

Worcestershire

ISSUE 427 AUGUST 2022

# What's On

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## inside:

### PURE NOSTALGIA

Dreamboats And Petticoats visits Malvern Theatres



### FOLK HERO

Judy Collins on why she has no plans to slow down...



### SUMMER DAYS OUT

places to visit this month feature inside...





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- *Operation Mousetrap activity for kids*
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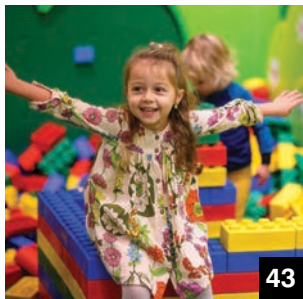
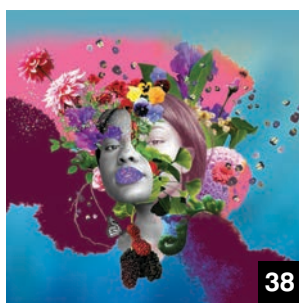
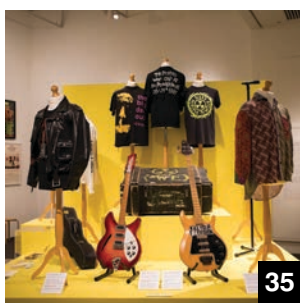
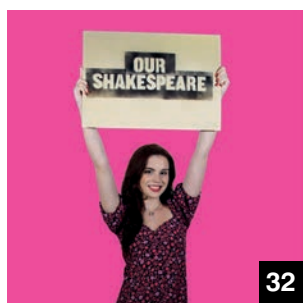
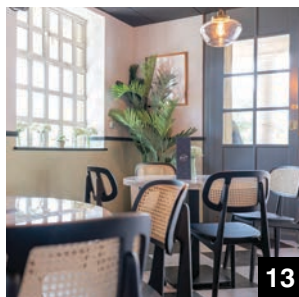


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West Midlands  
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### INSIDE:

First Word 4

Food 13

Festivals 17

Theatre 22

Film 31

Visual Arts 35

Places to Visit 43

Events 51

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## More Mischief at the RSC

The Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) Mischief Festival makes a welcome return late next month, showcasing two provocative new plays exploring Britain today. The productions run in The Other Place from Friday 30 September to Saturday 5 November. Commenting on the festival, RSC Acting Artistic Director Erica Whyman said: "It's a huge privilege to be presenting this irreverent and playful double-bill of new plays... Both plays focus on Britain's often overlooked villages and rural communities, with an undercurrent of dark and sometimes wicked humour. They each raise profound questions about how we cope with external shocks, what makes a true community and how quickly human-beings can plunge into cruelty and crisis."

## Malvern festival of arts a Feast for the senses

A week-long festival of theatre, dance, clowning, circus and workshops takes place in Malvern next month. Titled FEAST (Festival of Equality in Arts and Society through Theatre), the festival runs from 19 to 25 September and will see events being held throughout the town. Highlights include Friday Night Bite - an evening of short and emerging work - and 'a sensational family theatre day'. For more information, visit [feasttheatrefestival.com](http://feasttheatrefestival.com)

## Safari Park taking Tiger Lodge bookings

West Midland Safari Park is now taking bookings for its new luxury accommodation - four lodges located just a whisker away from the popular visitor attraction's majestic Sumatran tigers! Safari Lodges short breaks include breakfast & dinner, spectacular views of the animals, admission to the venue for two days and theme park wristbands during the summer season. For more information, visit [safari-lodges.co.uk](http://safari-lodges.co.uk)



## Coventry Music Museum is Travellers' Choice

The Coventry Music Museum has been recognised by Tripadvisor as a 2022 Travellers' Choice Award Worldwide winner. The award celebrates businesses that have received great Tripadvisor reviews from visitors around the globe. Out of 1,136 reviews of the museum in the 12 months prior to the award being bestowed, 1,051 rated it 'excellent' (the top mark) and 72 'very good', with just 14 negative comments. The venue is number one on Tripadvisor's 'Things to do in Coventry' list.



## Smash-hit musical back in Birmingham

The Tony Award-winning production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's The King And I is heading for Birmingham early next year.

The hit show will stop off at The Alexandra in the week commencing the 27th of February. Set in 1860s Bangkok, the story revolves



around the unconventional and tempestuous relationship that develops between the King of Siam and Anna Leonowens, a British schoolteacher whom the modernist king brings to Siam to teach his many wives and children. Stand-out numbers from a much-loved and hugely familiar score include Whistle A Happy Tune, Getting To Know You and Shall We Dance. For more information and to book tickets, visit [atgtickets.com/birmingham](http://atgtickets.com/birmingham)

## Space icon in the region

British astronaut Tim Peake will be keeping his feet firmly on the ground when he brings his one-man show, My Journey To Space, to Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Wednesday 7 September and Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, on Friday 23 September. The first British astronaut to visit the International Space Station, Tim will be providing his audience with 'a fascinating insight into life as an astronaut, complete with breathtaking photographs and never-before-seen footage'. Tickets for the show are now on sale at [fane.co.uk/timpeake](http://fane.co.uk/timpeake)

## Twelve days of Tilt...

Birmingham's popular aerial & physical theatre festival, Tilt, returns for 12 days this month at the West Midlands Circus & Creation Centre in Digbeth (Monday 1 to Friday 12 August). The event's organisers are promising jaw-dropping athletic performances, national and international circus artists and industry masterclasses from world-class teachers. For more information, visit [tiltfestival.com](http://tiltfestival.com)

## Gareth Malone out on tour

Gareth Malone is bringing his brand-new touring show to the Midlands this autumn. Titled Sing-Along-A-Gareth!, the production will see the ever-popular choirmaster & broadcaster singing a wide selection of hits, included among which will be I'm Still Standing (Elton John), Walking On Sunshine (Katrina And The Waves) and Ordinary World (Duran Duran). The show stops off at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Monday 14 November. To book yourself a seat, visit [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk)



## New £3million venue set to open in Coventry

A new £3million Coventry entertainment venue is set for a grand opening later this year.

Players Entertainment, a new concept for the region, has been created on the site of the former Pink Parrot nightclub in the city centre.

Once fully open, the venue's attractions will include 20 private-hire rooms and a club lounge 'with a stunning bar and space for 500 people to watch live sports and enjoy a wide range of live events'.



## UK tour of hit show Annie makes its way to the Midlands

Ever-popular musical Annie returns to the Midlands next spring when it stops off at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra from Monday 3 to Saturday 15 April. Telling the tale of a young orphan girl's life-

changing experiences in 1930s New York during the Great Depression, the show features hit numbers including It's The Hard Knock Life, Easy Street, I Don't Need Anything But You and Tomorrow.

## Getting up a head of (festive) steam at Severn Valley Railway



With autumn steaming into the station at Severn Valley Railway (SVR) next month, it's time to look a little further ahead and buy your tickets for this year's Santa services! The always-popular days out feature a vintage steam train journey, a pantomime performance featuring Father Christmas, and a gift for every child... Santa services begin on 26 November and run on selected days until 24 December. For more information and to book tickets, visit [svr.co.uk](http://svr.co.uk)

## Outdoor theatre at The Dell

The Royal Shakespeare Company's outdoor theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, The Dell, continues to play host to a range of lively student, community and semi-professional productions this month.

Situated on the banks of the River Avon in Avonbank Gardens, The Dell was launched in 2006 and has hosted more than 300 amateur theatre companies in the last 14 years. Entrance is free and no booking is required. Performances continue until Sunday 28 August.

To find out more, visit [rsc.org.uk/thedell](http://rsc.org.uk/thedell)



## Art In The Park returns in Leamington

Leamington's Art In The Park festival returns this month.

Taking place on 13 & 14 August in Jephson & Mill Gardens, the event features more than 200 artists - including painters, potters, sculptors and embroiderers - theatre, dance, live music and creative workshops.

You can find out more about the weekend get-together by visiting [artinpark.co.uk](http://artinpark.co.uk)

## Belgrade to hold chorus auditions for pantomime

The Coventry Belgrade Theatre is next month holding auditions for Coventry & Warwickshire youngsters aged nine to 16 who would like to feature in the Junior Chorus of this year's pantomime production of Jack And The Beanstalk (running from Wednesday 23 November - Saturday 7 January).

A total of 32 children will be selected to be part of the show, with the region's most talented young performers making up three teams of eight, plus one full team of reserves. The auditions take place on Sunday 4 September. For more information, visit [belgrade.co.uk](http://belgrade.co.uk)



## Time to Mobilise...

Queer and sober dance party Mobilise returns this month at The Exchange in Birmingham (Friday 19 August). Created to empower LGBT+ people to dance, take up public spaces, feel confident and celebrate themselves, Mobilise will also form part of next month's Birmingham Pride festival on Saturday 24 September.



## New Spike Milligan comedy heading to Malvern

A brand-new play celebrating the comic genius of the late Spike Milligan will visit Malvern Theatres next month. 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 and features Robert Wilfort (Gavin And Stacey, Bridgerton) as Spike. Mischief Theatre's Patrick Warner and Jeremy Lloyd play Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe respectively.

## Motorcycle magic at the British Motor Museum

As a departure from its normally car-based exhibitions, the British Motor Museum is expanding its visitor appeal and diving into the world of motorcycles.

A new collaboration with Triumph Motorcycles will see two temporary exhibitions presented at the venue over the next six months.

The first, already on show, is a celebration of one of the company's most iconic road and race bike names - the Daytona.

To find out more about the exhibition, visit [britishmotormuseum.co.uk/explore/daytona](http://britishmotormuseum.co.uk/explore/daytona)

## Rugby Theatre launches pop-up costume shop

Rugby Theatre has opened a pop-up shop in Rugby town centre, selling costumes and accessories from the venue's past productions.

Located in Rugby Central shopping centre, Aladdin's Cave has clothing, shoes, hats and accessories from a wide range of shows - all available to purchase at bargain prices. Opening times are Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm.

## Immersive theatrical experience set to explore Islamic prayer

An immersive theatrical experience exploring the subject of Islamic prayer is this month being presented at Birmingham Hippodrome (25 August - 3 September).

Waswasa - Whispers In Prayer is a Birmingham 2022 Festival commission by award-winning local artist Mohammed Ali. Commenting on the show, he said: "We hope this multi-disciplinary performance will give the audience a window into the Islamic world and in some small way bring communities together."



# B:Music



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



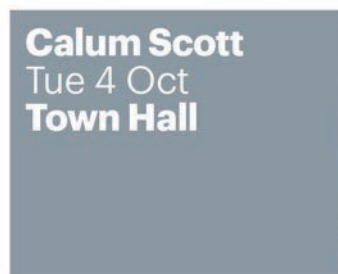
**Tavares**  
Tue 6 Sept  
**Symphony Hall**



**Ricky Ross:**  
**Short Stories**  
**Vol 2**  
Sun 2 Oct  
**Town Hall**



**Tim Peake:**  
**My Journey to**  
**Space**  
Wed 7 Sept  
**Symphony Hall**



**Calum Scott**  
Tue 4 Oct  
**Town Hall**



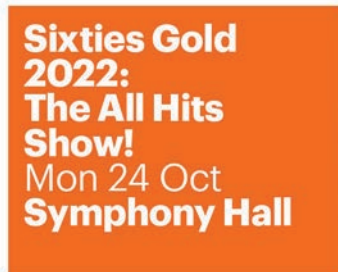
**Fame UK**  
**Reunion**  
**2022: 40th**  
**Anniversary Tour**  
08-10 Sept  
**Town Hall**



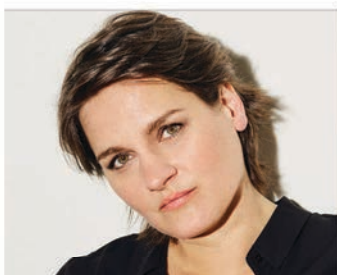
**Sir Bryn Terfel:**  
**Songs & Arias**  
Sun 9 Oct  
**Symphony Hall**



**Chris de Burgh &**  
**Band:**  
**The Legend of**  
**Robin Hood Tour**  
Tue 13 Sept  
**Symphony Hall**



**Sixties Gold**  
**2022:**  
**The All Hits**  
**Show!**  
Mon 24 Oct  
**Symphony Hall**



**Madeleine**  
**Peyroux**  
Tue 27 Sept  
**Town Hall**



**Fastlove:**  
**A Tribute to**  
**George Michael**  
Thu 8 Nov  
**Symphony Hall**

Book Online: **[bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk)**



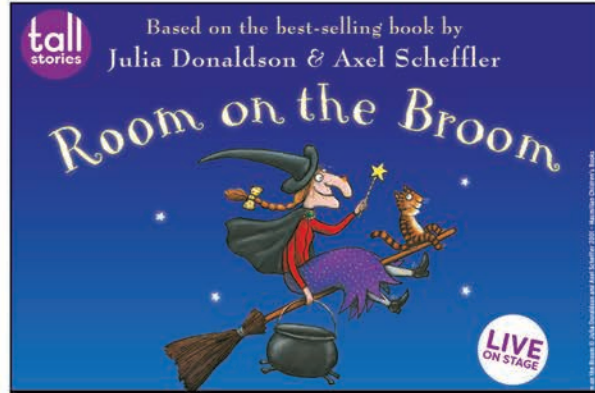
**Belgrade Theatre**  
Coventry

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**13 – 18 Sept**

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**21 – 24 Sept**

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**1 – 5 Nov**

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**4 – 8 Oct**

from £32\*

**BOOK NOW [www.belgrade.co.uk](http://www.belgrade.co.uk)**

\*Ticket price includes a £1.50 booking fee.



## Something for everyone at Worcester Festival

Worcester Festival makes a welcome return this 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 fairs, 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](http://worcestersfestival.co.uk)



## Festive fun with Stick Man at Warwick Arts Centre

Christmas entertainment at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre will include Freckle Productions' much-loved



stage adaptation of Stick Man.

The hit show, based on the children's book of the same name by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, runs at the venue from Saturday 3 to Saturday 31 December.

For more information and to book tickets, visit [warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk)

## Dyson set to bring Styling Tour to Birmingham

Hair-care specialist Dyson will visit Birmingham Bullring next month (1 - 4 September) as part of its first-ever national Styling Tour.

The tour will see Dyson helping customers explore its full range and better understand how hair-care technology works.



## Coventry theatre announces autumn programme

A ballet version of Beauty And The Beast, a new stand-up show from comedian Dom Joly, an evening of Pellow Talk with Marti Pellow, and shows paying tribute to Pink Floyd, AC/DC and Elton John are among the highlights of the Albany

Theatre's autumn-winter season.

To check out the Coventry venue's complete programme, which also includes a pantomime production of Cinderella, visit [albanytheatre.co.uk](http://albanytheatre.co.uk)

## Award-winning play at the Royal Spa Centre

An acclaimed one-woman musical inspired by legendary jazz singer & civil rights activist Nina Simone is next month making a stop-off at the Royal Spa Centre in Leamington as part of a UK tour.

Written by and starring Apphia Campbell, Black Is The Color Of My Voice features classic tunes such as Feeling Good, I Put A Spell On You, Mississippi Goddamn, I Love You Porgy and See-Line Woman. The show visits Leamington on 6 September. For more information and to book tickets, visit [warwickdc.gov.uk/royalspacentre](http://warwickdc.gov.uk/royalspacentre)



## CBBC presenter to star in Palace Theatre panto



Children's television favourite Naomi Wilkinson will be spending this Christmas in Redditch, starring in the Palace Theatre's pantomime version of Beauty And The Beast.

Bristol-born Naomi, who presents the award-winning Naomi's Nightmares Of Nature on CBBC, will take the lead role of Belle in the panto, which runs at the venue from Saturday 10 to Saturday 31 December.

For more information and to book tickets, visit [redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk)

# Well, well, well...

The RSC's contemporary new production of *All's Well That Ends Well* aims to look at the play with fresh eyes, and maybe even end the debate over whether there should be a question mark at the end of its title. What's On chats to Claire Benedict, who plays the part of the Countess of Roussillon...



All's Well That Ends Well, the darkly comic tale of a scheming woman's attempts to secure the love of a disinterested - and largely dislikeable - man, is regularly touted as the most erroneously titled of any Shakespeare play. Sure, there's a positive resolution, but the fact that lowly Helena finally manages to secure the love (or does she?) of higher-class Bertram is almost a moot point, as audiences are often not entirely sure if, or why, it's a happy ending. After all, if Bertram's demonstrably not interested in Helena, why is she so interested in him?

All's Well might be a romantic fantasy, but its edgy cynicism and mixture of toxic masculinity, gender role reversal and consent is not to everyone's taste - a fact which may well have contributed to it being one of Shakespeare's least performed plays.

The RSC's latest, contemporary production, presented in an era of #metoo and female empowerment, aims to shed new light on all of the above, according to director Blanche McIntyre.

Blanche views the play as "Shakespeare's most modern comedy", pointing out that "its story of sexual politics, class prejudice and generation gaps would always have felt contemporary".

Better yet, she believes "the fantasy relationships and fake identities in the play make it a perfect match for our anxious, idealistic, lonely, social-media-addicted age".

All of which tick the boxes for a modern reading. And the fact that the play contains a couple of supremely strong female characters in Helena and the Countess of Roussillon - the mother of Bertram, who adopts the orphan girl - helps to counter the accusations of misogyny.

Claire Benedict, who plays the Countess, admits she wrestles with Helena's motives, but has a positive slant to put on why the confident young woman even bothers with a man who isn't interested in her.

"She does go to extremes, but digging through it, I feel it's her way of showing people her power, and that if you want something badly enough, you can get it.

"And she does get her man at the end of the day - but whether there is true love, or how that love will manifest itself, is another matter. The fact that she's got her man... does

that mean that she actually has his love? I don't know - it's funny why we want to be partnered with people, isn't it?"

That heart-wrenching conundrum also means the play won't quite manage to be the 'light comedy' that would provide a perfect contrast with the RSC's other summer production, Richard III. The dark history play, also showing in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre until early October, features Claire in the role of the Duchess of York.

"Richard has been a mammoth task - it's an extraordinary play. The Duchess isn't a huge part, but at the end you could wring me out because it's so emotionally draining. And All's Well is going to be pretty much the same!"

On the plus side, Claire, who first performed at the RSC 30 years ago, is loving the female-empowerment angle of Blanche McIntyre's production and direction ("I've never worked with her before, but my God I'd like to again"). And despite suggestions that the social-standing element of the play is out of step with modern society, she views All's Well as another example of Shakespeare writing about the human condition.

"It does feel historical, but my own feeling about life is that there is no past - we live in an ever-present. Things keep recurring and situations are the same, we just dress differently and maybe speak a little differently. But we're constantly going through the same experiences as our forefathers.

"It's also a very modern production, and I'm very excited about that, as it means we can try and make Shakespeare even more accessible in terms of our audience and our younger audience."

The play also features some of the Bard's strongest female characters, with Claire's role famously described by George Bernard Shaw as the most beautiful old woman's part ever written.

"I have to say he's absolutely right. I'm 71 this year, and for me to have landed a part like this - I still classify myself as a jobbing actor - I'm absolutely over the moon."

Is that joy tempered by any pressure about following in the footsteps of the likes of Peggy Ashcroft and Judi Dench, who have each played the role at the RSC?

"I adore Dame Judi, but I thought 'Claire, you mustn't try and copy her!' But it'll hopefully be a very different production to what's gone in the past. Not because we want it to be different for the sake of being different, but we're drawing on new and exciting ideas and adding different colours to the palette. Including different colours of people, which will be very relevant to our audiences today, or jolly well should be."

The relationship between the Countess and Helena makes for some of the most moving moments in the play, and their scenes are clearly a highlight for Claire. Not only does she wax lyrical about working with co-star Rosie Sheehy, but her own life experience makes their connection especially poignant.

"I think the Countess is extraordinary, and the scenes with her and Helena are wonderful. I adopted a young girl nine years ago, so whenever I rehearse those scenes with Rosie - who is absolutely amazing, I love her to bits - we don't have to engineer the tragedy or the pathos or the sadness or the tears, because they're already there. I suppose what I'm doing, even though I might not know I'm doing it, is drawing on my own personal experience."

Despite it being an emotional ordeal, Claire is clearly revelling in the role, and hopes the complicated nature of the "wonderful" production will give audiences pause for thought - as well as food for debate.

"I hope people will continue talking about it once they leave the theatre because of all the elements we discussed and the fact that it's not performed an awful lot.

"I hope younger women will be talking about it - why the devil does she want to be with him? Those questions will be spewing out, I hope. That's what you want when you're in theatre - when people leave, that they're affected to the degree that they want to discuss and debate it afterwards. That's what theatre's all about!"

---

**All's Well That Ends Well shows at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, from Tuesday 16 August until Saturday 8 October**

# THE ROSES

Tewkesbury's Theatre

More online: [www.roses theatre.org](http://www.roses theatre.org)



**80's Mania**

Fri 12 Aug 7.30pm



**High School Musical on Stage!**

Thu 18 - Sat 20 Aug



**Dinosaur Adventure Live!**

Tue 23 & Wed 24 Aug



**Gispanner Big Band: Saltlines**

Sun 28 Aug 7.30pm



**NT Live: Much Ado About Nothing**

Thu 8 Sep 7pm



**The Take That Experience**

Fri 16 Sep 7.30pm

**Box Office: 01684 295074**

Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 5NX

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Food news from across the region...

## Bell Court's culinary offering expands

Stratford-upon-Avon's Bell Court is expanding its culinary line-up with three new openings. Independently owned dessert & sweet-treat parlour Wonderland serves a tantalising range of ice creams, gelato, popcorn, cotton candy, pick'n'mix and hot & cold drinks... Corte Campana introduces Napoli to the high street with its range of authentic pizza and Neapolitan delicacies... All-day café, bakery & social space Yorks is opening what will be its second venue in Stratford.

## Award-winning drinks brands collaborate on new cider

Napton Cidery is celebrating a pivotal partnership thanks to the launch of Purity Brewing Co's new cider. The two award-winning businesses have announced a collaboration to create the brewers' medium dry Pure Cider recipe, now available in pubs, bars & restaurants throughout the UK.

## Hogarths Solihull launches Afternoon Tea Lounge

Hogarths Solihull has officially opened its brand-new art-deco-inspired Afternoon Tea Lounge - complete with a self-playing piano. The luxury hotel has also launched Afternoon Tea In The Woods, which it describes as follows: 'the perfect experience during the warmer months, this four-course tea is an extra-special treat'.



## New food outlets bring added flavour to Coventry park

Three new outlets are bringing added flavour to one of Coventry's most popular attractions, following a significant investment. Coombe Abbey Park LACo, working with No Ordinary Hospitality Management - which manages a host of venues and attractions across the region, including Coombe Abbey Hotel and St Mary's Guildhall - has undertaken a £400,000 refurbishment programme to bring new tastes to War Memorial Park. Two existing on-site cafés have been repurposed and a new ice-cream kiosk has been added at the heart of the park. One of the repurposed cafés is Park Bistro, which sits adjacent to Kenilworth Road and

offers breakfasts from 8am to 11am. Freshly made snacks and other small plates are available at lunchtime. Afternoon teas, inspired by Coombe Abbey Hotel's award-winning selection, are also on offer, featuring a daily selection of fresh cakes. Meanwhile, the other repurposed venue, the old café in the visitor centre, has been given a 1950s-themed makeover and is now operating as dessert diner The Sundae Club. Customers with a sweet tooth have a range of different-flavoured milkshakes and ice creams from which to choose, along with hot, fresh waffles and crepes.

## Popular Stratford distillery launches citrus vodka

Shakespeare Distillery has launched a brand-new citrus vodka, which is now available as a limited-edition Distillery Special. Perfect for summer, the citrus vodka is 'super-smooth and bursting with the flavours of fresh oranges and lemons', which are hand-peeled at the distillery. The team suggests serving with ginger ale and a squeeze of lime, or making a classic cosmopolitan cocktail using citrus vodka, Cointreau, lime juice and cranberry juice. The citrus vodka is available in three bottle options and retails at £34 for a 50cl bottle, £17.50 for a 20cl bottle and £6.50 for 5cl bottle.



A person wearing a large, orange and black striped tiger costume is working with molten glass. They are using a long, thin glass rod to shape a piece of glowing orange glass. The background is dark, and the scene is lit with warm, orange light from the molten glass.

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## INFORMATION AND VENUES

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\* £4 festival pass for Stourbridge Glass Museum

# Telling their story

Artist Andy Farr tells stories about Coventry's unsung people via his paintings, which this month go on display at the city's cathedral. What's On caught up with him to find out more about his Portraits Of Coventry exhibition...



Artist Andy Farr has turned the spotlight on 'the unsung people of Coventry' in his Portraits Of Coventry exhibition.

The portraits, first displayed as part of the City of Culture exhibition in 2021, are this month being shown at Coventry Cathedral.

Andy describes himself as a painter and storyteller who's keen to tell the narrative of a person's life through his art. The cathedral is a poignant location for him. "It's a place that signals hope and reconciliation," he says, "and also where I graduated from my MA."

Portraits Of Coventry, funded by not-for-profit housing association Orbit, features paintings of people from Coventry's older generation.

"The City of Culture is quite a young thing, so I wanted to use the older generation to explore the history of the city."

Aiming to find the extraordinary in seemingly ordinary people, Andy met with Coventry residents to interview them about their lives and memories of the city. The conversations formed the basis for the portraits, which all boast their own unique style.

A pop-art style was used to capture sitter Steve's character and life. "Steve was there when Coventry won the FA Cup Final in 1987. He remembers that infamous Gary Mabbutt own goal, but he also mentioned he got to

grade seven in piano. An amazing achievement.

"People have these lives you know nothing about until you sit down and talk to them."

Each portrait took a different amount of time to complete. "It depended on the sitter and their story. Ideas for some of the paintings came very quickly and only took a few days to paint, while with others it took longer to form the ideas to best capture the person."

One of the sitters, Angela, had a lasting impact on Andy. "She was fairly wary of me at first, but once we began chatting, I discovered she came from a generation of nurses." Angela's mother was a midwife, while her two daughters are both in the nursing profession. Andy took the idea of the three generations of nurses to form Angela's portrait.

"Angela had a huge effect on me, just for the way she reacted when she first saw the painting." She really appreciated the way the artwork captured her family history.

Andy also interviewed and painted Liam, who was an amateur boxer in the 1970s. For Andy, it was really important to capture the small details in his portraits, as it was these which he felt revealed the most about the people he was painting. "Liam had these tattoos across his fingers, which spelt out his wife's name - Mary."

Mary had passed away seven years earlier, but Liam told Andy he still thought of her and spoke to her every day.

"I got the impression that Liam wasn't a man you'd want to cross in the 1970s, but that Mary really put him on the straight and narrow. It was clear he was still mourning her."

"The portrait of Liam is very reflective, even down to the way he was sat, and I wanted to capture that."

For the exhibition at the cathedral, two new portraits have been added to the original dozen. One is of Peter, whose connection to the cathedral dates back to its consecration in 1962. The other is of Polina, a recently arrived refugee from Ukraine.

"Polina's portrait is a bit different because it's obviously not going to be a very happy picture. But I think it's important to capture the reality of the situation and keep it at the forefront of people's minds."

After the exhibition, all the portraits will be going to the sitters and their families.

.....

**Andy Farr: Portraits Of Coventry shows at Coventry Cathedral from Tues 2 to Thurs 30 August**



**FILM FUN** on Tues at 2pm at The Core Theatre  
Revisit some much-loved family films on the big screen

**2 Aug** Big Hero 6 (PG)  
**9 Aug** Home (U)  
**16 Aug** Wreck It Ralph (PG)  
**23 Aug** The Lego Movie (U)

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**ART & FILM WORKSHOPS** on Tues 11am-4pm

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**Tue 9 Aug** at The Core Solihull (age 7-11)

**Wed 10 Aug** at Balsall Common Library (age 8-13)

**Thu 11 Aug** at The Core Solihull (age 12-15)

**Fri 12 Aug** at The Loft, Chelmsley Wood (age 12-15)



\*FREE places are available for children who qualify for Free School Meals. Please book HAF places via Box Office on number below.



**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

## GADGETEERS

This years theme is Gadgeteers, full of fun, reading and inventions. Register in any library or online and join the challenge to read six books during the summer holidays. Collect stickers, card and prizes ... so go go gadgeteers!

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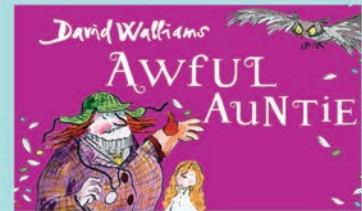
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## Shrewsbury Folk Festival

Greenhouse West Midland Showground,  
Fri 26 - Mon 29 August

A highlight of any folk fan's calendar, this four-day fest brings together centuries of musical tradition in one picturesque setting. Steeped in history, the border town of Shrewsbury provides an ideal backdrop for the festival's mash-up of modern, medieval and everything in between, where grassroots cultures collide in dynamic fusion styles. Take along the whole family for dance and workshops as well as live music. As in previous years, What's On is pleased to be sponsoring Launchpad, an element of the event designed to showcase local and up-and-coming talent.

**Line-up includes:** Judy Collins, Blackie and the Rodeo Kings, Carlos Núñez, 3 Daft Monkeys, Black Umfolosi, Della Mae, Dan Walsh, Moonlight Benjamin, Show of Hands, Lauren Housley, Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage, Lady Nade (pictured) and Amythyst Kiah



## Camper Calling

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire,  
Fri 26 - Sun 28 August

Camper Calling returns to the stunning grounds of Warwickshire's Ragley Hall for its sixth family-friendly outing.

This year's event boasts a superb musical line-up, craft and dance workshops, lake activities, tree climbing, a boat race, a kids' club, a silent disco, yoga, some seriously tasty food and lots more.

**Line-up includes:** James, Basement Jaxx (pictured), Shed Seven, Del Amitri, Scouting For Girls, The Selecter, Starsailor, Heather Small, Newton Faulkner and Craig Charles, The Pigeon Detectives, The Pale White, Echobelly and Gentleman's Dub Club



## Moseley Folk & Arts Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham,  
Fri 2 - Sun 4 September



Tucked away behind Birmingham's busy streets, the beautiful Moseley Park is one of the city's hidden gems, transformed each year into an enchanting escape by one of the Midlands' best-loved music festivals. Traditional folk & low-fi acoustic sets blend seamlessly with dreamy electropop, psychedelia and indie favourites against a magical backdrop of bright hippie colours, lush foliage and a beautiful lake. Alongside the music, the festival also features arts & crafts, comedy & cabaret, poetry & literature and talks & debates.

**Line-up includes:** Supergrass (pictured), Seasick Steve, Jethro Tull, The Coral, Kurt Vile & The Violators, Midlake, John Cooper Clarke and Anais Mitchell

## Farmer Phil's Festival

Gatten Farm, Ratlinghope, Shropshire,  
Fri 12 - Sun 14 August

Launched in a corner of one of Farmer Phil's fields near Shrewsbury, this boutique gathering aims to offer something for everyone, featuring rock, dance, acoustic folk and everything in between. Camping for the full week is included in the ticket price. A brilliant opportunity to enjoy a summer getaway with the family.

**Line-up includes:** My Baby (pictured), Bad Manners, Clearwater Creedence Revival, Jilted Generation, The Lancashire Hotpots, Hunted By Elephants, Miles Hunt, The Endings, Old Time Sailors, Dobermann and Karl Philips & The Rejects



A circular graphic with a yellow and orange border. Inside, there's a blue background with a Union Jack flag, a blue violin, a red trumpet, a red French horn, and two hands clinking beer glasses. The background is decorated with musical notes and stars.

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AIR FORCE  
museum** midlands

A colorful graphic for the Shrewsbury Folk Festival. It features a central Celtic knot design, a rainbow, a sun, and various nature icons like mushrooms and trees. The text is in a playful, hand-drawn style.

## SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL

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A pink five-petaled flower graphic containing text.

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[www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk)



## Godiva Festival

War Memorial Park, Coventry,  
Fri 2 - Sun 4 September

Organisers of Coventry's Godiva Festival are anticipating another blockbuster year, with veteran performers joining emerging artists across a dazzling array of genres.

While the traditional Godiva procession continues to this day, the event has certainly come a long way since its 17th-century origins as a celebration of the medieval Countess of Mercia.

Due to its popularity, the festival is now ticketed. Under-fives go free.

**Line-up includes:** The Libertines, Bananarama, Tom Grennan (pictured), The Feeling, Craig Charles, Katy B, Neville Staple, Idle Noise, The Subways, Cov Kozaks, Gracey, A1 x J1, Dream Wife, Apache Indian, The Dirt Road Band, Beardyman, YolanDa's Band, The Skatuesques, Georgie Riot and DJ Jazzie Jay

## Páirc Festival

New Irish Centre, Birmingham,  
Fri 26 - Sun 28 August

A brand-new festival celebrating Irish music and culture, Páirc will feature a mix of international headline acts and local talent. The event promises fun for all the family and features a street food village, more than 50 market stalls, outdoor bars and beer tents.

**Line-up includes:** Imelda May (pictured), Finbar Furey, Hothouse Flowers, Nathan Carter, The Sharon Shannon Trio, Beoga, Damien Dempsey, The Dublin Legends, Hermitage Green, The Father Teds, The Kilkennys, On The Sesh, Lampa, Bang On The Ear and Cairde



## Bromyard Folk Festival

Bromyard, Worcestershire,  
Thurs 8 - Sun 11 September



Established in 1968 (having sold just 150 tickets), Bromyard has become a much-loved celebration of folk music.

This year's event features more than 170 hours of entertainment, with some of the finest national and international folk musicians headlining a programme that also includes workshops, sing-arounds, ceilidhs, dance displays, children's entertainment and a traditional craft market.

**Line-up includes:** Mánran, Michael McGoldrick and Family, Heisk (pictured), John Tams, Mec Lir, Sian, John Kirkpatrick, Granny's Attic, The Norfolk Broads, Sam Carter, Suntou Susso, Magpies Duo, Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, Dominie Hooper, Ellie Gowers and Steve Turner

## Camp Bestival Shropshire

Weston Park, Shropshire,  
Thurs 18 - Sun 21 August

Camp Bestival is visiting the Midlands for the first time this year. A stand-alone event (but boasting all the unique and essential family-friendly elements of Dorset's original Camp Bestival), the four-day get-together features music, theatre, shows, wellbeing workshops, circus spectacles, comedy, food & drink and a spacious camping area.

**Line-up includes:** Fatboy Slim (pictured), Rag'n'Bone Man, Becky Hill, Self Esteem, Example, Sara Cox, Mae Muller, Sasha, Faithless (DJ set), Shed Seven, The Proclaimers, Scouting For Girls and Dreadzone





# Folk Hero

**Legendary American country singer Judy Collins is one of the star attractions at this year's Shrewsbury Folk Festival, and despite being well into her eighties, she's showing no signs of slowing down. It's all about loving what you do - even the travel - she tells What's On...**

This year's Shrewsbury Folk Festival is set to provide another time-honoured mix of dance, song, folklore and traditional British music, but it's an American singer-songwriter that's likely to be the star of the show.

And so she should be, because Judy Collins is a bona fide musical legend as well as a modern-day Renaissance woman. Now 83, she's been performing for over 60 years (longer, if you count doing recitals for her family as a child prodigy pianist), released more than 50 albums and recorded definitive versions of classic tunes such as *Send In The Clowns* (Stephen Sondheim), *Both Sides Now* (Joni Mitchell) and *Amazing Grace* (the hymn, with lyrics by John Newton).

She's also headed up a record label (Wildflower Records), written a number of books, been nominated for an Oscar - for co-directing a documentary about Antonia Brico, her childhood piano teacher who went on to become the first woman to conduct the New York Philharmonic - and been a long-time social activist for causes such as mental health, suicide prevention and child poverty.

Even more incredible than that exhaustive list is that there's no sign of her slowing down. Her current touring schedule is so manic that she'll be flying back and forth across the Atlantic for UK and European shows three times in less than five months this year. My suggestion that she employ tour managers with better geography skills elicited the first of a number of delightful laughs that punctuated our conversation.

"Oh they do their best! When they can, they get me routed better, but look, that's all part of what we know when we decide to do this, and I've been doing this for 62 years, so I know pretty much all about it."

That sort of trouper-type answer is very much Judy's stock in trade. One of life's survivors, having won battles with alcoholism, depression and bulimia, as well as dealing with the suicide of her only child, she has a stoic but positive outlook on life, and it's clear she still enjoys what she does ("of course I love it, it's my life") - which probably explains why she's touring more than ever.

This year's shows aren't even her first since lockdown, and those trouper credentials are further compounded by the revelation that she kicked Covid's butt a few months ago.

"We were in lockdown for about 14 months, and then I went back on the road in May 2021 and did a pretty full concert tour. Then I got Covid at the end of April this year, so I had a little rest and coughed a lot for about a week. It was relatively mild - like having a heavy cold - and now I'm back in fit form."

She's looking forward to her hectic schedule of gigs, arguing that audiences are as thrilled to be back at concerts as artists, suggesting the shows are still "a magical mystery tour" for both parties. She doesn't even complain at the constant travel and tour-bus lifestyle.

"You know, I love travelling. Ever since I was a very little child I have travelled, wanted to travel, and love it. Some people don't like it, but I do."

We're entering uncharted levels of glass half-full positivity here. And if Judy can't explore and enjoy the cities she visits on tour, she makes the most of the journey instead.

"I tell you - you see a lot of trees, a lot of mountains, a lot of sky... it's wonderful."

Music is still her greatest joy, and anyone who's heard her sing recently will know that despite being in her eighties, her voice still sounds as fabulous as ever (get on YouTube if you don't believe me). Does she commit to ridiculous health regimes to maintain it, or is it just dumb luck?

"I do ridiculous regimes of health!" There's that laugh again. "And I keep up my practising, and I keep working on what my teacher taught me... I make the effort, let's put it that way. I'm also lucky that I have this gene - my father had a great voice and sang beautifully right up to the end - [although] he died at 57, I have to say."

Hard graft has undoubtedly played a bigger part than luck in Judy's career, as evidenced by her recent workload. On top of touring, six of those 50-plus albums I mentioned have been recorded since 2015, including *Silver Skies Blue*, an album of duets with Arie Hest;

a Sondheim tribute collection; *Winter Stories*, which went to number one on the Billboard Bluegrass chart; and this year's *Spellbound*, the first longplayer she's recorded of all her own material. For a woman who seems to downplay most of her achievements, the latter feels like a big deal.

"It's all songs that I've written, and all in the last three or four years. I've written about 60 songs that were on various albums - I would always include one or two of my own songs on albums I did - but so far I've never put out an album of all my own songs. To do so now is wonderful, so of course I'm playing them like mad and everybody's loving them, so I'm having a good time with that!"

With a back catalogue as deep as hers, was it hard to come up with a set list that keeps things fresh for her but also gives the audience what they want to hear?

"It's a great challenge! I always do *Send In The Clowns*, which was a big hit for me and people love to hear it, but I have other favourite Sondheims, like *Move On*, *Anyone Can Whistle* and a couple of songs from *Sundays In The Park With George*. I have to get back to doing those in my set, but it does take a lot of figuring out."

Figuring out what to play in England - and in Shrewsbury - are tasks still to be addressed, but Judy is quick to acknowledge her affection for the country she first visited in 1965 ("the audiences are always so wonderful"), and seems delighted when I laugh (it's my turn) at her suggestion that she'll be playing "30 to 45 minutes" at the West Midlands Showground. I think the headliner merits a bit longer than that.

"Oh, oh good! Then I'll get more time, which is wonderful - and I'll sing everything I know!"

.....

**Judy Collins plays Shrewsbury Folk Festival on Monday 29 August and then returns to the UK to play Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday 19 November**



**Les Miserables** Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 9 - Sat 27 August

“The messages of Les Miserables are still so relevant,” explains Dean Chisnall, who’s accumulated 500-plus appearances in the show as Jean Valjean. “Everyone has something that they can relate to in Les Mis, 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.”

Cameron Mackintosh’s epic production of the legendary musical, based on Victor Hugo’s 1862 novel of the same name, has been enthralling and delighting audiences for the better part of 40 years.

Featuring blockbusting music by Claude-Michel Schönberg & Alain Boublil, the show has routinely broken records since debuting on the London stage in 1985, albeit to a lukewarm reception from theatre critics. The negative reviews were very much at odds with the show’s box-office takings, however - and the rest, as they say, is history...

If you’ve never before seen Les Miserables, grab yourself a ticket for its summertime run at the Hippodrome. It’s not to everybody’s taste, of course, but in all probability, if you love it, you will *really* love it. Indeed, you may well find yourself in absolute agreement with Dean Chisnall that it’s quite simply the greatest show on earth.

**Beautiful: The Carole King Musical**

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 30 August - Sat 3 September; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 1 - Sat 5 November

Making a welcome return to the Midlands, the Olivier Award-winning Beautiful is a homage to the life and music of legendary singer-songwriter Carole King.

Featured numbers include You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman, Take Good Care Of My Baby, You’ve Got A Friend, So Far Away, It Might As Well Rain Until September, Up On The Roof and Locomotion.



**Dreamboats And Petticoats**

Malvern Theatres, Tues 30 August - Sat 3 September

This is the latest production in the Dreamboats And Petticoats musical series, which was originally inspired by the bestselling album of the same title. Set in 1961, the first show followed the fortunes of young musicians Norman and Bobby as they competed with one another to win the hearts of their adoring female fans... This latest stage musical sees the original characters making a welcome return, and features songs by, among others, Elvis, Roy Orbison and the Walker Brothers.

**The Cher Show**

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 2 - Sat 6 August; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 18 - Sat 22 October

Premiering in Chicago four years ago, The Cher Show is a high-energy celebration of the life and times of the Goddess of Pop.

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.

The show is directed and choreographed by former Strictly stars Arlene Phillips and Oti Mabuse respectively.





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## Counting & Cracking

The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 19 - Sat 27 August



Counting And Cracking stops off in Birmingham with multiple glittering gongs to its name.

Following the journey of one Sri Lankan Australian family across four generations and nearly 50 years, the play is very much a tale of two countries, reflecting on Sri Lanka post-independence and Australia as an immigrant nation.

“Growing up, my mother never told me about why we left Sri Lanka and came to Australia,” explains the play’s writer, S Shakthidharan (Shakthi), in talking to Eastern Eye. “When I hit my late 20s, I really needed to know more about my heritage and my past, and she was not forthcoming.”

So Shakthi travelled to Sri Lanka and found the answers he needed. “The more I learned about this story, the more I realised that my family’s story was wrapped up in my country’s story. And there was a play right there that hadn’t been told about Sri Lanka, which is not a story of an island divided.” For Shakthi, Counting And Cracking is a way to explore and explain the Sri Lankan migrant experience: “The story is a way for us to have a safe space to meet some of the more difficult aspects of our past, but also to heal from that. And to celebrate who we are.”

## The Recruiting Officer

Honeybourne Village Hall, Evesham, Wed 3 August; Severn Valley Country Park, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, Fri 12 August; Witley Court, Worcestershire, Sat 13 August; Wenlock Priory, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Fri 19 Aug; Stokesay Castle, Craven Arms, Shropshire, Sat 27 Aug

Rain Or Shine theatre company make numerous stop-offs with this nowadays rarely performed Restoration comedy - a show which they’re promising comes complete with swashbuckling swordfights and saucy shenanigans.

Written by George Farquhar in 1706, the play follows the social and sexual exploits of two crooked recruiting officers who head for

Shrewsbury intent on persuading the Shropshire town’s mensfolk to take the Queen’s Shilling. But not everything goes entirely according to plan...

## The Pirates Of Penzance

Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Sat 20 August; Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Wed 31 August; Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury, Fri 9 September; Coughton Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire, Sat 10 September

In celebration of their 30th anniversary, the critically acclaimed Illyria Theatre here re-stage the first Gilbert & Sullivan show they ever performed.

G&S wrote two-act comic opera The Pirates Of Penzance in the late 1870s, since which time it’s become one of the duo’s most popular works.

The show tells the story of a young man who’s been apprenticed to pirates since childhood. Just when he thinks he’s free to lead his own life, he finds that a technicality in his indenture means he must endure a life of crime until the grand old age of 84. Pirates’ veritable treasure chest of much-loved songs includes Modern Major General, A Policeman’s Lot Is Not A Happy One and Pirate King...

Illyria’s production runs for just over two hours and is presented in the great outdoors.



## As You Like It

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, Wolverhampton, 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.

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

## The Importance Of Being Earnest

Shrewsbury Castle, Sun 7 August

This famous Oscar Wilde play is a rightly adored work of farce that proudly sits at the very pinnacle of British comic theatre.

The story revolves around the attempts of Jack to marry his true love, Gwendolen, in spite of the fact that Algernon is masquerading as Jack’s wayward brother Earnest in order to see his exquisite ward, Cecily.

Add the ingredient of the redoubtable Lady Bracknell and there’s little wonder that disaster looms large on Jack’s horizon. Presented by Immersion Theatre.



## Much Ado About Nothing

Stowe Fields, Lichfield, Fri 12 August; Shrewsbury Castle, Sun 14 August

Shakespeare’s ever-popular comedy is a tale of two pairs of lovers...

The first pair, Beatrice and Benedick, are older though not necessarily wiser, and conduct their courtship through sarcasm and verbal sparring.

The second and much younger pair, Claudio and Hero, find the course of their love being cruelly interrupted by the villainous Don John, who falsely accuses Hero of infidelity and wantonness, timing his accusation to coincide with the couple’s wedding day...

The show is here presented by the always vibrant and often anarchic Pantaloons, a company whose style brings together a wide variety of popular theatre traditions, from commedia dell’arte and pantomime, to stand-up comedy and silent movies.





# WHAT WILL YOU SEE NEXT?



THU 01 - SAT 03 SEP  
DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE



SAT 24 SEP  
THE BLACK BLUES BROTHERS



WED 28 SEP  
INTO THE GROOVE



FRI 30 SEP  
DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'



## Zog And The Flying Doctors

Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 23 - Sat 28 August

With previous shows including Tiddler And Other Terrific Tales, Tabby McTat and the first Zog story, it's fair to say that Freckle Productions know a thing or two about presenting stage adaptations of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler stories...

This latest show finds Zog providing an air-ambulance service with the assistance of his 'flying doctor' crew, Princess Pearl and Sir Gadabout.

But Pearl's uncle, the king, doesn't believe that princesses should be doctors, and before too long she finds herself locked up in the castle and once again forced to wear a crown and a 'silly frilly dress'.

Needless to say, help is soon at hand...

## Sarah And Duck's Big Top Birthday

Stourbridge Town Hall, Tues 2 - Wed 3 August; Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sun 14 August; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 1 - Sat 3 September

Young fans of BAFTA award-winning CBeebies programme Sarah & Duck are sure to cry fowl (geddit?) if their parents and guardians don't take them along to this live version of the hit show.

Puppetry, storytelling and music are imaginatively combined as seven-year-old Sarah and her somewhat manic companion set out on another adventure. This one sees them planning a birthday party for Scarf Lady, ably assisted in their endeavours by fabulous friends The Ribbon Sisters, The Shallots, Flamingo & John and Umbrella.



## Paw Patrol Live

Utilita Arena, Birmingham, Tues 23 August

Fans of the hit Nickelodeon television series would have to be barking mad not to catch up with this high-energy live-action version. For those not in the know, Paw Patrol is a Canadian show about a young boy named

Ryder and his crew of search & rescue dogs. As well as offering plenty of entertainment for youngsters, the show also aims to be educational and enlightening, sharing lessons about subjects including citizenship, social skills and problem-solving. All in all, then, a production that your kids are quite likely to go, er, absolutely mutts about...

## The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Malvern Theatres, Tues 23 - Thurs 25 August; Stafford Gatehouse, Fri 26 & Sat 27 August; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 1 - Wed 2 November

The tea-guzzling tiger once again stops off in the Midlands to drop in on Sophie and her mum, just as they're settling down for an afternoon cuppa...

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

## Ministry Of Science Live

The Place, Telford, Wed 3 August; The Courtyard, Hereford, Wed 17 August

An anarchic approach to science communication is the name of the game when the Ministry Of Science comes to town. As well as taking a look at the inventors and engineers who've shaped and inspired the modern world, the show's presenters will be conducting clever demonstrations aplenty - so expect the occasional loud bang!

## The Tale Of Peter Rabbit And Benjamin Bunny

Shrewsbury Castle, Thurs 4 August; Packwood House, Solihull, Fri 5 August; Dotshill Park, Tamworth, Sun 28 August; Tamworth Castle Grounds, Tues 30 August; Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch, Sat 3 September

The highly regarded Quantum Theatre make a welcome return with another outdoor show celebrating the magic of Beatrix Potter.

This latest production finds Peter Rabbit and his naughty cousin Benjamin throwing caution to the wind by sneaking into Mr McGregor's garden. But it isn't long before the adventurous pair find themselves in some seriously hot water...

## Awful Auntie

Brueton Park, Solihull, Wed 3 August; Bosworth Battlefield, Thurs 4 August; Cathedral Ruins, Coventry, Tues 9 August; Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire, Sat 13 August; Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens, Birmingham, Tues 16 August

Fights, frights and friendships are the order of the day in David Walliams' much-loved Awful Auntie.

At the centre of the terrific tale is a young girl named Stella. The sole heir to Saxby Hall, she finds herself in danger of losing both her inheritance and her life when she comes up against her thoroughly unpleasant Aunt Alberta...

Here presented by outdoor-theatre specialists Heartbreak Productions, Walliams' Awful Auntie comes complete with a very old car, a very large owl, a very small ghost and plenty of opportunity to enjoy a jolly good chuckle.



LET'S GO OUT  
**ROUTE 34**  
 EMBRACING CULTURES  
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 #B2022FESTIVAL

NORTH BIRMINGHAM ALLIANCE  
 6 AUG, BULLRING HIPPODROME  
 13 AUG, MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE  
 27 AUG, LEGACY CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  
 28 AUG, GROSVENOR ROAD STUDIOS

  
**BIRMINGHAM 2022**  
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# TO THE STREETS!

Brand new concert musical out on tour...



## **To The Streets!, a brand-new concert musical inspired by the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963, is this month premiering as part of Birmingham 2022 Festival. What's On recently caught up with the show's choreographer, Dannielle 'Rhimes' Lecointe, to find out more about a production that will be showing at three locations across the West Midlands during August...**

A new concert musical created by China Plate and Birmingham Hippodrome will premiere this summer in West Midlands parks.

Inspired by the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963, *To The Streets!* brings theatre into the heart of the community as part of Birmingham 2022 Festival.

The story will take audiences back 59 years, to when the Bristol Omnibus Company refused to employ black or Asian drivers and conductors. A group of activists challenged the policy, determined to force change by taking to the streets.

Dannielle 'Rhimes' Lecointe (pictured), who is choreographing the show, believes this is a story which needs to be told.

"For me, as a black woman, learning about history, and particularly the history that has happened in the UK, is so important. This was a story I did not know. I was really fascinated by it, and by the idea of contributing to it in movement."

Rhimes is collaborating with writer Roy Williams, composer Tim Sutton and director Christopher Haydon on the production - and this summer, audiences can enjoy a concert version of the musical, presented by professional and community cast members.

A performer and choreographer, Rhimes has worked on an eclectic mix of shows during her career, including pantomime, television's *So You Think You Can Dance*, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* in the West End and the UK tour of *An Officer And A Gentleman*. She was formerly artistic director of ZooNation Youth Company, whose *Groove On Down The Road* was staged at both Birmingham Hippodrome and the Wolverhampton Grand.

"When I choreograph, I work off a feeling which is intuitive to what the music is saying and telling me to do," she says. "My background is predominantly in hip-hop and street dance, but I also did jazz, contemporary and lindy hop, and I felt there was space for all of those things in this show.

"Although we are going back to the 1960s and being true to the nature of that, I'm also curious about how you create a language that people recognise now as present with this flavour of the '60s."

One of Rhimes' challenges is creating choreography for a range of abilities within the professional and community cast.

"I am kind of drawing a middle-ground line with the choreography because, although some of the cast are community performers



and not necessarily professional dancers, I expect growth throughout the process.

"I did the London Olympics in 2012 and have done other shows where there is community involvement, and in all of them it is about that person coming out having grown.

"It's about looking at them and seeing where they're at. I'm going to be quite diligent about pushing them because I want them to feel proud of themselves - that they've really grown. It is very rewarding working with community performers. There is a different kind of reward because they would never normally get the opportunity to do that, so to give them that feels absolutely great, and seeing them onstage feels amazing.

"I feel exactly the same with a professional cast. In hip-hop theatre, I'm used to working with outstanding dancers of all abilities, but even with those, there is an element of pushing. And when I go into musical theatre, they are actors/singers/dancers, so they are stretched in some capacity because they have to deliver these different talents, but I still want to push them as dancers and get them out of their comfort zone. There is always going to be an element of growing them and making them rise up to the occasion so that they can feel proud of themselves.

"What I'm really interested in is the choreography of space and how bodies move through space. So my first thing is to create movement in the space and then to create movement on the bodies. When I witness people moving through the space, that tells me a lot about their bodies and therefore what will look good on that person and what will work, what will push them a bit but look lovely. I'm very open to seeing how people move and then building on that."

With *To The Streets!* being performed

outdoors at Handsworth Park in Birmingham, Windmill Hill at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre and West Park in Wolverhampton, there are additional considerations in terms of the choreography.

"You need to be careful in terms of the cast and the movement in case it's raining. Also there is less lighting, so where you can normally create really moody things and clever stuff with light and shade, you can't necessarily do that. Everyone is exposed, and that is something for me to consider, as when people are present onstage they can be seen all the time."

For Rhimes, dance brings another dimension to a show.

"Dance is absolutely necessary to telling the story - although I come from a biased place because I am a choreographer! Dance makes the audience feel something deeper. We dance for the people. There are loads of people who come to musicals who cannot dance, but when they are watching the show, they feel like they can, and it gives people that.

"Also I think it helps us to stretch and elongate the story. Some of these numbers have script midway through songs, and I find that very interesting because it gives you that parameter to dance inside of the text and therefore marry movement with words."

Rhimes hopes audiences will be educated and entertained by the show.

"I hope that the audience takes away the awareness of this story - which has been undercover for some time - and that deeper awareness that this took place not that long ago, and that we've still got work to do within our communities. And then there is the joy of it, and the joy of being able to tell a story where the subject matter is a weighty one.

"If we ask the right questions for the benefit of the future, for the benefit of shifting the perspective and building really authentic relationships, I feel like that is a really great space to allow for healthy debate and healthy questioning."

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**To The Streets! will be performed at: Handsworth Park, Birmingham, on Fri 19 & Sat 20 August; Windmill Hill at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, on Wed 24 & Thurs 25 August; and Wolverhampton's West Park on Sun 28 August. For further information, visit: [tothestreets.co.uk](http://tothestreets.co.uk)**



# LET'S GO OUT JAMBO CINEMA

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#B2022FESTIVAL

DAWINDER BANSAL  
28 JUL - 20 AUG,  
TUES - SAT  
THE MAIL BOX, BIRMINGHAM



**BIRMINGHAM 2022  
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Film highlights in August...

**Bullet Train** CERT tbc

Starring **Brad Pitt, Sandra Bullock, Joey King, Zazie Beetz, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Michael Shannon**  
 Directed by **David Leitch**

Having scored a major hit with *Deadpool 2*, David Leitch takes the director's chair for an action-packed comedy that features two of Hollywood's best-established A-Listers in Brad Pitt and Sandra Bullock.

Having seen one too many jobs fall off the rails, down-on-his-luck assassin Ladybug (Pitt) is determined to get his life back on track asap...

But fate, it would seem, has other ideas... Ladybug's latest mission - given to him by his handler, Maria Beetle (Bullock) - finds him on a collision course with lethal adversaries from around the globe.

And to make matters worse, the situation is playing out on board the fastest train in the world...

As smooth rides go, this one is looking particularly bumpy...

**Released Wed 3 August**



**Easter Sunday** CERT tbc

Starring **Jo Koy, Jimmy O Yang, Jay Chandrasekhar, Lou Diamond Phillips, Tiffany Haddish, Eugene Cordero, Carly Pope**  
 Directed by **Jay Chandrasekhar**

If you love comedian Jo Koy, then *Easter Sunday* is a must-see movie.

Inspired by the 51-year-old funnyman's standup routines and life experiences, the film sees him taking on the role of Joe Valencia, a struggling actor (and single father to teenage son Junior) whose life gets a whole lot more complicated when he attends a celebration with his extended Filipino American family.

With tensions much in evidence, Joe must manage his dysfunctional relatives' antics in order to ensure the family holiday passes with as few dramas as possible...

**Released Fri 5 August**



**Fisherman's Friends: One And All** CERT tbc

Starring **James Purefoy, Fiona Button, Richard Harrington, Joshua McGuire, David Hayman, Ramon Tikaram**  
 Directed by **Meg Leonard and Nick Moorcroft**

Telling the true tale of the world's most unlikely, er, buoy-band(!), *Fisherman's Friends* broke the surface of the UK's cinematic waters back in 2019 and netted a fine catch of rave reviews.



Its story revolves around a group of Cornish fishermen whose singing of sea shanties to raise funds for charity comes to the attention of a fish-out-of-water music manager from the big smoke.

What follows for the fellas is an unexpected voyage of discovery, one that would eventually see them dropping anchor on the Pyramid stage at Glastonbury...

Presenting another whale of a tale about friendship, community and music, this sequel movie seems just as likely to have audiences falling for its charms hook, line and sinker...

**Released Fri 5 August**

**Beast** CERT tbc

Starring **Idris Elba, Sharlto Copley, Iyana Halley, Leah Jeffries, Mel Janson**  
 Directed by **Baltasar Kormákur**

Dr Nate Daniels is recently widowed and has some emotional healing to do. Along with his two teenage daughters, he travels to a South African game reserve managed by an old family friend.

But when a lion - a survivor of bloodthirsty poachers - starts stalking them, what begins as a journey of healing soon turns into a fearsome fight for survival...

**Released Fri 26 August**





# ALL ABOUT THE BARD

Birmingham's unique Shakespeare Memorial Library is brought into the present day in a new exhibition opening this summer as part of Birmingham 2022 Festival...



## “ There’s been a lot of care and attention around ensuring there are lots of layers to the exhibition, and that it’s attractive to people who love Shakespeare and people who have no knowledge of Shakespeare. ”

Birmingham’s unique Shakespeare Memorial Library is brought into the present day in a new exhibition opening this summer as part of Birmingham 2022 Festival.

A collaboration between the Royal Shakespeare Company and Everything To Everybody Project, the Your Shakespeare, Your Culture exhibition will be delving into the history of the library and asking about its relevance for the people of Birmingham today.

Founded by George Dawson in 1864, the Shakespeare Memorial Library is both the first major Shakespeare library in the world and the only extensive collection which belongs to the people of a city. Gifted to the citizens of Birmingham, it contains more than 100,000 items, including a rare 1623 Shakespeare first folio: the first collected volume of the Bard’s plays and one of only 235 first folios currently known to be in existence.

But Your Shakespeare, Your Culture isn’t just about the Memorial Library in the past; it also explores its messages for today - as the RSC’s creative placemaking & public programme manager, Rachel Sharpe, explains: “What’s so exciting about it is the relevance and resonance for people now. You’ve got these beautiful historic pieces and thoughts, but the lens has been ‘what does that mean to people now, what’s important to people now, what’s on people’s minds now?’ We wanted to utilise this exhibition as a platform to have really up-to-date, transparent and wide-ranging conversations.

“Our audience is everybody, as the title suggests. There’s been a lot of care and attention around ensuring there are lots of layers to the exhibition, and that it’s attractive to people who love Shakespeare and people who have no knowledge of Shakespeare. It’s a journey to discover different lenses on that.”

Your Shakespeare, Your Culture features not only artefacts from the collection but also information on George Dawson and his social activism; Dawson created a library for Birmingham at a time when the majority of such collections were to be found only within the hallowed halls of universities and private institutions.

“George Dawson was a revolutionary and progressive man,” explains RSC Collections

Manager Robyn Greenwood. “He didn’t want to just make a statue to celebrate Shakespeare’s 300th birthday - he had much bigger ideas.

“You see that in the visuals about him at the beginning of the exhibition, which go into the concept of making that library. You then start to look at how this relates to a modern context, so you go into a section called Future Forward, which is a play on Birmingham’s motto, Forward.”

The exhibition features a special commission by Birmingham Poet Laureate Casey Bailey and a new film titled A Great Feast Of Languages - What Is This City But Its People? Your Shakespeare, Your Culture aims to challenge visitors, says Robyn.

“When you walk into this space, you’re greeted by seeing and hearing the people of Birmingham. My colleague, Ida Ballerini, who curated the exhibition, worked with a group of people to create placards which talk about ‘the change you want to make’, ‘be a catalyst for change’, ‘fight the good fight’ - all things that George Dawson was saying and doing in Victorian times when he created the Shakespeare Library.

“We also ask specific questions such as ‘in Birmingham today, what does “forward” mean to you, how would you like to see this city change, and what are you going to do to make it better?’ It’s a very participatory exhibition as well as informational.”

Visitors can also participate thanks to a selfie moment and the opportunity to share a cultural highlight, such as a book, film or song, which has impacted on their lives. For children there’s the chance to construct a library out of building blocks.

The exhibition certainly fits the ethos of the Everything To Everybody Project, which aims to raise awareness of the Shakespeare Memorial Library and highlight its relevance to the people of Birmingham today. As such, the focus is less on the Bard and more on the social messages of the library, says Tom Epps, the Library of Birmingham’s cultural partnerships manager, who is also operations director for the Everything To Everybody Project.

“During the first iteration of the project, the exhibition wasn’t necessarily going to be about Shakespeare at all. It was very much about Birmingham, and particularly the

Victorian Birmingham that people might not know about. You could just think ‘paternalistic male do-gooders’, and yes, there is paternalism, there are lots of males and Victorians, but actually the story is far more radical than people understand.

“Before the Birmingham Shakespeare Library, prestigious cultural collections tended to belong to universities, cultural institutions and wealthy individuals. In Birmingham they wanted to establish the greatest Shakespeare library in the world, but they specifically wanted it to be for all the people of the city.

“The idea that culture is for everybody was really radical at that time. Birmingham was largely working class, very few people would have been literate, and yet George Dawson still founded a library for the people of the city.”

The belief that culture should be available to every person in the city is shared by the Everything To Everybody Project. The initiative is a collaboration between the University of Birmingham and Birmingham City Council, with funding contributed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The team was keen to ensure the exhibition was staged during the Commonwealth Games and Birmingham 2022 Festival.

“There’s a large Birmingham audience for us, but there will be a larger audience because of the Games, and that was key for us,” says Tom. “We’re aware they might not have the broadest idea of Birmingham as a city, particularly its role in terms of culture, and this is an opportunity to share that.

“The Shakespeare Memorial Library is a unique library collection, but it only matters if it’s useful to today’s Birmingham. And that’s what the wider project is about; it’s asking that question, ‘Is a historic Shakespeare library relevant to Birmingham today?’ I’m hoping this exhibition demonstrates that it is.”

**Everything To Everybody Project’s Your Shakespeare, Your Culture is free to visit at The Gallery, Level 3, Library of Birmingham, until Saturday 5 November. For further information, visit: [everythingtoeverybody.bham.ac.uk](http://everythingtoeverybody.bham.ac.uk)**

**Herbert**  
Art Gallery & Museum

12 August 2022  
– 8 January 2023  
Free Admission

## Brought to Light

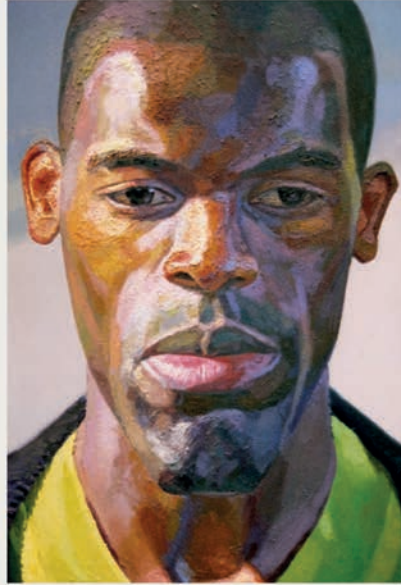


Image Credit: Giant Head of Gbenga by Nahem Shoa

Find out more  
[theherbert.org](http://theherbert.org)

## Ali Cherri:

*If You Prick Us,  
Do We Not Bleed?*



The Madonna of the Cat, after Barocci, 2022, by Ali Cherri  
Image: © Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Imane Farès; Photo: The National Gallery, London  
Presented by the Contemporary Art Society through a partnership with the 2021 National Gallery Artist in Residence programme, with the support of Anna Yang and Joseph Schull. 2022/2

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## Black Country Beats

Sat 7 May - Sun 4 Sep 2022

**Wolverhampton Art Gallery**

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

Free admission

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

**BLACK**  
**COUNTRY**  
**BEATS**

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**Laney**

Visual Arts previews from around the region



**Taking Root: The Sustaining Life Of Trees**

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, until 16 October

Presenting artworks from the Barber’s own collection, Taking Root considers the ways in which artists across the centuries have engaged with trees - studying them to develop their powers of observation, or making use of them as compositional

devices or to chart the changing seasons. The exhibition has been inspired by Birmingham 2022 Festival’s theme of ‘nature’, which has been programmed around the Commonwealth Games.



**Black Country Beats** Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sun 4 September

The Black Country music scene falls under the spotlight in this new exhibition, running across the summer to coincide with the cultural activities taking place around the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. From glam rock giants Slade through to the rise of bhangra in Wolverhampton,

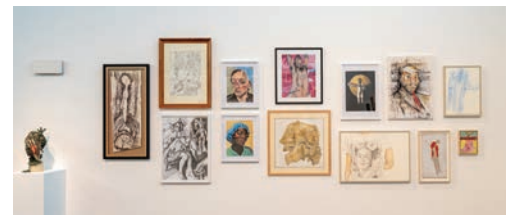
the display explores the way in which the region’s music has been shaped and influenced by social and political change since the mid-20th century. The show also celebrates the imminent reopening of Wolverhampton’s Civic Hall, one of the UK’s best-known live-music venues.

**West Midlands Open**

New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Wed 25 September

Featuring 250 artworks in various media, West Midlands Open is the result of a call-out to artists across the region, including those currently studying or who have been educated locally in the past 10 years.

One of the exhibiting artists will be selected for a residency in the New Art Gallery’s Artists’ Studio at a later date. Visitors to the exhibition will also be asked to vote for their favourite on-display artwork.



**The Magic Of Middle-Earth**

Worcester City Art Gallery, until Sat 17 September

A free exhibition celebrating JRR Tolkien’s fantasy world, 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.

The exhibition has been mounted by collector Matt Fox, whose previous display, the Star Wars-themed May The Toys Be With You, showed at Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum in 2019.

**We Are Birmingham**

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 30 October

Opened back in April alongside the relaunch of BMAG’s iconic Round Room, We Are Birmingham not only reflects and celebrates the city as it is today but also investigates its aspirations for the future.

The exhibition has been co-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’.





# Wherever I lay my hat...

**A new exhibition uses people's experiences and objects to explore the different meanings and emotions connected with the idea of home...**

Produced by Leicester-based arts organisation Inspirate, *Where Is Home?* explores the journey made by South Asian migrants to the UK. The exhibition focuses in particular on the 75th anniversary of the partition of India and Pakistan and the 50th anniversary of the South Asian expulsion from Uganda.

Featuring filmed memories of those historic events alongside everyday items, some brought by migrants from India and Africa, the exhibition aims to encourage people of all backgrounds to consider how history impacts on migration and the lives of people forced to leave their homes.

"Partition and the Asian Ugandan expulsion were the biggest mass migration movements of South Asian people in history," explains Jiten Anand, director of Inspirate. "We wanted to take a step back and ask, where did this journey actually begin? It's colonial

history - a lot of this happened off the back of the abolition of slavery and indentured labour.

"The reason why we wanted to produce this project was to share this story with current generations, second or third-generation South Asian young people, to think about where they have come from.

"And it's trying to educate people about mass migration - especially when we are living at a time where migration is looked down upon. If you look around the world at the refugee crisis, this is an opportunity to shine the spotlight on why society is the way it is today."

*Where Is Home?* features a film in which artists share their experiences of migration.

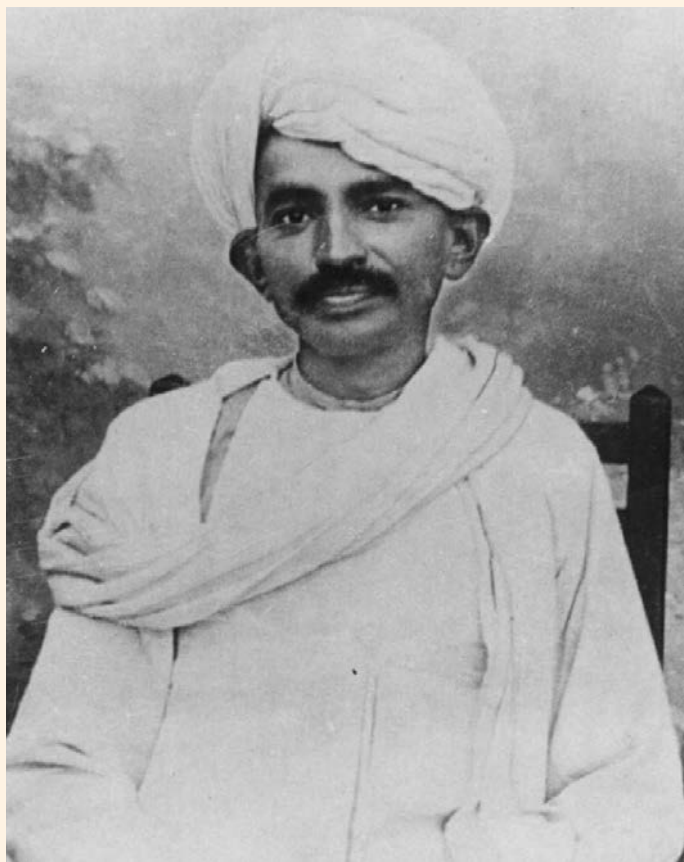
"We wanted to create a narrative, a different kind of platform, very much from an artist perspective so that it's coming from a lived

experience," explains the exhibition's curator, Alnoor Mitha, senior research fellow at Manchester School of Art, Manchester Metropolitan University. "I was born and brought up in Uganda and had to leave in 1972 because of Idi Amin's expulsion of South Asians, so there is a conversation between me and my daughter, Amani Mitha, who is also a curator.

"Then there is Jai Chuhan, who was born in India and has been living in England a very long time, and her daughter, Jasmir Creed, who was born and brought up here.

"Saima Rasheed is originally from Pakistan but she now lives in Greater Manchester, and John Lyons is originally from Trinidad and came to study at Goldsmiths. He has had exhibitions all over the country, including the Tate.

"All these films are giving a personal narrative on what happened. And they raise



the question of identity, which I think is a central question in terms of all the different individuals talking about themselves.”

The interviews sit alongside archive footage, to give the artists’ stories context. There are also a number of personal objects on display, including saris worn in Uganda and brought to the UK in luggage, British passports issued upon naturalisation, and prayer mats and beads carried across oceans.

“These objects are very much about what people have in their houses all the time,” says Alnoor. “They are often the everyday objects people bring with them when they migrate.

“And this notion of migration is not necessarily based just around South Asian people. At the moment, if you look at the war in Ukraine and the refugee crisis and how British people are opening their doors, particularly to people from Ukraine, it’s quite poignant timing.”

Installations will also feature events with local artists and organisations. Sampad Arts in Birmingham and Black Country Touring are both involved, and there’s also a Q&A with author Neema Shah in Wolverhampton, and a day of activities in London.

Where Is Home? follows on from Inspirate’s hugely successful online exhibition, 400

Years: Britain And India, which was viewed by 300,000 people. The website for Where Is Home? will ensure people who can’t attend the exhibition can access its stories. Its developer, Dr Vimal Patel - senior researcher & lecturer in history at De Montfort University in Leicester - believes the online resource will not only provide historical understanding but also allow visitors to learn about people’s individual experiences: “A timeline contextualises this mass movement of people from Uganda and also from India after partition, so features granular details of events leading up to 1947 but also some of the major developments in the 17th, 18th and 20th centuries.

“That gives us a sense of why partition was both a momentous occasion but also in some ways a botched transfer of power, because it led to so much violence and bloodshed.

“Other elements include interviews we’ve done with people of South Asian heritage, people with a Ugandan background, and those with a Kashmiri background. It provides a broad sweep of history but also personal stories, so we get an insight into the experiences of people with South Asian heritage living in Britain today.”

Vimal believes these stories have a resonance beyond their specific communities.

“The British South Asian story is also Britain’s story in a general sense, because it has impacted the way that Britain has changed in the post-war years. Britain was transitioning from an imperial identity to a post-imperial identity, and that coincided with rapid decolonisation.”

Following the tour, Inspirate hopes to take Where Is Home? into secondary schools.

Company Director Jiten says: “This is just the beginning of the journey. We are going to take this theme of decolonising across the country and start these conversations. This project comes with lived experience. Alnoor grew up in Uganda so lived that experience. Vimal and I grew up in a predominantly South Asian area of Leicester, one of the most diverse cities in the world, but still not knowing what our history was.

“We want to change that. We really want to inspire people to think about their culture differently and how important it is.”

.....

**Where is Home? shows at Wolverhampton Art Gallery until Sun 28 August and Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham from Fri 19 to Sun 21 August. For further information, visit: [where-is-home.org](http://where-is-home.org)**

# Bloom time

The spectacular finale to Birmingham 2022 Festival, PoliNations promises to be a pop-up garden festival like no other, with live music, dance, spoken word and drag shows all designed to celebrate the beauty, colour and diversity of British horticulture and culture. What's On spoke to the festival's creative director, Angie Bual, to find out more...



PoliNations is the sort of arts project you can't help but get enthused about. Set to transform Birmingham's Victoria Square into a 'super-natural' horticultural wonderland - 'an urban oasis for a celebration of the cross-pollination that has shaped British culture', no less - the 17-day festival features a wide range of free events, workshops and performances, many with identifiable links to the local community.

Among the highlights is an ambitious gardening project involving 1,000 people - from 60 diverse community groups across the city - who have all been growing marigolds in preparation for a mass planting. The planting kicks off the festival, while an array of music, dance, drag and cabaret artists are set to perform under giant trees and surrounded by thousands of colourful plants. It should certainly make for one of the most spectacular sites - and sights - the city has ever seen.

The event, part of Unboxed: Creativity In The UK, is helmed by Bristol-based arts organisation Trigger Collective, which has been working in collaboration with a number of local groups, organisations and venues, including Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Birmingham City University.

PoliNations' creative director, Angie Bual, says the festival takes its inspiration from the fundamental truth that the landscape and plant life that surrounds us is multicultural. More than 80 percent of plants in UK city gardens originate from overseas, she reveals, and PoliNations is a celebration of the colour and vibrancy that those plants and flowers have brought to the country.

The festival is also inspired by the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement that rose up in the wake of George Floyd's death and included the toppling of statues of people connected to the slave trade, such as Edward Colston.

"We're based in Bristol, so Colston's statue came down just down the road," Angie says. "As a woman of colour, I was thinking a lot about why people don't realise we're a multicultural Britain. I was reading on Twitter people saying 'if you don't like these statues, go home', which made me think of 'home' and how that phrase was created."

The green fingers she'd started to develop during lockdown also played a part.

"At the same time, I genuinely was really getting into gardening!"

That sowed the seed (sorry) for a major planting project, with Angie wondering how

and if a co-grown, co-sown horticultural artwork could be created.

"My first thought was that if everybody in the community planted a seed and grew something, it could come together to create something that was more than the sum of its parts.

"Then we brought in some ecologists, which was when we found out about the 80 percent statistic, although it's actually more like 95 percent of plants in British gardens that are non-native.

"It makes you realise that our whole landscape is multicultural. I've got a conker (horse chestnut) tree at the bottom of my garden that originally comes from Turkey, yet it looks like it belongs in the British landscape.

"Seed dispersal gently tells the story about migration/immigration without turning people off. I'm interested in mass audience and mass participation, and people from all walks of life enjoying something together and having a greater sense of common understanding of why we're all together."

Angie says the migration of plant species has happened for a variety of reasons, from "birds flying and pooing" to the actions of the British Empire in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Which brings us back to BLM and slave traders.

"At the same time as we were trafficking humans for slavery, we were trafficking botany. That's when we came up with greenhouses and brought in oranges and pineapples and all those exotic fruits. It's also when a lot of our seed dispersal happened.

"Places like Kew Gardens or the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, who we're working with, gathered the jewels in the crown of the British Empire in terms of botany. We're lifting the lid on all of that in a way, but the programme is more about celebrating diversity and the fact that diversity, colour, scent and vibrancy in your garden is a great metaphor for diversity in human life. After all, if we lived in a world where everybody was the same, it'd be pretty boring."

And our backyards would be boring too, she reveals.

"I asked one of our horticulture experts what it'd be like to have a British garden of just native plants, and she laughed and said it'd just be scrubland."

But as much as the root (sorry... again) of PoliNations is about embracing and

celebrating diversity, the free, non-ticketed event is also designed to be fun and welcoming to all people. Members of the public will be able to get their hands dirty on the opening 'Plant Up!' weekend, there'll be poetry and performances from the likes of Soweto Kinch and Jasmine Gardosi during the middle weekend (part of the BBC's Contains Strong Language poetry & spoken word festival), and there's a colourful four-day finale in the shape of the Ballistic Seed Party, a heady mix of Carnival, Mela and Holi.

The festival also features daily horticultural tours of the garden - conducted by experts from the Botanical Gardens - lunchtime talks "by novelists, ecologists and all sorts of people", a free workshop programme - one will even help you make your own carnival costume - and a sensory show that Angie recommends for youngsters and those with special educational needs.

As someone who enjoys a cuppa, she's especially excited about the Tuk Tuk Chaiwallah Performance, which uses "dance, music, tea and spices" to explore the UK South Asian diaspora and silk road Eurasian trade route.

"It's going to be really, really fun. It's been great to work with so many Birmingham-based people, like Jaivant Patel, who's creating a specific performance around our tea tuk-tuk, with costumes that have been made in collaboration with designers in Pakistan."

The cup of tea is another national institution (English Breakfast, anyone?) with roots overseas, and another illustration - like that conker tree - of how multiculturalism has become an implicit part of our society. It's something we should honour and enjoy, regardless of how it came about, according to Angie.

"We're all built on a difficult history, but the point is that we're all here today, so it's about what we do now and what we do next.

Whether you're white, black or whatever, there's no need to feel bad (about the past). We're now in a good position, and we should celebrate the very unique British identity that we have today - and Birmingham's the perfect place to do that."

**PoliNations takes place in Birmingham's Chamberlain Square and Victoria Square from Friday 2 to Sunday 18 September**

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)



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[SHREWSBURYFLOWERSHOW.ORG.UK](http://SHREWSBURYFLOWERSHOW.ORG.UK)



# Something for all...

The Shrewsbury Flower Show is one of the country's premier horticultural festivals, delivering a diverse programme of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. There are many reasons to visit this prestigious show this month - and here are just 12 of them...



**FLEURS DE VILLES FEMMES** features floral works of art inspired by remarkable women, including Audrey Hepburn.

In celebration of Her Majesty The Queen'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 is 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.

**BANDSTAND MUSIC** This well-liked element of the show features performances from the ever-popular Shropshire Rock Choir (Friday) and Of One Accord Choir (Saturday). Both provide a varied repertoire, from pop ballads to musical classics. Fans of military bands should check out The Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Combined Bands of the Mercian Regiment and The Yorkshire Regiment (playing both days).

**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.



**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).



**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.

**RAF FALCONS PARACHUTE DISPLAY TEAM** See the military parachute display team freefall from the sky at speeds of up to 120mph. And be amazed as the team demonstrate close proximity flying under canopy with a number of jaw-dropping manoeuvres.



**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.



**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.



**DAVID DOMONEY** Join the celebrity gardener and TV presenter as he shares his horticultural knowledge and offers hints and tips on how to make the most of your garden.

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



**KIDS PLAY** A dedicated children's area features a programme of events to keep younger visitors entertained on both days. Expect planting sessions, a giant inflatable obstacle course, a craft tent, face painting, circus skills and balloon modelling.



**GRAND FINALE FIREWORKS** A show highlight, the grand finale firework display has always been a fantastic sight to behold, and 2022 promises to be no exception. Enjoy the whizz, pop and bang of it all as the skies above Shrewsbury are illuminated with a theatrical display of vivid colour.

**Shrewsbury Flower Show takes place in the town's Quarry Park on Friday 12 & Saturday 13 August. For info and tickets, visit: [shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk](http://shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk)**

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FRI 18 & SAT 19

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## What's On recommends: Places to visit in the Midlands

## Severn Valley Railway

Kidderminster: Station Dr, Kidderminster, DY10 1QX  
 Bridgnorth: 2 Hollybush Rd, Bridgnorth, WV16 4AX  
 Website: [svr.co.uk](http://svr.co.uk)

Operating mainly steam-hauled passenger trains between Bridgnorth, Bewdley and Kidderminster, this much-loved railway transports visitors on a route of about 16 miles along the beautiful Severn Valley.

The journey includes a stop-off at the Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley, where passengers can check out massive locomotives, enjoy themed exhibitions of unique railway vehicles and meet Gordon the Blue Engine.

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

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

**THIS SUMMER:** Severn Valley Railway is hosting its very own Summer of Sport over the holiday (until Sunday 4 September). There's a variety of sports and team activities available to enjoy, from Tug of War to a Golf Putt Challenge, as well as traditional sports-day events... The Engine House at Highley hosts a Food & Drink Fayre on 20 & 21 August.



## Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

Utilita Arena Birmingham, King Edwards Road, Birmingham, B1 2AA  
 Website: [legolanddiscoverycentre.com/birmingham](http://legolanddiscoverycentre.com/birmingham)

Legoland Discovery Centre is a great place to share creative play time with your little ones.

The venue houses a city builder area, a duplo farm, two rides - Kingdom's Quest and Merlin's Apprentice Ride - and a 4D cinema. Perhaps the most impressive attraction at the centre is Lego Miniland. Built from more than 1.5 million Lego bricks, Miniland is a replica of Birmingham. The model includes Lego constructions of Bullring, the BT Tower, The Mailbox and the Library of Birmingham.

**PRICES:** £18.30 online off-peak, £22.95 online peak, adults and pre-schooler £12 (online only)

**THIS SUMMER:** Legoland Discovery Centre has had a pirate takeover, with plenty of swashbuckling activities taking place across the summer, including pirate ship building, pirate camp and a special scavenger hunt. Running until Sunday 4 September.

## National Sea Life Centre

The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL  
 Website: [visitsealife.com/birmingham](http://visitsealife.com/birmingham)

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

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

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

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

**THIS SUMMER:** Just like Legoland, National Sea Life Centre has been taken over by pirates. Attractions include a treasure hunt (running throughout the aquarium), photo opportunities with a real pirate, and the chance to join the captain himself at his colouring station. Running until Sunday 4 September.





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## What's On recommends: Places to visit in the Midlands

## The Bear Grylls Adventure

Birmingham International Railway Station,  
Exhibition Way, Marston Green, B40 1PA  
Website: [beargryllsadventure.com](http://beargryllsadventure.com)

Celebrity adventurer Bear Grylls has certainly pulled out all the stops with this popular visitor attraction.

Activities include high ropes, indoor archery, indoor climbing, escape rooms and a Royal Marines-inspired assault course.

For the 'more courageous' visitor, there's the opportunity to test their courage in the Fear Zone and with Shark Dive, the latter of which involves getting 'up close and personal' with black tip reef sharks and cownose rays.

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

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

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

**THIS SUMMER:** One of the attraction's blacktip reef sharks, Nova, has recently given birth to three pups. Keep an eye out for them in the main oceanarium!



## Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

Millennium Point, Curzon St, Birmingham B4 7XG  
Website: [birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank)

Located in Birmingham city centre, Thinktank offers a great day out for visitors of all ages.

From steam engines and talking robots through to gurgling guts and a chocolate wrapping machine, the venue has over 200 hands-on science & technology displays.

Highlights include MiniBrum - an interactive mini city for under-eights - a 4k planetarium and a science garden.

**PRICES:** Children aged 3 - 15 from £10.25. Adults from £14. Seniors from £12. Under 3's go FREE. Other offers and combi tickets available.

**THIS SUMMER:** On weekdays throughout the summer holidays, visitors can take part in the Great Robot Games, building their own Lego robot athlete or Duplo hockey player in the museum's Lego workshop. The interactive family show has been given a sporting makeover in honour of the Commonwealth Games, with visitors able to learn all about the part that science plays in sport.

## Black Country Living Museum

Tipton Rd, Dudley DY1 4SQ Website: [bclm.co.uk](http://bclm.co.uk)

Get stuck into some old-fashioned fun at the Black Country Living Museum this summer holiday. The award-winning venue boasts more than 30 period shops and houses to explore and features a host of famous characters to help bring the region's fascinating history to life. Visitors can participate in some deceptively simple old-school street games outside the back-to-backs and learn their ABCs backwards in an authentic Edwardian school lesson. Pay for one visit and the museum will give you a BCLM UnChained Annual Pass, valid for 12 months.

**PRICES:** Adults £19.95. Young people (3 - 15 years) & students £16.95. Over 65s £17.95. Other tickets available.

**THIS SUMMER:** The museum is hosting regular Maker's Club sessions on Tuesdays throughout the summer holidays, for children aged from eight to 15. Young Archaeologists & Curators Club, for those interested in living history, takes place on Wednesdays. Family workshops, including pottery and print making, are available to enjoy on Thursdays.





**thinktank**  
Birmingham science museum



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What's On recommends: Places to visit in the Midlands



**The Royal Air Force Museum Midlands**

Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP Website: rafmuseum.org.uk

Telling the story of aviation history and housing one of the largest collections of its kind in the UK, RAF Cosford is home to more than 70 historic aircraft displayed in three wartime hangars on an active airfield.

The museum boasts a variety of exhibitions and displays, one of which features a collection of British and German aircraft from the Battle of Britain era, including the world's oldest Spitfire. Virtual tours, hands-on fun'n'flight activities and dedicated conservation and exhibition areas further add to the venue's impressive offer.

**THIS SUMMER:** The museum hosts its first ever Battle of Britain Proms on 13 August, complete with plenty of music, food and fizz. Later in the month, on the 28th, the Spitfire Family Run returns, including a 1km 'dash' for youngsters to enjoy.

**Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park**

Warwickshire, CV35 9HZ Website: comptonverney.org.uk

Compton Verney is widely considered to be an art gallery of international standing. The Georgian house is set in more than 120 acres of Grade II listed classical parkland, which was created in the 18th century by eminent landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Although the original estate was split up and sold a century ago, the 'pleasure grounds' still clearly reflect the sweeping grassland, ornamental lakes and Cedars of Lebanon for which Brown is famous.

**PRICES:** Adults £18.70. Under 18s FREE

**THIS SUMMER:** Current exhibitions include Portraits From The National Portrait Gallery, Magnum Photos: Where Ideas Are Born - featuring images from the world-renowned Magnum photography agency - Morag Myerscough's colourful installations, David Batchelor: Colour Is, and Luke Jerram's sound installation, Crossings.



**West Midlands Police Museum**

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

The new West Midlands Police Museum opened its doors earlier this year and showcases more than 200 years of policing history. As well as bringing together an unrivalled collection of police artefacts, the museum also offers a range of hands-on activities, providing visitors with the opportunity to play the role of detective at a crime scene, examine evidence in a forensics lab, take their own police 'mugshot' and dress up in police uniforms from years gone by.

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

**Go Boat**

Brindleyplace, Birmingham Website: goboat.co.uk/birmingham

Situated alongside Birmingham's lively canalside development of Brindleyplace, GoBoat offers visitors the opportunity to see the city from an entirely new perspective.

People can choose between one, two or three-hour trips, enjoying a leisurely cruise and travelling at speeds of 4mph. The experience is both dog and child-friendly, with life jackets and buoyancy aids provided and no prior boating knowledge necessary. Staff give a full tutorial on land, before guests set sail and steer the boat.

**PRICES:** £95 for 1 hour, £135 for 2 hours and £175 for 3 hours.



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What's On recommends: Places to visit in the Midlands



**West Midland Safari & Leisure Park**

Spring Grove, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 1LF Website: [wmssp.co.uk](http://wmssp.co.uk)

West Midland Safari & Leisure Park offers a great opportunity to see wild animals roaming freely - and to do so from the safety of your own car! The 100-acre venue is home to a variety of exotic and unusual species, many of which you're sure to encounter during the course of the four-mile drive-through safari.

An adventure theme park - Land Of The Living Dinosaurs - and an Ice Age attraction also feature.

**PRICES:** Adults £25. Children (3 - 15) £20. Students and seniors £22.

**THIS SUMMER:** The park is hosting exclusive Safari Summer Clubs on selected dates, where children aged from eight to 13 can enjoy a fun and educational day at the Safari Academy.



**Lichfield Cathedral**

Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7LD Website: [lichfield-cathedral.org](http://lichfield-cathedral.org)

Lichfield Cathedral is one of the oldest places of Christian worship, the burial place of Anglo-Saxon missionary bishop St Chad, and the UK's only medieval three-spired cathedral.

As well as providing a daily offering of worship and prayer, the cathedral also hosts a range of events across the year, including concerts, festivals and gala dinners.

**THIS SUMMER:** Life's a beach in Lichfield, as the cathedral brings the seaside to the city for the summer!

A programme of events for all the family to enjoy is taking 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...

**Roundhouse Birmingham**

1 Sheepcote St, Birmingham, B16 8AE Website: [roundhousebirmingham.org.uk](http://roundhousebirmingham.org.uk)

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

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

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



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Events previews from around the region



**Battle of Britain Proms** The Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Sat 13 August

New for 2022, the RAF Museum has partnered up with Fizz Festivals for an event featuring music, food and some highly rated talent from across the country, supported by a selection of local acts. Hosted by BBC Radio Shropshire's Paul

Shuttleworth, the festival offers six hours of entertainment from a variety of solo performers and bands. A selection of Last Night of the Proms favourites ensures the day is brought to a suitably rousing conclusion.

**Shrewsbury Steam Rally**

Onslow Park, Shrewsbury, Sun 28 & Mon 29 August

Vintage and steam-powered engines, lorries and cars of all shapes and sizes descend on Onslow Park for this year's steam rally, with more than 1,000 exhibits available to view. Main Arena attractions include the Grand Parade of Steam Engines, which will be set to nostalgic music and poetry. Numerous trade stands - including a crafts & hobbies marquee - and an olde time fairground further add to the show's appeal.



**The Festival of Quilts**

NEC, Birmingham Thurs 18 - Sun 21 August



The biggest quilting show in Europe is back in Birmingham. The hugely popular event features gallery exhibitions from international artists and groups, 800-plus entries for this year's quilt competition, and the opportunity for quilters to get their hands on unique and hard-to-find supplies. The show also plays host to more than 400 workshops, masterclasses, demos, talks and lectures, in the process catering for everyone from complete beginners to expert quilters.

**Knights Tournament**

Kenilworth Castle, Sat 27 - Mon 29 August

Go back in time and get closer to the action as rival knights compete in the ultimate test of strength and skill at Kenilworth Castle's Knight's Tournament. Swords will clash and the winner will be decided in the Grand Melee finale. Visitors can also immerse themselves in medieval life in the encampment, where they can meet characters from the Middle Ages and find out about how people used to live hundreds of years ago.



**Vintage Transport Extravaganza**

Severn Valley Railway, Sat 6 & Sun 7 August

This two-day event brings together the best of vintage vehicles, including cars, tractors, traction engines, buses, motorbikes, steam locomotives and diesel engines. Start your journey at any of the Severn Valley Railway's stations and explore 'vehicles through the ages' whilst travelling on the train. Take a journey to the golden age of steam as you head along the line, discovering preserved stations, local towns and villages, and the breathtaking natural features of the Severn Valley. Visitors can also get 'up close and personal' with a variety of steam engines, some of which are more than a century old.





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# FUN AND GAMES

In celebration of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, a number of festival sites are popping up across the West Midlands to offer a 'front room' in which to watch the 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's a rundown on all the festival sites across the Midlands...

## BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

### Victoria Square Site

**Wed 27 July - Mon 8 August** This city centre location will showcase more than 150 of the region's best artists and musicians. The site will also host a series of special events, including watch parties for the opening and closing ceremonies, and a celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of Jamaican Independence.

### Smithfield Site

**Fri 29 July - Sun 7 August** The Smithfield site 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.

## 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.

### Castle Vale Festival Site

**Thurs 28 - Fri 29 July** Farnborough Fields

### Relaxed Festival Site

**Fri 29 - Sat 30 July** Sense Touchbase Pears, Selly Oak

### Sparkhill Festival Site

**Sat 30 - Sun 31 July** Sparkhill Park

### Edgbaston Festival Site

**Mon 1 - Tues 2 Aug** Edgbaston Reservoir

### Oaklands Festival Site

**Wed 3 - Thurs 4 Aug** Oaklands Recreation Ground, Yardley

### Handsworth Festival Site

**Fri 5 - Sat 6 Aug** Handsworth Park

### Ward End Festival Site

**Sun 7 - Mon 8 Aug** Ward End Park

## HOST SITES

Towns and cities across the West Midlands region and beyond will also host Festival Sites to celebrate the Games. Sites across the region include:

## WARWICKSHIRE

### Coventry Festival Site

**Thurs 28 July - Mon 8 Aug** Assembly Festival Garden, Coventry CV1 2LU

### Solihull Festival Site

**Fri 29 July - M Aug** Mell Square, Solihull, B91 3AY & Theatre Square, Touchwood Solihull, B91 3RG

### Leamington Spa Festival Site

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

### Warwick Festival Site

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

## WOLVERHAMPTON & BLACK COUNTRY

### Sandwell Festival Site

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

### Wolverhampton Festival Site

**Thurs 4 Aug** Market Square, Wolverhampton, WV3 0NL

### Dudley Festival Sites

**Mon 1 Aug** Huntingtree Park, Halesowen, B63 4HY

**Tues 2 Aug** Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley, WV14 9SZ

**Wed 3 Aug** Mary Stevens Park, Heath Lane, DY8 2AA

**Thurs 4 Aug** Stone Street Square, Dudley, DY1 1NJ

**Thurs 4 Aug** Vicar Street Gardens, Sedgley, DY3 3SD

**Fri 5 Aug** The Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill, DY5 4NE

**Sun 7 Aug** Stevens Park, Quarry Bank, DY5 2JU

## TAMWORTH

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

## SHROPSHIRE

### Telford Festival Site

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

For the latest information on Commonwealth Games Festival Sites, visit: [birmingham2022.com/festival/sites](http://birmingham2022.com/festival/sites)



# Floral Dance

**Levantes Dance Theatre are appearing at Shrewsbury Flower Show this summer. The fabulous troupe are best known for their eccentric outfits, aerial performances and elaborate props, all of which will be present and correct in their Quarry Park performance of High Tea (With A Twist). What's On caught up with the company's artistic director & founder, Eleni Edipidi, to find out more...**

**Can you tell us a little bit about the company and how you began, Eleni?**

We started in 2005. Myself and my friend, Bethanie Harrison, are dancers and we launched the company after my Masters at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance. We had help from our visual & multimedia director, Gopan Iyadurai, who is a visual artist. The core idea was to use dance and the visual to create a story. Bethanie has left to have her family now, but three years ago, we registered as a company, and we've since had the opportunity to grow and involve more people in the artistic process - people who are experts in their field.

**How would you describe the style of dance?**

I would call it dance theatre. We began to explore circus and aerial work a few years ago, and it's very physical. It's a marriage of dance and the physicalisation of characters. Our performances are based around a storyline. We really think about how these characters would walk and move and what quirky elements they would have. We use a lot of exaggeration to match our circus elements and the techniques we use, such as the aerial work.

**The performance you're presenting at Shrewsbury Flower Show is called High Tea (With A Twist). How did you come up with the idea?**

All our performances are usually 10-minute cabaret pockets - very visual and easy to travel around. But for High Tea, we've created a 20-minute show, with some crowd

interaction before and after.

The idea came after we saw a call-out from the Mayor of London and Battersea Arts Centre. They wanted to bring work and tourism back into London post-pandemic and to use outdoor art to celebrate British culture. We knew we had so much material, so we started doing some research and choreographing a piece.

We have some equipment - called a lollipop hoop - and the base has a ring on top which looks just like the top of a cake stand. So we thought, why not do a High Tea? Very British, very fun, and there's a bit of a love story at this tea party...

**How do you decide on the costumes and the visual elements?**

I've got my special notepad, and I always start by drawing. I decide the colours I want to use for the performance and then have a look in our wardrobes to see what we've got. We love to recycle and reuse - make something old into something new. For High Tea, I found some Bridesmaid dresses in a charity shop near Liverpool. We had a bit of a budget for this project, so we worked with an amazing costume designer called Abby Grewcock. She added a beautiful big skirt underneath the dresses to make them bigger and more eccentric. And then, for practicality, because we couldn't do the acrobatics on the ring in the dresses, she's designed this lovely little undergarment that we can get up on the hoops in. She's also printed a specific print for us, so everything connects - from the flowers in our sets to the headpieces on our heads. We've been very crafty with this one.

**You like to get the audience involved. Tell us how you do that?**

Audience participation depends on who's in our audience - not everyone wants to be approached but usually if there are little ones there, they love to get involved and we play with them before the performance begins. We like to use a lot of mime because there's no speech in the actual routine. We do this especially before the performance starts, as it helps to build up the characters we're portraying.

**How are rehearsals going so far?**

Good! We've performed High Tea a few times now, but as the performance at the flower show gets closer, we'll do a few more. We've got to make sure all our props are sorted - we had a problem with our umbrella from the last show, so we need to get that fixed.

**What are you most looking forward to about performing at Shrewsbury Flower Show?**

I've always wanted to perform at a flower show, but they're very hard to get into. When Shrewsbury approached us, I was thrilled. I used to work for a company called Everybody Dance, and we used to perform in Shrewsbury, so I'm excited to come back. I think that visually, our performance will fit in at the flower show so beautifully.

.....  
**Levantes Dance will perform at Shrewsbury Flower Show which takes place in the Quarry Park on Fri 12 & Sat 13 August**

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**Video**  
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# the list

Your week-  
by-week  
listings guide  
August 2022



Bugsy-Malone - until Sun 14 August

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

## What's On

Mon 1 - Sun 7 August



Sarah Millican at Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**Wed 3 - Fri 5 August**

Mon 8 - Sun 14 August



Jack Savoretti at Tamworth Castle

**Fri 12 August**

Mon 15 - Sun 21 August



Diljit Dosanjh plays Utilita Arena, Birmingham

**Sat 20 August**

Mon 22 - Wed 31 August



Horrible Histories: Terrible Tudors at Midlands Arts Centre

**Mon 29 August**

## THROUGHOUT AUGUST

### Visual Arts

#### Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

**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

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

#### 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

#### 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

#### Midlands Arts Centre (MAC)

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

**MADE AT MAC: THE ART OF PRINTMAKING** New artwork created by MAC's talented students and artist

tutors, who attended print-focused courses, until Sun 6 Nov

#### The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

**COMMONWEALTH CONNECTIONS** Join Ozzy Owl as he explores some of the Commonwealth countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Americas before visiting the Commonwealth Games, until Sun 11 Sept, The Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

#### Other VISUAL ARTS

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

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

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

**PEOPLE, PLACE AND SPORT** A collection of photographic portraits and recorded conversations with individuals who take part in everyday sports across the West Midlands, until Wed 31 Aug, Bournville Green, Birmingham Coach Station, Moseley Road Baths, St Pauls Square in the Jewellery Quarter, Haden Hill Leisure Centre, Hadley Stadium, Wednesbury Leisure Centre and West Bromwich Leisure Centre

**DÜRER: THE MAKING OF A RENAISSANCE MASTER** Featuring works from the Royal Collection, including one of only two paintings by Dürer in the UK, until Sun 25 Sept, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham

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



Levellers - hmv Empire, Coventry

### Gigs

**RORY MCLEOD** Mon 1 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham

**STEVE WICKHAM + JOE CHESTER** Tues 2 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, B'ham

**ZOE GILBY & ANDY CHAMPION** Tues 2 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**ELECTRIC MILK + MY-HI + SECOND CITIES + FERAL KINGS** Wed 3 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

**YNES + GOLD BABY** Thurs 4 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**KIM WOJIN** Thurs 4 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

**THE DREADNOUGHTS** Thurs 4 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**LIMEHOUSE LIZZY** Thurs 4 Aug, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**THE STRANGLERS + THE CHISEL** Thurs 4 Aug, KK Steel Mill, Wolverhampton



**THE AC30S** Fri 5 Aug, Hare & Hounds, King's Heath, Birmingham

**STRAIGHTEN OUT - THE STRANGLERS TRIBUTE** Fri 5 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**ELEVEN FIFTEEN + THE PITTSTOPS + PRIME BOYZ + THE TEALS + NERVE** Fri 5 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THE BLINDERS + STONE + DITZ + TV AM BAUDELAIRE + BULL + HEADSHRINKERS + PALE BLUE EYES + SNAYX** Fri 5 Aug, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**MORETALICA & SACK SABBATH** Fri 5 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

**CULTURE DUB ORCHESTRA** Fri 5 Aug, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

**LEVELLERS** Fri 5 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

**DEFINITELY MIGHTBE + ADORED** Fri 5 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

**THE JAGUARS** Fri 5 Aug, Civic, Stourport

**STIFF LITTLE FINGERS** Fri 5 Aug, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**ULTIMATE COLDPLAY** Fri 5 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**GO YOUR OWN WAY - THE FLEETWOOD MAC LEGACY** Fri 5 Aug, Lichfield Garrick

**THE VERTIGO BAND** Fri 5 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**KRACK ON DAFT** Fri 5 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**LIL' JIMMY REED WITH BOB HALL AND HILARY BLYTHE** Fri 5 Aug, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

**FEET + W.H. LUNG + KIT SEBASTIAN + HEAVY LUNGS + TTRRUUCES +**

**THE RILLS + BOLLARDS + HOME COUNTIES + JAPANESE TELEVISION + PANIC SHACK + MANDRAKE HANDSHAKE AND MORE** Sat 6 Aug, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**STIFF LITTLE FINGERS** Sat 6 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

**27 PARTY!** Sat 6 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**IDLEWILD** Sat 6 Aug, Stourbridge Town Hall

**BRINGBACKSUMMER** Sat 6 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**DRESSED TO KILL - KISS TRIBUTE + THE SUICIDE NOTES** Sat 6 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

**THE ELVIS EXPERIENCE** Sat 6 Aug, Civic, Stourport

**FAT LIP** Sat 6 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**RUFFNECKS** Sat 6 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**BREAK THE RECORD** Sat 6 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**DENIS COLEMAN** Sun 7 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**PIP BLOOM + PORIJ + CHAPPAQUA WRESTLING + JOHN + OPUS KINK + WOOZE + THE BYKER GROVE FAN CLUB + CHEAP TEETH + DEADLETTER + EADES + GRANDMAS HOUSE AND MORE** Sun 7 Aug, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**FOREIGNER'S JOURNEY** Sun 7 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

## Classical Music

**CBSO: HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN WILLIAMS!** Featuring Stephen Bell (conductor), Tommy Pearson (presenter) and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Tues 2 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**THE NSGSO & NSGCB PRESENT: AN EVENING BY THE SEA** Programme includes Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade & Handel's Royal Fireworks Music, Fri 5 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

**ORGAN RECITAL WITH SEAN MONTGOMERY** Sat 6 Aug, Shrewsbury Abbey

**THE NATIONAL SCOUT AND GUIDE CONCERT BAND** Featuring the Symphony Orchestra and guests, Sat 6 Aug, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**ORGAN RECITAL WITH JONATHAN HOPE** Sat 6 Aug, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

## Comedy

**SARAH MILLICAN** Wed 3 - Fri 5 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



**PAUL FREEMAN - BLACK COUNTRY BOY, OUR TRACE** Thurs 4 Aug, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourport

**SEAN COLLINS & MIKE GUNN** Thurs 4 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

**TOM TAYLOR, FREDDIE FARRELL, KAREN BAYLEY & COMIC TBC** Sat 6 Aug, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

**GARY DELANEY** Sat 6 Aug, Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent

## Theatre

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



**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

**THE GAY TRAIN** Dark comedy by Birmingham-based LGBT writers Ray Stafford and Andrew Lake, Mon 1 Aug, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**THE CHER SHOW** Brand-new musical in which three actors - Millie O'Connell, Danielle Steers and Debbie Kurup - tell the story of Cher's meteoric rise to fame, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

**SHREK THE MUSICAL** Amateur staging presented by Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Society Youth Section, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**DOUBLE-BILL: STATUS UPDATE & EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION** Presented by Stage 2, Wed 3 - Fri 5 Aug, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**BATTLE OF THE BIG TOP** Arts Insight Youth Theatre present a story that celebrates differences and co-existing in harmony, Wed 3 - Sun 7 Aug, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

**THE WIZARD OF OZ PANTOMIME** Take a trip down the Yellow Brick Road, with X-Factor favourite Trey Cohen as the Good Witch and CBBC legend Dave Benson Phillips as the Wizard of Oz, Sun 7 - Thurs 11 Aug, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Outdoor Theatre

**AS YOU LIKE IT** Outdoor staging by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, Tues 2 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

**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, Wed 3 Aug, Brueton Park, Solihull

**THE RECRUITING OFFICER** Rain Or Shine Theatre present George Farquhar's bawdy restoration comedy, Wed 3 Aug, Honeybourne Village Hall, Evesham

**HAVANA RUMBA** The story of the black music of Cuba - from the thrilling rhythms of African ancestors to the infectious funk music played on the streets today, Wed 3 - Mon 29 Aug, Assembly Festival Gardens, Coventry

**THE GUNPOWDER PLOT** The Three Inch Fools promise an 'explosive' evening of short fuses and tall tales, as five actors try to pull off the most infamous conspiracy in history, Thurs 4 Aug, The Ruins, Coventry Cathedral

**THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT AND BENJAMIN BUNNY** Quantum Theatre



Richard III - Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

present a new adaptation of two of Beatrix Potter's best-loved tales, Thurs 4 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

**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, Thurs 4 Aug, Bosworth Battlefield, Nuneaton

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**THE GUNPOWDER PLOT** The Three Inch Fools promise an 'explosive' evening of short fuses and tall tales, as five actors try to pull off the most infamous conspiracy in history, Sat 6 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** The Pantaloons tell the tale of Mole, Ratty, Toad and Badger as they embark on a wild adventure filled with motorcar madness, wicked weasels, exciting escapes and plenty of messing about in boats, Sat 6 Aug, Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire

**MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING** Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's tale of love, deception and misunderstanding, Sun 7 Aug, Bewdley Museum

## Kids Shows

**SARAH & DUCK'S BIG TOP** Join Sarah and her best friend, Duck, as they

present the ultimate circus soiree to help Scarf Lady celebrate her birthday, Tues 2 - Wed 3 Aug, Stourbridge Town Hall

**CRUMBLE BY THE SEA** Theatre for younger audiences which centres around a baking competition to create the biggest pastry to fill the belly of the King of Crumble-by-the-Sea, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Aug, Malvern Theatres

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE LIVE: SCIENCE SAVED THE WORLD** Educational show for children featuring exploding oxygen and hydrogen balloons, fire tornados, ignited methane and 20ft liquid nitrogen clouds, Wed 3 Aug, The Place, Telford, Shropshire

## Dance

**INTO THE SPOTLIGHT / GENESIS DANCE PROJECT** New English Ballet present a programme of new work including Ruth Brill's Domino - a playful search for compatibility in a game of human dominoes, Wed 3 - Thurs 4 Aug, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Festivals

**ROCK THE PARK WREXHAM** Line-up includes Scooter, Darren Styles, Hi-On Maiden & Simulation Muse, Fri 5 - Sun 7 Aug, Borrass Hall Lane, Wrexham

## Events

**FLYING POTTER** Try your hand at pottery with Eastnor's own Flying Potter, until Thurs 4 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

**THE BEACH AT YOUR CATHEDRAL** Visit a beach 100 miles from the sea and check out an exciting programme of events for all the family, until Wed 31 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral



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**ALL AT SEA SUMMER** The year is 1588, Elizabeth I is on the throne of England and the Spanish Armada is preparing to attack. Can you help prepare the navy for the challenge ahead? until Sat 3 Sept, Tudor World Museum, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS: CRAFTING COVENTRY'S CULTURE** An exploration of culture through creative arts and immersive experiences, until Sat 3 Sept, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**COME OUT AND PLAY AT COMER WOODS** Visit Comer Woods throughout the summer holidays to join in with fun outdoor games and activities, until Sun 4 Sept, Comer Woods, Heath Meadow, Shropshire

**BIGGEST SUMMER IN HISTORY** Over 1000 years in the making, Warwick Castle brings you the Biggest Summer in History, until Sun 4 Sept, Warwick Castle

**RETURN OF THE DINOSAURS** Step back into prehistoric times when dinosaurs ruled the earth, until Sun 4 Sept, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

**LET'S PLAY AT ATTINGHAM** Head to Attingham's Field of Play for a special summer Pavilion of Play, created by Wild Rumpus, until Sun 4 Sept, Attingham Park, Shropshire

**VICTORIAN ANIMAL TRAILS** Trails, talks & activities take place across all of the museums, featuring Ironbridge's many connections with animals, from cats to elephants, until Sun 4 Sept, Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Shropshire

**LUKE JERRAM: CROSSINGS** Row out onto the lake at Compton Verney whilst listening to some incredible stories from around the world in this new sound installation artwork, until Sun 4 Sept, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

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

**LEGO PIRATES** Jump onboard for a swashbuckling pirate party, until Sun 4 Sept, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

**PIRATE TREASURE HUNT** Navigate the high seas on a swashbuckling treasure hunt through the aquarium, until Sun 4 Sept, National SEA LIFE Centre, Birmingham

**FARMARAMA** Navigate the maize maze, enjoy live shows, join the foam party 'and much, much more', until Mon 5 Sept, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

**MYSTICAL QUEST FAMILY TRAIL** Search for wise wizards and magical magicians but look out for dragons... Are you fearless enough to lead your party on this quest? until Sun 17

Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

**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

**ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, SHOW! - THE GREAT THINKTANK GAMES** Inspired by big sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games, this family show is a lively and interactive way to learn about the science of sport, Mon 1 - Fri 5 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**SPY SCHOOL** Week-long immersive theatre adventure in which young people take over the role of spies to complete training, discover clues and uncover mysteries, Mon 1 - Fri 5 Aug, The Rep, Birmingham

**DRAWBOTS LEGO STUDIO TAKEOVER** Try your hand at building an award-winning robot athlete or enthusiastic robot mascot, Mon 1 - Fri 5 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**SCIENCE BUSKING - THE GREAT THINKTANK GAMES** Take on the Thinktank Games with a series of science-based challenges, Mon 1 - Fri 5 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**JITTER CRITTERS** Make a cardboard animal creation, then bring it to life by adding a simple circuit, Mon 1 - Sun 7 Aug, Ingenuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**GAZEBO WOLVERHAMPTON SUMMER FUN** Exciting activities on offer across the city during the summer holidays, Mon 1 Aug - Fri 2 Sept, Newhampton Arts Centre, Trinity Church & Heath Town Park, Wolverhampton

**ART & FILM SUMMER FUN DAYS** Featuring workshops, activities and games, rounded off with a film in the theatre. Sessions run from 11am to 4pm, Tues 2 Aug, The Core, Solihull

**COMMUNITY TAPESTRY SEWING CIRCLE: ALLEGORY OF WAR** Join participants from Adeela Suleman's Community Tapestry project for an informal monthly sewing circle. Take along your own embroidery projects or start something new inspired by the exhibition, Tues 2 Aug, MAC (Midlands Arts Centre) Birmingham

**TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS** Create your own unique tile using the traditional process of tube-lining, Tues 2 - Thurs 4 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**MINIBEASTS LEGO WORKSHOP** Fun and engaging themed lego workshops with the 'Create Build Learn' team, Wed 3 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

**GARDEN NATURE TRAIL AT BLAKESLEY HALL** Explore the garden at Blakesley Hall on this brand-new Nature Trail for the summer holidays, Wed 3 - Sun



Pirate Treasure Hunts - National SEA LIFE Centre & Legoland Discovery Centre

7 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**WOODLAND TRIBE** Get hands-on and use real tools to build a large wooden structure on site, Wed 3 - Sun 7 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**EXPLORE BLAKESLEY** A chance to explore Blakesley Hall and its beautiful gardens, Wed 3 - Sun 7 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**FOSSILS IN THE GEOPARK** Explore the geology in the cathedral, Wed 3 - Tues 30 Aug, Worcester Cathedral

**TALL TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD: THE MAGIC BED** An interactive telling of a fairytale from India about a young prince who uses a magic bed to travel to faraway kingdoms, Thurs 4 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**COLOURSCAPE** An immersive and sensory experience bursting with colour and sound, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**SHROPSHIRE PETAL FIELDS** Chance to enjoy a myriad of bright pink, blue, purple, yellow and white flowers, Fri 5 - Sun 14 Aug, Shropshire Petal Fields, Newport

**EXPLORE SAREHOLE MILL** Enjoy the sights and sounds of a traditional 18th-century water mill at your own pace, Sat 6 Aug, Sarehole Mill,

Birmingham

**JAMAICA 0121** Festival celebrating 60 years of Jamaican independence, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**THE LABYRINTH CHALLENGE** The UK's largest, continuous inflatable obstacle course, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Aug, Tamworth Castle

**VINTAGE TRANSPORT EXTRAVAGANZA** Bringing together the best of vintage vehicles throughout the ages for one bumper weekend across the full length of the line, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

**VICTORIAN DOG SHOW** Take along your pooch to take part in this fun daily dog show, Sat 6 - Sun 14 Aug, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**ORIGINS OF MIDDLE-EARTH: JRR TOLKIEN AND SAREHOLE GUIDED WALK** A guided walk introducing the scenery that inspired JRR Tolkien, Sun 7 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR** Explore Weston's usually out-of-bounds places, Sun 7 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire



Vintage Transport Extravaganza - Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster



Jack Savoretti - Tamworth Castle

## Gigs

**UADA + PANZERFAUST** Mon 8 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham  
**COMBICHRIST** Wed 10 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham  
**SYLOSIS + ORBIT CULTURE + HERIOT + SPIRITWORLD + ROUGH JUSTICE + ALL HAIL THE YETI + CAULDRON + THROWN INTO EXILE** Wed 10 Aug, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham  
**DAMIAN "JR. GONG"** MARLEY Thurs 11 Aug, O2 Academy, B'ham  
**MATTHEWS BAARTMANS CONSPIRACY** Thurs 11 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**KENNY SPEIRS** Thurs 11 Aug, Bromsgrove Folk Club  
**ANGEL** Thurs 11 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE SNAKE DAVIS TRIO** Fri 12 Aug, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham  
**HOMEcoming + BETTER LUCK + NORTH OF PARADISE + JAKE LINDSAY** Fri 12 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton  
**STIPE - REM TRIBUTE** Fri

12 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**JOHNNY 2 BAD** Fri 12 Aug, The Robin, Bilston  
**LARS FREDERIKSEN** Fri 12 Aug, KK Steel Mill, Wolverhampton  
**THE ABSOLUTE STONE ROSES** Fri 12 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent  
**JACK SAVORETTI + MELANIE C** Fri 12 Aug, Tamworth Castle  
**DOMINO SUGAR** Fri 12 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury  
**THE TRANSPORTERS** Fri 12 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford  
**THIS IS TMRW SUMMER ALL DAYER WITH: SUNSHINE FRISBEE + LASERBEAM + EXHALER + JACKIE + COUGARS + THE DEVIL AND ST JOSEPH + TREMORSZ** Sat 13 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**BURNING SPEAR** Sat 13 Aug, Forum, B'ham  
**MADI SASKIA** Sat 13 Aug, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham  
**WHITEFAKE** Sat 13 Aug, Arches Venue, Coventry  
**HITS OF MOTOWN** Sat 13 Aug, The Robin,

Bilston  
**THE MADCHESTER EXPERIENCE** Sat 13 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent  
**58S BLUES BAND** Sat 13 Aug, The Bandstand, Tamworth Castle  
**BELINDA CARLISLE + HOWARD JONES + THOMPSON TWINS' TOM BAILEY + BONEY M + THE FIZZ + TOYAH + KATRINA OF THE WAVES** Sat 13 Aug, Tamworth Castle  
**BLACK HEART ANGELS** Sat 13 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury  
**FELIX SOUL + THE DROOGS** Sat 13 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford  
**THE SLAMBOVIAN CIRCUS OF DREAMS** Sun 14 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ROCKETMAN - ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE** Sun 14 Aug, Fletchers Bar, Birmingham  
**THE BOUCHARD BROTHERS** Sun 14 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton  
**ERIC MARTIN WITH DAVID COTTERILL** Sun 14 Aug, Arches Venue, Coventry

## Classical Music

**QUEEN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL CHOIR** Programme includes works by Howells, Stanford & Taverner, Thurs 11 Aug, Great Malvern Priory

## Comedy

**JOE LYCETT + FRIENDS** Tues 9 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**SARAH CALLAGHAN (PICTURED), MATT BRAGG, STEVE WILLIAMS & KEITH FARNAN** Fri 12 - Sat 13 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham



**SEAN PERCIVAL, STEPHANIE LAING, DAVE LONGLEY & COMIC TBC** Sat 13 Aug, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

## Theatre

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST** Malvern Theatres Young Company present an amateur staging of Oscar Wilde's 'biting satire', Tues 9 - Fri 12 Aug, Malvern Theatres  
**LES MISERABLES** Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed production of Boublil and Schönberg's iconic musical, Tues 9 - Sat 27 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**IRELAND THE SHOW** Showcase of music, dance and comedy from the Emerald Isle, Thurs 11 Aug, The Place, Telford, Shropshire  
**ANTICS FAMILY THEATRE FESTIVAL** Full day of theatre shows, comedy and puppetry from the likes of Talking Birds, The Fabularium, Rhubarb Theatre & Circus Berzercus. Dreadlock Alien comperes, Sun 14 Aug, New Horizons Stage, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

Pantaloons present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's comedy of masks, music and mistaken identity, Fri 12 Aug, Stowe Fields, Lichfield  
**THE RECRUITING OFFICER** Rain Or Shine Theatre present George Farquhar's bawdy restoration comedy, Fri 12 Aug, Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley, Bridgnorth

**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 13 Aug, Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire  
**JANE EYRE** Heartbreak Productions' adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel follows the Victorian heroine as she faces her many ordeals, aided by 'astounding acrobats and jaw-dropping jugglers', Sat 13 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND** Folksy Theatre venture down the rabbit hole with an outdoor staging of Lewis Carroll's much-loved tale, Sat 13 Aug, Biddulph Grange Gardens, Biddulph, Staffordshire

**TWELFTH NIGHT: THE ACOUSTIC SESSIONS** Savvy Theatre Company present a lively adaptation of Shakespeare's play involving live music throughout, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE RECRUITING OFFICER** Rain Or Shine Theatre present George Farquhar's bawdy restoration comedy, Sat 13 Aug, Witley Court, Great Witley, Worcestershire

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** The Pantaloons present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's comedy of masks, music and mistaken identity, Sun 14 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

## Kids Shows

**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, Sun 14 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

## Festivals

**BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR** Line-up includes Behemoth, Mercyful Fate, Lamb Of God & Dimmu Borgir, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 Aug, Catton Hall, Derbyshire

**FARMER PHIL'S FESTIVAL** Line-up includes My Baby, Bad Manners & Clearwater Creedence Revival, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 Aug, Near Gatten Farm, Ratlinghope, Shropshire



Combichrist - O2 Institute, Birmingham

## Events

**ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, SHOW! - THE GREAT THINKTANK GAMES** Inspired by big sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games, this family show is a lively and interactive way to learn about the science of sport, Mon 8 - Fri 12 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**DRAWBOTS LEGO STUDIO TAKEOVER** Try your hand at building an award-winning robot athlete or enthusiastic robot mascot, Mon 8 - Fri 12 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**SCIENCE BUSKING - THE GREAT THINKTANK GAMES** Take on the Thinktank Games with a series of science-based challenges, Mon 8 - Fri 12 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**PLAYFUL ANIMAL PUPPETS** Make a playful puppet that celebrates the animals of the Ironbridge Valley of Invention, Mon 8 - Mon 22 Aug, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**GAYDON GATHERING** Motoring enthusiasts and all sorts of vehicles gather in this monthly meet-up, Tues 9 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire



**KIDS JEWELLERY WORKSHOP** Have a go at making your own piece of jewellery, Tues 9 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**MIC LAB - MODEL OF A NEW COVENTRY** Build a model of Coventry from a variety of resources, Tues 9 - Wed 10 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

**NATURE EXPLORERS: AQUATIC LIFE** Join the Learning Officer in exploring the natural world on your doorstep, Wed 10 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**TALL TALES: GOLDBLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS** Interactive storytelling, Wed 10 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**MAC MAKES MUSIC: COME AND SING - DOWN IN THE JUNGLE** Suitable for families and young people up to the age of 25. All abilities are welcome, including young people who use non-verbal communication, Wed 10 Aug, MAC (Midlands Arts Centre) Birmingham

**GARDEN NATURE TRAIL AT BLAKESLEY HALL** Explore the garden at Blakesley Hall on this brand-new trail, Wed 10 - Sun 14 Aug, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

**WOODLAND TRIBE** Get hands-on and

use real tools to build a large wooden structure on site, Wed 10 - Sun 14 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**EXPLORE BLAKESLEY** A chance to explore Blakesley Hall and its beautiful gardens, Wed 10 - Sun 14 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**TALL TALES: BEAUTY AND THE BEST STORYTELLING TOUR** Interactive telling, Thurs 11 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**FAMILY WORKSHOP - PRINT MAKING** Learn about print making and have a go at producing your very own printing plate, Thurs 11 Aug, The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**MAC MAKES MUSIC: THE OPEN MIC SHOW AT MAC** All abilities welcome, with performers supported by music leaders and open-mic hosts Dan Whitehouse and Liz Birch, Fri 12 Aug, MAC (Midlands Arts Centre) Birmingham

**DRAGON SLAYER** England's greatest lost legend comes to life in 'an epic night-time spectacular', Fri 12 - Sat 13 Aug, Warwick Castle

**SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW** One of the country's premier flower show events, attracting top exhibitors from all over the country, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Aug, Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

**BATTLE OF BRITAIN PROMS 2022** Enjoy a colourful mixture of musical entertainment and celebrate the summer in a unique outdoor setting with a backdrop of aircraft and historic hangars, Sat 13 Aug, Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford

**SUMMER FESTIVAL FAYRE** A selection of stalls to browse within the cathedral, Sat 13 Aug, Worcester Cathedral

**THEATRE TOUR** Find out more about the Old Rep theatre, which has played a central role in the early careers of many of the UK's most celebrated actors and theatre makers, Sat 13 Aug, Old Rep, B'ham

**NORTH BIRMINGHAM ALLIANCE: CARIBBEAN FLORA** Family-focused event featuring crafting and dance workshops, culminating with a carnival procession in Cannon Hill Park, Sat 13 Aug, MAC (Midlands Arts Centre) Birmingham

**WORCESTER FESTIVAL 2022** Twentieth anniversary celebrations, with free events across the city, Sat 13 - Mon 29 Aug, Worcester Cathedral

**ORIGINS OF MIDDLE-EARTH: JRR TOLKIEN AND SAREHOLE GUIDED WALK** A guided walk introducing the scenery that inspired JRR Tolkien, Sun 14 Aug, Sarehole Mill, B'ham

**EYE MUSIC TRUST: COLOURSCAPE** A walk-in labyrinth of intense colour and light which opens up in every direction. The colours radiate as you make your way through 25 interlinked chambers, including a large silver



Music Of The Spheres - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

dome filled with musicians and dancers, Sun 14 Aug, MAC (Midlands Arts Centre) Birmingham

**EYE MUSIC TRUST: MUSIC OF THE SPHERES** A spectacular show featuring an aerial dancer spinning and spiralling as she performs within a huge transparent sphere, Sun 14 Aug, MAC (Midlands Arts Centre) Birmingham

**999 EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW** Experience emergency vehicles

through the decades, Sun 14 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

**ANTICS FAMILY THEATRE FESTIVAL** Full day of theatre shows and workshops under canvas, Sun 14 Aug, New Horizons Stage, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR** Explore Weston's usually out-of-bounds places, Sun 14 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire

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Flogging Molly - O2 Institute, Birmingham

## Gigs

**FIDDLEHEAD + MILITARIE GUN** Tues 16 Aug, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

**ERIC MARTIN WITH DAVID COTTERILL + ELECTUS + THE PARKER MY HORIZON** Tues 16 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

**IDLEWORK.** Wed 17 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**WITCH** Wed 17 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**FLOGGING MOLLY + FEROCIOUS DOG + RUSSKAJA** Wed 17 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

**GASOLINE & MATCHES + ALYSSA BONAGURA + KENNY FOSTER + ARBOR NORTH & JESSIE G** Wed 17 Aug, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**JASON ALLAN + BRAD RYAN** Thurs 18 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**CIVIL WRONGS** Thurs 18 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

**HANNAH BROWN WITH BAND + ROB PETERS AND THE SLAPDASH COWBOYS** Thurs 18 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**LAURA CORTESE & THE DANCE CARDS** Thurs 18 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

**ANGEL + DAYLIGHT ROBBERY** Thurs 18 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

**BOUCHARD BROTHERS** Thurs 18 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**LIL MIX TRIBUTE** Thurs 18 Aug, Factory Floor @ the QUARTER, Stoke-on-Trent

**THEO MIZÚ & BANDA** Fri 19 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** Fri 19 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**TIME OF THE MOUTH** Fri 19 Aug, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**ABSOLUTE BOWIE** Fri 19 Aug, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**BEAUTIFUL TRAUMA - PINK TRIBUTE** Fri 19 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**CHRIS BEVINGTON ORGANISATION** Fri 19 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE GTS** Fri 19 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**SKABURST** Fri 19 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**HONEYTALKS + THUNDER AND THE GIANTS + HOMECOMING** Fri 19 Aug, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**RED LEMONS** Fri 19 - Sat 20 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

**BLUES CLUB** Sat 20 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS** Sat 20 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**QUEEN VS FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE CONCERT** Sat 20 Aug, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**DEAD SHEERAN + DUCK THIEVES + SEPTIC & THE** Sat 20 Aug, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

**TANKS** Sat 20 Aug, The DRESSED TO KILL - KISS TRIBUTE + ELECTRIC CIRCUE - W.A.S.P. TRIBUTE Sat 20 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**LABOUR OF LOVE - UB40 TRIBUTE** Sat 20 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**DILJIT DOSANJH** Sat 20 Aug, Utilita Arena, Birmingham



**T.REXTASY** Sat 20 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

**ELECTROMANTICS** Sat 20 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE CHEATLES - THE BEATLES TRIBUTE** Sat 20 Aug, Factory Floor @ the QUARTER, Stoke-on-Trent

**MADLADS** Sat 20 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**RADIO RUMOURS** Sat 20 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**LLOYD WADE + SNOWFLAKE GENERATION + MEG CHANDLER** Sat 20 Aug, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

## Classical Music

**QUEEN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL CHOIR** Programme includes works by Howells, Stanford & Taverner, Thurs 11 Aug, Great Malvern Priory

**HANLEY ORGAN FESTIVAL** Featuring Donald Mackenzie (Odeon Leicester Sq London), Fri 19 Aug, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**HANLEY ORGAN FESTIVAL** Featuring Gert van Hoef (The Netherlands), Sat 20 Aug, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**ORGAN RECITAL WITH TOM EDWARDS** Sat 20 Aug, Shrewsbury Abbey

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL ON STAGE!** Amateur staging presented by Grande Royal Academy, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 Aug, The Roses, Tewkesbury

**RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET** Stafford Gatehouse Youth Theatre present an amateur version of Bob Carlton's sci-fi jukebox musical, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Aug, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**COUNTING AND CRACKING** A cast of 19 performers follow the journey of one Sri Lankan Australian family over four generations, from 1956 to 2004, Fri 19 - Sat 27 Aug, The Rep, Birmingham

**THE SYSTEM** Sweet Sorrow Theatre Company presents a staged reading of a poignant new play by Edward Loboda, Sat 20 Aug, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Comedy

**PETE OTWAY, MATT REED, KATE LUCAS & MICHAEL ODEWALE** Fri 19 - Sat 20 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ANDREW BIRD (PICTURED), LEROY BRITO, CALLUM OAKLEY & TOM TOAL** Sat 20 Aug, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham



**DALISO CHAPONDA, WILSON MILTON, TONY BURGESS & DAMION LARKIN** Sat 20 Aug, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

## Theatre

**5 LESBIANS EATING A QUICHE** 'A tasty recipe of hysterical laughs, sexual innuendoes, unsuccessful repressions and delicious discoveries', Wed 17 - Sat 20 Aug, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



**MATILDA THE MUSICAL JR.** The Coach House Theatre present an amateur staging of Tim Minchin & Dennis Kelly's award-winning musical, Thurs 18 - Fri 19 Aug, Malvern Theatres

**BRING IT ON!** Wing-It Theatre present an amateur staging of the popular musical, which shines a light on competitive cheerleading, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 Aug, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

## Outdoor Theatre

**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, Tues 16 Aug, Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens, Birmingham

**PETER PAN** Illyria present an outdoor staging of JM Barrie's fantastical tale, Tues 16 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

**AS YOU LIKE IT** Outdoor staging by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, Tues 16 Aug, Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL** New production in which director Blanche McIntyre explores the modern resonance of Shakespeare's dark comedy, Tues 16 Aug - Sat 8 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**CINDERELLA** Chapterhouse Theatre present an outdoor show in which magical creatures and fairy godmothers come together to tell one of the most popular fairytales of all time, Wed 17 Aug, Erdigg Hall, Nr Wrexham

**JANE EYRE** Heartbreak Productions' adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel follows the Victorian heroine as she faces her many ordeals, aided by 'astounding acrobats and jaw-dropping jugglers', Thurs 18 Aug, Warley Woods, Smethwick

**THE RECRUITING OFFICER** Rain Or Shine Theatre present George Farquhar's bawdy restoration comedy, Fri 19 Aug, Wenlock Priory, Shropshire

**TO THE STREETS!** An uplifting new concert musical, inspired by the



Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Aug, Handsworth Park, Birmingham

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND** Folksy Theatre venture down the rabbit hole with an outdoor adaptation of Lewis Carroll's much-loved tale, Sat 20 Aug, The Dorothy Clive Garden, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE** Illyria present an outdoor version of Gilbert & Sullivan's satirical libretto. Memorable songs include Modern Major General and A Policeman's Lot Is Not A Happy One, Sat 20 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

**AS YOU LIKE IT** Outdoor show by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, Sat 20 Aug, Haden Hill House, Cradley Heath

**ROMEO AND JULIET RELOADED** Shakespeare Reloaded present a punchy, upbeat reimagining of Shakespeare's original text, set in West Berlin in the 1980s, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

**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 21 Aug, Kingsbury Water Park, Sutton Coldfield

## Kids Shows

**DINOSAUR ADVENTURE LIVE** Family show where audiences can come face-to-face with life-like dinosaurs and hear the tremendous roar of a T-Rex, Tues 16 Aug, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Light Entertainment

**PSYCHOLOGY OF SERIAL KILLERS** Join expert forensics lecturer Jennifer Rees to explore one of Forensic Psychology's most troubling topics, Tues 16 & Wed 17 Aug, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

## Festivals

**CAMP BESTIVAL** The six-time winner of the UK Festival Awards Best Family Festival makes its Shropshire debut. Line-up includes Rag'n'Bone Man, Becky Hill, Fatboy Slim, Example & Self Esteem, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 August, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**JUST SO FESTIVAL** An imaginative outdoor festival for children and their families. Line-up includes Electric Swing Circus, K.O.G and The Zongo Brigade, The String Beans & Sound

Of The Sirens, Fri 19 - Sun 21 Aug, Rode Hall Parkland, Cheshire

**OLD BUSH BLUES FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Tom Waters, Dan Burnett & Gerry Joblanski, Fri 19 - Sun 21 Aug, The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

## Events

**ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, SHOW! - THE GREAT THINKTANK GAMES** Inspired by big sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games, this family show is a lively and interactive way to learn about the science of sport, Mon 15 - Fri 19 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**JITTER CRITTERS** Make a cardboard animal creation, then bring it to life by adding a simple circuit, Mon 15 - Sun 21 Aug, Enigunity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**DRAGON SLAYER** England's greatest lost legend comes to life in 'an epic night-time spectacular', Mon 15 - Sun 21 Aug, Warwick Castle

**MIC LAB - STOP-MOTION ANIMATION** Create a stop-motion animation in a workshop led by Let's Animate, Tues 16 - Wed 17 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

**TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS** Create your own unique tile using the traditional process of tube-lining, Tues 16 - Thurs 18 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**LEGO CITY WORKSHOP** Themed Lego workshops with the Create Build Learn team, Wed 17 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

**EXPLORE BLAKESLEY** A chance to explore Blakesley Hall and its beautiful gardens, Wed 17 - Sun 21 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**TUDOR FAMILY EXPERIENCE DAYS** Get a taste of life in Shakespeare's time with specially curated Tudor-experience days, Wed 17 - Wed 31 Aug, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

**KITES AND KNIGHTS** Let your imagination take flight by designing your very own kite and shield, Thurs 18 Aug, Worcester Cathedral

**TALL TALES: SLEEPING BEAUTY STORYTELLING TOUR** Interactive telling, Thurs 18 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS** A four-day celebration of patchwork and quilting, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

**PENGUINO & FRIENDS PRESENT UHCW CHARITY FEST** Family day out featuring live music, gourmet food trucks and funfair games - all in aid of the University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire Charity, Sat 20 Aug, The Assembly Festival Gardens,



Camp Bestival - Weston Park, Shropshire

Coventry

**THE GIN TRAIN** Unwind in first-class seating in a vintage carriage for a full gin-tasting session, Sat 20 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Kidderminster

**DRESS LIKE A VICTORIAN** Dress in your finest Victorian outfits and parade around town, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Aug, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge,

Shropshire

**ON-TRAIN AFTERNOON TEA** Dine in style as you travel up the line in the first-class dining coach 7960, Sun 21 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Kidderminster

**FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY** A day packed with hands-on activities, Sun 21 Aug, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

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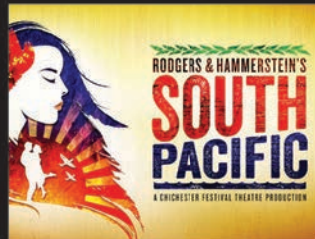
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Thu 29 Sept 2022 | £69.50



**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



**Thursford Christmas Spectacular**  
Dates in Nov & Dec 2022 | £92.50



**John Rutter's Christmas Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall**  
Tue 6 Dec 2022 | £84.50



**The Lion King at The Lyceum Theatre**  
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### Gigs

**KLEINE + ASTEROID J**  
Sun 21 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM**  
Sun 21 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**COVET** Sun 21 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham



**BEN CAPLAN** Sun 21 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

**LUKE HINGLEY AS MICHAEL BUBLÉ** Sun 21 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**LILLIAN AXE + RIOT ACT**  
Mon 22 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

**EFTERKLANG** Tues 23 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**THE ELECTRIC BOYS + SLYDER SMITH & THE OBLIVION KIDS** Tues 23 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**ASHLEY ALLEN** Wed 24 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SURPRISE CHEF** Wed 24 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**COLA (PICTURED) + BLUE BENDY** Thurs 25 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



**MINAMI DEUTSCH** Thurs 25 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**AN AUDIENCE WITHOUT JAKE THACKRAY - PERFORMED BY JOHN WATTERSON** Thurs 25 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

**CHRIS ELLIOTT & CAITLIN JONES** Thurs 25 Aug, Bromsgrove Folk Club

**PRETTY BOY FLOYD**  
Thurs 25 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**OCEAN COLOUR SCENE**  
Fri 26 Aug, Irish Centre, Kings Heath, Birmingham

**PSYCHEDELIC PORN CRUMPETS** Fri 26 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

**DOPE LEMON** Fri 26 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**USTAD + RAHAT FATEH + ALI KHAN** Fri 26 Aug, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

**SEAN PAUL** Fri 26 Aug, Forum, Birmingham

**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** Fri 26 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**FOREVER NU TOUR 22 - NU-METAL TRIBUTE FESTIVAL** Fri 26 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**FINNEGAN'S REVIVAL** Fri 26 Aug, Two Gates Club, Tamworth

**LIONEL - MUSIC OF LIONEL RICHIE** Fri 26 Aug, The Prince Of Wales, Cannock

**THE AGONY** Fri 26 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**DIRTY ROCKIN' SCOUNDRELS** Fri 26 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**PHOENIX LAKE + RAISED BY WOLVES** Fri 26 Aug, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**FLEETWOOD BAC** Sat 27 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**STILL STANDING - ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE** Sat 27 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

**PARAMORE GB** Sat 27 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**LEGENDS - WHITNEY HOUSTON VS TINA TURNER** Sat 27 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**ERIC MARTINS WITH DAVID COTTERILL** Sat 27 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**CRAIG GOULD + DYSKINETIC** Sat 27 Aug, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**JOHNNY KOWALSKI & THE SEXY WEIRDOS** Sat 27 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**COLLISION** Sat 27 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**THE OCEAN** Sun 28 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**KILLERSTREAM** Sun 28 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**NANCY AND THE DOLLS**  
Sun 28 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

**THE RUMJACKS** Sun 28 Aug, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourport

**THE SUPERSKAS + DJ BASRA BEATS** Sun 28 Aug, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**THE SITUATION'S AUGUST THING - 1 DAY FESTIVAL OF ORIGINAL LIVE MUSIC** Sun 28 Aug, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**RACHAEL SAGE + BETHANY BRYAN** Sun 28 Aug, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**SUGAR CANDY MOUNTAIN** Mon 29 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**NEHA KAKKAR** Mon 29 Aug, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

**PRETTY BOY FLOYD + WRATHCHILD + PSYCHO DOLLZ** Mon 29 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

**THE HANDSOME FAMILY** Tues 30 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**Q + MONTELL FISH** Tues 30 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**DEHD** Tues 30 Aug, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham



**RYLEY WALKER + GWENIFER RAYMOND**  
Wed 31 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**LIME CORDIALE** Wed 31 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**RECKLESS LOVE + DAN REED NETWORK + COLLATERAL** Wed 31 Aug, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

### Classical Music

**NATIONAL YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA**  
Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Myaskovsky, Prokofiev & Schoenberg, Sat 27 Aug, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**PROMS AT BRADSHAW HALL** Featuring Claire Barnett-Jones (mezzo soprano) & Simon Lepper (piano). Programme includes works by Horowitz, Smyth, R.Clarke, Vaughan Williams & Errollyn Wallen (new work), Mon 29 Aug, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

### Comedy

**SEAN PERCIVAL, FATIHA EL-GHORRI, MATT REES & COMIC TBC** Fri 26 - Sat 27 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ROGER MONKHOUSE, BEN VAN DER VELDE, HOWARD READ & COMIC TBC** Sat 27 Aug, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

### Theatre

**JULIUS CAESAR** Chickenstratch Theatre present a version of Shakespeare's famous play of power and division, Mon 22 - Thurs 25 Aug, MAC (Midlands Arts Centre), Birmingham

**ERIC'S MONSTER MASH** Expect laughs aplenty and sensational '60s tunes as Eric escapes on an all-inclusive to Transylvania, Mon 22 Aug - Sat 3 Sept, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**HAPPY FAMILIES** The Swan Theatre Amateur Company present John Godber's 'affectionate and appealing portrait of an ordinary family struggling with change, bereavement and the generation gap', Wed 24 - Sat 27 Aug, Vesta Tilley Studio, Worcester

**FAME - STAGE EXPERIENCE** Based on the hit 1980 film, the story follows the final class of New York City's celebrated High School for the Performing Arts through their struggles, fears and triumphs as they navigate the worlds of music, drama and dance, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 Aug, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**INTO THE WOODS** Ric Nic present a full-scale production of Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine's much-loved musical, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 Aug, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

**WASWASA - WHISPERS IN PRAYER** An immersive theatrical experience by artist Mohammed Ali that explores the act of Islamic prayer and what that means in a modern, secular society, Thurs 25 Aug - Sat 3 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

**ONCE** Let Me In present the unforgettable story of two disenfranchised artists, drawn together by their shared love of music, Fri 26 Aug - Sat 17 Sept, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**BACK TO THE MUSICALS** Concert-style performance presented by Malvern Theatres Young Company, Sat 27 Aug, Malvern Theatres

**MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING** Folksy Theatre's outdoor staging of Shakespeare's tale of love, deception and misunderstanding, Sat 27 Aug, The Dorothy Clive Gardens, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**THE LADYKILLERS** Amateur version of Graham Lineham's classic black comedy, Mon 29 Aug - Sat 3 Sept, Talisman Theatre & Arts Centre, Kenilworth

**RED SKY AT NIGHT** MIKRON Theatre Company present a brand-new play based on 'the wild and wonderful world of weather', Tues 30 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL** New production telling the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, Tues 30 Aug - Sat 3 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

**DREAMBOATS AND PETTICOATS: BRINGING BACK THE GOOD TIMES** Feelgood jukebox musical featuring a plethora of hits from the golden era of rock'n'roll, Tues 30 Aug - Sat 3 Sept, Malvern Theatres

### Outdoor Theatre

**JANE EYRE** Heartbreak Productions' adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel follows the Victorian heroine as she faces her many ordeals, aided by 'astounding acrobats and jaw-dropping jugglers', Tues 23 Aug, Hill Close Gardens, Coventry

**PETER PAN** Illyria present an outdoor staging of JM Barrie's fantastical tale, Wed 24 Aug, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

**TO THE STREETS!** An uplifting new concert musical, inspired by the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963, Wed 24 - Thurs 25 Aug, Windmill Hill, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**JANE EYRE** Heartbreak Productions' adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel follows the Victorian heroine as she faces her many ordeals, aided by 'astounding acrobats and jaw-dropping jugglers', Thurs 25 Aug, The Ruins, Coventry Cathedral

**CINDERELLA** Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor staging, where magical creatures and fairy godmothers come together

to tell one of the most popular fairytales of all time, Fri 26 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

**ROMEO AND JULIET** Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor version of 'the greatest love story ever told', Fri 26 Aug, Coughton Court, Alcester, Worcestershire

**MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING** Folksy Theatre's outdoor version of Shakespeare's tale of love, deception and misunderstanding, Fri 26 Aug, Biddulph Grand Gardens, Biddulph, Staffordshire

**AS YOU LIKE IT** Outdoor staging by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, Fri 26 Aug, Bantock House, Wolverhampton

**THE RECRUITING OFFICER** Rain Or Shine Theatre present George Farquhar's bawdy restoration comedy, Sat 27 Aug, Stokesay Castle, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Presented by Edinburgh Graduate Theatre Group, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT AND BENJAMIN BUNNY** Quantum Theatre present a new adaptation of two of Beatrix Potter's best-loved tales, Sun 28 Aug, Dotshill Park, Tamworth

**TO THE STREETS!** An uplifting new concert musical, inspired by the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963, Sun 28 Aug, West Park, Wolverhampton

**RAPUNZEL** Immersion Theatre present a musical version of the classic fairytale, Sun 28 Aug, Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, Shropshire

**MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING** Folksy Theatre's outdoor staging of Shakespeare's tale of love, deception and misunderstanding, Sun 28 Aug, Whittington Castle, North Shropshire

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Malvern Theatre Players present an outdoor version of Kenneth Grahame's famous riverside tale, Sun 28 Aug - Sat 3 Sept, Priory Park, Malvern

**THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT AND BENJAMIN BUNNY** Quantum Theatre present a new adaptation of two of Beatrix Potter's best-loved tales, Tues 30 Aug, Tamworth Castle Grounds



**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST** Slapstick Picnic's new production sees Oscar Wilde's classic play 'performed amid a fusion of culinary

capers', Tues 30 Aug, The Ruins, Coventry Cathedral

**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE** Illyria present an outdoor staging of Gilbert & Sullivan's satirical libretto. Memorable songs include Modern Major General and A Policeman's Lot Is Not A Happy One, Wed 31 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

## Kids Shows

**DINOSAUR ADVENTURE LIVE** Family show where audiences can come face-to-face with life-like dinosaurs and hear the tremendous roar of a T-Rex, Tues 23 - Wed 24 Aug, The Roses, Tewkesbury

**THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA** Theatre for younger audiences based on Judith Kerr's much-loved book of the same name, Tues 23 - Thurs 25 Aug, Malvern Theatres

**ZOG AND THE FLYING DOCTORS** Children's theatre based on Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's best-selling book, Tues 23 - Sun 28 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

**THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA** Theatre for younger audiences based on Judith Kerr's much-loved book of the same name, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Aug, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: TERRIBLE TUDORS** From the horrible Henries to the end of evil Elizabeth, hear the legends (and the lies!) about the torturing Tudors in this full-of-fun history show for families - with all the nasty bits left in, Mon 29 Aug, MAC (Midlands Arts Centre) Birmingham



**CHARLIE LOCKE AND THE QUEST FOR CONFIDENCE** A 'not-to-be-missed, taller-than-tall tale' suitable for children aged 5-plus, Wed 31 Aug, The Roses, Tewkesbury

## Dance

**RE GENERATION** National Youth Ballet perform four new works, including Sophia Hurdley's *The Green Umbrella*, Monique Jones' *Infinite*, Daniel Davidson's *HOVER* and Gerard Martin's *Rise*, Thurs 25 - Fri 26 Aug, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Festivals

**BEERMAGEDDON FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Acid Reign, Ashen Crown & Rannoch, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Aug, Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

**CAMPER CALLING** Line-up includes James, Shed Seven, Del Amitri & The Selecter, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Aug, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

**STONE VALLEY FESTIVAL MIDLANDS** Line-up includes The Stranglers, Stiff Little Fingers & Boomtown Rats, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Aug, Thoresby Park, Newark, Nottinghamshire

**SUNSHINE FESTIVAL** Line-up includes The Human League, Squeeze & Level 42, Fri 26 - Mon 29 Aug, Fish Meadow, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire

**SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Judy Collins & Carlos Nuñez, Fri 26 - Mon 29 Aug, Greenhouse West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury

**SANDWELL & BIRMINGHAM MELA** The biggest South Asian music festival in Europe. Line-up tbc, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Aug, Victoria Park, Smethwick

## Light Entertainment

**FORBIDDEN NIGHTS** Featuring acrobats, male vocalists, fire acts, choreography and a comedian compere, Thurs 25 Aug, Stourbridge Town Hall

**THE GREAT BRITISH SEASIDE SHOW** Based on the classic 'end of the pier' variety show and featuring the D-Day Darlings, vocalist Rich Hazlewood and host Andy Eastwood, Wed 31 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

## Events

**MINI MOTORISTS MONDAYS** Inspired by Mr Gumpy's Super Story Time, children will then be able to make their own paper plate animals to take home, Mon 22 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

**ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, SHOW!** - **THE GREAT THINKTANK GAMES** Inspired by big sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games, this family show is a lively and interactive way to learn about the science of sport, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Aug & Mon 29 Aug - Fri 2 Sept, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**MIC LAB - STEM INNOVATIONS** Join STEM expert Rob Bennett to explore the collections through his eyes, learning along the way what it takes

to be an engineer, Wed 24 - Thurs 25 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

**EXPLORE BLAKESLEY** A chance to explore Blakesley Hall and its beautiful gardens, Wed 24 - Sun 28 Aug & Wed 31 Aug - Sun 4 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF GLASS** Showcasing the dynamic world of glassmaking by the world's greatest glass artists, Fri 26 - Sun 29 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

**FUNTOPIA** Fun-filled festival featuring unlimited play for little ones, Sat 27 Aug, Brampton Park, Newcastle under Lyme

**NORTH BIRMINGHAM ALLIANCE: ONWARDS CLOSING CONCERT** Enjoy a party atmosphere with dazzling costumes and vibrant dances, Sat 27 Aug, Legacy Centre of Excellence, Birmingham

**THE BLACK COUNTRY FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL** A bank holiday weekend of food, drink and live entertainment, Sat 27 - Mon 29 Aug, Himley Hall, Dudley

**BRAINAC LIVE! ASTRONAUT ACADEMY** This 60-minute hands-on immersive workshop experience is led by the Brainiacs and gives budding astronauts and their families an opportunity to test their rocket design, engineering, and space-exploration skills! Sat 27 - Mon 29 Aug, Assembly Festival Gardens, Coventry

**KNIGHTS' TOURNAMENT** Go back in time and get closer to the action as rival knights compete in the ultimate test of strength and skill, Sat 27 - Mon 29 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

**FUNTOPIA** Fun-filled festival featuring unlimited play for little ones, Sun 28 Aug, Tamworth Castle

**SPITFIRE 10K 2022** A unique opportunity to run down the airfield carrying the name of a Battle of Britain serviceman and supporting the RAF Museum Midlands, Sun 28 Aug, Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford

**NORTH BIRMINGHAM ALLIANCE: ROUTE 34** Black Voices and ACE Dance & Music present a doorstep carnival, Sun 28 Aug, Grosvenor Road Studios, Handsworth

**THE REUNION** Featuring a selection of 'amazing, creative, technically brilliant and quirky' modified cars, Sun 28 - Mon 29 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

**SUMMER FIESTA** Live music, artisan food and crafts, Sun 28 - Mon 29 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire

**MIC LAB - ELECTRIFYING FUTURE** Playfully explore modern-day appliances with real tools and reinvent them into futuristic appliances of your own design, Tues 30 - Wed 31 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

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