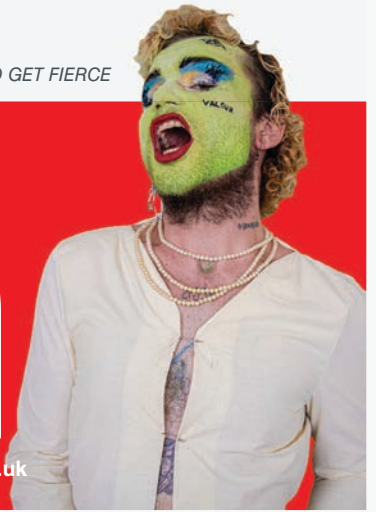


Coventry & Warwickshire

ISSUE 429 OCTOBER 2022

What's On

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



CELEBRATE **STICK-MAS** AT **WARWICK ARTS CENTRE**

FRECKLE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

STICK MAN

LIVE ON STAGE

BASED ON THE BOOK BY
JULIA DONALDSON * AXEL SCHEFFLER

1 - 31 DEC
WARWICKARTSCENTRE.CO.UK

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

Stick Man © 2008 Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Published by Alison Green books, an imprint of Scholastic Children's Books.

inside:

ROCKY HORROR...
get ready to do The Time Warp at the Belgrade Theatre



PROSECCO EXPRESS
Joanne McNally brings her new show to Warwick Arts Centre



SPOOK-TASTIC
Halloween events across the Midlands for half term



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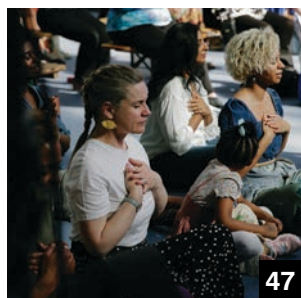
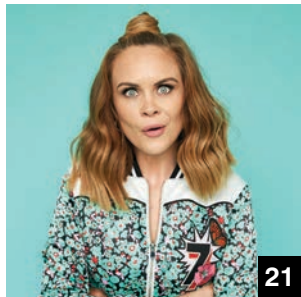
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What's On

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Monster Trucks Live to roll into the Midlands

The world's fastest-growing monster trucks show is heading for the Midlands next spring. Stopping off at Birmingham's Utilita Arena on Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 April, Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live Glow Party offers audiences the chance to watch their favourite Hot Wheels Monster Trucks 'light up the floor in outrageous competitions and battles'. Performances will also feature 'spectacular laser light shows, exhilarating dance parties, Hot Wheels toy giveaways' and 'a special appearance by the car-eating, fire-breathing transforming robot Megasaurus'. For more information and to book tickets, visit livenation.co.uk

New Broken Angel art at Coventry Cathedral

Cornwall-based Abigail Reynolds is the next artist in Coventry Cathedral's Broken Angel series, an initiative which sees site-specific artwork being temporarily installed to replace the Angel of the Eternal Gospel window. The window was destroyed in an act of vandalism in 2020. Broken Angel is the cathedral's creative response to the challenge of filling the space.



Leamington venue launches own record label

A Leamington café which has become a hotspot for live music in Warwickshire is launching its own record label on the back of its growing success.



Temperance, on Bath Street in the old town, was established by Adrian Gains in 2018 as a café & art gallery by day, and a bar & music venue by night. Commenting on the launch of the new record label, Temperance Live, Adrian said: "It's really exciting. We can now offer musicians the opportunity to record their amazing live performances and get them heard by a much wider audience."

Coventry Queenz!

A 'trailblazing, life-affirming drag extravaganza' is coming to the Midlands. According to its publicity, Queenz - The Show With Balls! sees 'death-dropping' divas 'slay the biggest hits of all time and serve up the sequin-clad pop party we've all been gagging for'. The show, which features reimagined classics from the Spice Girls, Lady Gaga, Little Mix, Britney, Whitney 'and everything in between', visits Coventry's Belgrade Theatre on Friday 3 February. For further information, visit the venue's website.

Sir Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker! to make its cinema debut next month

Choreographer Sir Matthew Bourne's 30th anniversary production of Nutcracker! will next month be screened in more than 220 cinemas across the UK and internationally. The screenings will take place on Tuesday 15 & Sunday 20 November. Commenting on the news, Sir Matthew said: "I'm always delighted when our work is able to reach new audiences... and there is no better or more exciting way than through the 'big screen' experience." To check which cinemas are screening Nutcracker!, visit nutcrackercinema.com



Cheltenham festival returns

The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival 2022 takes place at various venues across the town this month. Running from Friday 7 to Sunday 16 October, the festival boasts more than 500 events, close to 1,000 authors & speakers, and a programme which spans history, food, travel, poetry & spoken word, art, sport, faith, philosophy, fashion, psychology, science and much more. To check out the complete 2022 line-up, visit cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature



Weekend of events at Warwick Arts Centre

Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre is this month hosting an event featuring shows, activities, talks and screenings, many of which are free to attend. Running from Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 October, Warwick Arts Weekender offers visitors the chance to take a first look at Radical Landscapes - an exhibition from Tate Liverpool - check out award-winning theatre company Kill The Cat, listen to Black Voices raising the roof with the Gospel Revisited Project, and enjoy a showcase of films from local creatives.

Harry Styles at the arena

Midlands-based Harry Styles fans will be heading for the Coventry Building Society Arena next spring when their hero stops off at the venue as part of his UK tour. Harry plays the arena on Monday 22 May.



Local art talent on display

An exhibition providing a showcase for artists living and working in the West Midlands has opened at Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum. On display from Friday 7 October to Sunday 8 January, the show features an eclectic mix of artistic forms. Visitors to the exhibition can vote for their favourite artwork, the creator of which will receive a People's Choice Award of £500.

Drag murder-mystery returns

Following three sold-out West End runs and a smash-hit UK tour, the drag murder-mystery comedy show, *Death Drop*, is making a return. The new production, titled *Death Drop: Back In The Habit*, sees comedy character Sis Marple investigating as 'a gaggle of fabulous nuns are trapped in their convent, with a serial slayer slashing their way through the sisters'. The show runs at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra from Monday 13 to Saturday 18 March. For more information and to book tickets, visit atgtickets.com



Getting into the Christmas spirit at Coombe Abbey Hotel

An award-winning Midlands hotel has unveiled its Christmas 2022 events programme early, after seeing demand for corporate festive events surge.

With many companies, family groups and friends having missed out on Christmas parties last winter due to Covid-19, Coombe Abbey Hotel near Coventry has already received an influx of bookings for December.

Ron Terry, Group Operations Director for No Ordinary Hospitality Management, which operates the historic four-star hotel, said:

"Christmas has always been a special time of year for us at Coombe Abbey, and we are delighted this year to launch an even bigger programme of events for all types of festive parties and celebrations. These range from small, intimate Christmas private dining in some of our most regal period rooms, to raucous medieval feasts, a festive murder-mystery inspired by *Die Hard*, and a grand-scale Gatsby Glamour Ball."

For further information and the full festive programme, visit coombeabbey.com

RSC presents Twelfth Night for youngsters

The Royal Shakespeare Company is this month presenting a 90-minute version of *Twelfth Night* for children aged between seven and 13 (Studio Theatre, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thursday 10 - Saturday 12 November).

The production is part of the Company's First Encounters project, an initiative aimed at providing youngsters who are new to Shakespeare with an accessible and understandable first experience of the bard's work.

To find out more and book tickets, visit rsc.org.uk



Susie Blake to star as Miss Marple in Malvern

Miss Marple is set to do some serious sleuthing in Malvern next month.

Susie Blake will star as Agatha Christie's elderly amateur detective in a new adaptation of *The Mirror Crack'd*.

Commenting on the news, Susie said: "Playing Miss Marple is every actor's dream over the age of 50. To play a bright, independent, older woman is surprising and exciting for the period it was written in, as well as in our society today."

The Mirror Crack'd runs at Malvern Theatre from Monday 14 to Saturday 19 November. For tickets, visit malvern-theatres.co.uk

Warwick Words History Festival returns

Warwick Words History Festival returns this month and will be celebrating its 20th anniversary (various venues, 3 - 9 October) Featuring numerous guest speakers, the festival's wide-ranging programme covers events spanning 1,000 years of history - from the origins of the British monarchy to the present conflict in Ukraine. For more information and to book tickets, visit warwickwords.co.uk

Rising in Worcester

A brand-new seven-day cultural festival dedicated to tattooing, gaming and fashion is coming to Worcester this month. The Rising, part of the Arches Worcester Festivals programme, will run from Wednesday 10 to Tuesday 16 October. The festival will be made up of a number of smaller events taking place in various locations across the city. To find out more about The Rising, visit thearchesworcesterevents.co.uk/the-rising

It's a Wolverhampton Christmas for panto stars Zoe and Michael

West End leading lady and singing sensation Zoe Birkett will star alongside Michael Greco (EastEnders' Beppe Di Marco) in this year's Wolverhampton Grand Theatre pantomime production of Aladdin. Zoe, who shot to fame in 2002 when, at the age of 16, she was the highest-placed female contestant on ITV's Pop Idol, will take the role of the Spirit Of The Ring, with Michael playing the part of the villainous Abanazar. Joining them in the show will be CBeebies favourite Ben Cajee (in the title role of Aladdin) and returning favourites Tam Ryan (as Wishee Washee) and Ian Adams (as Widow Twankey). Wolverhampton's own Sofie Anné will play Princess Jasmine. Aladdin runs at the Grand from Saturday 3 December to Saturday 7 January.



Marti Pellow to play King Rat in Hippodrome panto

Marti Pellow will take the part of King Rat in Birmingham Hippodrome's pantomime production of Dick Whittington this Christmas. The former Wet Wet Wet frontman will be joined in the no-expense-spared extravaganza by Birmingham panto legend Matt Slack, TV celebrity Dr Ranj, actress,

singer & television personality Suzanne Shaw, and Hippodrome favourites Doreen Tipton and Andrew Ryan. The production runs at the venue from Saturday 17 December to Sunday 29 January. For more information and to book tickets for the show, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Laughing at The Albany

Coventry's Albany Theatre is this month launching a comedy night, with familiar television face Zoe Lyons (pictured) heading the bill. Titled Live At The Albany, the show takes place on Saturday 5 November and also includes sets by Brennan Reece, Noel James and Scott Bennett. To find out more, visit albanytheatre.co.uk



Circus Of Horrors brings The Witch to Stratford

The ever-entertaining Circus Of Horrors are returning to the Midlands with a brand-new and sure-to-be-spinetingling production this autumn. Titled The Witch, the show comes complete with an original rock score and is described as 'a sensational new phantasmagoria which encompasses amazing & bizarre circus acts'. The production visits Stratford-upon-Avon Playhouse on Friday the 25th. For more information and to book tickets, visit circusofhorrors.co.uk



Popular Textile Fair back at Compton Verney

Compton Verney will once again be hosting its annual Textile Fair next month. The ever-popular event, which takes place on Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 November, offers visitors the opportunity to browse around a selection of stalls and check out a wide range of high-quality items made by independent textile artists. To find out more, visit comptonverney.org.uk

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Tue 1 Nov
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Tue 11 Oct
Town Hall



The Australian Pink Floyd
Mon 7 Nov &
Mon 28 Nov
Symphony Hall




Disney's Hocus Pocus: Film plus Orchestra
Tue 25 Oct
Symphony Hall



An Evening with Noel Fitzpatrick
Tue 29 Nov
Town Hall

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Wed 26 Oct
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The Gruffalo
Tue 27 Dec –
Sun 15 Jan 2023
Town Hall



Symphonic Universe
Fri 28 Oct
Symphony Hall



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Fri 14 Apr 2023
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JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Critically acclaimed theatre company Gecko debut
a moving story at Warwick Arts Centre



Geckos are found on every continent except Antarctica (we looked it up), which is probably why Amit Lahav chose to name his theatre company after them, since its work recognises and celebrates the journeys of human beings from all over the world. The company's latest production follows that blueprint but has an especially personal connection to Amit - as he explains to What's On...

Award-winning theatre company Gecko has been making its unique brand of physical theatre for over 20 years. The ensemble merges dance and mime with traditional theatre to tell personal stories with universal themes, performed by and for people from a range of cultures as part of its stated commitment to represent every age, gender and background.

The company's latest production, *Kin*, takes the true story of one woman's arduous journey to flee persecution and expands it to explore themes of racism, family, migration, empathy and home, as well as asking the question 'Who am I, and where do I belong?'

The piece has an especially personal connection to its writer, director, designer and choreographer, Amit Lahav, as it was inspired by the trek his grandmother made from Yemen to Palestine 90 years ago.

His work always starts with a personal connection, he tells me. "From there, it grows and becomes a personal story of everyone involved - all the performers, everyone I meet, all the workshops and residences I do over the years."

Amit visited his grandmother in Israel in 2017 to talk about the family's hike from North Yemen to Palestine, and although she was living with dementia, he learned enough to make him want to find out more.

"I had to take what I could and then go into my own investigations in terms of talking to other older members of the family and other people who were there, and link that to conversations I'd had with other Jewish scholars that know the story."

Amit also acknowledged that many people who have migrated in a harrowing way ("you're so impoverished, so poor and so desperate") actively try to forget their experiences.

"I've been on a three-year journey talking to people from everywhere about their migration stories, and it isn't always something that people want to cling on to or talk about. It's often very traumatic and often something that's not dealt with. It's not really reflected on consciously, it's something that's bubbling underneath your life and everything you do."

The resonances with modern society, as immigrants continue to risk their lives in search of a better life - and the variety of challenges they face in doing so - make the piece both personal and universal, according to Amit.

"All of the performers understand this story very deeply, painfully and personally. They have either personally experienced a very difficult process of immigration - and racism within and through that complex process - or they have a deep sense of those stories through their parents and grandparents."

Working on *Kin* and thinking about his family background made Amit aware of the significant extent to which he is "a huge salad of migration stories" - a scenario he's keen to acknowledge is hardly unique.

"As soon as you take a couple of steps backwards through time, you become very beautifully aware that everyone is a migrant; everyone has a story. There are lots of people who don't know their migration story, but it's beyond question that everyone has a migration story in the not-too-distant past.

"In one workshop, a woman said to me: 'All my lot are milkmen from Kent!' And I said it's so important that your story, and the way you talk about it, is at the heart of this process as well.

"At the end of the day, this is about empathy. We move about. We've always moved about. It's what human beings have done forever and beyond. So it's about empathising with that and connecting with that. The growth of that empathy should be celebrated, and that's what the play is about."

To lighten the mood slightly (we're both laughing at the notion), how does he translate these stories into physical theatre? Gecko productions typically avoid employing dialogue to shape the narrative.

"In a way I don't think about it too much, because I have a way of beginning a process and allowing the ideas and the material to unfold bit by bit."

Amit admits that he barely knows what the piece will become, even after years of work.

"I can't say: 'This is the piece, this is what it's about.' I know the territory that we're in, and I know where it's come from, but then I'm exploring and asking questions and allowing the thing to emerge."

Kin does contain dialogue - but unless you speak multiple languages you're unlikely to understand it.

"Everyone speaks their mother tongue - or perhaps a tertiary language that they also know - which is important for the piece and also for the style. I'm not trying to have an intellectual, linguistically-based

communication and connection with the audience, I'm trying to make a deeply, profound human connection, because I want them to connect with the profundity of those human elements, not with the sophistication of spoken language. I think that provokes an audience to reach in deeper to what's going on."

All of which might sound like a challenge for the average theatre goer. However, Amit is keen to point out that his work isn't just for highbrow audiences. It comes down to managing people's expectations of the experience, something he aims to address within the first 10 or 15 minutes of a production.

"It's nothing to do with being highbrow, it's to do with managing that expectation, because people are perfectly capable of dealing with a set of sensory triggers; it just takes a moment. It's not just in gesture, it's in the soundscape, it's in the composition, it's in the lighting, it's in the props, it's in the set. It's my job to craft a world in which an audience can navigate themselves through it."

With a CV of seven critically acclaimed shows behind him, it's a job Amit has been hugely successful at, which is quite an achievement given that he was potentially going to be a businessman like his father until an audition for *Fiddler On The Roof* became a life-changing moment.

"I initially drifted into taking some courses on business studies and stuff, but really it was just a bit of time to sort out who I was. I went for the audition and immediately thought, of course this is who I am. I don't mean a musical theatre performer, just that I'm in a studio with people who want to play.

"What I do is quintessentially who I am, but you can't really train to do what I've ended up doing, so it was always going to take a bit of time to work it out. I'm not trained to write, I'm not trained to direct, I'm not trained to design and I'm not trained to choreograph either."

So the new show could ultimately be a car crash?

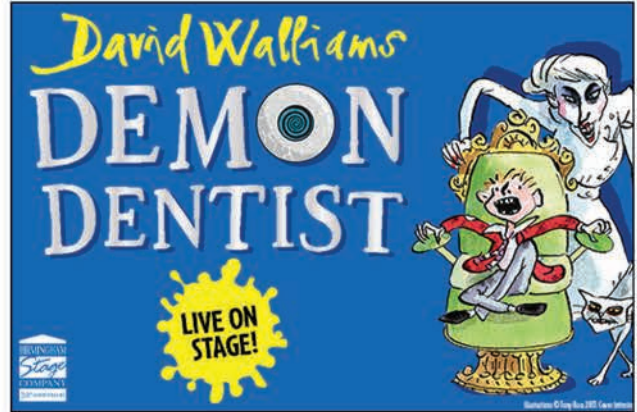
"Yeah, absolutely - apologies in advance!"

KIN shows at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, from Wed 19 to Sat 22 October



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REVIEW: Host Dining Coventry's Belgrade Theatre presents a brand-new pop-up dining experience

Coventry's Belgrade Theatre is undergoing something of a renaissance at the moment, with new CEO Laura Elliot and Artistic Director Corey Campbell keen to take the venue in a modern new direction.

Among the developments is the launch of pop-up dining events in the venue's screened-off Nineteen 58 restaurant & bar, where the Japandi-inspired design gives an airy, relaxed vibe ideal for such occasions.

"We're really excited by the potential of our new café-bar, and our ambition is to have it as a restaurant space," Laura told me. "We want to curate that in the way we would curate a show, with local chefs and local people who are really passionate about good food."

There's clearly an appetite for it. The first £50 per head dining event, featuring a six-course tasting menu from acclaimed local chef Sarah Jenkins, quickly sold out, and aside from a few teething problems - not literally - definitely got things off to a promising start(er).

Those teething issues certainly need ironing out for the follow-up event though, not least the slow and laboured service - one inexperienced server was never

going to be enough in a room with 30 covers and seven courses (if you count the petit fours, which most people grabbed and left with, so late were they served). Having to buy drinks at the bar (a £20 drinks package was available) rather than order at the table is also something that needs addressing.

The latter was almost certainly the result of giving the venue over to an independent operator. Host Dining Coventry effectively used the Belgrade's facilities rather than it being a fully-fledged co-venture, but greater collaboration should be able to overcome the issue.

The situation also led to a bizarre scenario when the waitress brought me a substitute dish because she'd been wrongly told I was a vegetarian and then a non-pork eater, purely based on my first name (it seems there was more than one person named Steve in attendance).

The error apparently occurred as a result of the non-sharing of personal information due to GDPR legislation. It turned out well for me, though, in that I got to sample the scallop replacement (for a vegetarian?) for the intended octopus, which may or may not have been cooked using pork fat.

Either way, the scallop version - presented, like the octopus, on smashed potatoes with a really tasty piso and saffron aioli dressing - was one of the highlights of an evening that contained a number, from the insanely moreish marmite butter of the first course to the delightful olive oil ice cream of the dessert.

The heavenly former was served with stout and treacle bread. The latter came with apricot compôte and granola, which my partner loved but I didn't think added to (but thankfully didn't detract from) the fabulous flavour of the revelatory ice cream.

Alongside those two delightful creations, we enjoyed an array of wonderfully inventive and immaculately presented dishes. These included:

- Wild mushroom ravioli with parmesan broth and spring onion oil (a genuinely glorious mix of flavours and influences - we both grabbed spoons to slurp down the broth)
- Slow braised pig's cheek with onion ash and pickled pear (beautiful melt-in-the-mouth meat with a curl of crunchy onion that looked like an albino pork scratching)
- Vintage Cheddar and whipped

Stilton cheeses with poppy seed crackers (my partner adored the Stilton but it was whey - ahem - too rich for my palate)

- A selection of petit fours (boxed-up treats including a fennel-infused lollipop and a small plastic bag of sherbet that you'd never get through customs)

The quality and creativity on display made it easy to see why Sarah Jenkins is so highly regarded - she's catered for touring bands, hosted recipe classes and produces bespoke tasting menus alongside Tobias Reutt of Earlsdon Supper Club - while the cheery, chatty atmosphere created by satisfied diners suggests this rehearsal definitely set the stage for a long-term engagement.

The next Host Dining event takes place on Saturday 12 November. *Steve Adams*

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

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REVIEW: Napton Cidery Award-winning venue takes pop-up country pub grub to an exciting new level...

It's fair to say it's been something of an eventful summer for the team at Napton Cidery. After scooping up not one, not two, but three Great Taste Awards, a coveted International Cider Challenge Silver and Bronze Award and an Artisan Drink Producer Award at the 2022 Coventry & Warwickshire Foodie event earlier this year, the family-run farmhouse cidery is deservedly reaping the fruits of its labours. Its success comes thanks to a dedicated local fanbase, an expanding list of local distributors, and a longstanding commitment to sustainably produced British farming. Not bad for an initiative which began with brewing cider from a single apple tree back in 2015! Flying high on the back of their recent successes, owners Charlotte and Jolyon Olivier have been quick to capitalise on the cidery's winning combination of relaxed, rural surroundings and exceptional hospitality by presenting an expanding programme of special events. These include a comedy night, regular cider talks & tastings, live music, quiz and cocktail nights,

and a family fun day. The latest addition to their offer is the weekly Thursday Night Supper Club.

Hosted in collaboration with Inspirado - a new, personalised dining experience founded upon the principles of 'travel, making new friends and understanding new cultures' - the Supper Club offers a unique concept in pop-up dining. Serving up freshly prepared meals in front of a group of no more than 20 to 30 diners, Inspirado's strength lies not only in its delicious, homecooked menu but also its intimacy.

Enter the taproom at 6pm and, two delicious courses and a glass or two of Lost Apple cider later, you head for the exit with two, three, maybe even four new friends.

Inspirado's concept is refreshingly novel - from the communal dining tables right through to the choice of menu. In our case, this consisted of a Three Mustard Pork Stroganoff served with basmati rice followed by a deliciously light lemon cheesecake, priced at £17.

With the conversation (and

cider) in full flow, guests at our table included day-trippers travelling Warwickshire's historic waterways via canalboat, Napton village 'regulars' based just a few farmhouses away, two Northamptonshire teachers enjoying their final few days of freedom before returning to school for the new term, and a retired couple celebrating their wedding anniversary.

The event was spread across a leisurely three (to four) hours, against the sunlit backdrop of Napton's rural farmyard setting. There was something so simple yet so refreshing about the experience of enjoying hearty, flavoursome food in the company of likeminded diners - something much missed over the last two-and-a-half years since the advent of Covid-19.

Our chef and the founder of Inspirado, Samuel Chamberlain, explained that it is precisely the joy born of 'chance social encounters' that he hopes his pop-up dining concept will provide - and I, for one, wish him every possible success.

With pop-up menus ranging from the 1980s-themed Prawn

Cocktail, Coq Au Vin and Black Forest Gateaux, Bombay-inspired Chicken Tikka, Goan Fish Curry and Mango Mousse (both available at the nearby Holly-Bush in Prior Marston), right through to tried-and-tested classic Three Meat Lasagne, Big Italian Salad and Tiramisu, Inspirado's unique business model takes pop-up country pub grub to an exciting new level.

With telephone numbers exchanged and after several pints of Napton's award-winning draft cider, it was time to make our way home. And yes, whilst my memory might have been a little hazy after that fourth and final glass of Recipe No5 Blackcurrant Cider, what was clear was just how much I and my fellow diners had taken from the evening. Here's to another hit night in the making!

Katherine Ewing

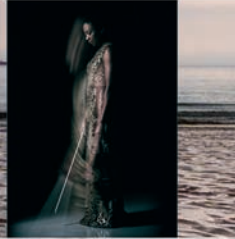
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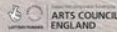
Mendelssohn	Hebrides Overture, Op.26
Bruch	Violin Concerto No.1 in G minor, Op.26
Anna Meredith	Fringeflower
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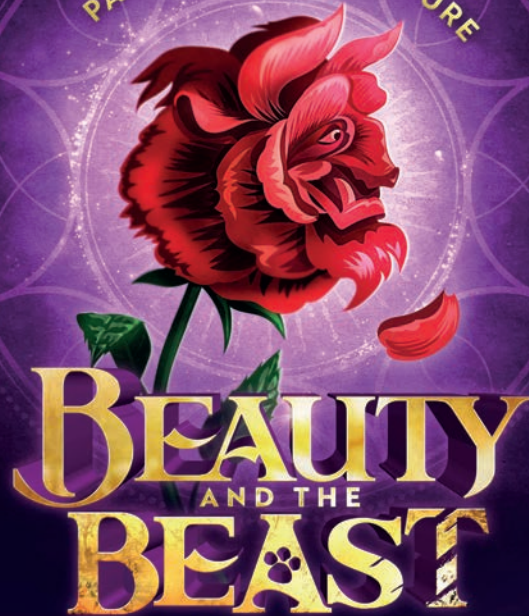


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King for a Day

Sun 9 Oct, 4pm

Town Hall, Birmingham

The season opens with sublime music written for royal occasions by Handel and Lalande - favourite composer of Louis XIV - a moment to reflect on the life of the Queen.



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Classical music from across the region...



Aurora Orchestra Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 7 October

Aurora Orchestra is the first ensemble in the world to present whole symphonies entirely from memory. As innovations in classical music go, that's a pretty impressive one and makes for some electrifying performances. Here helmed by Principal Conductor

Nicholas Collon, Aurora present three pieces with a distinctly French flavour: Thomas Adès' Three Studies From Couperin, Ravel's Piano Concerto in G and Symphonie Fantastique by Berlioz.

Orchestra Of The Swan

Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sun 9 October; The Courtyard, Hereford, Tues 11 October

As well as being much admired for their championing of new music, having presented more than 70 world premieres, the Stratford-based Orchestra of the Swan are also held in high regard for their performances of works by legendary composers.

This latest concert sees them teaming up with violinist and former BBC New Generation Artist Tai Murray (pictured), who will be performing Bruch's Violin Concerto No1 in G minor. The programme also features Anna Meredith's Fringeflower and two works by Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture and Symphony No3.



Ex Cathedra: King For A Day...

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 9 October



Jeffrey Skidmore once again takes the baton to conduct Birmingham's highly rated early music ensemble, this time in a concert that kickstarts the 2022/23 season. Presenting 'music for royal occasions', the programme features Handel's celebratory Georgian Coronation Anthems and compositions by Michel-Richard de Lalande - a favourite composer of the Sun King, Louis XIV. Also included is Departure Of The Queen Of Sheba by Alec Roth, the composer of 2009's Earthrise, a work commissioned by Ex Cathedra to mark the 40th anniversary of the Moon landing.

London Concertante: Vivaldi's Four Seasons

Worcester Cathedral, Fri 28 October

While it's a given that they take the business of musicmaking extremely seriously, there's certainly nothing stuffy about the London Concertante. Indeed, 50 percent of people who attend a performance by this 31-year-old chamber orchestra are first-time classical music concert-goers - a statistic which speaks volumes for the ensemble's commitment to remaining at all times light-of-touch and refreshingly accessible.



The ever-busy chamber orchestra here get their teeth into Vivaldi's Four Seasons - as well as works by Bach, Handel and Mozart - in a concert that's being publicised as 'a romantic candlelit experience'.

Brodsky Quartet

Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Fri 7 October

This hugely admired quartet has performed more than 2,000 concerts and released in excess



of 50 recordings since its formation half a century ago. The evening's programme features: Borodin's Scherzo from Les Vendredis, Beethoven's Quartet In F and Shostakovich's Quartet No3 in F.

Pomegranate Piano Trio

Bromsgrove School, Fri 21 October

Violinist Fenella Barton, cellist Rebecca Hepplewhite and pianist Andrew West first performed together as the Pomegranate Piano Trio eight years ago. Since that time they've established a UK-wide reputation for presenting imaginative and engaging programmes of classical music.

This Bromsgrove concert sees them performing Debussy's Piano Trio in G Major - written when its composer was still a teenager - and Faure's Piano Trio in D Minor - written when its composer was almost 80. Ravel's Piano Trio completes the programme.

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Ely Cathedral, UK, 2019. Photo (c) James Billings

Live music from across the region...

Urban Folk Quartet

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Fri 21 October

The Urban Folk Quartet are like no other folk band. With Birmingham's vibrant and diverse music scene having a significant influence on their work, they dabble in all kinds of sounds, from funk grooves and Middle Eastern melodies to afrobeat and north Indian rhythms. They tug their collective forelock in the direction of more traditional folk music too, describing their sound as 'fiddle-led' and drawing 'heavily on celtic dance forms and traditional song'.



The Magpies

Temperance, Leamington Spa, Mon 24 October

Showcasing a unique blend of transatlantic folk music, talented three-piece The Magpies comprises award-winning guitarist, banjo player & singer Bella Gaffney, clawhammer banjo player & singer Kate Griffin and acclaimed fiddle player & tunesmith Holly Brandon. The trio's debut album, *Tidings* - released in June 2020 to considerable critical acclaim - features material deeply rooted in the traditions of their native Yorkshire and draws on their experiences as women living in the 21st century.



Seasick Steve

hmv Empire, Coventry, Tues 4 October

Seasick Steve is this month hosting a special album-launch show to celebrate the release of *Only On Vinyl*.

No CD. No digital. No Spotify or iTunes. Just standard black and limited-edition blue vinyl. You won't find it anywhere else. Commenting on the release, the blues

musician best known for playing on personalised guitars said: "I just wanted it to be like it used to. Wanna buy a record? Go to the record store! It's an amazing thing to do. Just go, look around, feel the vibe. Then you pick out a record. Then you got something *real* in your hands, instead of in some cloud. It's really yours. For real. I swear."

Hayseed Dixie

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Thurs 13 October

Hayseed Dixie was formed one summer's day in 2000 when John Wheeler and now ex-member Mike Daly 'drank roughly enough whiskey to float a battleship from the Florida Coast over to Portugal and back'. They then decided to play around in John's studio.

Although the band, which has endured multiple line-up changes since their inception, produced some pretty unforgettable and comically crude songs, including *I'm Keeping Your Poop In A Jar* and *She Was Skinny When I Met Her*, Hayseed Dixie are probably best known for their rollicking rockgrass covers.

Tarragon

The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry, Fri 7 October

Tarragon is the brainchild of Callum Pickard, who's self-funded his music project by working as a Deliveroo cyclist in his home town of Coventry. His debut record, *I've Just Seen A Scene* - released in June - deals with the emotional growing pains and frustrations that come with maturing into young adulthood.

The Unthanks

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 16 October

The Unthanks have been described as "a take on tradition that flips so effortlessly between jazz, classical, ambient and post-rock, it makes any attempt to put a label on them a waste of time".

Tyneside sisters Rachel and Becky visit Coventry this month - alongside their 11-piece band - in support of new album *Sorrows Away*, a record billed as more joyful and uplifting than any previous Unthanks offering.



Faith, Family and #fakingit

**An updated version of Tartuffe lands in its spiritual home of
Birmingham this month...**



Moliere's 17th-century play, Tartuffe, has been given a modern-day twist by writing partnership Anil Gupta and Richard Pinto. Directed by Iqbal Khan, the show opens at the Birmingham Rep this month following a highly acclaimed pre-pandemic run at the Royal Shakespeare Company. What's On recently caught up with Iqbal to find out more...

It has been a busy year for Iqbal Khan since he was named associate director of Birmingham Rep.

He directed the 25th anniversary revival of the comedy *East Is East*, which played to full houses both in Birmingham and at the National Theatre in London. He was artistic director of the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony, which was watched by millions worldwide. And he is currently in rehearsal for a revival of his hit comedy, *Tartuffe* - previously seen at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Swan Theatre in 2019 - which is opening in its spiritual home of Birmingham at The Rep mid-month.

An updated version of the classic 17th-century French comedy by Molière, the play tells the story of fraudster Tartuffe, who inveigles his way into a family, duping them with his false piety. But where the original *Tartuffe* is an apparently good Roman Catholic, in this new adaptation, the story is transferred to a modern Pakistani Muslim family living in Sparkhill in Birmingham.

Adapted by Anil Gupta and Richard Pinto, whose CVs include television's *Goodness Gracious Me*, *The Kumars At No 42*, *Citizen Khan* and *The Office*, the show premiered at Stratford-upon-Avon to critical and audience acclaim.

Iqbal, who directed the Stratford show and returns to the production for Birmingham, says its success lies both in Molière's story and its timely update.

"I think the original play is the first great sitcom, or comedy that has a sitcom structure, because it's the perfect satire of family - all the various tensions within a family, it does that brilliantly.

"But it's quite a dangerous satire because the religious framing of it makes the line that the comedy walks quite edgy. I think what we did when moving it to a modern Islamic community in Birmingham gives it that kind of tension that releases both the danger within the play but also its humour.

"It worked really well in Stratford because it felt like it did speak to the world at that moment. And what was really gratifying about that audience in Stratford was that many of them didn't have the experience we were portraying in the play. They were

international or older white people coming to see it, but they seemed to really identify with the human story of the play.

"This is a family which is fractured, and into that fracture comes this figure, Tartuffe, who exploits everyone's weakness. That's a story which I think anyone from whatever community or heritage can identify with."

The show was scheduled to play The Rep in spring 2020 but was delayed by Covid and lockdown. Now the team are looking forward to finally bringing it to Birmingham, where it forms part of the Birmingham Comedy Festival.

"Anil and Richard wrote it so specifically for Birmingham, and yes, it worked brilliantly at the RSC, but I can't wait to have Birmingham audiences looking at a story that is set here and which is really precisely observed.

"I'm from Birmingham, and we worked really hard to represent this community, not as a homogenous community but as a collection of quite a lot of different voices, so I think there will be lots of recognition here."

As part of the modernisation of the story, the women have been given more prominence.

"Many of the women are a bit functional in the original, but in our version we've shown all the women in this piece as being incredibly strong and complex, having agency, and given them a lot more of the story.

"I'm hoping that those who know Molière's *Tartuffe* will be surprised by the journey we've taken and our take on those characters."

Four years after its premiere, the team are also making some tweaks to the production.

"We were already changing it a little bit last time we were due to stage it at The Rep, just sharpening it for Birmingham, making it tighter and stronger. We will continue to do that and update a few of the lines.

"Unfortunately a lot of the things we were satirising four years ago feel even more pertinent than they did then. *Tartuffe* is a conman exploiting the fractures in terms of identity, how people relate to the media, our relationship to religion, our weaknesses, our scepticism about politics and whether politicians represent us."

Iqbal stresses, though, that it is *Tartuffe*'s duplicity which is under the spotlight, not faith itself.

"We've been very careful not to attack religion. It's those who use religion to manipulate others that is the focus of our satire. In our version, we have lots of different kinds of Islam represented, and I hope respectfully and with real insight."

Iqbal was also keen to represent the city's different communities with authenticity in the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony at Alexander Stadium in July.

"I wanted to show Birmingham as an extraordinary, vital place that's a meeting place of different kinds of communities and has been enriched by that. The sense that I got was that Brummies who came were overwhelmed by it and really proud that I represented lots of different experiences.

"They felt I had captured something of those experiences and really shouted our qualities to the world - and the world, I think, was dazzled by the vitality of this place."

Iqbal believes the arts - whether it be a huge Games ceremony or a theatre production, can open doors into other communities and break down barriers.

"Any great play comes from a very specific place and looks at a very specific bit of the human experience, but if it's told well, that resonates with so many parallel dynamics in other communities and other families. Ultimately the great gift of theatre is the consoling sense that other people are going through what we are going through. And also that it can enlighten us and educate us about the differences between people, and battle the ignorance. It's when we don't know that we become afraid, and I think theatre really helps bridge the ignorance and shows us consoling similarities in different experiences.

"*Tartuffe*, a play that was written in the 17th century and in a Christian context, can be infinitely interpreted and represented. It's fantastic for us to take the opportunity and give it a Pakistani, modern Birmingham perspective, and help share truths about that experience through this play."

Tartuffe shows at The Rep, Birmingham, from Fri 14 October to Sat 5 November

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Comedy previews from across the region...

Harry Hill

Dudley Town Hall, Sat 8 October;
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 26
October; Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Fri 28
October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 6
November

Harry Hill's most high-profile days might well be behind him (long term, it's a tough ask to retain a position at the top of the notoriously greasy comedy pole). He's still a very funny man, though, and will probably be able to wear big collars and a stupid grin for the rest of his career without anybody complaining that it's become boring and old hat.

A one-time doctor, Harry's decision to prescribe comedy as the best medicine is one for which his legion of fans continue to be exceedingly grateful.

His latest show, Pedigree Fun, features baby elephant Sarah, Ian The Information Worm and Stouffer The Cat.



Desi Central Comedy Night

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton,
Fri 7 October

"We're still in a country where white men dominate many industries," says BBC Asian Network's Noreen Khan, who regularly features on the bill for this ever-popular night, "so it's very important to have visible, diverse role models to help inspire others and to reflect the world we live in."

Desi Central certainly does that, providing a showcase not only for Noreen but plenty of other hugely talented laughter merchants. This particular gig features sets from Tommy Sandhu, Kane Brown, Farhan Solo and Muhsin Yesilada. An evening of high-quality comedy is pretty much a guarantee.



Jongleurs Legends

Malvern Theatres, Thurs 6 October;
Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 11 October;
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 27
October

Four top-quality comedians for the price of one is the not-to-be-missed experience on offer when Jongleurs Legends comes to town. Taking his place in a line-up that also includes Jarred Christmas, Ninia Benjamin and Mike Gunn is the Time Out Comedy

Award-winning Paul Tonkinson, who's perhaps best known from The Big Breakfast and The Sunday Show. Regularly booked by the UK Armed Forces, Paul was the first comic to perform in Iraq after the war officially ended, and has used his experiences there as an inspiration for his comedy: "When I told my wife I'd spent much of the time lying on the floor, all I got in response was 'well we all like a lie down, don't we?'"

Dave Gorman

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 6
October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sat 15
October

Dave Gorman's idea of stand-up comedy seems to be that as long as there's room for him to stand up, he'll do some comedy!



Why else would this intrepid funnyman have made the decision a few years back to play not only 2,000-seater theatres when he headed out on tour but also 30-seat village halls, a barn and even a railway dining car! Dave is still touring, but is now being a bit more selective about the venues! He stops off in the Midlands this month with new show Powerpoint To The People.

COBO Comedy Shutdown

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Sat 22 October

Now here's a show that should keep your spirits up as the temperature drops and the nights draw in. COBO, standing for Comedy Of Black Origin, is making a welcome return with a special Black History Month edition. Taking to the stage on this occasion are Kane Brown, Trixx, Marlon Davis (pictured) and Richard Blackwood.



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Comedy previews from across the region...

Sofie Hagen

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 1 October;
Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, 4
October; Old Rep, Birmingham Fri 28 October

Danish feminist comedian and one-time self-harming Westlife fan Sofie Hagen makes a welcome return to the Midlands with a brand-new show that's positively bursting at the seams with 'big jokes and fat punchlines'.

"This is a collection of fat jokes and unforgettable moments that you can laugh at without feeling like sh*t," explains her publicity. "Come as you are and enjoy an actual fat person at the top of her game." Sofie's gag-bag includes the following two jokes: "I have the confidence to text a man first. And second. And third. And fourth. And fifth. And sixth. And seventh. Basically, until he answers," and "The question you always have to ask yourself is: 'Is my depression back or am I just hungry?'"



Jessica Fostekew

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Fri 7 October

"I exist in real life but am also a comedian, actor and writer," says Jessica Fostekew. "Since 2008 I've been throwing this job around like you would a walnut in a sock." Realising herself to be a feminist "the very first time somebody said: You're really funny for a woman", Jessica gets her comedy inspiration from her life, her family and, er, witchcraft - although reassuringly she reveals that the latter source provides only around one percent of her material! "I'm not a comedian in order to abuse people or to get laid," Jessica wrote in the Huffington Post. "I want to make people laugh. I'm there to be judged on my jokes. I've had everything shouted at me, from 'My tits are better than yours' to 'When's the raffle?' but it's never been meant to hurt me."



Joanne McNally

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 21 October;
Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 30 October;
The Place, Telford, Sat 5 November

Now in her late 30s 'with no husband, no kids, no pension and no plan', Joanne McNally is posing a host of burning questions in her new touring show, The Prosecco Express: "If I don't birth anything, who will be obligated to watch me die so that I don't have to do it alone? When a man on a dating app identifies as 'spiritual', is it safe to assume he has the personality of a spoon? If you do all your drinking in the bath, can you

write it off as self-care?"

Joanne's overnight success as a stand-up comedian was a long time in the making - almost a decade, in fact. When it arrived, it came in the form of a lucrative book deal, a hugely successful podcast boasting two million downloads every month, and some seriously impressive ticket sales for The Prosecco Express, which she's bringing to the above-listed Midlands venues this autumn. "One of the things I love about comedy is that you can see and track your progress. It's like weight loss, but in a healthier way. I used to be addicted to losing weight, but now I'm addicted to progressing in comedy."

Isy Suttie

Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 22 October

Recognise the face but not the name? If so, chances are you're a fan of cult TV comedy series Peep Show, in which Isy Suttie played the character of Dobbie. Or maybe you've seen her as Esther in Shameless. Or as Ally in Man Down. Or on countless comedian-saturated television shows, including Would I Lie To You and QI. A writer and musician as well as an actor and comic, Isy is returning to the touring circuit with Jackpot, a show in which she contemplates the nature of her never-waning need to get a buzz out of life - even while on a quiet family walk in the woods. Her gags include: "My mate's a really bad actor. He got mugged and then had to audition to play himself in the Crimewatch reconstruction. He got Passer-by Number Two."



Elf Lyons

Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 18 October

Elf Lyons is certainly ploughing an interesting comedy furrow. Her latest show, which she's bringing to Birmingham mid-month, has actually been inspired by novelist Stephen King and is described as 'part mad-clown comedy spectacle, part Hammer Horror'. Elf cites King as one of her two favourite people (not including friends, family and fellow comedians), the other being the late Angela Carter, also a novelist - "because they are both there for me when I need to escape."





Rising Star

Award-winning comedian Celya AB talks to What's On as she prepares to return to her adoptive city to appear at the Birmingham Comedy Festival

It's been a whirlwind few years in the young life of comedian Celya AB. Originally from Paris with French-Algerian roots, she's been embraced as an adopted Brummie ever since she moved to the city aged 19. Three years later, she decided to try her hand at comedy, and just two years after that won the Birmingham Breaking Talent Award at the Birmingham Comedy Festival. Since then, she's reached the finals of the Funny Women Awards (2019), and BBC New Comedy Awards (2021) and won the Chortle Award for Best Newcomer (2022). Not bad considering she'd never even contemplated comedy as a career until five years ago.

The friendly comic laughs at the absurdity of it all, but admits there was a definite lightbulb moment - and the kick-start challenge of a friend - that effectively changed her life.

"I've always loved comedy, but I'd never seen stand-up in real life. (In 2017) I was back home, and I saw it in one of the first comedy clubs in Paris. There was this show where I saw acts doing 10-minute sets and I thought 'I could do that.'

"I kept meaning to do it but kept backing out at the last moment and never booked a gig until I bumped into (comedian) Karen Bailey when I was really hungover and pretending to write jokes. She asked me what I was doing, and when she saw I was writing jokes, she said 'you've got three days because I'm putting you on my gig.' So basically it took me being bullied into it!"

After spending the next three days writing material ("I was scribbling like a maniac - I was only doing a five-minute set, but I must've written enough for 25!"), Celya made her stage debut and instantly knew she'd found her calling.

"I was so nervous, but then the first time I got a laugh I couldn't stop thinking about it and just fell in love with it."

She admits that overcoming the hurdle of being able to perform - and be funny - in English was a huge victory in itself.

"I was always funny with my friends in France, but I didn't think I was allowed to be funny in another language, so when I came to England I just stopped being funny!"

Which is not to say she wasn't having fun - in fact, quite the opposite. She'd settled in Birmingham after falling for the city and its people while visiting extended family to celebrate her 19th birthday. She came for three weeks and never went back.

"I just fell in love with the people - everyone is so friendly. I live in London now, and I can see the difference. I wish everyone in the UK would be as friendly as Brummies, but they're not. Starting there was a very soft landing to moving to England."

Birmingham reciprocated that love when Celya won the Breaking Talent Award at the city's Comedy Festival, a prize she hadn't realised she could be nominated for.

"I remember thinking I don't qualify as a Birmingham comedian because I'm French, but I guess I'd been on that circuit since I started, so I must've counted!"

"I didn't expect to win it at all, but it was great because the Birmingham circuit is so good and being among those people meant a lot. The Glee Club in Birmingham is one of my favourite venues around the UK, so it felt very special - and it's always nice to win stuff, isn't it?"

Celya's career has been on an upward curve ever since. In addition to the award recognition mentioned earlier, she's made a host of TV appearances, including Yesterday, Today And The Day Before (Comedy Central) and Festival Of Funny Live (BBC). She's also been a guest on The Guilty Feminist and Global Pillage and is a regular writer for BBC Radio Four's The News Quiz.

Her first full-length show, Swimming, enjoyed a sold-out run at this year's Edinburgh Fringe ("a rite of passage - you have to do it and get it out of the way"). As much as she's looking forward to performing the show at the Birmingham Comedy Festival, she's already desperate to move on to the next one.

"I originally thought Swimming would be a combination of everything I'd written, but it ended up being mostly new material. I'm very excited that it went well, but I'm already thinking about the second one and how I can improve. It's so important to know that this is all a process, and that you get better at it the more you do it."

Even though she's now based in London ("I can get a lot of gigs down there without leaving the city"), she admits she learned a lot from developing and honing her craft in the Midlands.

"When I started, there were expectations that I'd just do jokes about being French, which don't go down too well if you do them too much - that's one thing I learned from being in Birmingham.

"Birmingham audiences tend to be very honest, which I think makes you be a better stand-up. And because it's the middle of the country, you get a microcosm of the whole country in terms of what people like, if that makes sense - like a Venn diagram. If something works in Birmingham, then chances are it'll work in Manchester, Liverpool and London.

"When I'm in London I can do jokes just about being in London, but then I can't take them anywhere, and I'm really interested in jokes being sharp and working everywhere. It makes the writing process a bit slower, but it's super-important, and I learned that from starting off here."

She's also delighted to be back where it all began - both the city and the festival.

"I love the Birmingham Comedy Festival, and (founder) Dave Freak is a wonderful, wonderful man. I recently did a set at the Moseley Folk Festival, and every time I'm in Birmingham I realise I miss it so much, so I'm really glad to be back."

Celya AB plays Cherry Reds, Birmingham, on Sun 9 October



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(7.30pm & Sat matinee)

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Tuesday 1 November (7.30pm)

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A TRIBUTE TO LIONEL RICHE AND DIANA ROSS
Saturday 12 November (7.30pm)

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THE ULTIMATE BRITPOP EXPERIENCE
Friday 18 November (8pm)

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JIVE TALKIN'

Hit disco-era musical Saturday Night Fever - based on the classic 1977 movie of the same name - returns to the Midlands this month, with Jack Wilcox taking the lead role of Tony Manero. What's On caught up with Jack to talk about the challenge of stepping into John Travolta's iconic white suit and dancing shoes...

Bill Kenwright's production of Saturday Night Fever returns to the Midlands this month with a new leading man. Jack Wilcox, fresh from a run in Anything Goes at The Barbican, will be taking on the role of Tony Manero.

The musical, based on the 1977 movie starring John Travolta, follows Tony's story as he fights his way to dancing success.

"He doesn't really have much in his life to write home about," says Jack. "He's had a difficult upbringing, and his father's lost his job. The whole story is about him reaching out for something more, something better and something to give him fulfilment."

The production is set to offer audiences a fun-filled night of high-energy entertainment - complete with an unforgettable soundtrack by the Bee Gees. Featured classics include How Deep Is Your Love?, Night Fever, Jive Talkin', Disco Inferno and Staying Alive.

"I grew up listening to the Bee Gees in the car because my mum loved them," says Jack. "When you listen to them, you can't help but want to move."

But the production doesn't shy away from showing the darker side of life. "It's more than just a jukebox musical. It's got a very dense and moving script, which is quite gritty at times. It's reflecting real life in 1970s Brooklyn. It tackles some hard subjects that will really make the audience think."

Jack was keen to bring Travolta's Tony to life but also add his own twist to the character. "What's lovely about this role is that I've been able to really develop the character and get that arc throughout the whole show. The audience sees that journey as well, which makes Tony such a satisfying character to play.

"To be honest, it's also a little daunting; John Travolta is so wonderful in the film, and his career really boomed afterwards - and for good reason. But I wanted to find my own truth within the script. We've tried to reach a happy medium of paying tribute to the musical's origins while also making it our own."

Something that will definitely be retained from the film is Travolta's white suit. "I've loved the transformation into Tony, with his iconic suit and the hair. It's been really good fun. One of the most important elements has been the choreography and celebrating this particular period."

The show's dance routines have been created by choreographer Bill Dramer. "Bill's invested time into looking at the period, researching the film and examining what the popular moves of the time were. He's very clever. Coming from Anything Goes, it's been great to break out into this 1970s period, where the dance is a lot looser and I can let myself go a bit more. I'm really enjoying that shifting of gear."

Saturday Night Fever shows at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, from Tues 4 to Sat 8 October; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 25 to Sat 29 October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 22 to Sat 26 November



The Commitments Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 11 - Sat 15 October; Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 24 - Sat 29 April, 2023

Roddy Doyle's smash-hit musical adaptation of his own bestselling novel follows on from the BAFTA-bagging movie version that scored a huge international success way back in the early 1990s. As with book and film, the stage show finds working-class music fan Jimmy Rabbitte inspiring an unlikely bunch of amateur musicians and friends to become the finest soul band Dublin has ever produced.

Along the way, the band treats the audience to more than 20 gold-star soul classics, including: Night Train; Try A Little Tenderness; River Deep, Mountain High; In The Midnight Hour; Papa Was A Rolling Stone; Mustang Sally; and I Heard It Through The Grapevine. One-time Coronation Street favourite Nigel Pivaro stars as 'Da'.

The Osmonds: A New Musical

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 25 - Sat 29 October

"I wrote it from the heart," says Jay Osmond of this new touring stage show. "It was hard. I had to play my drums a lot to get my emotions out, but it all boiled down to this: why did we do what we did? It was because we wanted to help people." For those who are neither pop-music aficionados nor of a certain vintage... The Osmonds were Mormon brothers who started out as a barbershop quartet. They went on to become one of the most famous pop groups in history, winning dozens of awards and selling millions of albums worldwide. Put simply, this show tells their story...



The Cher Show

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

Strictly Ballroom

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 31 October - Sat 5 November; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 13 - Sat 18 February, 2023

Strictly Come Dancing favourites Kevin Clifton and Maisie Smith star in this brand-new Craig Revel Horwood-directed musical, based on Baz Luhrmann's iconic 1992 film of the same name.

"This show introduces people to the backstage world," says Craig. "Everyone who watches Strictly Come Dancing is seeing the glossy side of it, but Strictly Ballroom delves into the hearts and minds of the people doing the dance - the trials and tribulations they have to go through in order to get to that competition standard. It's about the fight and struggle, and all the animosity that's involved in it to win the day and become a gold medallist. It's about dancing with your heart rather than just dancing the steps."



Sister Act
A DIVINE MUSICAL COMEDY

Tue 4 - Sat 15 Oct

Jumprov!

Sat 8 Oct

FREEDOM
THE MUSIC OF
GEORGE MICHAEL

Sun 9 Oct

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The HIDDEN STORY of Queen Victoria,
Sarah Forbes Bonetta & Septhia Duleep Singh

Tue 18 & Wed 19 Oct

Aakash Odedra Company & Bagri Foundation present
SAMSARA

Sun 23 Oct

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
Sir Peter Wright's
Coppélia

Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct

Joanne McNally:
The Prosecco Express

Sun 30 Oct

BAZ LUHRMANN'S
STRICTLY BALLROOM
THE MUSICAL

Mon 31 Oct - Sat 5 Nov

Apples and Snakes presents
Hit The Ode

Fri 4 Nov

WNO Welsh National Opera
La bohème
Puccini

Wed 9 - Fri 11 Nov

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
Sir Peter Wright's
The Nutcracker

Sat 19 Nov - Sat 10 Dec

MARTI PELLOW MATT SLACK DR RANJ SUZANNE SHAW
Dick Whittington
THE PANTOMIME PRINCE WITH GOLD
DOREEN TIPTON ANDREW RYAN

Sat 17 Dec - Sun 29 Jan



Tartuffe

The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 14 October - Sat 5 November

Described as a wicked comedy about faith, family and #fakingit, this critically acclaimed version of a 17th-century masterpiece brings events bang up to date.

The story centres around the wealthy Pervaiz family. Living in modern-day Birmingham, they have in their midst the charismatic and devout Tahir Taufiq Arsuf - or Tartuffe to the sceptical. But is Tartuffe all that he seems - and will family life ever be the same again?... Transferring the play's action from the 17th century to the 21st, Anil Gupta and Richard Pinto, the writing team who updated Tartuffe, made the title character a Muslim cleric - and then braced themselves for a backlash that by and large didn't happen. Updating the play in the particular way that they chose - by turning the full glare of the spotlight on the contemporary British Muslim experience - was certainly a bold move, as director Iqbal Khan has acknowledged, but it's one that they've pulled off with real style.

An Inspector Calls

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 4 - Sat 8 October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 29 November - Sat 3 December; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 28 Feb - Sat 4 March

Anybody who's been fortunate enough to catch a production of JB Priestley's classic work will have no trouble whatsoever understanding why it's been such a worldwide hit.



When Inspector Goole calls unexpectedly on the prosperous Birling family, his startling revelations not only shatter the foundations of their lives but also challenge them to examine their consciences...

Unknown

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 13 & Fri 14 October; Vesta Tilley Studio, Worcester, Tues 25 & Wed 26 October

Filmmaker Ken Loach - perhaps best known for his 1966 television play about homelessness, Cathy Come Home - has described the stories recounted in Unknown as harrowing, shocking but eloquently told. It's an assessment which speaks volumes for the quality of the play, both in terms of its raw power and profound articulacy. Supported by the Arts Council and The Big

Issue, Unknown is a verbatim piece that dramatises the tragic but true story of one young person's journey from an abusive childhood to a life on the streets of Bath - one of the UK's most affluent cities. The play is presented against the backdrop of a sobering statistic: in just two years, from 2017 to 2019, more than 800 people died while living and sleeping rough on the streets of Great Britain. Unknown has been written with the assistance of six people who have recent experience of homelessness.

Twopence To Cross The Mersey

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Wed 19 - Fri 21 October; Lichfield Garrick, Sat 22 - Sun 23 October

Helen Forrester's autobiographical play is set in the 1930s and catches up with the teenage Helen as she fights a bitter battle



with her parents for the right to educate herself and go out to work. Following her family's fall from grace and a move from the more affluent south up to Merseyside, Helen is used by her parents as an 'unpaid slave' to look after her siblings. But with Britain on the brink of war, the teenage girl finally finds the chink of light for which she's been searching...

Austenatious

Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 8 & Sun 9 October

Austenatious visits the Midlands having garnered plenty of praise when it debuted at the Edinburgh Fringe. Lighthearted and delightfully throwaway, it finds the performers utilising audience suggestions to develop a play that not only pays homage to Jane Austen but also generates plenty of laughter along the way.



Shakers

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Tues 25 - Sat 29 October

Welcome to Shakers, for service with a smile - even if the waitresses are not only shaken but probably stirred as well! Underpaid, overworked and rushed off their feet, they share their experiences of the variety of characters who're propping up the bar or visiting the venue for a night on the tiles... John Godber & Jane Thornton's hit 1985 play is here presented in a revamped version which puts women's lives front and centre.

WHAT WILL YOU SEE NEXT?

BLACKSTORY PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS

SHE'S ROYAL



The HIDDEN STORY of Queen Victoria,
Sarah Forbes Bonetta & Sophia Duleep Singh

TUE 01 NOV
SHE'S ROYAL

JON RICHARDSON

THE KNITWIT TOUR



WED 02 - THU 03 NOV
JON RICHARDSON -
THE KNITWIT TOUR

DARA O'BRIAIN



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TOUR

FRI 04 - SAT 05 NOV
DARA O'BRIAIN -
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BILSTON OPERATIC COMPANY
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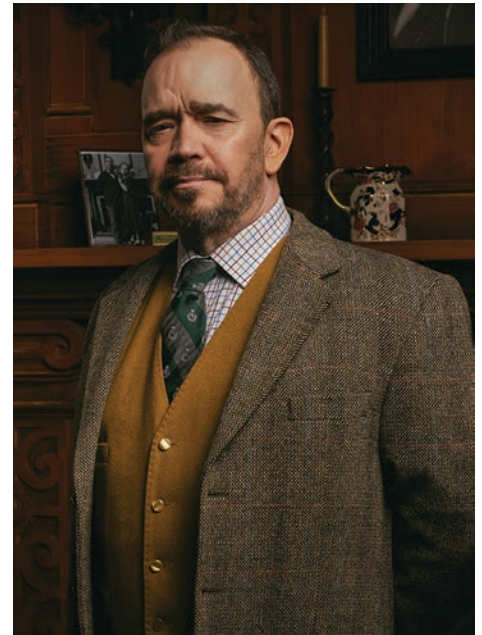
TUE 08 - SAT 12 NOV
BILSTON OPERATIC COMPANY
PRESENTS PETER PAN



The Mousetrap

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 31 October - Sat 5 November; Malvern Theatres, Mon 30 January - Sat 4 February; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 13 - Sat 18 February; Lichfield Garrick, Mon 27 March - Sat 1 April; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 3 - Sat 8 April

Not only has everybody heard of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*, everybody's also actually seen the show... haven't they? Okay, maybe not, but as the play debuted some 70 years ago and has been running non-stop in the West End ever since (Covid disruption aside, of course), it's fair to say its capacity to put bums on seats is absolutely beyond question. Not surprisingly it's the world's longest-running show, and has been performed almost 30,000 times. Its touring version is here making a welcome return to the Midlands and stars Todd Carty and Gwyneth Strong (pictured) alongside John Altman.



The Death Of King Arthur

The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield, Thurs 20 October

If you enjoy a good yarn about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, be sure to catch this brand-new version of a very old story. The production comes complete with an interactive twist that allows the audience to influence the performance.

A Study In Scarlet

Blue Orange Theatre, Fri 28 October - Sat 5 November

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes is one of literature's most enduring characters, so it's little wonder that theatre companies the length and breadth of the country continue to present stage adaptations of the legendary sleuth's most famous adventures. On this occasion it's the ever-reliable Blue Orange Arts who are taking their audience on a journey back to Victorian England, to tell the tale of how Dr John Watson first encountered Holmes - and suddenly found himself plunged into a baffling case of murder most foul...

Family Album

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Tues 11 - Sat 22 October

Chronicling the trials, tribulations and temptations of three generations of one family across 70 years in the same home,

Alan Ayckbourn's *Family Album* catches up with characters in 1952, 1992 and 2022.

In the early '50s, RAF veteran John and housewife Peggy move into the first home they can really call their own...

Forty years later, their daughter, Sandra, frantically negotiates the challenges of a 10-year-old's birthday party without her AWOL husband...

And in 2022, granddaughter Alison finally manages to escape the house she has somewhat unwillingly inherited...

Mention of Alan Ayckbourn and a list of brilliant observational comedies springs readily to mind. *Family Album* looks set to become the latest addition to that impressive roll of honour. Ayckbourn himself directs.

The Second Best Bed

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Fri 7 October

This one-woman show, starring Liz Grand as Shakespeare's widow Anne Hathaway, has reviewed extremely well since debuting at Worcester's Swan Theatre 10 years ago...

Left alone on the night of her husband's funeral, Anne takes a poignant stroll down memory lane as she recalls the life and times of England's greatest playwright...

A Christmas Carol

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Wed 26 October - Sun 1 January

Of all Dickens' festive stories, *A Christmas*

Carol reigns supreme. The covetous sinning of the miserly Scrooge, the eternal hope offered by Tiny Tim, and the eerie visions of redemption - visiting Ebenezer in the shape of three yuletide ghosts (four if you count the chain-clanking Jacob Marley) - all combine to give the tale a real olde worlde charm...

Adrian Edmondson stars as Scrooge in this David Edgar-penned adaptation, which debuted at the RSC five years ago. And as an extra-special treat, the ghostly tale is opening in time for Halloween!

The Rocky Horror Show

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 4 - Sat 8 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 6 - Sun 11 March; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 27 March - Sat 1 April

Tighten your corsets and prepare to 'do The Time Warp again' - *The Rocky Horror Show* is returning to the Midlands!

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

Along the way, they take the audience through a selection of love-'em-or-loathe-'em musical numbers, including *Sweet Transvestite*, *Damn It Janet* and *The Time Warp*. Great fun's a guarantee - particularly if you get into the spirit of things and attend the show dressed in your very best stockings & suspenders (as many patrons do)! Strictly Come Dancing's Ore Oduba stars as Brad.



DAILY TELEGRAPH



DAILY MAIL



GUARDIAN

TARTUFFE

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KERRY GODLIMAN
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CARL HUTCHINSON
SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER



UP TO SCRATCH
THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER



THE THINKING DRINKERS
FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER



AUSTENTATIOUS
SATURDAY 8 & SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER



SINDERELLA
FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER



ISY SUTTIE
SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER



NICK HELM
WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER



THE BUGLE PODCAST
THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER



SOFIE HAGEN
FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER



HAL CRUTTENDEN
SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER



SEAN McLOUGHLIN
SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER



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Something a little different - events popping up across the region...



Cirque Du Soleil: Corteo

Utilita Arena, Birmingham,
Wed 19 - Sun 23 October

Easily the ensemble which has done most to restore people's view of the circus as a valid and desirable form of mass entertainment, Cirque du Soleil (or Circus of the Sun) was founded in Quebec, Canada, in 1984, and has since gone on to present some of the most successful and groundbreaking theatrical extravaganzas of all time.

A massive hit wherever it erects its big top tent, the company blends circus styles from around the world, with each show having its own central theme and storyline.

This latest offering brings together 'the passion of the actor with the grace and power of the acrobat, to plunge the audience into a theatrical world of fun, comedy and spontaneity, situated in a mysterious space between heaven and earth'.

Dr Richard Shepherd: Unnatural Causes

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 12 October; The Roses, Tewkesbury, Sun 23 October; Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 25 October; Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 27 October

People's ongoing fascination with malevolent murder, psychotic serial killers and all manner of other grim and gruesome topics means that forensic pathologist Dr Richard Shepherd now has a hugely successful *second* career - touring shows such as this one to theatres and venues across the country.

With more than 23,000 autopsies behind him, and having leant his expertise to numerous high-profile cases - including the Hungerford Massacre and the Princess Diana inquiry - Dr Shepherd has many a tale to tell. Expect an absorbing and utterly fascinating journey into the gripping world of forensic pathology...

Suggs: What A King Cnut - A Life In The Realm Of Madness

Malvern Theatres, Fri 7 October; The Place, Telford, Wed 19 October; Walsall Arena & Arts Centre, Thurs 20 October

After selling out his previous touring production, Madness frontman Suggs here takes a lighthearted look at a career that's featured plenty of memorable moments - from experiencing vertigo on the roof of Buckingham Palace, to nearly blowing the closing ceremony of the London Olympics. Oh, and watching his underpants fall to earth on David Bowie's driveway...

The Noise Next Door: Hometown Heroes

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 7 October; Albany Theatre, Coventry, Tues 25 October

Praised for presenting their audiences with 'a superior kind of chaos', The Noise Next Door is a quartet of improvising comedians who've been garnering critical praise for a good few years now. Big in Edinburgh at festival time, they pride themselves on their originality and quick-wittedness (the latter being pretty much essential in the world of improvisational comedy).

Previous on-stage endeavours have included a mini-musical embracing the uncomfortable bedfellows of pantomime, folk music and death-metal, and a surreal adventure in which the Magic Roundabout's Zebedee leads the forces of good against Darth Vader, who's holed up in Worcester Cathedral.

This latest show sees them taking 'the best, worst and downright weirdest things about where they're performing and transforming them into a cavalcade of hilarious songs, scenes and characters'.

Last Podcast On The Left

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 22 October

With its title referencing 1972 horror movie *The Last House On The Left*, Ben Kissel, Marcus Parks & Henry Zebrowski's hit podcast has taken to the road with its usual consignment of 'cults, killers and cryptid encounters'. Long-term friends Ben, Marcus and Henry launched *Last Podcast On The Left* back in 2011 and have been talking about serial killers, conspiracy theories, UFO

sightings, ghosts, ghouls and the occult ever since.

Subjects under discussion in this touring version of the podcast include Jeffrey Dahmer, werewolves, Jonestown, iconic hauntings and the history of war crimes.

The Black Blues Brothers

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 13 October

Imagine an evening spent enjoying hit songs from cult 1980s movie *The Blues Brothers*. Then imagine doing so while watching 'jaw-dropping balancing acts, acrobatics with fire and human pyramids'.

That's pretty much the winning combination on offer when *The Black Blues Brothers* visit Lichfield this month, with the performers 'using every chair, table and coat rack as part of their breathtaking routines'.

Brown Girls Do It Too: Mama Told Me Not To Come

The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 28 & Sat 29 October

Songs, sketches and graphic content aplenty await Birmingham Rep audiences when Poppy Jay and Rubina Pabani take to the stage to present this, er, 'genital warts and all' celebration of 'brown British women'. The show is touring on the back of the fun-loving duo's hit podcast, *Brown Girls Do It Too*, an endeavour aimed at lifting the lid on the messy realities of navigating life and relationships as British Asian women.

THE ROSES

Tewkesbury's Theatre

More online: www.rosestheatre.org



Barry Steele's Roy Orbison Story
Fri 14 Oct



90's Live
Sat 15 Oct 7.30pm



Carole - The Music of Carole King
Fri 21 Oct 7.30pm



Dirty Dusting
Sat 22 Oct 7.30pm



Richard Shepherd: Unnatural Causes
Sun 23 Oct 7.30pm



The Rod Stewart Story
Sat 29 Oct 7.30pm

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Theatre, Film & Event Screenings

Theatre

- 1/10 The Roy Orbison Story
- 7/10 An Evening with Clive John *music*
- 8/10 Dire Streets
- 11/10 Keith Slater's 60s Celebration 2pm
- 15/10 COBO Comedy Shutdown *in Studio*
Black History Month special - comedy night
- 21/10 Henry's Bluehouse - The Shufflepack
- 21/10 Dom Joly's Holiday Snaps *travel comedy*
- 22/10 Buddy Holly & The Cricketers
- 28/10 Shark in the Park *family fun at 1pm*
- 28/10 The Indians are Coming! *comedy*
- 29/10 Diwali: Light, Shadows and Neon!
Family friendly creative activities 10am-3pm

Film

- 5/10 Operation Mincemeat (12A)
- 19/10 West Side Story (12A) *Matinee*

Event Screenings National Theatre Live

- 6/10 Jack Absolute Flies Again
Comedy from the National Theatre set in 1940 stars Caroline Quentin, Kelvin Fletcher & Laurie Davidson.
- 25/11 The Seagull
Chekhov's tale of love and loneliness starring Emilia Clarke (Game of Thrones) in her West End debut.

Event Cinema!

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Box Office: T: 0121 704 6962 9.30am-2.30pm Mon-Sat

Theatre for younger audiences...



Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever

The Place, Telford, Sat 8 - Sun 9 October; Malvern Theatres, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 November

If you've taken your little ones to any of the previous Peppa Pig stage shows - and enjoyed the experience of watching them having a fantastic time - you'll already know that this currently touring production is well worth catching. Peppa Pig is heading out on a road trip with George, Mummy Pig and Daddy Pig, and there are plenty of adventures waiting to be had - including ones that involve dragons, dinosaurs, ice-creams and muddy puddles...

Justin Live: The Big Tour

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 30 October

Mr Tumble is heading for the Midlands! The popular clown - who features in CBeebies' Something Special, a programme for youngsters with delayed learning and communication difficulties - is otherwise known as BAFTA Award-winning children's television presenter Justin Fletcher. Justin is visiting the region this month with a production that he describes as an all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza, complete with well-known songs and plenty of slapstick fun.



Shark In The Park

The Core Theatre, Solihull, Fri 28 October

Nick Sharratt has illustrated over 250 books, around one-sixth of which have been his own. One of these is the hugely successful Shark In The Park!, a children's story about a young lad named Timothy who goes to his local park to try out his new telescope. While there, he thinks he spots a shark - and not just on one occasion either, but several times in several places! The popularity of the book prompted Nick to write and illustrate two follow-ups - Shark In The Dark! and Shark In The Park On A Windy Day!. All three stories are featured in this popular stage show from the highly rated Nonsense

Room theatre company. The production is suitable for children aged two-plus.



Milkshake Live

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 24 October; Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 30 October

Milkshake Monkey's putting on a show - and he's inviting little ones to come along and join in the fun with Paddington, Daisy & Ollie, Milo, Noddy, Pip & Posy and Blue's Clues... If you've watched the TV series and/or been to a previous live production, you'll already know what to expect from a Milkshake! show. If not, get ready for an event that promises lots of laughter, bucketloads of family fun, bags of audience participation and plenty of singing and dancing.



Demon Dentist

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 26 & Sat 27 October; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 30 March - Sun 2 April; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Wed 28 June - Sat 1 July
Birmingham Stage Company (BSC) here

present their brand-new adaptation of David Walliams' popular children's book. Telling a toothy tale of dental disaster, Demon Dentist finds Alfie and his best pal, Gabz, doing their level best to solve a disturbing mystery: why is it that children who leave their teeth for the tooth fairy are then waking up to find horrible things under their pillow? Could it have anything to do with the new dentist in town - the appropriately named Miss Root?... BSC's stage adaptations of Walliams' Gangsta Granny and Billionaire Boy were both nominated for an Olivier Award, so you can bet your wisdom teeth that Demon Dentist will soon be in the running for a glorious gong or several too.

Morgan & West: Unbelievable Science

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 15 October; Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 28 October

Whether you're five or 105, a lover of brain-busting illusion or a fan of good old-fashioned tomfoolery, this brand-new production is definitely the show for you - according to its presenters, Morgan & West. A time-travelling Victorian magic duo, Mr Morgan and Mr West promise to 'unload another boxful of bafflement and impossibility where magic and silliness abound'. 'Captivating chemistry, phenomenal physics and bonkers biology' all feature on this particular occasion.



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GETTING INTO MISCHIEF

Erica Whyman, the Royal Shakespeare Company's acting artistic director, talks about Mischief Festival, which this month sees two innovative new works being showcased at the RSC's studio theatre, The Other Place...

What's the story behind the Mischief festivals - how and why did they come into being?

I introduced them to launch the new The Other Place, our studio theatre, in 2014. They are a way of grouping our most adventurous and playful work and plays together and encouraging audiences to see different perspectives on a theme.

How have they developed and evolved over the years?

They have all been different, but I hope each one has spoken of its time. We have shorter lead times in creating the Mischief season of plays and can make sure the work is really responsive to the moment.

What have you learned from previous Mischief festivals?

I've learnt to trust that Mischief is the perfect framing for both light and dark experimentation. Shakespeare used it both ways, mischief to mean violence or injustice as well as to make enjoyable trouble. I think artists need more courage than ever to really express what they think.

What's the process you go through in terms of deciding which plays to perform?

We've used different methods; convening conversations about hot topics, encouraging artists to write fast responses to world events, and commissions with a specific focus. What they all share is a commitment to the present moment, and a desire to reimagine the world.

Is there a theme to this year's festival, and if so, what is it and why was it chosen?

We commissioned and programmed these plays in 2019 in an explicit response to leaving the EU. We wanted to platform stories of small communities dealing with change, with crisis and with division. And we wanted comedies - I was very aware of how few funny writers are given space to develop on significant stages. And our audiences need to laugh.....! But we had no idea how very timely

those instincts would turn out to be. All communities, neighbourhoods and friendship groups thrust into a pandemic together will recognise themselves in these plays.

How about the plays themselves? Can you tell us a little bit about them...

Ivy Tiller: *Vicar's Daughter*, *Squirrel Killer* is about a young woman who has found purpose in a campaign to kill grey squirrels in order to restore red squirrels. But the campaign is over and Ivy can't stop. It's about loneliness and being an outsider but also about the absurdity of human desires and connections... *O, Island!* is about a small community hit by disastrous floods which, once divided by water, reveals fascist tendencies and extreme behaviour. It is truly a parable for our political times!

Mischief is being held in The Other Place. How does the venue impact the festival and the plays?

The building is a creative, festive space. Somewhere full of energy and distinctly rough and ready, unpretentious. I think that has a positive impact on the work; the audience come in expecting to be surprised, ready to share the space with the artists.

If you had to select one play from previous festivals that's really hit the mark and resonated with you, which would it be and why?

#wearearrested by Can Dundar, adapted by Pippa Hill and Sophie Ivatts. It is the story of Can's imprisonment and facing jumped-up charges as a journalist in Turkey taking courageous risks to tell the truth. It felt important, but also poetic and enthralling. There's a moment when Can dances to Adele with great abandon as he dreams of his wife outside the prison walls and it is absurd, delightful and heartbreaking all at once.

When is Mischief Festival at its best? And has there been a time when you felt it failed to meet expectations?



It is at its best when it provokes conversation, and holds a safe but lively space for debate. So no, it has always done that. Some work has caused more or less debate, some has been strong meat for some, but that's exactly the point. It has been a fearless space to play with form and address content that is hard to grapple with.

If the event is still going in, say, a decade's time, in what ways would you hope it had developed?

I would love to see it become ever-more interdisciplinary, working across digital and irl to offer an international experience of Mischief, wherever you are in the world, and celebrating the evolving nature of theatre-making. And perhaps causing even more enjoyable trouble....

.....
O, Island! shows at The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 5 November; **Ivy Tiller: Vicar's Daughter, Squirrel Killer**, shows at the same venue from Thurs 6 October until Sat 5 November.

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Dance previews from across the region



Birmingham Royal Ballet: Into The Music

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 21 & Sat 22 October

Widely considered to be one of Birmingham Royal Ballet's (BRB) most challenging triple bills ever, Into The Music features three works new to the company: Uwe Scholz's Seventh Symphony (set to Beethoven), and Jiří Kylián's Forgotten Land - neither of which have been performed in the UK before - plus Morgann Runacre-Temple's Hotel, which will be receiving its world premiere. "Forgotten Land is one of Kylián's classics," explains BRB Director

Carlos Acosta, "with eight couples, 16 dancers, and music by Benjamin Britten.

"Seventh Symphony is a piece for the whole company - there are about 40 dancers on stage - and it's also a gift for the Royal Ballet Sinfonia to be playing Beethoven's symphony."

Runacre-Temple's Hotel, meanwhile, is a journey into the secrets and lies that are hidden behind closed doors. Set to music by Swedish composer Mikael Karlsson, the piece is the latest commission from BRB's Ballet Now programme, which fosters new talent by commissioning work from emerging choreographers.

Ballet Theatre UK: Beauty And The Beast

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 27 October

When a young woman is captured by a hideous beast, she finds herself facing a life of isolation in his mysterious palace. The Beast, too, is trapped - seemingly forever - inside the grotesquery of his physical appearance, the consequence of a spell cast upon him by an evil witch. Only Beauty's ability to look beyond his ugliness and see the person within can save him... This much-loved fairytale is here being presented by the ever-excellent Ballet Theatre UK, a company with an impressive history of producing bright and colourful shows designed to promote classical dance as an accessible art form.



Jasmin Vardimon: Alice

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 18 & Wed 19 October

Founded in 1997, Jasmin Vardimon Company combines physical theatre and quirky characterisation with innovative technologies, text and dance. The internationally acclaimed ensemble here presents 'a bold reimagining' of Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures In Wonderland. Promising 'a sensory feast of arresting images, powerful performers and striking kinetic scenery', the show explores the themes of time, identity, rules and authority.



Chantry Dance: The Guardian Of The Forest

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sun 2 October



The importance of preserving natural habitats is the theme behind Chantry Dance's imaginative reworking of Beauty And The Beast.

When the vain Lord Bieth wants to cut down the forest in order to expand his city, the Green Lady intervenes. And not only does she stop his plan, she also turns him into a beast, who is then compelled to guard the forest against destruction by greedy city folk. Years later, the beast's salvation comes in the form of a young maiden named Áille...

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Director Carlos Acosta

Into the Music

Featuring the Royal Ballet Sinfonia playing
Beethoven's Seventh Symphony live with 34 dancers

Forgotten Land

Kylian | Britten

Hotel

WORLD PREMIERE
Runacre-Temple | Karlsson

The Seventh Symphony

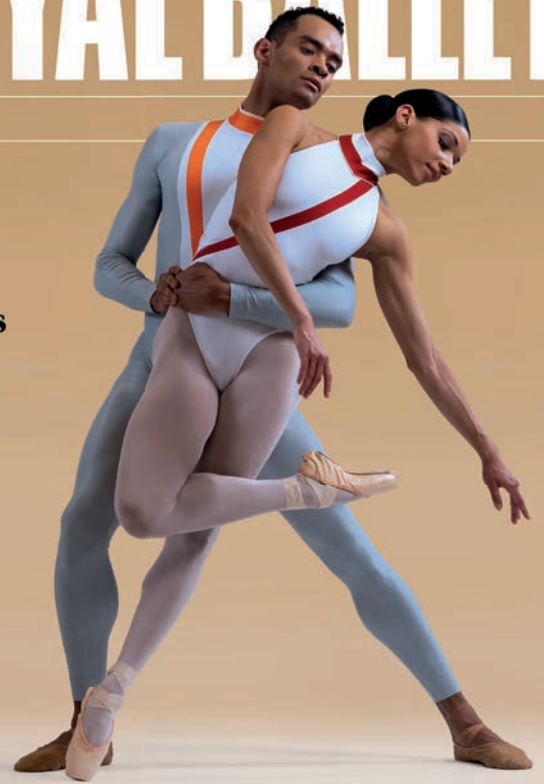
UK PREMIERE
Scholz | Beethoven

21 & 22 October

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The Seventh Symphony: Céline Gittens and Brandon Lawrence. © Drew Tommons. Below, Beatrice Parma as Swanilda. © Manvir Rai and Richard Payne.



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BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Director Carlos Acosta

Sir Peter Wright's

Coppélia

26 – 29 October

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The Stage

★★★★★

"Magnificent"

Birmingham Mail



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Dance previews from across the region



Motionhouse: Starchitects

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 October;
Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 3 & Sat 4 February

Leamington-based dance company Motionhouse make a welcome return to Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre this month with a brand-new show.

Telling the story of five youngsters who dream of reaching the moon from their bedroom, Starchitects is the company's first ever

production created specifically for children and families.

"Full of thrilling surprises, the show is engaging for audiences of all ages," says the company's executive director, Louise Richards. "It's a visual spectacle using the dance-circus fusion and digital projections that Motionhouse is renowned for, with a fun and imaginative, easy-to-follow storyline - making it a perfect outing for the whole family.

"The theme of the show - space travel - lends itself well to creative educational and participatory activities to stimulate children, supporting their development and encouraging their creativity."

Ballet Cymru: Dream

Stourbridge Town Hall, Sat 29 October

Touring to around 50 venues throughout the UK on an annual basis, Ballet Cymru has garnered a reputation for presenting innovative, challenging and original productions. The company was founded in 1986 and prides itself on presenting 'a high standard of classical ballet in an unpretentious and original way'.

The ensemble visits Stourbridge this month with a 'vibrant, fresh and innovative' full-length ballet based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.



Jaivant Patel Dance: The Festival Of Light

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham,
Sat 29 October

"The root of what we do is very specific in wanting to explore and demonstrate the rich heritage of Indian classical dance," explains Jaivant Patel in talking about his Wolverhampton-founded company. "But what's really important in the work we create is that there is an access point, regardless of your experience and understanding of dance and South Asian art forms."

Having last year celebrated their 15th anniversary, Jaivant Patel Dance here make a welcome return with Deepavali: The Festival Of Light - a 'captivating evening of South Asian dance showcasing Bollywood, Kathak, Bharatanatyam to Bhangara and Dandiya Raas'.

Samsara

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 23 October

Aakash Odedra made a significant splash when he first appeared on the scene, quickly racking up collaborations with numerous high-profile choreographers, including Akram Khan, Sidi Larbi and Russell Maliphant.

Now a Hippodrome associate artist, Aakash here joins forces with Chinese dancer Hu Shenyan to explore the notion of samsara, the wheel of life: birth, existence and re-birth. The duet has been inspired by classic Chinese novel Journey To The West and draws on thinking and imagery at the heart of Buddhist philosophy. The piece is one hour in length and is performed without an interval.



Film highlights in October...



The Woman King

CERT 15 (135 mins)

Starring **Viola Davies, John Boyega, Hero Fiennes Tiffin, Lashana Lynch, Jordan Bolger, Sheila Atim**
Directed by **Gina Prince-Bythewood**

A perhaps not surprisingly little-known fact is that in the 1800s, the African kingdom of Dahomey was protected by an all-female unit

of warriors known as the Agojie. Telling their remarkable story, *The Woman King* follows the emotionally epic journey of General Nanisca (here played by Oscar winner Viola Davis) as she trains the next generation of recruits, readying them for battle against an enemy determined to destroy their way of life...

Released Tues 4 October

Amsterdam

CERT tbc (134 mins)
Starring **Anya Taylor-Joy, Robert De Niro, Margot Robbie, Christian Bale, Zoe Saldana, Rami Malek** Directed by **David O Russell**

An original crime epic blending fact with fiction, *Amsterdam* focuses on three close friends who find themselves at the centre of one of the most shocking secret plots in American history.

The film is the latest offering from acclaimed writer & director David O Russell, whose previous movies include *Spanking The Monkey* and *American Hustle*.

Released Fri 7 October



The Lost King

CERT 12 (108 mins)
Starring **Harry Lloyd, Sally Hawkins, Steve Coogan, James Fleet, Jessica Harwick, Sharon Osdin** Directed by **Stephen Frears**



Two-time Academy Award nominee Sally Hawkins takes the lead role of Philippa Langley in a film which tells the remarkable true story of how an amateur British history enthusiast discovered the long-lost remains of King Richard III.

The film, which marks the 10th anniversary of the discovery of Richard's skeleton in a Leicester car park, reunites the BAFTA-winning creative team behind box office and critical hit *Philomena*: director Stephen Frears and writers Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope. Coogan, whose *Baby Cow* company has produced the film, co-stars in the role of Philippa's husband.

Released Fri 7 October

Emily

CERT tbc (130 mins)

Starring **Emma Mackey, Oliver Jackson-Cohen, Fionn Whitehead, Alexandra Dowling, Sacha Parkinson, Amelia Gething**
Directed by **Frances O'Connor**

Sex Education's Emma Mackey takes the starring role in this imagined life story of one of the world's most famous authors: Emily Brontë. The second youngest of six siblings - among whom, of course, were fellow writers Charlotte and Anne - Emily is best known for her one and only (and classic) novel, *Wuthering Heights*. Frances O'Connor here makes her directorial debut, working from her own original screenplay. The film also stars *Line Of Duty*'s Adrian Dunbar and *Gentleman Jack*'s Gemma Jones.

Released Fri 14 October



Halloween Ends

CERT 18

Starring **Jamie Lee Curtis, Will Patton, Kyle Richards, Andi Matichak, Nick Castle, Rohan Campbell** Directed by **David Gordon Green**

The *Halloween* franchise has certainly found a new lease of life recently, with this latest offering following on from 2018's *Halloween* and last year's *Halloween Kills*. Four years have passed since the events of the previous movie. Spooky serial killer Michael Myers hasn't been seen since. Laurie, meanwhile, is living with her granddaughter, Allyson, and is finishing writing her memoir. After allowing Myers' spectre to determine and drive her reality for decades, Laurie has decided to liberate herself from fear and rage by embracing life. But when a young man is accused of killing a boy he was babysitting, she is forced to confront the evil that lies beyond her control...

Released Fri 14 October



Black Adam CERT tbc

Starring **Dwayne Johnson, Sarah Shahi, Viola Davis, Pierce Brosnan, Aldis Hodge, Noah Centineo** Directed by **Jaume Collet-Serra**

Black Adam has been described as Dwayne Johnson's DC passion project, and it's easy to see why. The character was slated to make his film debut in 2019's *Shazam!*, but Dwayne had other ideas. He felt that Black Adam's impact would be seriously compromised if he were required to share screen space with another superhero (even though the duo have a shared history in the original comic books). According to Johnson, the extra three years Black Adam fans have had to wait to see their hero on the big screen will be well worth it - the actor has repeatedly promised moviegoers that the film will change the DC cinematic universe forever.

Released Fri 21 October



Triangle Of Sadness

CERT tbc (147 mins)

Starring **Harris Dickinson, Charlbi Dean, Woody Harrelson, Dolly De Leon, Zlatko Buric, Iris Berben** Directed by **Ruben Östlund**

The idle rich's hypocrisy, greed and thirst for power is a subject that just keeps on giving in *Triangle Of Sadness*, the latest film from Swedish auteur Ruben Östlund.

A satirist, provocateur and two-time winner of the Palme d'Or - the second one being awarded for this very film, which received an eight-minute standing ovation at the Cannes' Film Festival - Östlund is no stranger to controversy. He once joked he was thrilled that Sweden's divorce rate skyrocketed after the release of his 2014 black comedy, *Force Majeure* - a film in which a husband prioritises his own escape over the safety of his family following an apparent avalanche in the French Alps. *Triangle Of Sadness* marks the final appearance of Charlbi Dean, who died unexpectedly in August at the age of just 32. Expect a movie that is provocative, fierce, funny and sharp.

Released Fri 28 October



Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile CERT PG

Starring **Constance Wu, Javier Bardem, Brett Gelman, Scoot McNairy** and the voice of **Shawn Mendes** Directed by **Josh Gordan** and **Will Speck**

Josh Primm is struggling to adapt to his new school and new friends following his family's move to New York City.

Thank heavens, then, for his discovery of a brand-new bestie - a singing crocodile - in the attic of his new home. But this is no ordinary city-dwelling, attic-residing, long-tailed

reptile; this one loves baths, has a real taste for caviar and likes listening to great music. Life is definitely looking up for young Josh - but he's reckoning without the involvement of the evil Mr Grumps, who's failing to see any upside to sharing his neighbourhood with an impressively sophisticated saltwater crocodile...

Columbia Pictures' live-action/animated musical comedy is based on the bestselling 1960s' book series by Bernard Waber.

Released Fri 14 October

Bros CERT tbc (115 mins)

Starring **Billy Eichner, Luke Macfarlane, Debra Messing, Kristin Chenoweth, Monica Raymund, Jim Rash** Directed by **Nicholas Stoller**



Universal Pictures' is shouting from its rooftop the fact that *Bros* marks the first time a major studio has made a gay romantic comedy. It's also the first time an openly gay man - Billy Eichner - has co-written and starred in a film by a major studio... Times, it would appear, are very much a-changin'...

Featuring an entirely LGBTQ+ principal cast, *Bros* is described as 'a smart, swoony and heartfelt comedy about how hard it is to find another tolerable human-being to go through life with'.

Given that the film has all of the above going for it, finding an audience - and a big one - should prove to be a walk in the park.

Released Fri 28 October

The Devil's Light

CERT 15 (93 mins)

Starring **Virginia Madsen, Colin Salmon, Jacqueline Byers, Ben Cross, Christian Navarro, Nicholas Ralph** Directed by **Daniel Stamm**

In response to a global rise in demonic possessions, the Catholic Church reopens exorcism schools to train priests in the Rite of Exorcism. On this spiritual battlefield, an unlikely warrior rises: a young nun named Sister Ann. Although nuns are forbidden to perform exorcisms, a professor recognises Sister Ann's gifts and agrees to train her. Thrust onto the spiritual frontline with fellow student Father Dante, Sister Ann soon finds herself in a battle for the soul of a young girl - one who she believes is possessed by the same demon that tormented her own mother years earlier...

Released Fri 28 October





PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Stan's Cafe's Of All The People In All The World returns to the Midlands

Grains of rice representing abstract human statistics form the basis of a unique performance installation created by Birmingham theatre company Stan's Cafe. Of All The People In All The World returns to the Midlands this autumn having visited cities around the globe since debuting in 2003. What's On recently caught up with Artistic Director James Yarker to find out more about this innovative work of art.

Birmingham-based Stan's Cafe have taken their work, Of All The People In All The World, around the globe since it was premiered in 2003 - and this autumn it will be re-staged at two West Midlands venues.

The show will be free to visit at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre from 4 to 9 October (it forms part of Warwick Arts Weekender, taking place from the 6th to the 9th), and then visits Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre (mac) on various dates between 22 October and 6 November.

Of All The People In All The World uses grains of rice to tell stories of people, communities, individuals and groups. Each grain represents one person, with viewers being invited to see themselves represented in the work.

Stan's Cafe Artistic Director James Yarker explains: "What people will see is piles of rice, all of different sizes - some huge, and some actually down to individual grains of rice - all sat on sheets of white paper. And there's a label on them.

"It looks quite attractive sculpturally, as it's a series of almost sand dunes or hills, but when you get close and you start to read the labels, you realise that each pile of rice represents a pile of human beings. So in a way it's a map of the world, in which one grain of rice equals one human being.

"We've chosen which categories sit by which categories to tell the story. So when people arrive, if they're from the local area, they will see the population of their town or city. But then they might also see the number of schoolchildren or teachers or doctors or nurses in that town or city.

"They'll also see national politics played out there and international events represented. They'll see changes over time. You can tell stories, and even jokes, by what you choose to put side by side."

Premiered at Warwick Arts Centre nearly 20 years ago, Of All The People In All The World has been experienced by audiences across Europe, North and South America, Canada, Australia and Japan. And James says people in every community connect with it.

"I think it's effective everywhere because it's incredibly simple and understandable. It connects with people's sense of empathy, so even really small children understand the concept. People see themselves relocated within the show, so it's really personal to them and also surprising.

"Its longevity is also because it's a concept which is constantly made anew. If we performed the original version that we did in 2003, then it would look massively dated because we'd be talking about Guantanamo Bay, Gordon Brown and how Britain has only had one woman prime minister.

"But the joy of it is that it can respond to the architecture or setting in terms of being in a specific place at that time. Something can happen in the morning and we can put it in the show straight away."

One of the other reasons for its popularity is that Of All The People In All The World can have different meanings for different visitors.

"People often say, 'what is it - is it a piece of theatre, a performance, an installation, an exhibition?' One of the things that I find reassuring is that people respond with the same level of enthusiasm and empathy and curiosity and passion everywhere we've performed it."

Returning to Warwick Arts Centre is an important milestone for the work.

"That was the first ever venue for the show, but the building has changed since then. It will be strange to be in the same building but with the lay-out being potentially different."

And at mac, the show forms part of the arts centre's 60th birthday celebrations.

"Because of the anniversary, we're looking through their archives to see what's been going on with the history of mac, but we're also taking the opportunity to think about 1962, when it was opened, and what was going on at the time and contrasting that with now.

"Mac brings very high-quality art right into a venue which has a real community feel, so to have a show which is very much based on people is ideal."

Bringing the show back to the Midlands is

always a positive, says James.

"It's really lovely to have it here, to live at home while also having a show. And to spend time researching our own city. We spend a lot of time researching cities we're touring to, so it's nice to be able to focus attention on home territory. And it will be lovely for some of the schools that we work with nearby to be able to come and experience it."

The show will also have a new ingredient - although visitors may not notice the change.

"Tilda Rice are sponsoring the show, and they've given us a fresh ton of rice, which is exciting as we've been using the same ton of rice for UK versions of the show for a decade now! The old rice is going to be given away to a farmer for animal feed, so we will have fresh new rice - and hopefully we will have that for the next decade."

James is confident Of All The People In All The World will resonate with local audiences.

"At heart we are a theatre company, and the cliché of a theatre company is 'make them laugh, make them cry'. It seems totally implausible that some grains of rice on a sheet of paper can achieve that task, but it does with lots of people. It's a really fun, engaging thing to spend your time with.

"We've toured with comment books, and people have scribbled down thoughts after they've seen the show. The books are full of comments like 'this is amazing, you've made me see the world in a new light, I feel more empathy with the people around me, it's galvanised me into action to try and change the world around me'. That's a real testament, and we're really proud of the show."

Stan's Cafe's Of All The People In All The World is free to visit at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, from Tues 4 to Sun 9 October. It then shows at Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, on the following dates: Sat 22 & Sun 23 October, Wed 26 to Sun 30 October and Wed 2 to Sun 6 November



Radical Landscapes

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre,
Coventry, Fri 7 October - Sunday 18
December

Organised in collaboration with Tate Liverpool, Radical Landscapes features more than 100 works by leading modern and contemporary artists, including Turner Prize 2022 nominees Ingrid Pollard and Veronica Ryan.

The exhibition looks beyond the lush green hills most readily associated with landscape art, reflecting instead on the diversity of the British landscape and the communities which inhabit it.

Focusing on a wide range of subjects, including activism, trespass and the climate emergency, the featured works illustrate the ways in which creatives have drawn new meanings from the land, using it to inspire ideas of freedom, experimentation, mysticism and rebellion.



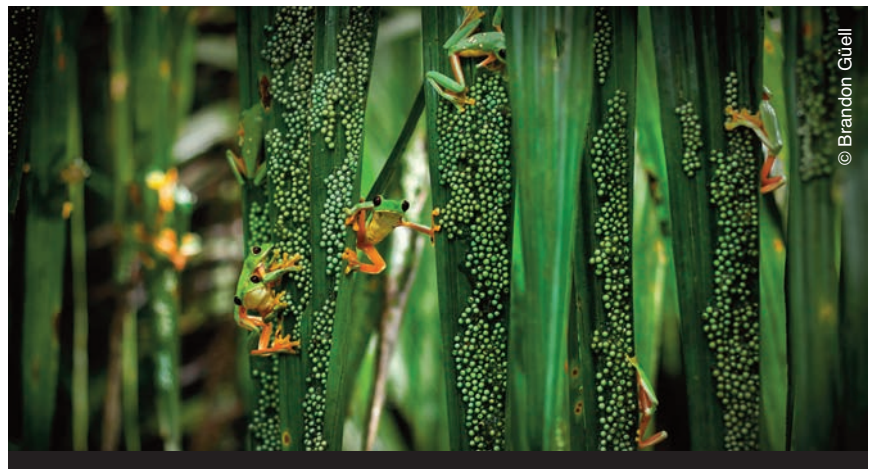
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Wildlife Photographer Of The Year 2022

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 22 October - Sat 24 December

“Captured by some of the best photography talent from around the world, the photographs encourage curiosity, connection and wonder. These inspiring images convey human impact on the natural world in a way that words cannot - from the urgency of declining biodiversity to the inspiring bounce-back of a protected species.”

So says Dr Doug Gurr, director of the Natural History Museum, which has developed & produced the 2022 Wildlife

Photographer Of The Year competition. The hugely prestigious show - visiting Wolverhampton Art Gallery as part of a UK tour - features a host of awe-inspiring images capturing fascinating animal behaviour and breathtaking landscapes. The photos included in the exhibition have been selected from thousands of submissions, with photographers from no fewer than 93 countries taking part. Submissions for the 2023 competition will open on 17 October.

Canaletto: A Venetian's View

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum, Sun 1 October - Sat 7 January

Lauded for the way in which he revolutionised the use of colour and canvas - and for pioneering the technique of painting from life - Giovanni Antonio Canal (better known as Canaletto) not surprisingly had a significant impact on

the generations of artists who followed him.

This world-class collection of artwork - hailed as the most ambitious exhibition in Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum's history - features stunning paintings on loan from the Woburn Abbey Collection. The show also includes artworks from Worcester's Fine Art Collection and loans from Birmingham Museums, Tate and Compton Verney.



Grown Up Britain: 100 Years Of Teenage Kicks

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 12 February

The everyday experiences and cultural impact of young people is celebrated in this brand-new exhibition.

Featuring photographs, objects and stories, Grown Up In Britain has been curated by and drawn from the extensive photographic collections of the Museum of Youth Culture, an emerging organisation dedicated to the styles, sounds and social movements innovated by young people over the last 100 years.

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



Your Shakespeare, Your Culture

The Gallery, Library of Birmingham, until Sat 5 November

The People's Shakespeare Library at Library of Birmingham is home to more than 40,000 volumes, 17,000 production photographs, 2,000 music scores, hundreds of British and international production posters, 15,000 performance programmes and 10,000 playbills. And courtesy of this Royal Shakespeare Company-curated exhibition, visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the unique story of the library and all things Shakespeare. But that's not all... The exhibition also includes Shakespeare's first folio, a specially commissioned short film, a brand-new spoken-word piece by Birmingham Poet Laureate Casey Bailey, and interactive exhibits encouraging visitors 'to share their culture, make their mark and create their own version of a library'.

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Mind Body Spirit Festival

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 28 - Sun 30 October

Featuring inspirational and motivational speakers, musicians, artists and performers from across the globe, Mind Body Spirit Festival is a three-day event celebrating ‘the ultimate gathering of the tribes’.

The festival includes contributions from international workshop leaders and cutting-edge teachers in areas such as feng shui and meditation, and also features a wellbeing studio offering free classes and taster sessions in yoga, dance and movement. For those in need of peace and calm, the Alchemy of Sound provides meditation sessions and immersive sound experiences, whilst the Ceremony Space is a free sanctuary in which to relax and recharge with an array of sacred circles and intimate ceremonial-based experiences.

Visitors can also browse a host of health & wellbeing products, organic foods, therapies, jewellery and supplements from a variety of exhibitors.

Grand Designs Live

NEC, Birmingham, Wed 5 - Sun 9 October

Based on Channel Four’s long-running programme, Grand Designs Live is the best place to access ideas, advice and products to make your own home project a success.

The show features over 500 exhibitors and is split into four key sections - Build, Kitchens & Bathrooms, Interiors and Gardens - with designers, planning & finance specialists, architects and project managers all on hand to offer expert advice.

New for 2022, the Green Living Live area is a space dedicated to eco-friendly products and sustainability-focused services.

Kevin McCloud makes a welcome return too, hosting talks on the live theatre stage.



Horse of the Year Show

NEC, Birmingham, Wed 5 - Sun 9 October

Equestrian entertainment gallops back into Birmingham this month, courtesy of the 72nd Horse Of The Year Show.

Highlights include ‘thrilling competitions and spectacular displays’, while away from the arena, visitors can check out a wide range of treats, gifts and equestrian essentials at the retail village.



The National Snow Show

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 15 & Sun 16 October

Bringing Après vibes to Birmingham, the two-day National Snow Show features a range of entertainment, shopping, food, drink and tips on how to plan that next trip. Having made its debut in 2021, with more than 10,000 people visiting the inaugural show, the 2022 edition promises to be bigger and better. Highlights include appearances by well-known names from the world of snowsports - including Aimee Fuller, Graham Bell, Chemmy Alcott and Eddie ‘the Eagle’ Edwards - and a host of retailers selling the latest gear, kit and tech. Those wishing to chill can head to the Après Pavilion to enjoy DJ sets and mountain-inspired food & drink.

Museum Of The Moon

Lichfield Cathedral, until Mon 31 October

Luke Jerram’s critically acclaimed touring artwork, Museum Of The Moon, will remain suspended in the nave of Lichfield Cathedral throughout this month.

A fusion of lunar imagery and moonlight, the internally lit installation - which is seven metres in diameter - is enhanced by the addition of a surround-sound composition created by Bafta and Ivor Novello award-winning composer Dan Jones.





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Birmingham science museum

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this Half Term



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- Creepy Cameras - Lego Lab Takeover
- Spooky Stay and Play in **minibrum**

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**28
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Spook-tastic events around the region



Spooky Spectacular West Midland Safari Park, Sat 22 - Sun 30 October

West Midland Safari Park is once again hosting its Spooky Spectacular event this month. Hundreds of pumpkins will be available at the pumpkin patch, and prizes can be won with the spooky scratchcard trail. There's

also a spine-tingling virtual-reality ride to enjoy, while Patch the Pumpkin Scarecrow also makes a welcome return for daily interactive magic shows. Opening hours will be extended so that visitors can explore the park after dark.



Gandey's Circus Spooktacular

Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire, Fri 14 - Sun 30 October;
Merry Hill, Brierley Hill, Fri 21 - Sun 30 October

Gandey's Circus pays two visits to the Midlands this month, bringing with them a brand-new action-packed Halloween big-top show for all the family to enjoy. A specially selected cast of skeletons,

vampires, jack-o-lanterns and circus performers will come together in what promises to be 'a sensational extravaganza'. Expect laughs aplenty, spooky thrills and high-quality lighting & sound effects.

Halloween Spook-tacular

National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire, Sat 15, Sun 16 and Sat 22 - Sun 30 October

There's certainly no shortage of seasonal fun to sink your fangs into at the National Forest Adventure Farm during this most spooky of months. Take a tractor ride to pick a pumpkin and have a go at carving a scary jack-o-lantern, learn spells and brew potions as you make your way through the Magical Maize Quest, have a go at balloon modelling, unicycle riding and juggling at a circus skills workshop, and watch as the farm's magician conjures up a variety of tricks in a 'marvellous magic show'.

All of the above feature alongside the farm's usual attractions, including indoor and outdoor play areas, animal barns & paddocks and fairground rides.



Ghost Tours

Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire, Thurs 27 - Mon 31 October

Grab a torch, don suitable footwear and head to haunted Kenilworth Castle this Halloween, where storytellers recount tales of ghouls and ghosts, supernatural sightings and historical horrors.

After-Dark Tours

The Commandery, Worcester, Thurs 6, Tues 11, Thurs 13, Tues 18, Thurs 20 & Tues 25 October

As one of Worcester's oldest buildings, The Commandery is the perfect place to discover ghostly secrets.

Suitable for persons aged 16-plus, the venue's after-dark tours include tales of strange sightings and mysterious rumours, with your guide giving the history of the building a hair-raising Halloween twist.

An accessible version of the tour takes place on Thursday 20 October, and there's an under-16s version on Tuesday the 25th. Check out The Commandery's website for further information.

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SEA LIFE
Birmingham

NEW EVENT
Oct 15th – 31st
2022

Ascarium

Tricks & Treats

Solve the Sea Witch's magical challenges and help save the ocean creatures!

LIMITED TIME ONLY! Book online now! visitsealife.com/uk/halloween

Spook-tastic events around the region



Scarefest Alton Towers, Staffordshire, Fri 7 - Sun 9 and Fri 14 - Sun 30 October

Creepy shocks and spooktacular thrills are very much the order of the day as Alton Towers' Scarefest returns this month. Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the ghoulish event features a brand-new scare attraction for thrill seekers, as well as the return of three 'terrifying' mazes. Highlights include... The Attic: Terror Of The Towers - a chilling experience set in the site's Tower ruins; Darkest Depths - a new adventure aboard The Mutiny, a spine-

chilling ghost ship; Altonville Mine Tours - a recently reopened mine holding a deep, dark secret; and Trick O Treat Town, where the residents trick or treat the town's visitors. Garden Lights Walk: Whispering Souls also makes a welcome return in 2022, while more-courageous visitors can test their bravery by trying head-spinning, hair-raising rides and attractions *in darkness* - including the Alton Towers Dungeon.

Brick Or Treat: Monster Party

Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham, Sat 15 - Mon 31 October

Little monsters can join in the fun with Legoland Discovery Centre's Monster Party this Halloween.

Activities include: a scavenger hunt, where participants can search for pumpkins in Miniland; a chance to build your own Lego pumpkin, to join the centre's ever-growing pumpkin patch; and a meet-and-greet with the spooky scarecrow. Visitors can also watch brand-new Halloween movie The Great Monster Chase! in the onsite 4D cinema (included in the ticket price).



Ascarium: Tricks & Treats

National Sea Life Centre Birmingham, Sat 15 - Mon 31 October



See the aquarium transform into an 'ascarium' this month, as witches and warlocks take over the National Sea Life Centre.

Follow the immersive trail to find the missing potions ingredients, along the way meeting spooky creatures from the underwater world.

Once you've completed the trail, head to the lair, where you'll receive a special treat, have a creepy photo taken, and get the chance to participate in a selection of ghoulish Halloween games and activities.

Halloween at Thinktank

Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham, Mon 24 - Sun 30 October

The award-winning science museum this month plays host to an imaginative programme of Halloween events for half term.

Young visitors can engage in numerous themed workshops and check out the Monster Munching Trail, where they can (quietly) look for evidence of what the monsters have eaten for lunch.

Meanwhile, the Monster Mayhem Family Show features creepy live science demonstrations and promises to offer something for visitors of all ages.

Pumpkin Flotilla

Sarehole Mill, Birmingham, Fri 28 - Sun 30 October

Sarehole's popular Halloween event invites visitors to take along a uniquely decorated pumpkin and watch as it glides (with others) along the venue's millpond.



The lit pumpkins will be guarded on their journey by the mysterious and ghostly Ferryman.

The flotilla experience lasts for 90 minutes and comes complete with hot chocolate and Vampire's Delight soup to warm your bones. Spooky stories (to entertain you while you wait your turn) and craft activities (including how to make creepy Halloween decorations to take home) also feature.

Halloween Week

Tudor World, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 22 - Mon 31 October

Tudor World is pulling out all the spiningling stops this Halloween with a week of sure-to-be-popular events. Daytime attractions include Halloween quizzes and child-friendly stories, whilst after-dark fun comes in the shape of ghost and haunted-house tours and a 'mini seance' evening.



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OCTOBER

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MEET PATCH THE SCARECROW

Spook-tastic events around the region



Jump aboard the Ghost Train(s)

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 October

Are you brave enough to ride the Ghost Train at Severn Valley Railway this Halloween? Kickstart your fright night with tricks and treats for the whole family to enjoy at Kidderminster Station, then take your reserved seats and settle back to experience a ride out into the darkness. Scary characters will join you on board, sneaking along the corridors of the train as it passes through haunted stations to Arley.

The Ghost Train experience lasts for approximately 75 minutes and comes complete with a free goodie bag for every child. Severn Valley Railway is also hosting a similar but 'more fearsome' event for older guests. The Scream Train is aimed at visitors aged 18-plus and features 'petrifying ghouls' who will be seeking to scare the life out of commuters as they make their way to Arley.



Pumpkinfest at Park Hall

Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, Shropshire, Various dates between Fri 14 October and Wed 2 November

A pumpkin alley, witches cavern and little scare house are among the Halloween-

themed attractions at Park Hall this month. Youngsters can pass the pumpkin, use toilet roll to transform daddies into mummies, and take part in a fancy dress competition. What's more, each paying child will be able to pick a pumpkin to carve and take home.

Halloween Fun At The Farm

Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon, Tues 25, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 October

Discover the weird and wonderful Halloween traditions of medieval and Tudor England this October half term.

As well as learning about the customs which people used to follow in order to ward off evil spirits, visitors can also sample a selection of hands-on activities, including making soul cakes, carving pumpkins and crafting a protection charm.

Freddo's Circus Spooktacular

Cadbury World, Birmingham, Sat 15 - Sun 30 October

Promising to host the spookiest circus in town, Cadbury World favourite Freddo this month takes on numerous guises to entertain visitors to the popular Bournville attraction. Expect spintingling spells from the Great Fredeedo and stunts aplenty from Daredevil Freddo, in an event that Cadbury World say you would be an absolute ghoul to miss out on...

Fireworks Spook-tacular

Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth, Staffordshire, Sun 30 October

A pumpkin smash bash is just one of the attractions at this 'fang-tastic' event. In addition to checking out the park's rides and attractions - including the Castle of Spooks - visitors can enjoy a 10-minute Fireworks Spooktacular display (with soundtrack) and sample some after-dark rides.

Halloween Nights

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Wed 26 - Sat 29 October

The region's ghostly past comes to life as the Black Country Living Museum gets in the Halloween spirit with a number of themed after-dark activities. Visitors can dance the night away at the Monster Bash, meet creepy creatures along a ghoulish story trail, and take part in a special costume parade.



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Your week-
by-week
listings guide
October 2022

the list

Bombay Superstar at Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 18 to Sat 22 October

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

What's On

Sat 1 - Sun 9 October



Jessica Fostekew at
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Fri 7 October

Mon 10 - Sun 16 October



Macbeth: Sh*tfaced
Shakespeare at Stratford Play
House, Stratford-upon-Avon

Fri 14 October

Mon 17 - Sun 23 October



Lonelady at hmv Empire,
Coventry

Thurs 20 October

Mon 24 - Mon 31 October



Shark In The Park at The Core,
Solihull

Fri 28 October

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Visual Arts

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

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

MAGNUM PHOTOS: WHERE IDEAS ARE BORN Exhibition bringing together more than 20 photographers from the world-renowned Magnum photography agency, as well as 60 photo portraits of the artists who created art history in the 20th century, until Sun 19 Oct

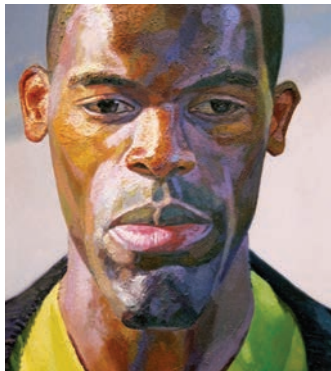
PORTRAIT MINIATURES: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GRANTCHESTER COLLECTION Showcasing over 40 exquisite and intriguing miniatures from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, until Sun 31 Dec

DUTCH FLOWERS Exhibition exploring the development of Dutch flower painting from its beginnings in the early 17th century to its blossoming in the late 18th century. Works include Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder, Rachel Ruysch and Jan van Huysum, Sat 29 Oct - Sun 15 Jan, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

ALI CHERRY: IF YOU PRICK US, DO WE NOT BLEED? Series of mixed media and sculptural installations which consider how histories of trauma can be explored through a response to museum & art gallery collections, until Sun 8 Jan

BROUGHT TO LIGHT The chance to explore a selection of paintings, drawings and sculptures which the venue has collected over the past 65 years, until Sun 8 Jan



Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

OPEN 2022 Showcasing an eclectic mix of artistic forms from artists living and working in the West Midlands, Fri

7 Oct - Sun 8 Jan

The Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SIMON AND TOM BLOOR: PALLET STACK Minimalist art which closely resembles structures found in adventure playgrounds, where children and play workers use found materials to build apparatus for play, until Sun 18 Dec

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

SHATTERED SILK: JINI RAWLINGS Projections and silks are used to suggest the multi-layering of memory and meaning while focusing on creating poetic responses to stories found in original archives, until Sun 6 Nov

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

LOUISE BOURGEOIS EXHIBITION Selection of prints, drawings and sculptures from one of the most celebrated and influential artists of the 20th century, until Sat 19 Nov

Elsewhere:

IN THE QUE: CELEBRATING THE QUE CLUB Sensory celebration of one of the UK's greatest music venues, featuring personal artefacts, photographs, film footage, flyers, posters and more... until Sun 30 October, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

NRITYA: COLLECTING THE STORY OF INDIAN DANCE IN THE BLACK COUNTRY 1960 - 2000 Featuring shared stories, memories, photographs, films and objects collected from pioneer dancers, teachers and choreographers, until Sun 13 Nov

SIKNURE: LET ME LIVE First UK solo exhibition by Ainu artist & musician Mayunkiki. Exhibits include historical family portraits, handwritten observations and video work commissioned by Ikon, until Sun 13 Nov, Ikon Gallery

PEASANTS AND PROVERBS: PIETER BRUEGHEL THE YOUNGER AS MORALIST AND ENTREPRENEUR Featuring 17 artworks drawn from public and private collections in the UK and Europe. Paintings, drawings, etchings and engravings all feature, Fri 21 Oct - Sat 21 Jan, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

Gigs

CORDAE Sat 1 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BEHEMOTH + ARCH ENEMY + CARCASS + UNTO OTHERS Sat 1 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BARRY STEELE AND FRIENDS - THE ROY ORBISON STORY Sat 1 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BOYZLIFE Sat 1 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

TREVOR BABAJACK STEGER Sat 1 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING Sat 1 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MARTIN TURNER Sat 1 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

JIMMY ATE WORLD + WARNING - GREENDAY TRIBUTE + THE BLINK 182 SHOW Sat 1 Oct, Marris Bar, Worcester

TALON Sat 1 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

ALIVE & BREL Sat 1 Oct, Malvern Theatres

FOREVER SABBATH Sat 1 Oct, Civic, Stourport

X AMBASSADORS + LOW ISLAND Sun 2 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

RICKY ROSS Sun 2 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND Sun 2 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

BOB FOX & BILLY MITCHELL Sun 2 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

IAN BROWN Mon 3 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

CALUM SCOTT Tues 4 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

MACHINE GUN KELLY + IANN DIOR + 44PHANTOM Tues 4 Oct, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

HUNGRYTOWN Tues 4 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

HAWES & CATLOW Tues 4 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

SEASICK STEVE Tues 4 Oct, hmv Empire,



Public Service Broadcasting - Warwick Arts Centre

Coventry

FARA Tues 4 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

ALVVAYS Wed 5 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

MORRISSEY Wed 5 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

ANDI WOLF + LAUREN SOUTH Wed 5 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

HYPOCRISY + SEPTICFLESH + THE AGONIST + HORIZON IGNITED Thurs 6 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

CHANTEL MCGREGOR Thurs 6 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

BLANCMANGE Thurs 6 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE DRIVER ERA Fri 7 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FINDING BELLA + SNOWFLAKE GENERATION + GREEN STREET CAFE + SUPERSOONIC FUZZ GUN Fri 7 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SINCE SEPTEMBER + DECO Fri 7 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BETH ORTON Fri 7 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE SNUTS + HEIDI CURTIS Fri 7 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CLIVE JOHN Fri 7 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BIG WOLF BAND Fri 7 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

NEW PURPLE CELEBRATION Fri 7 Oct, The Rialto, Coventry

FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS + PET NEEDS + TRUCKSTOP HONEYMOON Fri 7 Oct,

hmv Empire, Coventry

A BAND CALLED MALICE Fri 7 Oct, Arches Venue, Coventry

ROCKET MAN - ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE Fri 7 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

FLASH - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN Fri 7 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

DOG OF TWO HEAD - STATUS QUO TRIBUTE Fri 7 Oct, Marris Bar, Worcester

THE UNRAVELLING WILBURYS Fri 7 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

DIRE STREETS Sat 8 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SWEDISH HOUSE MAFIA + ZHU + VINTAGE CULTURE Sat 8 Oct, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

STONE FOUNDATION + THE SESSION Sat 8 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

ELTONESQUE Sat 8 Oct, Arches Venue, Coventry

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK Sat 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BREABACH Sat 8 Oct, Number 8, Pershore

MORETALLICA Sat 8 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

DARK SIDE OF THE WALL Sat 8 Oct, The Benn Hall, Rugby

BOWIESQUE Sat 8 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

BREABACH Sun 9 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

CARL VERHEYEN Sun 9 Oct, Marris Bar, Worcester

Classical Music

ARMONICO CONSORT: MOZART REQUIEM Featuring Christopher Monks (director). Programme comprises Mozart's Requiem: Handel Music for the Royal Fireworks & Zadok The Priest, Sat 1 Oct, Malvern Theatres

THE MARION CONSORT Programme includes works by Byrd, Clemens non Papa, Giles, Parsley, Parsons, Tallis and Van Wilder, Tues 4 Oct, St Mary's Church, Warwick



MOSTLY PIANO WITH YOANNA PRODANOVA & NICOLE PANIZZA

Programme includes American music for cello and piano, including the sonata by Samuel Barber, Wed 5 Oct, Drapers' Hall, Coventry

PAUL LEWIS PIANO CONCERT Programme comprises Schubert Piano Sonatas: 1, Thurs 6 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

SHEKU KANNEH-MASON AND THE CBSO PLAY HAYDN Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) and Marie-Chistine Zupancic (flute).

Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Haydn, Elgar, Weinberg & Britten, Thurs 6 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



BRODSKY QUARTET Featuring Krysia Osostowicz and Ian Belton (violins), Paul Cassidy (viola) and Jacqueline Thomas (cello). Programme includes works by Borodin, Beethoven & Shostakovich, Fri 7 Oct, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

AURORA ORCHESTRA Featuring Nicholas Collon (conductor) & Tom Poster (piano). Programme includes works by Adés, Ravel & Berlioz, Fri 7 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN; FROM A FAR COUNTRY Featuring Tai Murray (violin) & Michael Collins (conductor). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Bruch, Anna Meredith & Mendelssohn, Sun 9 Oct, Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon

EX CATHEDRA KING FOR A DAY: MUSIC FOR ROYAL OCCASIONS Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor).

Programme includes works by Handel, Lalande and Roth, Sun 9 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

SIR BRYN TERFEL: SONGS AND ARIAS Sun 9 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

ANUBHAV SINGH BASSI Sat 1 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

IAN COPPINGER, ROBYN PERKINS, JIMMY MCGHIE & GORDON SOUTHERN Sat 1 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KERRY GODLIMAN Sat 1 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

MITCH BENN Sat 1 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

GARY DELANEY Sat 1 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

SOFIE HAGEN Sat 1 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

RECKLESS COMEDY Mon 3 Oct, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

SUZI RUFFELL Tues 4 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SOFIE HAGEN Tues 4 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

ALFIE MOORE Wed 5 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THE SCUMMY MUMMIES Wed 5 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

MARK WATSON Thurs 6 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

DOM JOLY Thurs 6 Oct, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

DAVE GORMAN Thurs 6 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JARRED CHRISTMAS, PAUL TONKINSON, NINIA BENJAMIN & MIKE GUNN Thurs 6 Oct, Malvern Theatres

JENNY ECLAIR Thurs 6 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

GLENN MOORE Fri 7 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

OMID DJALILI Fri 7 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JESSICA FOSTEKEW Fri 7 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS Sat 8 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

PAUL FOOT Sat 8 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

CHRIS MCCAUSLAND Sat 8 Oct, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

DAWN FRENCH Sun 9 Oct, Warwick

Arts Centre, Coventry

GLENN MOORE Sun 9 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Theatre

SOUTH PACIFIC Julian Ovenden and Gina Beck star in Rodgers & Hammerstein's powerful love story, until Sat 1 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

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

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



CHARLOTTE'S WEB Playbox's Young Production Company present an amateur staging of EB White's classic tale, until Sun 2 Oct, The Dream Factory, Warwick

SIX THE MUSICAL From Tudor queens to pop princesses, the six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their tales, remixing 500 years of historical heartbreak into an 80-minute celebration of 21st-century girl power, until Sun 2 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

BUMPER BLYTON Improvised parody chock full of puns and innuendo, in the style of Enid Blyton, Sat 1 Oct, The Roses, Tewkesbury

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Amateur staging of E Nesbit's family classic, Sat 1 - Sat 8 Oct, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Ramps On The Moon present a new production of Shakespeare's raucous comedy. Every performance features the use of integrated creative sign language, audio description and captioning, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Richard O'Brien's legendary rock'n'roll musical, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SHREK THE MUSICAL Amateur staging presented by West Bromwich Operatic Society, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MADEMOISELLE F Vanessa Oakes'

powerful new play exploring isolation, mental health and our connection with the natural world, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SISTER ACT Lesley Joseph and Sandra Marvin star in a brand-new production of the smash-hit musical, Tues 4 - Sat 15 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE WEDDING SINGER Amateur staging presented by Alcester Musical Theatre Company, Wed 5 - Sat 8 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

TETHERED & VOLCANO DOUBLE BILL Two new shows, each focusing on stories of hope, loss and reliance, Thurs 6 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

MRS CHURCHILL - MY LIFE WITH WINSTON Liz Grand's informative portrayal of Clementine Churchill throws light on the woman behind 'one of the most famous Englishmen that has ever lived', Thurs 6 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

ANTIGONE Worcester Repertory Company present Hollie McNish's modern adaptation of Sophocles' tragedy, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

SHREK THE MUSICAL Amateur staging presented by the Phoenix Theatre Group, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Oct, The Henrican, Evesham, Worcestershire

THE SECOND BEST BED One-woman show in which Liz Grand stars as Anne Hathaway on the night of Shakespeare's funeral, Fri 7 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

WHERE IS MRS CHRISTIE? One-woman show exploring the mystery of one of the biggest and most extensive police hunts in history - the eleven-day search for missing crime writer Agatha Christie, Sat 8 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch



TALK Award-winning theatre company Kill The Cat present a fun, intimate show in which audiences are helped to 'talk again', Sat 8 - Sun 9 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Kids Shows

HORRIBLE HISTORIES: TERRIBLE TUDORS Learn about the horrible Henries, the torturing Tudors and the end of evil Elizabeth in this history show where the nasty bits are left in, Sat 1 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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An advertisement for The Wave Waterpark. It features a woman and a child on a red inflatable ring. The background is a bright yellow and blue. The text 'THE Wave' is in the top left, and 'Ride The Wave' is in large white letters on the right. At the bottom, it says 'BOOK YOUR TICKETS www.thewavecoventry.com The Wave Waterpark, City Centre, Coventry CV1 2PS.'

THE Wave

Ride The Wave

BOOK YOUR TICKETS
www.thewavecoventry.com
The Wave Waterpark, City Centre, Coventry CV1 2PS.

DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE Interactive family show featuring a post-show meet & greet, during which 'brave explorers' get the chance to make a new dinosaur friend, Tues 4 - Wed 5 Oct, Malvern Theatres

THE HIGHLAND JOKER: THE BUBBLE SHOW Magic, storytelling and bubble art combine in a unique show for younger audiences, Sat 8 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

TOOBB Angel Exit Theatre fuse movement & music with fun & games in this perfect introduction to theatre for the very young, Sun 9 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Light Entertainment

SHELL SUIT CHER: BELIEVE IN BINGO Tracey Collins (aka Tina Turner Tea Lady & Audrey Heartburn) brings her weird and wonderful character to the stage for another game of bingo with a difference... Sat 1 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE DEAD OF NIGHT Storyteller Maris Reeve shares six tales of murder, death and the supernatural, Mon 3 Oct, The Civic, Stourport

THE DREAMBOYS Thurs 6 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

SUGGS: A LIFE IN THE REALM OF MADNESS Join the Madness frontman as he tells his story in words and music, Fri 7 Oct, Malvern Theatres

SHELL SUIT CHER: BELIEVE IN BINGO Tracey Collins (aka Tina Turner Tea Lady & Audrey Heartburn) brings her weird and wonderful character to the stage for another game of bingo with a difference... Sat 8 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

DAVE ALLEN: A JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE AND DEATH Kieran Cunningham takes audiences on a journey through Irish comedian Dave Allen's stage career... Sat 8 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

RAMBERT DANCE IN PEAKY BLINDERS The world premiere of a new dance-theatre event which delves into the back story of Tommy Shelby and the Peaky Blinders, until Sun 2 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome



THE GUARDIAN OF THE FOREST Chantry Dance present an imaginative new show inspired by the original folktale of Beauty And The Beast, Sun 2 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

REWARDS FOR THE TRIBE Chunky Move and Restless Dance Theatre present the European premiere of a production which 'celebrates the imaginations of artists whilst embracing life's exquisite chaos', Wed 5 - Sat 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ACE DANCE & MUSIC: UNKNOWNREALMS Double bill in which 'six dancers rise from the ashes with powerful explosive dance that uncovers the rich history of lives lived; memories, human struggle and people letting go...' Thurs 6 - Fri 7 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Presented by Let's All Dance Ballet Company, Sun 9 Oct, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

VINCENT SIMONE: TANGO PASSIONS Featuring Argentine tango specialist Paula Duarte as Vincent's leading lady, Sun 9 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Talks & Spoken Word

MARTIN BAYFIELD'S RUGBY LEGENDS Join the former England international as he takes to the stage with former players to reveal never-before-heard stories, Sat 1 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

MY DEAR OLD THINGS - AN EVENING WITH HENRY BLOFELD Hear hilarious tales of Johnners, Arlott and other larger-than-life characters in the Test Match Special commentary box and on tour with England, Sat 8 Oct, The Roses, Kidderminster

BERNADINE EVARISTO 2019 Booker Prize winner Bernadine Evaristo discusses her inspirational book, Manifesto, Sun 9 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Events

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL TOWER CLIMB Challenge yourself to climb 180 steps to enjoy magnificent views of Coventry and the surrounding area, until Sat 1 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

OKTOBERFEST See the front lawns transformed into a Bavarian-themed venue, complete with lederhosen-clad hosts and an oompah band, until Sun 2 Oct, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

AUTUMN DIESEL BASH A variety of classes and traction types roar through Shropshire and



Toobb - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Worcestershire, until Sun 2 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

THE MALVERN CARAVAN & MOTORHOME SHOW Four nights of camping and live entertainment, until Sun 2 Oct, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

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

POTATO & SWEETCORN WEEKENDS Pick your own potatoes & sweetcorn, straight from the fields, until Sun 16 Oct, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

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

FAMILY MUSEUM ENGINEERS - SATURDAY PLAY DAYS Explore an open-ended play environment using unique resources that encourage engineering skills, Sat 1 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

JAFFA TRAMPOLINE & TUMBLING BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022 Britain's finest trampoline, tumbling and DMT gymnasts battle it out for a chance to win the prestigious British titles, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, Utilita Arena, B'ham

SPECTRUM WORKSHOPS Work with textile artist Andi to design and make a Pride flag, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

MINIATURA One of the longest established and best loved dolls' house shows in the world, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

WARWICK WORDS HISTORY FESTIVAL A wide range of events focused on historic topics, Mon 3 - Sun 9 Oct, Various locations around Warwick

ELDER'S DANCE: OUT OF WHACK AN

opportunity for Coventry & Warwickshire residents to take part in professionally led dance classes, Tues 4 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW Fine dining, shopping and a wide variety of equestrian entertainment, all under one roof, Wed 5 - Sun 9 Oct, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

GRAND DESIGNS LIVE Based on Channel Four's Grand Designs, the live exhibition is the best place to find ideas, advice and products to make your home project a success, Wed 5 - Sun 9 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

AFTER DARK TOURS Hear about strange sightings and mysterious rumours as you uncover the history of The Commandery in a guided tour with a Halloween twist, Thurs 6 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

MINI CREATIVES - B'OPERA FIRST SONGS B'Opera First Songs Workshops are a way for you and your youngsters to explore how we can all use rhythm, movement and our singing voices to bring a story to life, Fri 7 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SCAREFEST Celebrating 15 years of Scarefest with creepy scares, shocks and thrills, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Oct, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

FARGO ASIAN FUSION Immersive experience offering the chance to try Asian cuisines from Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan and Indian, or simply enjoy performances & workshops, Sat 8 Oct, FarGo Village, Coventry

OUTSIDE(R) ZINE FEST An 'audience with' event with Bob & Roberta Smith, Fri 7 Oct, FarGo Village, Coventry

OUTSIDE(R) ZINE FEST Celebrate contemporary DIY practice & culture and reframe interpretations of being outside or an outsider Sat 8 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

OUTSIDE(R) ZINE FEST Zine makers Sunday brunch, Sun 9 Oct, The Pod, Coventry



Grace Petrie - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Gigs

URIAH HEEP Mon 10 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

COUNTING CROWS Mon 10 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GEOFF LAKEMAN & ROB MURCH Mon 10 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KYLA LA GRANGE Tues 11 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PRATEEK KUHAD + VIOLET SKIES Tues 11 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MATT ANDERSEN + LAURA EVANS Tues 11 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KEITH SLATER'S 60S CELEBRATION Tues 11 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ANVIL Tues 11 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MORGAN SZYMANSKI Wed 12 Oct, Unitarian Chapel, Warwick

LUKE JAMES WILLIAMS Wed 12 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

HILARY SPENCER Thurs 13 Oct, Bromsgrove Folk Club

LEGEND - THE MUSIC OF BOB MARLEY Thurs 13 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

HAYSEED DIXIE Thurs 13 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

REACH OUT Thurs 13 Oct, The Rialto, Coventry

ALBERT LEE Thurs 13 Oct, hmv Empire,

Coventry

CAROLE - THE MUSIC OF CAROLE KING Thurs 13 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE PITMEN POETS Thurs 13 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THE JERSEYS LIVE! Thurs 13 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

JAMES TAYLOR Fri 14 Oct, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

BARRY STEELE AND FRIENDS - THE ROY ORBISON STORY Fri 14 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

RONNIE SCOTT'S ALL STARS Fri 14 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

HISTORY OF ROCK! Fri 14 Oct, The Rialto, Coventry

BAD MANNERS + UB42 Fri 14 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE SOUTH Fri 14 Oct, The Benn Hall, Rugby

TOOL SHED - TOOL TRIBUTE Fri 14 Oct, Marris Bar, Worcester

COLDPLACE Fri 14 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE DIRT ROAD BAND Fri 14 - Sat 15 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE ELO EXPERIENCE Fri 14 - Sat 15 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

WILL YOUNG Sat 15 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE BIG SUGARS + SATSANGI + THE MOONBEARS Sat 15 Oct, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin,

Coventry

FLEETINGWOOD MAC Sat 15 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

FEUX FIGHTERS Sat 15 Oct, Arches Venue, Coventry

THE WORLD FAMOUS ELVIS SHOW Sat 15 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

XHOSA COLE Sat 15 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

GRACE PETRIE Sat 15 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

HI-ON MAIDEN Sat 15 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

STRAIGHTEN OUT - THE STRANGLERS TRIBUTE Sat 15 Oct, Marris Bar, Worcester

THE ULTIMATE COMMITMENTS AND BLUE BROTHERS EXPERIENCE Sat 15 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

ROBBIE WILLIAMS Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

VONDA SHEPARD Sun 16 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EMMA STEVENS + JESSE TERRY Sun 16 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE UNTHANKS Sun 16 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

GYPSY PISTOLEROS + BLITZ + LIFE OF A HERO + FYRESKY Sun 16 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

HANNAH SANDERS & BEN SAVAGE Sun 16 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Classical

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN; FROM A FAR COUNTRY Featuring Tai Murray (violin) & Michael Collins (conductor). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Bruch & Anna Meredith, Tues 11 Oct, The Courtyard, Hereford

MORGAN SZYMANSKI GUITAR CONCERT Programme includes works by Brouwer, Cardoso, Lauro, Mangore, Oliva, Piazzolla, Ponce and Villa-Lobos, Wed 12 Oct, Unitarian Chapel, Warwick

WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: MALCOLM ROWSON CELEBRATION CONCERT Featuring Callum Smart (violin) & Roger Coull (conductor). Programme includes works by Sibelius, Tchaikovsky & Prokofiev, Sat 15 Oct, Warwick Hall, Warwick

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: ACROSS THE SEA Featuring Kenneth Woods (conductor) & Kathryn Rudge (mezzo soprano). Programme includes works by Elcock, Elgar, Mendelssohn & Britten, Sat 15 Oct, Malvern Theatres

BRNO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Dennis Russell Davies (conductor) & Chloë Hanslip (violin - pictured). Programme includes works by Janáček, Korngold & Dvorák, Sun 16 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Richard Laing (conductor). Programme includes works by Brahms, Hindemith, R. Strauss & Stravinsky, Sun 16 Oct, Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

BARBARA NICE FAMILY COMEDY SHOW Mon 10 Oct, Vesta Tilley Studio, Worcester

JARRED CHRISTMAS, PAUL TONKINSON, NINIA BENJAMIN & MIKE GUNN Tues 11 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

TROY HAWKE Wed 12 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HELEN BAUER Wed 12 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SIMON MUNNERY Thurs 13 Oct, The Irish Centre, Birmingham

FLO & JOAN Thurs 13 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY

ROBINSON & COMICS TBC Thurs 13 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAN NIGHTINGALE Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SAM SERRANO & COMICS TBC Fri 14 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOMMY SANDHU, NABIL ABDULRASHID, FARHAN SOLO & ASHISH SURI Sat 15 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

DAVE GORMAN Sat 15 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

LOVELL SMITH, TRIXX, NABIL ABDULRASHID & KANE BROWN Sat 15 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SIMON DAY AND FRIENDS Sat 15 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

AXEL BLAKE Sun 16 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

CARL HUTCHINSON Sat 16 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



Theatre

FARM FATALE Fierce Festival production described as a 'bucolic and bizarre enacting, full of wonderful jokes, but in which the utopia of a better world also appears', Tues 11 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE COMMITMENTS Coronation Street actor Nigel Pivaro stars as Da in this feelgood celebration of soul, based on Roddy Doyle's award-winning novel, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE MAKING OF PINOCCHIO Join two artists on a fantastical journey through a real-life story as they make a new trans version of Pinocchio. Note that this show contains nudity, Wed 12 - Thurs 13 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

THE TRAUMA SHOW Demi Nandhra's play explores the impact of adverse childhoods, Wed 12 - Thurs 13 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

MY VOICE WAS HEARD BUT IT WAS IGNORED Red Ladder Theatre Company present Nana-Kofi Kufuor's interrogation of racial identity, Thurs 13 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

UNKNOWN: A PLAY ABOUT HOMELESSNESS A verbatim play that dramatises the tragic but true story of

one young person's journey from an abusive childhood to a life on the streets of Bath, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

REMAINING STRANGERS Simone Aughterlony's exploration of the guest/host relationship. Part of Fierce Festival, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SINDERELLA - ADULT PANTOMIME Expect fun, frolics and a 'filthy' script in a show featuring Sophia Stardust and Tiana Biscuit as the Ugly Sisters and Drag Race star Detox as the wicked stepmother, Fri 14 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

MACBETH: SH*T FACED SHAKESPEARE Fringe phenomenon combining an entirely serious adaptation of a Shakespearean classic with a totally inebriated cast member, Fri 14 Oct, Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon

TARTUFFE The return of Iqbal Khan's acclaimed production, in which Moliere's classic farce is set in the Sparkhill area of Brum, Fri 14 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham



MARIE LLOYD STOLE MY LIFE The story of how 'the queen of the music hall' came to fame, Sat 15 Oct, Malvern Theatres

STRICTLY SHERLOCK Join the king of the detectives as he brings to life two startling cases, The Sussex Vampire and The Creeping Man! Sat 15 Oct, The Henrican, Evesham, Worcestershire

Kids Shows

SQUISH FAMILY COMEDY Interactive and fun show featuring magic, storytelling and games. Suitable for audiences aged three-plus, Sat 15 Oct, The Core, Solihull

Light Entertainment

BORED OFF MY TITS Tracey Collins' new comedy follows the life of Flo from Leeds: the most famous woman you've never heard of... Wed 12 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SINDERELLA Adult panto with lots of naughty bits, Sat 15 Oct, The Civic, Stourport

Dance

AFRICAN MASQUERADE TOUR Yaram Arts present a special masquerade dance followed by contemporary Congolese and Latin music, Fri 14 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

LAVAGEM UK premiere in which performers use buckets, water & soap to explore the action of cleaning as a performative and political gesture, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

JEZEBEL Dance performance inspired by the Video Vixens: provocative female models who appeared in hip-hop videos on MTV in the late 1990s, Sun 16 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

SNOOKER GREATS Join Steve Davis and Dennis Taylor as they recreate the match that gripped a nation - the 1985 World Snooker Final, Wed 12 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

GILES BRANDRETH: A HISTORY OF BRITAIN IN JUST A MINUTE 1,000 years of our island story in 'side-splitting' 60-second installments, without hesitation, repetition or deviation, Wed 12 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SUE BARKER: CALLING THE SHOTS The former Question Of Sport host shares her extraordinary life story and celebrates the publication of her autobiography, Fri 14 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Events

HIP HOP DANCE Workshop led by Daryl Curtis from Oddsteperz Dance, Tues 11 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

AFTER DARK TOURS Hear about strange sightings and mysterious rumours as you uncover the history of The Commandery in a guided tour with a Halloween twist, Tues 11 & Thurs 13 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

GUNDOG OF WALES CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW SOCIETY Beauty competition featuring all breeds of Gundogs, Wed 12 Oct, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

THE COTSWOLD ART & ANTIQUES DEALERS' ASSOCIATION FAIR Featuring 27 exhibitors selling everything from oil paintings to vintage jewellery, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Oct, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

WINTERS WINE TASTING EVENING An 'old world vs new world' wine-tasting event, led by a wine connoisseur and



Macbeth: Sh*t faced Shakespeare - Stratford Playhouse

coming complete with canapes and cheese, Fri 14 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

MINI CREATIVES - B'OPERA FIRST SONGS B'Opera First Songs Workshops are a way for you and your youngsters to explore how we can all use rhythm, movement and our singing voices to bring a story to life, Fri 14 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SCAREFEST Celebrating 15 years of Scarefest with creepy scares, shocks and thrills, Fri 14 - Mon 31 Oct, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

SILVERSMITHING WORKSHOP Led by informative tutors, this course teaches the basic techniques of silversmithing, Sat 15 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry

MURDER MYSTERY EXPERIENCE - ANYTHING FOR A PRICE Be an intrepid detective in an immersive World War Two-themed murder-mystery experience whilst travelling on board a 1930s' heritage carriage for two full line trips, Sat 15 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

THE NATIONAL SNOW SHOW Buy the most up-to-date gear, get the latest tips and advice from leading experts, and hear from top celebrities,

athletes and Olympians, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

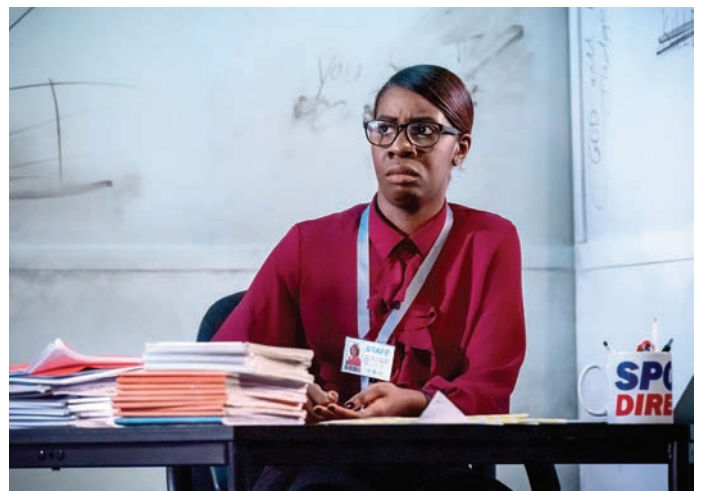
FARGO RETRO FESTIVAL Featuring independent retailers, creatives and artists selling retro clothing, accessories, homeware, vinyls and much more, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct, FarGo Village, Coventry

FREDDO'S CIRCUS SPOOKTACULAR The spookiest circus in town arrives at Cadbury World in this new show, Sat 15 - Sun 30 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville

BRICK OR TREAT: MONSTER PARTY The ultimate Halloween party, with many fang-tastic activities, Sat 15 - Mon 31 Oct, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

ASCARIUM: TRICKS & TREATS Follow an immersive trail to help the witches and warlocks find their missing potion ingredients, and discover some of the spookiest creatures of the sea, Sat 15 - Mon 31 Oct, National SEA LIFE Centre B,ham

ELVEN JEWELLERY WORKSHOP Immerse yourself in the world of Middle-Earth with this new jewellery workshop inspired by the Lord Of The Rings, Sun 16 Oct, Sarehole Mill, B'ham



My Voice Was Heard But It Was Ignored - Swan Theatre, Worcester



Lonelady - hmv Empire, Coventry

Gigs

NATALIE IMBRUGLIA Mon 17 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AITCH Mon 17 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE PROCLAIMERS + JOHN BRAMWELL Mon 17 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CONOR MAYNARD Tues 18 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AL STEWART WITH HIS BAND THE EMPTY POCKETS Tues 18 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

HANNAH SANDERS & BEN SAVAGE Tues 18 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

CASSIA Wed 19 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

OCEAN GROVE Wed 19 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JIM GHEDI Wed 19 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ELLA HENDERSON Thurs 20 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

HOWARD JONES Thurs 20 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

KATHRYN TICKELL AND



Kathryn Tickell - Stratford Playhouse

THE DARKENING Thurs 20 Oct, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

LONELADY Thurs 20 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

BOOTLEG SIXTIES Thurs 20 Oct, The Benn Hall, Rugby

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR Thurs 20 Oct, Malvern Theatres

THE SHUFFLEPACK Fri 21 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

CAROLE - THE MUSIC OF CAROLE KING Fri 21 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

CROW BLACK CHICKEN Fri 21 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE KILLERZ Fri 21 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

ENGLISH FIDDLE ENSEMBLE Fri 21 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

ANTI-NOWHERE LEAGUE + THE UNDACLASS + POGO PREACHER Fri 21 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

URBAN FOLK QUARTET Fri 21 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY Fri 21 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE ELO SHOW Fri 21 Oct, Malvern Theatres

THE MUSIC OF BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETERS Sat 22 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

NICK HART Sat 22 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

BEATLEMANIA Sat 22 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

MEGADETH UK Sat 22 Oct, Arches Venue, Coventry

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC - ABBA TRIBUTE Sat 22 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

DEMON + MERCIA Sat 22 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

SOUL STRIPPER - AC/DC TRIBUTE Sat 22 Oct, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE DRIFTERS Sat 22 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

3 DAFT MONKEYS Sat 22 Oct, West Malvern Social Club

TONY HADLEY Sun 23 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR Sun 23 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

BILLY IDOL + TELEVISION + TOYAH Sun 23 Oct, Resorts World Arena, B'ham

LADY DC + PARADISE KITTY Sun 23 Oct, Civic, Stourport

Classical

THE HALLE ORCHESTRA Featuring Sir Mark Elder (conductor - pictured) & Pavel Kolesnikov (piano). Programme includes works by Rachmaninov & Shostakovich, Thurs 20 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Callum Smart (violin) & Roger Coull (conductor). Programme includes works by Sibelius, Tchaikovsky & Dvorak, Sat 22 Oct, Levi Fox Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon

EUROPEAN UNION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Featuring Darragh Morgan (director) & Mark Baigent (oboe). Programme includes works by Bach, Britten, Holst, Elgar & Vaughan Williams, Sun 23 Oct, Malvern Theatres

Comedy

JEN BRISTER & MAUREEN YOUNGER Mon 17 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ELF LYONS Tues 18 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MILTON JONES Wed 19 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

MAISIE ADAM Wed 19 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

EDDY BRIMSON, DANA ALEXANDER, ANDREW BIRD & DAVID EAGLE Thurs 20 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

JOE LYCETT Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

VICTOR DANIELS & COMICS TBC Fri 21 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JORDAN BROOKES Fri 21 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DOM JOLY Fri 21 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

KIRI PRITCHARD-MCLEAN Fri 21 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JOANNE MCNALLY Fri 21 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

RICHARD BLACKWOOD, MARLON DAVIS, SHABZ KARIEM & LOVELL SMITH Sat 22 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

ISY SUTTIE Sat 22 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

KANE BROWN, TRIXX, MARLON DAVIS & RICHARD BLACKWOOD Sat 22 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

NICK HELM Thurs 20 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

HARRIET KEMSLEY Sun 23 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

AURIE STYLA & FRIENDS Sun 23 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

FRANCIS FOSTER Sun 23 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

DOM JOLY Sun 23 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Theatre

THE SOUND OF MUSIC Amateur staging presented by Carpet Trade Musical Theatre Company, Mon 17 - Sat 22 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

SHE'S ROYAL A brand-new stage production revealing the untold relationship between Her Majesty Queen Victoria and two extraordinary women of colour, Sarah Forbes Bonetta and Sophia Duleep Singh, Tues 18 - Wed 19 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE CHER SHOW 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 18 - Sat 22 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

OUR HOUSE Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Society present an amateur staging of the Madness musical, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

KINKY BOOTS Amateur staging presented by Spa Opera, Tues 18 -



Twopence To Cross The Mersey - Albany Theatre, Coventry

Sun 23 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

HOT IN HERE Pigfoot Theatre present a theatre show developed from conversations with climate activists across the globe, Wed 19 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

TWOPENCE TO CROSS THE MERSEY UK premiere of Helen Forrester's period drama, set in the early 1930s during the Great Depression, Wed 19 - Fri 21 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

FALSE ACCOUNTS: EXPOSING THE POST OFFICE COVER UP A dark satire that gives a voice to those impacted by one of the most shameful travesties of injustice in the UK's history, Wed 19 - Sat 22 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

KIN Gecko Theatre present a provocative story of desperation and compassion in this National Theatre commission, Wed 19 - Sat 22 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: CORTEO Brand-new show promising 'creative set designs, jaw-dropping stunts and a beautiful storyline', Wed 19 - Sun 23 Oct, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

OTTONE English Touring Opera present Handel's tale of an emperor and his bride, kept apart by court intrigue and the workings of fate, Thurs 20 Oct, Malvern Theatres

MILKED Moving black comedy about friendship, unemployment and a cow called Sandy, Thurs 20 Oct, Vesta Tilley Studio, Worcester

JACK FROST AND THE SEARCH FOR WINTER Environmental themes are at the heart of this brand-new play for children by poet & playwright Joseph Coelho, Fri 21 Oct, Steiner Academy, Hereford

AGRIPPINA English Touring Opera present Handel's 'devilish' comedy that brings the machinations of one of ancient Rome's most notorious characters to life, Fri 21 Oct, Malvern Theatres

TAMERLANO English Touring Opera present Handel's dramatic tale - a gripping psychological contest between Tamerlano, the Emperor of the Tartars, and his captive - Bajazet, Sultan of the Turks. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Sat 22 Oct, Malvern Theatres

DIRTY DUSTING Crissy Rock, Leah Bell, Vanessa Karon star as three vintage cleaning ladies who chance on an unconventional way of making more cash, Sat 22 Oct, The Roses, Kidderminster

TERRY DEARY'S TRUE GHOST STORIES Head back in time with the man behind Horrible Histories to hear tales of an ancient Roman curse, a vanishing Victorian and the Blonde Witch of Lime Street, Sun 23 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

Kids Shows

THE DOG WITH TWO DADS Brand-new show about two papas and a pooch which celebrates families of every shape and size, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

Light Entertainment

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Comedy sketches, impersonations and music combine in this nostalgic show celebrating the golden age of rock'n'roll and pop, from the '50s through to the '80s, Wed 19 Oct, The Roses, Tewkesbury

SING-A-LONG-A ENCANTO Sing your heart out with the show's live host, who will teach audiences dance moves and how to use the free props bag provided, Sat 22 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

SPOOKY SAUCE Cabaret fun featuring gay ghouls, monster drag, emby mummies, queer bloodsuckers and other devilish delights, Sat 22 Oct, Vesta Tilley Studio, Worcester

LAST PODCAST ON THE LEFT Hosts Ben Kissel, Marcus Parks and Henry Zebrowski delve headlong into all things horror... Sat 22 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Comedy sketches, impersonations and music combine in this nostalgic show celebrating the golden age of rock'n'roll and pop from the '50s through to the '80s, Sun 23 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Dance

THE NUTCRACKER Presented by the Moldova-based Crown Ballet, Thurs 20 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: INTO THE MUSIC Triple bill featuring two UK and one world premiere - all celebrating the marriage of music and movement, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

SAMSARA UK/Indian dancer Aakash Odedra and Chinese dancer Hu Shenyuan draw on the dance traditions of their respective countries to explore the notion of samsara: the wheel of life, of birth, existence and re-birth, Sun 23 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks & Spoken Word

THE PUNDITS Evening of football chat from a panel comprising Paul Merson, Matt Le Tissier, Phil



Cirque Du Soleil: Corteo - Utilita Arena, Birmingham

Thompson & Charlie Nicholas, Mon 17 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

DR RICHARD SHEPHERD: UNNATURAL CAUSES The forensic pathologist talks about the cases and bodies that have haunted him most... Sun 23 Oct, The Roses, Tewkesbury

Events

CURATOR TALK: AROUND THE WORLD IN WORCESTER Get up close to recently conserved star objects from the Japan and Mayflower exhibitions, Tues 18 Oct, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

AFTER DARK TOURS Hear about strange sightings and mysterious rumours as you uncover the history of The Commandery in a guided tour with a Halloween twist, Tues 18 & Thurs 20 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

MOTORHOME AND CARAVAN SHOW 2022 See the new leisure vehicles direct from major manufacturers and dealers in an area larger than 12 football pitches, Tues 18 - Sun 23 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

ADULT NIGHTS The ultimate indoor Lego playground - completely kid-free, Fri 21 Oct, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

MINI CREATIVES - B'OPERA FIRST SONGS B'Opera First Songs Workshops are a way for you and your youngsters to explore how we can all use rhythm, movement and our singing voices to bring a story to life, Fri 21 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AUTUMN QUILTS FESTIVAL Featuring quilt displays by well-known quilters and textile artists, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Oct, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

THIS MAKES THAT WITH THESE Get your hands on real tools to take apart gadgets and appliances, Sat 22 Oct,

Coventry Transport Museum

GCCF SUPREME SHOW Cat show organised by the world's oldest cat registry, The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Sat 22 Oct, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

OCTOBER HALF-TERM: MAGIC & MISCHIEF Transform mason jars into enchanted forests, lighten up dark evenings with hand-crafted lantern luminaries and craft your own mischievous masks, Sat 22 - Sat 29 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry

HALLOWEEN HALF TERM AT KENILWORTH CASTLE Follow Dennis, Gnasher and friends to solve creepy clues on a fun family quest around the grounds, Sat 22 - Sun 30 Oct, Kenilworth Castle

SPOOKY SPECTACULAR Explore the pumpkin patch, enjoy the spooky show and have a go at the scratchard trail to win a special prize, Sat 22 - Sun 30 Oct, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

PUMPKIN SPOOKTACULAR Pick your own pumpkin, brave the haunted house and much more, Sat 22 - Sun 30 Oct, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

HALLOWEEN HALF TERM AT WITLEY COURT Follow Dennis, Gnasher and friends to solve creepy clues on a fun family quest around the grounds, Sat 22 - Sun 30 Oct, Witley Court, Worcestershire

HALLOWEEN WEEK Quizzes and child-friendly stories for kids to enjoy during the day, and ghost tours at night, Sat 22 - Mon 31 Oct, Tudor World, Stratford-upon-Avon

LARGE MODEL AIRCRAFT SHOW A family-friendly day dedicated to model aircraft, Sun 23 Oct, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

MALVERN MILITARIA FAIR Browse the stalls selling the UK's widest range of militaria, Sun 23 Oct, Three Counties Showground, Malvern



The Feeling - Birmingham Town Hall

Gigs

WAGE WAR + THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA + SIAMESE Mon 24 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE MAGPIES Mon 24 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ALI GATIE Tues 25 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

DEEP PURPLE Tues 25 Oct, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

ANNA RYDER Tues 25 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

MARC ALMOND Wed 26 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MARTI PELLOW Wed 26 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THOMAS HEADON Thurs 27 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO Thurs 27 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

EDWINA HAYES Thurs 27 Oct, Bromsgrove Folk Club

TOM ROBINSON Thurs 27 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

RODDY RADIATION & THE SKABILLY REBELS + MONKEY + BANANA HIGH Thurs 27 Oct, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

OVERPASS Thurs 27 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE ATTACK + SHACKLEFORD + YEAR ZERO Thurs 27 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

PAOLO NUTINI Fri 28 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KUMAR SANU + ALKA YAGNIK + UDIT NARAYAN Fri 28 Oct, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

THE COUNTERFEIT STONES Fri 28 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

MARTI PELLOW Fri 28 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

SPOUKY KIDS + KORN AGAIN Fri 28 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE FEELING + ALTAMEDA Sat 29 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

KARAN AUJLA Sat 29 Oct, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

THE ROD STEWART STORY Sat 29 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE CORAL Sat 29 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

LIVE UNDEAD Sat 29 Oct, Arches Venue, Coventry

RADIO GAGA - QUEEN TRIBUTE Sat 29 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

DONGYANG GOZUPA Sat 29 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

RAGGED BEAR FESTIVAL Sat 29 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

WALK LIKE A MAN - THE MUSIC OF FRANKIE VALLI Sat 29 Oct, The Benn Hall, Rugby

V2A Sat 29 Oct, Marris Bar, Worcester

PETTY CRIMINALS - TOM PETTY TRIBUTE Sat 29 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

ONE NIGHT OF BILLY JOEL - THE PIANO MAN Sat 29 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

MARTIN HARLEY Sun 30 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE CORAL Sun 30 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Mon 31 Oct, Utilita Arena, B'ham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Bach, Karg-Elert, Distler & Widor, Mon 24 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: TOYBOX Half term family concert. Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky, Bizet, Mike O'Donnell, Fauré, Randy Newman, Booker T. & the M.G.'s & Alasdair Malloy, Wed 26 Oct, The Courtyard, Hereford

LONDON CONCERTANTE: VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS BY CANDLELIGHT Programme also features works by Bach, Handel & Mozart, Fri 29 Oct, Worcester Cathedral

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR Featuring Robert Emery (conductor), Ilona Domnich (soprano) and Luis Gomes (tenor). Programme features a fusion of classical music, lights and lasers, Fri 29 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

ALDWYN VOICES Featuring Adrian Lucas (conductor), Iain Simcock (organ & piano). Programme includes works Schubert, Bach, Beethoven & Bruckner Motets, Sat 30 Oct, The Great Hall, Malvern College

NINIA BENJAMIN & MIKE GUNN Thurs 27 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

JON RICHARDSON Thurs 27 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JOSH JONES Fri 28 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham



SOFIE HAGEN Fri 28 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

DANNY CLIVES & COMICS TBC Fri 28 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SUKH OJLA, ANUVAB PAL, KAI SAMRA & RAJ POOJARA Fri 28 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

GLENN MOORE Fri 28 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JEN BRISTER Fri 28 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CLINTON BAPTISTE: CLINTON V RAMONE Fri 28 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry

HAL CRUTTENDEN Sat 29 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

ANGELOS EPITHEMIU Sun 30 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOANNE MCNALLY Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

SEAN MCLOUGHLIN Sun 30 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

Comedy

JEFF INNOCENT, SCOTT BENNETT & MATT BRAGG Mon 24 Oct, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

PAUL CHOWDHRY Tues 25 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR Tues 25 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry

BARBARA NICE, GARY DELANEY, OLIVIA LEWIS, CAREY MARX & KIMMIU FASHION Wed 26 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KEVIN BRIDGES Wed 26 Oct, Utilita Arena, Birmingham



NICK HELM Wed 26 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

HARRY HILL Wed 26 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

PAUL SMITH Wed 26 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMICS TBC Thurs 27 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SIMON DAY Thurs 27 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JARRED CHRISTMAS, PAUL TONKINSON,

Theatre

MILKSHAKE! LIVE: MONKEY'S MUSICAL Join children's favourites Paddington, Daisy & Ollie, Milo, Noddy, Pip and Posy for an interactive show promising dance, music and plenty of laughter, Mon 24 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DISNEY'S HOCUS POCUS: FILM PLUS ORCHESTRA Watch the classic Disney film whilst a full orchestra performs its soundtrack live, Tues 25 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

A PERFECT LIKENESS UK premiere of Daniel Rover Singer's play, based on an imagined meeting between two of history's most famous authors - Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll, Tues 25 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

UNKNOWN Verbatim play that dramatises the tragic but true story of one young person's journey from an abusive childhood to a life on the streets of Bath, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Oct, Vesta Tilley Studio, Worcester

THE OSMONDS: A NEW MUSICAL Jukebox musical telling the story of the brothers from Utah who took the world by storm... Expect a chart-



Marti Pellow - Huntingdon Hall & Royal Spa Centre

topping list of anthems, including Crazy Horses, Love Me For A Reason and Puppy Love, Tues 25 - Sat 29 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

SIX THE MUSICAL From Tudor queens to pop princesses, the six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their tales, remixing 500 years of historical heartbreak into an 80-minute celebration of 21st-century girl power, Tues 25 - Sat 29 Oct, Malvern Theatres



THE BIRTHDAY PARTY Amateur production of Harold Pinter's cryptic classic, Wed 26 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

THE WIZARD OF OZ Amateur production presented by Five Star Theatre, Thurs 27 Oct, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

A STUDY IN SCARLET Blue Orange Arts present the story in which Arthur Conan Doyle introduced readers to his iconic detective, Sherlock Holmes, for the very first time, Fri 28 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE HAUNTING Amateur staging of Charles Dickens' spine-chilling play, Sat 29 Oct - Fri 4 Nov, Criterion Theatre, Coventry

TRULY JACK THE RIPPER Don't Go Into The Cellar present an atmospheric one-man show adapted from classic stories with a Ripper theme, Sun 30 Oct, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

DOUBLE LIFE Fusion of musical theatre and VR experience which tells the story of someone looking for love in virtual reality, Wed 26 - Sun 30 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

TILL I DIE An exploration of the gender stereotypes of the slasher genre. Expect 'fake blood, that famous phone call scene, and an outspoken feminist', Mon 31 Oct - Tues 1 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham



STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL Kevin Clifton and Maisie Smith star in a brand-new musical directed and co-choreographed by Craig Revel

Horwood, Mon 31 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's 'genre-defying' murder-mystery - and the world's longest-running play, Mon 31 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE The Nonentities present an amateur staging of Ken Ludwig's heart-warming story of his parents' courtship during World War Two, Mon 31 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

Kids Theatre

DEMON DENTIST Birmingham Stage Company presents David Walliams' 'jaw-dropping' tale for children, Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

JULIA DONALDSON SING-A-LONG Fun session in which young audiences can sing along to some of Julia's best-known songs and learn some they may not have heard before, Thurs 27 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MORGAN & WEST: UNBELIEVABLE SCIENCE Captivating chemistry, phenomenal physics, and bonkers biology in a fun science extravaganza for younger audiences, Fri 28 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

SHARK IN THE PARK Family show based on Nick Sharratt's children's books, Fri 28 Oct, The Core, Solihull



CARTOON CIRCUS LIVE One hour family show featuring some of Britain's funniest clowns, traditional slapstick comedy, magic, illusions and circus acts - including a performing piranha! Fri 28 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

JUSTIN LIVE: THE BIG TOUR Join Justin Fletcher for a fun-packed family show full of dancing, comedy and slapstick fun, Sun 30 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

MILKSHAKE! LIVE: MONKEY'S MUSICAL Join children's favourites Paddington, Daisy & Ollie, Milo, Noddy, Pip and Posy for an interactive show promising dance, music and plenty of laughter, Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

BABY BEAR A playful, interactive puppetry adventure for babies, toddlers and their families, Sun 30 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry



BRB Coppelia - Birmingham Hippodrome

Light Entertainment

A FRIGHT AT THE MUSEUM CBBC's newest comedy stars, Danny & Mick, present a show packed with comedy routines, magic, mayhem, slapstick and speciality acts, Tues 25 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE BUGLE 15TH ANNIVERSARY LIVE SHOW Featuring live co-hosts and guests on a big screen delivering 'freshly-hewn' topical satire, Thurs 27 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

JERRY SADOWITZ: NOT FOR ANYONE Jerry Sadowitz returns with his whacky impressions of Greta Thunberg, Frankie Boyle and deep-vein thrombosis, Fri 28 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

BROWN GIRLS DO IT TOO: MAMA TOLD ME NOT TO COME Award-winning podcast exploring the lives and relationships of British Asian women, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Oct, The Rep, B'ham

QUEENZ: THE SHOW WITH BALLS X Factor and Union J star Jaymi Hensley stars in a sequin-clad pop party featuring reimagined classics from The Spice Girls, Lady Gaga, Little Mix, Britney, Whitney, and everything in between, Sat 29 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

X-TREME MAGIC Master illusionist Richard Cadell is joined by Richard Jones (Britain's Got Talent winner), John Archer (Penn & Teller: Fool Us), Solange Kardinaly & Arkadio, for a show packed with fire, illusion and death-defying stunts, Mon 31 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Dance

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: COPPÉLIA Sir Peter Wright's production of a joyous classic from the golden age of ballet, Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Ballet Theatre

UK presents a choreographed version of one of the most enchanting love stories of all time, Thurs 27 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

FABRIC - FATHERHOOD Bharatanatyam, multilingual spoken text and sign language combine in this original work featuring three characters, each revealing different experiences of fatherhood, Thurs 27 - Fri 28 Oct, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

STARCHITECTS Motionhouse present a brand-new family show fusing a fun and imaginative storyline with the company's renowned projections and dance/circus styling, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JAIVANT PATEL DANCE: DEEPAVALI, THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT An uplifting family-friendly performance that pays tribute to the late, great Lata Mangeshkar, Sat 29 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

DR RICHARD SHEPHERD: UNNATURAL CAUSES The forensic pathologist talks about the cases and bodies that have haunted him most... Tues 25 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall



LEO HOULDING: CLOSER TO THE EDGE Brand-new show in which one of the world's best climbers brings audiences up to date with his audacious expeditions, Wed 26 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



Mind Body Spirit Wellbeing Festival - NEC, Birmingham

LEIVISON WOOD: THE ART OF EXPLORATION Join the critically acclaimed author and explorer as he shares his experiences and learnings from a lifetime of travel, Fri 28 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

Events

THIS MAKES THAT WITH THESE Get your hands on real tools to take apart gadgets and appliances, Mon 24 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

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HALLOWEEN WEEK - ESCAPE FROM OZ Live, interactive performance with Oz quest and trail, Mon 24 - Fri 28 Oct, Spetchley Park Estate, Worcester

HALLOWEEN FUN AT THE FARM Discover the weird and wonderful traditions of All Hallows' Eve, Tues 25 & Thurs 27 Oct, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

AFTER DARK TOURS Hear about strange sightings and mysterious rumours as you uncover the history of The Commandery in a guided tour with a Halloween twist, Tues 25 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN DAY Variety of free Halloween-themed activities to keep your kids entertained, Wed 26 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

HALLOWEEN NIGHTS Follow the trick-or-treat stations around the 26-acre site, Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct, The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

NICK SHARRATT'S HALLOWEEN DRAWALONG Join much-loved children's author & illustrator Nick Sharratt for a special Halloween-themed drawalong, Thurs 27 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

GHOSTLY TALES: FAMILY FRIENDLY GHOST TOUR Hear well-known Aston ghost stories, Thurs 27 - Fri 28 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

MAKE & PLAY ENGINEERS - SOUNDSCAPES Explore different materials and objects, create sound-makers, and enjoy family fun while changing the sounds of the museum, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

GHOST TRAIN Scary characters sneak through the train's corridors as you pass through haunted stations to Arley - but will you make it back alive? Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

SCREAM TRAIN 18+ There's something roaming the train under the cover of darkness... Hold on to your handrail and lock your compartment door because they're coming to get you... Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster



SPOOKY WOODLAND WALKS AT WITLEY COURT Join the ghost-hunting storytellers on a family friendly walk through the shadows of Witley Court, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Oct, Witley Court,

Worcestershire

GHOST TOURS AT KENILWORTH CASTLE Tales of ghosts, supernatural sightings and horrors from history, Thurs 27 - Mon 31 Oct, Kenilworth Castle

THEATRE TOUR A tour of the UK's first purpose-built repertory theatre, The Old Rep, Fri 28 Oct, The Old Rep, Birmingham

MINI CREATIVES - B'OPERA FIRST SONGS B'Opera First Songs Workshops are a way for you and your youngsters to explore how we can all use rhythm, movement and our singing voices to bring a story to life, Fri 28 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



MIND BODY SPIRIT WELLBEING FESTIVAL Three day festival of spiritual and inspirational activities, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

DIWALI: LIGHT SHADOWS AND NEON TOO Drop-in activities and workshops celebrating Diwali - including Indian block printing and community lantern making, Sat 29 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MISS MAPLETREE'S PERFECT MURDER Question the suspects and watch the plot unfold in real time in this immersive dining experience, Sat 29 Oct, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

HALLOWEEN FUN AT THE FARM Discover the weird and wonderful traditions of All Hallows' Eve, Sat 29 Oct, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

TOY COLLECTORS FAIR Featuring more than 500 stalls packed with thousands of collectables for sale, Sun 30 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

GREAT BRITISH MODEL RAILWAY SHOW A family-friendly weekend dedicated to model trains and layouts, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Oct, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

SPOOKY MAGIC LESSON Join Paul the Magician as he helps you create your very own spooky magic trick, Sun 30 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP A spooktacular workshop with experienced photography lecturer Lee Chapman, Sun 30 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

MALVERN 4x4, LAND ROVER & VINTAGE SPARES DAY Featuring Land Rover vintage and collectable spares and parts, restoration, tools & workwear products and club stand displays, Sun 30 Oct, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

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