Fri 17 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PIL + BRIX SMITH Fri 17 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BARRY MANILOW + CURTIS STIGERS Fri 17 June, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

THE BEAT Fri 17 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

ABEL SELAOCOE Fri 17 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

DIRTY DC Fri 17 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

GREEN HAZE (GREEN DAY TRIBUTE) Fri 17 June, Marrs Bar, Worcester

CALIFORNIA DREAMERS Fri 17 June,

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK - THE ROD STEWART STORY Fri 17 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BLUES CLUB - ACTS TBC Sat 18 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KING AWESOME Sat 18 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JEROME HILL + SUBCITIZEN + CHROMATOUGH Sat 18 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHARON VAN ETEN + L'RAIN Sat 18 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LEON BRIDGES Sat 18 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RONAN KEATING Sat 18 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



ROB LAMBERTI SINGS GEORGE MICHAEL Sat 18 June, The Rialto, Coventry

ARTHUR & THE INVINCIBLES + APPOCAHOLICS + GUTTER PUPPY Sat 18 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

HEATHER SMALL + KAREN HARDING + BOOTYLUV Sat 18 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

THE SMYTHS Sat 18 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

STEVE MITCHELL SINGS GEORGE MICHAEL Sat 18 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

JOHN LENNON UK Sat 18 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

CURRENT JOYS Sun 19 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

YUNG GRAVY Sun 19 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GLADYS KNIGHT Sun 19 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Classical Music Theatre

EX CATHEDRA: SUMMER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor) & George Parris (associate conductor), Wed 15 June, Hereford Cathedral

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Kenneth Woods (conductor) & April Frederick (soprano). Programme includes works by Mozart, Richard Strauss arr. Tony Burke, Emily Doolittle, Dvorak arr. Tony Burke & Mozart, Wed 15 June, Great Malvern Priory

PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA: SHOSTAKOVICH Also featuring Ludovic Morlot (conductor). Programme includes works by Thorvaldsdottir, Britten & Shostakovich, Wed 15 - Thurs 16 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LONDON CONCERTANTE: VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jonathan Stone (guest director / violin) & Chris Grist (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, CPE Bach & Vivaldi, Fri 17 June, Coventry Cathedral

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: BEYOND THE BRICKS OF BRUM Featuring Dalia Stasevska (conductor), Jules Buckley (arrangements & orchestrations), Black Voices, Casey Bailey & Sanity, Fri 17 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Rebecca McNaught (cellist). Programme includes works by Coleridge-Taylor, Elgar & Dvorak, Sat 18 June, Pershore Abbey

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN FAMILY CONCERT Featuring Rebecca Miller (conductor) & Zeb Soanes (narrator). Programme comprises Prokofiev's Peter & the Wolf, Sat 18 June, Warwick Hall, Warwick School

Comedy

ROB BECKETT Tues 14 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE SCUMMY MUMMIES SHOW Fri 17 June, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury



EMMANUEL SONUBI, ANTHONY J BROWN, MICK FERRY & LIAM FARRELLY Sat 18 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOHN RICHARDSON Sat 18 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourport

CRANFORD The Nonentities present an amateur version of Elizabeth Gaskell's novel, Mon 13 - Sat 18 June, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

HAMLET: THE COMEDY Oddsocks present a unique take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy, Tues 14 - Thurs 16 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

MADE IN DAGENHAM Amateur staging presented by Queensbridge Musical Theatre Society, Tues 14 - Sat 18 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED Middle Ground Theatre Company presents its acclaimed version of the classic Miss Marple mystery, Tues 14 - Sat 18 June, Malvern Theatres



OFFSIDE The story of women's football in the UK, as told through the eyes of a modern professional female footballer, Thurs 16 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

JANE EYRE Heartbreak Productions' adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's classic follows the eponymous heroine as she battles many ordeals, aided by 'astounding acrobats and jaw-dropping jugglers' Thurs 16 June, Foundry Wood, Leamington Spa

MUCH ADO ABOUT MURDER Heartbreak Productions present an original murder-mystery where five suspects are put under the spotlight... Thurs 16 June, Foundry Drive, Leamington Spa

EVERYDAY Deafinitely Theatre present a new work which draws on the true stories of deaf women and non-binary people's experiences of surviving abuse, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 June, The Rep, Birmingham

LEGALLY BLONDE Amateur staging presented by PQA Coventry PM, Fri 17 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

BUMPER BLYTON: THE IMPROVISED ADVENTURE Innuendo and puns by the bucketload, Fri 17 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

MARINER A lyrical, visual and contemporary theatrical experience which questions our place in the natural world and the ethics and consumerism that threaten our very survival, Fri 17 - Sun 19 June, The Dream Factory, Warwick

NEVILLE'S ISLAND Amateur staging of Tim Firth's farce, Fri 17 - Sat 25 June,

Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

AS YOU LIKE IT Presented by The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Sat 18 June, Packwood House, Solihull

HAMLET: THE COMEDY Oddssocks present a unique take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy, Sun 19 June, Tamworth Castle Grounds

Kids Shows

THE THREE MUSKETEERS Morgan & West present a family retelling of Alexandre Dumas' swashbuckling tale, Sat 18 - Sun 19 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

THE LITTLE MERMAID JNR Amateur production presented by Stage It! Performing Arts academy for four to 12-year-olds, Sun 19 June, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

MIGHTY KIDS BEATBOX COMEDY SHOW Award-winning comedian Jarred Christmas and world champion beatboxer Hobbit present a brand-new show packed with interactive jokes, silliness, beatboxing and epic sounds... Sun 19 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

Dance

DIVERSITY: CONNECTED 2022 The Britain's Got Talent winners present a new show focusing on social media, the internet and the digital era, Mon 13 - Tues 14 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham



THE BALLROOM BOYS Double-act Ian Waite and Vincent Simone return with a brand-new show featuring old-fashioned variety, Tues 14 June, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

25 YEARS OF LORD OF THE DANCE A revived and updated version of Michael Flatley's much-loved dance spectacle, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

SENSE New original performance by Critical Mass, an inclusive dance-participation project bringing together young people, with and without disabilities, from across the West Midlands, Fri 17 June, Centenary Square, Birmingham

MIRAGE, A DAY OF CELEBRATION BY COMPAGNIE DYPTIK UK premiere where fences, barbed wire, rusty metal sheets and hanging flags provide the backdrop to an athletic

performance featuring traditional dances inspired by the experience of the inhabitants of a camp on the West Bank, Fri 17 - Sun 19 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

TAPPIN' IN Mass-participation tap-dancing and storytelling 'extravaganza', Sat 18 June, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

BALLET CYMRU: DREAM Innovative new full-length ballet based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Sat 18 June, The Roses, Tewkesbury



STEP HOP HOUSE BY FOLK DANCE REMIXED 'Quirky, colourful and magical' collision of traditional and hip-hop dance and music, presenting a unique remix of maypole, clogging, ceilidh, street, house and breakdance, with an added hint of African & Bollywood, Sat 18 - Sun 19 June, Centenary Square, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

THE GREAT BRITISH SEASIDE SHOW A nostalgic trip down memory lane, based on the classic end-of-pier variety shows. Expect singing, dancing, comedy, and a musical tribute to George Formby, Mon 13 - Tues 14 June, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

GUARDIAN FOOTBALL WEEKLY LIVE Each show will feature the podcast's unique take on the world of football, as well as audience interaction, special guests and at least two anecdotes you haven't heard on the podcast before!, Wed 15 June, Birmingham Town Hall

TROPICANA Join queer cabaret icon Aidan Sadler for an evening of '80s synth-pop nostalgia punctuated with stand-up comedy, Fri 17 - Sat 18 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH DAVID BRADLEY & MICHAEL BILLINGTON Sun 19 June, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

Events

GAYDON GATHERING All motoring enthusiasts and vehicles welcomed, Tues 14 June, British Motor Museum,

Gaydon

PLANETARIUM LATES - ELIZA PLANETS In collaboration with Colin Hutcheson at Thinktank Planetarium, Wrenne & Tanna Chamberlain have created a multimedia experience using original music, dance and film, Thurs 16 - Fri 17 June, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE An inspirational day out featuring plants, shopping, live entertainment, expert advice and your favourite Gardeners' World presenters, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 June, NEC, Birmingham

BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW SUMMER Featuring seasonal treats, live demonstrations, masterclasses and hundreds of artisan producers, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 June, NEC, Birmingham

POTFEST BY THE LAKE Vibrant three-day artisan ceramics market showcasing the work of over 80 of the UK's finest ceramics artists and artisan pottery makers, Fri 17 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

ROYAL THREE COUNTIES SHOW 2022 A long weekend of 'fantastic food, farming and family fun', Fri 17 - Sun 19 June, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

FATHER'S DAY SAND CASTING WORKSHOP Look on as your child's hand or foot print is filled with molten glass to create a memento to cherish forever, Sat 18 June, Stourbridge Glass Museum

FIRING UP FOR FATHERS DAY Take in the sounds and smells of Avoncroft as the grounds are filled with traction engines and miniatures, Sat 18 - Sun 19 June, Avoncroft Museum, Worcestershire

THE NATIONAL CYCLING SHOW An immersive retail experience enabling consumers to 'try and buy' everything from bikes to accessories, Sat 18 - Sun 19 June, NEC, B'ham

WHAT A PICTURE TRAIL Reimagine yourself courtesy of this guide to drawing amazing ears, freaky hairstyles and much more, Sat 18 June - Sat 21 Jan, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

BANBURY RUN The biggest gathering of motorcycles and three-wheelers produced before 1931, Sun 19 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

EASTNOR SOS Enjoy displays from the local emergency services, Sun 19 June, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire



Cockney Rejects - Queens Hall, Nuneaton

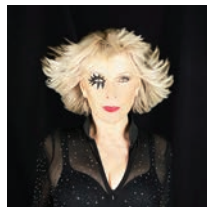
Gigs

DIANA ROSS Mon 20 June, Utilita Arena, Birmingham
ABC Mon 20 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
KALEO + BELLE MT Tues 21 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham
JAKE SHIMABUKURO Tues 21 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham
TRY2SMILE Wed 22 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
TIFFANY Wed 22 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE ORB Wed 22 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham
KHRUANGBIN Wed 22 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE DEAD SOUTH Wed 22 June, hmv Empire, Coventry



ALANIS MORISSETTE Thurs 23 June, Utilita Arena, Birmingham
ASHLEY ALLEN Thurs 23 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE SUPERSONIC 70'S SHOW Thurs 23 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Thurs 23 June, Malvern Theatres
REPLAY Fri 24 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ELECTRIC SWING CIRCUS Fri 24 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE WONDER STUFF + MY LIFE STORY (ACOUSTIC) Fri 24 June, O2 Academy, B'ham
TOYAH + LENE LOVICH + SAFFRON OF REPUBLICA Fri 24 June, Birmingham Town Hall



YES Fri 24 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
TOTALLY TINA Fri 24 June, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
TUESDAY FOLK PEOPLE TOUR Fri 24 June, The Assembly, Leamington Spa
COCKNEY REJECTS Fri 24 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton
FEEDER TRIBUTE Fri 24 June, Marris Bar, Worcester
THE SOUNDS OF ROD WITH STAN TERRY Fri 24 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE ROY ORBISON STORY Fri 24 June, Swan Theatre,

Worcester
BLUES CLUB - ACTS TBC Sat 25 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
RARE AMERICANS Sat 25 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham
DEVOUT... DEPECHE MODE TRIBUTE Sat 25 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham
WATERPARKS + BAD SUNS + PHEM Sat 25 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham
RAMMLIED (RAMMSTEIN TRIBUTE) + FLEISCH Sat 25 June, Arches Venue, Coventry
SPOUKY KIDS + KORN AGAIN Sat 25 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton
U2UK Sat 25 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
COUNTRY STARS Sat 25 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester
METZ JNR BAND Sun 26 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
BLACK BOMBERS + DIABLO FURS Sun 26 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
PHOEBE BRIDGERS Sun 26 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
MNOZIL BRASS Sun 26 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS Sun 26 June, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham
THE UK ROCK SHOW Sun 26 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Classical Music

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: INFERNAL MACHINE Featuring David Gordon (harpischord). Programme includes works by De Falla, Biber, Bach, Scarlatti & The Beatles, Thurs 21 June, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

EX CATHEDRA: SUMMER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor) & George Parris (associate conductor), Tues 21 - Wed 22 June, St Paul's Church, Birmingham

CBSO: MAHLER'S RESURRECTION Featuring Markus Stenz (conductor), Janai Brugger (soprano) & Karen Cargill (mezzo soprano). Programme includes works by A & R Panufnik & Mahler, Wed 22 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT Wed 22 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ARMONICO CONSORT & BAROQUE PLAYERS Featuring Christopher Monks (director). Programme includes works by Parry, Handel, Walton & Vaughan Williams, Wed 22 June, Malvern Theatres

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: THE EIGHT SEASONS Featuring David Le Page (director). Programme includes two versions of Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Fri 24 June, Amphitheatre at Berrybank Park, Cotswolds

LONDON CONCERTANTE: VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jonathan Stone (guest director / violin) & Chris Grist (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, CPE Bach & Vivaldi, Fri 24 June, Worcester Cathedral



CBSO: MAHLER'S RESURRECTION Featuring Markus Stenz (conductor), Janai Brugger (soprano) & Karen Cargill (mezzo soprano). Programme includes works by A & R Panufnik & Mahler, Sat 25 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS Featuring Mark Wilde & Robin Newton (conductors) & Emily Watson-Breeze (clarinet). Programme includes works by Brahms, Weber, Tchaikovsky & Vaughan Williams, Sun 26 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LEAMINGTON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Featuring Richard Laing (conductor). Programme includes works by

Rossini, Haydn, Stravinsky & Tchaikovsky, Sun 26 June, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

UNITED STRINGS OF EUROPE Mon 27 June, OBS, Rugby

CRAIG OGDEN: CLASSICAL GUITAR RECITAL Tues 28 June, NMR, Rugby

ARMONICO CONSORT & BAROQUE PLAYERS Featuring Christopher Monks (director). Programme includes works by Parry, Handel, Walton & Vaughan Williams, Thurs 30 June, The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

Comedy

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN & MARK SIMMONS Thurs 23 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHRIS RAMSEY Thurs 23 June, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



TERRY ALDERTON Thurs 23 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

VINCE ATTA, SILKY, LIAM PICKFORD & PAUL REVILL Fri 24 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

SEAN COLLINS, JARLATH REGAN, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN & MARK SIMMONS Fri 24 - Sat 25 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS Sat 25 June, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

RICH HALL'S HOEDOWN DELUXE Sat 25 June, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

PHIL WANG Mon 27 June, Tandem Outdoor Arena, Rugby

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR Wed 29 June, Macready Theatre, Rugby

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, DAVE FULTON & COMIC TBC Thurs 30 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVID O'DOHERTY Thurs 30 June, The Rialto, Coventry

Theatre

PRIVATE LIVES Amateur staging of Noel Coward's comedy of manners, Mon 20 - Sat 25 June, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

DANCING AT LUGHNASA Malvern Theatre Players present an amateur staging of Brian Friel's play about love, loss and family, set against a background of strict Catholicism and

paganism, Mon 20 - Sat 25 June, Malvern Theatres

CLUEDO Michelle Collins (EastEnders/Coronation Street) stars as Miss Scarlett in a new comedy-thriller based on the hit 1985 film, Clue, Mon 20 - Sat 25 June, Malvern Theatres

AGNES OF GOD Presented by Swan Theatre Amateur Company, Tues 21 - Sat 25 June, Vesta Tilley Studio, Worcester

FRIENDSICAL A new parody musical inspired by the iconic TV show, Tues 21 June - Sun 31 July, Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry

GHOST THE MUSICAL Amateur staging presented by Talking Props Theatre Arts, Wed 22 - Sat 25 June, The Civic, Stourport

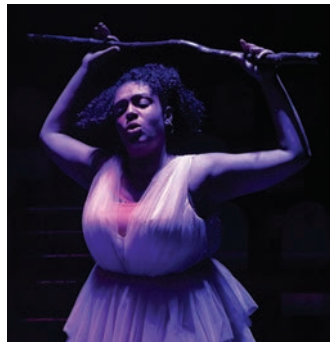
RICHARD III Gregory Doran directs Arthur Hughes in this climax to Shakespeare's first history cycle, Thurs 23 June - Sat 8 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Five couples - three human, one fairy and one mythical - find their relationships sorely tested, intimately probed and indecently exposed in Illyria's outdoor staging, Wed 22 June, Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth

MRS BROWN'S BOYS D'LIVE SHOW The award-winning Brendan O'Carroll promises to take audiences on an 'exhilarating and side-splitting adventure', Fri 24 - Sat 25 June, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

ROMEO & JULIET Stafford Festival Shakespeare returns with 'the world's greatest love story'. Archers actress Madeleine Leslay stars as Juliet opposite Tom Lane as Romeo. Gill Jordan (best known for playing the character of benefits-scrounging 'lazy cow' Doreen Tipton) takes on the role of Nurse, Fri 24 June - Sat 9 July, Stafford Castle

MAY QUEEN Frankie Meredith's acclaimed one-hander addresses themes of consent, lack of consent, folklore and growing up... Sat 25 June - Sat 2 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



DEAD LIES Hilary Bonner's fast-paced political thriller starring Jeremy Edwards (Hollyoaks/Holby City),

Alicia Charles (Coronation Street), Portia Booroff (Doctors) and Claire Dyson (Made In Italy), Wed 29 - Thurs 30 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

CASSON AND FRIENDS: PREPPERS Documentary meets dance in a timely, intimate and thought-provoking performance featuring interviews with members of the UK survival and preparedness community, Tues 28 June, Outdoors at The Festival on the Close, Warwickshire

GUYS AND DOLLS BMOS Musical Theatre Company presents an amateur staging of Frank Loesser's Broadway musical, Tues 28 June - Sat 2 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

WAITRESS Hit West End musical starring Chelsea Halfpenny as a waitress and expert pie-maker in search of happiness. Matt Willis also stars, Tues 28 June - Sat 2 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SPONTANEOUS POTTER Entirely improvised wizarding comedy play, based on an audience suggestion of a fanfiction title, Wed 29 June, Tandem Outdoor Arena, Rugby

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR IN CHARGE Join comedy's unstoppable force for an 'evening like no other - complete with hilarious scenes, mind-blowing songs and finely tuned anarchy', Wed 29 June, Macready Theatre, Rugby

HEAVEN ON EARTH Noel Dollimore's new play, set in post-Industrial Revolution England, where the ideals of a father and daughter are tested to the limit, Wed 29 June - Sat 2 July, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

WATSON: THE FINAL PROBLEM A tale of long-buried secrets, betrayal and death... Thurs 30 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

MICHAEL ROSEN LUNCHTIME POETRY RECITAL Join the much-loved poet for a special lunchtime recital of some of his most-popular poems, Thurs 30 June, Tandem Outdoor Arena, Rugby

Kids Shows

HORRIBLE HISTORIES: TERRIBLE TUDORS From the horrible Henries to the end of evil Elizabeth, hear the legends - and lies! - about the torturing Tudors, Wed 29 June, Tandem Outdoor Arena, Rugby

Dance

DESIRING GOD BY MAVIN KHOO & AKSHAY SHARMA Stories of love, lust, desire and heartbreak are the focus of this experimental evening of dance, presented as part of



Dead Lies

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 June

Bestselling crime writer Hilary Bonner's fast-moving thriller focuses on the character of politician Peter George, a man admired by the British people for his determination to restore trust in a political system badly damaged by an era of sleaze and spin. But Peter has a shocking secret in his past - one that threatens to derail him during a fiercely fought election campaign... Holby City's Jeremy Edwards stars.

Birmingham International Dance Festival 2022, Wed 22 June, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

KREB! A diverse cast of eight international guest dancers go head to head to the sound of a live band and DJ, Thurs 23 June (5pm), Centenary Square, Birmingham

CROWD_CTRL BY ANDROIDX + MEGAHERTZ Four dancers from London's Dragonsquad busking crew (of Oxford Circus fame) turn their personal history of the Afrobeats movement into a futuristic odyssey in a high-impact dance, sound and visual experience for outdoor settings, Thurs 23 & Fri 24 June, Centenary Square, Birmingham

ON YOUR MARKS Birmingham Royal Ballet present a triple bill of works celebrating 'the expressive energy and gravity-defying athleticism of the company's world-class dancers'. Programme comprises 24, New Nunes & Lazuli Sky, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

PUZZLE BY TENTACLE TRIBE A dynamic and complex collage, made up of excerpts from Emmanuelle Lê Phan and Elon Höglund's repertoire, which brings together some of Montreal's best street dancers, Thurs 23 June & Sat 25 June, Centenary Square, Birmingham

GHOST BY TENTACLE TRIBE Canadian-Swedish creative alliance Emmanuelle LêPhan and Elon Höglund combine elements of contemporary dance, street dance and martial arts in a physical score

that echoes the subtle pulse of respiration, Fri 24 June, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

HOW TO BUILD A UNIVERSE BY EXTENDED PLAY Brand-new dance in which choreographer Jamaal Burkmar reimagines the formation of our universe with collective human experience at its core, Fri 24 June, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham

MUGHAL MINIATURES BY SONIA SABRI COMPANY Dance, live music, theatre, puppetry, intricate costumes and set design create living versions of Indian miniature paintings, Fri 24 June, Centenary Square, Birmingham

TIMELESS BY JOLI VYANN New work which moves through the narrative of climate change, its consequences and the larger questions of how humanity copes with the precarious balance that could at any point tip into chaos, Fri 24 - Sat 25 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

BORN TO PROTEST BY JUST US DANCE THEATRE The second part of a hip-hop dance theatre trilogy, created by Joseph Toonga, which highlights black excellence and challenges racial stigma, Fri 24 - Sat 25 June, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham

DANDYISM BY PATRICK ZIZA DANCE Playful performance featuring high-stepping footwork and inspired by the original African Dandies who represented empowerment and post-colonial freedom, Fri 24 - Sat 25 June, various time & locations, Birmingham



Circus Zyair - Tamworth Castle

VOID BY COMPANY CHAMELEON A male & female duet explore not only the space created by the pandemic but also what has moved into that space - both good & bad, Fri 24 - Sat 25 June, Centenary Square, Birmingham

DEVA BY URJA DESAI THAKORE & HETAIN PATEL Challenging myths and expectations of the South Asian body in Indian classical dance, Thakore and Patel present the complexities of British Asian identity through a playful approach to classicism, connecting dance grammar and the everyday, Fri 24 - Sat 25 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

BLACK VICTORIANS BY JEANEFER JEAN CHARLES Exploring a complex but often forgotten black presence in pre-Windrush Britain, Jeanefer Jean Charles' performance calls attention to previously hidden figures and challenges historical and contemporary perceptions, Fri 24 - Sun 26 June, Centenary Square, Birmingham

COME ON FEET BY GRANVAT A dance and live-music performance harnessing the energy and craft of underground dance forms (footwork, house, afro house, beats) and the aesthetics of a contemporary dance performance, Sat 25 June, Centenary Square, Birmingham

ECHOES BY CIA MOCEO The third part of a trilogy dedicated to the relationship between reality and fiction, Sat 25 - Sun 26 June, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham

BLAME GAME BY CRYING OUT LOUD A genre-defying movement language is here used to explore the dirty politics of scapegoating, Sat 25 - Sun 26 June, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham

BONDED Alleyne Dance explore the construct of human dependency - especially that of siblings - and how time and external conditions can

affect the synergetic connection, Sat 25 - Sun 26 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

HIPPUS A trio of hippos embark on a physical journey in this fun family show from Zum Zum Theatre, Sat 25 - Sun 26 June, Centenary Square, Birmingham

REMEMBRANCES A unique collaboration between contemporary theatre-makers, dance artists and poets from the Midlands and First Nations Canada, Sat 25 - Sun 26 June, City Centre Gardens, Birmingham

AUTIN DANCE THEATRE: OUT OF THE DEEP BLUE An outdoor spectacle fusing dance, movement & puppetry to explore the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, Sun 26 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

LANDSCAPES BY LA MIGRATION A performance that confronts the cycles of a strange machine with the fluid movement of tightrope artists, making the landscape and its hazards their partners, Sun 26 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

STRICTLY PRESENTS: KEEEEP DANCING! New show featuring Strictly 2020 finalist Maisie Smith and CBBC presenter Rhys Stephenson alongside the show's professionals - Neil Jones, Gorka Marquez, Jowita Przystal and Nancy Xu, Sun 26 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

INFINITE BY HUMANHAND Be guided through 'a powerful, mystical journey and visionary dance-theatre meditation', Tues 28 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

BLOOD, WATER, EARTH BY KAHA:WI DANCE THEATRE Performance, video & music combine in a physical incantation which channels the ancestral, elemental and dream world, Tues 28 - Wed 29 June, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

BYGONES UK premiere celebrating how we are shaped by what we overcome and how something challenging can lead to something beautiful, Thurs 30 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

Light Entertainment

DERREN BROWN - SHOWMAN One-man show featuring the award-winning master of mind control and psychological illusion, Tues 21 - Sat 25 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

MALCOLM STENT IN THE AFTERNOON Bringing together comedy, variety, music and special guests, Wed 22 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

OH... AND ANOTHER THING: AN EVENING WITH SU POLLARD Stories, stand-up and song, followed by a candid Q&A session, Thurs 23 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

DIVORCED, BEHEADED, DIED: AN AUDIENCE WITH KING HENRY VIII Join His Majesty as he recounts the events of his long reign, Sun 26 - Mon 27 June, The Civic, Stourport

Events

HIGHER EDUCATION EXHIBITION Whether it's about kick-starting research or refining choices, there's something for everyone at a UCAS exhibition, Mon 20 - Tues 21 June, NEC, Birmingham

THE BIG BANG FAIR Annual celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for seven to 19-year-olds, Wed 22 - Fri 24 June, NEC, Birmingham

BVA LIVE Brand-new educational experience designed for veterinary professionals, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 June, NEC, Birmingham

ADVENTURE BIKE RIDER FESTIVAL Bring out the adventurer in you with 'fantastic trails, test-ride areas, off-roading and road rideouts', Thurs 23 - Sun 26 June, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire



THE AUTISM SHOW Choose from over 100 hours of talks, clinics and workshops. Hundreds of specialist

products and services also feature, Fri 24 - Sat 25 June, NEC, Birmingham

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW Offering all the latest supplies and crafting ideas, Fri 24 - Sun 26 June, NEC, Birmingham

SAREHOLE MILL BIO-BLITZ Explore Sarehole Mill's outdoor spaces, making records of the plants, animals and insects you find, Sat 25 June, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

JAGUAR SUPER SATURDAY Evening of collective community archiving inspired by the exhibition, Blood & Fire: Our Journey Through Vanley Burke's History, Sat 25 June, Coventry Transport Museum



ARMED FORCES WEEKEND A chance to show support for the men and women who make up the armed forces community, Sat 25 - Sun 26 June, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

SUMMER MAKERS MARKET Featuring independent makers, artists and designers, Sat 25 - Sun 26 June, FarGo Village, Coventry

FORD NATIONALS Display featuring hundreds of cars from over 50 Ford car clubs all over the UK, Sun 26 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

FUNTOPIA Designed for youngsters up to the age of 10, Sun 26 June, Tamworth Castle Grounds

CLIMBING WALL Test your nerve on a 25ft-high climbing wall on the Valley Lawn, Sun 26 June, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

MALVERN FLEA AND COLLECTORS FAIR Featuring more than 300 exhibitors, Sun 26 June, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

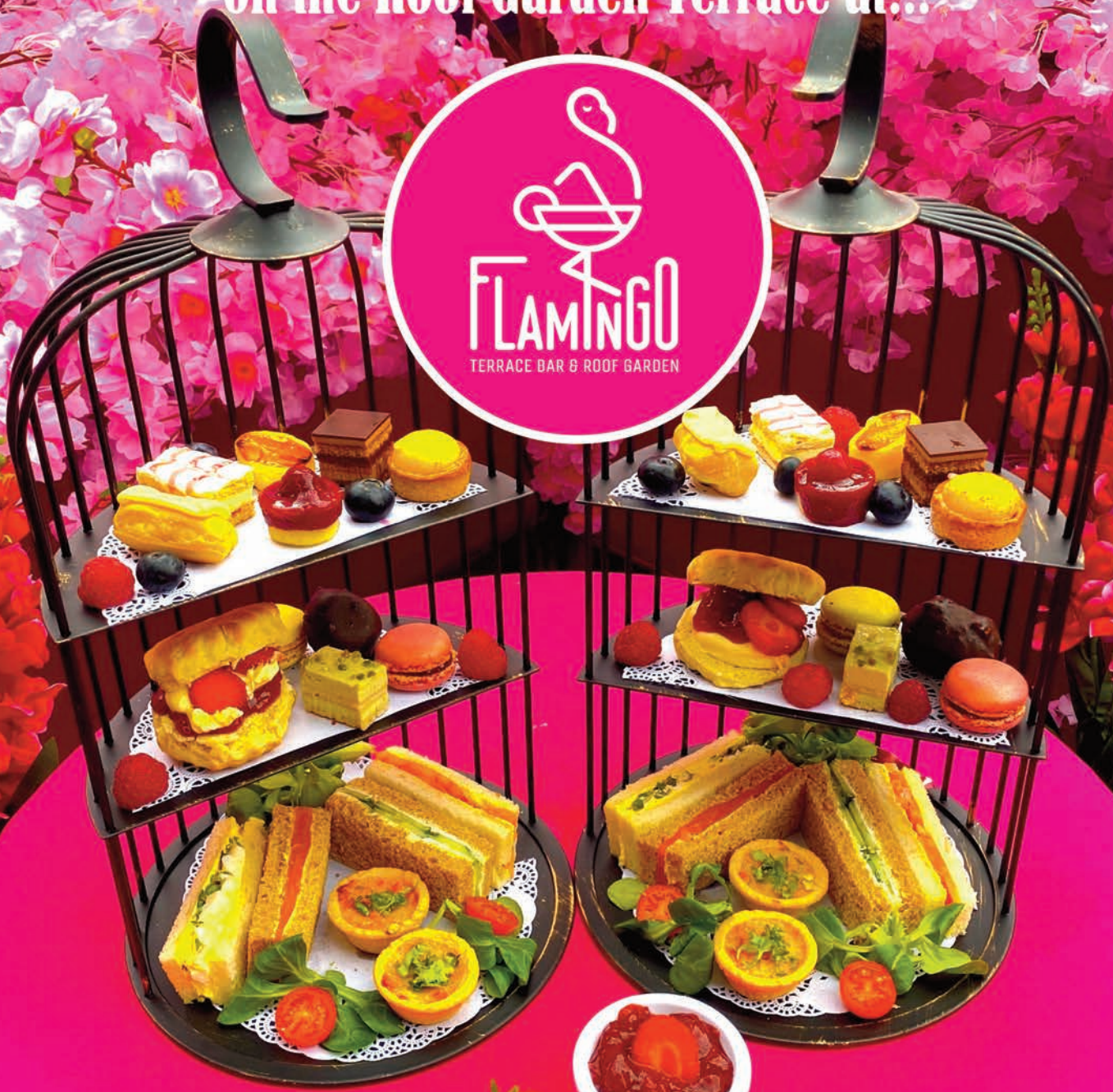
FESTIVAL ON THE CLOSE Major public festival of arts and education, Mon 27 - Thurs 30 June, Rugby, Warwickshire

CIRCUS ZYAIR Colourful and action-packed show featuring high-energy acts from all over the world, Wed 29 June - Sun 3 July, Tamworth Castle Grounds

EXHIBITION TOUR: FOUND CITIES, LOST OBJECTS: WOMEN IN THE CITY Join Exhibitions Team Leader Katie Morton as she leads a tour of key artworks from both the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham's own collection, Thurs 30 June, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Afternoon Tea

on the Roof Garden Terrace at...



Afternoon Tea for 2
£14.50 per person

(One Birdcage to share)

Afternoon Tea for 4
£12.50 per person

(Two Birdcages to share)

Flamingo Terrace Bar & Roof Garden in Shrewsbury
HOWARD STREET, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY1 2LF

(in case of inclement weather the Afternoon Tea will be served in our under cover Urban Basement Terrace instead)

TO BOOK: SEND US A DIRECT MESSAGE ON FACEBOOK or text us on 07498 966606



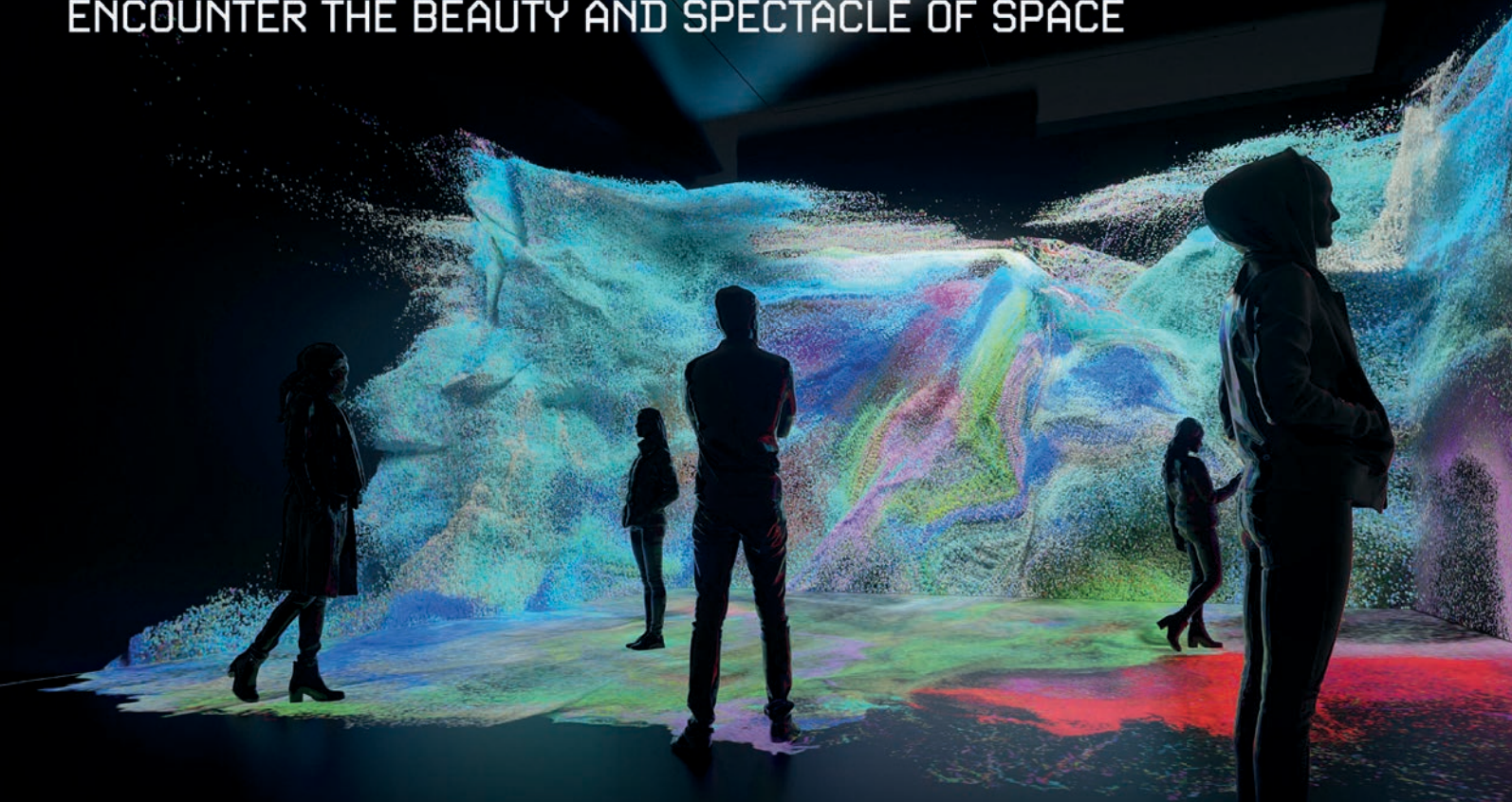
**THE
REEL
STORE**
COVENTRY



2022
21 COVENTRY
UK CITY
OF CULTURE

MACHINE MEMOIRS: SPACE REFIK ANADOL

ENCOUNTER THE BEAUTY AND SPECTACLE OF SPACE



NOW OPEN
TICKETS FROM £5, BOOK NOW AT THEREELSTORE.CO.UK

THE UK'S FIRST PERMANENT IMMERSIVE DIGITAL ART GALLERY
THE REEL STORE, TELEGRAPH HOTEL, UPPER WELL STREET, COVENTRY CV1 1GU

CAPITAL PARTNERS



VISUALISATION PARTNER



FOUNDING PARTNERS



Funded by the Government's Getting Building Fund through Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

Image: Refik Anadol Studio