

Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

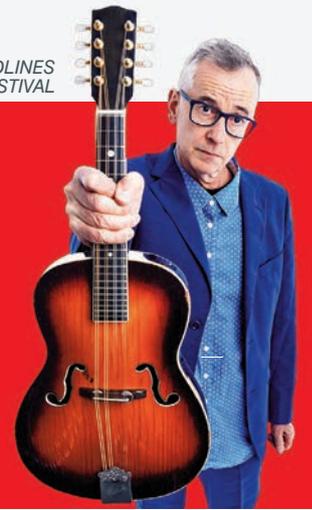
JOHN HEGLEY HEADLINES
COVENTRY'S SKYLINE FESTIVAL

Coventry & Warwickshire

ISSUE 426 JULY 2022

What's On

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



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ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
23 JUNE – 8 OCTOBER

WHERE THEATRE BEGINS

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THE CHER SHOW

new musical visits the Midlands
feature inside...



FUN AND GAMES...

Commonwealth Festival Sites
pop up across the Midlands



PASSING IT ON...

the Queen's Baton makes its
way across the region...

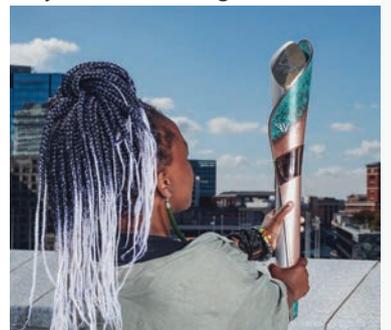




Image credit: Jaskirt Boora

PEOPLE, PLACE AND SPORT

JASKIRT BOORA & MULTISTORY

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

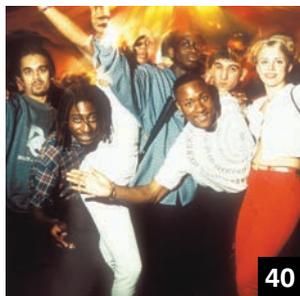
4 JULY - 31 AUGUST

SANDWELL VALLEY COUNTRY PARK



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The Bodyguard: hit musical returning to the Midlands

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.

Talking Liverpool legends at Coventry theatre

Three legendary Liverpool FC footballers are being sent to Coventry in the autumn. Phil Thompson, who captained the club to European Cup success in 1981, Sammy Lee and goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar will be reminiscing about their glory days playing for the Reds when they visit the city's Albany Theatre on 27 September. Check out the venue's website for more information about an evening that no self-respecting Liverpool supporter will want to miss.

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

The Battle Of The Big Top

A youth theatre company is celebrating its first year of residency at Leamington Spa's The Loft by presenting an original musical in the venue's main house. Arts Insight's *The Battle Of The Big Top* shows from Wednesday 3 to Sunday 7 August and will feature 60 young performers from across Warwickshire. For more information and to book tickets, visit lofttheatrecompany.com

Month-long CultureFest at Warwickshire locations

Warwick District Council is this month hosting a festival celebrating 'the incredible arts & heritage venues, artists and creatives in the area'. Titled CultureFest and running from Saturday 16 July to Sunday 21 August, the celebration will feature events and activities in Leamington Spa, Warwick, Kenilworth and Whitnash. The festival sits alongside Warwick district's involvement in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which sees the area hosting the lawn bowls, para lawn bowls and the start and finish of the road race cycling event. For more information, visit culturefest2022.co.uk

Storytelling on the lake...

A brand-new sound installation artwork commissioned by Compton Verney opens at the Warwickshire venue this month. Artist Luke Jerram's *Crossings* (Tuesday 19

July - Sunday 4 September) is a 30-minute audio journey which invites visitors to row out onto the lake at Compton Verney whilst listening to 'incredible stories from around the world'. To find out more about *Crossings*, visit comptonverney.org.uk



School of Sorcery at Worcester's Swan Theatre

A brand-new musical about a young girl named Maisey, who is born into a family of spellbinding sorcerers but isn't very good at magic herself, is coming to Worcester's Swan Theatre. Hexwood School Of Sorcery will be performed twice at the venue on the afternoon of Tuesday 16 August. For more information, visit worcestertheatres.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

Bond In Concert at the Belgrade

A musical celebration of the world's most famous fictional spy is visiting Coventry's Belgrade Theatre on Saturday 23 July.

Bond In Concert sees top international show band Session One, accompanied by guest vocalists, performing some of the best-loved themes from the James Bond movies. Audience members are being advised to order their drinks shaken, not stirred...

For more information, visit belgrade.co.uk

BBC Proms in the Midlands

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 (pictured) 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



Lovely! My Fair Lady to visit the Midlands in Spring 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

Shopfront artworks



Three artworks by three artists have been revealed in a historic part of Coventry city centre.

The three works - located in the High Street Heritage Action Zone of the Burges and Hales Street - are part of Show Windows, an ambitious series of unique shopfront commissions co-produced by Coventry City of Culture Trust and Coventry BID in partnership with the Coventry River Cultural Consortium.

The three artists were commissioned to animate windows on the theme of Green Futures - 'creating portals to other worlds, to inspire imagination, adventure and hope'.

Arab film festival movies coming to Warwick Arts Centre

Some of the very best films from the Safar Film Festival 2022 - the UK's only festival dedicated to cinema from the Arab world - are heading to Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre this month (Monday 4 - Friday 8 July).

Founded in 2012, Safar offers a unique space for audiences 'to explore and celebrate Arab cinema past, present and future'... For more information about the festival and the films being screened in Coventry, visit warwickartscentre.co.uk



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



Freedom in the Assembly Garden with the Soweto Gospel Choir

The Grammy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir will appear at Coventry's Assembly Festival Garden on Sunday 31 July.

The critically acclaimed ensemble will be performing Freedom, a concert of songs celebrating and commemorating South Africa's democratic struggle.

For more information and to book tickets, visit assemblyfestivalgarden.com



06 whatsonlive.co.uk



Lawn bowls the focus of new outdoor performance

Coventry theatre company Talking Birds are celebrating 'the wonderful world of lawn bowls' in their new outdoor show, Come Bowl With Me.

Commissioned for the Birmingham 2022 Festival, the work pays homage to the popular sport, which is being played in

Leamington Spa as part of this month's Commonwealth Games.

A free and unticketed event, Come Bowl With Me is showing at a number of Warwickshire venues during July. To find out where and when, visit talkingbirds.co.uk

Severn Valley Railway wins top tourism award

The Severn Valley Railway (SVR) has won the VisitEngland bronze award for Resilience & Innovation, beating off tough competition from hundreds of visitor attractions across England.

Commenting on the success, SVR Managing Director Helen Smith said: "Since those first days of lockdown, we've faced countless difficulties in getting the railway through the devastating impacts of the Covid pandemic. We've proved ourselves capable of more than we'd ever thought, and this award acknowledges that achievement."

Herbert acquires work by Venice Biennale winner

A work in the National Gallery's current exhibition, If You Prick Us, Do We Not Bleed?, by the venue's 2021 artist-in-residence, Ali Cherri, has been acquired by the Contemporary Art Society for the programme's partner venue, Coventry's Herbert Art Gallery & Museum. Entitled The Madonna Of The Cat, After Barocci, 2022, the piece is from a group of works created by Ali for his National Gallery residency. The Lebanese-born artist this year won the Silver Lion for Promising Young

Participant at the Venice Biennale. Commenting on the acquisition, Martin Roberts, Collections Manager at the Herbert, said: "The work will add a new and contemporary perspective into our visual arts collection centred on Peace And Reconciliation, and we look forward to welcoming visitors to enjoy the work."



Cathedral photography competition returns

Worcester Cathedral's popular photography competition is back - and would-be participants have until Sunday 31 July to enter up to three photos.

Cash prizes are available for the winner and two runners-up in the competition's two categories: under-18s, and 18 years of age and older.

The challenge for participants is to 'capture life in and around the cathedral through photography'.

The best entries will be featured in an exhibition in September. To find out more and to enter, visit worcestercathedral.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

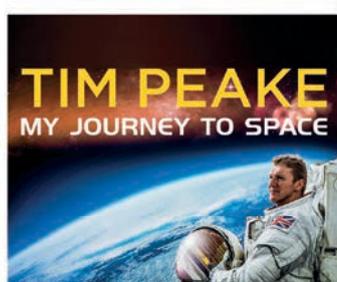


Anastacia: I'm Outta Lockdown – The 22nd Anniversary
Tue 1 Nov
Symphony Hall

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



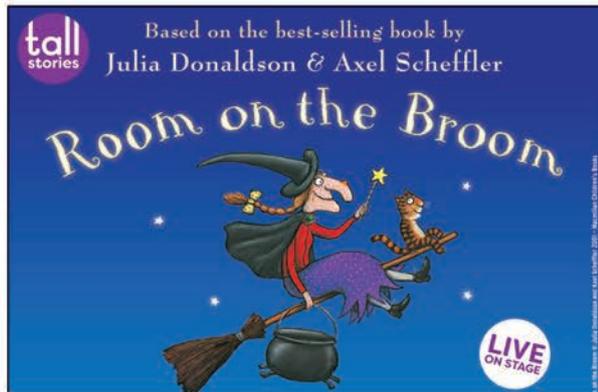
An Evening with Noel Fitzpatrick
Tue 29 Nov
Town Hall



TIM PEAKE: My Journey to Space
Wed 7 Sep
Symphony Hall



Christmas with Aled and Russell
Fri 2 Dec
Symphony Hall



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Room on the Broom

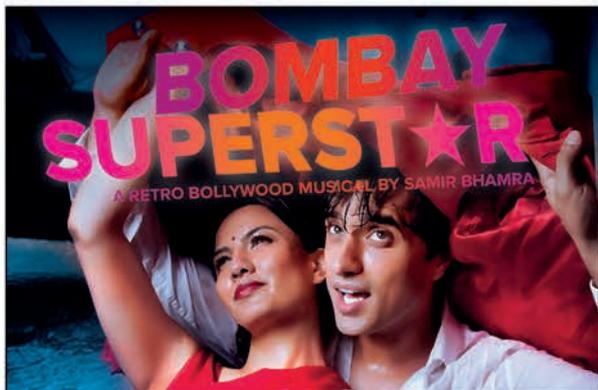
LIVE ON STAGE

7 – 10 Sept From £10*



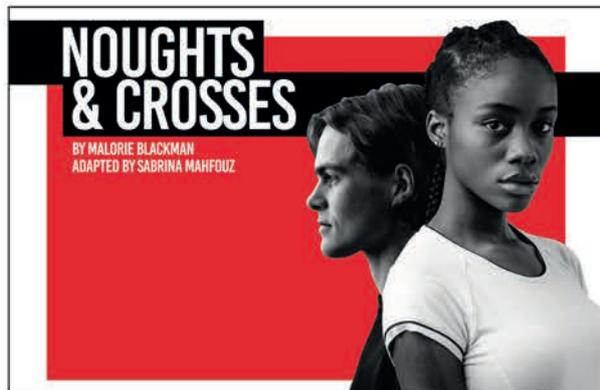
HAPPY MEAL
by Tabby Lamb

21 – 24 Sept From £10*



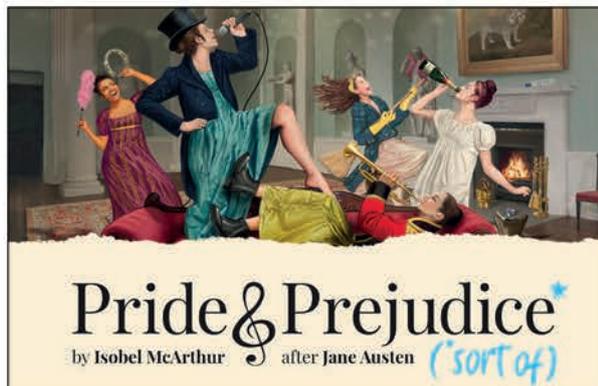
BOMBAY SUPERSTAR
A RETRO BOLLYWOOD MUSICAL BY SAMIR BHAMRA

15 – 22 Oct From £15*



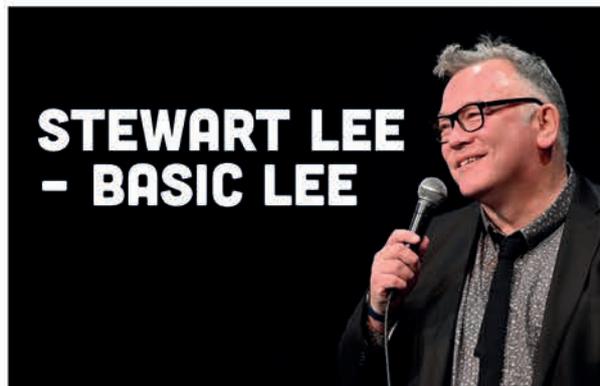
NOIGHTS & CROSSES
BY MALORIE BLACKMAN
ADAPTED BY SABRINA MAHFOUZ

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**

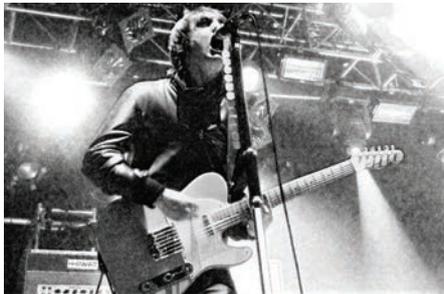
22 & 23 Feb 2023 From £15*

BOOK NOW www.belgrade.co.uk

*Ticket price includes a £1.50 booking fee.

Connecting Coventry and Birmingham musically

Coventry Music Museum is hosting a mini exhibition this month and next which showcases the musical connections between the city and near neighbour Birmingham. Commenting on the show, which is titled A45 To 45RPM, the museum's creator, Pete Chambers, said: "As all eyes are on Birmingham right now in a sporting sense, I thought it was time to look at what we share with the city musically. There is but a few miles between the two, yet we both remain loyal to our accents, our culture and our differences. We hope people will visit and get a better understanding of West Midlands music." A45 To 45RPM shows at the venue from Friday 1 July to Sunday 28 August.



Chris Moyles to bring '90s Hangover to Worcester

One-time BBC Radio One DJ Chris Moyles is bringing his '90s Hangover event to Worcestershire County Cricket Club. Moyles, who now presents on RadioX, will visit the venue on Friday 5 August to present a celebration of hit music from the 1990s.

The magic of Middle-Earth at Worcestershire venue

A free exhibition celebrating JRR Tolkien's fantasy world of Middle-Earth is opening at Worcester City Art Gallery &



Museum this month (Saturday 9 July). It will remain on display throughout the summer holidays.

The Magic Of Middle-Earth features more than 200 rare books - including first-edition copies - 'stunning' paintings of dragons, ents and elves, dramatic models and dioramas (including The Battle Of Helms Deep) and Middle-Earth-inspired video games and Lego sets.



Worcester Festival set to celebrate 20th birthday

Worcester Festival makes a welcome return next month, taking place in various venues and locations from Saturday 13 to Monday 29 August. Highlights of the event, which is this year celebrating its 20th anniversary, include performances by local artists, groups and bands, colouring competitions for kids to

enjoy, discos, pottery painting, tours, craft fares, crafting workshops, cheer dance classes and art studio open days. In all, the festival features nearly 700 events, with an impressive 78% of them completely free to attend.

To find out more about what's happening, visit worcestersfestival.co.uk

Celebrating Spike at Malvern Festival Theatre

A brand-new play celebrating the comic genius of the late Spike Milligan will visit Malvern Theatres in the autumn.

Written by Nick Newman and Have I Got News For You stalwart Ian Hislop, Spike is described as 'an absurdly funny new play that delves into the inner workings of one of our most unique and brilliantly irreverent comedy minds'.

The production stops off in Malvern from 13 to 17 September.

On Yer Bike! New play celebrates Solihull's cycling heritage

A community musical play will this month celebrate Solihull's connections to cycling.

Commissioned for the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay Solihull Musical

Finale on Tuesday 26 July (in Jubilee Gardens), On Yer Bike also shows at local venue The Core on Friday the 29th & Saturday the 30th.

A summertime field of romantic dreams

A Worcestershire company is this summer (1 to 10 July) providing people with the opportunity to visit a field of flowers which is annually harvested in order to make wedding confetti.

The Real Flower Petal Confetti Company is based at the Wyke Manor Estate and boasts what it refers to as 'a confetti field'.

For just a few days in summer - when acres of tall and elegant delphiniums are in full and spectacularly colourful bloom - the company offers members of the general public the chance to visit and enjoy the flowers.

For further information, visit: confettidirect.co.uk

CHAPTER AND VERSE



Poet & comedian John Hegley is happy to talk - and write - about anything and everything. What's On tries to keep him on-topic to discuss his appearance at Coventry's upcoming Skylines festival of poetry & the spoken word...

In the publicity blurb for his upcoming appearance at the Skylines poetry festival in Coventry, John Hegley claims his latest show is 'designed in the main for adults, but may be of interest to the odd nine-year-old'.

He sniggered when I asked him to clarify his use of the word 'odd'.

"Well, I was certainly an odd nine-year-old - I think I was an odder 14-year-old, perhaps an even odder 68-year-old! When I wrote that line, the second meaning only came to me afterwards, but I thought that was alright as well."

Still performing as he approaches his eighth decade, the poet, comedian, singer, songwriter - and let's not forget 'glasses-wearer' - enjoys national-treasure status in some quarters, but remains a playful raconteur with a childlike wonder that translates - and transmits - to a younger audience. He started writing poems for children years ago, but claims it was completely unplanned.

"I was thinking about this the other day because I was running a workshop for people who wanted to write for children and [talking about] my first book, Glad To Wear Glasses. I look at it now and can see there were some poems that you'd probably put in a kids' book, but I didn't think it at the time.

"There's obviously some subjects that you won't broach with youngsters, but there are others that are for everybody really.

"It surprises me when the odd [there we go again] nine-year-old comes to my show and the bits they've liked the best aren't what I expected or thought was more oriented for kids. So I don't really know the answer, and I hope I don't know the answer of 'what is the stuff for kids?' - it's just nice when people take something up and it becomes theirs: 'We like this!'"

People have been 'liking this' - John's work - for well over 40 years. He first performed his own material in 1978, and has gone on to appear on TV and radio - including in his own show on BBC Radio Four - produced 12 books ("and one mug"), conducted workshops and toured constantly, clocking up a bewildering 31 runs at the Edinburgh Festival along the way.

There was much to discuss then, but somewhat unnervingly - because this never happens - the ever-inquisitive people-person initially seemed more interested in talking

about me, my background, education, why economies of scale should be explained to Joe Public and much more.

Clambering out of the rabbit hole of our conversation (the rabbit no doubt carrying a pocket watch and tutting), I deviously steered John back to the topic of poetry via a brief exchange about football, offering my condolences after his beloved Luton Town failed to join England's elite division via the playoffs.

My suggestion that 'Who really wants to be in the Premier League?' would make a good title for a poem earned a knowing laugh (and possibly a note scribbled for future reference). He then acclaimed what a great season it'd been and reeled off a poem for good measure:

**"Five whole goals to Luton
Town
And Middlesbrough not one
But though their team was
five-nil down
Their fans were up for fun
And when their consolation
came
Before the whistle blew
They echoed Luton's 'we want
six'
With a modest 'we want two'"**

That put paid to my query about whether football was a good subject for poetry, but it turns out pretty much everything is - particularly potatoes and other plants and vegetables - as long as there's a human connection.

He immediately started quoting from another poem ('Poem de terre'): "I'm not a normal person, whatever that may be, there is something very very vegetable about me..." before offering an explanation: "It's potatoes, and how they relate to people. It's not just about the potato, it's about being something other than other folk - and the blight, it's about more than potato blight, it's about the blights that we might have ourselves. So the subjects are coat hangers, but we value the coat hanger as well, [whether it's] glasses, dogs, spuds, biscuits or anything else."

It's clear that varying the subject matter is one of the ways John keeps himself

entertained, and his live act now embraces song, dance and even drawing (of dromedaries, among other animals), which I suggested was sailing a little close to the wind content-wise as the headline act at a poetry festival.

"I suppose I am!" he chuckled, admitting that there are times when he enjoys concentrating purely on the actual poems as opposed to his overall performance.

"I did a show last night in Bristol, and at the end I picked up a wodge of pages and realised I hadn't read all of the poems out. So I just read a batch of poems, and it was really lovely. Usually I try to dress the pieces with a song, or some comedy or music, so it was good to just give the words a chance!"

John's performance in Coventry will be the finale of the inaugural Skylines festival, which is the brainchild of Writing West Midlands and Nine Arches Press. As well as highlights from his back-catalogue, the show is due to feature several newly composed pieces, including work based on the letters and leisure activities of John Keats, one of his favourite poets.

He has also written a new limerick especially for the event, which he read to me - but I don't want to spoil it for attendees by divulging here. That being said, I *can* reveal it has a lovely ending ("that started out as the first line, but I realised it was good, so thought I better put it last") as well as a modest contribution from yours truly in terms of some minor geographical clarification in the opening line. I'll say no more, but the poet was clearly grateful, though perhaps not enough to warrant offering a co-writer's credit.

"Thanks for that - I looked in my Equity diary, and on the train map it looks like Coventry is south east of Birmingham, but I can't tell how many miles it is. This is the thing; you pick up little bits of stuff, bits of knowledge everywhere."

And he scribbled it down. John Hegley in a nutshell.

John Hegley appears at the Belgrade Theatre on 17 July as part of the Skylines festival, which runs from 15 to 17 July at various venues in Coventry... For more information, visit skylinescoventry.co.uk



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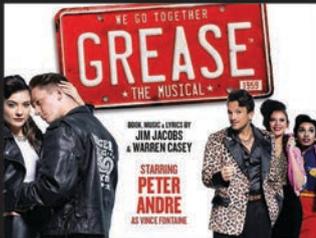
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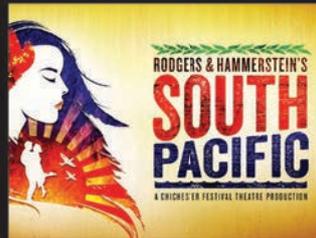
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'SHOWTIME' THEATRE TRIPS BY COACH

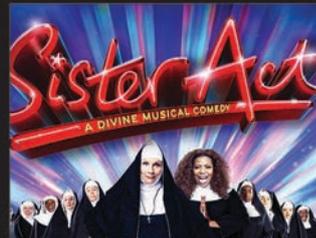
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Grease The Musical at Dominion Theatre, London
Thu 8 Sept 2022 | £73.50



South Pacific at The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
Thu 29 Sept 2022 | £69.50



Sister Act at The Hippodrome, Birmingham
Wed 5 Oct 2022 | £63.50



Classical Spectacular at Symphony Hall Birmingham
Sat 29 Oct 2022 | £72.50



Strictly Ballroom at The Birmingham Hippodrome
Wed 2 Nov 2022 | £59.50



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Tue 6 Dec 2022 | £84.50



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JOHNSONS
QUALITY COACH TRAVEL

Food news from across the region...

Hotel launches takeaway service

A 'lockdown-style' takeaway food delivery service has been launched for guests staying at a newly opened self-catering lodge at a boutique Victorian country manor hotel in Worcestershire. Chefs at historic Brockencote Hall Hotel have created two breakfast hampers, foodie tray bakes, sharing boards and sweet treats for the guests to enjoy.

All-week fine dining returns at popular Leamington venue

An all-week fine dining experience has returned at Leamington's Mallory Court Hotel & Spa.

Produced by top chef Simon Haigh, the Tastes Of The Season menu ranges from Champagne on the terrace - weather permitting - to highland waygu beef, truffles, Mallory elderflower, Wye Valley asparagus and English strawberries. The experience is rounded off with tea or coffee by the fireside.



Anniversary pop-ups for foodie favourite

In celebration of 10 years of popular food events, Digbeth Dining Club (DDC) is popping up at 15 sites around the Midlands this summer, including Coventry Cathedral (1 & 2 July), Warwick Castle (8, 9, 29 & 30 July) and Bromsgrove Football Club (16 July). As well as award-winning street food, DDC will also be serving up a range of specialist gin, prosecco, cocktails and craft beers. Resident DJs, live music and children's entertainment also features.



Spanish restaurant Alioli opens in Touchwood Solihull

Spanish eatery Alioli has opened in Touchwood Solihull and is promising to offer an Andalusian twist on the traditional tapas restaurant.

As a rule, dishes are rarely overcomplicated in Andalusian culture, instead relying on the use of fresh ingredients and ample passion.

With a skilled chef from the region leading the kitchen team, Alioli is offering a menu that boasts authentic Spanish flavours with wine pairing suggestions to match.

The imaginative menu features fresh fish and

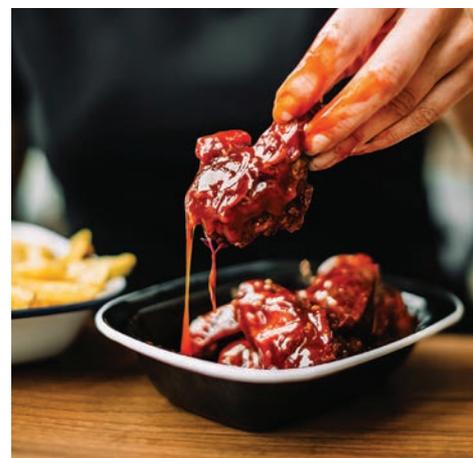
seafood options, Spanish sausage meats and vegetarian favourites - alongside generous dollops of alioli, of course. Featured dishes include: marinated deep-fried cod in honey alioli; creamy bechamel ham croquettes; runny yolk tortilla; crispy aubergine sticks served with molasses; black pudding with rice and goat's cheese; and lemon garlic and thyme chicken wings. You can book your table by visiting the restaurant's website at: alioli.co.uk

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.



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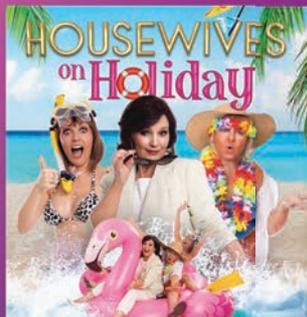
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Classical music from across the region...



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.

Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

St Mary's Church, Warwick, Tues 5 July
This summertime Leamington Music concert sees the highly rated Choir of Clare College Cambridge present a programme of work to mark the 150th anniversary of composer Ralph Vaughan Williams' birth. The choir is performing at St Mary's for the first time, but has previously appeared in Leamington on three occasions. Graham Ross is the conductor for the concert, which forms part of the inaugural Warwick Choral Festival.



Stratford-upon-Avon Symphony Orchestra

Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sun 17 July
Founded over 50 years ago, Stratford-upon-Avon Symphony Orchestra now features more than 60 playing members and performs a wide variety of works, in the main from the classical repertoire from the 17th to the 20th century. This latest concert presents a programme comprising *King Lear* by Berlioz, Lalo's Cello Concerto and Saint-Saens's Third Symphony.

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.



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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FESTIVAL FUN & FROLICS

A bumper programme of performances as Lichfield Festival celebrates its 40th birthday

A month after Her Majesty The Queen marked 70 glorious years on the throne, another great British institution is celebrating an anniversary of its very own.

One of the Midlands' most popular multi-arts events - the Lichfield Festival - turns 40 in 2022, and organisers have been pulling out all the stops to make the 11-day get-together an occasion to remember...

Included in a typically eclectic programme are contributions from Tony Hadley, Brodsky Quartet, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Ayanna Witter-Johnson, The Longest Johns, Rachel Podger, Ballet Cymru and the National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Commenting on this year's line-up, Lichfield Festival Director Damian Thantrey said: "Since the first event in 1982, Lichfield Festival has brought artists and musicians of the highest calibre, and audiences local and national, to this beautiful city. Alongside fabulous

established and up-and-coming artists, our 40th anniversary will feature works from the first festival, new commissions, bespoke 1980s-themed shows, music honouring the 150th anniversary of the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, and the inaugural Midlands Choir of the Year.

"We're thrilled that Tony Hadley has agreed to launch the celebrations for us, and delighted also to welcome new principal festival sponsor McArthurGlen.

"As always, there will be dance, drama, comedy, family fun, fireworks and free events - all the hallmarks that have made Lichfield Festival a cultural beacon for the last 40 years."

The festival runs at various venues from Thursday 7 to Sunday 17 July. For more information, visit lichfieldfestival.org

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL'S 40th ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS - BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!



BALLET CYMRU: DREAM

Lichfield Cathedral, Fri 8 July

Boasting a reputation for presenting innovative, challenging and original productions, Ballet Cymru here present a brand-new full-length show based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Described as 'a magical, gender-bending world of fairies, lovers and bewitching enchantment', the production comes complete with a score by Olivier Award-winning composer Frank Moon...



NATIONAL YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Lichfield Cathedral, Tues 12 July

Bespoke arrangements of classic American Songbook melodies are the name of the game when the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO) present their Heritage programme, *Basie And Beyond*. A celebration of the incomparable William James 'Count' Basie, the concert also sees NYJO explore the impact on popular music made by 20th-century Black American artists including Frank Foster, Dizzy Gillespie and Quincy Jones.



AYANNA WITTER-JOHNSON

Lichfield Cathedral, Wed 13 July

Multi-talented singer, songwriter, composer and cellist Ayanna Witter-Johnson is a born-in-Britain second-generation Jamaican whose body of work represents, celebrates and pays homage to her ancestral heritage, culture and identity. Seamlessly crossing the boundaries of classical, jazz, reggae, soul and R&B, Ayanna has collaborated with artists including Anoushka Shankar, Nitin Sawhney, Andrea Bocelli and Jools Holland.



THE LONGEST JOHNS

Lichfield Cathedral, Thurs 14 July

This month making their first-ever appearance at the Lichfield Festival, trailblazing Bristol quartet The Longest Johns have enjoyed a meteoric rise to fame over the last few years. Starting out as sea-shanty-singing pals plying their trade in local pubs, the boys have gone on to enjoy roof-raising success at Latitude, score a major hit with TikTok phenomenon *Wellerman*, and garner a staggering 250 million streams online.



BACK TO THE EIGHTIES...

The Hub at St Mary's, Sat 16 July

The 1980s. The decade of Glasnost, yuppies, Miami Vice, mullet hair-dos and giant shoulder pads. The Iron Lady crushed the invading Argentinians and striking miners. Bob Geldof inspired Live Aid... And the Lichfield Festival was born... Associate artist Jessica Walker here sings her own stylish interpretations of hit 1980s numbers by Kate Bush, Dolly Parton, Annie Lennox, Barbra Streisand and many more.



STEVEN ISSERLIS

Lichfield Cathedral, Sun 17 July

The 40th anniversary festival closes with what's certain to be a superb recital by renowned British cellist Steven Isserlis. Steven first appeared at the festival in 1988, playing a solo recital featuring two of the Bach Cello Suites, and returned in 1989 to play the Elgar Cello Concerto with the CBSO. This year sees him performing Moscheles Cello Sonata, Op121, and Beethoven Cello Sonata No3 in A major, Op69.



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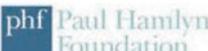


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Festivals coming to the region in July...



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

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

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



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 curtain-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.



OTI MARIUS

I AM HERE

Sun 3 Jul

WE WILL ROCK YOU

THE MUSICAL BY QUEEN AND Ben Elton

'A KIND OF MAGIC. SPECTACULAR. MAGNIFICO!'

The Sun

Mon 4 - Sat 30 Jul

MAWA THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

MONOLOGUE SLAM

Sat 9 Jul

Jumprov!

Sat 16 Jul

The CHER Show

A NEW MUSICAL

Tue 2 - Sat 6 Aug

Les Misérables

Tue 9 - Sat 27 Aug

BIRMINGHAM 2022 FESTIVAL PRESENTS

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PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH WARWICK ARTS CENTRE AND DRPG

#B2022FESTIVAL

Fri 19 - Sun 28 Aug

WASWASA?

AN IMMERSIVE PERFORMANCE BY MOHAMMED ALI

SOUL CITY ARTS

Thu 25 Aug - Sat 3 Sep

Beautiful

The Carole King Musical

Tue 30 Aug - Sat 3 Sep

OH THE COLOR PURPLE

THE MUSICAL

Tue 13 - Sat 17 Sep

Amina Khayyam Dance Company

Kantha Katha-K

Tue 20 & Wed 21 Sep

RAMBERT DANCE

PEAKY BLINDERS

THE REDEMPTION OF THOMAS SHRELY

Tue 27 Sep - Sun 2 Oct



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?



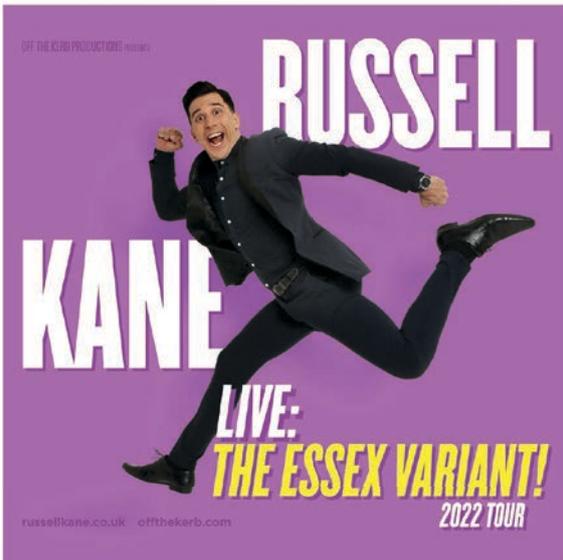
SUN 18 SEP

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 pootled 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.

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



Mailles by Compagnie Kadidi

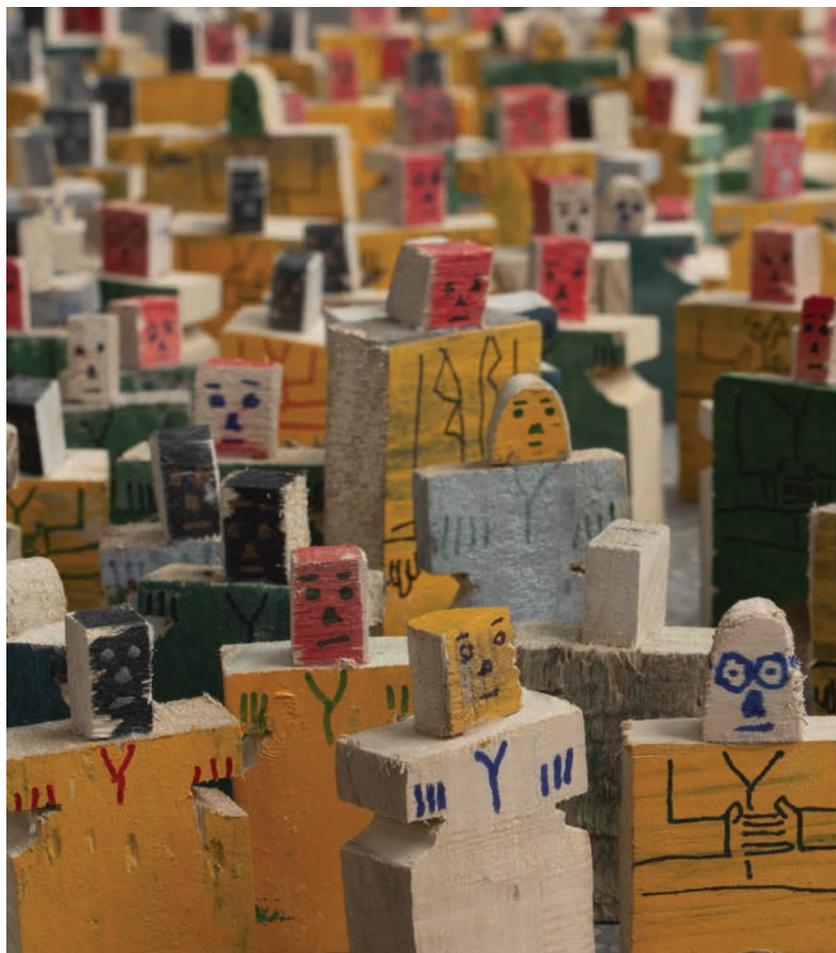
Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 1 & Sat 2 July

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

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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 Selexporthood, 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



Film highlights in July...

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
Sat 7 May - Sun 4 Sep 2022
Wolverhampton Art Gallery

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

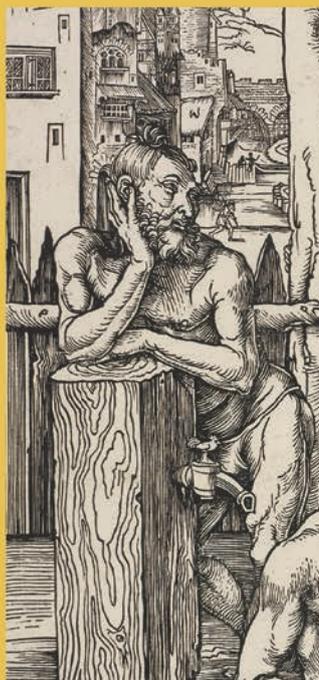
Free admission

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

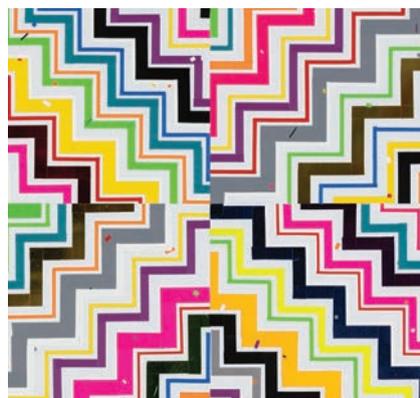
The Museum has been gathering together photographs of youth and subculture movements for more than 25 years. Its impressive collection includes everything 'from the bomb-site bicycle racers in post-war 1940s London, to the Acid House ravers of 1980s northern England'.

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'.





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.

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.



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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FOOD FESTIVAL
 23 - 24 JULY 2022



Cosford Food Festival

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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 right, the Royal Air Force Midlands Museum logo is visible, consisting of a red circle with a white dot inside, followed by the text 'ROYAL AIR FORCE museum' and 'midlands' in a vertical box.

**BATTLE OF BRITAIN
PROMS**

SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2022

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

ROYAL AIR FORCE museum midlands

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**GROWN
UP
IN
BRITAIN**

100 YEARS OF TEENAGE KICKS

Geth Shooter / Museum of Youth Culture





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

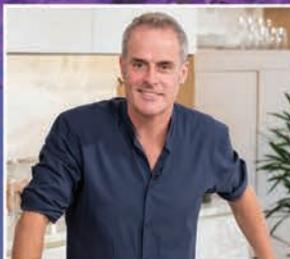
FRIDAY 12 & SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2022



Shropshire Horticultural Society
Charity Number: 501564

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



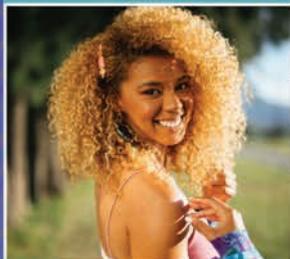
TOBY BUCKLAND



PENNY MEADMORE



DAVID DOMONEY



AMY JONES (SATURDAY NIGHT)



THE RONNIES (FRIDAY NIGHT)



ARENA ENTERTAINMENT



FLEURS DE VILLES

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For further information call: 01743 234058

ShrewsburyFlowerShow @shrewsflowershw shrewsburyflowershow

SHREWSBURYFLOWERSHOW.ORG.UK

Your week-
by-week
listings guide
July 2022

the list



The Allesley Slias - Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Sat 23 - Sat 30 July

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

What's On

Fri 1 - Sun 10 July



The Queen's Knickers at
Malvern Theatres

Sat 2 July

Mon 11 - Sun 17 July



Geoff Norcott at The Rialto,
Coventry

Thurs 14 July

Mon 18 - Sun 24 July



Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever at
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Tues 19 - Wed 20 July

Mon 25 - Sun 31 July



Legendary Joust at
Kenilworth Castle

Sat 30 - Sun 31 July

THROUGHOUT JULY

Visual Arts

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

PORTRAITS FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY Exploring the role of modern Britain in the 21st century through 10 loans from the National Portrait Gallery's collection, until Sun 4 Sept, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

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

MAGNUM PHOTOS: WHERE IDEAS ARE BORN Engaging exhibition comprising more than 80 photo portraits of famous and influential 20th-century artists, until Sun 15 Oct, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

LUKE JERRAM: CROSSINGS Row out onto the lake at Compton Verney whilst listening to some incredible stories from around the world, Tues 19 July - Sun 4 Sept, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

GROWN UP IN BRITAIN: 100 YEARS OF TEENAGE KICKS Exhibition which chronicles the everyday experiences and cultural impact of young people through photographs, objects and stories, Fri 1 July - Sun 12 February, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

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

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

THE IPCRESS STYLE Showcasing the original costumes worn by the character of Harry Palmer and the rest of the cast in the recent ITV spy drama, *The Ipcress File*, until Sat 9 July, Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

Worcester City Art Gallery

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

Elsewhere:

THE SKY IN THE ROOM Icelandic artist Ragnar Kjartansson draws on the histories of film, music, theatre, visual culture and literature to develop video installations, durational performances, drawing and painting, until Sun 3 July, St Mary Magdalene, Tanworth-in-Arden

MIXED RAGE COLLECTIVE: UNAPOLOGETICALLY OTHER Group exhibition showcasing artists telling their experiences of being mixed heritage, until Sun 14 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

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

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

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, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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 August, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

LETTERS, LEAVES AND LIGHT, AN EXHIBITION BY ELIZABETH BEATTIE Exhibition celebrating the beauty of light and line in delicate natural forms and larger spaces, Tues 5 - Thurs 14 July, Worcester Cathedral



Roger Daltrey - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Gigs

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

BRIAN WILSON Fri 1 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FRIENDLY FIRE BAND + RUDESIX Fri 1 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MARTIN TURNER Fri 1 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Fri 1 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

ZACK KNIGHT Sat 2 July, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE GET UP KIDS Sat 2 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JP SAXE Sat 2 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SHAM 69 Sat 2 July, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

VERY SANTANA Sat 2 July, Stratford Playhouse

SERIOUSLY COLLINS - PHIL COLLINS TRIBUTE Sat 2 July, hmv Coventry

ULTRABOMB + DESPERATE MEASURES + SHACKLEFORD Sat 2 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ICONS - CELEBRATING THE LEGENDARY DIVAS! Sat 2 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

MANNEQUIN PUSSY Sun 3 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KID RAIN Sun 3 July, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE HOMELESS GOSPEL CHOIR Sun 3 July, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

GWEN DICKEY Sun 3 July, Birmingham Town Hall

WONK UNIT Sun 3 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

THE FELICE BROTHERS Mon 4 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

OLIVIA RODRIGO + BABY QUEEN Mon 4 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ROGER DALTRY Mon 4 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HIGHLY SUSPECT + CALVA LOUISE Tues 5 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CATE CODY Tues 5 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE EVERLY BROTHERS STORY Tues 5 July, Malvern Theatres

ADAM ANT + LAURIE BLACK Wed 6 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SONGS & MUSIC OF FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS Wed 6 July, Malvern Theatres

JEREMY ZUCKER + SOPHIE CATES Thurs 7 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CODA - A TRIBUTE TO LED ZEPPELIN Fri 8 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GO NOW! THE MUSIC OF THE MOODY BLUES Fri 8 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

DANNY ANSELL + THE ASTRAS + THE ZANADOOS + CAITLIN MCCARTHY Fri 8 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

BOURBON ALLEY Fri 8 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

KEEPING BAD COMPANY Fri 8 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

WHOLE LOTTA LED Fri 8 July, Palace Theatre, Redditch

LEGEND - THE MUSIC OF BOB MARLEY REGGAE Fri 8 July, Malvern Theatres

TASHA LEAPER AS MADONNA Sat 9 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE SANDY DENNY EXPERIENCE Sat 9 July, Stratford Playhouse

THE BOHEMIANS Sat 9 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

HUNG LIKE HANRATTY + STATIC KILL + THE KINGCROWS + THEE ACID TONGUE + THE BIG I AM + HOT ROCKETS + CATO STREET Sat 9 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MORETALLICA - METALLICA TRIBUTE Sat 9 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

THE CARPENTERS STORY Sat 9 July, Malvern Theatres

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

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 BACH CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT Featuring Paul Spicer (conductor) & Callum Alger (organist). Programme includes works by Bach, Britten, Finzi, Gibbons, Joubert & MacMillan, Sat 2 July, Malvern Priory

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

BLAKE LIVE IN CONCERT Sun 3 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

CHOIR OF CLARE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE Featuring George Gillow & Samuel Jones (organ) & Graham Ross (conductor), Tues 5 July, St Mary's Church, Warwick

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Kenneth Woods (conductor), Roman Kosyakov (piano), Rebecca Wood (Cor Anglais) and Stuart Essenhigh (trumpet). Programme includes works by William Grant, Gershwin arr Farrington & Copland, Fri 8 July, The Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire

SPIRES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & CHORUS Programme comprises Haydn's Creation, Sat 9 July, Coventry Cathedral

WORCESTERSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Keith Slade (conductor), Pat Murray (oboe) and Jenny Argent (flute). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Lebrum & Devienne, Sat 9 July, St Martin's Church, Worcester

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

Comedy

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

IAN SMITH, PETER BRUSH, DAN TIERNAN & ANDREW BIRD Sat 2 July, Macready Theatre, Rugby

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

RHOD GILBERT Thurs 7 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

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

HEAVEN ON EARTH Second Thoughts present Noel Dollimore's new play set in post-Industrial Revolution England, until Sat 2 July, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

(ALMOST) TREASURE ISLAND Songs, laughter and adventure as local archaeologist Phil Hellings tries to



May Queen - Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

prove that Robert Louis Stevenson's famous novel is fact, not fiction, Fri 1 - Sun 3 July, Victoria Gardens, Tewkesbury

MIDSUMMER David Greig & Gordon McIntyre's comic tale of falling in love when you least expect it, Sat 2 - Sat 9 July, Criterion Theatre, Coventry

TWELFTH NIGHT Presented by The HandleBards - a company of cycling Shakespearean actors, Sun 3 July, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

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

BOEING BOEING London Classic Theatre present a new production of Marc Camoletti's French farce, Tues 5 - Sat 9 July, Malvern Theatres

ROUND AND ROUND THE GARDEN Worcester Repertory Theatre present an amateur staging of Alan Ayckbourn's award-winning play, Wed 6 - Sun 17 July, Commandery Gardens, Worcester

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

ARABIAN NIGHTS In2theatre present a brand-new show featuring well-known characters from Tales Of One Thousand And One Nights, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 July, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

HOUSEWIVES ON HOLIDAY Holiday heaven and hell collide in this new production from the team behind Hormonal Housewives and Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Sat 9 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

Kids Theatre

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

THE QUEEN'S KNICKERS A regal children's musical featuring songs, silliness... and a corgi or two! Sat 2 July, Malvern Theatres



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

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL 2022 Weekend of free performances showcasing both local and international artists, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Handsworth Park, Birmingham



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



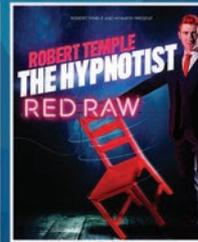
COMING UP



AN AUDIENCE WITH TEZ ILYAS
SATURDAY 16 JULY, 30PM
TICKETS £21.50



YOU PRESENT...
ZENDAYA
WEDNESDAY 27 & THURSDAY 28 JULY
TICKETS FROM £8.50



ROBERT TEMPLE:
THE HYPNOTIST
SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
TICKETS FROM £19.50



THE THINKING DRINKERS:
PUB QUIZ
SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
TICKETS FROM £18.50

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Main Stage Bands

Andrew Bazeley / **Hardwick Circus** / Kat Pearson / Stephen Dale Petit / Northsyde / Kara Grainger / Bella Collins
The Big Ginge Blues Band / Texas Tick Fever / Trevor Babajack Steger / **Elles Bailey** / Mister Shakes / Keith Thompson Band
Reverend Robert / Hooson Maguire / **Sean Webster Band** / Edgar Blues Trio / Brimstone & Blake / Backwater Roll
Adam Norsworthy / **Gary Cain Band** / Eddie Martin / Junco Shakers / Fran McGillivray & Mike Burke / Michael Woods
Greg Coulson Band / Dusk Brothers / Big Joe Bone / Jo Carley & The Old Dry Skulls / **Laurence Jones** / Olivia Stevens & Co.
Paul Lamb & Chad Strentz / Hooli / Troy Redfern / **The Achievers** / Thr3e / Mumbo-Jumbo / Will Killeen
Tommy Allen's Trafficker / Born Healer / Dana Gillespie / Raphael Callaghan / Sharna-Mae / **Bex Marshall** / The Swaps
Mark Harrison & Charles Benfield / **The Cadillac Kings** / The Folly Brothers / Boss Acoustic - Sounds of Springsteen

Easily accessible campsite with superb facilities. Campsite open from Wednesday 13th July

Camping tickets available now!

MAIN STAGE GIGS 15-17 July • 10 PUB AND BAR VENUES • 3 MAIN FESTIVAL STAGES
EVERY GIG FREE! • INTERNATIONAL & BRITISH BANDS • OVER 160 FREE PERFORMANCES

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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

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

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

THE GREAT BRITISH SEASIDE SHOW A nostalgic trip down memory lane, based on the classic end-of-pier variety shows. Expect singing, dancing, comedy, and a musical tribute to George Formby, Sun 3 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

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

DR ADAM PERCHARD'S BATHTIME FOR BRITAIN Join the queer cabaret icon as he rediscovers himself in his childhood bathroom... Thurs 7 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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, Birmingham

WHAT A PICTURE TRAIL Reimagine yourself with this guide to drawing amazing ears, freaky hairstyles and much more, until Sat 21 Jan, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL DINING CLUB Featuring the usual mixture of award-winning street food, Fri 1 - Sat 2 July, Coventry Cathedral

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

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

FAMILY MUSEUM ENGINEERS SATURDAY PLAY DAYS An open-ended play environment using unique resources that encourage engineering skills, problem-solving and imagination, Sat 2 July, Coventry Transport Museum

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

GNOME ON THE ROAM Adopt and decorate your own gnome before going on a mini adventure with them on the castle trail, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

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

TAMWORTH SUMMER FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL Featuring a range of international street food from all over the world, artisan traders and a lot more, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Tamworth Castle Grounds

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, Birmingham

BIRDS OF PREY DISPLAYS Spectacular static and flying birds-of-prey displays throughout the day on the Valley Lawn, Sun 3 July, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

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 19 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

OUTDOOR EXPLORERS Outdoor activities exploring the natural world. For three and four-year-olds, Thurs 7 - Fri 8 July, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

BADDESLEY BAT WALK Explore the grounds at dusk with a member of the Warwickshire Bat Group, Fri 8 July, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire

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

COUGHTON VILLAGE SUMMER FETE 2022 Traditional stalls, games &

competitions on the Front Park at Coughton, to raise money for the local community, Sat 9 July, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

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, Shropshire

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

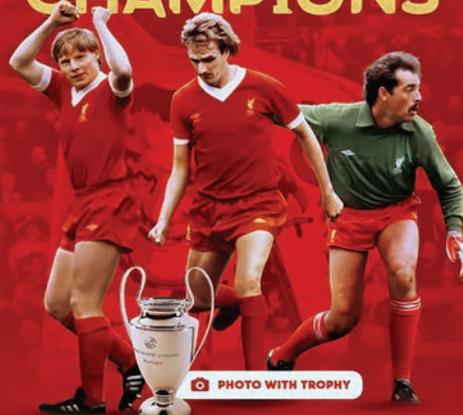
MYSTICAL QUEST FAMILY TRAIL Search for wise wizards and magical magicians - but look out for dragons! Sat 9 July - Sun 17 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

FAMILY FUN DAY Family fun with garden games and a zipwire on the Valley Lawn, Sun 10 July, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

WESTON PARK MOTOR SHOW Featuring in excess of 500 vintage, classic and modern classic cars and motorcycles, Sun 10 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

LIVERPOOL LEGENDS

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS



SAMMY LEE
PHIL THOMPSON
BRUCE GROBBELAAR

TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER THE ALBANY THEATRE, COVENTRY

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ONE PROFESSIONAL PHOTO DOWNLOADABLE

GOLD

MEET AND GREET WITH LEGENDS
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ONE PROFESSIONAL PHOTO DOWNLOADABLE

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Spooky Men's Chorale - Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Gigs

RAY COOPER Tues 12 July, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

HOLIDAY GHOSTS Wed 13 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE STRUTS Wed 13 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE NATURE CENTRE Thurs 14 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JON BODEN Thurs 14 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

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

THE MUSIC OF BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS Fri 15 July, Royal Spa Centre,

Leamington Spa

WAVE OF SHEEP + WITCH DAUGHTER + PUNCH & JUDAS Fri 15 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE SPOOKY MEN'S CHORALE Fri 15 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

BRIT POP LIVE Fri 15 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE MONKEES TALE Fri 15 July, Malvern Theatres

FLEETWOOD MACHINE Fri 15 July, The Civic, Stourport

MADNESS + THE ZUTONS + THE HOOSIERS Fri 15 July, The Quarry, Shrewsbury

THE PRODIGY Sat 16 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE TOM PETTY LEGACY Sat 16 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

EDGAR BLUES BAND Sat 16 July, Marrs Bar, Worcester

OYE SANTANA Sat 16 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

SWEET CAROLINE - A TRIBUTE TO NEIL DIAMOND Sat 16 July, Malvern Theatres

MALAH PALINKA + TRADIN' FIVES Sun 17 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE KID LAROI + GLAIVE Sun 17 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JANE MCDONALD Sun 17 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

DURANNOTORIOUS DURAN Sun 17 July, Fletchers Bar, Birmingham

Classical Music

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

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

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Berlioz, Lalo & Saint-Saens, Sun 17 July, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

TAKING THE WATERS New play written by David Fletcher in celebration of the Loft theatre's centenary year, Wed 13 - Sat 23 July, The Loft, Leamington Spa

ROMEO & JULIET AND HAMLET 440 Theatre present a double-bill of The Bard's works in just 40 minutes, Thurs 14 July, Albany Theatre, Coventry



ANNIE Amateur staging presented by Palace Youth Theatre, Thurs 14 - Sat 16 July, Palace Theatre, Redditch

AS YOU LIKE IT Outdoor staging by The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Fri 15 July, Coughton Court, Alcester

CONNECT Fully masked non-verbal theatre group Vamos explore how we connect with each other as the seasons change, Fri 15 July, Vesta Tilley Studio, Worcester

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

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

WALKING TO JERUSALEM Theatre and stand-up combine as virtuoso storyteller Justin Butcher traces the perils, pratfalls and marvels of the path to Jerusalem, Sat 16 July, The Roses, Tewkesbury

AWFUL AUNTIE Heartbreak Productions presents its stage version of David Walliams' popular book, which follows orphan Stella Saxby as she pits her wits against her awful Aunt Alberta, Sat 16 July, Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire

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 16 - Sun 17 July, Harvington Hall, Nr Kidderminster

COME BOWL WITH ME Talking Birds present a funny & interactive outdoor performance celebrating the sport of Lawn Bowls, Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, War Memorial Park, Coventry

HAMLET: THE COMEDY Oddsocks present a unique take on

Comedy

JIMMY CARR Mon 11 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

ANGELOS EPITHEMIU, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN, DESIREE BURCH & GEOFF NORCOTT (PICTURED) Thurs 14 July, The Rialto, Coventry



CHRIS MCGLADE Thurs 14 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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, MAC, Birmingham

Theatre

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

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), B'ham



The Struts - o2 Institute, Birmingham

Shakespeare's famous tragedy, Sun 17 July, The Roses, Tewkesbury

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

HARMONY Cabaret show celebrating musical theatre, including a tribute to Stephen Sondheim, Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

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

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, Birmingham

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

HOLLY MCNISH & MICHAEL PEDERSEN Expect strong language and adult content ribbon-wrapped in carefully and caringly sculpted poetry. Presented as part of Skylines, a festival of poetry and spoken word, Fri 15 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

A NIGHT OF ADVENTURE: CYCLING 3,500 MILES AROUND PANDEMIC BRITAIN Award-winning travel writer and broadcaster Simon Parker talks about cycling 3,427 miles around 'pandemic Britain' during 2020 & 2021, Fri 15 July, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

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

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC Craft, trail and songs, followed by a picnic, Thurs 14 - Fri 15 July, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

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, Birmingham

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

GOOD TIMES FESTIVAL One-day music event in the heart of Leamington Spa, Sat 16 July, Mill Garden, Leamington Spa

A CHANGING HANDSWORTH PUBLIC



Car Chase Heroes - Stoneleigh Park

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

FARMARAMA Navigate the maize maze, enjoy live shows, join the foam party and much, much more, Sat 16 July - Mon 5 September, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS See and learn about a fascinating range of exotic animals, Sun 17 July, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

Blue Orange Arts

THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

13th - 16th July 2022

Birmingham Fest 2022

@ The Blue Orange Theatre

For Tickets: www.blueorange theatre.co.uk

118 Great Hampton Street, Birmingham, B18 6AD



Wilko Johnson - Birmingham Town Hall

Gigs

DAN WHITEHOUSE Wed 20 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE CHAPIN SISTERS + THE OCELOTS Wed 20 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

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

MARC VALENTINE + CONTINENTAL LOVERS Fri 22 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

NEBULA + THE ATOMIC BITCHWAX Fri 22 July, The Asylum, B'ham

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

ONE NIGHT IN TEXAS Fri 22 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE LEGEND OF MEATLOAF Fri 22 July, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

CALLING PLANET EARTH

Fri 22 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

QUEEN BY CANDLELIGHT! Fri 22 July, The Rialto, Coventry

LLOYD MCGRATH + THE SESSION + LEVIS WASHINGTON + BRUDEZ Fri 22 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

QUEEN RHAPSODY Fri 22 July, Malvern Theatres

DON'T STOP - FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE Fri 22 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

TALON Fri 22 - Sat 23 July, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

JOSHUA LEE TURNER & ALLISON YOUNG Sat 23 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE SOUTHMARTINS + CITYLIGHTZ Sat 23 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

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

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

BOND IN CONCERT Sat 23 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SACK SABBATH Sat 23 July, Arches Venue, Coventry

TWISTED SYSTEM + OBSESSION Sat 23 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

YOU WIN AGAIN - THE MUSIC OF THE BEE GEES Sat 23 July, Malvern Theatres

FIVE O FIVES + HOLLOWS + NAMSAKÉ Sun 24 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CLARINET MARMALADE Sun 24 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

EUROPHORIA Sun 24 July, Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

Classical Music

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

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

HAL CRUTTENDEN (PICTURED) & MILO EDWARDS Fri 22 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester



DALISO CHAPONDA, JACK GLEADOW, SIMON LOMAS & BARRY DODDS Fri 22 July, The Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

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

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

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, B'ham

TWELFTH NIGHT Presented by The HandleBards - a company of cycling Shakespearean actors, Wed 20 July, Coventry Cathedral

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, B'ham

MACBETH Amateur staging of Shakespeare's bloody play, Wed 20 - Sat 30 July, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

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

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD Amateur staging of Jason Robert Brown's musical, which examines life, love and the choices we make, Thurs 21 - Fri 22 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

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

KEVIN, KING OF EGYPT The story of an unlikely friendship between an escaped mental-health patient and a lost six-year-old, Sat 23 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

COME BOWL WITH ME Talking Birds present a funny & interactive outdoor performance celebrating the sport of Lawn Bowls, Sat 23 - Mon 25 July, Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa

THE ALLESLEY SILAS Alan Pollock's adaptation of George Eliot's story



Dan Whitehouse - The Glee Club, Birmingham

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, B'ham

SPONTANEOUS POTTER Improvised Harry Potter comedy play, based on an audience suggestion of a fanfiction title, Sun 24 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Kids Theatre

PEPPA PIG'S BEST DAY EVER Join Peppa and family as they embark on a road trip full of fun adventures, Tues 19 - Wed 20 July, Palace Theatre, Redditch



SARAH & DUCK'S BIG TOP Join Sarah and her best friend, Duck, as they plan the ultimate circus soiree to help Scarf Lady celebrate her birthday, Sat 23 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

AWFUL AUNTIE Heartbreak Productions presents its stage version of David Walliams' popular book, which follows orphan Stella Saxby as she pits her wits against her awful Aunt Alberta, Sun 24 July, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

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

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

ELITE DANCE: LET'S DANCE 2022 Annual summer showcase, Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Talks/Spoken Word

CARD NINJA Expect deadly and risky fun as Javier Jarquin performs his extreme card-flipping stunts, Sat 23 July, The Roses, Tewkesbury

Events

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

BODENHAM'S SCARECROW TRAIL See if you can spot all of the frayed and tattered scarecrows, Wed 20 July - Sun 4 Sept, Bodenham Arboretum, Worcestershire

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 Wartson Lane Cemetery. Plus tours, live maker demos and acoustic music, Sat 23 July, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

FARGO DOG FEST A festival for dog owners and lovers plus their four-legged friends, Sat 23 July, FarGo Village, Coventry

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

ALL AT SEA SUMMER The Spanish Armada is preparing to attack England - can you help prepare the navy for their voyage? Sat 23 July - Sat 3 Sept, Tudor World Museum, Stratford-upon-Avon

RETURN OF THE DINOSAURS Step back to prehistoric times, when dinosaurs ruled the earth, Sat 23 July - Sun 4 Sept, Hatton Adventure World,



The Allesley Silas - Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Warwickshire

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

DINOSAUR SHOW Travel back in time with a lifelike, walking and roaring T-Rex, Sun 24 - Thurs 28 July, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

A45 TO 45 RPM

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A special Birmingham/Coventry mini music exhibition at **THE COVENTRY MUSIC MUSEUM**

The Cov-Brum connection

A45

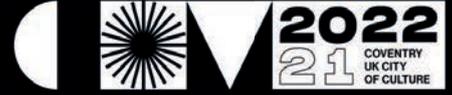
Tom Clarke
Tony Clarke
The Beat
Dave Willetts

General Public
Napalm Death
The Fortunes

From July to August 2022

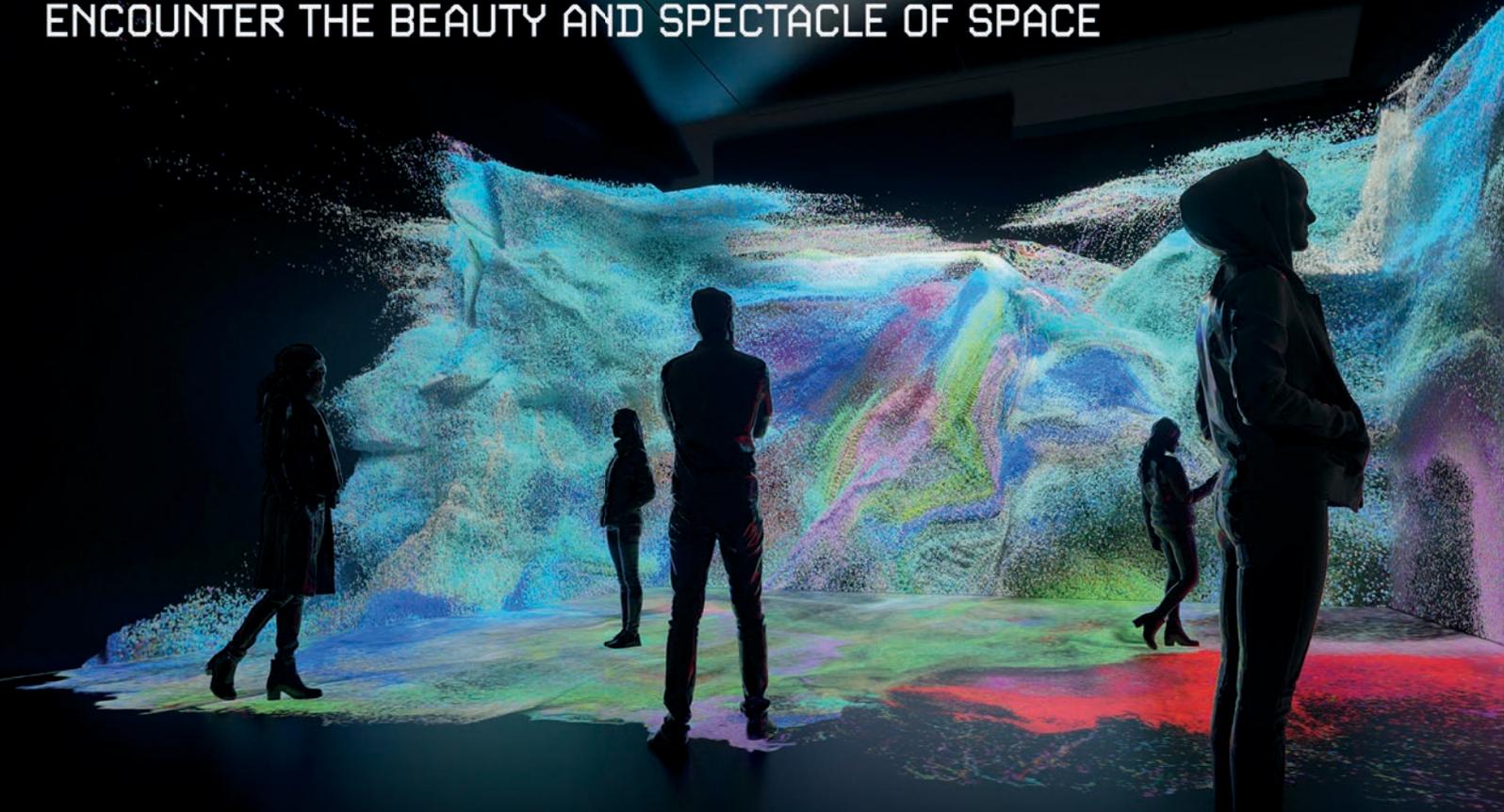


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Image: Refik Anadol Studio



Ryders Creed - hmv Empire, Coventry

Gigs

JESSE ROYAL Mon 25 July, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

JOHN CALE Mon 25 July, Birmingham Town Hall

JACOB DERSLEY Tues 26 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JOHN O'BRIEN EXPERIENCE + HELLO AMNESIA Tues 26 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

ROSE TATTOO + THE POOR Tues 26 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS Tues 26 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE ROSES CHOIR Tues 26 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY Sun

27 July, W'hampton Grand Theatre

THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG Thurs 28 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

R JOHN WEBB + BIG SPECIAL Thurs 28 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

EXTC + THE TERRORSURFS Thurs 28 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MOSHTALGIA Thurs 28 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

THE DESTROYERS + ABI BUDGEN + YAWAAN Fri 29 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MAIN EVENT Fri 29 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RICHARD THOMPSON Fri 29 July, Stratford Playhouse

A CELEBRATION OF AMY

WINEHOUSE Fri 29 July, The Rialto, Coventry

RYDERS CREED Fri 29 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

DANNY WRIGHT Sat 30 July, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

JOE JACKSON Sat 30 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ORCHESTRA BAOBAB Sat 30 July, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

WE LOVE THE 80S! Sat 30 July, The Rialto, Coventry

BLACK PARADE Sat 30 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

ABSOLUTE BOWIE Sat 30 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

LAURA ASTON & THE LA BAND Sun 31 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

Comedy

JUSTIN MOORHOUSE & WILL DUGGAN Wed 27 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

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

PETER PAN Illyria present an outdoor staging of JM Barrie's fantastical tale, Tues 26 July, Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth

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

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Folksy Theatre venture down the rabbit hole with an outdoor staging of Lewis Carroll's much-loved tale, Wed 27 July, St John's House, Warwick

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 IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Slapstick Picnic's new production sees Oscar Wilde's classic play performed amid a fusion of culinary capers, Thurs 28 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester



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

HOUSEWIVES ON HOLIDAY Heaven and hell collide in this new production from the team behind Hormonal Housewives and Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Sat 30 July, The Roses, Tewkesbury

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

THE RECRUITING OFFICER Rain Or Shine Theatre present George Farquhar's bawdy restoration comedy, Sun 31 July, Evesham Golf Club, Pershore, Worcestershire

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, Birmingham

For kids

FIREMAN SAM Join Sam, Penny, Elvis, Station Officer Steele and Norman in an all-singing, all-dancing, action-packed show, Tues 26 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

SARAH & DUCK'S BIG TOP Join Sarah and her best friend, Duck, as they plan the ultimate circus soiree to help Scarf Lady celebrate her birthday, Sat 30 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Talks & Spoken Word

AN EVENING WITH DAVID SEDARIS One of America's pre-eminent humour



Richard Thompson - Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

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, Birmingham

Events

SUMMER DUCK RACE Sponsor a duck at Coughton's traditional duck race down the River Arrow. Traditional family-friendly games also feature, Tues 26 July, Coughton Court, Warwickshire



SUMMER FUN: VIBRANT VARDOS Make traditional travellers' crafts inspired by the beautiful collection of vardos at the museum, Tues 26 - Thurs 28 July, Worcestershire County Museum

at Hartlebury Castle

SUMMER FUN AT THE COMMANDERY Featuring fun for knights and princesses, including hobbyhorse jousts and shield painting, Tues 26 - Thurs 28 July, The Commandery, Worcester

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

SUMMER FUN: POWERFUL PORTRAITS Use craft supplies to create a portrait inspired by *The Power Of Portraiture* exhibition, Thurs 28 July, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

TEDDY BEAR ZIP LINE Bring along your Paddingtons, Ruperts and Winnies and watch them jump from the tower roof, Thurs 28 July, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

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



Legendary Joust - Kenilworth Castle

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

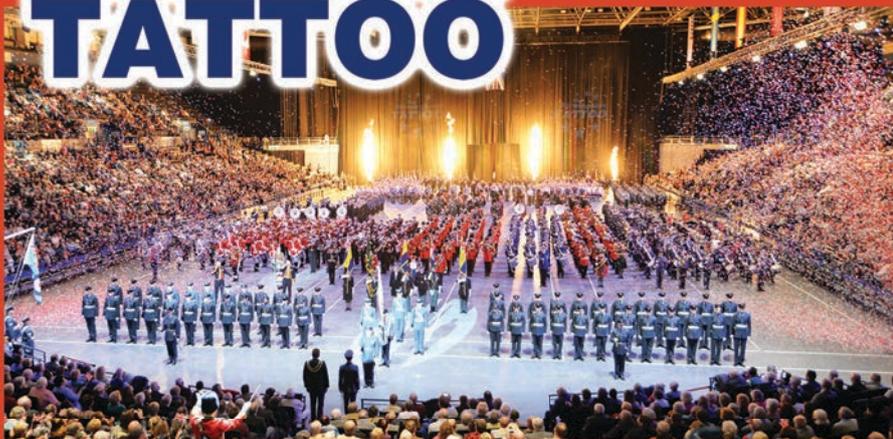
LEGENDARY JOUST Four legendary

knights compete for honour and glory, Sat 30 - Sun 31 July, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

FLYING POTTER Try your hand at pottery with Eastnor's own Flying Potter, Sun 31 July - Thurs 4 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

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Massed International Marching Bands

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Massed Parade of Standard Bearers

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'Good luck with your show'
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The only Blondie tribute to play
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FRI 9 SEPT

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The TOTAL who SHOW

SAT 10 SEPTEMBER

THE TRUTH TOUR

THURS 15 SEPTEMBER

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a tribute to Stereophonics

SUPPORT: THE BARTHELLS

FRI 16 SEPTEMBER

OCTOBERFEST

BONGO'S BINGO SPECIAL

SAT 17 SEPTEMBER FRI 30 SEPTEMBER

Spiritual Psychic Night

An audience with
Marilyn & Tia

"THE THREE WISHES" FROM HEREFORD

Thursday 22 September at 7.30pm

SEX PISTOLS EXPOSE

THE WORLD'S NO. 1

FRI 23 SEPTEMBER

SAT 24 SEPTEMBER

ROB LAMBERT!

A CELEBRATION OF THE SONGS & MUSIC OF
GEORGE MICHAEL

THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

HUNTING KILLERS

WITH MARK WILLIAMS-THOMAS

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PLUS SUPPORT

"the hotly-tipped
Scottish indie rock band"

SAT 1 OCTOBER

WRESTLING

SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER

BRAND NEW SHOW FOR 2022
"THE #1 LIVE EXPERIENCE FOR FAMILIES!"

LE FREAK - EVERYBODY DANCE - GOOD TIMES
I WANT YOUR LOVE - DANCE DANCE DANCE

SAT 8 OCTOBER

CHIC TO CHIC

A Tribute to Nile Rodgers and Chic

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FRANKIE ALLEN.

THE UK'S MOST FEARED COMEDIAN

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SHREWSBURY

SING AT THE MUSICALS

THE LIVE BAND SING-ALONG SPECTACULAR!

FRI 21 OCTOBER

TAKE THAT

SAT 22 OCTOBER

"The pain wasn't great"
DENISE VAN OUTEN

"BRILLIANT!"
"He sounds like me -
"so very good these boys"
GARY BARLOW

RULE THE WORLD

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER

THE WORLD'S PREMIER TRIBUTE TO BON JOVI

BON GIOVI

MEAT LOAF'S GREATEST HITS TOUR!

FEATURED ON TV

Meat Live

PERFORMED BY EUROPE'S NUMBER 1
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FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER

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ABBA TRIBUTE BAND

THURS 24 NOVEMBER

Vicky Jackson & HER FULL LIVE BAND!

PINK

"OUTSTANDING"
★★★★★

FRI 25 NOVEMBER

MASSAOKE CHRISTMAS

SAT 3 DECEMBER

LIVE BAND - GIANT SING-ALONG LYRICS
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