

Birmingham

ISSUE 426 JULY 2022

What's On

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



RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
SOUTH PACIFIC
 A CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE PRODUCTION

TUE 27 SEP - SAT 1 OCT
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*Calls cost up to 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge

inside:

CARNIVAL TIME

Route 34: Embracing Cultures
feature inside...



FUN AND GAMES...

Commonwealth Festival Sites
pop up across the Midlands



AHOY ME HEARTIES!

swashbuckling pirate fun in the
centre of Brum!





Belgrade Theatre
Coventry

**NEW SEASON
ON SALE**

tall stories Based on the best-selling book by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

Room on the Broom

LIVE ON STAGE

7 – 10 Sept From £10*

HAPPY MEAL

by Tabby Lamb

21 – 24 Sept From £10*

BOMBAY SUPERSTAR

A RETRO BOLLYWOOD MUSICAL BY SAMIR BHAMRA

15 – 22 Oct From £15*

NOUGHTS & CROSSES

BY MALORIE BLACKMAN
ADAPTED BY SABRINA MAHFOUZ

24 – 28 Jan From £15*

Pride & Prejudice

by Isobel McArthur after Jane Austen (‘sort of’)

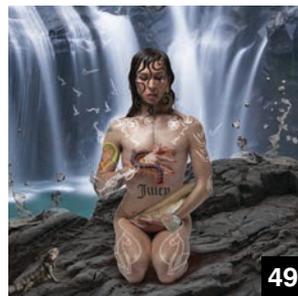
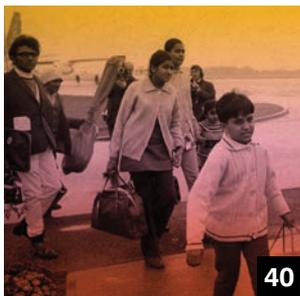
7 – 11 Feb 2023 From £15*

STEWART LEE – BASIC LEE

22 & 23 Feb 2023 From £15*

BOOK NOW www.belgrade.co.uk

*Ticket price includes a £1.50 booking fee.



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What's On

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Birmingham What's On



Return of The Bodyguard

Blockbuster musical The Bodyguard is returning to the Midlands in 2023. The hit show, which is based on the same-titled 1990s Hollywood movie starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston, comes complete with classic numbers One Moment In Time, I Wanna Dance With Somebody and the legendary I Will Always Love You. The stage adaptation received mixed reviews when it opened in 2012 but has since gone on to become a worldwide hit. The production stops off at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Monday 27 February to Saturday 4 March, and then plays the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 9 to Saturday 13 May.

Commonwealth masks on display at Birmingham community libraries

An exhibition of 72 masks, which have been created to celebrate the history and culture of the countries of the Commonwealth, will be presented across six Birmingham Community Libraries this summer.



Designed by Birmingham artist Ken Banks, the masks will be on display in the libraries in Yardley Wood, Birchfield, Northfield, South Yardley, Tower Hill and Perry Common from 16 July to 13 August. From Saturday 20 August, all 72 of them will go on display at South Yardley Library.

RSC to offer socially distanced seating for selected performances

The Royal Shakespeare Company will provide socially distanced seating at selected performances of its main-theatre productions of Richard III, All's Well That Ends Well and A Christmas Carol.



Commenting on the news, RSC Executive Director Catherine Mallyon said: "We hope that this offer will mean that those who might otherwise feel unable to attend live

theatre have the opportunity to do so confidently." For more information about the scheme and the selected performances, visit rsc.org.uk

Acorns Bubble Rush returns in Sandwell

'The world's foamiest fun run' is making a welcome return this month - and organisers are calling on people to get involved in the popular fundraiser. The Acorns Bubble Rush, which takes place at Sandwell Valley Country Park on Sunday 17 July, will see hundreds of participants wade through a colourful sea of suds to raise much-needed funds for Acorns Children's Hospice and its vital care for local children and families.

To sign up for the event, visit the website at acorns.org.uk/bubblerrush



Bamboo inspiration

A free outdoor celebration of UK-grown bamboo is taking place across four days at the start of this month. Presented by Birmingham 2022 Festival, the Imagine Bamboo Summit runs from Friday 1 to Monday 4 July in the city's Sunset Park. The event invites the people of Birmingham

and beyond to join in with 'a unique creative experiment and exploration of what extraordinary structures, stories and circus performance can be built, made and imagined with UK-grown bamboo'. For more information, visit imagine-bamboo.co.uk



Dragon boat racing at Edgbaston Reservoir

A dragon boat-style race is this month coming to the waters of Edgbaston Reservoir as part of Birmingham 2022 Festival. Nowka Bais is the traditional form of dragon boat-style racing found in the rural villages of Bangladesh. It was introduced to Birmingham in 2015 and has enjoyed increasing popularity in the last few years. For more information about the Sunday 24 July event, visit nowkabaisc.co.uk



Andre Rieu on the big screen

An open-air summer concert by Dutch pop classical artist André Rieu is to be screened in over 500 cinemas around the UK across the weekend of Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 August.

Rieu will be performing his new show, *Happy Days Are Here Again*, against the backdrop of Vrijthof Square in his home town of Maastricht... To find out which West Midlands cinemas will be screening the concert, visit andreincinemas.com

Happy State for Brum author

A Birmingham writer is this month launching her debut novel.

Samantha Fitzgibbons' *A Happy State* is set in a Britain of the near future which is under martial law. As a new government seeks to focus on the wellbeing of its people by eradicating mental illness, lead character Raffela Crowe discovers that her father is suffering from dementia - and she will stop at nothing to protect him... For more information about Samantha's new work of fiction, visit happystatenovel.com

BBC Proms in Birmingham

For the first time ever, the BBC Proms is taking its successful chamber music series across the UK - and Birmingham is one of the places it will be visiting.

Mezzo-soprano Claire Barnett-Jones will give a song recital at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's Bradshaw Hall on Monday 29 August... For more information and to purchase tickets, visit bcu.ac.uk/concerts



Loverly! My Fair Lady coming to the Hippodrome in 2023

New York's Lincoln Center Theater's critically acclaimed and multi-award-winning production of Lerner & Loewe's hit musical, *My Fair Lady*, will show at Birmingham Hippodrome next spring (Wednesday 8 - Sunday 26 March) as part of a UK & Ireland tour.

The show is directed by Bartlett Sher, who

commented: "Getting a chance to revisit George Bernard Shaw's extraordinary story of class and privilege in a new age is a rare and special event, and I'm thrilled to be able to take this epic musical on tour for audiences up and down the country to enjoy." For more information, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Singalong at MAC



Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre is this month hosting a singalong version of hit animated movie *Moana*.

The 2016 Disney film, which sees the teenage princess of the title battling to save her peaceful island home from a fiery ocean demon, will be screened at the Cannon Hill Park venue in the afternoon of Saturday 9 July.

Vocal chords at the ready...

Love and prejudice at Birmingham theatre

The award-winning Pilot Theatre will this autumn tour its hit stage adaptation of young adult novel *Noughts And Crosses* to Birmingham venue The Alexandra.

The story explores what happens when two people living in a world of terrorist violence - and separated by prejudice and distrust - find themselves falling in love.

The show stops off in Birmingham from 15 to 19 November. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit atgtickets.com



Ikon festival celebrates contributions made by migrants and refugees

Birmingham art gallery Ikon this month presents the fourth annual Migrant Festival - a four-day programme mixing visual art, music, film and performance.

Celebrating the contribution made by refugees and migrants to Birmingham and the UK, the festival highlights the migrant stories of artists in Ikon's programme, including Abdulrazaq Awofeso and Osman Yousefzada... For more information, visit ikon-gallery.org



Jazz back in the city

B:Music - the charity responsible for Birmingham's Town Hall and Symphony Hall - and radio station Jazz FM will next month co-host B:JazzFest, taking place at Symphony Hall from Monday 22 to Friday 26 August. Following on from the success of the inaugural festival last year, the week of free and low-cost music will include performances by international touring artists and local community bands. Daniel Casimir (pictured) plays Symphony Hall on 25 August.



Diversity celebrated in outdoor photographic show

Birmingham's rich diversity is being celebrated in a new outdoor photographic exhibition.

Entitled In Common, the project has been created in partnership with Birmingham-born artist & photographer Maryam Wahid. It features a series of portraits of people living

or working in and around the city's Edgbaston area, all of whom have connections to the Commonwealth.

The photos will be on display until 2023, next to Edgbaston Stadium and Midlands Arts Centre, on the site of Corkfield's new development for modern, urban apartments.

Showcasing aspiring poets at the cathedral

Poems written by Birmingham children inspired by the Commonwealth Games will this month go on display around the city's cathedral and Cathedral Square. The poems - which focus in particular on the themes of humanity, equality and destiny, along with the power of the human body, the spirit of the games and 'a sporting moment' - will be available to view, read and enjoy throughout the school summer holidays.

Find your spiritual identity in Sutton Coldfield

Midlanders are being invited to find their true spiritual identity - by attending a talk at the Sutton Coldfield Christian Science Church on Saturday 30 July. The talk - which is also being livestreamed at spirituality4.me/livestream - explores 'how understanding ourselves as an expression of God, love, and our identity as purely spiritual will result in wellness, opportunity, spiritual progress, and the highest degree of joy'.

Birmingham Fest is back

Birmingham Fest is back this month, presenting 60 performances at a variety of city venues across a period of 17 days. Highlights of the festival include Bessie Alone At Midnight (pictured), a 'richly written new play which jumps around the centuries', a new production of Charles Dickens' eerie short story The Signalman, and Ophelia - a 'haunting reimagining' of Shakespeare's Hamlet.

To check out what's showing, where and when, visit birminghamfest.co.uk



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



Housewarming Sessions:
Rosie Frater-Taylor
Fri 15 July
Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space



Kim Wilde: Greatest Hits Tour Plus Special Guests
China Crisis
Fri 16 Sep
Symphony Hall

On Record: In Conversation with Bobby Friction
Sat 16 Jul
Justham Family Room & Jane How Room



The Billy Joel Songbook
Sun 18 Sep
Town Hall



Jamaica 60th Cultural Extravaganza:
A Salute to the Commonwealth Games
Sat 23 Jul
Town Hall

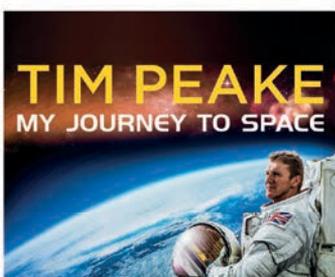


Anastacia: I'm Outta Lockdown – The 22nd Anniversary
Tue 1 Nov
Symphony Hall

Peppa Pig: My First Concert
28–29 Jul
Town Hall



An Evening with Noel Fitzpatrick
Tue 29 Nov
Town Hall



Tim Peake: My Journey to Space
Wed 7 Sep
Symphony Hall



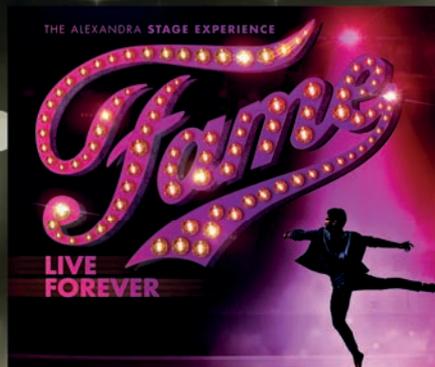
Christmas with Aled and Russell
Fri 2 Dec
Symphony Hall

A SPECTACULAR SEASON AWAITS...



**SOME
MOTHERS
DO 'AVE 'EM**

TUE 19 – SAT 23 JUL



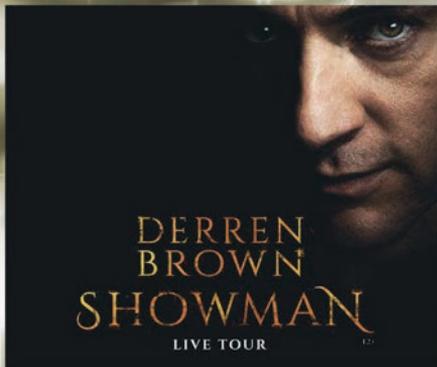
**LIVE
FOREVER**

THU 25 – SAT 27 AUG
CAP SAT 27 AUG 2.30PM



FOY VANCE

SUN 4 SEP



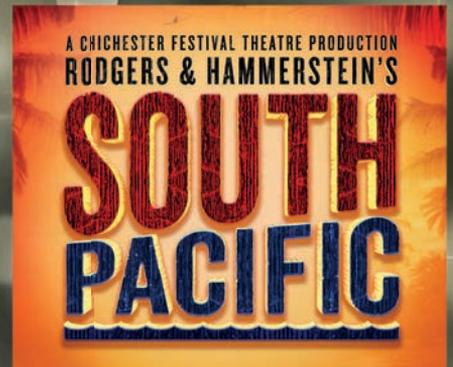
**DERREN
BROWN
SHOWMAN**
LIVE TOUR

TUE 6 – SAT 10 SEP



**FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS
THE MUSICAL**
THE TRUE STORY OF THE CORNISH
CHART TOPPING GROUP

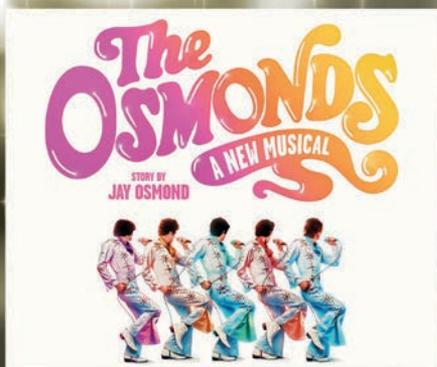
TUE 13 – SAT 17 SEP
AD THU 15 SEP 7.30PM



A CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE PRODUCTION
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

**SOUTH
PACIFIC**

TUE 27 SEP – SAT 1 OCT
THU 29 SEP 7.30PM



**The
OSMONDS**
A NEW MUSICAL
STORY BY
JAY OSMOND

TUE 25 – SAT 29 OCT

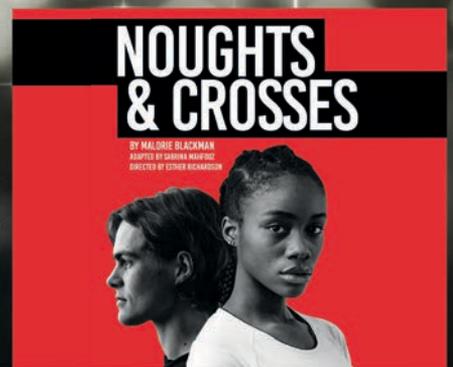


HAVE YOU DUNNIT?

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
**The
Mousetrap**

70TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

MON 31 OCT – SAT 5 NOV



**NOUGHTS
& CROSSES**

BY MALORIE BLACKMAN
ADAPTED BY SARAH MARSHALL
DIRECTED BY ESTHER RICHARDSON

TUE 15 – SAT 19 NOV

THE
ALEXANDRA
EST. SINCE 1901

BOOK NOW!
ATGTICKETS.COM/Birmingham

An introduction to live music with Peppa Pig

The ever-popular Peppa Pig is this month playing her part in introducing young children to the experience of a live orchestra. Peppa Pig: My First Concert, which takes place at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday 28 & Friday 29 July, is suitable for youngsters aged 18 months and older.

The show finds Peppa and George learning all about different sounds that instruments can make and discovering some exciting orchestral pieces that are 'perfect for children'. For more information and to book tickets, visit bmusic.co.uk

Birmingham autumn dates for Robbie Williams

Midlands icon Robbie Williams will be stopping off at Resorts World Birmingham in the autumn (15 & 16 October) as part of a UK arena tour.

The Stoke-on-Trent-born singer will visit the venue in support of new album XXV - set to be released on 9 September - and to celebrate 25 years as a solo artist.



Summer pantomime fun

Birmingham Old Rep's first resident theatre company is this month presenting a summer pantomime.

TCU - The Creative Universe - a grassroots Black-led company specialising in street-based theatre - will present Zendaya at the venue on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 July. The children's adventure - presented as an immersive performance - tells the story of 'a child born new to mankind who uses her superhero powers to save the natives of the tropical Jungle Mongabay'.

To find out more, visit oldreptheatre.co.uk



Birmingham International Dance Festival continues to entertain FOR FREE in Handsworth Park

Birmingham International Dance Festival 2022 draws to a close early this month with a weekend of free entertainment in the city's Handsworth Park (Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 July).

A packed programme of dance work includes performances by some of the Midlands' best-known ensembles. These include Sonia Sabri Company, who'll be presenting Mughal Miniatures, a show which uses dance, live music, theatre, puppetry, intricate costuming and set design to create living versions of Indian

miniature paintings.

The award-winning 2Faced Dance Company are making a contribution to the weekend too, presenting a world premiere of Where All Paths Lead. A thought-provoking dance-theatre work, the piece sees seven male performers embrace the powerful possibilities of different journeys, as they navigate their way across a series of pathways.

To check out the whole line-up of free-to-attend shows in Handsworth Park, visit bidf.co.uk

Inspired movement at the Electric Cinema

Eight short films showing how gymnastic movements can inspire jazz improvisation and composition are this month being premiered at Birmingham cinema The Electric. The films, which bring together gymnasts and musicians from across the West Midlands, will be shown at the venue on Wednesday 20 July. Free tickets are available from iconictv.co.uk

Mackenzie and Midlands-born Olympian Emily Campbell (who will be lifting for gold at Birmingham's NEC on Wednesday 3 August).

The show is being produced by Stan's Cafe in collaboration with 10 partner schools. Each school will give a public performance of their very own version of Precious Emily.

Stan's Cafe will then take a scene from every production and combine them in a gala performance at MAC Birmingham on Thursday 14 July.

For more information about the project and where and when the shows will be staged, visit stanscafe.co.uk

Stan's Cafe tell Emily's inspiring story at MAC

As a commission for Birmingham 2022 Festival, local theatre company Stan's Cafe are making not one, not two, but 11 versions of their brand-new show, Precious Emily.

Telling a story about 'lifting up heavy things', the production has been inspired by legendary weightlifter Precious





EMBRACING CULTURES

Carnival is coming to Birmingham this summer, and the party is going to be bigger and better than ever. So says Black Voices' musical director, Carol Pemberton, who here tells What's On all about it...

Created by the North Birmingham Alliance and forming part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival, Route 34 - Embracing Cultures will see people of all ages and backgrounds come together to celebrate and sing.

Combining the expertise of Black Voices, ACE Dance & Music, Legacy Centre of Excellence and Black Arts Forum, most of Route 34's events are free, outdoors and open to all.

Black Voices' musical director, Carol Pemberton, describes Route 34 as a way of highlighting communities in the north of the city, during what is a very special year for Birmingham.

"With the Commonwealth Games coming, we thought it was too big an opportunity not to do something spectacular to mark what goes on in North Birmingham," explains Carol, who formed Black Voices in 1987 and was awarded an MBE in 2014 for her services to music. "So with all of our organisations working in and attracting great art to North Birmingham, we really wanted to seize the moment.

"Route 34 - Embracing Cultures is about the corridor, the A34, going from the city centre north, up past the Alexander Stadium. It's a corridor that we all know well; we've worked with schools there and engaged with all sorts of diverse communities, and we wanted to celebrate those communities."

The project begins with a weekend of carnival-inspired fun at Legacy Centre of Excellence in Aston on 1 & 2 July. This is followed by Black Voices bringing Community Spirit to Birmingham Symphony Hall on the 10th of the month. Then it's time to party, with open-air carnival events at Perry Hall Park in Perry Barr on the 16th, Midlands Arts Centre in Edgbaston on 13 August, and Legacy Centre of Excellence and Grosvenor Road Studios in Handsworth on the 27th of next month.

"Route 34 is really bringing two main elements together - an anthem, which Black Voices commissioned, and the carnivals. We commissioned Ken Burton to write the anthem, Together We Rise, and it's lovely. The brief was very specific: create a singing moment that lifts us out of the Covid

doldrums that we've been in for the past couple of years, and which also celebrates everything that's great about Birmingham. We're a rich city of singing choral communities and it's very diverse, from folk, pop, people who started yesterday and people who have been going for years. The anthem is a great way to bring all of those voices together.

"We will launch the anthem at Symphony Hall, at our Community Spirit event. People will hear it for the very first time in its entirety, sung by a mass choir of over 800 voices. It's always nerve-racking when you commission a new piece as to whether people are actually going to like it, but the energy in Symphony Hall when we've been rehearsing the anthem is just magical.

"Then there will be opportunities to hear the anthem across the city when we combine it with carnival. The anthem forms part of the background to the colour of the carnivals, helping bring them to life."

The team behind Route 34 has been working with local schools, where children have been creating masks and costumes and writing their own anthems.

"The environment is very high on the agenda for everyone right now, so we've chosen the flora of 11 Caribbean islands as the main theme for the carnival costumes. That enables schools to learn a bit more about the Caribbean and how relevant it is to people in North Birmingham, where there are lots of Caribbean communities."

At each event, the youngsters will have the chance to join the parade - and sing their own anthems.

"There are 11 costumes, and then schools are able to make their own costumes and be part of that troupe. We did set ourselves a limit to the number of schools to begin with, but by the time we launched the idea to schools, everybody wanted to get on board, so it's expanded more than we could have envisaged. There's a lot of costume-making and mask-making going on! It's just kept growing.

"We also commissioned a second anthem, for schools to have their own place within this

whole project. We asked Peter Daley, who's a graduate of Birmingham Conservatoire and has worked with Black Voices many times, to give us just a frame - so the arrangement and a first verse. It's all about moving forward together, singing together, dancing together, and then he's left space for the children to write verses about things they're interested in. I think the teachers have very much left the children to harness their own ideas, and their writing has been just amazing. When we go to places like Perry Hall Park, they can join in the main anthem and then have their own little anthem as well."

Now in its 10th year and a partnership with B:Music, Community Spirit is ticketed, with tickets costing £10, but the carnival events are free and aiming to attract as many people as possible.

"It's about taking it to the people rather than expecting everyone to come to us. We have all kinds of community festivity things happening now, with costumes and mask-making and colourful explosions. I've seen carnival all over the country, but this is a whole other level. I've never seen such costumes in all of my life - they are spectacular!

"There are moments when we think, 'My God, have we taken on too much here?' but it feels like it will be really successful.

"I think it's a really important moment for North Birmingham, as it's often a part of the city which is overlooked. But with the Games coming to the Alexander Stadium and the area, it's a chance to shine a spotlight on the great stuff that happens in that part of the city.

"It's going to be fantastic for us who are participating, fantastic for the audiences who come, it will be great for the funders who've invested, and it will be a fantastic moment for Birmingham. I don't think I've seen anything like this, marking this kind of event, anywhere in the country, so I'm really excited."

For more information about Route 34 - Embracing Cultures, visit north-birmingham-alliance.squarespace.com

2022-23 Creative Courses on sale Sat 2 July

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macbirmingham.co.uk | 0121 446 3232
Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH



BIRMINGHAM COCKTAIL

WEEKEND

8-10 July

Tickets on sale now

birminghamcocktailweekend.co.uk



Food news from across the region...

Late-night pizza bar opens in Digbeth

Popular late-night pizza bar Crazy Pedro's has opened a premises in The Courtyard at The Custard Factory in Birmingham's Digbeth district. As well as serving up frozen margaritas on tap seven days a week, the venue will also offer a 90-minute Bottomless Pizza Brunch, which includes unlimited slices, frozen margaritas, beer, prosecco & Hooch. Renowned for its headline-grabbing pizza creations - including crême eggs & steak on pizza and chippy tea with curry sauce - the late-night party bar will be serving up New York-style pizzas all day long, with slices available until 3am.

Cocktail fun in Brum

Birmingham Cocktail Weekend returns to the city from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 July. Featuring over 40 participating venues - all serving up a £5 signature cocktail exclusively for festival-goers - the weekend boasts some fantastic events, a great offer from hotel partners Staying Cool at Rotunda and loads of tasty food deals... Tickets are on sale at birminghamcocktailweekend.co.uk

Birmingham Rum Festival is back!

Birmingham Rum Festival returns to The Cuban Embassy on Saturday 2 July. The popular event features a range of cocktails, exotic Caribbean street food and live music. The festival is educational as well as entertaining, with ticket holders able to learn all about where the rum in their glass has come from... For more information, visit birminghamrumfestival.com



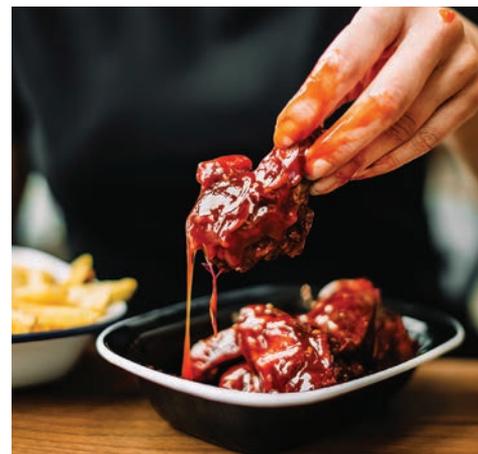
O'Neill's Broad Street reopens following refurbishment

Birmingham sports bar & live music venue O'Neill's Broad Street has reopened following a refurbishment. The popular venue now features booth seating for bigger groups, more TVs showing all major sports events and plenty of 'Instagrammable' photo opportunities. Special offers include lunch and a drink from £6, pizza and a drink from £9.75, mix & match tapas - three for £12 or five for £18 - and two cocktails for £11. Commenting on the refurb, General Manager Stef Reidy said: "We're very excited about opening our doors to the brand-new O'Neill's

Broad Street, especially with the Commonwealth Games and World Cup still to come this year! We have an incredibly loyal guest base, as well as plenty of visiting trade, and we can't wait to see their reaction! "Whilst we won't be losing all the great stuff we're famous for - such as great food, live sport and music - we're really looking to attract some new guests who perhaps didn't visit us previously. You can use our website or app to book yourself a table for any event, and then take advantage of our 'order at table' function via the app so that you'll never have to leave your table!"

Brand-new cafe & eatery to open inside Symphony Hall

B:Eats, a daytime cafe & eatery created by B:Music - the charity responsible for Birmingham's Symphony Hall and Town Hall - is due to open this month. Serving food & drink from inside the transformed spaces at Symphony Hall, B:Eats' menu features, among other delights, eggs benedict, southwest chorizo hash, buttermilk fried chicken wings, sticky maple fried chicken and Middle Eastern lamb tagine. The eatery will open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm, with food service from 11am each day and coffees & pastries served from 10am to 11am.





LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN

Oscar Wilde

23-26 June 2022
Crescent Studio

3 July
**Castle Bromwich
Historic Gardens**

6 July
**Birmingham
Botanical Gardens**

9+10 July
Blakesley Hall

13+14 July
Selly Manor

16+17 July
**Harvington Hall,
Kidderminster**

"I can resist everything except temptation." Lady Windermere has a happy marriage - or, at least, that's what she thinks until London society gossip the Duchess of Berwick voices suspicion about Lord Windermere's affair... With all the witty dialogue, social satire and outrageous paradoxes for which he is still remembered, join us in the open-air for Wilde's breakthrough stage hit!

Coming Soon



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CRESCENT we are theatre.

BRINDLEY
The place.



CLYBOURNE PARK
Bruce Norris
Studio | 9-16 July

Classical music from across the region...



Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 10 July

The exceptionally gifted Sheku Kanneh-Mason makes a welcome return to Symphony Hall, this time to perform alongside his sister, Isata. Sheku came to prominence back in 2016 when he was named BBC Young Musician, becoming the first Black entrant to win the competition since its launch in 1978. Isata, meanwhile, won the 2021 Leonard

Bernstein Award and topped the classical charts with her debut release, Romance - The Piano Music Of Clara Schumann... The talented siblings here apply their innate musicianship to the challenge of performing 20th-century cello sonatas by Frank Bridge, Benjamin Britten, Karen Khachaturian and Dmitri Shostakovich.

Kazuki Yamada conducts Rachmaninov

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 24 July
Having been principal guest conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra since 2018, Kazuki Yamada (pictured) will next spring become the CBSO's chief conductor and artistic advisor. If you haven't yet had the chance to see the 43-year-old in action, then this concert provides the ideal opportunity to check out the man who will be shaping the orchestra's output over the next few years. Glinka's firecracker overture to Ruslan & Ludmila lights the concert fuse in preparation for the delights which follow, namely Dame Ethel Smyth's Concerto for Violin & Horn and Rachmaninov's Second Symphony. The latter is one of Kazuki's personal favourites.



City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra: Stanford's Requiem

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 2 July
Charles Villiers Stanford's Requiem premiered in Birmingham in 1897 and has been largely overlooked ever since. Commissioned by the Triennial Festival - the city's long-running classical music event, which just three years later premiered Elgar's The Dream Of Gerontius - the Requiem has been widely praised as a fine example of its composer's exceptional craftsmanship - a fact which makes its failure to cement a place at the forefront of the English classical music canon all the more baffling. Martyn Brabbins (pictured) is the man with the baton for this mouthwatering event, which sees the CBSO teaming up with the University of Birmingham Voices. The concert is preceded by a talk about Stanford and the Birmingham Triennial Musical Festival, which last took place in 1912.



Armonico Consort

The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield, Wed 13 July
Having last year celebrated their 20th anniversary, Armonico continue their 2022 programme with a Lichfield Festival concert that sees them collaborating for a third time with wine expert Oz Clarke. This latest get-together explores the relationship between gin, music and human-beings across the centuries, and in the process features the music of Purcell, Handel and Dowland. Counter tenor and former Lichfield Cathedral chorister William Towers also contributes. And as a special treat for audience members, their ticket comes complete with the chance to enjoy two tasting gins.



Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra

Tamworth Castle Grounds, Sat 23 July
Admired around the world for their dynamism and versatility, the RPCO here team up with The Overtones and Russell Watson (pictured) to present a concert of music from the movies. Featured films include Raiders Of The Lost Ark, Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, Chariots Of Fire, The Great Escape, ET and The Magnificent Seven.



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Live music from across the region...

The Struts

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Wed 13 July

"We believe in giving our absolute all every night, because that's what our fans deserve," says Struts frontman Luke Spiller. "The goal is always to get everyone dancing and screaming and shouting, and to make sure they leave dripping in sweat with huge smiles on their faces."

Along with opening for Foo Fighters, The Rolling Stones, The Who and Guns N' Roses, the British glam rockers were handpicked by Mötley Crüe to serve as the supporting act for their last-ever performances.

Formed in Derby in 2012, the four-piece return for a long-awaited run of headline shows.



Roger Daltrey

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 4 July

"The truth is, singers need to sing. Use it or lose it," says The Who frontman Roger Daltrey, ahead of a special evening featuring the band's classics and rarities, Roger's solo hits and a fan Q&A.

"Throughout my life I've sung with so many great musicians - from the heavy rock of The Who and Wilko Johnson, to the Irish lilt of The Chieftains. On this tour, I want to take the audience on a musical journey through my career as a singer, with a show of songs and sounds that explores and surprises."



Craig Charles

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Sat 9 July

Asked by The Independent to define himself in six words, Craig Charles said, "late to bed, early to rise" - which probably explains why his CV, which includes work as a poet, comedian, author, presenter and DJ, is so

vast.

Broadcasting for 10 years on BBC 6 Music in its primetime Saturday night slot, Craig is a favourite on the UK and European funk & soul scene, touring extensively throughout the year... See him at the Hare & Hounds following his slot at the Mostly Jazz festival earlier in the day.

His Lordship

The Night Owl, Birmingham, Mon 11 July

The new project from guitarist James Walbourne (The Pretenders, The Pogues, The Rails) and Kristoffer Sonne (Chrissie Hyde, Willie Nelson), His Lordship has been described as "a furious riot of raging guitar and perverted drums from another dimension".



Transglobal Underground

Pizza Express Live, Birmingham, Fri 15 July

Over the past 25 years, Transglobal Underground has been a DJ/musical collective, a working band famous for its scorching live shows, a techno soundsystem, a folk festival rabble rouser, a pop group, a club night, a Middle Eastern hit production team, an improvised study group for Indian classical music, an Albanian brass band and more. Onstage it's a joyful and unpredictable journey into the bottomless vaults of the Transglobal catalogue.

Tom Leader

The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham, Tues 19 July

Based in Birmingham, Tom Leader is an alternative pop artist who enjoys making rhythmic acoustic loops and singing hopeful lyrics. His latest album, *Uncomfortably Happy*, was written exclusively during lockdown. In speaking to *Concrete*, Tom joked "It felt like the world was ending, so I had nothing to lose!" and then explained that the album is about "transitioning from a state of being comfortably unhappy to seeking a better path without the discomfort of that change. I guess when we confront our 'demons', that's a daunting process. And although these are *my* demons, I've tried to portray them in a relatable way."





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Festivals coming to the region in July...



Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul

Moseley Park, Birmingham,
Fri 8 - Sun 10 July

Created by the Midlands masterminds behind Moseley Folk & Arts Festival, Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul sees world-class artists coming together with leading lights of the local jazz community for a laidback family-friendly event designed to celebrate Birmingham's musical heritage.

The festival is located in the picturesque surroundings of Moseley Park, a stunning woodland glade tucked away behind busy Birmingham streets, making it the ideal retreat for music-loving city dwellers.

2022 line-up includes: The Specials, Earth Wind & Fire Experience ft. Al McKay (pictured), Cameo, Fatback Band, Nightmares On Wax, The Wailers, Children of Zeus and Oh My God! It's The Church

Upton Blues Festival

Upton-upon-Severn, Fri 15 - Sun 17 July

Set in the beautiful riverside town of Upton-upon-Severn, Upton Blues started in 2001 as a small event taking place in just a couple of pubs.

The festival now features a full weekend of live, free-to-experience music across three main stages, pubs, boats and clubs.

And this year for the first time, the campsite will open on the Wednesday before the festival. Tickets cost £15 for the weekend.

2022 line-up includes: The Folly Brothers, Kara Grainger (pictured), Mumbo Jumbo, Northsyde, The Big Ginge Blues Band, Greg Coulson, Born Healer, Dusk Brothers and Keith Thompson Band



Bromsgrove Folk Festival

The Bowling Green, Thurs 7 - Sun 10 July

Now in its 31st year, Bromsgrove Folk Festival offers patrons the chance to enjoy intimate concerts by UK-based folk, roots & acoustic performers.

Taking place at the town's Bowling Green Inn, the festival spreads across two marquees, with sessions and singarounds taking place inside the pub.

2022 line-up includes: Artisan, The Jigantics, Anthony John Clarke, Union Jill (pictured), Quicksilver, Mad Jocks & Englishmen, Mair Thomas, Joe Bayliss, Pete Abbott, Dave Gibb, Silvington, Fairfield, Stitherum and Tosh Ewins



Solihull Summer Fest

Tudor Grange Park, Sat 23 & Sun 24 July

Celebrating its sixth year, Solihull Summer Fest is fast becoming one of the most popular music get-togethers on the Midlands events calendar.

The festival features more than 10 hours of live music across two days, a selection of street food and a variety of bars serving everything from real ale to prosecco, cocktails and Pimm's.

This year there are two events taking place before the main festival: an open-air cinema screening of Rocketman - plus an Elton John tribute - on 21 July, and Ibiza Proms In The Park, featuring the Secret Symphony 50-piece orchestra, on the 22nd.

2022 line-up includes: Shaggy, Billy Ocean, Sister Sledge (pictured), Kool & The Gang, Boyzlife, Belinda Carlisle, Bad Manners, Shalamar, Artful Dodger, Lemar, Duke, The Real Thing, Doctor & The Medics



Simmer Down Festival

Handsworth Park, Birmingham,
Sunday 17 July



Simmer Down has become one of Birmingham's most popular and diverse festivals.

Featuring music, dance, spoken word, visual arts, commissioned work, workshops & participation activities and outreach & young people's programmes, the family-friendly event celebrates the city's rich cultural diversity with a line-up of internationally acclaimed artists and homegrown talent. Rooted in North Birmingham, the festival pays tribute to the centrality of reggae and other musical genres that have contributed to Birmingham's growing reputation as an international city of culture.

2022 line-up includes: Third World (pictured), Odyssey, Iqulah Rastafari, Havana Meets Kingston, Dub Qalandar, Big Ship Alliance, Reggaeators and Winston Fergus

Life in the old dogs yet

Coventry 2-Tone stars The Specials are still going strong and this month headline the Mostly Jazz Funk And Soul Festival in Moseley Park, Birmingham



The Specials' bass player Horace Panter chats to What's On ahead of the band's eagerly anticipated appearance at this month's Mostly Jazz Funk And Soul Festival...

After scoring their first number-one album with *Encore* in 2019, Coventry's The Specials were busily preparing to make a follow-up when Covid-19 hit.

"We were going to write an album of original material," explains The Specials' bass player, Horace Panter. "We'd started to get that organised and then the Covid thing came along. Lynval [Golding] went back to Seattle, Terry [Hall] was stuck in his house in London and never went out, and it just put that whole creative process on hold. That was dreadful!

"So what were we going to do?... Well, when bands run out of ideas, they do an album of cover versions, don't they? But we decided to do an album of protest songs, because 2020 was the year of protest, and it felt relevant."

Fuelled by the Black Lives Matter movement and other social injustices, Panter, Golding and Hall's *Protest Songs 1924-2012* was released in the autumn of 2021, hitting number two in the LP charts. The collection included spirituals, blues' comments on racism and a song written with prison inmates, by way of tracks originally recorded by Bob Marley and Talking Heads.

"Protest songs aren't new - that's something we wanted to say," explains Horace. "People have been writing songs about social issues since the dawn of time - there were minstrels in the time of King Richard, Blondel and all that stuff. So that's where that all came from."

Despite the challenges of working during Covid - with Horace in Warwickshire, Lynval in Seattle and Terry in London - the record came together easily, with the trio passing lists of suggestions back and forth.

"Choosing material was probably the hardest part of the exercise."

After spearheading what became known as the 2-Tone explosion in the late 1970s - a movement that also included Coventry's The Selecter, Birmingham's The Beat and London's Madness (all of whom released tracks on the band's own 2-Tone label) - The Specials began to split in 1981, right after

Ghost Town hit number one, with Terry, Lynval and Neville Staple forming Fun Boy Three. The original line-up (minus keyboard maestro Jerry Dammers) reformed in 2008, and although Staple and guitarist Roddy Radiation soon left, with drummer John Bradley tragically dying in 2015, Horace, Terry and Lynval have continued to keep The Specials' legacy alive to this day.

"There's life in the old dogs yet," laughs Horace. "It's amazing."

Away from The Specials, Horace has forged a successful career as an artist, producing pop-art-style prints and artworks. Among his most successful works has been a series of images of cassette tapes. When he first created the prints, cassette tapes were thought to have had their day, but in more recent times they've enjoyed a surprise revival.

"It's weird, isn't it? I think it's a fashion thing maybe; things sort of cycle around, don't they? Vinyl, too! I'm buying 12-inch albums all the time; I've got far more now than I had 30 years ago."

Recalling the genesis of the cassette series, he says: "I painted some Walkmans. I didn't have one, so I bought three of them off eBay. One of them still worked, which was great, so I've still got a Walkman - which I can plug into my stereo, if I want to.

"I was a great DJ back in the day - I've got a couple of compilation tapes I made that are fantastic, really good, from 1982/'83 or something.

"The cassette was such a groundbreaking piece of technology, and not just the Walkman, which liberated you - you could walk around with the music stuck in your head. In the music industry, it was a tool - it was what you put your demos on; it was what you walked away from recording sessions with. It had a social function as well, but it was also an integral part of being in a pop group in the late 1970s, the '80s, and into the early '90s."

When not in his art studio or touring and recording with The Specials, Horace can

often be spotted in small venues around Warwickshire and the Midlands playing rhythm & blues with Leamington Spa guitarist Steve Walwyn in The Dirt Road Band.

"Steve was the guitar player with Doctor Feelgood - for 32 years, I think - and he's started this side project. It's great fun - ever so noisy. We play smallish places and my ears hurt! They're the only gigs I do where my ears hurt! You've got to feel that 'buzzzzzzzz' the next day - it reminds you what you've been doing.

"Steve's favourite guitar player is Rory Gallagher, so he goes with that template. It's the nearest I get to playing heavy metal. It's great fun. It's played in smaller venues, where you can see the whites of the eyes of the audience - or rather the blood-shot eyes of the audience."

As The Specials prepare to headline this month's Mostly Jazz Funk And Soul Festival in Birmingham's Moseley Park, Horace's immediate future is taken up with live shows and, if all goes according to plan, the new album of original material they'd started working on when Covid hit.

"We've a dozen shows this summer, and then the plan is to see how we're doing with these new songs and then record them. But we're taking stock of where we are at present - Lynval turned 70 last year and I'm not too far behind, you know? It's a little bit old to be jumping off drum risers - so there's that to contend with. It's what we always do - just take one year at a time. But Terry's been writing, so pretty soon we'll be together to talk about sharps and flats and diminished chords and things like that - muso stuff."

Mostly Jazz Funk And Soul Festival takes place in Moseley Park, Birmingham, from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 July.
To find out more, visit mostlyjazz.co.uk

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Comedy previews from across the region...

Tez Ilyas

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 16 July

Silly, smart and subversive humour is the name of Tez Ilyas' comedy game. And as the rapid growth of his fanbase ably illustrates, he's extremely good at what he does. Tez's political stand-up has been likened to candyfloss with a razorblade hidden inside, while his television work has brought him to the attention of a whole new audience. The fact that he's been able to hit the right notes with so many people doesn't come as a surprise to the man himself, though: "It doesn't matter what walk of life we're from, I think we're all united by the British sense of humour. Whatever creed, colour, sexual orientation or gender type we are, we have a connection based around a mutual appreciation of that sort of comedy."



Milo Edwards

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Fri 22 July

Milo is en route to the Edinburgh Festival and stops off in Worcester to give his work-in-progress show, Voicemail - in which he examines life, death, politics and the answering machine - a swift 50-minute run-out.

The London-based podcaster has taken an unusual path towards comedy greatness since his days in the Cambridge Footlights, spending three years in Moscow appearing on TNT network shows Open Microphone and StandUp.

He moved back to the UK in 2018 and made his Edinburgh debut a year later with Pindos: An Adventure In Modern Russia, in which he explored the question 'what happens when a country is run by a shirtless man on a horse'...

Milo will be sharing the Huntingdon Hall spotlight on Friday the 22nd with fellow funnyman Hal Cruttenden, whose 50-minute show, It's Best You Hear It From Me, is also a work in progress.



Sarah Millican

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 July;
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 3 - Fri 5 August

One of the brightest comedians around, Sarah Millican enjoyed a sell-out success with her very first tour, with bums on all available seats on no fewer than 120 laughter-filled nights. It almost goes without saying that she's not looked back since. Sarah is returning to the Midlands this

month with her sixth touring show, Bobby Dazzler, during which she promises you'll learn about what happens when your mouth seals shut, how to throw poo over a wall, trying to lose weight but only losing the tip of your finger, a surprisingly funny smear test, and how truly awful a floatation tank can actually be.

Jimmy Carr

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa,
Mon 11 July; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Wed 23 - Thurs 24 November; Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, Fri 25 November

Jimmy Carr's comedy is all about quickfire, deadpan one-liners - and so many of them, in fact, that he's not sure whether their content actually matters all that much: "People don't really remember the individual jokes I tell because I tell such a lot of them. What they *do* remember is how those jokes make them feel."

Jimmy is a comedian for whom no subject is off limits: "I'll talk about anything as long as I feel the joke justifies it. Sure, it may cause controversy - but then controversy is an easy story on a slow-news day. And I never apologise for jokes. After all, I'm not making a serious political statement, I'm just trying to make somebody laugh."

Jimmy visits the region with Terribly Funny 2.0, a show which he warns contains 'jokes about all kinds of terrible things'.



Mark Watson

The Place, Telford, Thurs 21 July; The Edge
Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire,
Sun 20 November

Well-established on the UK comedy circuit, Mark Watson was born in Bristol to Welsh parents and initially delivered his act with a Welsh accent, claiming he felt "more comfortable talking in a voice that I didn't quite recognise as my own".

A regular contributor to the Edinburgh Fringe, Mark has the curious distinction of having performed standup shows which have lasted for a period in excess of 24 hours.

"Comedy is certainly a time-consuming element of my life," he admits, "but then while I'm out touring and on stage, there are people at home doing far less glamorous things. There have certainly been times when I've been very happy to say, 'Of course I'd like to stay and help out with that plumbing crisis, but the Midlands awaits!'"

Mark's latest visit to the region sees him presenting This Can't Be It, a show which will reflect on 'a couple of years of pathological overthinking'.



Cher and Cher alike



West End star Danielle Steers talks about what it's like to be playing one of music's biggest icons - and what audiences can expect when new musical *The Cher Show* comes to town...

"Pretty terrifying," is how Danielle Steers describes taking on the role of the icon that is Cher. "I don't think anyone can ever come close to her, but it's nice to put our own flavour in and try to capture her essence.

"We're actresses at the end of the day, so we're not trying to be a caricature, we're just honouring the legend."

Born in Yorkshire, Danielle is known to West End audiences for originating the role of Zahara in *Bat Out Of Hell: The Musical* and, more recently, for her portrayal of Catherine Parr in award-winning musical *SIX*.

Now she's turning back time as she takes on the role of Cher in the first UK tour of *The Cher Show*, a high-energy celebration of the life and times of the Goddess of Pop.

Premiering in Chicago in 2018, the hit musical tells the story of Cher's meteoric rise to fame - from meeting Sonny Bono and the breakdown of their marriage, to her many musical comebacks and Hollywood successes - all of which is recounted with a generous side-order of glitter, glamour and wit.

But Danielle isn't the only Cher in the show. Fellow West End performers Millie O'Connell and Debbie Kurup play 'Babe' and 'Star' respectively. Babe is young Cher; Star, the fully formed icon. Danielle's version - 'Lady' - is Cher of the 1970s, the decade which saw her enjoy US number-one hits with *Gypsies, Tramps & Thieves*, *Half-Breed* and *Dark Lady*. "Lady starts with Cher's big rise to fame and ends with her divorce from Sonny, so I get quite a meaty part of the show with lots of emotion, which is great to work with."

Behind the scenes, *The Cher Show* is blessed with some top-notch creative talent. The musical is written by Tony Award-winning Rick Elice - who also penned *Jersey Boys* - and is directed and choreographed by former *Strictly* stars Arlene Phillips and Oti Mabuse respectively.

Award-winning costume designer Gabriella Slade - who, like Danielle, worked on *SIX* - has also brought her talent to the show.

"Gabriella's incredible. She's taken the basis of those iconic Bob Mackie costumes and put her own spin on them. They weigh a ton because they're all hand-beaded, but they're a joy to wear, and the detailing on them is just stunning."

Fashion designer Bob Mackie first dressed Cher in 1967 and still works with her to this day. His extravagant looks have helped turn her into a fashion icon.

As well as the costumes, there's also, of course, a long list of Cher smash hits to enjoy - 35 to be precise - including *If I Could Turn Back Time*, *Strong Enough*, *I Got You Babe* and *Believe*.

And though she admits it's hard to choose, Danielle does have a favourite number.

"It comes at the end of act one, when the three Chers sing *Song For The Lonely*. It's a more recent song of hers, but it's a really special moment for me, where I always think how lucky I am to get to do this show every night."

With that being said, the role isn't without its challenges.

"There's a fine line between honouring Cher and becoming a caricature. There are moments when we can be a little over the top, but there are also a lot of serious moments that pull it back ever so slightly.

"I think the beautiful thing about the three of us is that we all present different aspects of Cher, whether it be the voice, the acting, the way she walks. If you had three people who were doing an outright impersonation, it would distract from the story, and we really want the story to shine through."

And Cher's story is certainly a remarkable one, from dropping out of school and leaving

home at 16, through the dark days of financial struggle and facing up to being a woman in a man's world, to her eventual arrival in the spotlight of superstardom.

But *The Cher Show* reveals aspects of its subject's life that might surprise the audience.

"She's been through some real highs and lows, but I think the most surprising thing is how vulnerable she is. People see her as this megastar on stage, but actually she's painfully shy."

Cher's vulnerability is something to which Danielle can definitely relate.

"I'm a bit of an introvert too, so I do see myself in her. People find that hard to believe because I act, sing and dance, but actually, when I'm not on stage, all I want is to be at home reading a book.

"But I think we can all relate to Cher at some point, because she's been through so much."

Danielle promises the show will have audiences dancing in the aisles at the end, courtesy of a certain-call megamix of Cher's greatest hits.

"I hope the audience feels joyful and uplifted. And I hope they can feel the 'girl power' and know that they can go out there, face the world and do things they were previously too scared to do.

"Ultimately, we just want everyone to have an amazing time and take a little bit of fearlessness away with them."

.....

The Cher Show plays Birmingham Hippodrome, 2 to 6 August, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, 30 August to 3 September, and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from 18 to 22 October.





Footloose Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 4 - Sat 9 July

Hit Broadway and West End musical Footloose tells the story of city boy Ren's arrival in Bomont, and the impact which his dancing has on a town held back by the memory of a tragedy. Featuring classic numbers such as Holding Out For A Hero, Almost

Paradise, Let's Hear It For The Boy, and of course the title track itself, the show stars Dancing On Ice winner Jake Quickenden and West End veteran Darren Day.

We Will Rock You

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 4 - Sat 30 July

A joyous homage to the music of Queen, We Will Rock You is short on storyline but boasts bags of energy and just about as brilliant a soundtrack as any musical's ever likely to feature. The show's frontline performers give it their all to excellent effect, while the sets and choreography ensure a visual spectacle to remember.

For those who care about the plot, the story is set in a future where originality has been quashed, musical instruments banned, and a hero is needed to bring back rock music...



Bugsy Malone

The Rep, Birmingham, Wed 27 July - Sun 14 August; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 13 - Sun 18 September



Gangsters rule the roost in this tongue-in-cheek tribute to the 1920s mobster flick, best known from the 1976 film version written & directed by Alan Parker and starring newcomers Jodie Foster and Scott Baio. Fat Sam is feeling the pressure. His crooked business rackets are under attack from arch rival Dandy Dan, whose new weapon, the splurge gun, has given his hoodlums the edge. With a St Valentine's Day massacre on the cards, Sam needs to even the odds - and fast. But is baby-faced Bugsy Malone really the answer to his prayers?... A madcap mobster musical that's always worth a look, this Lyric Hammersmith production is a revival of the stage adaptation written by Alan Parker himself back in the early 1980s.

Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 19 - Sat 23 July; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 26 - Sat 30 July

Joe Pasquale makes a welcome return to the stage as the accident-prone Frank Spencer, the character created and made famous by Michael Crawford in the classic 1970s' sitcom bearing the same title. "I don't do it as Michael's Frank Spencer, though," says Joe. "That would be an insult to Michael. I'm putting my own personality into it. Frank isn't childish; he believes in what he's doing. The relationship between him and his wife, Betty, is a love story. He might always mess up, but she loves him anyway. For it to work, she has to, otherwise he'd just be an idiot." Joe is joined by Sarah Earnshaw as the long-suffering Betty and Susie Blake as Frank's disapproving mother-in-law, Mrs Fisher.



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The Silent Treatment

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Fri 22 July

Award-winning performer Sarah-Louise Young - whose previous shows, *An Evening Without Kate Bush* and *Julie Madly Deeply*, proved to be big critical hits - makes a welcome return with a true story about a singer who loses her voice and embarks on an unexpected journey of self-revelation. Combining storytelling, physical theatre and song to explore how the body remembers what the mind forgets, the show is being presented at the Old Joint Stock prior to playing the Edinburgh Fringe next month.

Richard III

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until 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. 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 playing Gloucester 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 the 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."



Romeo + Juliet

Stafford Castle, until Sat 9 July



Widely regarded as Shakespeare's fifth tragedy, *Romeo & Juliet* tells a tale of forbidden and secret love. And although it tends to fair less well critically than the rest of the playwright's high-profile works, its timeless themes ensure its continuing popularity. Indeed, it's expected that up to 11,000 people will attend performances of this latest version, presented against the magnificent backdrop of historic Stafford Castle.

Local actress Gill Jordan takes on the role of the Nurse. Gill 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. "I've always brought history into my work," says Gill, who's been treading the boards for nearly 40 years. "So to be able to immerse myself into this great period of British history - through the costume and castle backdrop - is all part of the excitement for me. "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! And that's a perfect word for it really, because the character is so lovely. She's one that people can relate to - the down-to-earth one."

Tom, Dick & Harry

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
until Sat 9 July

Tom, Dick & Harry is an ambitious reimagining of a daring escape attempt at a prisoner-of-war camp during World War Two. The story was memorably filmed as *The Great Escape* in the early 1960s.

This all-new theatrical version benefits from previously classified war-archive information that wasn't available when the movie was made.

"There was so much to work from," explains actor Michael Hugo, who not only stars in the play but also co-wrote it. "It was an absolute gift and almost too epic to pick one element. "We sometimes hear about the entertainment division of the army entertaining the troops, but usually in their own camps, not in a prison. For example, they had a theatre there, inside the prison. And this theatre was used to entertain the German staff as well - the guards used to really look forward to the shows. They even worked together to help secure the lighting, props and costumes, all on the promise that none of it would be used for any naughty business like trying to escape or anything daft like that!"



WHAT WILL YOU SEE NEXT?



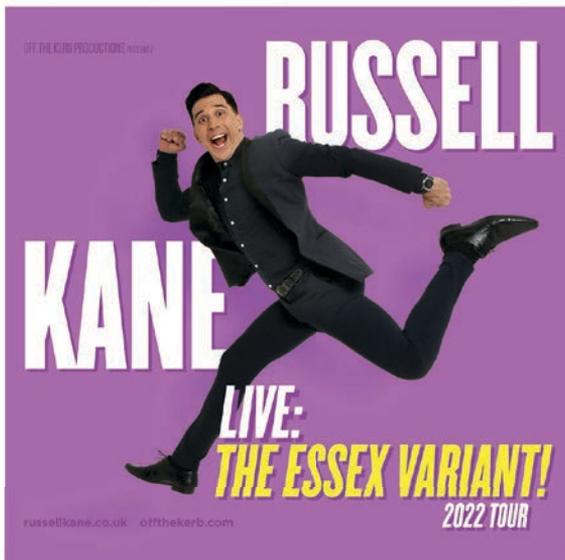
SUN 18 SEP

JACK DEE - OFF THE TELLY



MON 19 SEP

MICHAEL STARRING BEN



WED 21 SEP

RUSSELL KANE -
THE ESSEX VARIANT



FRI 23 SEP

BACK INTO HELL

Image is of a previous Illyria production. Credit: Gordon Scammell - gordscam@yahoo.com



Peter Pan

Stoneleigh Abbey, Tues 26 July; Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Fri 29 July; Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton, Tues 16 Aug; Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, Wed 24 August; Bolton Gate Farm, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 2 September

'Second star to the right and straight on till morning' may be Peter Pan's final destination, but this summer he's first of all stopping off at numerous Midlands venues to excite and delight family audiences. With its fantastic fairy, marvellous mermaids, wonderful Wendy and down-on-their-luck lost boys to recommend it - not to mention the ever-so-wicked Captain Hook and a very hungry crocodile who goes tick-tock (he swallowed a clock) - JM Barrie's classic story about the boy who never grows up is here being presented by the ever-popular Illyria Theatre, who are promising the show will include 'real flying'.

Lady Windermere's Fan

Castle Bromwich Gardens, Birmingham, Sun 3 July; Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Wed 6 July; Blakesley Hall, Birmingham, Sat 9 & Sun 10 July; Selly Manor, Birmingham, Wed 13 & Thurs 14 July; Harvington Hall, Kidderminster, Sat 16 & Sun 17 July

Boasting plenty of Oscar Wilde's trademark satirical humour, Lady Windermere's Fan explores the way in which marriage and social status can mask the dark secrets hidden away in people's past lives.

Wilde's first major move into the genre of comedy writing, the play is here performed by Birmingham's Crescent Theatre.



The Gunpowder Plot

Shrewsbury Castle, Tues 26 July; Coventry Cathedral, Thurs 4 August; Charlecote Park, Warwickshire, Fri 5 & Sat 6 August; Coventry Cathedral, Thurs 8 September

Described as 'an explosive evening of short fuses', this outdoor production is presented by the highly rated and never-too-serious Three Inch Fools.

The ensemble are stepping outside their usual Shakespeare comfort zone to tell the highly flammable true-life tale of Guy Fawkes' failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Along their storytelling way, the five-actor company are promising uproarious intrigue, endless costume changes, and many, many false moustaches...

As You Like It

The Close, Lichfield, Mon 11 July; Coughton Court, Alcester, Fri 15 July; Shrewsbury Castle, Tues 2 Aug; Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, North Shropshire, Tues 16 Aug; Haden Hill House, Cradley Heath, Sat 20 Aug; Shrewsbury Castle, Thurs 25 Aug; Bantock House & Gardens, Fri 26 Aug

All-male theatre company The Lord Chamberlain's Men are the ensemble behind this new version of Shakespeare's highly likable comedy.

The storyline revolves around the character of Rosalind, banished by her usurping uncle to the Forest of Arden, where her exiled father is already living.

Revelling in the naturalness of their surroundings, Rosalind and her companions - cousin Celia and Touchstone the fool - find a happiness they hadn't known existed..

Hamlet The Comedy

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."

Jane Eyre

Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton, Shropshire, Wed 27 July; Packwood House, Solihull, Fri 29 July; Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire, Sat 13 Aug; Warley Woods, Smethwick, Thurs 18 Aug; Hill Close Gardens, Coventry, Tues 23 Aug; Coventry Cathedral Ruins, Thurs 25 Aug

Outdoor-theatre stalwarts Heartbreak Productions give Charlotte Bronte's famous novel the beneath-the-summertime-stars treatment. For those not up to speed with the

story, it follows the orphaned Jane as she's sent by her cruel Aunt Reed to the bleak Lowood School. Later, on securing a position as governess at Thornfield Hall, Jane finds herself falling for the charms of the enigmatic Edward Rochester, unaware that the new object of her affection harbours a dark and terrible secret... Heartbreak are setting their adaptation against the backdrop of a carnival, so expect 'astounding acrobats and jaw-dropping jugglers', not to mention the experience of watching escape artist Jane wriggle her way out of five very different tight corners...



Credit: David Fawbert photography.

'MIGHTY MIZ IS STILL
REVOLUTIONARY'

DAILY MAIL

M. Les Misérables



H BIRMINGHAM TUE 9 - SAT 27 AUGUST
HIPPODROME birminghamhippodrome.com



HEAR THE PEOPLE SING!



Cameron Mackintosh's epic production of Schönberg & Boublil's legendary musical, *Les Misérables*, returns to Birmingham Hippodrome next month. What's On recently caught up with Dean Chisnall, who takes the part of Jean Valjean, and Nic Greenshields (Javert) to find out what it's like to play such iconic roles...

What's it like playing Jean Valjean and Javert - two of musical theatre's most iconic roles?

Dean Chisnall: I say it to everybody - this is the dream role for anyone in musical theatre. It's the pinnacle for any male performer, and I just feel very lucky to do it, and to have done it for as long as I have. I've now played over 500 performances as Jean Valjean, and it still feels as magical as it did the first time I stepped on the stage. I pinch myself every day.

Nic Greenshields: It's a great privilege to play Javert. I first saw the show when I was in my teens, and to be doing it 25 years later is a huge honour. I try to bring out a different side to Javert, giving him multiple dimensions and making him more than just the baddie; showing a more emotional side to him.

Were you both fans of the show before being part of it? Do you remember your first experience of *Les Mis*?

DC: I do remember the first time I saw it. I've always been a fan, long before I even dreamt of having a career in theatre. I was in London on my own, at about the age of 18, and footed off to get myself a single ticket to see it at the Palace Theatre. I sat there and completely fell in love with the show.

NG: I remember buying a cassette, when I was about 11 years old, of people singing songs from *Les Mis*. I remember listening to it and trying to imagine what the show would be like. Eventually I begged my mum to take me and we queued for returns. I was just blown away. The show really resonated with me, and I thought, "I want to be part of this. This is what I want to do."

You've both played these roles for a long time. Have you found that your understanding of your character has changed over time?

NG: Most definitely. I've changed since I first covered the role. I'm a dad now; I'm older and more mature and have experienced life a

bit more. I'm now able to identify a lot more layers to Javert. It's a great role, and there's no other part in the show I would rather play. I always like to discover more about him as I continue to play him.

DC: I say to people that we always try to strive for perfection, which is not attainable, which means you never stop trying to achieve it. With someone like Jean Valjean, he is very complex in many ways but very simple in others. It's always a challenge to work him out, and I love that about him. I think I've probably played him a little bit differently every performance. There's always something new you can find in him, and he's a wonderful person to play.

What are your favourite moments in the show?

DC: I love Bring Him Home. I know it's a song that I sing on my own, but it's always felt like a 'whole company' moment. The rest of the cast are asleep on the barricades, so it always feels quite magical. I also love the absolutely iconic One Day More, with the whole company there. To be honest, the whole show is two-and-a-half hours of pure magic.

NG: I absolutely agree. One Day More is such an iconic moment for everyone. There's no better way to end the first act of a show! I always enjoy listening to Fantine sing I Dreamed A Dream. It's a great number. I defy anyone to come and see *Les Mis* and not love that moment. The moments I have with Dean are wonderfully dramatic. I love the opening with the prisoners, and the moment that moves me is the finale with Valjean and Cosette. It's musically so beautiful, and the lyrics are stunning as well.

Does playing the roles require a lot of stamina, and what helps you to perform each night?

NG: I took up running during lockdown! I felt I needed to do something, and just before we started rehearsals, I ran a half marathon, which was a big achievement. All the roles are demanding. To keep delivering at the

level we want to, it's tough work. You do have to look after yourself. Dean and I try and take care of our voices and energy to ensure that we're performing well eight shows a week.

DC: Preparation is key - trying to stay healthy and getting some sleep. I love my job, so it's not a chore, and I don't think of it as being exhausting. It is tiring, but I have to say probably more mentally exhausting than it is physically, because of who Jean Valjean is and what a marathon journey he goes on. We're here to give the audience some sort of escape. And, of course, as actors, we like to escape into a role as well. I undoubtedly feel that I'm 'somewhere else' during those two-and-a-half hours. You have to live and breathe these characters. You can't fake *Les Mis*.

Why do you think audiences still love the show so much?

DC: The messages of *Les Mis* are still so relevant. Everyone has something that they can relate to in the show, something that they've experienced in their lives. The show now is as fresh as it ever was. It's a wonderful company that we've got here, and we're delighted to be sharing it with people. There's no show that has a reaction quite like this one. It's the greatest show on earth.

NG: The music is definitely a huge part of it. The score is stunning and has really broken through into popular culture, bringing it to a new audience. Ultimately, I think *Les Mis* has remained so popular because of the themes. It's a show about redemption and the human condition and everything that still resonates with us all today. We connect with the characters and become engrossed in the story, and the beautiful music pulls everything together. It's clearly a magical formula.

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Les Misérables shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tues 9 to Sat 27 August

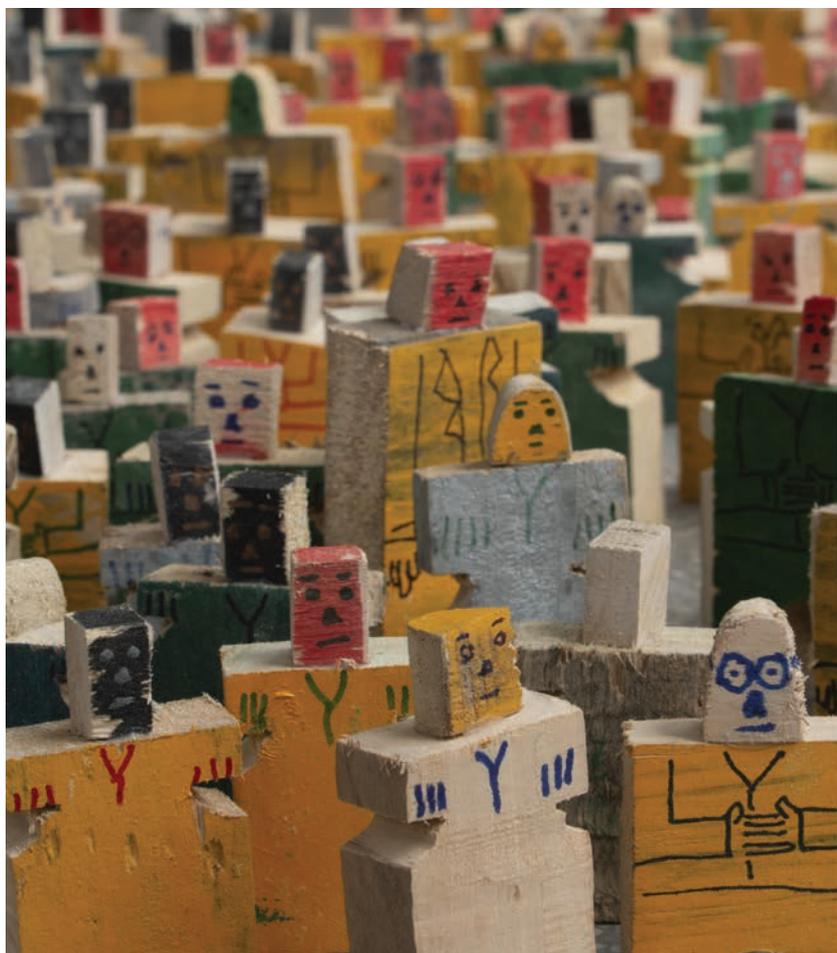


Mailles by Compagnie Kadidi

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 1 & Sat 2 July

Choreographer, singer & author Dorothée Munyaneza here presents a UK premiere of a dance & vocal performance featuring six female artists who are either African or of African descent. British-Rwandan Dorothée's aim with the piece is to have the dancers use their voices and bodies to boldly and freely manifest an intimate and collective memory. In so doing, she aims to tell a unique story of 'journey, commitment and strength'.

Weaving the stories together to create 'a symphony of voices', the choreographer has produced the work in collaboration with artist & designer Stéphanie Coudert. Stéphanie's contribution sees costume and fabric not only providing a common on-stage thread but also interrogating femininity and freedom of the body. Dorothée's previous works include Samedi Détente and Unwanted, two performance pieces which confront the subject of the Rwandan genocide, a period of around 100 days in 1994 which saw hundreds of thousands of people lose their lives. It was during the genocide that 12-year-old Dorothée moved with her family from Rwanda to London. This latest work is presented as part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2022.



The Migrant Festival

14 – 17 July 2022

A four day festival fusing visual art, music, film and performance.

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IKON

Photo: Abdulrazaq Awofeso



Burn The Floor Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 12 - Wed 13 July; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 22 July

“Burn The Floor is the show that ignited a spark in me and changed me forever as a performer,” says Kevin Clifton, who stars in the hit production. “Through Broadway, West End and touring all over the world, this show has ripped apart the rule book, revolutionised our genre and inspired and shaped me as the dancer I am today. In 2022, I’m delighted to say that I’m coming ‘home’ to Burn The Floor.”

Kevin is joined on this latest tour - a celebration of the show’s 25th anniversary - by his sister Joanne, Aljaž Škorjanec, Janette Manrara, Karen Hauer, Dianne Buswell, Luba Mushtuk, Kai Widdrington and Robin Windsor, all of whom have previously appeared in Burn The Floor. Further performers will be announced in the run-up to the tour, which kicks off in Shrewsbury and finishes in Birmingham 11 days later.

Rhythm Of The Dance

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 16 July; Lichfield Garrick, Fri 29 July

Audiences are promised an evening of flailing fiddles, flutes, and inspiring dances when popular touring show Rhythm Of The Dance stops off in the Midlands this month. Taking its fans on a two-hour trip through hundreds of years of Irish dance and music, the hit show boasts 22 award-winning world and Irish dance champions, no fewer than 25 costume changes, performances by talented vocalists and an Irish traditional band of multi-instrumentalist musicians, and a state-of-the-art light & sound presentation. Rhythm Of The Dance will be celebrating a quarter-century of touring next year, and has so far visited four continents and been seen by more than seven million people in over 50 countries. If you’ve not yet checked it out, this month’s Midlands performances provide a perfect opportunity to catch up with one of the most popular Irish step dance shows in the world.



Anton & Giovanni: Him & Me

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sat 9 July

Are you in urgent need of a Strictly Come Dancing booster-jab while waiting for the return of the show in the autumn? If so, then this is most definitely the production for you. Two of the hit BBC TV series’ biggest and all-time best-loved professional dancers, Anton Du Beke and Giovanni Pernice - Anton has now become one of the judges - here join forces to present a show that’s being described as a true dance extravaganza. A ‘world-class cast of dancers and singers’ further add to the magic.

Oti Mabuse: I Am Here

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 3 July

“The show starts here in the UK with everything I have today and focuses on the experiences I have been through - all the amazing dance shows that I’ve been lucky enough to be a part of.” Former Strictly favourite Oti Mabuse is talking about her touring show, I Am Here. “Then we go back in time to Germany, to see where the training-crazy Oti came from. We then take it all the way back to South Africa, to where I was born and to the history of South Africa itself - telling love stories as we go. “It has been a long wait to present this show, as the tour was supposed to happen two years ago. It’s something I feel really passionate about, as there has never been a female-led solo dance tour ever, ever, ever... I feel really lucky to be the first one to go out there and tell my story.”





FUN AND GAMES

The Commonwealth Games comes to Birmingham this month - and in celebration of this momentous occasion, a number of festival sites will be popping up across the West Midlands to offer a 'front room' in which to watch the 11-day event. Entertainment, installations, workshops, screenings and food offerings form part of the package at two city-centre sites, neighbouring venues throughout Birmingham and host sites across the wider region. Here, we take a look at what's been announced so far...

BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE



Victoria Square Site

Wed 27 July - Mon 8 August

This city centre location will be transformed by Connections - a new, temporary artistic commission by Birmingham-based designer Anjuli McKenna.

Reflecting how Birmingham's diverse communities encounter and connect with each other across the city, this hub of activity will showcase more than 150 of the region's best artists and musicians. Daily sunrise stretch sessions and a disco with Perry, the Birmingham 2022 mascot, also feature.

The site will also host a series of special events, including watch parties for the opening (28 July) and closing (8 August) ceremonies, and a celebration to mark the

60th anniversary of Jamaican Independence, complete with music and cultural acts. Victoria Square will also be the location for the finish of the marathon on Saturday 30 July.

Smithfield Site

Fri 29 July - Sun 7 August

The Smithfield site (previously the location for Birmingham's wholesale markets) will host a festival of festivals. A different cultural partner will take to the specially commissioned three-sided Beacon Stage every single day, with DJs, live performances and dance moments.

Collaborating with the National Trust to bring nature to unexpected places, the Smithfield Festival Site will also feature 70 young trees, colourful benches and hammocks, allowing people to relax whilst soaking up the atmosphere... The trees will be planted in gardens and community spaces around Birmingham after the Games.

Party moments at Smithfield will include takeovers from Simmerdown music & arts festival, showcased on Friday 29 July, while

ACE Dance & Music will host Illuminate, an explosion of colour, dance and movement creating a carnival vibe, on Saturday 30 July.

Birmingham Mela takes centre stage on Sunday 31 July with the best in South Asian talent, while performances celebrating identity and individuality come from Break Mission's QueerSide - an inclusive event featuring drag performers, waacking demonstrations, house troupes, beatboxers and more.

Festival fun continues in August with Swingamajig, DJs from BBC Asian Network and Selextorhood, who champion and empower women and gender minority DJs. The fun and entertainment culminates with a closing dance party on 7 August.

In addition to live entertainment, Smithfield will also offer a range of have-a-go sporting events, games and activities from sponsors, as well as the chance to watch elite basketball players warm up on the practice court before competitions begin.

As with any festival, there will be an extensive food & drink offer to enable visitors to refuel.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SITES

Located in parks and other spaces across Birmingham, these sites will combine sport, culture, food and drink.

A programme of live performances by artists and community groups will feature alongside screenings of key sporting moments on the big screen.

The festival sites are the creation of talented local producers who either live in or have strong links to a particular neighbourhood. They are free to attend and located in the following places:

Castle Vale Festival Site Farnborough Fields (Thurs 28 - Fri 29 July)

Sparkhill Festival Site Sparkhill Park (Sat 30 - Sun 31 July)



Edgbaston Festival Site Edgbaston Reservoir (Mon 1 - Tues 2 Aug)

Oaklands Festival Site Oaklands Recreation Ground, Yardley (Wed 3 - Thurs 4 Aug)

• **Handsworth Festival Site** located in Handsworth Park (Fri 5 - Sat 6 Aug)

• **Ward End Festival Site** Ward End Park (Sun 7 - Mon 8 Aug)

HOST SITES

Towns and cities across the West Midlands region and beyond will also host Festival Sites to celebrate the Commonwealth Games. The sites are being produced and managed by local authorities in areas where competition venues are also located. These include Coventry, Solihull, Warwick, Leamington Spa, Sandwell, Dudley and Wolverhampton.

Tamworth and Telford are set to join in the celebrations with Festival Sites of their own. Sites across the region include:

WARWICKSHIRE

Coventry Festival Site

Thurs 28 July - Mon 8 August
Assembly Festival Garden, Little Park St,
Coventry CV1 2LU

Solihull Festival Site

Fri 29 July - Fri 5 August
Mell Square, Solihull, B91 3AY
Theatre Square, Touchwood Solihull,
B91 3RG

Warwickshire Festival Site

Thurs 28 July - Mon 8 August
Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa
CV32 4AA

Warwick Festival Site

Thurs 28 July - Mon 8 August
Market Place, Warwick, CV34 4SA



WOLVERHAMPTON

Thurs 4 August–
Market Square, Wolverhampton,
WV30NL

The Commonwealth Games Cycling Time Trial race will be zooming through Market Square, with all the Games' action also available to watch on the big screen.

Wolverhampton will also feature live entertainment and commentary from sporting legends, have-a-go cycling activities, information stands, a selection of food & drink, face painting, children's rides and more.

BLACK COUNTRY

Sandwell Festival Site

Mon 25 July - Mon 8 August
Sandwell Valley Showground, Salter's Ln, West Bromwich B71 4BG

Dudley Festival Site

Mon 1 August
Huntingtree Park, Halesowen,
B63 4HY

Tues 2 August
Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley,
WV14 9SZ

Wed 3 August
Mary Stevens Park, Heath Lane,
DY8 2AA

Fri 5 August
The Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill,
DY5 4NE

Sat 6 August
Netherton Park, Netherton,
DY2 9EX

Sun 7 August
Stevens Park, Quarry Bank,
DY5 2JU

RELAXED FESTIVAL SITE

located at Sense Touchbase Pears, Selly Oak (Fri 29 & Sat 30 July)

Alongside the screening of sport, the relaxed festival site features specially adapted programming - including quiet spaces and activities - for those who don't want or aren't able to be in louder, more intense spaces.

The site will look to celebrate deaf and disabled people and help to champion those who support them... It also aims to help people learn to play sports in a way that is inclusive for all, offering new opportunities to those who identify as disabled, neurodivergent or have specific access needs.

TAMWORTH

Thurs 28 July - Mon 8 August
Castle Gardens, Market St,
Tamworth B79 7LR

A selection of sporting events, and the opening and closing ceremonies, will be shown on the big screen throughout the 11-day competition. Coverage of the Games and many of the daytime activities will be free of charge.

To extend the celebrations even further, Tamworth Borough Council's arts & events team are working on a yet-to-be-announced 'bumper programme of fun and games, sports and entertainment'.

SHROPSHIRE

Telford Festival Site

Thurs 28 July - Mon 8 August
Southwater One Telford St Quentin Gate,
Telford TF3 4EJ

For the latest information on
Commonwealth Games Festival Sites,
visit: birmingham2022.com/festival/sites

Games Without Frontiers

The 22nd Commonwealth Games kicks off in Birmingham this month, with the opening ceremony set to be one of the biggest and most ambitious shows in the city's history. Despite being a huge international event, it's also 'a local show for local people', with thousands of volunteers taking part and a creative team that hails from the city. What's On talks to the opening ceremony's artistic director, Iqbal Khan, to find out more...

Featuring theatre, music, dance and a massive array of performers - including a volunteer cast of 3,000 - the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games is set to be one of the biggest and most spectacular events in Birmingham's history.

It's also set to turn the spotlight on the city and its people, as well as highlight West Midlands talent and diversity, in a way that's never been done before.

Oh, and the ceremony will not only be performed in front of 35,000 spectators at the Alexander Stadium (28 July), but also a global television audience of around one billion.

No small undertaking, then, for the creative team leading the event, which includes Executive Producer (and *Peaky Blinders* creator) Steven Knight, writer Maeve Clarke, Musical Director Joshua 'RTKal' Holness, Chief Choreographer Corey Baker and Artistic Director Iqbal Khan.

In a recent TV interview, Corey said the

opening ceremony would be unlike any other stadium show, not least because "we've gone really Birmingham". It's a sentiment echoed by Iqbal when we chat about the event, and about what the Commonwealth Games - and the Commonwealth itself - means in 2022.

"There's a big story to tell about Birmingham, and we're really gonna go for it," he says enthusiastically. "It's a theatrical, imaginative, really bold show, and very immersive. It's a big story about the West Midlands and Birmingham, and the pioneering spirit and generosity of this place. It's an incredible, surprising history."

The event is also a chance to convey messages about and beyond sport, he explains, as well as an opportunity to showcase Birmingham to a global audience.

"I think opening ceremonies for the Olympics or the Commonwealth Games are an opportunity for the world to collect and celebrate the best of itself. It's human endeavour, it's human dreams and wonderful

human stories that we follow, and that goes beyond sport.

"International sports people are always incredibly competitive and always motivated by excellence, but there's more of a collegiate feel to the Commonwealth Games that's always made them more fun, playful and humane, and that feels like a good fit for Birmingham.

"Opening ceremonies are also welcomes and statements of intent, and a moment to really introduce the world to us, to the hosts."

Iqbal was first contacted by the Games' chief creative officer, Martin Green, two years ago, to discuss what he assumed would potentially be a minor contribution. So it came as something of a shock to be asked to helm the entire show - but it's a challenge he's clearly relishing.

"[The surprise] wasn't just me thinking I'm not good enough to do something like this, it's that the industry doesn't normally recommend people like me for the frontline





executive role - so that was a wonderful surprise.

“Of course, this is a show on a scale that I’ve never done before, but in the theatre industry, I’ve worked at every single level and am very confident in what I can do. But it was a very wonderful and refreshing surprise that they were looking to someone like me to run the whole thing.”

Initial discussions centred on the Commonwealth and what it means in 2022, rather than any specifics about the Games and the opening ceremony. Issues surrounding legacies of the British Empire, the slave trade - and the removal of monuments to those connected with it - and even the death of George Floyd all played a part.

“Questions of the legacies of empire are very, very problematic. The idea that we can unproblematically get together and celebrate the Commonwealth Games and the Commonwealth came up, and we talked about that.

“But now is a time, more than ever, when it feels very important to celebrate international alliances and to find some sort of equality and parity between nations. And that’s the idea of the Commonwealth - maybe it hasn’t been the reality of it historically, and it certainly wasn’t borne out of that notion, but that is its ambition and what it’s about, and that is something I can absolutely celebrate.

“The empire connections are wholeheartedly not positive, but ‘common wealth’ is a



beautiful idea. And if that’s the aspiration, then that’s something that all peoples would sign up to and I know that I share. It’s been at the centre of everything I do.”

Iqbal is keen to ensure “everyone is generously invited and there’s everything for everyone” at the event, and also that it provides a chance to embrace commonality between participating nations.

“Birmingham is a fantastic product of the children of the Commonwealth - there are so many communities here that have their roots around the world and around the Commonwealth. Here and Kingston, Jamaica, are probably the premier Commonwealth cities in the world, and that’s definitely something to celebrate.”

Local involvement is also a key element of the event. The creative team all originally hail from Birmingham, and as well as the 3,000 local volunteers who appear in the show, there are around 700 production volunteers, covering everything from costume and props departments to operations and technical teams.

“It’s an amazing collection of volunteers who are the backbone and spirit of the show - we make this show around them,” says Iqbal, who believes the Games will create lifelong memories for the people involved, and legacies that go beyond sporting facilities and improved transport infrastructure.

“What you hope is that there will be a systematic legacy of engagement across the city in terms of artists and communities working in collaboration. It’s the cultural



legacy, which is more than just artefacts; it’s the stories people share, it’s the fact that communities are sharing their experiences with each other - that’s absolutely critical.

“I have the sense that more than anything now, people want to return to rooms with each other, and rather than staying in their silos firing off virtual abuse, they want to be in the room having conversations, learning about other people’s experiences, sharing their insights and engaging with others. That’s what culture does; it allows you to connect, to build bridges, to collect and share stories. Being in each other’s company is so important.”

Despite acknowledging the importance of watching cultural events live and as a shared experience, Iqbal makes bold claims that the opening ceremony will be one of the greatest shows ever seen on screen too - for local people who couldn’t get tickets as well as a worldwide TV audience.

“The ambition with this show is that, yes, it’s going to be an extraordinary live experience, but I also hope that the excellence of the broadcast will be unrivalled. We’re hoping that you’ll never have seen a show like this before, filmed to this degree of imagination and ingenuity. We’re very ambitious!”

.....
Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games take place at various locations across the Midlands from 28 July to 8 August. For further information, visit birmingham2022.com



Minions: The Rise Of Gru

CERT U (90 mins)

With the voices of **Steve Carell, Pierre Coffin, Taraji P Henson, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Michelle Yeoh, Dolph Lundgren**
Directed by **Kyle Balda, Brad Ableson and Jonathan del Val**

The fifth installment in the Despicable Me franchise, *The Rise Of Gru* follows on from 2015 spin-off prequel *Minions* and brings together a star-studded cast of voice actors.

The 1970s-set plot sees 12-year-old Gru hoping to join a supervillain group known as the Vicious 6. But things go badly awry, and when Gru steals a precious object from the 6 with the help of Kevin, Stuart, Bob, Otto and the other Minions, he suddenly finds himself the mortal enemy of the apex of evil...

Released Fri 1 July



Mr Malcolm's List

CERT tbc

Starring **Freida Pinto, Sopé Dirísù, Oliver Jackson-Cohen, Ashley Park, Zawe Ashton, Theo James** Directed by **Emma Holly Jones**

If you love a romantic period drama and hungrily devoured each and every episode of *Bridgerton*, you're advised to make a beeline to the cinema to catch this debut feature-length film from Emma Holly Jones. Based on a 2009 novel by Suzanne Allain, the film's story follows the escapades of wealthy bachelor Jeremiah - the Mr Malcolm of the title - as he sinks his teeth into the challenge of finding himself a wife. Society lady Julia thinks she may well be the woman for him. But then it becomes evident that Mr M has a ludicrously demanding 'list' of qualities he requires in his future spouse, and that Julia has tragically failed to tick all of the necessary boxes. Suffering the pain of rejection, what's a coldly cast-aside girl to do in such circumstances but call on the assistance of best friend Selina to exact a wicked revenge - by giving the arrogant Mr Malcolm a taste of his own bitter medicine...

Released Fri 1 July



Brian And Charles

CERT tbc (90 mins)

Starring **David Earl, Chris Hayward, Louise Brealey, Jamie Michie, Nina Sosanya, Lynn Hunter** Directed by **Jim Archer**

Build yourself a robot to stave off loneliness *at your peril*, is surely the takeaway message from this brand-new British comedy film starring David Earl, an actor best known from Ricky Gervais TV series *Derek*, *Extras* and *After Life*.

Earl plays Brian Gittins, an inventor who, leading a solitary existence in rural Wales, decides it's high time he acquired a companion. Three days, a washing machine and various spare parts later, Brian has invented Charles, an artificially intelligent robot who learns English from a dictionary and has an obsession with cabbages. But there's even more to Charles than meets the eye, as Brian soon finds out. Before too long, the robot has the timid inventor facing up to his most profoundly felt fears. But will Brian have what it takes to come out on top?... *Brian And Charles* last month bagged the London Sundance Film Festival's highly coveted Audience Favourite award.

Released Fri 8 July



The Railway Children Return

CERT tbc

Starring **Jenny Agutter, John Bradley, Sheridan Smith, Tom Courtenay, Jessica Baglow, Beau Gadsdon**
Directed by **Morgan Matthews**

Everybody loves *The Railway Children* (don't they?). So what's not to like about the prospect of catching up with one of the principal characters from the famous 1970 film, as well as getting to meet a whole new cast into the bargain?

Jenny Agutter once again takes on the role of Bobbie Waterbury. One of the three children in the original film, Bobbie found herself moving from London to a Yorkshire village (along with her mother and two siblings) when the family suddenly became impoverished.

Fast forward several decades and Bobbie now has a grown-up daughter of her own (played by Sheridan Smith) and has lived her adult life in Yorkshire.

When Hitler's bombs see children being evacuated from built-up areas to the countryside, a whole new adventure is soon under way... **Released Fri 15 July**





Thor: Love And Thunder CERT tbc

Starring **Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Christian Bale, Taika Waititi, Pom Klementieff, Karen Gillan** Directed by **Taika Waititi**

Everybody's favourite hammer-wielding Norse god is back in the Marvel saddle for another out-of-this-world adventure. And according to the film's director, Taika Waititi, it's going to be an even bigger blast than the last Thor movie - 2017's Ragnarok.

"If you take Ragnarok, which I feel was a very big, outlandish, bombastic film," Waititi told Entertainment Tonight, "we're trying to double down on everything we did with that and create something that's even more crazy and more fun."

Chris Hemsworth returns, for the umpteenth time, as Thor. Famous supporting-cast members include former Batman star Christian Bale - who's playing Gorr, the God Butcher - and Russell Crowe, who will no doubt be threatening to discharge many a mighty bolt of lightning as father-of-all-gods Zeus. Natalie Portman reprises the role of Thor's astrophysicist girlfriend, Jane Foster, for whom Love And Thunder will prove to be a seriously big adventure...

Released Thurs 7 July

Where The Crawdads Sing

CERT tbc (97 mins)

Starring **Daisy Edgar-Jones, Harris Dickinson, Garret Dillahunt, Taylor John Smith, Davia Strathairn, Joe Chrest**

Directed by **Olivia Newman**



Adapted from Delia Owens' same-titled 2018 bestselling novel, Where The Crawdads Sing is set in the mid-20th century American South and tells the story of Kya, a girl abandoned by her family who has raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina.

For years, rumours of 'the marsh girl' have haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community. Drawn to two young men from town, Kya opens herself up to a new and startling world. But when one of the men is found dead, she soon finds herself being suspected of murder...

Released Fri 22 July

Nope CERT tbc

Starring **Daniel Kaluuya, Keke Palmer, Steven Yeun, Michael Wincott, Brandon Perea, Barbie Ferreira** Directed by **Jordan Peele**

Fans of actor/comedian Jordan Peele's previous two outings as director - the horror films Get Out and Us - have been waiting with bated breath for the arrival of his latest movie. In keeping with the approach he took to both of those aforementioned films, the one-time Comedy Central star has been keeping his cards pretty close to his chest when it comes to Nope, but the movie's basic storyline is this: a pair of ranch-owning siblings team up with a tech salesman and a documentarian to try and capture video evidence of an unidentified flying object.

Peele's directorial debut - Get Out - earned four Oscar nominations, with the man himself bagging the Academy Award for best screenplay. Even though Us didn't enjoy similar success in the awards stakes, it garnered plenty of praise from critics and moviegoers alike. It's hardly surprising, then, that Nope is currently being touted as one of the biggest summer releases of 2022.

Released Fri 22 July



DC League Of Super-Pets

CERT PG (100 mins)

With the voices of **Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Vanessa Bayer, Natasha Lyonne, Diego Luna, John Krasinski**

Directed by **Jared Stern and Sam Levine**



Krypto the Super-Dog and Superman are inseparable best friends, sharing the same superpowers and fighting crime together in the sprawling city of Metropolis.

When Superman and the other Justice League members are kidnapped, Krypto must convince a rag-tag shelter pack - Ace the hound, PB the potbellied pig, Merton the turtle and Chip the squirrel - to master their own newfound powers and help him rescue the missing superheroes...

Dwayne Johnson voices Krypto, with Kevin Hart providing the vocals for Batman's faithful friend, Ace the Bat-Hound. The Dark Knight himself, meanwhile, is voiced by none other than Keanu Reeves.

Released Fri 29 July

BLACK COUNTRY BEATS

Black Country Beats
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Beverley Knight • **Babylon Zoo**
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Pop Will Eat Itself • The Sahotas
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Adeela Suleman, Untitled (detail), 2021-22. Appliqué with hand embroidery on Jamawar and Banarsi silk. Courtesy the artist.

Allegory Of War

Midlands Arts Centre hosts Adeela Suleman's most comprehensive solo exhibition in a UK public gallery

Film projections, metal repoussé work, ceramic plates, intricate applique and installation all feature in Adeela Suleman's most comprehensive solo exhibition in a UK public gallery.

On display at MAC Birmingham, her show, *Allegory Of War*, is awash with recurring motifs - an important feature of the Karachi-based artist's work. The motifs - organic subjects such as birds and flowers - reference the decorative traditions of the Mughal style and form detailed, repetitive patterns replete with symbolic meaning.

Adeela is known for the social and political commentary underlying her sculptures. She particularly focuses on the links between

historic and contemporary violence experienced in Karachi, where up to 12 people per day are murdered in gang-related or political attacks. Her work acts not only as a memorial to the victims, but also as an interrogation of the juxtapositions of creativity and destruction.

"Violence is the most destructive activity known to humanity," says Adeela. "In order to understand it, artists have, throughout history, merged colours, textures and patterns to depict wartime beliefs and ideologies, practices, symbols and values. Their work investigates not only artistic responses to terror but the meaning of violence itself."

As well as examples of her past work, the exhibition will also feature a new commission created by Adeela with a group of Birmingham artists and makers who specialise in stitch and appliqué artwork. The project is inspired by traditions practised by women in the Sindh province of Pakistan, who come together to create textiles while sharing skills and stories as part of the making process.

Adeela Suleman: Allegory Of War shows at Midlands Arts Centre from Saturday 16 July to Sunday 9 October.



Grown Up In Britain: 100 Years Of Teenage Kicks

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, Fri 1 July - Sun 12 February

The everyday experiences and cultural impact of young people is celebrated in this brand-new exhibition. Featuring photographs, objects and stories, Grown Up In Britain has been curated by and drawn from the extensive photographic collections of the Museum of Youth Culture, an emerging organisation dedicated to the styles, sounds and social movements innovated by young people over the last 100 years.

The Museum has been gathering together photographs of youth and subculture movements for more than 25 years. Its impressive collection includes everything 'from the bomb-site bicycle racers in post-war 1940s London, to the Acid House ravers of 1980s northern England'.

Bristol Archives: Empire Through The Lens

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 9 July - Sun 11 September

With the Commonwealth Games kicking off in Birmingham at the end of the month, Empire Through The Lens aims both to foster debate about decolonisation of culture and reflect on the UK's relationships with the rest of the world.

Featuring objects from Bristol Archives' Legacies of Empire Collection, the exhibition includes a unique selection of still and moving images - presented alongside new contemporary commissions - which aim to explore the impact of the former British Empire and the Commonwealth. The exhibition also showcases new sculptural works by Birmingham-based artists Carla Busuttill, Faisal Hussain and Mahtab Hussain.



David Batchelor: Colour Is

Compton Verney, until Sun 2 October

Sculpture, installation, drawing, painting, photography and animation all feature in this first large-scale survey exhibition of work by Scottish artist & writer David Batchelor.

Although incorporating pre-colour works from the 1980s, the exhibition mainly celebrates Batchelor's preoccupation with colour, his enthusiasm for which is impressively evidenced in numerous experimental works from the 1990s, vivid multimedia installations from the early 21st century and more-recent pieces, including a glowing animation.

A number of the works on show come directly from the artist's studio and are here going on display to the public for the very first time.

Your Shakespeare, Your Culture

The Gallery, Library of Birmingham, Fri 22 July - Sat 5 November

The People's Shakespeare Library at Library of Birmingham is home to more than 40,000 volumes, 17,000 production photographs, 2,000 music scores, hundreds of British and international production posters, 15,000 performance programmes and 10,000 playbills. And courtesy of this Royal Shakespeare Company-curated exhibition, visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the unique story of the library and all things Shakespeare.

But that's not all... The exhibition also includes Shakespeare's first folio, a specially commissioned short film, a brand-new spoken-word piece by Birmingham Poet Laureate Casey Bailey, and interactive exhibits encouraging visitors 'to share their culture, make their mark and create their own version of a library'.





Dürer: The Making Of A Renaissance Master

The Barber Institute Of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, until Sun 25 September

This fifth exhibition in an annual collaborative series with Royal Collection Trust explores how Albrecht Dürer earned a lasting reputation as the Renaissance's most important and influential northern European artist.

As well as presenting the German painter & printmaker's finest works from the Royal Collection - in the form of rare drawings, iconic prints, and one of only two of his paintings which currently reside in the UK - the display also examines the 16th-century artist's not-inconsiderable skill as an entrepreneur; Dürer's shrewd eye for making a splash with his art saw him exploring subjects and issues which struck a chord not only with the general public but also with numerous high-ranking patrons - including the Holy Roman Emperor, Maximilian I.



Where Is Home?

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sun 10 July - Mon 29 August; MAC Birmingham, Sat 19 - Tues 22 August

"Where is home?" asks Alnoor Mitha - Senior Research Fellow at Manchester School of Art, Manchester Metropolitan University - who has curated this touring exhibition. "For many Asian communities, this is a simple question with a complicated answer. I was born in Uganda but have made my home here in the UK. My children were born and have always lived here but still face racism from those who do not see them as British.

"Through this exhibition, we examine the idea of home, asking what it really means. We bring in the complex history of Britain and the South Asian diaspora, and hear

the voices of artists and everyday South Asian people."

Presented both in Wolverhampton and Birmingham as part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival, the exhibition marks the 75th anniversary of Indian partition and the 50th anniversary of the expulsion of South Asians from Uganda.

Both events prompted mass global migration.

A Q&A with author Neema Shah accompanies the Wolverhampton exhibition, while in Birmingham the show will have the added attraction of live performances by Sampad Arts.

Out And About... Exhibits to look out for across Birmingham and Sandwell

One Giant Leap For Humankind

Birmingham New Street Station's Eastern Plaza is providing a temporary home for a Commonwealth Games-inspired sculpture of a powerful and dynamic athlete.

Jacob Chandler's One Giant Leap For Humankind is linked to the Commonwealth with a toposcope denoting the direction and distance to each Commonwealth country. A QR code and webpage allows interaction with augmented-reality artefacts.

Foreign Exchange

Birmingham's city-centre sculpture of Queen Victoria has been reimagined by acclaimed Guyanese-British artist Hew Locke for the Birmingham 2022 Festival.

Originally unveiled in 1901, Sir Thomas Brock's marble figure of Queen Victoria was then recast in bronze by William Bloye and members of Birmingham School of Art in 1951.

Locke's reimagining of the sculpture, which has been commissioned by Ikon, is available to view in Victoria Square for a limited period.

Generations

A large-scale photographic portraiture exhibition, Generations is aiming to celebrate 'families, individuals, diversity and the people of Birmingham and the West Midlands'. The thought-provoking exhibition sees photographer Julian Germain use a large-format camera to work collaboratively with families of four and five generations from across the region.

The photos remain on display at various locations across Birmingham and Sandwell until Fri 30 September.

Fluito

Immersive sound and underwater reality experience Fluito invites viewers to enter two large sculptural cubes, placed one inside the other. The resulting 'world within a world' reflects the escapist and meditative experience of swimming, whilst also showcasing the incredible speed and agility of elite swimmers.

This brand-new outdoor public art installation will be on display at Sandwell Valley Country Park from Sat 23 July to Mon 8 August.



FLOWER POWER

Shrewsbury Flower Show next month makes a welcome return following a pandemic-enforced hiatus. In addition to the usual magnificent floral displays, celebrity appearances and spectacular fireworks, the 2022 edition of the show has a few exciting new additions to further recommend it. We take a look at what visitors can expect...

HERE TO ENTERTAIN



ALICE IN WONDERLAND - A VERY MAD ROYAL TEA PARTY promises all of the chaos associated with Lewis Carroll's much-loved tale. Expect mayhem aplenty as the Mad Hatter decides to throw a tea party and leaves the White Rabbit in charge of delivering an invite to the Queen of England.



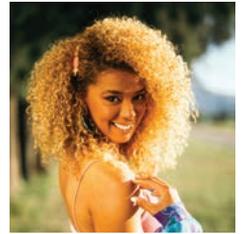
THE RONNIES are a local group inspired by The Andrews Sisters and Bing Crosby. Expect to be transported back in time as they perform popular classics from the 1940s (on the main arena stage on both evenings).

PHIL VICKERY The former This Morning star is this year's celebrity chef, showcasing his extensive culinary skills with demonstrations on both days.



Some readers may already be familiar with the delightful Fleurs de Villes, who have made a name for themselves popping up in cities around the world. Their most recent creation, FEMMES, features floral works of art inspired by remarkable women, including Audrey Hepburn (pictured above). In celebration of Her Majesty's platinum jubilee, this year's show will feature the iconic, fresh floral mannequin of the Coronation Robes en Fleurs in the Dingle Marquee. The stunning Queen Elizabeth II mannequin will be inspired by the official portrait of Her Majesty's Coronation Day in 1953. It will comprise natural materials to recreate her cloak, crown, sceptre and jewels 'en fleurs', including pussy willow, berries, assorted foliage and orchids.

AMY JONES will headline the main arena on Saturday evening. The South African singer-songwriter's hits include Dance On My Own and I Think I'm In Love.



LEVANTES DANCE THEATRE make their debut at this year's show with High Tea (With A Twist). Adorned in floral attire with matching headgear, a pair of performers fuse dance and acrobatics while positioned atop a tastefully laid table. Hijinx continue when the troupe mingle with crowds for a cuppa and the odd selfie.



SHETLAND PONY GRAND NATIONAL Watch the jockeys of tomorrow compete in the show's main arena as part of a UK-wide tour raising funds for the Bob Champion Cancer Trust.



Shrewsbury Flower Show takes place at The Quarry, Shrewsbury, on Friday 12 & Saturday 13 August. For info and tickets, visit: shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk



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Events previews from around the region



Pirate Treasure Hunts

National SEA LIFE Centre Birmingham and Legoland Discovery Centre, Sat 9 July - Sun 4 September

Get your sea legs on and head over to Birmingham's Brindleyplace for some swashbuckling fun with two brand-new pirate-inspired events for summer. At the National SEA LIFE Centre, Captain Careless has lost his booty and is in serious need of some help locating it. Learn about protecting our ocean's future and meet some, er, fin-tastic creatures along the way.

Meanwhile, over at Legoland, Captain Brickbeard (love it!) has devised a scavenger hunt to find enough golden treasure to help him buy a new pirate ship... Creative sessions making pirate pets and flags also feature, as does a 4D cinema experience featuring rain, wind and, somewhat unseasonally, snow!



Back Home

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 9 & Sun 10 July

This brand-new event focuses on fascinating stories of life in the Black Country and surrounding region during the 1940s. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore aspects of 1940s civilian life, in the process meeting a number of famous names from

the decade, including Winston Churchill and George Formby. As an extra treat, the D-Day Darlings make a return to the museum as headliners on both days of the festival.

Cosford Food Festival

RAF Museum Cosford, Sat 23 & Sun 24 July

Cosford Food Festival is back for the first time since the pandemic.

Event highlights include live music, a range of kids' activities and the chance to check out some of the region's top chefs on the event's demonstration stage.

This year the festival is also offering rum and whisky enthusiasts an exclusive opportunity to enjoy their favourite tipples on board the VC10 aircraft. Tickets must be booked in advance for this element of the show.



Shrewsbury Live

The West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury, Sun 3 July

Shrewsbury Live is a show that aims to entertain the whole family. Death-defying motorcycle stunts, freerunning displays and magnificent monster trucks are the centrepiece attractions at this year's event. Music, a funfair for the kids and a selection of food & drink vendors also feature.

Pirates Day

Blakesley Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 28 July

Ahoy, me hearties, and shiver those timbers... Blakesley Hall's very own Pirate Captain is hosting this fun interactive one-hour show at timed intervals throughout the day, providing youngsters with the opportunity to learn all about working aboard a pirate ship. There's even a chance to walk the plank (without ending up in Davy Jones' Locker, of course). And if booty's your thing, a special prize is up for grabs - assuming you can first of all find the treasure on the island, that is!





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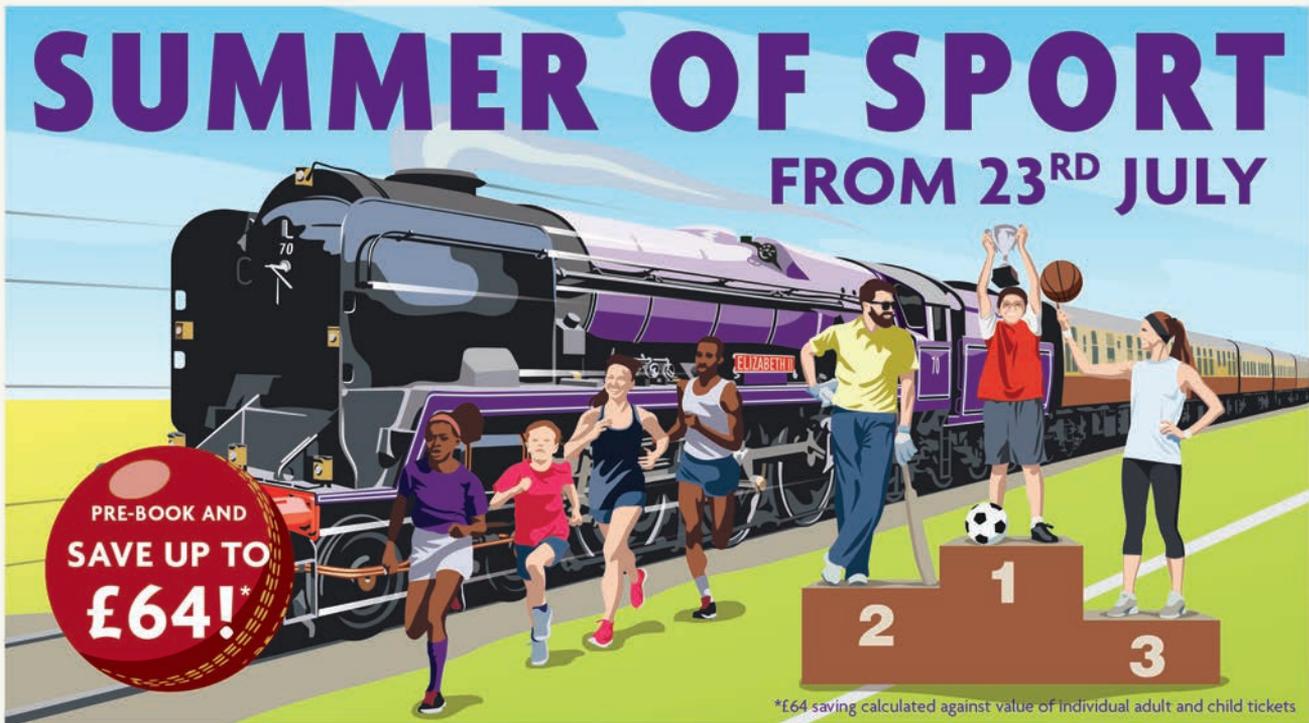
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Events previews from around the region



Shropshire Petal Fields

Lynn South Farm, Newport, Shropshire, dates to be confirmed

Award-winning company Shropshire Petals is this summer teaming up with Shropshire Festivals to provide people with the opportunity to visit a field of flowers which is grown and harvested in order to make biodegradable petals. Sunflowers, cornflowers, delphiniums and wildflowers will create the perfect photo backdrop for visitors to the field. There will also be a viewing platform from which to take in the spectacular views,

street food to tuck into, and the opportunity to buy freshly cut flower bouquets. Kids, meanwhile, can experience the Forest of Fun, complete with a special gnome trail. The flower-field experience is expected to open at the end of the month for two weeks only. The exact dates will be revealed once it's known when the best crop of flowers will be due. To find out more, visit shropshirepetals.com

The Beach At Your Cathedral

Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire, Fri 22 July - Wed 31 August

Life's a beach in Lichfield this month, as the cathedral brings the seaside to the city for the summer!

A programme of events for all the family to enjoy will take place across the school holidays. Or, if you prefer just to chill out and take things easy, you can grab yourself a deckchair and soak up some sizzling summertime sunshine...



The Rum Train

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Kidderminster, Sat 9 July



Do you enjoy a glass of rum? If so, then why not take advantage of this unique Severn Valley Railway tasting session, taking place in first-class seating in a vintage carriage. The Little Gin & Rum Company will present each guest with a 'welcome' cocktail when they board the train at Kidderminster, after which they will provide four artisan rums for passengers to sample during the train's journey along the Severn Valley. And being the good hosts that they are, they'll also be on hand to share their expert knowledge.

Wythall Busfest Gaydon

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Sat 2 July

A selection of restored, vintage and modern buses and coaches from up and down the country is the centrepiece of this British Motor Museum and



Transport Museum Wythall event. The show is celebrating 50 years of both the Leyland National Bus and National Express coaches, with examples of both models on display at the venue. Q&As with Leyland National celebrities from across the industry will run throughout the day. And as well as being able to browse numerous trade stands, visitors can also jump on a bus and take a ride around the local routes and museum roads for free.

The Game Fair

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, Fri 29 - Sun 31 July

Celebrating all things countryside, The Game Fair brings together fishing, shooting, falconry, archery and a selection of other much-loved sporting pursuits. Gundog displays and scurry driving both feature in the main arena, with other attractions including a series of talks by experts and familiar faces in the Game Fair Theatre. TV's James Martin and Yorkshire Shepherdess Amanda Owen will be putting on their chef hats to create bespoke menus in the hospitality tent.

Victorian Sports Weekend

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Sat 30 & Sun 31 July

The residents of Blists Hill Victorian Town are putting on a weekend of fun Victorian sports activities this month... Battle it out in the tug of war, race against family and friends in the egg & spoon, or enjoy a game of badminton, croquet or Victorian football.





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Events previews from around the region



Vintage Sports Car Club Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire, Sat 16 July

The chance to check out vintage vehicles from across the decades is the name of the game at this not-to-be-missed day out for sports car enthusiasts. Practice sessions in the morning are followed by an action-

packed afternoon of races. Visitors can also walk around the paddock, stop off at a trade village, sample a selection of family-friendly entertainment and find out all about the host of car clubs attending the event.

The Healing Gardens Of Bab

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Symphony Hall and other Birmingham City Centre locations, until 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.



The JQ Festival

Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, Sat 23 July

This month's JQ Festival will see Birmingham Jewellery Quarter's Golden Square host artisans, makers and creators from across the city, with a tent housing live maker demos and workshops being run by local jewellers & makers. After its hugely successful debut in 2019, the music festival at St Paul's Square will take place throughout the afternoon and into the early evening. Meanwhile, Warstone Lane Cemetery will be hosting an outdoor theatre, with a variety of guided and self-guided tours of the area available throughout the day. As a special extra attraction, the district's museums will be waiving their entry fee for the occasion.

Farmarama

National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire, Sat 16 July - Mon 5 September

Described as a 'festival of fun', Farmarama offers a wide variety of activities for families to enjoy across the summer holidays. Highlights include princess singalong sessions, pirate shows, mascot meet & greets, outdoor adventure play and indoor soft play opportunities, and funfair and tractor rides. Visitors can also meet the farm's animals, pet some guinea pigs, place their bets on a sheep race and navigate the twists and turns of the ever-popular maize maze.



Camper Jam

Weston Park, Shropshire, Fri 1 - Sun 3 July

VW fans will no doubt be heading to Weston Park in their droves for this year's edition of Camper Jam. Attractions include stalls to shop in, bars to cool off in, and plenty of live entertainment to enjoy across the three-day weekend. Not only can visitors check out a variety of VW vehicles, they can also sample a host of fun activities, including axe throwing, a dog show and 'wheely goos' wagon competition. Music performers across the weekend include Massaoko, Artful Dodger and a number of tribute acts.





PASS THE BATON

The well-travelled Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton makes its way through the Midlands this month, with its final destination the city's Alexander Stadium on 28 July. Here, we take a look at where it's stopping off en route - and what associated events are taking place along the way...

MON 18 JULY

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME:

KEELE UNIVERSITY

Children from local primary schools will visit the sports facilities on campus. There, they'll take part in different sporting activities in an informal multi-sport competition to celebrate the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship embodied by the Games.

BELONG HERITAGE GALLERY

Baton-route activities include a Philip Astley circus celebration.

KIDSGROVE

Harecastle Tunnel and Trent and Mersey Canal, Canal and River Trust have organised a unique 'adventure' for the Baton, as it's carried on a narrowboat along the canal.

NEWCHAPEL PUMP TRACK

Local schoolchildren and members of the community take

part in cycling and sports events.

STOKE-ON-TRENT:

HANLEY PARK Relay At The Park - a community celebration.

SHREWSBURY:

SHREWSBURY SPORTS VILLAGE

The Queen's Baton arrives via helicopter.

FLAXMILL MALTINGS

Official photo call.

THE QUARRY

Free-to-attend family event.

TUES 19 JULY

IRONBRIDGE : TELFORD : NEWPORT : LILleshall

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME:

VICTORIA PARK Community celebrations, details tbc.

STONE : RUDYARD : LEEK

WED 20 JULY

UTTOXETER:

UTTOXETER LEISURE CENTRE The Queen's Baton arrives...

ST. GEORGE'S PARK

Events include a schools football celebration.

BURTON UPON TRENT : LICHFIELD : BURNTWOOD : CHASEWATER

TAMWORTH:

SACRED HEART CHURCH Mini community games to take place.

THE RAWLETT SCHOOL Pupils to present a celebratory display.

TAMWORTH CASTLE Fun family activities and entertainment, including community games, singers and tribute acts.

THURS 21 JULY

BODYMOOR HEATH : ATHERSTONE : MARKET BOSWORTH

NUNEATON:

RIVERSLEY PARK Calling all budding performers for Nuneaton's Got Talent.
PINGLES ATHLETICS TRACK Fun fitness session for children.

BEDWORTH:

MINER'S WELFARE PARK Fun and interactive family activities.

RUGBY:

CALDECOTT PARK Community festival.
COVENTRY

FRI 22 JULY

KENILWORTH:
BALSALL COMMON LIBRARY Free drop-in event for kids to

make their own Queen's Baton, plus a sport-themed treasure hunt.

WHITNASH : WARWICK

GAYDON:

BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM
See the arrival of the Baton at the museum, together with a parade of British classics to mark the occasion.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

BROADWAY TOWER:
Community celebration event.

PERSHORE : UPTON-UPON-SEVERN : MALVERN:
WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

SAT 23 JULY

REDDITCH:

ARROW VALLEY COUNTRY PARK
Redditch Rocks Celebration with Lauren Mernagh.

BROMSGROVE:

SANDERS PARK
Demonstrations from Bromsgrove Gymnastics Club, together with the Music Bus from Seven Arts and Bromsgrove Festival.

KIDDERMINSTER

BRIDGNORTH:

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY
The Queen's Baton arrives via a special train service.

SEVERN PARK

Queen's Baton Relay & community sports day.

CODSALL MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Sports festival featuring a series of sporting activities.

RUGELEY : HEDNESFORD : CANNOCK

WALSALL ARBORETUM:

Commonwealth cultural festival celebrating Walsall's finest sports clubs and cultural organisations.

SUN 24 JULY

WOLVERHAMPTON:

EAST PARK

The Baton arrives in spectacular fashion - dropping out of the sky thanks to the Wings Parachute Team.

QUEEN SQUARE

Celebratory event tbc

HALESOWEN : STOURBRIDGE

DUDLEY:

CORONATION GARDENS
Celebratory civic event.

WATERFRONT, MERRY HILL
An evening of celebration with live entertainment and music.

MON 25 JULY

OLDBURY : WEDNESBURY : TIPTON : CRADLEY HEATH : ROWLEY REGIS : BLACKHEATH : BEARWOOD : SMETHWICK : WEST BROMWICH

TUES 26 JULY

CASTLE BROMWICH : FORDBRIDGE : CHELMSLEY WOOD : MARSTON GREEN : HAMPTON IN ARDEN

MERIDEN PAVILION:

Arts & crafts workshops - specifically baton-making.

BERKSWELL :

BALSALL COMMON

KNOWLE LIBRARY:

Day of activities, including a treasure hunt and Commonwealth flag-making sessions, plus quizzes for adults and children.

DORRIDGE : CHESWICK

GREEN : HOCKLEY HEATH

DICKENS HEATH VILLAGE GREEN:

Arts 7 crafts activities, including creating a Commonwealth flag and pom-poms.

SHIRLEY : SOLIHULL

WED 27 JULY

BIRMINGHAM:

GAY VILLAGE Drag queen parade and mini carnival.

VICTORIA SQUARE Special evening celebration event.

ASTON HALL After 180 visits to 72 nations, the Queen's Baton here makes its final stop-off before going on to mark the formal beginning of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

To celebrate the Baton's visit, Aston Hall will be free to enter and hosting all manner of 'fun and foolishness', including a family craft activity in the classroom.



A vibrant, circular graphic for the Battle of Britain Proms. The graphic is set against a blue background with white stars and musical notes. It features a central image of a hand holding a glass of champagne, surrounded by various musical instruments like a trumpet, saxophone, and violin. The text 'BATTLE OF BRITAIN PROMS' is prominently displayed in large, bold letters, with 'BATTLE OF BRITAIN' in blue and 'PROMS' in red. Below the main title, the date 'SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2022' is written in blue. At the bottom, there is a call to action: 'For more details and to buy your tickets, visit rafmuseum.org/midlands' and the logo for the Royal Air Force Museum Midlands.

For more details and to buy your tickets, visit rafmuseum.org/midlands



A free in-person and online talk

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: A CLEARER VIEW OF YOU

by Lyle Young, CSB

Member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship

A higher, clearer view of ourselves -
as the likeness of God, infinite Love -
can bring hope and healing.

Saturday 30 July 2022, 3pm

Watch online:

spirituality4.me/livestream

or csbirmingham.com



Venue: Christian Science Church,
Maney Corner, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1QL

In support of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

DAVID FORD & ANNIE DRESSNER THE SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR

"Ford writes with genuine depth and
striking authority."
Rolling Stone

"Dressner is able to paint visceral images and
transport the listener to the world of the song."
American Songwriter

"Unmissable" *****
The Guardian

"One of the best pop releases of 2020"
Paste Magazine

"One of Britain's best." *****
The Times

"Exceptional"
Shire Folk



13/7 BIRMINGHAM
The Old Joint Stock

DRESSNERFORD.COM

ROUNDHOUSE
BIRMINGHAM

Looking for things to do in Brum?

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Explore Birmingham's hidden green
spaces and uncover its surprising
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and to book your tour.

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#SeeTheCityDifferently





IT'S A FASCINATING FACT!

The Birmingham Commonwealth Games officially begins on Thursday 28 July. The clock is ticking... and as the countdown to 11 exciting days of second-city sport continues, here are 22 fascinating facts you might like to know about the 2022 Games...

1. 72 nations and territories are planning to send teams to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games
2. Around 6,500 athletes and team officials will be coming to Birmingham for the Games
3. 19 sports and eight para sports will feature, making it the biggest-ever Commonwealth Games sports programme
4. Although the full-court, five-a-side version of basketball has been included before, this is the first time basketball 3x3 has featured
5. The addition of wheelchair basketball means there will be more para sport than ever before
6. Across the 11 days, there will be 286 different sessions of sport
7. The Solomon Islands women's team will take part in beach volleyball for the first time. In

- the men's competition, there will be Commonwealth Games debuts for Rwanda, South Africa and the Maldives
8. Women's cricket features in the Games for the first time, and it's also the first time that T20 cricket has been included
9. For the first time ever, mixed, synchronised diving is being included in the Games
10. 54 hockey matches will take place during the Games. These will all be held at the University of Birmingham
11. There will be two 'super Sundays' at Birmingham 2022, the second of which is a huge day for women's team sport, with the women's cricket T20 final, the netball final and the women's hockey final all featuring
12. Sandwell Aquatics Centre is the only brand-new venue, and

- after the Games it will be converted into a community leisure facility
13. One of the key venues is the Alexander Stadium, which has undergone a £72million transformation
14. Three parks are included on the venue list: West Park in Wolverhampton, Sutton Park in Sutton Coldfield and Victoria Park in Royal Leamington Spa
15. Moseley Cricket Club is being upgraded ahead of its use as a training venue for the Games. The playing surface will replicate the surface at Edgbaston Stadium, to provide the best possible training facilities
16. Two temporary venues are being built at Smithfield - one for the basketball events and one for beach volleyball
17. Three students from the School of Jewellery have

- designed the medals, ribbons and boxes that will be awarded to athletes at the Games
18. The gold, silver and bronze medals are being made in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter
19. More than 2,000 volunteers will be taking part in the opening and closing ceremonies
20. The Birmingham 2022 Festival includes more than 100 different community events which have been funded through the Creative City grants
21. Around 14,000 volunteers will be helping to make sure that the Games runs smoothly - more than 41,000 people applied to be a volunteer
22. More than one million tickets have already been sold for the Games. The remaining tickets can be purchased now by visiting birmingham2022.com

Tickets
on Sale Now!



Shrewsbury Flower Show

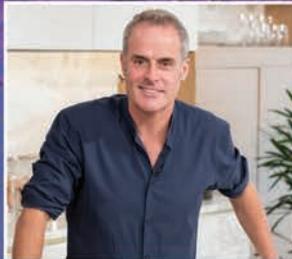
FRIDAY 12 & SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2022



Shropshire Horticultural Society
Charity Number: 501944

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK!

Celebrity gardeners Toby Buckland and Penny Meadmore will be joined by David Domoney. In the Food Hall, celebrity chef Phil Vickery will be providing cookery demonstrations. The evening live music entertainment, on the stage in the main arena, will be The Ronnies on Friday and South African pop star Amy Jones on Saturday.



PHIL VICKERY



TOBY BUCKLAND



PENNY MEADMORE



DAVID DOMONEY



AMY JONES (SATURDAY NIGHT)



THE RONNIES (FRIDAY NIGHT)



ARENA ENTERTAINMENT



FLEURS DE VILLES

Day tickets £30 Evening ticket £20 (after 4pm) Membership £70

For further information call: 01743 234058

 ShrewsburyFlowerShow  @shrewsflowershw  shrewsburyflowershow

SHREWSBURYFLOWERSHOW.ORG.UK

Your week-
by-week
listings guide
July 2022

the list



Here Come The Boys - Symphony Hall, - Sat 23 July

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

What's On

Fri 1 - Sun 10 July



Birmingham International Dance Festival in Handsworth
Sat 2 - Sun 3 July

Mon 11 - Sun 17 July



Rob Brydon: Songs & Laughter at Symphony Hall
Sat 16 July

Mon 18 - Sun 24 July



Fashion Spies at the Old Joint Stock Theatre
Thurs 21 July

Mon 25 - Thurs 31 July



Mark Thomas at The Glee Club
Fri 29 July

THROUGHOUT JULY

Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

FOUND CITIES, LOST OBJECTS: WOMEN IN THE CITY Turner Prize-winning and internationally renowned artist Lubaina Himid CBE invites us to consider the experiences of women in the city, as seen through the lens of art, until Sun 4 Sept

WE ARE BIRMINGHAM Exhibition curated by Birmingham Museums and six members of Don't Settle - an initiative empowering young people of colour from Birmingham and the Black Country 'to change the voice of heritage through the arts, research and governance', until Sun 30 Oct

BLACKLASH: RACISM AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DEFENCE Mukhtar Dar's extensive archive of photographic, video and political ephemera showcases the street & state racism faced by Asian and African Caribbean communities, until Sun 30 Oct

SAVAGE K'LUB: VA TAMATEA Installation that reclaims the gentleman's clubs of the same name which were first established in London in the 19th century, until Sun 30 Oct

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES Exploring themes of hope and loss through historic artwork from Birmingham's collection alongside loans and new acquisitions from Birmingham-based artists, until Sun 30 Oct

WONDERLAND: BIRMINGHAM'S CINEMA STORIES Featuring unseen images and cinema memorabilia, alongside historic magic lanterns and optical toys from Birmingham's Collection, until Sun 30 Oct

COLLECTION STORIES Featuring internationally important showstoppers and everyday items, as well as objects from around the world and some made in Birmingham, until Sun 30 Oct

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC)

MIXED RAGE COLLECTIVE: UNAPOLOGETICALLY OTHER Group exhibition showcasing artists telling their experiences of being mixed heritage, until Sun 14 Aug

MADE AT MAC: THE ART OF PRINTMAKING New artwork created by MAC's talented students and artist tutors, who attended print-focused courses, until Sun 6 Nov

The Barber Institute

FOUNDING THE BARBER INSTITUTE: AN ARTS CENTRE AHEAD OF ITS TIME Archive material including rarely seen photographs and architectural

blueprints are featured in this fascinating display, put together to mark the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, until Sun 12 June

Other VISUAL ARTS

ANIA TOMASZEWSKA-NELSON 'IN THE BEGINNING Exhibition inviting viewers to take a step back and reflect on the human relationship with landscape, until Mon 25 July, Centrala, Digbeth

RAJINA PERERA: TRAVELLERS A series of paintings, sonic artworks and sculptures that animate ideas and issues of hybridity, ancestorship and futurity, until Sat 6 Aug, Eastside Projects

DISCO ISLAM: FUTURE PHANTASMAGORIA Bijan Moosavi's largest solo exhibition to date centres around a sci-fi quasi-commercial video combining CGI, live-action, Islamic kitsch and music... until Sat 6 Aug, Eastside Projects

JOY STICKS Family-friendly sport and games-inspired exhibition, where visitors have to work with others to win the games, until Sat 27 August, Birmingham Open Media

HAFFENDI ANUAR; RUMAH BERKAKI (LEGGED HOUSE) Postcolonialism, architecture, ways of living and identity construction are among the subjects explored in the sculptures, paintings, installations and drawings of London and Kuala Lumpur-based Malaysian artist Haffendi, until Mon 29 Aug, Ikon Gallery

BLACK COUNTRY BEATS Exhibition that celebrates the diverse musical genres that emerged from the Black Country between the 1970s and 2000s, until Sun 4 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

CEREMONY: POP COMES TO CAMPUS Exploring and celebrating the contribution the University of Birmingham has made to local and international music culture. Featured items on display include posters, photographs and archive material, until Fri 28 Oct, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

EQUATIONS FOR A BODY AT REST Johannesburg-based painter and filmmaker Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi presents a multi-site video & multimedia artwork which tracks the history and symbolic presentation of the Commonwealth Games, Fri 1 July - Mon 8 Aug, Eastside Projects

WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE RBSA Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the election of the first woman member and vice president of the RBSA, 26 July - 27 Aug, RBSA Gallery



Gwen Dickey - Birmingham Town Hall

Gigs

THE ULTIMATE STONE ROSES Fri 1 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

A SUMMER AFFAIR WITH THE RAT PACK Fri 1 July, Pizza Express Live, Brindley Place

THE JETTYS + ROAD CLOSED + JAZZCAT + PULSAR + GLASS HOUSE Fri 1 July, O2 Academy

THE RIFLES Fri 1 July, Castle & Falcon

BRIAN WILSON Fri 1 July, Symphony Hall

SOLID SOUL Fri 1 - Sat 2 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

BLUES CLUB Sat 2 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

TOGETHER PANGEA Sat 2 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

DOUBLE BARREL Sat 2 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

ZACK KNIGHT Sat 2 July, O2 Institute

THE GET UP KIDS Sat 2 July, O2 Academy

JP SAXE Sat 2 July, O2 Academy

FATHERSON Sat 2 July, Castle & Falcon

GASOLINE & MATCHES + THE JACKSON LINE + ROSSO & ZAK FORD Sat 2 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

SHAM 69 Sat 2 July, The Mill, Digbeth

MANNEQUIN PUSSY Sun 3 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

KID RAIN Sun 3 July, O2 Academy

THE HOMELESS GOSPEL

CHOIR Sun 3 July, Dead Wax, Digbeth

GWEN DICKEY Sun 3 July, Birmingham Town Hall

STRIPPED - DEPECHE MODE TRIBUTE Sun 3 July, Fletchers Bar

THE FELICE BROTHERS Mon 4 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

OLIVIA RODRIGO + BABY QUEEN Mon 4 July, O2 Academy

ROGER DALTRY Mon 4 July, Symphony Hall

HIGHLY SUSPECT + CALVA LOUISE Tues 5 July, O2 Institute

SLOTHRUST Tues 5 July, Dead Wax, Digbeth

THE SAM CHASE TRIO Tues 5 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath

JOHN BIDDULPH + STEVE DAVIS + GAZ WILLIAMS Wed 6 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

READY FOR FREDDIE QUARTET Wed 6 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

VLTIMAS + DAVID VINCENT + RUNE ERIKSEN + FLO MOUNIER Wed 6 July, The Asylum

ADAM ANT + LAURIE BLACK Wed 6 July, Symphony Hall

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Wed 6 July, The Alexandra

DON-E Thurs 7 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

JEREMY ZUCKER + SOPHIE CATES Thurs 7 July, O2 Institute

SMS JAZZ MATTERS Thurs 7 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

GLADYS - MIDNIGHT TRAIN TO GEORGIA Thurs 7 July, The Alexandra

THE WEEPING WILLOWS Thurs 7 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath

CODA - A TRIBUTE TO LED ZEPPELIN Fri 8 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

SMS ROCK AND POP NIGHT Fri 8 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

FIREKIND + LOZ CAMPBELL + FOXPALMER Fri 8 July, The Asylum

REGGAE WINEHOUSE + NIFECO COSTA Fri 8 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC)

BLUE NATION + HOMECOMING + THE VONICS + PLASTIC FICTION Fri 8 July, Beacon Park, Lichfield

B'SPOKE Fri 8 - Sat 9 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

SUPERSONIC FESTIVAL Fri 8 - Sun 10 July, The Mill, Digbeth

BLUES CLUB Sat 9 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

THE BAR-STEWARD SONS OF VAL DOONICAN + THE CLAUSE + THEE DEADTIME

PHILHARMONIC + DEAD ROMANTIC + NOT QUITE DEAD YET PLUS MANY MORE Sat 9 July, Beacon Park, Lichfield

IAN SHAW WITH GUY BARKER Sat 9 July, Pizza Express Live, Brindley Place

THE DELINES Sun 10 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

BLOODSTOCK'S METAL 2 THE MASSES Sun 10 July, The Asylum

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 2022 - ANTHEMS Sun 10 July, Symphony Hall

BARRY STEELE & FRIENDS - THE ROY ORBISON STORY Sun 10 July, The Alexandra

SIMPLY DYLAN Sun 10 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath

THE ALLERGIES + THE EQUATORS Sun 10 July, Beacon Park, Lichfield

Classical Music

CBSO: STANFORD'S REQUIEM Featuring Martyn Brabbins (conductor), Carolyn Sampson (soprano), Marta Fontanal-Simpson (mezzo soprano), James Way (tenor), Ross Ramgobin (baritone) & University of Birmingham Voices, Sat 2 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY Featuring David Wynne (conductor), Louise Wayman (soprano), James Davies (baritone), Kevin Gill & Stephen Hargreaves (pianos). Programme includes works by Brahms & Finzi, Sat 2 July, Lichfield Cathedral

MEBRAKH HAUGHTON-JOHNSON CLARINET CONCERT Programme includes works by Jessie Montgomery, Brahms, Bernstein & Lovreglio, Thurs 7 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

BRODSKY QUARTET & DANNY DRIVER Programme includes works by Haydn, Beethoven & Dvorak, Thurs 7 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

ELEANOR CORR VIOLIN CONCERT Programme includes works by Janacek, Vaughan Williams & Grieg, Fri 8 July, Wade St Church, Lichfield

DANNY DRIVER PIANO CONCERT Programme includes works by Fauré, Lili Boulanger, Franck, Ligeti & Schumann, Fri 8 July, St Michael's Church, Lichfield

JUNYAN CHEN PIANO CONCERT Programme includes works by Beethoven & Liszt, Sat 9 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

SPERM IN ALIUM Featuring The Carice Singers, Pieces of Eight, Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir plus Patrick Craig and George Parris (conductors). Programme includes works by Thomas Hyde and Vaughan Williams, Sat 9 July, Lichfield Cathedral

SHEKU & ISATA KANNEH-MASON Programme includes works by Bridge, Britten, Khachaturian & Shostakovich, Sun 10 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BEN GOLDSCHIEDER HORN AND THE GOLDFIELD ENSEMBLE Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams & Brahms, Sun 10 July, St Chad's Church, Lichfield

Comedy

LILY PHILLIPS, GAVIN WEBSTER, DAVE FULTON & ANUVAB PAL Fri 1 - Sat 2 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DANNY MCLOUGHLIN, KATE MARTIN, STEVE WILLIAMS & TOM TOAL Sat 2 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

GARY DELANEY Sun 3 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

TOM HOUGHTON, PAUL SINHA, PATRICK DRAPER & BARRY DODDS Thurs 7 July, The George Hotel, Lichfield

ROB NEWMAN Fri 8 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NATHAN CATON, ANDREA HUBERT, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, THANYIA MOORE & PHIL CARR Fri 8 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NATHAN CATON, ANDREA HUBERT, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR & THANYIA MOORE Sat 9 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT RICHARDSON, PETER BRUSH, NICK DOODY & DIANE SPENCER Sat 9 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

Theatre

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

MAY QUEEN Frankie Meredith's acclaimed one-hander addresses themes of consent, lack of consent, folklore and growing up... until Sat 2 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

WAITRESS Hit West End musical starring Chelsea Halfpenny as a waitress and expert pie-maker in search of happiness. Matt Willis also stars, until Sat 2 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

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, until Sat 9 July, Stafford Castle

TOM, DICK & HARRY Brand-new production telling the true story of prisoners held in Stalag Luft III and their cat-and-mouse engagements with their captors, until Sat 9 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

RICHARD III Gregory Doran directs Arthur Hughes in this climax to Shakespeare's first history cycle, until Sat 8 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

SLEEPING BEAUTY Presented by Adage Dance & Fitness Studios, Fri 1 - Sat 2 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN The Crescent Theatre Company presents Oscar Wilde's social satire exploring sexual morality, gender politics and what constitutes a 'good woman', Sun 3 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE WINTER'S TALE Birmingham Ormiston Academy Year 12 students present Shakespeare's tale of tragedy, comedy and romance, Mon



Waitress - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

4 July, Old Rep, Birmingham

FOOTLOOSE THE MUSICAL Jake Quickenden stars alongside Darren Day in this foot-tapping musical based on the hit 1980s' movie, Mon 4 - Sat 9 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

WE WILL ROCK YOU Smash-hit musical by Queen & Ben Elton, Mon 4 - Sat 30 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

RICHARD III Presented by Birmingham Ormiston Academy Year 12 students, Tues 5 July, Old Rep, Birmingham

CAESAR Presented by Birmingham Ormiston Academy Year 12 students, Wed 6 July, Old Rep, Birmingham

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN The Crescent Theatre Company presents Oscar Wilde's social satire exploring sexual morality, gender politics and what constitutes a 'good woman', Wed 6 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CELL OUTS A dark comedy written and performed by two ex-prison officers, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ONE KISS One-woman show from Lara J West which offers a comical, emotional and insightful journey through womanhood, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN Rebecca Vaughan performs Virginia Woolf's 1928 exploration of the impact of poverty and sexual inequality, Sat 9 July, The Hub at St Marys, Lichfield

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN The Crescent Theatre Company presents Oscar Wilde's social satire exploring sexual morality, gender politics and what constitutes a 'good woman', Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

HAMLET: THE COMEDY Oddsocks present a unique take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

CLYBOURNE PARK Bruce Norris' razor-sharp satire about the politics of race and real estate. Note that this production contains strong language and racial connotations, Sat 9 - Sat 16 July, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

PATIENCE Charles Court Opera present their staging of Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera, Sun 10 July, The Hub at St Mary's Lichfield

Kids Shows

THE GRUFFALO Join Mouse on a daring adventure through the deep, dark wood in Tall Stories' magical, musical adaptation of the classic picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, Fri 1 - Sat 2 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Dance

MAILLES BY COMPAGNIE KADIDI Six female artists use their voices and bodies to tell a unique story of journey, commitment and strength, Fri 1 - Sat 2 July, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

OTI: I AM HERE Expect mesmerising jives, pumping sambas and much, much more in what promises to be an 'explosive night of dance and music that will set your heart racing.' Sun 3 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

BALLET CYMRU: DREAM Innovative new full-length ballet based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Fri 8 July, Lichfield Cathedral

CELTICA Fusion of Irish dance & music, Fri 8 - Sat 9 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

ANTON & GIOVANNI Join 'the ballroom king' and the two-time Guinness world record holder as they're joined by a cast of 'world class' dancers and singers, Sat 9 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham




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13th - 16th July 2022

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@ The Blue Orange Theatre
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118 Great Hampton Street, Birmingham, B18 6AD



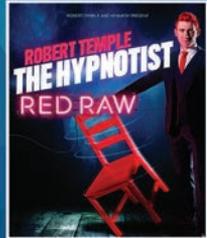
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ZENDAYA
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TICKETS FROM £8.50



ROBERT TEMPLE
THE HYPNOTIST
SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
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THE THINKING DRINKERS
PUB QUIZ
SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
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Dance Festival Weekend

HANDSWORTH PARK, SAT 2 & SUN 3 JULY



DEVA Urja Desai Thakore & Hetain Patel present the complexities of British Asian identity through a playful approach to classicism, connecting dance grammar and the everyday, Sat 2 July only

HIPPUS BY ZUM-ZUM THEATRE Charming and joyful - are they humans disguised as hippos or are they hippos searching for their identity? A 'wonderful show for all the family', Sat 2 July only

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 & visual experience for outdoor settings.

THE ALBUM: SKOOL EDITION BY SAY Interactive dance, created specifically for kids and their families, which combines 'fast-paced and slick contemporary dance routines with exciting new music'.

MUGHAL MINIATURES Sonia Sabri Dance Company fuse live music, puppetry and theatre to create living versions of Indian miniature paintings.

THE OTHER SIDE BY ASCENSION DANCE COMPANY A full-throttle, risk-taking dance performance with a powerful message at its core.

PLI BY VIKTOR ČERNICKÝ An unpredictable and humorous performance, where robustness is replaced with spatial modesty and material minimalism.

DANDYISM Patrick Ziza Dance showcase a centuries-old phenomenon that preserves the legacy of African culture.

WHERE ALL PATHS LEAD Brand-new outdoor dance-theatre work by multi-award-winning 2Faced Dance Company.

NATHAN MARSH (BIDF X PUNCH

COMMISSION) Exploring the notions of identity within the dance style of krump.

BLACK VICTORIANS BY JEANEFER JEAN-CHARLES A performance that calls attention to previously hidden figures and challenges historical and contemporary perceptions.

SONDER A moving theatre performance, inspired by conversations with Birmingham-based migrants, which explores the challenges, experiences and issues of immigration.

FORBIDDEN IDENTITY Using street dance, tutting, mime and sign language, Forbidden Identity explores the personal struggle of a deaf child growing up in a hearing world...

Light Entertainment

RACE CHASER LIVE WITH ALASKA & WILLAM The award-winning podcast breaks out of the recording studio for an evening of 'unforgettable entertainment', Fri 8 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham



Talks & Spoken Word

FROM GAS STREET TO THE GANGES Join author Simon Wilcox as he reads excerpts from his new book, which looks at how the entrepreneurial energy that built Birmingham's canals during the Industrial Revolution cast its influence all over the world, Fri 1 July, The Crescent, Birmingham

IN CONVERSATION WITH APARNA SEN AND KONKANA SEN SHARMA A rare talk by India's greatest and longest-standing female writer/director, known for her frank and honest views on women's experience, filmmaking in Bengal and other matters, Mon 4 July, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

POETRY JAM: LIVE! Featuring poets who are starting out, seasoned veterans, and everyone else with a story to tell, Thurs 7 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MONOLOGUE SLAM Mawa Theatre Company present Shakespeare

classics as you've never seen or heard them before, Sat 9 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

Events

CIRCUS ZYAIR A colourful and action-packed show with high-energy acts from all over the world, until Sun 3 July, Tamworth Castle Grounds

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 B'ham

MIDSUMMER CARNIVAL Warwick Castle presents 'the ultimate Tudor carnival celebration', until Sun 10 July, Warwick Castle

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

LUNCH TIME GUITAR CONCERT The lunchtime guitar concerts are a unique and popular event on the Birmingham music scene, Fri 1 July, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

CAMPER JAM Family-friendly show for VW owners and fans, Fri 1 - Sun 3 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

GUIDED TOUR OF SAREHOLE MILL Enjoy the sights and sounds of a traditional 18th-century water mill with the experienced guides, Fri 1 & Fri 8 - Sat 9 July, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

EXPLORE SAREHOLE MILL Explore Sarehole Mill at your leisure without the need for a guided tour, Sat 2 July, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

ASTON ARTS CLUB Make something inspired by Aston Hall and its incredible history, Sat 2 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

MEDIEVAL DAY AT WEOLEY CASTLE RUINS Learn what life was like in medieval Birmingham with re-enactors, battle displays, storytelling, guided tours, craft activities and much more, Sat 2 July, Weoley Castle, Birmingham



MURDER MYSTERY EVENING Look at the evidence, follow the clues and interrogate the suspects in their cells, Sat 2 July, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

LARGE MODEL AIR SHOW Scale models of iconic aircraft take to the skies, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, RAF Museum, Cosford

TRUCKFEST Featuring monster trucks and arena stunt shows, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

ORIGINS OF MIDDLE-EARTH: JRR TOLKIEN AND SAREHOLE GUIDED WALK A guided walk introducing the scenery that inspired JRR Tolkien when he lived near Sarehole Mill as a child, Sun 3 July, Sarehole Mill,



ARTS MARKET Regular market featuring the work of local designer makers, Sun 3 July, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

BRITISH ASIAN SHORTS A chance to see the work of diverse emerging filmmakers from across the UK, Sun 3 July, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLUB Practise your conversational English and develop your speaking skills in a friendly, supportive environment, Tues 5 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

CASTLE KIDS PLAYGROUP A stay & play group for children aged under five with their parents or carers, Tues 5 July, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

EXPLORE BLAKESLEY A chance to explore Blakesley Hall, a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens built in 1590 by Richard Smalbroke, Wed 6 - Thurs 7 July & Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SUPERSONIC FESTIVAL 2022 Experimental music festival bringing together live performances by some of the world's most extraordinary artists, Fri 8 - Sun 10 July, various locations, Digbeth, Birmingham

ASTON HALL AS A NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Join the Natural Science Curator for an exploration of natural history, Sat 9 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE RUM TRAIN Unwind in first-class seating in a vintage carriage and sip a selection of tasty rums, Sat 9 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

STEAMPUNK WEEKEND Grab your goggles and top hat for a unique blend of sci-fi, engineering and Victoriana, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

BACK HOME Event focusing on the fascinating stories of life in the Black Country and surrounding region during the 1940s, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley



Transglobal Underground - Pizza Express

Gigs

BOURNVILLE VOICES: SUMMER CONCERT Mon 11 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath

KELLEY SWINDALL + JACK VALERO + HENNESSEY Tues 12 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath

NATIVE HARROW Tues 12 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

HOLIDAY GHOSTS Wed 13 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

BEJA FLO Wed 13 July, The Sunflower Lounge

THE STRUTS Wed 13 July, O2 Institute

HANNAH ALDRIDGE BAND + LACHLAN BRYAN AND THE WILDES Wed 13 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath

AYANNA WITTER-JOHNSON Wed 13 July, Lichfield Cathedral

THE NATURE CENTRE Thurs 14 July, Hare &

Hounds, King's Heath

MR BEN Thurs 14 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

JON BODEN Thurs 14 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath



THE LONGEST JOHNS Thurs 14 July, Lichfield Cathedral

TRANSGLOBAL UNDERGROUND Fri 15 July, Pizza Express Live, Brindley Place

GYPSY JACK + BAD FACE + BLACKFEATHER + WHATE + SUSTRAIN Fri 15 July, O2 Institute

RAI KAH MERCURY Fri 15 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

DETROIT SOUL COLLECTIVE Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

BLUES CLUB Sat 16 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

THE PRODIGY Sat 16 July, O2 Academy

JESSICA WALKER & JOSEPH ATKINS Sat 16 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

SHIRLEY SMART TRIO Sat 16 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

MALAH PALINKA + TRADIN' FIVES Sun 17 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

THE KID LAROI + GLAIVE Sun 17 July, O2 Academy

JANE MCDONALD Sun 17 July, The Alexandra

DURANNOTORIOUS DURAN Sun 17 July, Fletchers Bar

XHOSA COLE Sun 17 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield



The Prodigy - O2 Academy

Classical Music Theatre

CATHY & BEN LAMB ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by J.S Bach, Mozart & Wesley, Mon 11 July, Lichfield Cathedral

RACHEL PODGER BAROQUE VIOLIN Programme includes works by J.S Bach, J.H Roman & J.J Vilsmaier, Mon 11 July, Lichfield Cathedral

THE ARMONICO CONSORT Featuring Oz Clarke (narrator) and William Towers (counter tenor). Programme includes works by Purcell, Handel & Downland, Wed 13 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

CBSO: SIMPLY SCHUBERT Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor), Thurs 14 July, Birmingham Town Hall

CROYDON YOUNG MUSICIANS Fri 15 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

TIM POSNER (CELLO) & JOSEPH HAVLAT (PIANO) Programme includes works by Webern, Schumann & Dohnányi, Sat 16 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

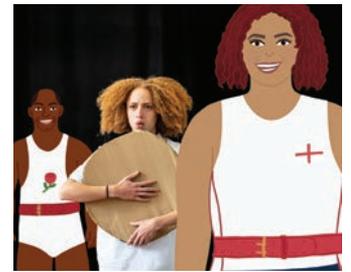
BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Britten & Schumann, Sat 16 July, Lichfield Cathedral

AS YOU LIKE IT Outdoor staging by The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Mon 11 July, Lichfield Cathedral

CLUEDO Michelle Collins (EastEnders/Coronation Street) stars as Miss Scarlett in this comedy-thriller based on the hit 1985 film, Clue, Mon 11 - Sat 16 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DOROTHY PARKER TAKES A TRIP One-woman musical play about legendary writer Dorothy Parker's immense talent and complicated life, Tues 12 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

PRECIOUS EMILY The story of how South African Precious McKenzie overcame the odds to become a Commonwealth weightlifting champion - twice... Wed 13 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham



LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN The Crescent Theatre Company presents Oscar Wilde's social satire exploring sexual morality, gender politics and what constitutes a 'good woman', Wed 13 - Thurs 14 July, Selly Manor, Birmingham

WALKING TO JERUSALEM Theatre and stand-up combine as virtuoso storyteller Justin Butcher traces the perils, pratfalls and marvels of the path to Jerusalem, Fri 15 July, Lichfield Guildhall

THE SIGNALMAN Blue Orange Arts perform Charles Dickens' famous short story as part of Birmingham Fest 2022, Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

FOREVER I DO Examination of love, life, death, grief and hope. Performed as part of Birmingham Fest and containing strong language and adult theme, Fri 15 - Sun 17 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

WOMEN & THEATRE: A THOUSAND THREADS Community performers from across Birmingham & Sandwell come together to celebrate women's cricket being part of the Commonwealth Games for the first time, Fri 15 - Sun 17 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

ROMEO & JULIET Chapterhouse Theatre's outdoor staging of the world's most famous love story, Sun 17 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Comedy

ZOE LYONS Fri 15 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield



PAUL THORNE, MIKE COX, JOHN HASTINGS & SUNIL PATEL Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEVE ROYLE, PAUL PIRIE, SAM AVERY & PETER RETHINASAMY Sat 16 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

TEZ ILYAS Sat 16 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

ROUGH WORKS: NEW MATERIAL NIGHT Sun 17 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DANIEL KITSON Sun 17 - Mon 18 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Dance

JAIVANT PATEL DANCE An evening of kathak dance with live Indian music, Mon 11 July, The Hub @ St Mary's, Lichfield

Light Entertainment

CONFETTI Will Jackson's queer rom-com follows wedding planner Felix as he embarks on a romance of his own... Thurs 14 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



SHELL SUIT CHER: BELIEVE IN BINGO Be amazed as Shell Suit Cher (aka Tracey Collins) unzips the story of her wild journey from Vegas to Mecca and beyond, Fri 15 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BINGO AT TIFFANYS Bingo games, raucous singalongs and glamorous dancing as Audrey Heartburn (aka Tracey Collins) spins her cage of bingo balls and shakes her maracas to a marvellous party soundtrack, Sat 16 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ROB BRYDON: A NIGHT OF SONGS & LAUGHTER Sat 16 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



BEHIND THE HEADLINES Topical panel show in which Have I Got News For You meets Saturday Night Live... Part of Birmingham Fest 2022, Sun 17 July, Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALGY AND A STORY OF MORE WOE Comedy double bill by Ian Appleby and Richard Constable. Part of Birmingham Fest 2022, Sun 17 - Tues 19 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

JUMPROV! The UK's first Black and Brown Improv group, featuring live sketch comedy made up on the spot, Sat 16 July, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

JOHN HEGLEY: DRAWINGS & DROMEDARIES (AND OTHER CREATURES) A new show from the celebrated poet, musician and BBC Radio Four favourite. Presented as part of Skylines, a festival of poetry and spoken word, Sun 17 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Events

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLUB Practise your conversational English and develop your speaking skills in a friendly, supportive environment, Tues 12 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

CASTLE KIDS PLAYGROUP A stay & play group for children aged under five with their parents or carers, Tues 12 July, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

EXPLORE BLAKESLEY A chance to explore Blakesley Hall, a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens built in 1590 by Richard Smalbroke, Wed 13 - Sun 17 July, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

GUIDED TOUR OF SAREHOLE MILL Enjoy the sights and sounds of a traditional 18th-century water mill with the experienced guides, Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, Sarehole Mill, B'ham

BURGER FEST Celebrating some of Birmingham's best-loved burger traders, as well as a handful of out-of-town favourites, Sat 16 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

A CHANGING HANDSWORTH PUBLIC TOUR A new public tour through Matthew Boulton's Georgian home, at the same time exploring the changing landscape of Handsworth through the Industrial Revolution, Sat 16 July, Soho House, Handsworth

BLACK COUNTRY WEEKENDER A huge weekend of live music and entertainment, Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

CAR CHASE HEROES Journey through various terrains on a three to six-mile circuit which will challenge drivers of every skill level, Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire



Cluedo

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 11 - Sat 16 July

This new stage play is based on the famous detective board game of the same name, and the hit 1985 movie, Clue. Featuring all of the game's famous characters - Miss Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs Peacock, Reverend Green, Mrs White and Colonel Mustard - the show is being helmed by Mark Bell, director of the award-winning The Play That Goes Wrong and A Comedy About A Bank Robbery.

Coronation Street and EastEnders favourite Michelle Collins stars as Miss Scarlett.

LIVERPOOL LEGENDS

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

PHOTO WITH TROPHY

SAMMY LEE
PHIL THOMPSON
BRUCE GROBBELAAR

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Dan Whitehouse - The Glee Club

Gigs

DEAN OWENS + JIM MAVING Mon 18 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath

TOM LEADER + ZOE MATTELEAR Tues 19 July, The Sunflower Lounge

ADAM BEATTIE + FIONA BEVAN Tues 19 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath

JULIE DEXTER + BAND Wed 20 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

DAN WHITEHOUSE Wed 20 July, The Glee Club

THE CHAPIN SISTERS + THE OCELOTS Wed 20 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath

TRU GROOVE Thurs 21 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

SCARLET Fri 22 July, The Sunflower Lounge

ANDY JOHN JONES Fri 22 July, Pizza Express Live, Brindley Place

MYSTIEK + THE MOJO CITY REBELS + SLIM & BLADE + THE UNRESOLVED + ECLIPSE Fri 22 July, O2 Academy

MARC VALENTINE + CONTINENTAL LOVERS Fri 22 July, The Asylum

NEBULA + THE ATOMIC BITCHWAX Fri 22 July, The Asylum

WILKO JOHNSON + JOHN OTWAY Fri 22 July, Birmingham Town Hall

STRICTLY UB40 Fri 22 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

SUBTERRANEANS Fri 22 - Sat 23 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

BLUES CLUB Sat 23 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

JOSHUA LEE TURNER + ALLISON YOUNG Sat 23

July, O2 Institute

THE SOUTHMARTINS + CITYLIGHTZ Sat 23 July, O2 Academy

SALLY + EMMA + STU HATTON + ALEX HAMMOND + OLLIE + THE F*FORD BROTHERS Sat 23 July, Dead Wax, Digbeth

JAMAICA 60TH CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA Sat 23 July, Birmingham Town Hall

ABBSOLUTE Sat 23 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

FIVE O FIVES + HOLLOWAYS + NAMSAKÉ Sun 24 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

DARKNESS - THE HUMAN LEAGUE TRIBUTE Sun 24 July, Fletchers Bar

ROB LAMBERTI - THE SONGS OF GEORGE MICHAEL Sun 24 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



Rob Lamberti - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Classical Music

CBSO SO VOCAL 10 YEAR CELEBRATION Early evening summer concert, Sun 17 July, Birmingham Town Hall

STEVEN ISSERLIS CELLO CONCERT Programme includes works by Moscheles & Beethoven, Sun 17 July, Lichfield Cathedral

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC CONCERT ORCHESTRA: MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES Featuring Russell Watson & The Overtones, Sat 23 July, Tamworth Castle

KIRKLEES MUSICAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA Sat 23 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CBSO: KAZUKI YAMADA CONDUCTS RACHMANINOV SYMPHONY NO.2 Featuring Elena Urioste (violin) & Ben Goldscheider (horn). Programme includes works by Glinka, Smyth & Rachmaninov, Sun 24 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE PEOPLE'S ORCHESTRA - CURIOSITY CONCERT Programme includes scores from iconic films - including Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Pirates of the Caribbean and more... Sun 24 July, Secret Space, Digbeth, Birmingham

Comedy

JASON JOHN WHITEHEAD, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN, MICHAEL FABBRI, GBEMI OLADIPO & COMIC TBC Fri 22 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JASON JOHN WHITEHEAD, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN, MICHAEL FABBRI & COMIC TBC Sat 23 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

EDDY BRIMSON, ERIC RUSHTON, DARIUS DAVIES & JOHN ROBERTSON Sat 23 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

Theatre

SIT WITH ME One-woman show, written & performed by Amber Gollay. Part of Birmingham Fest 2022, Mon 18 - Wed 20 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

TWELFTH NIGHT Heartbreak Productions wraps Shakespeare's play of obsessive love and its subterfuges in a Love Island meets Big Brother package, Tues 19 July, Brueton Park, Solihull

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING Folksy Theatre's outdoor staging of Shakespeare's tale of love, deception and misunderstanding, Tues 19 July, Martineau Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham

POPSTARS THE 90S MUSICAL It's boyband vs girlband in this brand-new musical packed with pop smash-hits from the 1990s, Tues 19 - Wed 20 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

NOMAD A dizzying, poetic journey through one woman's true experiences of homelessness and mental-health hospitalisation. Performed as part of Birmingham Fest, Tues 19 - Wed 20 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SOME MOTHERS DO 'AVE 'EM Joe Pasquale stars as Frank Spencer opposite Sarah Earnshaw as his long-suffering wife, Betty, Tues 19 - Sat 23 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

JUKEBOX LIVE! Celebration of jukebox musicals presented by Birmingham Ormiston Academy Year 10 students, Wed 20 July, Old Rep, Birmingham

PARKY PLAYERS: SHAKE IT UP No-holds-barred comedy about the experience of living with Parkinson's. Part of Birmingham Fest 2022, Wed 20 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

FASHION SPIES Devil Wears Prada meets Spy Kids in this surreal choose-your-own-adventure comedy from Quick Duck Theatre, Thurs 21 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



BLOOD SWEAT AND VAGINAS Edinburgh Festival preview staged as part of Birmingham Festival 2022, Thurs 21 - Fri 22 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

FOUR 2 JUMP Two Jens & Me presents a new black comedy looking at suicide, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE SILENT TREATMENT An 'intimate, funny and uplifting new solo show' combining storytelling, physical theatre and song to explore how the body remembers what the mind forgets, Fri 22 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

RAPUNZEL Immersion Theatre present a musical version of the classic fairytale, Fri 22 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

MUCH ADD ABOUT MURDER Heartbreak Productions present an original murder-mystery in which five suspects are put under the spotlight... Sat 23 July, Castle Bromwich Gardens, Birmingham

CONFESSIONS Series of monologues and duologues created by members



Here Come The Boys - Symphony Hall

of the Gatehouse Youth Theatre, Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE ALLESLEY SILAS Alan Pollock's adaptation of George Eliot's story about an outsider who, in his caring for a child, finds redemption and love in his community, Sat 23 - Sat 30 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

OLIVER SAMUELS IN GUILTY WITH EXPLANATION Thought-provoking comedy starring 'Jamaica's king of comedy', Sun 24 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

BEHIND THE HEADLINES Topical panel show in which Have I Got News For You meets Saturday Night Live... Part of Birmingham Fest 2022, Sun 24 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Folksy Theatre venture down the rabbit hole with an outdoor staging of Lewis Carroll's much-loved tale, Sun 24 July, Martineau Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham

INDIA GATE The Questors Theatre & Punjabi Theatre Academy present a new play depicting India's fight for freedom and independence from the British Raj, Sun 24 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

BURN THE FLOOR Fusion of Latin & ballroom dance performances featuring Strictly favourites Aljaž Škorjanec, Kevin Clifton, Janette Manrara, Karen Hauer, Dianne Buswell, Joanne Clifton, Luba Mushtuk, Kai Widdrington and Robin Windsor, Fri 22 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BOLLYWOOD DREAMS DANCE High-energy Bollywood dance show, Sat 23 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

HERE COME THE BOYS High-octane celebration of dance, featuring Graziano di Prima, Nadiya Bychkova,

Pasha Kovalev, Nikita Kuzmin and Strictly finalist Karim Zeroual, Sat 23 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Events

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLUB Practise your conversational English and develop your speaking skills in a friendly, supportive environment, Tues 19 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

LUKE JERRAM: CROSSINGS Row out onto the lake whilst listening to incredible stories from around the world in this new sound-installation artwork, Tues 19 July - Sun 4 Sept, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

EXPLORE BLAKESLEY A chance to explore Blakesley Hall, a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens built in 1590 by Richard Smalbroke, Wed 20 - Sun 24 July, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

GARDEN NATURE TRAIL AT BLAKESLEY HALL Explore the garden at Blakesley Hall on a brand-new nature trail for the summer holidays, Wed 20 - Sun 24 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

GUIDED TOUR OF SAREHOLE MILL Enjoy the sights and sounds of a traditional 18th-century water mill with the experienced guides, Fri 22 - Sat 23 July, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

THE BEACH AT YOUR CATHEDRAL Visit a beach 100 miles from the sea that comes complete with a programme of events for all the family, Fri 22 July - Wed 31 August, Lichfield Cathedral

JQ FESTIVAL Featuring a music festival in St Paul's Square, crafts market in the Golden Square and live theatre in Wartsone Lane Cemetery. Plus tours, live maker demos and acoustic music, Sat 23 July, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

THE GIN TRAIN Unwind in first-class seating in a vintage carriage with a gin & tonic in hand, Sat 23 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

CLIMBING AT YOUR CATHEDRAL Try your hand at scaling an 8m-high climbing

Popstars: The 90s Musical

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 19 & Wed 20 July

Fancy a high-energy smash-hits trip back to the 1990s? That's the journey on offer when Birmingham Hippodrome's Musical Theatre Youth Programme presents this brand-new show featuring chartbusting numbers from, among others, The Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys, N*Sync, Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears.

When high school 'queen bee' Shannon learns that pop-band impresario Simon Austin is the surprise judge at the state talent show, she dumps boyfriend Mark in favour of fronting a girlband and taking a shot at showbiz stardom.

Rejected by the girl he loves, Mark is down but certainly not out, and with the help of his garage-band pals - plus ultra-talented newcomer Ella - he forms a boyband to take on his ex and snatch fame and fortune from right under her scheming nose...

wall at the cathedral and get a whole new perspective on the great west front, Sat 23 July, Lichfield Cathedral

COSFORD FOOD FESTIVAL Featuring artisan food stalls and street food & drink, Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, RAF Museum, Cosford

ORIGINS OF MIDDLE-EARTH: JRR TOLKIEN AND SAREHOLE GUIDED WALK A guided walk introducing the

scenery that inspired JRR Tolkien when he lived near Sarehole Mill as a child, Sun 24 July, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

NOWKA BAIS A traditional form of dragon boat racing found in the rural villages of Bangladesh forms part of this celebration of Bangladeshi culture, Sun 24 July, Edgbaston Reservoir, Edgbaston



Summer Fun



 <p>Twelfth Night Tues 19 Jul, 7pm Outdoor show in Brueton Park, Solihull</p>	 <p>On Yer Bike Fri 29 & Sat 30 Jul Community musical play</p>	 <p>Film Tuesdays Tues 2, 9, 16, 23 Aug See a Family Film every week on the Big Screen</p>
 <p>Awful Auntie Wed 3 Aug, 7pm Outdoor show in Brueton Park, Solihull</p>	 <p>Play in a Day Tues 9 & Thurs 11 Aug Birmingham Rep present fun holiday theatre sessions See website for age ranges</p>	 <p>Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore Wed 31 Aug</p>

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Jesse Royal - Castle & Falcon

Gigs

JESSE ROYAL Mon 25 July, Castle & Falcon

JOHN CALE Mon 25 July, Birmingham Town Hall

JACOB DERSLEY Tues 26 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

JOHN O'BRIEN EXPERIENCE + HELLO AMNESIA Tues 26 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

ROSE TATTOO + THE POOR Tues 26 July, O2 Institute

GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS Tues 26 July, Symphony Hall

ACOUSTIC SESSIONS Wed 27 July, The Jam

House, Jewellery Quarter

THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY Sun 27 July, W'hampton Grand Theatre

THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG Thurs 28 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

R JOHN WEBB + BIG SPECIAL Thurs 28 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

DEL CAMINO Thurs 28 July, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

THE DESTROYERS + ABI BUDGEN + YAWAAN Fri 29 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE Fri 29 - Sat 30 July, The Jam House, Jewellery

Quarter

BLUES CLUB Sat 30 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath

DANNY WRIGHT Sat 30 July, Castle & Falcon

AMY WINEHOUSE: A CELEBRATION OF HER LIFE AND MUSIC WITH NYJO Sat 30 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

JOE JACKSON Sat 30 July, Symphony Hall

THE MUSIC OF BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETS Sat 30 July, Lichfield Garrick

LAURA ASTON & THE LA BAND Sun 31 July, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath



Joe Jackson - Symphony Hall

Comedy

DAN NIGHTINGALE Thurs 28 July, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield

SARAH MILLICAN Thurs 28 - Sat 30 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

JOHN LYNN, JASON PATTERSON, NINIA BENJAMIN, CAREY MARX & JACOB NUSSEY Fri 29 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK THOMAS Fri 29 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham



JOHN LYNN, JASON PATTERSON, NINIA BENJAMIN & CAREY MARX Sat 30 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JONNY AWSUM, AURIE STYLA, LINDSEY SANTORO & MATT STELLINGWERF Sat 30 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

Theatre

WHEATON'S LAW A story of family, technology, and trying to find human connection in a virtual world, Mon 25 - Wed 27 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ON YER BIKE SOLIHULL Community musical play which celebrates the contribution made by Solihull local Tommy Godwin to the story of the bicycle, Tues 26, Fri 29 & Sat 30 July, The Core, Solihull

EDEN Greg Stewart's new psychological thriller, revolving around the meeting of a self-help guru and an unassuming recruit at a weekend retreat, Tues 26 - Wed 27 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

OPHELIA Nereids Theatre Company presents a play about fate, female friendship and female triumph. Performed as part of Birmingham Fest, Tues 26 - Wed 27 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ZENDAYA Action-packed children's adventure where 'a child born new to mankind' uses her superhero powers to save the natives of the tropical Jungle Mongabay, Wed 27 - Thurs 28 July, Old Rep, Birmingham

BUGSY MALONE Brand-new production of Lyric Hammersmith Theatre's acclaimed revival of Alan Parker's hit musical, Wed 27 July - Sun 14 Aug, The Rep, Birmingham

THE CAPER TRAIL A fast-paced farce

developed especially for Birmingham Fest 2022, Thurs 28 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ANTONY & CLEOPATRA UNTO DEATH Alternative Shakespeare writing presented by the award-winning Inamoment theatre, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

JANE EYRE Heartbreak Productions' adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel follows the Victorian heroine as she battles her many ordeals, aided by 'astounding acrobats and jaw-dropping jugglers', Fri 29 July, Packwood House, Solihull

TAKING UP SPACE The Empathy Club presents an intimate piece of new writing exploring themes of sexuality, queer privilege, cultural expectation, and loneliness. Performed as part of Birmingham Fest, Fri 29 - Sat 30 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE CAPER TRAIL A fast-paced farce developed especially for Birmingham Fest 2022, Sat 30 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

AMAECCHI A queer-led performance celebrating sport, teamwork, collaboration, difference and the human spirit, Sat 30 - Sun 31 July, 3x3 Practice Court, Smithfield, Birmingham

VILLAGE WOING George Bernard Shaw's anti-romantic battle of the sexes, Sat 30 - Sun 31 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

BEHIND THE HEADLINES Topical panel show in which Have I Got News For You meets Saturday Night Live... Part of Birmingham Fest 2022, Sun 31 July, Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

Dance

THE GREATEST SHOW Presented by Cannon Dance Academy, Tues 26 - Wed 27 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE Journey through the history of Irish dance and music with 22 award-winning world & Irish dance champions, Fri 29 July, Lichfield Garrick

Talks & Spoken Word

AN EVENING WITH DAVID SEDARIS One of America's pre-eminent humour writers, David Sedaris is well known for his sardonic wit and incisive social critiques. He also has a number of bestsellers under his belt, including his latest offering - a collection of essays titled Calypso, Mon 25 July, Symphony Hall, B'ham

Events

ASTON BABY BOOGIE Relaxed and creative musical movement session. Suitable for toddlers aged between six months and three years, Wed 27 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

EXPLORE BLAKESLEY A chance to explore Blakesley Hall, a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens built in 1590 by Richard Smalbrooke, Wed 27 - Sun 31 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

KIDS JEWELLERY WORKSHOP Have a go at making your own piece of jewellery using real jewellers' techniques, Tues 26 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

GARDEN NATURE TRAIL AT BLAKESLEY HALL Explore the garden at Blakesley Hall on a brand-new nature trail for the summer holidays, Wed 27 - Sun 31 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

PIRATE DAY Learn all about the jobs and tasks on board a pirate ship. There's even a chance to walk the plank, Thurs 28 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

QUEEN'S BATON RELAY AT ASTON HALL Aston Hall is the final stop-off for the Queen's Baton before it goes on to

mark the formal beginning of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, Thurs 28 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

EXHIBITION TOUR: FOUND CITIES, LOST OBJECTS: WOMEN IN THE CITY Join Exhibitions Team Leader Katie Morton and explore key artworks from both the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham's own collection, Thurs 28 July, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

PEPPA PIG: MY FIRST CONCERT Interactive introduction to a live orchestra for children aged 18 months and older, Thurs 28 - Fri 29 July, Birmingham Town Hall

ASTON BIOBLITZ Explore Aston Hall's beautiful gardens and the wider park, recording the plants, animals, and insects you find there, Fri 29 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

JOURNEY UNDERGROUND: FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY Discover what lies beneath the 750-year-old ruins of the castle, Fri 29 July, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

GUIDED TOUR OF SAREHOLE MILL Enjoy the sights and sounds of a traditional 18th-century water mill with the experienced guides, Fri 29 - Sat 30 July, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham



Legendary Joust - Kenilworth Castle

CLIMBING AT YOUR CATHEDRAL Try your hand at scaling an 8m-high climbing wall at the cathedral and get a whole new perspective on the great west front, Sat 30 July, Lichfield Cathedral

VICTORIAN SPORTS WEEKEND A weekend of fun Victorian sports,

including tug-of-war and egg & spoon races, Sat 30 - Sun 31 July, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

LEGENDARY JOUST Four legendary knights compete for honour and glory, Sat 30 - Sun 31 July, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

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SAT 10 SEPTEMBER

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An audience with Marilyn & Tia

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THE WORLD'S NO.1 SEX PISTOLS TRIBUTE

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SAT 24 SEPTEMBER

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A CELEBRATION OF THE SONGS & MUSIC OF GEORGE MICHAEL

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"the hotly-tipped Scottish indie rock band"

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WRESTLING

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I WANT YOUR LOVE - DANCE DANCE DANCE

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FRI 21 OCTOBER

TAKE THAT

SAT 22 OCTOBER

RULE THE WORLD

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