

Worcestershire

ISSUE 432 JANUARY 2023

# What's On

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### inside:

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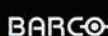
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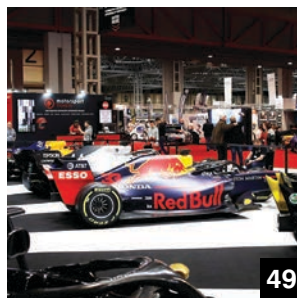
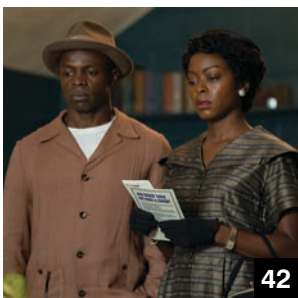


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## Spring into spring at Warwick Arts Centre

A new production of Mike Leigh's *Abigail's Party* and a stage adaptation of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* are both included in Warwick Arts Centre's spring and early-summer programme of entertainment. Other shows featuring in the line-up include James Wilton Dance performing new work *The Four Seasons*, and fun family favourite *Dinosaur World Live*. Comedy comes in the form of, among others, Baz Khan and Maisie Adam, while Hothouse Flowers and local singer/songwriter Ellie Gowers feature in the Coventry venue's line-up of gigs. To find out more, visit [warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk)

## Go Wild with Ben Fogle

Ben Fogle is taking a walk on the wild side in Warwickshire and Worcestershire this spring.

Broadcaster & adventurer Ben will hit the road with

brand-new touring show *Wild*, in which he recounts 'hair-raising and uplifting stories from a life of amazing encounters'.

Ben brings *Wild* to Warwick Arts Centre on Friday 5 May and the following week visits Malvern Forum Theatre (10 May).

For more information and to book tickets, visit [ents24.com/uk/tour-dates/ben-fogle](http://ents24.com/uk/tour-dates/ben-fogle)



## BRB announces summer return of Penguin Cafe

Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) will round off its 2022/23 season this summer by performing a triple bill featuring 'Still Life' At The Penguin Café. Choreographed by the company's former director, Sir David Bintley, the piece will be presented alongside George Balanchine's *Apollo* and BRB's Juliano Nunes-choreographed ballet, *Interlinked*, which was commissioned for the Commonwealth Games' Birmingham 2022 Festival. For more information about the triple bill, which will be presented at Birmingham Hippodrome from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 June, visit [brb.org.uk](http://brb.org.uk)



## Steel Magnolias coming to Midlands theatres

Laura Main (Sister Bernadette in BBC One's *Call The Midwife*), X Factor favourite Diana Vickers and one-time EastEnders Lucy Speed will star in a brand-new production of *Steel Magnolias* when it visits two Midlands venues this spring.

Based on the same-named Robert Harling play and subsequent movie starring Dolly Parton and Julia Roberts, the show stops off at Birmingham's The Alexandra from 21 to 25 March and then visits Malvern Theatre from 2 to 6 May

## Badminton tournament back in Birmingham

The YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships makes a welcome return to Utilita Arena Birmingham in the spring. Marking the 30th anniversary of the championship being held at the venue, YONEX 2023 takes place from Tuesday 14 to Sunday 19 March.

The event is the world's oldest and most prestigious badminton tournament, having first been held in 1899.

Commenting on the championships, organisers Badminton England said:

"Nothing can prepare you for watching the greatest badminton players in the world play live - the speed, agility and skill needed to compete at the highest level is breathtaking, and the passion and noise of some of the most committed fans in the world needs to be seen to be believed.

"Fans come to Birmingham and the YONEX All England from all over the world, and for six days the arena is transformed into the heart of world elite badminton."

For more information and to purchase tickets for the event, visit [allenglandbadminton.com](http://allenglandbadminton.com)



## Motor Museum to present 'ambitious schedule'

The British Motor Museum is this year presenting its most ambitious schedule ever, with 38 motoring shows taking place at the venue during 2023.

The first event of the year is a Museum Late evening tour of the Collections Centre, on Tuesday 10 January.

The tour is followed four days later by the annual Historic Rally Car Register 'Open Day' (Saturday the 14th).

The museum has frozen its ticket prices for this year at 2022 rates.





## Duran Duran heading for home

Birmingham superstars Duran Duran are this spring returning to the city with their Future Past tour (Utilita Arena Birmingham, 5 May).

Commenting on the news, lead singer Simon Le Bon said: "It's remarkable to me that as a band we are still hitting new milestones, still able to introduce the sound of DD to new generations of music lovers.

"We are truly grateful that we get to do what we do on a daily basis, and that we still love our job as much as we did when we started out some four decades ago."

For more information and to book tickets for the show, visit [utilitaarenabham.co.uk](http://utilitaarenabham.co.uk)

## Liza Goddard to star in classic Ayckbourn farce



A new version of Alan Ayckbourn's *Relatively Speaking* will tour to Malvern Theatre in early spring (Tuesday 7 - Saturday 11 March).

A suburban farce written in 1965, the play made Ayckbourn a household name when it scored a major hit in the London West End two years later.

The new production stars Liza Goddard, who readers of a certain vintage will remember from television series including *Bergerac* and *Give Us A Clue*.

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



## Life Of Pi stage show to visit four Midlands theatres

The multi-Olivier Award-winning stage show, *Life Of Pi*, will stop off at numerous theatres in the region during the first half of 2024 as part of a UK tour.

The critically acclaimed production, which is inspired by the Oscar-winning 2012 film of the same name, tells the story of a shipwrecked Indian teenager who finds himself stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with a ferocious

Bengal tiger.

The show will visit the following Midlands venues in 2024: Birmingham Hippodrome (12 - 17 February); Coventry Belgrade (8 - 13 April); Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton (22 - 27 April); and Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury (6 - 11 May).

To find out more and book tickets, visit [lifeofpionstage.com](http://lifeofpionstage.com)

## Living History in Worcester

Visitors to popular Worcestershire attraction The Commandery can come face-to-face with the past next month, courtesy of the venue's Living History weekend. Featuring encampments, musicians & dancers, traditional crafts and military displays, the event takes place on Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 February.

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



## Wicked flying back into the region

One of the most successful musicals of all time will fly back to Birmingham Hippodrome in 2024.

Telling the previously unknown story of the *Witches of Oz*, *Wicked* will stop off at the venue from Tuesday 5 March to Sunday 7 April 2024. Commenting on the news, the Hippodrome's artistic director & chief executive, Jon Gilchrist, said: "We are delighted to welcome back *Wicked* after our previous sell-out run in 2018. Tickets will go on sale in spring 2023, and 2024 is already shaping up to be a very special year for the Hippodrome



## Call The Midwife's Helen to star in The King & I

Birmingham-born Call The Midwife star Helen George will return to the city next month to star as governess Anna Leonowens in a major new UK touring production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical, *The King And I*. The hit show, which features a host of much-loved songs, including *I Whistle A Happy Tune* and *Getting To Know You*, visits *The Alexandra* from Tuesday 28 February to Saturday 4 March. For more information and to book tickets, visit [atgtickets.com/birmingham](http://atgtickets.com/birmingham)



## It's all going Pete Tong at Brum's Utilita Arena!

DJ & broadcaster Pete Tong is bringing his critically acclaimed Ibiza Classics show to Birmingham in the autumn. Dance music legend Pete will be joined by Jules Buckley and The Essential Orchestra at the city's Utilita Arena on Thursday 30 November. For more information and to book tickets, visit [gigsandtours.com](http://gigsandtours.com) and/or [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk)

## Students going Greek at Coventry arts venue

Warwick University's Department of Classics & Ancient History is this month bringing an Ancient Greek comedy to the stage. A student-run production, *Aristophanes' Assemblywomen* is being described as 'a fantastically funny musical, full of crossdressing, contradiction, and an array of crazy characters'. The production shows at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, on Thursday 26 & Friday 27 January. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit [warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk)



## A KISS farewell as rock legends finally call it a day

Rock legends KISS will visit Utilita Arena Birmingham this summer (Monday 5 June) as part of a farewell tour - taking place a staggering 23 years after the band first announced their retirement! Commenting on their forthcoming *The End Of The Road* show, KISS said: "All that we have built and all that we have conquered over the past four decades could never have

happened without the millions of people worldwide who've filled clubs, arenas and stadiums over those years. "This will be the ultimate celebration for those who've seen us and a last chance for those who haven't. KISS Army, we're saying goodbye on our final tour with our biggest show yet, and we'll go out the same way we came in... unapologetic and unstoppable."

## Local orchestra kickstart their 2023 programme

Worcestershire-based English Symphony Orchestra this month kickstart their 2023 programme with a concert in their *Journeys & Discoveries* season. Taking place at Malvern Theatres on Saturday 21 January, *Visions Of Italy* opens with Respighi's colourful *Ancient Airs & Dances*, showcases soloist Zoë Beyers in Mendelssohn's early D minor Violin Concerto, and concludes with Wolf's Italian Serenade and Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*. Kenneth Woods conducts.

## Bestselling author Kate announces debut UK tour

International bestselling author Kate Mosse is bringing her first-ever one-woman theatre tour to the Midlands. *Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries: How Women (Also) Built The World* is inspired by Kate's book of the same name. The show sees her celebrating the lives of 'extraordinary, brilliant, trailblazing and heroic women from throughout history whose names deserve to be better known'. Kate visits Royal Spa Centre, Leamington, on Tuesday 7 March and Swan Theatre, Worcester, on Saturday 18 March. For more information and to book tickets, visit [katemosse.co.uk/events](http://katemosse.co.uk/events)

## It's very Cool For Cats at Midlands folk festival

Veteran rock band Squeeze will celebrate half a century of musicmaking when they make their Moseley Folk & Arts Festival debut in the early autumn. Best known for hits including *Cool For Cats* and *Up The Junction*, the band will be joined for the 17th edition of the event by Scottish twins The Proclaimers and American stars Wilco. The festival takes place at Moseley Park & Pool from Friday 1 to Sunday 3 September. To check out which other artists have so far been announced for the 2023 get-together, and to purchase tickets, visit [moseleyfolk.co.uk](http://moseleyfolk.co.uk)





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



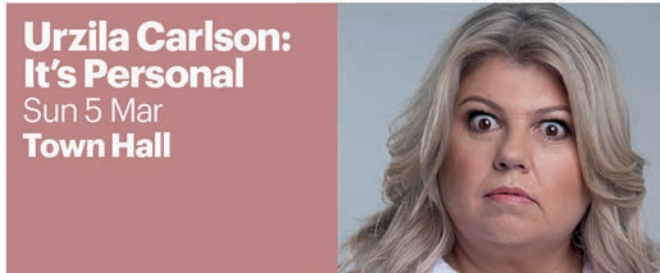
**The Gruffalo**  
Tue 27 Dec 2022 –  
Sun 15 Jan 2023  
**Town Hall**



**Lloyd Griffith:  
One Tonne  
of Fun**  
Sat 25 Feb  
**Town Hall**



**Magic of  
Motown**  
Sat 7 Jan  
**Symphony Hall**



**Urzila Carlson:  
It's Personal**  
Sun 5 Mar  
**Town Hall**



**Transatlantic  
Sessions**  
Thu 9 Feb  
**Symphony Hall**



**Lost In Music:  
One Night at  
the Disco**  
Sat 11 Mar  
**Symphony Hall**



**Pete Williams  
& His Band plus  
Special Guests**  
Thu 16 Feb  
**Jennifer Blackwell  
Performance Space**



**Kevin Bloody  
Wilson**  
Mon 6 Nov  
**Town Hall**



**B:Inspired**

B:Music is delighted to be welcoming the best international orchestras, soloists and rising stars from around the world for the 2022/2023 Birmingham Classical Season. From John Wilson with Sinfonia of London, the most talked about orchestra at this years Proms, to Strauss's Alpine Symphony, there's something to inspire everyone.

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

**Kids Go FREE\***

\*When purchasing an adult ticket to concerts in the season



## Coventry theatre joins Warm Welcome scheme

Coventry's Belgrade Theatre has joined a national campaign which aims to support local people through the winter months. The initiative will see the venue provide an 'inclusive, non-judgemental space where everyone can expect a warm welcome from staff'.

Supported by Coventry Building Society, the theatre's sessions (Wednesdays 3pm - 5pm, Saturdays 10am - 12pm) feature free tea & coffee, a selection of free activities - including arts & craft workshops and film screenings - and a creative play area for families to enjoy.

For more information about the Warm Welcome campaign, visit [belgrade.co.uk](http://belgrade.co.uk)

## Purr-fect feline fun! Mog the cat visits the region

A stage adaptation of the late Judith Kerr's stories about Mog the Forgetful Cat will visit two Midlands venues in the spring. Presented by Bristol-based theatre group The Wardrobe Ensemble and suitable for children aged three-plus, the show stops off at the Birmingham Rep from Thursday 13 to Saturday 15 April and then visits the Coventry Belgrade from Tuesday 30 May to Saturday 3 June.

Kerr, who is perhaps best known for her 1968 children's story, *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*, wrote her first Mog book in 1970 and her last in 2002.

## Kevin Hart tours to the UK

US comedian Kevin Hart is bringing his new show, *Reality Check*, to the UK this spring and will be making a stop-off at Birmingham's Utilita Arena.

The Emmy and Grammy-nominated funnyman visits the venue on Monday 24 April. To find out more and check ticket availability, visit [utilitaarenabham.co.uk](http://utilitaarenabham.co.uk)



08 [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)



## Diversity's Supernova heading for Midlands theatres

Diversity will bring their 2023/24 Supernova tour to three Midlands venues.

The dance superstars will stop off at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra in the autumn, appearing there from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 November.

They will then return to the region in 2024,

performing at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, on Wednesday 20 & Thursday 21 March, and at The Halls Wolverhampton on Saturday 6 April.

To find out about ticket availability, visit [gigsandtours.com](http://gigsandtours.com) and/or [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk)

## RSC presenting a season of classics in Stratford

With its much-loved Swan Theatre reopening this spring, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) has programmed a mouthwatering selection of plays for fans of the bard to enjoy at its venues in Stratford-upon-Avon.

As well as a new version of *The Tempest*, which opens this month, the Company will also present new productions of *Julius Caesar*, *Cymbeline*, *As You Like It* and *Macbeth*. An adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's bestselling novel, *Hamnet*, also features, as does a Next Generation interpretation of *Hamlet*, presented by a company of young people aged between 13 and 25. For more information about the line-up and to book tickets, visit [rsc.org.uk](http://rsc.org.uk)

## Three Counties food festival to debut in 2023

Malvern's Three Counties Showground will this summer host a brand-new weekend festival that organisers are promising will be a food lover's paradise.

Taking place on 29 & 30 July, The Three Counties Food & Drink Festival will feature:

street-food vendors; a line-up of special guests, celebrities & television chefs; and more than 150 stands offering a wide range of artisan produce from some of the region's most popular producers. A host of children's activities, live music and DJ sets will also feature. To find out more and book tickets, visit [threecountiesfoodfestival.com](http://threecountiesfoodfestival.com).

## Making Mischief at Warwickshire art gallery

The UK's rich tapestry of local and seasonal folk customs - and in particular the central role played in these customs by the wearing of costumes - is the subject of a brand-new exhibition



opening at Compton Verney next month. *Making Mischief* will bring together more than 40 costumes and highlight evolving practices such as the rise of all-female Morris groups.

The exhibition shows at the venue from Saturday 11 February to Sunday 11 June.





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# Austen Powered

getting cheeky with Pride & Prejudice (\*sort of)...





## Playwright Isobel McArthur's cheeky contemporary retelling of Jane Austen's classic novel, *Pride And Prejudice*, might be irreverent but it's also affectionate and accurate. "After all, why would I mess with her brilliant thing?" she tells *What's On...*

When fledgling actor, director and playwright Isobel McArthur was offered the chance to develop a production for the main stage at Glasgow's Tron theatre, the venue's artistic director, Andy Arnold, only had one prerequisite - the play had to be the reimagining of a literary classic.

The task not only led Isobel to fall in love with the work of an author she'd previously avoided, but rocketed her career from struggling drama graduate from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to award-winning West End success story. Not bad considering her choice of Jane Austen's *Pride And Prejudice* from the stack of 50p classics she'd bought from a second-hand bookshop was not only random but largely in order to dismiss it.

"I thought, I'm not gonna get on with this because it's gonna be unrelatable," she says in a broad Glaswegian accent (Glasgow patter to the locals). "I was picturing a lot of people in drawing rooms thinking they had problems when they really didn't compared to the poor wee guy downstairs struggling to make ends meet. But then I read it, and on page one I was laughing and thinking, wait a minute... it's a comedy!"

The discovery was not only a lightbulb moment in terms of the potential for her own work, but smashed all Isobel's preconceptions about the book, which she admits were largely prompted by dreary costume dramas on TV.

"The telly adaptations and films are so po-faced... I don't know what it is about regency or period or romance that has made us think it really needs to be quite serious - because it's not! The book's daft! It's farcical in parts and satirical in others, but it's just gag, gag, gag - she's so brilliant at writing jokes."

Making the novel's humour her focal point, Isobel then needed to find ways to ensure the material worked for her intended audience.

"It was quite easy for me to just reinstate all the comedy, and since I'd surprised myself by how much I enjoyed the book, I needed to find a way to share it with Glasgow audiences. I needed to go 'This is for you, even though you might think it isn't, or even if someone's told you Austen's not for Glasgow, and Glasgow's not for Austen.'"

The result is *Pride & Prejudice\** (\*sort of), an unapologetically irreverent adaptation of the tale of Elizabeth Bennett and her long and winding road to romance with dashing Mr Darcy, told from the perspective of five female servants and incorporating an array of classic pop songs. Each of the elements is designed to demolish preconceptions as well as draw in new audiences, says Isobel.

"The pop culture baggage of Austen is that she's really lofty and the reserve of intellectuals or academics - or just people who read very long old novels - and it's punching through that by offering up things with which we're all familiar, or which certain generations or types of people are familiar.

"I think when you shove a Viennetta into a Jane Austen story, you can tell what sort of crowd you're playing to by how many people gasp and applaud and go 'Yes! That was posh pudding when I was growing up!' In Glasgow that gets a certain reaction, whereas in Edinburgh they don't really know what it is."

The play - originally designed to run for just two weeks at the Tron - was always going to be an all-female affair, but Isobel was aware she needed other "creative invitations" to get the audience on board.

"For me it needed to be told by the servants, so we have this working-class voice narrating the story, and there needed to be a musical language for the show, because in Glasgow music's what usually gets your granny to a show.

"You invite different sections of the audience in at different points using different devices, and music is just one of those. It's also a fantastic storytelling device, as the makers of proper musicals will tell you - it can get you from A to B far quicker than dialogue."

The songs in the show run the gamut from cheesy pop (Chris de Burgh, Bonnie Tyler, The Partridge Family) to cool indie (Elvis Costello, Pulp, The Divine Comedy), but have two things in common - it's all music that Isobel loves ("I get to inflict my musical taste on people"), and it's all performed as karaoke.

The karaoke idea not only fitted with the original production's limited budget but also enabled Isobel to draw parallels between

people showing off - or being forced to sing - in contemporary karaoke bars, and characters attending posh balls in Austen's novel, when women were encouraged to play piano to demonstrate their accomplishments, and therefore eligibility, to potential suitors.

"I started thinking about how you walk past pubs in Glasgow that have got karaoke on a Friday night. The singing, the expression and the feeling you get from karaoke - all human emotion is up there on display. People who have just had break-ups, people who are drunk and just showing off, people who have been forced on to that platform and are feeling shy, or want to let someone across the room know they're in love with them... it's really incredible.

"There just seemed to be so much to be mined, and it also crosses a lot of class boundaries - we all know what it is, we've all experienced it. So that's why it felt so right. And it's a right laugh as well."

Audiences seem to have agreed on all fronts. After its low-key debut, the play enjoyed a hugely successful run in the London West End - earning this year's Olivier Award for Best Comedy - and is now on a major tour of the UK.

Isobel, who has stepped away from acting in the show to concentrate on directing during the current tour, says she hopes audiences will leave theatres with smiles on their faces because the production is all about joy - as opposed to the boy.

"I don't want to give too much away, but we try to celebrate not just what it is for lovers to end up together and everything to be tied up neatly at the end, but also those people who maybe don't end up with the partner and how brilliant and happy they can be in their lives as well. I want to leave audiences feeling energised."

***Pride & Prejudice* (\*sort of) shows at: Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, from Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 February; The Rep, Birmingham, Monday 17 to Saturday 22 April; and Festival Theatre Malvern, Tuesday 30 May to Saturday 3 June**



**Bromsgrove Concerts** [www.bromsgrove-concerts.org.uk](http://www.bromsgrove-concerts.org.uk)  
**Spring 2023**

**Fri 27 January 2023 at 7:30pm in Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School, B61 7DU**  
**Papagena**  
 Love, Legends and Lullabies  
 The UK's flagship female vocal ensemble, Papagena, presents a diverse programme ranging from sacred medieval and Armenian motets to lilting folk ballads and lullabies.



**Fri 17 February 2023 at 7:30pm in Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School, B61 7DU**  
**Michael Christian Durrant (guitar) & Jonathan Radford (saxophone)**  
 Some lovely Spanish and Romanian Dance suites from Falla, Bartok and Piazzolla alongside Bach's Sonata No. 2, BWV 1034 and Ciaran Farrell's Shannon Suite



**Friday 17th March Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School B61 7DU 7.30pm**  
**Birmingham Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble**  
 Three inspiring works: Appalachian Spring, by Copland, Richard Strauss's symphonic 'Happy Workshop' and Saint Saens' glorious Septet for trumpet, piano and strings



**Fri 31 March 2023 at 7:30pm in Cobham Theatre, Bromsgrove Preparatory School, B60 2BU**  
**Callino String Quartet**  
 The Quartet first played for Bromsgrove Concerts in 2009. Originally formed in Ireland, they have supported Irish composer Ian Wilson over the years. They also play two sparkling quartets by Haydn No. 33/3 and Ravel in F major, with a new Haydn 'companion piece' by Winkelman



**ALL CONCERTS are Live and Streamed**  
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 Evangelist: BEN THAPA  
 Christus: STUART O'HARA  
 Armonico Consort's finest soloists, chorus, and period instrumentalists will shine as they explore the intense emotions and humanity of the Passion of Christ as depicted in Bach's masterpiece.  
**30th March 2023 7:30pm**, Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick  
 Tickets from £13.50. 01926 334418 [armonico.org.uk](http://armonico.org.uk)  
**31st March 2023 7pm**, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire  
 Tickets from £29.12. 01684 892279 [malvern-tickets.co.uk](http://malvern-tickets.co.uk)

SUPPORT ARMONICO CONSORT WITH THEIR NEW ENCORE APPEAL



# Leamington Music Spring Concerts 2023



**Early Music Concerts**  
 St Mary's Church, Warwick

**Tuesday 31 January at 7.30pm**  
**Tabea Debus recorder with The Cedar Consort**  
*Music by Telemann, Blavet, Bach and Handel from this rising German recorder star*

**Tuesday 28 February at 7.30pm**  
**The Gesualdo Six**  
*Josquin's Legacy - The Court at Ferrara*  
*Music by Josquin de Prez, Brumel, Compère, Divitis, Festa, de Févin and more*

**Tuesday 21 March at 7.30pm**  
**Ex Cathedra - Baroque Passion**  
*Music by Bach, Purcell, Lotti, Domenico Scarlatti, Kuhnau, Monteverdi, Carissimi, and Charpentier*

**Royal Spa Centre concerts**



**Sunday 5 March at 11.30am**  
**Family Concert**  
*Ensemble 360 and narrator Polly Ives present a storybook adventure set to music by Paul Rissmann*

**Sunday 5 March at 3pm**  
**Ensemble 360**  
 Berwald *Grand Septet in B flat*  
 Mozart *Clarinet Quintet in A K581*  
 Beethoven *Septet in E flat Op 20*

**International String Quartets**  
 Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington

**Friday 27 January at 7.30pm**  
**Piatti Quartet**  
*Ullmann • Haas • Beethoven*  
 Holocaust Memorial Day concert

**Friday 17 February at 7.30pm**  
**Doric Quartet**  
*Beethoven • Berg • Smetana*

**Friday 17 March at 7.30pm**  
**Arcadia Quartet (Romania)**  
*Haydn • Weinberg • Beethoven*

**For full details visit**  
[www.leamingtonmusic.org](http://www.leamingtonmusic.org)  
**Book on 01926 334418**



Classical music from across the region...



## Orchestra Of The Swan Warwick Hall, Warwick School, Thurs 12 January

The Orchestra of the Swan make a strong start to 2023 with a programme that includes Worcestershire-born Edward Elgar's Enigma Variations and Ralph Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs, a work which was premiered at the Worcester Three Choirs Festival in 1911. With baritone Roderick Williams joining the

orchestra for the concert and contributing his composition, Corona, the programme is completed by Two Pieces from Henry V by William Walton, and Capriol Suite, composed in 1926 by Philip Heseltine, who was better known by the pseudonym Peter Warlock. Jason Lai (pictured) conducts.



## The King's Singers

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 27 January

The Grammy Award-winning King's Singers are no strangers to a busy concert schedule, regularly touring to countries across the globe and in the process performing at some of the world's greatest concert halls, including Sydney Opera House and Carnegie Hall.

Always looking to create programmes both to perform and record, the Singers have commissioned hundreds of works, including landmark pieces from numerous leading contemporary composers. They've also commissioned arrangements of everything from jazz standards to pop chart hits, exploring medieval motets and Renaissance madrigals along the way.

## Viennese New Year with the CBSO

Malvern Theatres, Sat 7 January; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 8 January

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra welcome in the new year with a concert programme they'll be performing twice in the space of 24 hours... The Malvern concert is in the evening, the Symphony Hall one, the following afternoon.

Highly rated soprano Anna Devin (pictured) lends her incredible voice to proceedings, as Christoph Altstaedt conducts a selection of playful polkas and wonderful waltzes. The programme is approximately two hours in length and includes Johann Strauss II's On The Beautiful Blue Danube.



## Armonico Consort

Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick, Sat 28 January; Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire, Sat 4 February

Founded by organist and conductor Christopher Monks in 2001, Warwick-based Armonico are one of the largest organisations of their kind in the UK. Using authentic period instruments, the baroque consort regularly perform with some of the best solo musicians in the world. This home-turf concert sees Armonico joined by the English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of one of Britain's greatest composers, William Byrd.

## Piatti Quartet

Malvern Theatres, Thurs 26 January; Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Fri 27 January

These ever-rising stars of the classical music scene have caused a significant stir over the last few years, providing passionate interpretations of music from across the spectrum of quartet writing. Prize winners in the 2015 London International String Quartet Competition, the ensemble take their name from 19th-century cellist Alfredo Piatti, a leading professor and exponent of quartet playing at the Royal Academy of Music. Their Leamington stop-off sees them performing works by Ullmann, Haas and Beethoven.



## Papagena

Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School, Fri 27 January

If you enjoy a sacred medieval motet - or maybe an Armenian one - Papagena are the group for you. The same could be said if lilting folk ballads and lullabies are your thing, or the music of Purcell, or Scarlatti, or MacMillan. Or how about Canadian mouth music?

In short, the UK's flagship female vocal ensemble absolutely revel in mixing it up and offering a programme that's every bit as inventive as it is imaginative.

The quintet are making a welcome return to Bromsgrove having been the recipients of some truly glowing praise on their previous visits in 2016 & '17.





# Friends' Soirée

with clarinettist Michael Collins

Town Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon  
Thursday 19 January 2023 7.30pm

Brush off the mid-winter blues with our annual fundraising event. Fizz and canapés on arrival.

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Gounod</b>       | Petite Symphonie |
| <b>Françaix</b>     | Sept Danses      |
| <b>André Caplet</b> | Suite Persane    |
| <b>Joachim Raff</b> | Sinfonietta      |

### Tickets

**Friends: £22.50**  
**Non-Members: £25**  
Inc. a glass of fizz and canapés on arrival



[orchestraoftheswan.org](http://orchestraoftheswan.org)



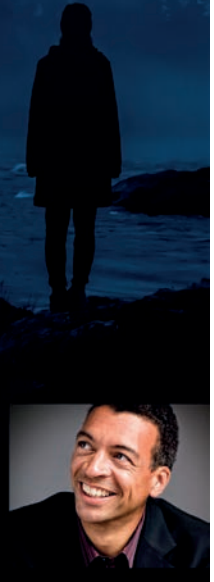
ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN IN  
RESIDENCE AT WARWICK SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION PERFORMS

# Enigma

An English Mystery

Thursday 12 January 2023, 7.30pm

With baritone **Roderick Williams**  
including: Vaughan Williams  
*Five Mystical Songs*  
Elgar *Enigma Variations*.  
Conductor, **Rebecca Miller**.



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

# LIVING HISTORY

**SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**& SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**FEBRUARY 2023**

Come face to face with the past!  
See military displays, living history encampments, traditional crafts, dance and music...



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[www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)

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Live music from across the region...

## Ruby Turner

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 28 January

Although Ruby Turner's chart days seem to be behind her, she's still an immensely popular live act on the strength of her material and her voice. Her hits include a version of I'd Rather Go Blind and If You're Ready (Come Go With Me). This month back on familiar ground in the Midlands - her family moved from Jamaica to Birmingham when she was nine years old - Ruby is that rarest of soul singers: a home-grown talent who can match many of the best from the US.

A warm and witty woman with a great voice.



## Bad Manners

The Assembly, Leamington, Fri 20 January

Long in the tooth they may be, but English 2 Tone ska wizards Bad Manners still command a significant following around the globe. Very much a novelty act, courtesy in the main of the on-stage antics of bald-headed frontman Buster Bloodvessel - pictured at his sophisticated finest below - they spent the early-1980s vying for chart positions with fellow ska revival bands Madness, The Specials and The Selecter. Hit albums include Gosh Its... Bad Manners, Loonee Tunes! and Ska'n'B.



## Polly Paulusma

Temperance, Leamington Spa, Sat 28 January

From record-breakingly slender homes, great folk-music careers grow. Such is the story with Polly Paulusma, who recorded her 2004 debut album, Scissors In My Pocket, in London's thinnest home - a seven-foot, seven-inch-wide property which she shared with her husband. Undaunted by the challenge of being creative in a space too

small to swing a guitar, Polly made an immediate splash and soon found herself supporting the likes of Bob Dylan, Jamie Cullum, Coldplay, The Divine Comedy and Marianne Faithfull, as well as playing Glastonbury, T In The Park and Cambridge Folk Festival.

She appears in Leamington this month in support of her ninth album, The Pivot On Which The World Turns, and nowadays lives in a significantly wider home.

## John Otway

The Marr's Bar, Worcester, Fri 13 January

A self-deprecating persona, a surreal sense of humour, and a not-inconsiderable musical talent have seen John Otway maintain a significant career for more than half a century.

Boasting a gargantuan cult following - which saw his obscure 1978 B-side offering, Beware Of The Flowers, take seventh place in a 1999 'best lyric' poll conducted by the BBC (making him a more popular lyricist than Bob Dylan!) - John is always good value for money and will no doubt provide his Worcester fans with yet another evening to remember...

Clash, The Police and David Bowie, the legendary 2-Tone, ska and reggae group here perform with Ranking Junior, the son of one of their founder members, the late Ranking Roger.

## Lewis Capaldi

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Thurs 26 January

Brit Award-winning Scottish singer-songwriter and blue-eyed-soul artist Lewis Capaldi - whose second cousin once removed is ex-Dr Who actor



Peter Capaldi - was busy touring arenas when the pandemic struck. Two years of isolation followed, so it was no surprise to find him chomping at the bit to start playing music live again by the time he finally got back on the road last summer. Chart-topping in the autumn with Forget Me, his third UK number one, Lewis visits Birmingham this month with his brand-new tour, Broken By Desire To Be Heavenly Sent. The same-named album is due for release in the spring.

## The Beat

hmv Empire, Coventry, Sat 21 January

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

Having toured alongside artists such as The







# Space Odyssey

**Warwick Arts Centre's Mead Gallery will undergo a major transformation this month, with visual artist Katrina Palmer's exhibition, What's Already Going On, set to be housed in a specially created university corridor within the gallery space...**

London-born visual artist Katrina Palmer works in a variety of mediums ranging from the written word to audio recordings and moving images, but has always maintained a passion for sculpture - albeit in an abstract way. Rather than focusing on objects, her art is often more concerned with the space the sculptures take up, the space that surrounds them and the space they leave behind.

Her latest, and largest commission to date continues that theme. It brings a variety of new work, including unfired clay sculptures, drawings and movies, all under one roof - or, to be more precise, all along one university corridor - in the Mead Gallery at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre.

Inspired by hallways in Warwick University's Department of Philosophy, What's Already Going On is presented in a specially constructed corridor that offers visitors access to rooms housing Katrina's artwork, but often with a degree of separation - that space which she finds so fascinating.

"Part of what's always driven me, even when I was writing, is the edges of things," she explains. "I did a lot of work where I was often defining holes and voids and spaces, and making people walk around the edges of near boundaries and things like that. Rather than focusing on objects directly, I was looking at standing to the side of spaces, if that makes sense.

"That's what I've carried on doing in this show. There'll be a corridor that takes you around the edges of the space, and any objects are kept at a distance, so you have to peer through walls to see them."

It's refreshing - and not a little endearing - to hear her grasp for the right words to describe what she does, and while the exhibition is designed to challenge the viewer to act in new ways, in order to conquer stereotypes and confront internal resistances, Katrina is quick to point out that the title isn't just about us not seeing what's in front of us.

"That's definitely part of it, I guess," she says, stressing and elongating the word 'part'. "I guess I was thinking about what I found in the arts centre and the university - the structures I came across, some of the furnishings, the

corridors... just using stuff that was there already.

"A lot of sculptors do that - use found objects and everyday things in their shows - and that's partly what I'm referring to in the title. It's not a criticism of people not seeing things."

As much as the exhibition questions how we can (and should) do what we want or need to do, rather than what we're channelled towards or expected to do, Katrina acknowledges that she's as guilty as anyone of conforming, or defaulting, to type - something she took a rather radical step to try to change.

"Sometimes you just find yourself doing what you always do - you can't escape that. I'm as guilty of that as the next person. In my last teaching job, because I couldn't find any time to make my own work, I slept in my office once a week for eight weeks. The only time I made any work was in the middle of the night."

But this wasn't 'work' in the traditional sense - not even for an artist.

"Basically I taught myself how to throw knives! It's another thing in the show, films of this clandestine activity. It was a way of cutting through the constraints of time and space... and something that just felt good!"

Katrina claims she got pretty adept at it - visitors to the exhibition can be the judge when they view the film footage - but isn't quite ready for a career throwing in the direction of human targets at the fairground.

"Oh no!" she laughs. "This was a wet clay target! It was all done in semi-darkness, with me being really tired, so it was a bit dangerous at certain moments!"

The clay targets form a key feature of the exhibition. They were something Katrina was making that she showed to Mead Gallery curator Thomas Ellmer when he first contacted her to talk about the commission.

That was over a year ago, and since then What's Already Going On has been named a runner-up for the Freelands Award, which helps UK visual arts organisations put on exhibitions by mid-career women. Katrina says the prize money of £10,000 will come in handy for building the corridor, and that

being on the shortlist gave her "a new sense of freedom" while working on the project. That included "de-centring my writing practice", she says, as she moved away from the experimental novels that she's become known for and returned to working with physical objects - although she says there's a natural link between the two.

"I still see writing as a form of sculpture because I'm interested in all those things that people might associate with sculpture, like an interesting memorial, or a body, or physicality, things like that. I put all those ideas into storytelling rather than making things in a more conventional way."

Avoiding convention is an intrinsic part of her art, and although Katrina aims to confront what she, or the viewer, expects her to do, she knows everything remains subjective and personal to the individual.

"That's exactly it - it's good to push back against some of the things that people think I'm going to do with the work, but also what I think I'm capable of. Right now it's about learning something new and working with this cool form in an academic space."

And creating space for the viewer - rather than the art - remains a driving force, even though she struggles to fully articulate it. She laughs again when I point out how difficult she finds talking about her own art, even though she must regularly discuss everyone else's while teaching.

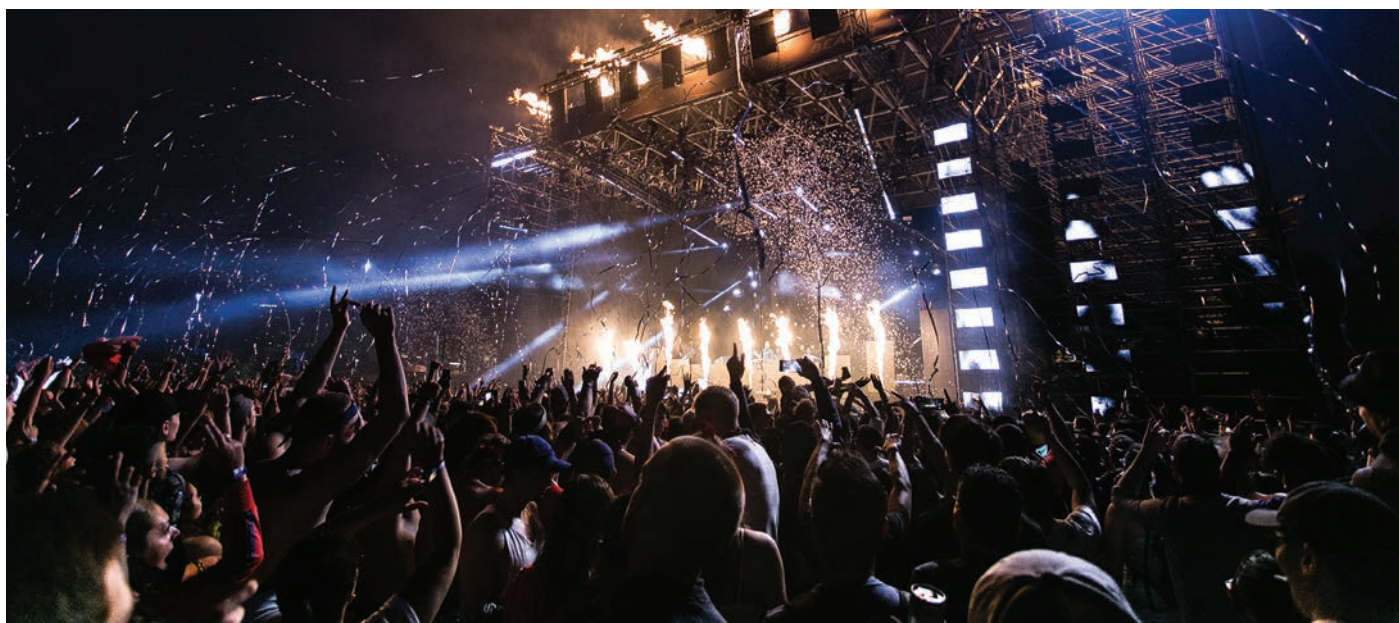
"I know! I don't spend a lot of time talking about my own work, especially just before an exhibition when you don't quite know what it is, and what it's going to feel like.

"I think [the space element] is more of an experience or a feeling - you might feel a little bit constrained, or pressure, but also at times... maybe a bit excited? I guess it's about reproducing some of the feelings that I've had in different spaces - there's a lot of frustration but also some excitement as well."

**What's Already Going On shows at Warwick Arts Centre's Mead Gallery from Thursday 12 January to Sunday 12 March**



## Festivals to look forward to in 2023



When it comes to music, regardless of your preference - be it jazz, indie, folk, classical, world or pop - you're sure to find a festival in the Midlands - and beyond, to suit your taste. So let's make 2023 a year to remember for all the right reasons... Get your diary out and get booking!

### APRIL

**NANTWICH JAZZ, BLUES & MUSIC FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Turin Brakes, China Crisis, The Beat, Thurs 6 - Mon 10 April, various venues Nantwich, Cheshire [nantwichjazz.com](http://nantwichjazz.com)

**CHELTENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Wed 26 April - Mon 1 May, Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham [cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz](http://cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz)

**UPTON UPON SEVERN FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Miranda Sykes and Hannah Martin, Martin Carthy, The Wilderness Yet, Fri 28 April - Mon 1 May, various venues, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire [uptonfolk.org](http://uptonfolk.org)

**SWINGAMAJIG** Line-up tbc, Sun 30 April, Birmingham Botanical Gardens [swingamajig.co.uk](http://swingamajig.co.uk)

**LIVERPOOL SOUND CITY** Line-up includes Maisie Peters, Beren Olivia, Courtung, Delights, Finn Foxell, Fri 28 - Sun 30 April, Baltic Triangle and Cains Brewery, Liverpool [soundcity.uk.com](http://soundcity.uk.com)

### MAY

**FOCUS WALES** Line-up includes Billy Nomates, Squid, The Coral, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 May, various venues in Wrexham,

Wales  
[focuswales.com](http://focuswales.com)

**BEARDED THEORY SPRING GATHERING** Line-up includes Interpol, Primal Scream, Gogol Bordello, Flogging Molly, Thurs 25 - Sun 28 May, Cattoon Hall, South Derbyshire [beardedtheory.co.uk](http://beardedtheory.co.uk)

**BREAKING BANDS** Line-up includes Sellsword, Tygers Of Pan Tang, Daxx & Roxane, Rhabstallion, Thurs 25 - Mon 29 May, Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove [breakingbandsfestival.com](http://breakingbandsfestival.com)

**LECHLADE MUSIC FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 26 - Sun 28 May, Riverside Park, Lechlade, Gloucestershire [lechladefestival.co.uk](http://lechladefestival.co.uk)

**GLASTONBUDGET** Line-up includes Antartic Monkeys, Jilted Generation, Fore Fighters, Totally Tina, Young Elton, Fri 26 - Sun 28 May, Turnpost Farm, Leicestershire [glastonbudget.org](http://glastonbudget.org)

**CHESTER FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes The Churchfitters, Will Pound & Tim Edey, Ben Robertson, Fri 26 - Mon 29 May, Kelsall Village, Cheshire [chesterfolk.org.uk](http://chesterfolk.org.uk)

**MELLO** Line-up includes Fleur East, Goldy Lookin Chain, Rebecca Fergusson, Fri 26 - Sun 28 May, Quay & Pattern Meadow, Upton Upon Severn, Worcestershire [mellofestival.co.uk](http://mellofestival.co.uk)

**HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN** Line-up tbc, Fri 26 - Mon 29 May, Hay on Wye, Hereford [howthelightgetsin.org](http://howthelightgetsin.org)

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WEEKENDER** Line-up includes Pulp, Paul Heaton & Jacqui Abbot, The Kooks, Self Esteem, Sat 27 - Sun 28 May, Victoria Park, Warrington [nbhdweekender.com](http://nbhdweekender.com)

**BIRMINGHAM PRIDE** Line-up tbc, Sat 27 - Sun 28 May, Birmingham Gay Village [birminghampride.com](http://birminghampride.com)

**DOT TO DOT FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Yard Act, Alvveys, Beka, Sun 28 May, various venues in Nottingham [dottodotfestival.co.uk](http://dottodotfestival.co.uk)

### JUNE

**THE ACOUSTIC FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN** Line-up includes King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys, Old Time Sailors, King Hammond & The Ska Mafia, Merry Hell, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June, Uttoxeter Racecourse [acousticfestival.co.uk](http://acousticfestival.co.uk)

**FORBIDDEN FOREST** Line-up includes Andy C, Camelphat, High Contrast, Marco Carola, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June, Belvoir Castle, Nottinghamshire [forbidden-forest.co.uk](http://forbidden-forest.co.uk)

**WYCHWOOD MUSIC FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June, Cheltenham Racecourse [wychwoodfestival.com](http://wychwoodfestival.com)

**DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Metallica, Bring Me The Horizon, Slipknot (pictured), Thurs 8 - Sun 11 June, Donington Park, Derby [downloadfestival.co.uk](http://downloadfestival.co.uk)



**PARKLIFE FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Sat 10 - Sun 11 June, Heaton Park, Manchester [parklife.uk.com](http://parklife.uk.com)

**NOCTURNE LIVE AT BLENHEIM PALACE** Line-up includes Lionel Richie, Pete Tong presents Ibiza Classics, Wed 14 - Sun 18 June, Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire [nocturnelive.com](http://nocturnelive.com)

**BEARDY FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Skerryvore, Seth Lakeman, Rusty Shackle, Valtos, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 June, Hopton Court, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire [beardlyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://beardlyfolkfestival.co.uk)

**SONIC ROCK SOLSTICE 2023** Line-up includes Henge, Keepers Brew, Eat



Static, David Smale, Thurs 15 - Mon 19 June, Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club, Bromsgrove  
[sonicrocksolstice.com](http://sonicrocksolstice.com)

**UPTON JAZZ FESTIVAL** Ben Holder's Hot Club Quartet, Jake Leg Jug Band, Sarah Spencer's Transatlantic Jazz Band, Sat 24 - Sun 25 June, various venues in Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire  
[uptonjazz.co.uk](http://uptonjazz.co.uk)

**GATE TO SOUTHWELL** Line-up includes Raghu Dixit Project, Dog Show Sessions, Nine Below Zero, Thurs 29 June - Sun 2 July, Kirklington, Southwell, Nottinghamshire  
[gtsf.uk](http://gtsf.uk)

**BACK 2 FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Blue, Basshunter, Cascada, A1, Boyzlife, Thurs 29 June - Mon 3 July, Catton Hall & Park, Derbyshire  
[back2festivals.co.uk](http://back2festivals.co.uk)

**ALDERFEST** Line-up includes McFly, Fri 30 June - Sat 1 July, Alderford Lake, Shropshire  
[alderford.com](http://alderford.com)

**PUB IN THE PARK** Line-up includes Bananarama, Toploader, Ronan Keating, Fri 30 June - Sun 2 July, Victoria Park, Leamington Spa  
[pubintheparkuk.com/leamington-spa](http://pubintheparkuk.com/leamington-spa)

**HEAL FESTIVAL** Line-up includes The Enemy, Fri 30 June - Sun 2 July, Greenhous West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury  
[healfestival.co.uk](http://healfestival.co.uk)

**GODIVA FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 20 June - Sun 2 July, War Memorial Park, Coventry  
[godivafestival.com](http://godivafestival.com)

## JULY

**EL DORADO FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 July, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Ledbury  
[eldoradofestival.com](http://eldoradofestival.com)

**2000TREES FESTIVAL** Frank Carter and The Rattlesnakes, Hundred Reasons, Rival Schools, The Wonder Years, Wed 5 - Sat 8 July, Upcote Farm, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire  
[twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk](http://twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk)

**NOISILY** Line-up tbc, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 July, Barkstone Wood, Leicestershire  
[noisilyfestival.com](http://noisilyfestival.com)

**NAPTON MUSIC FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 7 - Sat 8 July, Napton Village Hall Grounds, Napton On The Hill, Warwickshire  
[naptonfestival.co.uk](http://naptonfestival.co.uk)

**TIMBER FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, Feanedock, The National Forest

[timberfestival.org.uk](http://timberfestival.org.uk)

**CAMPERJAM** Line-up tbc, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, Weston Park, Shropshire  
[camperjam.com](http://camperjam.com)

**THE MOSTLY JAZZ FUNK & SOUL FESTIVAL** Fat Freddy's Drop, Goldie, Jungle DJ set, Mr. Scruff, Mafalda (pictured), Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, Moseley Park, Birmingham  
[mostlyjazz.co.uk](http://mostlyjazz.co.uk)



**THE BIRMINGHAM, SANDWELL & WESTSIDE FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 14 - Sun 23 July, venues tbc, Birmingham  
[birminghamjazzfestival.com](http://birminghamjazzfestival.com)

**UPTON BLUES FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 21 - Sun 23 July, various venues around Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire  
[uptonbluesfestival.com](http://uptonbluesfestival.com)

**LET'S ROCK SHREWSBURY** Line-up includes Soft Cell, The Boomtown Rats, Soul 2 Soul, Midge Ure, Sat 15 July, The Quarry, Shrewsbury  
[letsrockshrewsbury.com](http://letsrockshrewsbury.com)

**NOZSTOCK** Line-up tbc, Thurs 20 - Sun 23 July, Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard, Herefordshire  
[nozstock.com](http://nozstock.com)

**TRUCK FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 21 - Sun 23 July, Hill Farm, Oxfordshire  
[truckfestival.com](http://truckfestival.com)

**WARWICK FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 July, Castle Park, Warwick  
[warwickfolkfestival.co.uk](http://warwickfolkfestival.co.uk)

**Y NOT FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 28 - Sun 30 July, Pikehall, Derbyshire  
[ynotfestival.com](http://ynotfestival.com)

**MADE BIRMINGHAM** Line-up tbc, Sat 29 July, venue tbc  
[made-festival.co.uk](http://made-festival.co.uk)

**LICHFIELD JAZZ FESTIVAL** Fri 28 - Sun 30 July, various venues, Lichfield  
[litchfieldjazzfest.com](http://litchfieldjazzfest.com)

## AUGUST

**WILDERNESS FESTIVAL** Line-up includes The Chemical Brothers, Christine And The Queens, Fatboy Slim, Thurs 3 - Sun 6 Aug, Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire

[wildernessfestival.com](http://wildernessfestival.com)

**ROCK THE PARK WREXHAM** Line-up includes Scooter, Cascada, Darren Styles, Thurs 3 - Mon 7 Aug, Borrass Hall Lane, Wrexham  
[rockthepark.co.uk](http://rockthepark.co.uk)

**110 ABOVE FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Everything Everything, Sea Girls, Palace, Thurs 10 - Mon 14 Aug, Gopsall Hall Farm, Leicestershire  
[110above.com](http://110above.com)

**BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR** Line-up includes Killswitch Engage, Megadeth, In Flames, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 Aug, Catton Hall, Derbyshire  
[bloodstock.uk.com](http://bloodstock.uk.com)

**LAKEFEST** Line-up tbc, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire  
[lakefest.co.uk](http://lakefest.co.uk)

**FARMER PHIL'S FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 11 - Sun 13 Aug, near Gatten Farm, Ratlinghope, Shropshire  
[farmerphilsfestival.com](http://farmerphilsfestival.com)

**GREEN MAN FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Thurs 17 - Sun 20 Aug, near Crickhowell, Brecon Beacons  
[greenman.net](http://greenman.net)

**CAMP BESTIVAL SHROPSHIRE** Line-up includes Primal Scream, Rudimental, The Human League, Thurs 17 - Sun 20 August, Weston Park  
[shropshire.campbestival.net](http://shropshire.campbestival.net)

**THE MOIRA FURNACE FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Jez Low & The Bad Pennies, Tom McConville, Pete Morton, Fri 18 - Sun 20 Aug, Moira Furnace Museum and Monument Site, Leicestershire  
[moirafurnacefolkfestival.co.uk](http://moirafurnacefolkfestival.co.uk)

**THE JUST SO FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 18 - Sun 20 Aug, Rode Hall, Cheshire  
[justsofestival.org.uk](http://justsofestival.org.uk)

**OLD BUSH BLUES FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Vincent Flatts, Aynsley Lister, The Terraplanes, Fri 18 - Sun 20 Aug, The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester  
[oldbushblues.co.uk](http://oldbushblues.co.uk)

**SUNSHINE FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Ronan Keating, The Proclaimers, Marc Almond, China Crisis, Thurs 24 - Sun 27 Aug, Fish Meadow, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire  
[uptonfestival.co.uk](http://uptonfestival.co.uk)

**SHAMBALA** Line-up tbc, Thurs 24 - Sun 27 Aug, a secret location in Northampton  
[shambalafestival.org](http://shambalafestival.org)

**LOST VILLAGE** Line-up tbc, Thurs 24 - Sun 27 Aug, The Village, near Newark, Lincolnshire  
[lostvillagefestival.com](http://lostvillagefestival.com)

**BEERMAGEDDON FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc,

Fri 25 - Sun 27 Aug, Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove  
[beermageddon.co.uk](http://beermageddon.co.uk)

**CAMPER CALLING** Line-up includes McFly, Ocean Colour Scene, Feeder (pictured), Reef, Fri 25 - Sun 27 Aug, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire  
[campercalling.com](http://campercalling.com)



**SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Fri 25 - Mon 28 Aug, Greenhous West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury  
[shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk)

## SEPTEMBER

**CREATION DAY FESTIVAL** Line-up includes tbc, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Sept, West Park, Wolverhampton  
[creationdayfestival.com](http://creationdayfestival.com)

**MOSELEY FOLK & ARTS FESTIVAL** Wilco (pictured), Squeeze, The Proclaimers, Blindboy, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Sept, Moseley Park, Birmingham  
[moseleyfolk.co.uk](http://moseleyfolk.co.uk)



**OFF THE TRACKS** Line-up tbc, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Sept, Donington Park Farmhouse Hotel, Castle Donington  
[offthetracks.co.uk](http://offthetracks.co.uk)

**BROMYARD FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up tbc, Thurs 7 - Sun 10 Sept, Bromyard, Herefordshire  
[bromyardfolkfestival.co.uk](http://bromyardfolkfestival.co.uk)

**ONBOARD THE CRAFT** Line-up includes The Bevis Frond, Eddie And The Hot Rods, Krankschaft, Department S, Thurs 7 - Sun 10 Sept, Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club, Bromsgrove  
[sonicrocksolstice.com](http://sonicrocksolstice.com)





## Stewart Lee

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 26 & Fri 27 January; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 12 February; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 22 & Thurs 23 February

At fifty-four years of age, Shropshire-born Stewart Lee is well aware that he's not the man he used to be - although he's maybe being a bit too hard on himself.

"In a way, my physical collapse has been a huge advantage," says Stewart, perhaps with his tongue in his cheek. "It's given the 'stage me' some tragedy; some gravity. Also,

I'm going deaf and now wear hearing aids, which has been an interesting challenge on stage. My knees are shattered and don't work - I think I ruined them during the 200 dates I did of a show where I pretended to be Jeremy Clarkson kicking a tramp to death - and that's had an interesting effect on my physicality. If I jump off stage now or climb things, there's a genuine element of pain and danger. I'm like Eddie The Eagle or something."

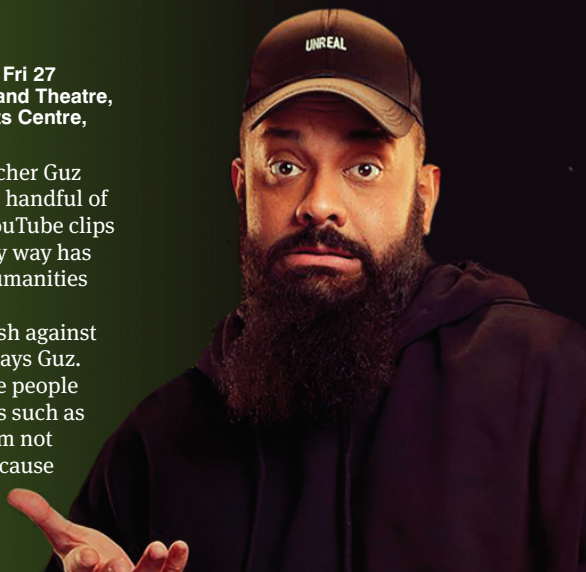
Stewart visits the Midlands with brand-new show Basic Lee.

## Guz Khan

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Fri 27 January; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 29 January; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 4 February

Former Coventry school teacher Guz Khan shot to relative fame a handful of years ago after seeing his YouTube clips go viral. Since then, the only way has been up for the one-time Humanities teacher.

"I think it's important to push against boundaries with comedy," says Guz. "And although I like to make people laugh while exploring issues such as religion, race and gender, I'm not somebody who's looking to cause offence just because I can."



## Gary Delaney

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 24 January; Stourbridge Town Hall, Thurs 2 February; Rialto Plaza, Coventry, Sat 26 February; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 9 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 7 May; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 25 May; Crewe Lyceum, Sat 3 June

"The hardest part of running competitively in Wales must be keeping up with the Joneses," quips the ever-popular Gary Delaney.

And Gary's certainly no one-joke pony: "My girlfriend's dog died, so to cheer her up, I went out and got her an identical one. She was livid and yelled 'What am I going to do with two dead dogs?'"

Suffice it to say there will be plenty more gags where those came from when the Solihull-born funnyman stops off in Shrewsbury this month with latest touring show Gary In Punderland.



## Jon Richardson

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 22 & Mon 23 January; Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 28 & Mon 29 May

Jon Richardson has been referred to as an OCD-afflicted grumpy young man - a description which will strike chords with anybody who's ever caught the 40-year-old's hugely entertaining act.

A familiar television face, Jon is married to fellow comedian Lucy Beaumont, with whom he stars in Dave TV's Meet The Richardsons - a semi-fictional (and inevitably very funny) account of their life together.

His new touring show, The Knitwit, which he's bringing to Stoke this month, sees him asking some of life's big questions: Will the recycling be put out on the right day? Who is going to smooth over the top of the margarine? How many lights are on upstairs when everybody is downstairs?

"I'm neurotic by nature," admits Jon, "but I'm wary of becoming more of a play than a comic. You don't want people coming to see a man having a breakdown for two hours. I'd prefer them coming to hear my astute and witty observations."





## Rachel Fairburn

Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 27 January

“Families need strong female role models,” says Rachel Fairburn, who’s this month bringing her latest touring show, *Can I Be Awful?* to Birmingham. “Problem is, there are way too many in my clan. They aren’t just strong, they’re the matriarchs of the matriarchy. It’s no wonder all my heroes are men. When you consider that those heroes include Liam Gallagher, Keith Richards and Paul McCartney - specifically in 1965 - it’s obvious why I don’t know when it’s bedtime and have a talent for making poor decisions...”



## Justin Moorhouse

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Fri 27 January; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 18 March

Justin Moorhouse is a naturally and seriously funny standup - which isn’t something that can be said about every comedian who picks up a mic and fires off an evening’s-worth of material. Audience members catching his act for the first time will find themselves in the company of a seasoned pro who knows exactly how to work a crowd.

Although his accent and style of delivery call to mind Peter Kay, Moorhouse is very much his own man, presenting an evening of well-honed, hugely enjoyable, adult-themed entertainment.

He visits the Midlands this month with currently touring show *Stretch & Think* - an offering which, he says, may include ponderings on subjects as diverse as labradoodles, middle-aged cyclists, the menopause, shop-door etiquette and electric car charging spots used by doggers.



## Lucy Porter

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 28 January; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 4 March; The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 15 April

Edinburgh favourite Lucy Porter has a mischievous style of comedy that marks her out as a real talent. And although she’s an absolute charmer, you shouldn’t be fooled; her pleasant girl-next-door demeanour conceals a beautifully twisted mind! Highlights of her career include achieving a record score on *Celebrity Mastermind*, in which her specialist subject was American funnyman Steve Martin.

Her big bag of gags includes: “My husband proposed to me over the phone. I said yes straight away, but I should’ve asked who was calling.”

Lucy is this month visiting the Midlands with *Wake-Up Call*, a show about revelations, realisations and epiphanies both large and small. Subjects covered include: bin-collection schedules, the novels of Jean Rhys, school fair booze tombolas, the Scottish Enlightenment, pressure washers and Huel.



## Harry Hill

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 26 January

Although Harry Hill’s most high-profile days are possibly 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. So much so, in fact, that he 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.



## Paul Smith

Rialto Plaza, Coventry, Wed 4 & Thurs 5 January; O2 Academy, Birmingham, Wed 1 - Fri 3 February; Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 17 February; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Wed 1 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 26 April

Affable Liverpool comedian Paul Smith has waxed lyrical on all manner of topics in his time, including such peculiar subjects as who he’d most like to be haunted by (Ghandi - Paul reckons he’d do it quite quietly) and which is the largest animal he thinks he could beat in a fight (a goose). He’s also ‘died’ on stage in front of a Babylon 5 actress, who made matters worse for him by shaking her head in pity.

Widely regarded as one of the comedy circuit’s most accomplished MCs, Paul has made a real name for himself on a national level courtesy of online video clips which almost routinely go viral. He visits Coventry this month with touring show *Joker*.





# MASTER OF PUPPETS

latex creations take over The Rep...







by Steve Adams

**Almost 40 years after the original television series of Spitting Image was filmed in Birmingham, the satirical sketch show is making a welcome return to the city, this time as a work of theatre. Birmingham Rep Artistic Director Sean Foley - the man at the helm of the new show - spoke to What's On about the eagerly anticipated stage production, which opens next month...**

Whether it's Margaret Thatcher power-dressing in a bowler hat and suit, Ronald Reagan's brain being popped into his empty skull, or magician Paul Daniels wearing a spinning hairpiece, the fabulous puppets, impersonations and sketches of Spitting Image are etched into the memories of comedy lovers of a certain age.

The ground-breaking BAFTA and Emmy award-winning TV programme ran for 18 series between 1984 and 1996. It was revived on Britbox for a new generation in 2020, bringing even more wonderful latex creations to the fore, including Boris Johnson, Donald Trump, Priti Patel and Vladimir Putin.

The success of the recent series - which included three specials on ITV - has prompted the creation of a first-ever stage version of the show, which next month opens at Birmingham Rep, returning Spitting Image to the city where it was originally filmed for Central TV. The theatre's artistic director, Sean Foley, will helm the production, and he's also part of a writing team that includes comedians Matt Forde (the voice of Boris and Trump, among others) and Al Murray, best known for his alter-ego, The Pub Landlord.

Both Matt and Al were involved in the triumphant Britbox revival of the show, and although Sean says its success made creating a stage version an attractive proposition, he also believes its timing couldn't be more appropriate.

"The producers realised there's a really good wellspring of admiration and love for the brand Spitting Image, but also - and let's be straightforward - we need something like Spitting Image at the moment. We need to be able to ridicule and take down those people in power who are hypocrites and making mistakes and all of those things, and Spitting Image is a fantastic way of doing that, because it makes everyone laugh."

Adapting the ultra-topical sketch show for the stage is a huge and exciting undertaking but not without its challenges - not least in creating a storyline that will last the course of

its six-week run. The bewildering last six months of British politics hasn't exactly been kind to the show's creators - you can imagine they'd barely started making a puppet of Liz Truss before they no longer needed one.

"Trying to develop a satirical comedy based on the shifting politics of today has been the original fool's errand," says Sean. "We've already thrown away three entire scripts, and several famous puppets aren't going to make their stage debuts anymore.

"I just wanted everything to stop so we wouldn't have to keep rewriting, but we think we've arrived at a story now where we can combine making fun at the contemporary but which will also serve as a proper show for the whole run. People can expect a big West End-style show with great numbers and great routines, but also fantastic, funny scripts that poke fun at pretty much everyone."

Titled *Idiots Assemble: Spitting Image Saves The World*, the show will see a crack team of global celebrities brought together to save an ailing Great Britain.

"King Charles inherits a kingdom that is divided and broken, and he decides - inspired by his own father's love for the film - to put together his own *Magnificent Seven* to save Britain from the bandits. Tom Cruise takes on the Yul Brynner role, and his motley crew go in search of the baddies who have ruined Britain. Who they are isn't much of a mystery, but you'll have to come along to find out."

Featuring everyone from Stormzy, Taylor Swift and Daniel Craig to Greta Thunberg, Prince Harry and Paddington Bear, it's hard to dispute Sean's claim that the show contains "the greatest cast ever assembled", even if it does return certain characters to the spotlight at a time when we're still enjoying their absence.

It seems as much of a conundrum for the creators as the audience. I tell Sean I'm relieved Boris Johnson and Donald Trump no longer have such high profiles on the world stage but that I'd miss their puppet caricatures if they weren't there.

"That's what we thought as well - these people are diminishing in their power, thank goodness, but they remain amazing characters. Spitting Image is the ideal way to keep them in the public eye as we hold them up to ridicule."

The logistics of the stage show mean it can't remain as up-to-the-minute topical as the TV version - the puppeteers perform to a recorded voice track of the script - but Sean still aims to incorporate events that happen during the show's six-week run.

"There are a few moments where we might be able to get something in. We can't change the script in every scene every week, but there will always be a few nuggets that we pick out."

It's an element he's obviously keen to ensure happens, but Sean's also delighted that the premise and storyline already have the blessing of Roger Law, one of the show's original creators alongside Peter Fluck and the late Martin Lambie-Nairn.

"He's been nothing short of an inspiration. He's 80 now, lives out in Norfolk, and I've visited him occasionally to get an anarchic hand on the tiller. He's a real free spirit, as you might imagine someone who dreamt up the whole idea of Spitting Image, and we've got no better applause than his. Before the audience see it, Roger is really pleased with what we're doing and how it's coming along - that's delightful to know."

It also helps to allay some, if not all, of the fears and pressure of doing justice to such an iconic and revered TV show.

"That's what's keeping me awake at night! You have to do a good job. You want to honour the show, but you also want to provide a fantastic evening out for everyone who comes to see it."

.....  
**Idiots Assemble: Spitting Image Saves The World, Live On Stage runs at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Wednesday 1 February to Saturday 11 March**



## Festive shows continuing into January



### Nativity! The Musical

The Rep, Birmingham, until Sat 7 January

Debbie Isitt's 2009 movie, *Nativity!*, proved so popular that it spawned three further films. It also inspired the Midlands-born writer to create this musical stage adaptation.

For those unfamiliar with the plot, it

concerns the children of St Bernadette's primary school and their ambition to present a musical version of the nativity. An already big challenge for the kids is made all the trickier by false promises, a complicated love interest and a rival school vying with St Bernadette's for the critics' award... Not surprisingly, chaos ensues!

### A Christmas Carol

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until 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.



### Alice In Wonderland

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, until Sat 28 January

The New Vic theatre reached back into its past for its Christmas 2022 production, revisiting - and, according to Artistic Director Theresa Heskins, 'refreshing' - its acclaimed version of *Alice In Wonderland*, which was first performed 11 years ago. "Alice is one of the shows we're fondest of," says Theresa. "It was nominated for awards and engaged the imaginations of so many young people. We're also fond of it because it has great music, and it's very lively, funny and witty. It's a much-loved story told in a very dramatic and exciting way."

### Beauty And The Beast

The Core Theatre, Solihull, until Mon 2 January; The Courtyard, Hereford, until Sat 7 January; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, until Sun 8 January

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...

That's pretty much the story outline of this ever-popular age-old fairytale, which this month continues to be given the pantomime treatment at the three above-listed Midlands venues.



Photo credit: Pamela Raith - Theatre Severn

### Cinderella

Swan Theatre, Worcester, until Mon 2 January; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, until Sun 8 January

With its comical Ugly Sisters, matchmaking fairy godmother, drop-dead-gorgeous Prince Charming, super-cute mice and fits-one-foot-only glass slipper, *Cinderella* can justifiably lay claim to being one of the most popular of all pantomimes - an assertion ably supported by the fact that so many Midlands venues chose it for their Christmas 2022 show. The above two versions run into January.



Swan Theatre, Worcester



## Snow White And The Severn Dwarfs

Telford Theatre, until Mon 2 January; Lichfield Garrick, until Sun 8 January

Snow White's 'magnificent seven' mining pals packed their pick-axes and got down to business at the above two major Midlands venues over Christmas - and they're still at it in January!

Their Telford stop-off sees them joined by local favourite Chloe Barlow as Snow White and EastEnders actor and Dancing On Ice winner Sam Attwater as the Prince.

In Lichfield (pictured below), the star of the show (as usual) is Sam Rabone, who's not only taking on the role of Dame Nelly in the popular pantomime but also directing the production.



## Jack And The Beanstalk

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, until Sat 7 January

The Belgrade's Mr Pantomime, Iain Lauchlan, is here presenting a new version of the show he wrote in 2020, which was made available to online audiences during the pandemic.

"Making one show different from another is always the challenge," says Iain. "And especially Jack And The Beanstalk. It's a very specific fairytale, and people don't want you to stray from that. It's all the things in between that you try to make different - the comedy routines, the songs and the dances. And of course you don't want to be repeating the dialogue and jokes, just in case people remember them!"



## Dick Whittington

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sun 29 January

"The audience reaction on my first entrance gets me every time," says Hippodrome panto favourite Matt Slack, who this month continues to star in the venue's lavish production of Dick Whittington, alongside Marti Pellow, Dr Ranj, Suzanne Shaw, Doreen Tipton and Andrew Ryan. "It's something quite special. It's like coming out of lockdown and being allowed in a pub!" Matt will certainly be hoping history doesn't

repeat itself during the show's run - a previous production of Dick Whittington saw him making an unexpected visit to hospital: "I wrote and performed a lip-sync routine where I fell off the stage into the orchestra pit, onto a crash mat. That went fine, but when I rushed to get back up, I went over on my ankle. Nothing broken luckily, but the sprain was the worst possible. I had a detached ligament and still suffer with it now. However, I finished the show, hopping through it, and then off to A&E. The things you do to get a laugh!"



## Aladdin

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, until Sat 7 January

"It's a great part to play," says ex-EastEnder Michael Greco in talking about taking on the role of the evil Abanazar in the Grand Theatre's panto production of Aladdin. "I've done it before, but this time the producers promised to make him even more evil. This

is more than just your normal pantomime villain - this is a proper actor's stage Abanazar!" Michael is joined in the show by Zoe Birkett, Ben Cajee, Tam Ryan, Ian Adams and Duane Gooden. "The Grand is incredible," he continues. "It's one of those old-style theatres that I love, and there's some really great talent in the show as well!"





**Mamma Mia!** Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 17 - Sat 28 January

Set on a Greek island, smash-hit ABBA musical Mamma Mia! offers an escape from reality with its dazzling costumes, timeless music and infectious sense of fun.

The story follows bride-to-be Sophie, who invites three men to her wedding in the hope that one of them might prove to be her father. For her mother, Donna, Sophie's invitation to the men means having to meet up with a trio of guys who'd been her lovers 21 years earlier. Both Sophie and Donna are helped along the way by their friends and fellow islanders, as well as a large helping of ABBA's greatest hits.

The success of the 2008 film adaptation of Mamma Mia! makes it hard not to compare what's happening on stage with the performances of Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan and co, but the cast hold their own by delivering an enviable amount of energy and fantastic vocals. Plus, there are a few moments in the theatrical version that can't be found in the film, such as Sophie's surreal dream the night before her wedding - featuring some interesting fluorescent swimwear! - and the inclusion of ABBA's 1981 hit, One Of Us.





MARTI PELLOW MATT SLACK DR SUZANNE RANJ SHAW  
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SLEEPING BEAUTY  
A GOTHIC ROMANCE  
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Tue 7 - Sat 11 Feb

Touch Tour

Jumprov  
Sat 11 Feb & Sat 11 May

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BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET  
Sir Peter Wright and Galina Samsova's  
Swan Lake  
Wed 15 - Sat 25 Feb

Touch Tour

HOW NOT TO DROWN  
Tue 7 & Wed 8 Mar

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I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T A CLUE  
Sat 25 Mar

DADA MASILO'S  
THE SACRIFICE  
Tue 28 & Wed 29 Mar





## Vampire's Rock: Ghost Train

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 27 January; Crewe Lyceum, Thurs 9 February; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 24 February

Steve Steinman's cult rock show focuses on the exceedingly evil doings of the undead creature of the night that is Baron Von Rockula, malevolent owner of the Live And Let Die club. When the ill-fated venue burns to the ground, the baron and his band of blood-sucking vampires take refuge in the Ghost Train - an old, abandoned fairground ride - and set a cunning trap to lure victims into a world of rock'n'roll hell... Expect classic rock anthems aplenty, including We Will Rock You, Bat Out Of Hell and Sweet Child Of Mine.

## Noughts And Crosses

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 24 - Sat 28 January

Pilot Theatre is the award-winning company behind Sabrina Mahfouz's stage adaptation of Malorie Blackman's young adult novel. A critically acclaimed contemporary version of Romeo & Juliet, the story explores what happens when two people living in a world of terrorist violence - and separated by prejudice and distrust - find themselves falling in love.



## The Tempest

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 26 January - Sat 4 March

Strange beings with superhuman powers, a thrilling fantasy plot, breathtaking special effects and an underlying moral message about the triumph of reconciliation over revenge. If these sound more like the ingredients of the latest Marvel or DC cinematic blockbuster than a 17th-century stage play, the comparison perhaps gives some idea of how *The Tempest* might have been received in Shakespeare's day. One of few plays by the Stratford bard to follow an entirely original story, it's the most obviously spectacular of his works, boasting a devastating storm, elaborate masque and objects that vanish 'by a quaint device'.

When a royal ship is forced onto the rocks of an enchanted isle, the castaways are separated from one another and find themselves slipping under the control of the mysterious Prospero. Matters are further confused by the presence of supernatural spirit Ariel and the grotesque man-beast, Caliban... Alex Kingston stars in this brand-new RSC production.

## Howerd's End

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 26 January

In common with Mark Farrelly's other theatrical offerings - *Quentin Crisp: Naked Hope* and *The Silence Of Snow: The Life Of Patrick Hamilton* - *Howerd's End* steps behind the curtain to examine the private life of a public figure. On this occasion, the well-known name under the spotlight is comedian Frankie Howerd, one of the biggest stars in the UK's light-entertainment firmament during the latter half of the 20th century. Although the play's focal point is Howerd's clandestine relationship with Dennis Heymer, the production also provides plenty of opportunity to enjoy a full-flight Frankie doing what he did best - making people laugh.



## Wodehouse In Wonderland

Malvern Theatres, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 January, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 6 - Wed 8 February; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Fri 8 - Sat 29 April

This engaging celebration of the life and

work of Jeeves & Wooster creator PG Wodehouse is set in the author's New York State home in the 1950s.

As Wodehouse works away at the latest adventures of Bertie Wooster, he finds himself being interrupted by those around him, including a young would-be biographer. Cue an opportunity to share stories about his life, entertain the audience with a selection of his much-loved fictional characters, and sing songs composed by Broadway legends Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Ivor Novello... But there's also a darker story beneath all the fun... Robert Daws (*Outside Edge*) stars.



## The Mousetrap

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, here making a welcome return to the Midlands, stars Todd Carty, Gwyneth Strong and John Altman.



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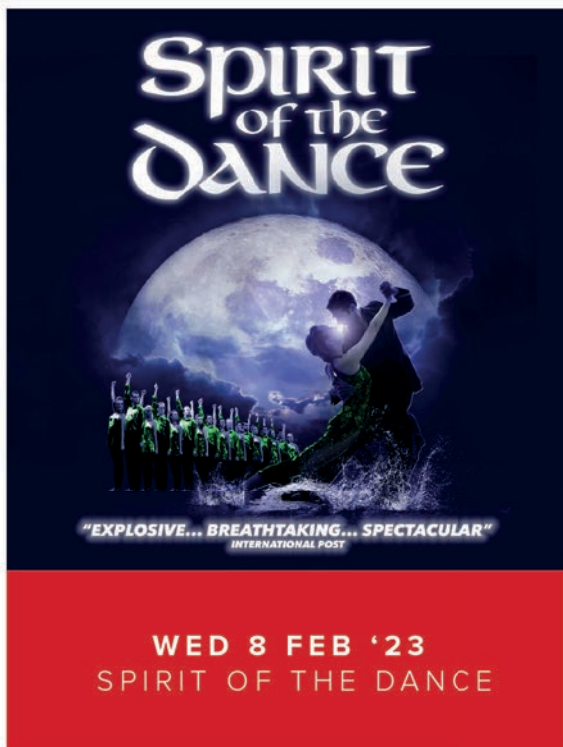


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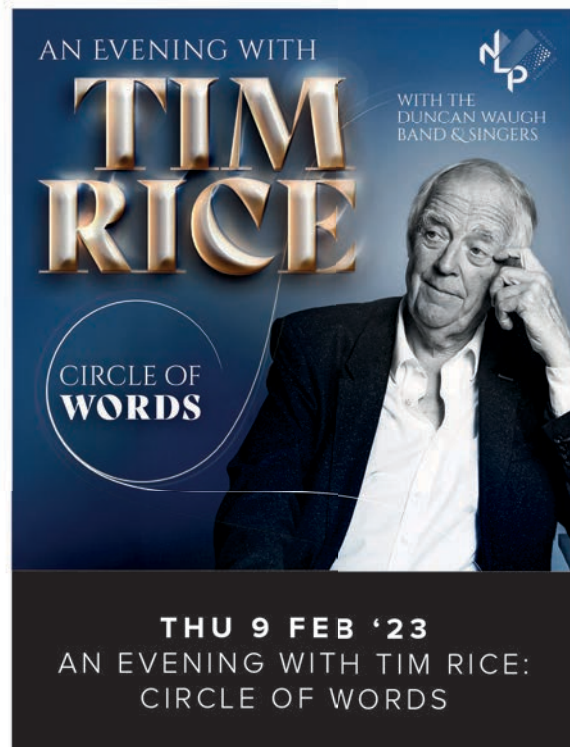
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WITH THE  
DUNCAN WAUGH  
BAND & SINGERS

CIRCLE OF  
WORDS

**THU 9 FEB '23**  
AN EVENING WITH TIM RICE:  
CIRCLE OF WORDS



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# LADIES' DAY

By Amanda Whittington  
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## Spring Highlights & Event Screenings

	<b>Theatre</b>
6/2	<b>Legends of American Country Show</b>
10/2	<b>The Upbeat Beatles</b>
11/2	<b>Vinland</b> <i>A Viking Storytelling Adventure</i>
14/2	<b>Keith Slater's Sinatra Celebration</b> 2pm
15/2	<b>Fairport Convention</b> <i>Folk music giants</i>
17/2	<b>King Pleasure &amp; The Biscuit Boys</b>
24/2	<b>Pinocchio</b> <i>Half term family fun</i>
6/3	<b>Ireland - The Show</b> <i>Music, Dance &amp; mirth</i>
9/3	<b>Dreamcoat Superstars</b> <i>Musical Theatre</i>
10/3	<b>Someone Like You: Adele Songbook</b>
11/3	<b>Ladies of Laughter</b> <i>Comedy night</i>
25/3	<b>And Finally... Phil Collins</b> <i>Popular tribute</i>
13/4	<b>Morgan &amp; West: Science &amp; Magic</b>
15/4	<b>Romeo &amp; Juliet</b> <i>by Ballet Theatre UK</i>
20/5	<b>The Brighthouse &amp; Rastrick Brass Band</b>
	<b>Event Screenings</b> <b>National Theatre Live</b>
26/1	<b>The Crucible</b> <i>Arthur Miller's drama set in Salem. Stars Erin Doherty &amp; Brendan Cowell.</i>
23/2	<b>Othello</b> <i>Othello (Giles Terera) and Desdemona (Rosy McEwean) plan a life together but can their love survive?</i>
20/4	<b>Good</b> <i>Starring David Tennant in C P Taylors drama.</i>

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Theatre for younger audiences...



## The Gruffalo

Birmingham Town Hall, until Sun 15 January

With millions of copies of the book having been sold, it's fair to say that Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's award-winning *Gruffalo* has captured the hearts and minds of children everywhere.

Presenting songs, laughs and 'monstrous' fun for youngsters aged three and upwards, this much-loved stage version of the terrific tale

follows Mouse as he heads out on a journey through the deep dark wood, scaring away hungry animals with tall stories about the terrifying Gruffalo...

Imagine his surprise, then, when he suddenly finds himself coming face-to-face with the very creature he's imagined!

## Jurassic Live

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sat 21 & Sun 22 January; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 28 & Sun 29 January; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 1 & Sun 2 April

Jurassic Live's promoters are hailing this prehistoric extravaganza 'the greatest dinosaur show on earth' and 'a roarsome adventure'.

And there's every chance that young audience members will very much be in agreement with their assessment! Featuring professional puppeteers and impressively realistic dinosaurs, the show follows a team of dino rangers as they search for a missing baby dinosaur. Highlights include the UK's only flying Pterodactyl, the UK's biggest Tyrannosaurus Rex, and the UK's only Parasaurolophus, Stegosaurus & Apatosaurus!

## The Smartest Giant In Town

The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Mon 16 - Tues 17 January; Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Sun 29 January; Swan Theatre, Worcester, Tues 31 January

The wise old owls at Fierylight & Little Angel Theatre know a smart move when they come across one - and with regard to attracting a young audience, presenting a stage adaptation of a Julia Donaldson book is just about as smart a move as a theatre company can make!

Donaldson's giant, George, decides his scruffy days are a thing of the past and buys himself some oversized clothes. But when he encounters various animals needing his assistance - and more particularly, his newly purchased items of clothing - George soon

realises that it isn't clothes that maketh the giant but rather a gargantuan sense of generosity and a colossal warm heart... Suitable for children aged between three and eight.







# MELODY MAKER

**Ex-Pussycat Dolls singer Melody Thornton talks about playing Rachel Marron in the UK tour of The Bodyguard**



**The film of The Bodyguard recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Were you a fan of the movie growing up, Melody, and did you rewatch it after being cast?**

You know, strangely, I never watched the film when I was a kid! Okay, this is the honest truth - I watched the film for the first time when I knew I was doing The Bodyguard musical in China. I'd never seen the film, but the soundtrack was giving me life throughout my entire childhood. I love the movie now; I've seen it a million times! I had a ticket for a special screening of The Bodyguard for the 30th anniversary. I went to the movie theatre on my own and was so excited. Of course, only this would happen to me and a room full of Whitney Houston enthusiasts - the film starts playing... and it was a cartoon! The venue had messed up and were no longer able to show the film. People wanted to cry, including myself!

**Can you briefly summarise the plot and tell us about your character - Rachel Marron. How would you describe her?**

Rachel is a popstar/actress who is at the height of her career. She is definitely a diva, but kind of aloof and unaware of some of the issues that are going on behind the scenes. When someone starts sending letters and stealing clothes from her home and dressing room, a bodyguard is sent in to protect her. Rachel is really focused on her son and trying to create the best life for him. She's a single mother who is extremely high-functioning, so misses all the signs that something is wrong - but her team is also hiding from her the fact that she has a stalker!

**Most people will know you from girl group The Pussycat Dolls. How does your experience as a songstress influence the way you play Rachel? Are there any parallels?**

It's just you doing the best job that you can, and the job of a popstar is a full-time, all-energy position. Everything you do is for that job. So I can relate to the character in that way. There are also certainly things going on behind the scenes that your team aren't going to bring up to you. But I would hope someone would have let me know if I'd had a stalker! I've definitely experienced some enthusiastic fans, who would forget that we were also people and would show up in Los Angeles and find us on the street. I had to hide in a restaurant one time for a couple of hours until security came to get me.

**You were the youngest member of The Pussycat Dolls. What was that like for you? Did you receive any guidance from people within the industry?**

In the early noughties, it was very much sink or swim. I'm not resentful in any way for that, because I now have a structure that works for me that I created for myself. Of course, there were lovely people to jump in and say 'You might want to try it this way or that way,' but in the early noughties it was a lot of people minding their own business. However, there are so many people that I owe for my being here, and I'm grateful to them to this day.

**Given the life experience you now have, what piece of advice do you wish you could have given your younger self, ahead of being propelled to global stardom?**

I'd say that some of the fears you created in your head around interacting with other people are just projections. People aren't as scary as you think. I was very avoidant of others, trying just to do my job and not create any relationships, when in actuality networking and relationships are what helps to propel your career. They can't get a feel for you if you don't put yourself out there! I always try and forgive myself, because there are things you don't know, so you have to accept that if you'd known better, you'd have done better.

**You're no stranger to the role of Rachel, having previously starred in The Bodyguard abroad. What made you want to return?**

I loved the show. I was jubilant doing it! I want the challenge. I'm really enjoying revisiting the show. Whitney Houston is also very dear to me, and what she means to Black America. What she went through as a black girl singing pop music was brave. She battled a lot of preconceived notions in the industry, and what she did for me was help to create a lane for the little black girl in the pop group. She is important to me in that respect, so any time I have the opportunity to sing Whitney's hits, I'm going to do it.

**The Bodyguard features an incredible soundtrack. Do you have a favourite number you perform?**

My favourite to perform is Queen Of The Night, but my favourite song is All The Man That I Need. I watch Whitney's live performances, because I'm always looking for what I call 'bail outs' - moments in the

song that we know commercially to be sung a certain way, and then how she does them live. She was such a master. She would find ways to hit a note, working around the difficulty. In her performances of All The Man That I Need, I think she's singing to God, as she grew up in the church. If you listen to the song, to me that's what she's saying: He's all the man that she needs.

**The songs in the show require powerhouse vocals night after night. How do you prepare for this?**

I actually taught myself to sing listening to Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey, and since being in the industry and working with different vocal coaches, I've learnt how to take a lot of pressure off my voice. For me, it's about sustainability, to sing night after night. I want it to be the best quality every night, which is a challenge that I'm working on. I tested it out recently on the Masked Singer Australia, which went really well. When it comes to vocal hygiene, I make sure to clean my nose every night with a nasal wash. Something I learnt from my time in China is to drink cold water when you're done singing, to bring down any swelling. We're all so programmed to drink hot!

**What do you hope audiences across the UK will take away from this production?**

I look forward to, hopefully, inspiring some kids to want to work on stage. The beautiful thing about theatre is that it's live. I'm grateful to be the age that I am and to have begun at the age that I did, before people were relying on autotune. This sounds crazy, but what I look forward to are the mistakes, because it's real. I think it's beautiful to see a performer pick up the pieces and keep going if something goes wrong. I love that, because it gives me room to just perform as an actress and sing as a singer.

.....

**The Bodyguard shows at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Monday 27 February to Saturday 4 March; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, from Tuesday 9 to Saturday 13 May; and The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Monday 4 to Saturday 30 December**



# WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

STEP INTO THE LIGHT  
WHERE MUSICAL THEATRE MEETS CIRCUS



**CIRQUE**  
THE GREATEST SHOW

SUN 15 JAN

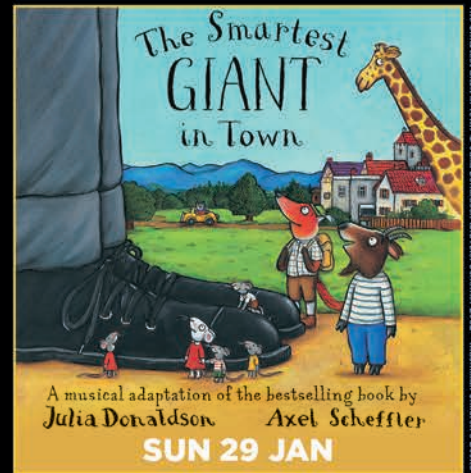
THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS



*Glorious*  
**GALA** A CLASSICAL BALLET PERFORMANCE

SUN 22 JAN

The Smartest GIANT in Town



A musical adaptation of the bestselling book by Julia Donaldson Axel Scheffler

SUN 29 JAN


The Smartest Giant in Town © Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler 2002 - Macmillan Children's Books



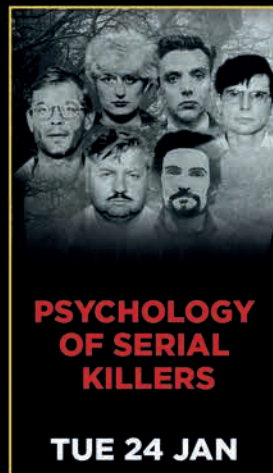
**BOWIE EXPERIENCE**

SAT 21 JAN

*Buffy*  
Revamped



MON 23 JAN



**PSYCHOLOGY OF SERIAL KILLERS**

TUE 24 JAN



**DAVID O'DOHERTY**

FRI 27 JAN

GARETH GATES  
*The Best of*  
**FRANKIE VALLI**  
and the FOUR SEASONS



TUE 31 JAN

**FREE**



**LYCEUM THEATRE CHOIR OPEN EVENING**

TUE 10 JAN



**LYCEUM GHOST HUNT**

FRI 13 JAN



**SHOWADDYWADDY**

SAT 14 JAN



**FANNY GALORE'S BIG BINGO PARTY**

SAT 21 JAN



**PSYCHIC SALLY**

WED 25 JAN




**MAGIC OF MOTOWN**

FRI 27 JAN

**Adult Panto**  
**CINDERELLA**  
and her Naughty Buttons!



SAT 28 JAN



**GIOVANNI PERNICE**

MON 30 JAN

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Dance previews from across the region



**Strictly Come Dancing Live** Utilita Arena Birmingham, Fri 20 - Sun 22 January

The glitz and glamour of BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing hits the road again this month. Hosted by Janette Manrara and with three judges in tow - Shirley Ballas, Craig Revel Horwood (who's directing the production) and Anton Du Beke (who's appearing on the arena tour for the first time) - the live version sees the show's popular dancers putting their celebrity partners through their paces with a host of new routines. Performing everything from ballroom and paso doble to the waltz and tango, the show's stars are sure to delight Strictly's loyal fans.

Among those taking to the dancefloor this year are Ellie Simmonds, Tyler West, Will Mellor, Molly Rainford and Hamza Yassin. Speaking about the upcoming tour, Will said: "Strictly has been one of the most memorable and emotional journeys I've ever been on. Stepping out of my comfort zone and being a part of this massive show is something I'll never forget. I can't wait to put on my dancing shoes and go around the country to perform on huge stages in front of thousands of people who have watched and supported us!"

**Nerubashenko Ballet**

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 27 & Sat 28 January

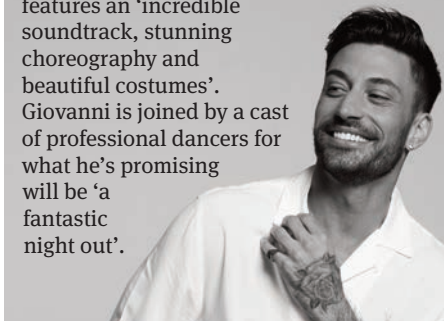


Kicking off the new year in style, Nerubashenko Ballet here presents Swan Lake (pictured) and The Nutcracker. Set to Tchaikovsky's mesmerising score, Swan Lake tells the story of Odette, a beautiful princess who, caught under the spell of the evil Von Rothbart, must spend the daytime hours as a swan, returning to human form only when night falls... The Nutcracker, meanwhile - another Tchaikovsky classic - presents the enchanting tale of Clara and a Christmas Eve adventure that sees her journeying to a magical winter wonderland.

**Giovanni Pernice**

Crewe Lyceum, Mon 30 January; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Tues 31 January & Wed 1 February; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sat 4 February; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 4 - Sun 5 March; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 8 April

There's no Strictly Live tour for Giovanni Pernice this year - the hugely popular danceman has been way too busy getting ready to hit the road with this brand-new show of his own. A homage to his homeland, Made In Italy features an 'incredible soundtrack, stunning choreography and beautiful costumes'. Giovanni is joined by a cast of professional dancers for what he's promising will be 'a fantastic night out'.



**Beauty And The Beast**

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 29 January; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 19 February



Leicestershire-based Ballet Theatre UK have built their impressive reputation on producing accessible stagework inspired by classical dance, theatre, popular culture and literature. Their currently touring production of Beauty And The Beast comes in their 14th year on the road, stays faithful to the original story, showcases new choreography by Artistic Director Christopher Moore, and features new sets and costumes created especially for the show.



# COMING TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU

From crowd favourites to new adaptations, 23 shows for you to see in 2023...



## The Lion King

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 6 July - Sat 16 September

Based on the Academy Award-winning animated film of the same name, Julie Taymor's stage adaptation brings together a huge cast of actors, singers and dancers. A global phenomenon that's delighted more than 110 million people since its premiere on Broadway 26 years ago, The Lion King tells the compelling story of young lion cub Simba as he journeys

through life, along the way struggling to accept the responsibilities of adulthood and the role he is destined to assume as the king of the Pride Lands. The show heads to the Midlands replete with hundreds of masks, puppets and elaborate costumes. Expect a night in the jungle to remember.

## Everybody's Talking About Jamie

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 9 - Sat 14 October 2023; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 23 - Sat 27 January 2024

Everybody's Talking About Jamie may have come from humble beginnings - it was inspired by a television documentary and premiered in Sheffield - but after only a matter of months it had transferred to the West End. Since then, the musical - which follows a young man's quest for acceptance on his journey to becoming a drag queen - has enjoyed blockbusting success, with numerous Olivier nominations, an extensive UK tour and a feature film testifying to its incredible popularity.



## Annie

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 3 - Sat 15 April and Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 8 - Sat 13 May

Craig Revel Horwood is the latest high-profile performer to take on the coveted role of Miss Hannigan in Annie, the oft-touring Broadway musical that's once again hitting the road this year. A heart-warming rags-to-riches story of a little girl who finds herself transported from a New York orphanage to the luxurious world of millionaire Oliver Warbucks, the show features plenty of memorable songs, including It's A Hard Knock Life, I Don't Need Anything But You, Easy Street, and of course the legendary Tomorrow.



## The Ocean At The End Of The Lane

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 23 - Sat 27 May; Regent Theatre, Stoke, Tues 12 - Sat 16 September; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 26 - Sat 30 September

Neil Gaiman's critically acclaimed novel is here given the National Theatre stage treatment. Described as a thrilling adventure of fantasy, myth and friendship, the story takes audiences on an epic journey to a childhood once forgotten and the darkness that lurks at the very edge of it. When a man returns to the home in which he grew up and the pond where he used to play, he finds himself transported back to his 12th birthday. There, his remarkable friend, Lettie, claims that the pond is in fact an ocean - a place where everything is possible. But as they plunge into a magical world, they find themselves confronting ancient forces that threaten to destroy everything around them.



## Lord Of The Flies

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 25 - Sat 29 April

Written by William Golding in 1954, Lord Of The Flies tells the story of a group of British youngsters who find themselves stranded on an uninhabited island. In an effort to bring some order to their peculiar existence, they attempt to govern themselves - but things soon get seriously out of hand... This new version of Golding's classic is presented by the Belgrade in association with Leeds Playhouse and Rose Theatre.



## Heathers The Musical

Regent Theatre, Stoke, Tues 11 - Sat 15 April; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 16 - Sat 20 May

Although far from being an unqualified success with the critics, Heathers The Musical did great business in the West End, and is equally likely to pack them in during this UK tour. Based on the cult 1989 movie starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater, the show

follows the character of Veronica Sawyer, a high school student who's tired of being part of a feared and popular clique with three girls named Heather. Eager to opt out, she finds herself drawn to new student Jason 'JD' Dean, a rebellious young man with murder in mind...



## Charlie And The Chocolate Factory - The Musical

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 17 October - Sun 5 November

Roald Dahl's famous 1964 story follows the fortunes of 11-year-old Charlie Bucket, a young boy who stumbles across one of the five golden tickets to Willie Wonka's Chocolate Factory. But there's plenty more to candy-creating Willie's magical world than the chance to eat sweets until you're sick - as Charlie and the other Golden Ticket holders

soon find out... Combining memorable songs from the original 1971 film version - The Candy Man, Pure Imagination - with all-new numbers from the multi-award-winning songwriters of Hairspray, the production visits Birmingham as part of its first-ever UK & Ireland tour.



From crowd favourites to new adaptations, 23 shows for you to see in 2023...



## The King And I

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 28 February - Sat 4 March;  
Regent Theatre, Stoke, Tues 30 May - Sat 3 June

Midlands-born Call The Midwife star Helen George here plays the part of Anna Leonowens, upon whose real-life experiences *The King And I* is based. In 1862, Anna was employed by King Mongkut of Siam to serve as governess to his 67 children. Anna wrote of her experiences in two books, *The English Governess At The Siamese Court* and *The Romance Of The Harem*.

Published in the 1870s, the books became

significant sources of information for Western readers about Siam and its culture. The stage musical tells Anna's story, showing the way in which she wins the trust of the barbaric but inquisitive king as she makes her presence felt in the royal court. Boasting spectacular sets, breathtaking costumes and all the splendour of Rodgers & Hammerstein's memorable score, *The King And I* is a show that's well worth catching.



## Jersey Boys

 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 7 - Sat 18 March

Rockin' and rollin' New Jersey boys Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons scored some truly massive hits during the mid-1960s - and this award-winning jukebox musical tells their story.

Taking a documentary-style format, the show is structured as four 'seasons', each

being narrated by a different member of the band.

Featured hits include *Walk Like A Man*, *Bye Bye Baby*, *Big Girls Don't Cry*, *Sherry*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*, *Working My Way Back To You* and *December 1963 (Oh, What A Night)*.

## Greatest Days

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
Mon 17 - Sat 22 July

Despite being co-produced by Take That and featuring their music, Tim Firth's show - previously titled *The Band* - isn't about Gary Barlow and co. It's actually a story about the fans, the power that music can have over people, and, as Firth himself says, how music 'makes time travellers of us all'.

For five teenage girls in 1992, 'The Boys' and their music are everything... Twenty-five years later, the quintet attempt to rekindle their friendship with a trip to a concert by the band they loved so dearly as teenagers. But none of the ladies' lives have turned out quite the way they were expecting...



## Titanic The Musical

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 18 - Sat 22 April;  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 24 - Sat 29 April

In the final hours of 14 April 1912, the RMS Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, collided with an iceberg. The 'unsinkable' ship slowly sank. It was one of the most tragic disasters of the 20th century, with 1,517 men, women and children losing their lives.

Based on real people aboard the most legendary ship in the world, *Titanic The Musical* first opened on Broadway in 1997 and won five Tony Awards. This new production visits the Midlands in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the show's London premiere.





## Home, I'm Darling

Malvern Theatres, Tues 28 February - Sat 4 March; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 25 - Sat 29 April

With a still-brief history that has seen it not only play acclaimed seasons at the National Theatre and in the West End but also pick up the Olivier Award for best new comedy, Laura Wade's *Home, I'm Darling* is a thought-provoking play about one woman's quest to be the perfect 1950s housewife. But behind the gingham curtains, as things start to unravel, Judy discovers that being a domestic goddess is nowhere near as easy as it seems... BAFTA-winner Jessica Ransom (Doc Martin, Armstrong & Miller) leads a cast that also features Diane Keen (Doctors, The Cuckoo Waltz) and Neil McDermott (EastEnders, The Royal).



## The Beekeeper Of Aleppo

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 4 - Sat 8 April; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 23 - Sat 27 May; The Rep, Birmingham, Tues 13 - Sat 17 June

Nesrin Alrefaai's stage adaptation of Christy Leftieri's bestselling novel here receives its world premiere.

Reflecting on the connections that exist between friends, families and strangers, the story follows the characters of beekeeper Nuri and artist Afra, a married couple enjoying a simple life in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo. But when war breaks out, the pair must flee for their lives, embarking on a journey that sees them not only face the pain of their own unbearable loss but also the challenge of finding each other again. The production is helmed by Olivier Award-winning director Miranda Cromwell.



## My Fair Lady

 Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 8 - Sun 19 March

Based on the George Bernard Shaw play *Pygmalion*, *My Fair Lady* tells the story of Professor Henry Higgins, an arrogant expert in phonetics who reckons he could teach any woman to speak properly. Enter, Eliza Dolittle - a young flower-seller who's no great lover of pronouncing her aitches. But will Eliza prove a challenge too far for the proper-speakin' professor?

Lesley Garrett and Adam Woodyatt star in this touring version of the critically acclaimed West End, which comes complete with Lerner & Loewe's famous score. Memorable songs include *Wouldn't It Be Lovely?*, *With A Little Bit Of Luck*, *The Rain In Spain*, *I Could Have Danced All Night* and *Get Me To The Church On Time*.



## The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 21 - Sat 25 February; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 14 - Sat 18 March; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 28 March - Sat 1 April; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 13 - Sat 17 June

"I'm so thrilled that my characters are stepping into a new life on the stage," says Deborah Moggach in talking about the theatrical version of her bestselling novel of the same name. "They've been waiting impatiently for the curtain to rise, and none of them are getting any younger. So welcome again to the Marigold Hotel!" Best known from its much-loved 2011 film version starring Judi Dench and Maggie

Smith, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* tells the story of an eclectic group of British retirees as they embark on a new life in India - and, more precisely, as residents of the hotel of the title... Hayley Mills, Paul Nicholas and Rula Lenska star at The Alexandra, with Paul Nicholas then being joined by Tessa Peake-Jones for later-in-the-year Midlands stop-offs.



From crowd favourites to new adaptations, 23 shows for you to see in 2023...



## Pride And Prejudice\* (\*sort of)

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 7 - Sat 11 February; The Rep, Birmingham, Mon 17 - Sat 22 April; Malvern Theatres, Tues 30 May - Sat 3 June

Having bagged the 2022 Olivier Award for best new comedy, *Pride And Prejudice\*(\*sort of)* is all the rage at the moment - and quite right too.

A unique and audacious retelling of Jane Austen's most iconic love story, the show has proved a winner with critics and audiences alike, with celebrity fan Stephen Fry describing it as an evening of 'hilarity,

romance, madness and utter theatrical joy". Alongside the raucously irreverent but admirably affectionate retelling of Austen's rollercoaster romance, the show also boasts a host of pop classics, including *Young Hearts Run Free*, *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* and *You're So Vain*. Seriously, what's not to like?



## Spitting Image Saves The World: Live On Stage

The Rep, Birmingham, Wed 1 February - Sat 11 March

Satirical roastings are very much the name of the puppets' game when *Spitting Image Live* takes up residency at Birmingham Rep for more than a month. Inspired by the widely adored television series of the 1980s (a 2020s version is now available on Britbox), the new stage show has been written by a trio of comedy giants in Al Murray, Matt Forde and Sean Foley, with Rep

Artistic Director Sean also helming the production. With a subject-to-change puppet cast that includes King Charles, Rishi Sunak, Harry & Meghan, Greta Thunberg, Nicola Sturgeon, Prince Andrew, RuPaul, Tom Cruise and Vladimir Putin, the potential for wickedly funny, laugh-out-loud mischief-making of the highest order surely knows no bounds.

## Wish You Were Dead

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 8 - Sat 13 May; Malvern Theatres, Mon 12 - Sat 17 June; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 20 - Sat 24 June

Bestselling crime writer Peter James has scored major successes on stage as well as in print, with adaptations of his novels having played to appreciative audiences at venues across the UK. This latest offering sees Detective Superintendent Roy Grace - the Brighton-based policeman who's headed up murder investigations in a number of James' most popular works - heading off on holiday with Senior Anatomical Pathology Technician Cleo Morey. It's their first vacation together, and they're very much looking forward to a few days away from the dark worlds of murder and the mortuary. But fate, it would seem, has other plans for them... Clive Mantle, George Rainsford and Giovanna Fletcher star.



## Of Mice And Men

The Rep, Birmingham, Sat 18 March - Sat 8 April

George and Lennie are drifters who only have each other and their shared search for the American Dream. George is the sharp little guy who looks out for Lennie. Lennie, meanwhile, is his big-hearted companion, who, unaware of his own strength, seems unable to keep out of trouble. Finding work on a ranch in California, they plan to stay long enough to buy a little place of their own. But their arrival triggers a tragic chain of events that threatens to destroy the very dream that unites them... This brand-new version of the John Steinbeck classic is helmed by Rep associate director and Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony director Iqbal Khan.



## The Shawshank Redemption

Regent Theatre, Stoke,  
Mon 20 - Sat 25 February

Given that film critics regard The Shawshank Redemption as one of the greatest movies of all time, it's hardly surprising to find that its stage version is out on the road yet again and doing good business.

Based on a 1982 Stephen King novella, the story revolves around the character of Andy Dufresne, a man serving a double life sentence at the notorious Shawshank facility. An unlikely friendship with prison fixer Red makes the experience a little more bearable. But when the warden decides to make Andy's life a living hell, the nothing-to-lose lifer hatches a daring and ingenious plan to escape... Joe Absalom and Ben Onwukwe star.



## Drive Your Plow Over The Bones Of The Dead

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,  
Wed 19 - Sat 22 April

"Olga Tokarczuk has created an extraordinary world that speaks to my deepest sense of the continuity between humankind and nature," says Simon McBurney, the artistic director of Complicité, the internationally acclaimed touring company here presenting a stage adaptation of Nobel Prize-winning author Tokarczuk's darkly comic murder-mystery novel.

"Tokarczuk is a prophet for our times, who understands us in all our hilarity, messiness, cruelty and animalism."

In a small community on a remote Polish mountainside, a man from the local hunting club dies in mysterious circumstances. Janina Duszejko has her suspicions about what might have happened. An eccentric older woman, environmentalist, devoted astrologer and enthusiastic translator of William Blake, Janina has been watching the animals with whom the community shares their isolated, rural home - and she is of the opinion that they have been acting very strangely...



## Sister Act The Musical

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 5 - Sat 10 June; Regent Theatre,  
Stoke-on-Trent Mon 25 - Sat 30 September

Based on the hit Whoopi Goldberg movie, this stage musical, directed and choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood, sees Sandra Marvin taking the Goldberg role of Reno lounge singer Deloris Van Cartier. Lesley Joseph also stars.

After seeing her gangster boyfriend kill an employee, Deloris is placed on a witness protection programme and hidden in a convent, where she takes over the

rehearsals of the in-house choir of nuns. Thanks to her musical expertise, the choir become a huge success and church attendances go through the roof. But while the church has a new lease of life, Deloris may inadvertently have jeopardised her own safety...

A fun-filled spectacular of a show with a real feelgood factor, this is a truly divine comedy that's well worth worshipping.



## Six The Musical

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 28 February - Sat 4 March and Tues 20 - Sun 25 June

From Tudor queens to battling boss-women, the 2022 Tony Award-winning Six The Musical sees the wives of Henry VIII take to the stage to tell their own versions of their lives.

The one-act production, which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2017, was enjoying a runaway success until Covid put the brakes on - but being a show that

sits somewhere between a Girls Aloud gig and a traditional musical, it's having no trouble whatsoever regaining its momentum.

A loud and colourful celebration of girl power, the production sees the cast being ably supported by all-female band The Ladies In Waiting.



## Film highlights in January...



### **Till** CERT 12a (130 mins)

Starring **Danielle Deadwyler, Jalyln Hall, Jamie Renell, Whoopi Goldberg, Sean Patrick Thomas, John Douglas Thompson**  
Directed by **Chinonye Chukwu**

When 14-year-old Emmett Till, on a visit to his cousins in Mississippi in the mid-1950s, was deemed to have behaved inappropriately towards a white woman in her family's grocery store, he was kidnapped, beaten, mutilated, and shot in the head. His lifeless body was then thrown into the Tallahatchie River. The two men who were charged with his murder were acquitted by an all-white jury and subsequently confessed to the crime in an interview with *Look* magazine, for which they were paid \$4,000. Emmett posthumously became an icon of the American civil rights movement...

This critically acclaimed new film follows the story of his mother Mamie Till-Mobley's relentless pursuit of justice for her son. Writer & director Chinonye Chukwu decided to make the movie without depicting the violence perpetrated against Emmett by his killers. Danielle Deadwyler gives a jaw-droppingly brilliant performance as Mamie.

**Released Fri 6 January**

### **A Man Called Otto** CERT tbc

Starring **Tom Hanks, Rachel Keller, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Kailey Hyman, Lavel Schley, Cameron Britton** Directed by **Marc Forster**

The always-value-for-money Tom Hanks takes the title role in this heartwarming and funny story about a man whose glass is most definitely half-empty following the death of his wife. Otto Anderson has a touch of the Victor Meldrews about him, gaining his pleasure, in an otherwise unhappy existence, from judging and criticising his neighbours. Intent on bringing his miserable life to an abrupt end, Otto finds his plan unexpectedly interrupted by the arrival next door of a lively young family, and in particular the quick-witted Marisol, who challenges him to start viewing the world from a different perspective.

**Released Fri 6 January**



### **Empire Of Light**

CERT tbc (119 mins)

Starring **Olivia Colman, Micheal Ward, Colin Firth, Toby Jones, Tom Brooke, Tanya Modie**  
Directed by **Sam Mendes**



Academy Award-winning director Sam Mendes is the man at the helm of this powerful and poignant drama about human connection and the magic of cinema. Set in the seaside town of Margate in 1981, the story follows depressed but conscientious cinema manager Hilary (Olivia Coleman) as her slowly deteriorating quality of life receives an unexpected boost with the arrival at the cinema of a young Black man named Stephen. Romance between the pair soon blossoms. But even as she seemingly stands on the threshold of better things, Hilary remains haunted by a sadness that simply won't go away...

**Released Mon 9 January**

### **Enys Men** CERT 15 (96 mins)

Starring **Mary Woodvine, Edward Rowe, Flo Crowne, John Woodvine, Joe Gray, Loveday Twomlow** Directed by **Mark Jenkin**

Straight out of the visionary imagination of Bafta-winning British auteur Mark Jenkin comes this artfully constructed mind-bender of a horror movie. The year is 1973, and on an uninhabited island off the Cornish coast, a wildlife volunteer's daily observations of a rare flower turn into a metaphysical journey - one that forces her, as well as the viewer, to question what is real and what is nightmare. Shot on 16mm film, *Enys Men* boasts a visceral quality that feels both innovative and authentic to the period. Jenkin's signature post-sync sound is present and correct too, playing its part in 'making real' the dream-like world of his invention. The movie made a significant splash at last autumn's Cannes Film Festival.

**Released Fri 13 January**





## Babylon CERT 18 (188 mins)

Starring **Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Tobey Maguire, Diego Calva, Jean Smart, Jovan Adepo** Directed by **Damien Chazelle**

Taking its place in January's list of releases alongside two other 'love letter to the movies' films - *Empire Of Light* and *The Fabelmans* - *Babylon* tells a tale of outsized ambition and outrageous excess, along the way tracing the rise and fall of multiple characters during an era of unbridled decadence and depravity in 1920s' Hollywood.

Top-billing are Brad Pitt and Margot Robbie, who, in 2019, appeared together in another high-profile tinseltown tale: Quentin Tarantino's *Once Upon A Time In Hollywood*.

But it's another film with which Robbie compares *Babylon*: "I remember being on set for [*The Wolf Of Wall Street*] and thinking 'I'll never be in a film as crazy as this ever again,'" she recently told *Empire* magazine. "And then I made *Babylon*! There's a dizzying amount of debauchery. One of the most disturbing, chaotic scenes I've ever witnessed is in this film, and it involves a fight with a snake. I won't tell you who wins or loses that fight, but trust me, it's insane."

**Released Fri 20 January**



## Tár CERT 15 (158 mins)

Starring **Cate Blanchett, Noémie Merlant, Nina Hoss, Sophie Kauer, Sylvia Flote, Mark Strong** Directed by **Todd Field**

Cate Blanchett's performance in this critically acclaimed movie has been hailed a career-best and may well see her walking away with this year's best actress Oscar.

Set in the international world of classical music, the film centres on the character of iconic musician Lydia Tár. Not only considered to be one of the world's greatest living composer-conductors, Tár is also the first-ever female music director of the Berlin Philharmonic.

But for all of her unquestionable brilliance, she is a woman on the edge. Claims that she is a vindictive bully - who grooms younger musicians and blackballs those who displease her - set in motion a fall from grace which, in the hands of the brilliant Blanchett, is a sight to behold.

**Released Fri 13 January**



## The Book Of Vision CERT 15 (99 mins)

CERT 15 (99 mins)

Starring **Charles Dance, Lotte Verbeek, Sverrir Gudnason, Filippo Nigro, Isolda Dychauk, Rocco Gottlieb** Directed by **Carlo Hintermann**



Selected as the opening movie of the Critics' Week at the 77th Venice International Film Festival, this psychological drama focuses on the character of Eva, a young doctor who turns away from her profession in favour of becoming a student of the history of medicine. Her studies lead her to the discovery of the *Book Of Vision*, a manuscript authored by 18th-century Prussian physician Johan Anmuth. In the book, Anmuth focuses on the feelings, fears and dreams of over 1,800 of his patients, whose spirits still wander through the pages.

Immersing herself in the tales and visions, Eva questions the separation of the past, present and future, while confronting the challenges of modern medicine and its limitations with respect to her own body...

**Released Fri 20 January**

## The Fabelmans CERT 12a (151 mins)

Starring **Michelle Williams, Gabriel LaBelle, Paul Dano, Judd Hirsch, Seth Rogen, Mateo Zoryan** Directed by **Steven Spielberg**

Taking inspiration from his own childhood, Steven Spielberg's coming-of-age story focuses on the fictional character of Sammy Fabelman, a young man growing up in post-World War Two Arizona who aspires to become a filmmaker.

The movie is co-written by Spielberg with his regular collaborator, Tony Kushner, who won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his 1990s play about the AIDS epidemic, *Angels In America*.

The *Fabelmans* received the Toronto International Film Festival's coveted People's Choice Award in the autumn and opened in US cinemas in November to widespread critical acclaim.

**Released Fri 27 January**





# Meet the Perrys

**Grayson and Philippa Perry talk about the origins of Channel 4 Grayson's Art Club, and why they decided to bring the associated exhibition to Midlands Arts Centre**





**Grayson and Philippa Perry believe everyone is an artist, although they also recognise that not everybody is good at it... Their feeling that people should take time to explore their creativity through art led to them hosting Grayson's Art Club on Channel Four. The husband & wife team have since taken the show on the road and are currently at Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), where Grayson's Art Club: The Exhibition will remain on display until the week after Easter... What's On recently caught up with the couple to find out more...**

There is something gloriously anarchic about an interview with artists and married couple Grayson and Philippa Perry. I'm meeting them at Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) just an hour before the official opening of Grayson's Art Club: The Exhibition. We're here to discuss the show, which runs until April and includes work featured during the third television series of Channel Four's Grayson's Art Club.

And we *do* talk about the exhibition, a bit - but viewers of the programme won't be surprised to know that almost every question also sparks off a debate between Grayson and Philippa. Sometimes there is a pause while nobody answers, sometimes they both answer at once and sometimes they question each other.

We frequently veer wildly off subject, with Grayson and Philippa candid in their opinions - although some of these conversations are followed with a 'don't write that down' or 'I'm not sure I should have said that.'

Both are bright as butterflies - Grayson in a multicolour print dress, a pattern bow in his hair and glittery make-up, Philippa wearing a fuchsia jacket and large pink plastic-framed glasses. I feel I'm letting the meeting down in black skirt and jumper.

Launched during lockdown, Grayson's Art Club features the couple in their studio, talking to members of the public who submit a photo or piece of film of their artwork, complete with background information. Each episode sees a celebrity drop in to make a piece of art, have a bite of lunch and a general chat. In between, Grayson and Philippa create and ponder.

The show has become a runaway success, with millions tuning in to watch and more than 17,000 people submitting work.

And yet, Philippa says, the programme was created mainly for selfish reasons.

"We were in lockdown and we needed to pass the time. The programme gave us contact with people, although it was only through glass because no cameramen or directors came into the studio. But we still did see people through glass, through the window, which was great. I think what I wanted it to achieve was for us to have some sort of social life when we weren't allowed one. We had no idea and no ambition for it, we just sort of muddled through and it came good."

So how do they choose which submissions to

feature in the programme?

"I admire anyone who has got the courage to make themselves vulnerable, to send something in," says Philippa, before adding "All we're looking for..." Then she pauses, turns to Grayson and asks: "Am I giving too much away?"

After a 'no' from her husband, she continues: "All we're looking for is the stories. There's a story behind every bit of art because primarily we're making television rather than an exhibition. And we wanted *good* television - and for good television, you need good stories."

Grayson takes up the baton: "The perfect sweet spot is when I like the person's art and they've got a good story."

"And that is the case with most of the artwork in this exhibition," adds Philippa. "It's an exhibition of stories."

Grayson's Art Club also aims to encourage each of us to pick up paper, a paintbrush or other materials. By including so many different pieces at MAC, the exhibition continues this trend.

Grayson explains: "The great thing about the Art Club exhibition is everybody that comes will find something they like because it's so varied, and they will identify with it and they'll go 'Ooh, I think I could have a go at that.' That's what I think the joy of Art Club is; that people can see themselves in the different characters, and then they might have found their creative outlet."

And Philippa adds: "It's thinking 'I like the way those two colours go together' or 'I could paint that.' I think there's a lot of art here that's extraordinarily enjoyable but maybe not necessarily always terrifically well drawn. So I think people can realise that they, too, can make art - because the great thing about art is making it, really."

The first two television series led to successful exhibitions in Manchester and Bristol. Now it's Birmingham's turn. Forming part of the 60th anniversary celebrations for MAC and featuring more than 100 pieces, Art Club is a 'pay what you choose' exhibition - but booking is essential. I ask the Perrys why they selected MAC out of the many venues keen to host the show.

"I really like the way that MAC involves the community so much in everything they do," says Philippa, "and that is really good for us.

Rather than 'come and look at the masters', like some venerable museums, MAC has got a 'get involved' vibe that really is almost like the most perfect place for Art Club. And when you are here, people always seem to be enjoying themselves and pleased to be here."

Alongside works submitted by viewers, the exhibition features pieces by Grayson and Philippa, as well as by celebrities including Birmingham comedian Joe Lycett, Jo Brand, Harry Hill, Bill Bailey and Dame Prue Leith.

"All the celebrities are fun," says Grayson. "We just let them get on with it. Joe Lycett is our favourite, of course, because he's from Birmingham. Joe is really into his art."

This brings us back to the discussion of whether anybody can be an artist.

"Everyone is an artist, yes, but whether they are a good artist is another matter," says Grayson with a grin. He then becomes serious. "Being a good artist isn't a thing that happens overnight. That whole thing of undiscovered geniuses is a bit of a romantic myth. There are, of course, still people out there, and probably not in the places you expect to find them. But the trouble is, if someone doesn't have an inkling they are a good artist, then they are not going to be committed or be practising. You've got to have that intersection between someone who reckons they are quite good, and also they are applying themselves to it. It's a long game, being an artist."

Which is not to underestimate the value of simply 'having a go'.

"I think creativity is really important because people feel powerless, and it's a way of changing that," Grayson explains. "It's a small step that you can start with. A very simple drawing is a small step in saying you can alter the world, that you have the power to change your environment. You might just leave it at doing a few drawings, but before you know it, you're designing a house, you're designing a city. That is what is good about art - it's very good to learn you can change the world."

**Grayson's Art Club: The Exhibition shows at Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) until 16 April. Pay what you choose, but booking is essential. The exhibition is accompanied by a series of events and open studios. See [macbirmingham.co.uk](http://macbirmingham.co.uk) for full details.**





## PR1V4TES

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sun 26 March

“It was while I was driving that the idea came to me,” explains Wolverhampton-based artist Suki Chumber in talking about his ongoing project, PR1V4TES. “I saw that there was a pattern emerging. A number of private registration plates on cars - and particularly on fancy cars - had Asian names; the owner’s nickname maybe, or something else about them, such as their caste. From there, the question for me was: Why is having a private reg something which is so popular within the Asian community?”

“I do feel there is a deeper meaning behind the number plates,” Suki explains to desiblitz.com, “especially if the owner is reflecting on their own identity and ‘caste’. In my experience so far, there is a huge number of people who are very ‘proud’ and egotistical about boasting their caste, religion or status.”

“Capturing people and their plates through photography is very important. It captures the person in that exact moment, keeping the image organic, and also adds a totally new perspective to the idea.”

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**One Dance, One City** Birmingham Hippodrome, until Mon 30 January

Birmingham’s commitment to providing an environment in which first-class dance not only exists but positively thrives, is here celebrated in a special photographic exhibition by Dani Bower. Dani is the marketing manager of One Dance UK, the sector support organisation which moved from London to Birmingham in 2019 and has since worked tirelessly to champion the artform

across the second city and out into the wider West Midlands. The photographs on display are the result of a project which saw One Dance UK invite some of the region’s finest dance artists to partner with the city itself, exploring and celebrating the sights, venues, culture and surroundings which make Birmingham so vibrant, diverse and unique.

**Here&Queer**

New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 28 May  
Here&Queer sees members of the LGBTQ+ community reinterpreting artworks from a queer perspective. The steering group explored the gallery’s Garman Ryan Collection displays and also delved into the venue’s Permanent Collection to find works with which they connected. As well as aiming to illustrate the fact that there is no one, single, definitive queer experience, the project also gives visitors the chance to gain new insights into works in the gallery’s collections.



**Dutch Flowers**

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, until Sun 15 January

The 17th-century emergence of Dutch flower painting - a genre of art that saw Netherlandish painters produce work which exclusively depicted flowers - has been attributed in part to the development of scientific interest in botany and horticulture and the Dutch Golden Age phenomenon of ‘tulip mania’. In the period which followed, Dutch flower painting blossomed, reaching the peak of its popularity in the late 18th century... This fascinating exhibition traces the development of the genre and features a selection of paintings from the National Gallery’s collection. The show includes works by leading artists in the field, such as Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder, Rachel Ruysch and Jan van Huysum.

**Grown Up In Britain - 100 Years Of Teenage Kicks**

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

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’.



**Living Traditions**

Barber Institute, Birmingham, until Mon 30 January

Recently retired Barber Institute Director Nicola Kalinsky is the curator behind this celebration of the venue’s impressive collection of works on paper. During her nine years as the Barber’s sixth director, Nicola acquired 53 such pieces, by artists including Carracci (pictured below), Cox, Dix and Jaray. The exhibition presents a selection of these, with the chosen artworks primarily having in common the fact that they feature the human figure. In making the 53 purchases, Nicola joined each of her predecessors in having made a significant contribution to the Barber’s collection of works on paper, with the Institute now owning 343 drawings and 596 prints.







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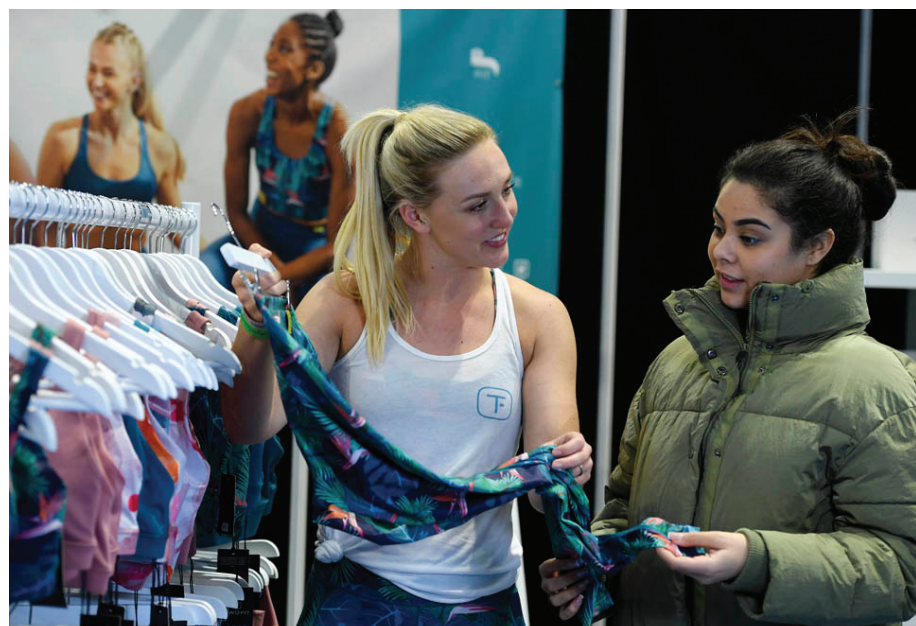
Events previews from around the region



**Autosport International** NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 12 - Sun 15 January

From grassroots to Formula 1, motorsport fans will have plenty to see and do at Autosport International this month. Show highlights include the UK's largest indoor racing track - the Live Action Arena,

where famous drivers and professional stunt performers thrill the crowds - the F1 Racing Display - where fans can check out modern F1 cars - and the Autosport Stage, featuring interviews with a host of motorsport stars.



**The National Running Show** NEC, Birmingham, Sat 21 & Sun 22 January

On your marks, get set, go! The National Running Show caters for a runner's every need, including the latest kit, cutting-edge technology, expert coaches, the best races and a host of nutrition products.

Visitors can also gain a ton of inspiration from a huge line-up of speakers across the weekend. Contributors include Dina Asher-Smith, Iwan Thomas MBE and Colin Jackson CBE.

**Divine Beauty At Night**

Birmingham Cathedral, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 January

The critically acclaimed Luxmuralis here bring to life four of Birmingham Cathedral's historic Burne-Jones windows. The immersive event uses light and sound to tell the story of the Victorian stained-glass, with vivid colours projected from floor to ceiling within the cathedral.



**The British Basketball Cup Finals 2023**

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Sun 29 January

Utilita Arena Birmingham once again plays host to one of the biggest events in British basketball.

The cup finals will see the two top teams from the elite men's and women's British Basketball League battle it out for the season's first piece of silverware. Courtside entertainment includes music, cheerleaders and the hugely popular Slam Dunk Contest, featuring some of the finest dunkers from around the league.





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Photo Credit: Alistair Nicholls

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Your week-  
by-week  
listings guide  
January 2023

# the list



The Tempest - Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 26 January - Sat 4 March

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

## What's On

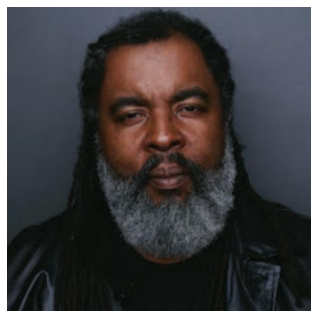
Sun 1 - Sun 8 January



Swan Lake - Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham

**Mon 2 January**

Mon 9 - Sun 15 January



Alvin Youngblood Hart -  
Temperance, Leamington Spa

**Sun 15 January**

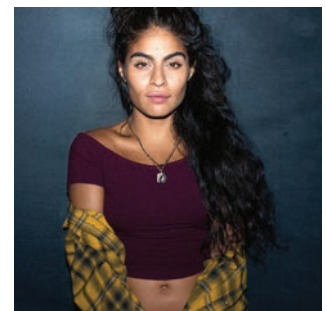
Mon 16 - Sun 22 January



Looking For Me Friend...  
Albany Theatre, Coventry

**Sat 21 January**

Mon 23 - Tues 31 January



Jessie Reyez - O2 Institute,  
Birmingham

**Sat 28 January**





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### VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

#### The Barber Institute Of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham

**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, until Sun 22 January

**THE ARCHITECTURE OF TOPOGRAPHY: A KIND OF MAP-WORK?** Featuring images from the Barber collection by artists as diverse as Fra Bartolommeo, Wenceslaus Hollar, Piranesi, JMW Turner and Max Klinger, until Mon 30 January

**PAYING RESPECTS: MONEY AND MORTALITY** A compelling exhibition featuring highlights from the Barber's superlative coin collection, which includes world-class caches of Byzantine, Trapezuntine and Sasanian currency, as well as significant holdings of Roman and medieval coins, until Sun 25 June

#### Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**REENA KALLAT: COMMON GROUND** A carefully woven tapestry of themes, investigating notions of borders, migration, inequity and citizenship, until Sun 22 January

#### Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, 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 January

**BROUGHT TO LIGHT** Chance to explore paintings, drawings and sculptures which the venue has collected over the past 65 years, until Sun 8 January

#### Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**HORROR IN THE MODERNIST BLOCK** High-rise towers. Concrete buildings. In an exhibition featuring the work of 20 contemporary artists, these modernist structures are viewed through the lens of the horror genre with which they are often associated in dystopian fiction, until Mon 1 May

#### Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**CRAFTSPACE: {QUEER} + {METALS}** The multiplicity of queerness is here explored via metalwork and metalsmithing, in an exhibition that makes visible the ways in which

LGBTQIA+ creatives are shaping, disrupting and contributing to contemporary culture, until Sun 2 April

**GRAYSON'S ART CLUB: THE EXHIBITION III** Major exhibition featuring over 100 artworks selected by Grayson Perry, Philippa Perry and guest celebrities during season three of the popular TV series, Grayson's Art Club, until Sun 16 April

#### New Art Gallery, Walsall

**WALSALL SOCIETY OF ARTISTS** Annual exhibition showcasing works in a wide range of media, until Sun 8 January

**BILLY DOSANJH, THE EXILES** Billy draws on his lived experience and the rich and vibrant stories told by his family and community to explore what happens when cultures merge... until Sun 5 February

**BREAKING THE MOULD** Major touring exhibition challenging the male-dominated narratives of post-war British sculpture by presenting a diverse and significant range of ambitious work by women, until Sun 16 April

#### RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**RBSA MEMBERS & ASSOCIATES** Exhibition demonstrating the high standard of work produced by members and associates in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, prints and much more, until Sat 7 Jan

#### The Reel Store, Coventry

**LIFE AND WORK OF FRIDA KAHLO** Immersive exhibition exploring the life and work of the iconic Mexican painter, until Sun 29 January



#### Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**DEARTOMORROW: DEAR WOLVERHAMPTON** Exhibition bringing together art, photography, film, design and poetry to 'present landscapes built and inspired by letters written by the Wolverhampton community', until Sun 15 January



Edwina Hayes - The Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

### Gigs

**EDWINA HAYES** Sun 1 Jan, The Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**THE PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA** Wed 4 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**BRITISH LION** Fri 6 Jan, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**YOURTHMICS** Fri 6 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

**THE BRYAN ADAMS EXPERIENCE** Fri 6 Jan, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**URBAN INTRO** Fri 6 - Sat 7 Jan, The Jam House, Birmingham

**FLORIST** Sat 7 Jan, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE MOONAGE DAYDREAMERS + THE**

**SPIDERS - BOWIE TRIBUTES** Sat 7 Jan, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**MAGIC OF MOTOWN** Sat 7 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**A FOREIGNER'S JOURNEY** Sat 7 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

**DURAN DURAN EXPERIENCE** Sat 7 Jan, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

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**Fairport  
Convention**  
WED 1 FEB 7.30PM

**Lionel**  
SAT 4 FEB 7.30PM

**Chris  
McCausland**  
THU 9 FEB 8PM

**Someone Like  
You: The Adele  
Songbook**  
SAT 11 FEB 7.30PM

**Ballet Theatre  
UK: Beauty and  
The Beast**  
SUN 19 FEB 7PM

**Cara Dillon**  
FRI 24 FEB 7.30PM

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Saturday 28 January (7.30pm)

**DISCOS FOR GROWN UPS**  
POP-UP 70S 80S & 90S DISCO PARTY  
Friday 3 February (8pm)

**OH WHAT A NIGHT!**  
FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS TRIBUTE  
Saturday 4 February (7.30pm)

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
A BRAND-NEW VERSION FROM CLOC MUSICAL THEATRE  
Wednesday 8 - Saturday 11 February

**THE HISTORY OF ROCK**  
A CELEBRATION OF ROCK MUSIC THROUGH THE DECADES  
Friday 17 February (7.30pm)

**ELVIS - THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE**  
PERFORMED BY BEN THOMPSON  
Saturday 18 February (7.30pm)

**LIVE AT THE TOWN HALL**  
WITH REGINALD D HUNTER, LISSA OMIELAN,  
ROBERT WHITE, WAYNE BEESE (MC)  
Friday 24 February (8pm)

**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE**  
Saturday 25 February (7.30pm)

**CALLING PLANET EARTH**  
A MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE  
BIGGEST HITS OF THE 80'S  
Friday 3 & Saturday 4 March (7.30pm)

**DOWN FOR THE COUNT**  
PRESENTS A CENTURY OF SWING  
Friday 10 March (7.30pm)

**IN THE NAME OF LOVE:  
THE DIANA ROSS STORY**  
Saturday 11 March (7.30pm)

**THE SERIAL KILLER NEXT DOOR**  
WITH EMMA KENNY  
Saturday 8 April (7.30pm)

**A NIGHT IN KILKENNY-**  
STARRING THE KILKENNYS  
Saturday 15 April (7.30pm)



### Classical Music

**HALLE ORCHESTRA** Featuring Stephen Bell (conductor) & Rebecca Bottone (soprano). Programme includes works by J. Strauss, Lehár, Sullivan, & Heuberger, Fri 6 Jan, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**STOURBRIDGE CHOIR & ORCHESTRA: VIENNESE GALA** Sat 7 Jan, Stourbridge Town Hall

**NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN** Featuring Alexandre Bloch (conductor). Programme includes works by Britten, Anna Clyne (Rift) and Strauss, Sat 7 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



**CBSO VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA** Featuring Christoph Altstaedt (conductor) & Anna Devin (soprano). Programme includes works by Reznicek, Strauss, Menotti, Lumbye, Waldteufel, Gounod, Johann Strauss II, Lehar, Anderson & more... Sat 7 Jan, Malvern Theatres

**VIENNESE NEW YEAR WITH THE CBSO** Featuring Christoph Altstaedt (conductor) & Anna Devin (soprano). Programme includes works by Reznicek, Strauss, Menotti, Lumbye, Waldteufel, Gounod, Hellmesberger & Anderson, Sun 8 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### Comedy

**PAUL SMITH** Wed 4 - Thurs 5 Jan, The Rialto, Coventry

**COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON. OTHER COMICS TBC** Thurs 5 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**DAVID TSONOS, RICKY BALSCHAW & DANNY DEEGAN** Fri 6 Jan, The Old Sticky Wicket, Redditch

**NOEL JAMES** Sat 6 Jan, Matchborough Centre, Redditch

**SUSIE MCCABE, SARAH KENDALL, GEORGE LEWIS & DOMINIC FRISBY** Fri 6 - Sat 7 Jan, The Glee Club, B'ham

### Theatre

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Adrian Edmondson plays Ebenezer Scrooge in David Edgar's critically acclaimed adaptation of Charles Dickens' much-loved classic, until Sun 1 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Starring Melanie Walters as Fairy Bon Bon, Mark James as Louis La Plonk, Olivia Birchenough as Belle and Leon Craig as Polly La Plonk, until Sun 1 Jan, Malvern Theatres

**CINDERELLA** Presented by Worcester Repertory Company, until Mon 2 Jan, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Brand-new furry-tail adventure, complete with shimmering sets, outrageous costumes, magic & mayhem, until Mon 2 Jan, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS** Starring Sam Attwater as the Prince, Ian Smith as Dame Dolly, Carl Dufield as Muddles and Chloe Barlow as Snow White, until Mon 2 Jan, Telford Theatre

**NATIVITY! THE MUSICAL** Debbie Isitt's heart-warming festive musical, until Sat 7 Jan, The Rep, Birmingham

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** Starring Iain Lauchlan as 'Coventry's favourite dame', until Sat 7 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**ALADDIN** Festive treat featuring West End leading lady Zoe Birkett as Spirit of The Ring and Michael Greco (EastEnders) as the evil Abanazar. Tam Ryan (Wishee Washee), Ian Adams (Widow Twankey), Sofie Anné (Princess Jasmine), Duane Gooden (Genie) and Ian Billings (The Notary!) also star, until Sat 7 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS** Lichfield regular Sam Rabone is joined by Brian Wheeler (Star Wars) and Dean Whatton (Game Of Thrones) in this festive family favourite, until Sun 8 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

**CINDERELLA** Festive family favourite, complete with sparkling sets, sing-along songs and laughs aplenty, until Sun 8 Jan, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**ALADDIN** Starring Louie Spence as the Spirit of the Ring, Jamie Kenna as Abanazar, Kiera-Nicole as Jasmine and 'Crewe's treasured dame', Malcolm Lord, as Widow Twankey, until Sun 8 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Featuring: 'legendary Dame' Brad Fitt; Tommy J Rollason (Britain's Got Talent); Samantha Dorrance (Disney Channel); Jo Osmond (The Mandalorian); and Kane Oliver Parry (Matilda, West End), until Sun 8 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND** Lewis Carroll's much-loved classic, until Sat 28 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**DICK WHITTINGTON** Lavish pantomime featuring Marti Pellow, Matt Slack, Dr Ranj, Suzanne Shaw, Doreen Tipton



Swan Lake - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

and Andrew Ryan, until Sun 29 Jan, Birmingham Hippodrome

**ALADDIN** Fun-filled family panto featuring toe-tapping tunes from the likes of Dolly Parton, Prince, and Disney's smash-hit musical, Newsies, Thurs 5 - Sun 8 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS** Amateur staging presented by DE Caversmill Theatre Company, Fri 6 - Sun 8 Jan, Stoke Repertory Theatre

**SLEEPING BEAUTY** Presented by the Tamworth Pantomime Company, Fri 6 - Sun 15 Jan, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**SHEN YUN** Fusion of music and dance, taking audiences through 5,000 years of Chinese civilisation, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Jan, ICC Hall 1, B'ham

### Kids Shows

**THE GRUFFALO** Tall Stories presents its ever-popular stage show based on Julia Donaldson's bestselling children's book. This new version is performed by a cast of both deaf and hearing actors, until Sun 15 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

### Dance

**SWAN LAKE** Classic Ballet Theatre presents its version of the popular tale, Mon 2 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### Events

**SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND** With real snow, real animals and the all-new winter wonderland show, until Sun 1 Jan, Snowdome, Tamworth

**CHRISTMAS AT TRENTHAM** Designed to sprinkle a little Christmas magic, accentuate the flora & fauna and provide an opportunity to see the

stunning historic landscape in a world of light and colour, until Sun 1 Jan, Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

**CHRISTMAS AT ALTON TOWERS** Make magical memories with a Santa Sleepover or explore the Towers Street Christmas Market. The hugely popular Lightopia Seasonal Wonderland light & lantern trail also returns, until Mon 2 Jan, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

**WINTER GLOW** Immerse yourself in all things seasonal via an impressive line-up of activities, until Mon 2 Jan, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**WINTER FUNLAND** The largest indoor funfair in the UK, boasting an ice-skating rink, a circus, Santa's grotto, a craft arena and a full-sized fairground made up of more than 40 rides, until Mon 2 Jan, NEC, B'ham

**LANTERN FESTIVAL** Discover an epic lantern trail and explore the walk-through areas of the park, until Sun 8 Jan, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley

**LIGHTS IN THE WOODS** Brand-new trail featuring light spectacles and interactive displays, until Sun 8 Jan, Alderford Lake, Shropshire

**SKATE BY THE LAKE** Skate with your family and friends on a real undercover ice rink, until Sun 8 Jan, Alderford Lake, Shropshire

**ICE SKATE BIRMINGHAM** Enjoy an ice-skating session or take a ride on the big wheel and marvel at the views across the city, until Sun 8 Jan, Centenary Square, Birmingham

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

**BRICK BUILDING FUN AT THE BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM** Drop into the Learning Space and get creative with Lego bricks, Mon 2 - Tues 3 Jan, British Motor Museum, Gaydon





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**VISIONS OF ITALY**

**Respighi** Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 3  
**Mendelssohn** Violin Concerto no. 1 in D minor  
**Wolf** Italian Serenade  
**Tchaikovsky** Souvenir de Florence

Kenneth Woods, conductor  
 Zoë Beyers, violin

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Shadow Of Intent - The Asylum, Birmingham

## Gigs

### CHANTEL MCGREGOR

Mon 9 Jan, Temperance, Leamington Spa

### ANIMALS AS LEADERS

Tues 10 Jan, O2 Institute, Birmingham

### SHADOW OF INTENT

Wed 11 Jan, The Asylum, Birmingham

### THE LOST NOTES TRIO

Wed 11 Jan, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

### PAUL JONES AND DAVE KELLY

Wed 11 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

### DUELLING PIANOS

Thurs 12 Jan, The Jam House, Birmingham

### BIG JOANIE + GHUM

Thurs 12 Jan, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

### SHOWCASE NIGHT

Thurs 12 Jan, Bromsgrove Folk Club

### MONTHLY PERFORMERS NIGHT

Thurs 12 Jan, Temperance, Leamington Spa

### ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART + BEN POOLE

Thurs 12 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

### DANCE GAVIN DANCE + CASKETS + EIDOLA

Fri 13 Jan, O2 Institute, Birmingham

### TRIVIUM + HEAVEN SHALL BURN + MALEVOLENCE

Fri 13 Jan, O2 Academy, Birmingham

### OASIS VS STONE ROSES

Fri 13 Jan, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### THE DOLLY SHOW

### DOLLY PARTON TRIBUTE

Fri 13 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

### WE AREN'T PARAMORE

Fri 13 Jan, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

### QUEEN EXTRAVAGANZA

Fri 13 Jan, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

### GENESIS CONNECTED

Fri 13 Jan, The Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

### BON GIOVI

Fri 13 Jan, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

### NANNA RADLEYS

Fri 13 Jan, The Jam House, Birmingham

### DARK SIDE OF THE WALL

Sat 14 Jan, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

### CHASING MALLORY + IRIDIUM + SWEET DIEGO + ARROW VALLEY + E.L.B

Sat 14 Jan, O2 Institute, Birmingham

### WALLOWS + MAY-A

Sat 14 Jan, O2 Academy, Birmingham

### QUEEN EXTRAVAGANZA

Sat 14 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### LUIS VICENTE, OLIE BRICE, MARK SANDERS AND PAUL DUNMALL

Sat 14 Jan, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

### ASHLEY SHERLOCK BAND

Sat 14 Jan, Temperance, Leamington Spa

### MADNESS & THE SPECIALS - TRIBUTE

Sat 14 Jan, The Rialto, Coventry

### THE STEREOSONICS

Sat 14 Jan, Marrs Bar, Worcester

### THE BEST OF FRANKIE VALLI WITH GARETH GATES

Sat 14 Jan, Swan Theatre, Worcester

### 80'S MANIA

Sat 14 Jan, Palace Theatre, Redditch

### ULTRA 90S

Sat 14 Jan, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### JEAN GENIE - BOWIE TRIBUTE

Sat 14 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

### HI ON MAIDEN

Sat 14 Jan, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

### DARKSIDE - THE PINK FLOYD SHOW

Sat 14 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

### REVENIENCE + COEVO

Sat 14 Jan, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

### SHOWADDYWADDY

Sat 14 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

### THE 1975

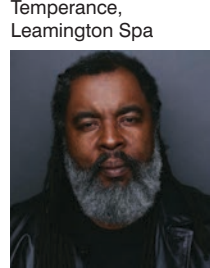
Sun 15 Jan, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

### ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART

Sun 15 Jan, Temperance, Leamington Spa

### ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART

Sun 15 Jan, Temperance, Leamington Spa



### DHILLY FEST

Sun 15 Jan, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

### ELO AGAIN

Sun 15 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

## Classical

**CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET** Featuring Sini Simonen & Daniel Roberts (violins), Ruth Gibson (viola) & Steffan Morris (cello). Programme includes works by Britten & Beethoven, Mon 11 Jan, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: ENIGMA - AN ENGLISH MYSTERY** Featuring Roderick Williams (baritone) and Jason Lai (conductor). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Walton, Elgar arr. George Morton & Warlock, Tues 12 Jan, Warwick Hall

**CBSO PLAYS MAHLER'S FIRST SYMPHONY** Featuring Gergely Madaras (conductor - pictured). Programme includes works by Mahler & Larcher, Thurs 12 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



## Comedy

**COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON. OTHER COMICS TBC** Thurs 12 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**TAMSYN KELLY, JOHN GAVIN, MICKY P KERR & COMIC TBC** Fri 13 - Sat 14 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**AURIE STYLA, LINDSEY SANTORO, JOSH PUGH & JACK CAMPBELL** Sat 14 Jan, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

**DUNCAN OAKLEY, ANDY STOREY & SILKY** Sat 14 Jan, The Old Sticky Wicket, Redditch

## Theatre

**EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE: TEEN EDITION** Amateur production, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Jan, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE SUNSET LIMITED - SCRATCH NIGHT** Cormac McCarthy's drama explores issues surrounding human existence, Fri 13 Jan, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**CINDERELLA** Classic panto performed by Birmingham Youth Theatre, Fri 13 - Sun 15 Jan, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**CIRQUE - THE GREATEST SHOW** Musical theatre meets circus spectacle in this award-winning show featuring songs from The Greatest Showman, Moulin Rouge, Hairspray, Rocketman The Musical, and more... Sun 15 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

## Light Entertainment

**AN EVENING WITH JIMBO THE DRAG CLOWN** Wed 11 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE** An evening of cabaret, comedy, music, circus and burlesque, Fri 13 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND - THE MUSIC OF VICTORIA WOOD** Tribute to the late writer & comedian, written and performed by BBC One's All Together Now star, Paulus, Sat 14 Jan, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**SING-A-LONG-A GREASE** A screening of the classic film, with lyrics on screen so you can sing along... Sat 14 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE GREATEST MAGICIAN** New magic show presented by James Phelan - 'the BBC's most broadcast magician in the last decade', Sat 14 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**SING-A-LONG-A THE GREATEST SHOWMAN** Sun 15 Jan, The Alexandra, Birmingham

## Events

**DIVINE BEAUTY AT NIGHT** Luxmuralis bring to life four of Birmingham Cathedral's historic Burne-Jones windows, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 Jan, Birmingham Cathedral



**AUTOSPORT INTERNATIONAL** From karting to Formula 1, visitors can get up close to iconic racecar displays and a host of motorsport stars, Thurs 12 - Sun 15 Jan, NEC, Birmingham

**LYCEUM GHOST HUNT** All-access investigation of the venue until the early hours of the night, as you search for signs of the paranormal, Fri 13 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

**WALK AND DRAW** Make speedy sketches of exhibitions, the gallery's architecture, the magnificent views from the gallery's windows, and the local area, Sat 14 Jan, The New Art Gallery Walsall

**SPECTRUM WORKSHOPS** Share your stories whilst designing and making a Pride flag, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Jan, Coventry Cathedral



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Cockney Rejects - The Robin, Bilston

### Gigs

#### THE AMITY AFFLICTION

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Tues 17 Jan, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SLEEP TOKEN Tues 17 Jan, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ANDY WHITE Tues 17 Jan, The Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

CRAIG SUNDERLAND + MICK BISIKER Wed 18 Jan, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

THE BEST OF FRANKIE VALLI WITH GARETH GATES Wed 18 Jan, Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE BLUEJAYS Wed 18 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme  
999 Thurs 19 Jan, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

MELBA MOORE Thurs 19 Jan, The Jam House, Birmingham

COUNTRY SUPERSTARS Thurs 19 Jan, The Crescent, Birmingham

LUKE JAMES WILLIAMS + ANTONIA KIRBY Thurs 19 Jan, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW Thurs 19 Jan, Malvern Theatres

COCKNEY REJECTS Thurs 19 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

WATERLOO - THE BEST OF ABBA Thurs 19 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE CLASSIC ROCK SHOW Thurs 19 - Fri 20

Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

BACK INTO HELL - MUSIC OF MEAT LOAF AND JIM STEINMAN Thurs 19 - Fri 20 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

THE MAGIC OF THE BEATLES Fri 20 Jan, The Alexandra, B'ham

SUPERSONIC QUEEN Fri 20 Jan, The Crescent, Birmingham

DEVOTED TO ROCK Fri 20 Jan, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

BAD MANNERS Fri 20 Jan, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

TALON Fri 20 Jan, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE SKA45S Fri 20 Jan, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE Fri 20 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

FRANCIS DUNNERY'S IT BITES Fri 20 Jan, KK's Steel Mill, W'hampton

RISING FROM THE DEEP Fri 20 Jan, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

LOST IN MUSIC Fri 20 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

JILTED GENERATION - THE PRODIGY TRIBUTE Fri 20 Jan, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

WSTRN + THE COMPOZERS Sat 21 Jan, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE PHONICS + A BAND CALLED MALICE Sat 21 Jan, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GENESIS TRIBUTE SHOW Sat 21 Jan, The

Crescent, Birmingham

VASELINE Sat 21 Jan, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE BEAT FT RANKING JR Sat 21 Jan, hmv Empire, Coventry

BLIZZARD OF OZZ Sat 21 Jan, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

STANLEY DEE - STEELY DAN TRIBUTE Sat 21 Jan, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE DIANA ROSS STORY Sat 21 Jan, Dudley Town Hall

GUNS 2 ROSES Sat 21 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS Sat 21 Jan, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

SPOUKY KIDS (MARILYN MANSON TRIBUTE) + KORN AGAIN Sat 21 Jan, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

TOTALLY TINA Sat 21 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

ROXY MAGIC Sat 21 Jan, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

PURPLE ZEPPELIN Sat 21 Jan, Telford Theatre

BOWIE EXPERIENCE Sat 21 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

DROPKICK MURPHYS + PENNYWISE + THE RUMJACKS + JESSE AHERN Sun 22 Jan, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE COUNTRY SHOWCASE Sun 22 Jan, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

LAUREN HOUSLEY & NIGEL WEARNE Sun 22 Jan, The Hive, Shrewsbury

### Classical

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by A Hollins, J Stanley, J Brahms, J Dove, W Wolstenholme & G Rossini, Mon 16 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

JULIAN BLISS SEPTET: THE GENIUS OF GERSHWIN Tues 17 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY'S VIOLIN CONCERTO Featuring Fabien Gabel (conductor) & Baiba Skride (violin). Programme includes works by Moussa, Tchaikovsky, Strauss & Ravel, Thurs 19 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: FRIENDS' SOIREE Featuring Michael Collins and the Swan's Wind Ensemble.

Programme includes works by Gounod, Francaix, André Caplet & Joachim Raff, Thurs 19 Jan, Stratford Town Hall

CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME 2023 WITH THE CBSO Featuring Stephen Bell (conductor), John Suchet (presenter), Elizabeth Llewellyn (soprano) & Jayson Gillham (piano). Programme includes works by Elgar, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Zimmer, Debussy, Dvorak, Mozart, Williams, Barber, Clara Schumann & Tchaikovsky, Fri 20 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ORGAN PROM Sat 21 Jan, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Kenneth Woods (conductor). Programme includes works by Respighi, Mendelssohn, Wolf & Tchaikovsky, Sat 21 Jan, Malvern Theatres

### Comedy

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, PAUL MCCAFFREY, MORGAN REES AND COMIC TBC Thurs 19 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BARRY DODDS, MIKE GUNN, PAUL MCCAFFREY & MORGAN REES Fri 20 -

Sat 21 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE RAYMOND AND MR TIMPKINS REVUE, PETER RETHINASAMY, STEVE WILLIAMS & JON PEARSON Sat 21 Jan, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

FUNMBI OMATAYO, MERYL O'ROURKE & IGNACIO LOPEZ Sat 21 Jan, The Old Sticky Wicket, Redditch

PETER BRUSH, DEAN COUGHLIN, MC HAMMERSMITH & FREDDY QUINNE Sun 22 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

JON RICHARDSON Sun 22 - Mon 23 Jan, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

### Theatre

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT Amateur staging presented by The Mellow Dramatics, Tues 17 - Sat 21 Jan, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

MAMMA MIA! A tale of love, friendship and identity, irresistibly told through the timeless hits of ABBA, Tues 17 - Sat 28 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MIND MANGLER New comedy featuring The Play That Goes Wrong performers Jonathan Sayer & Henry Lewis, Wed 18 Jan, The Alexandra, Birmingham

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Presented by Phoenix Theatre Group, Wed 18 - Sun 22 Jan, The Henrican, Evesham

ART Amateur staging of Yasmina Reza's international hit, Wed 18 - Sat 28 Jan, Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL Amateur version presented by Split Mask Theatre Co, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 Jan, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

THE GREAT GATSBY: A LIVE RADIO PLAY An ensemble of six actors bring more than two dozen of F Scott Fitzgerald's characters to life in a live broadcast, Fri 20 - Sun 29 Jan, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE MERSEY SEAT Amateur version of Neil LaBute's drama, set in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attack on



Mind Mangler - The Alexandra, Birmingham



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the World Trade Centre, Sat 21 - Sat 28 Jan, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

**BLOODY MARY: LIVE!** 'Vicious' stand-up special tackling the drama every #queenager deals with: divorced parents, sibling rivalry and religious purges... Sat 21 Jan, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**A GAME OF TIARAS** Local theatre group Harlequinade present Don Zolidis' tale, 'which combines the plot twists of Game of Thrones with the despair of Shakespeare's King Lear', Fri 20 - Sun 22 Jan, The Core Theatre, Solihull

## Kids Shows

**THE SMARTEST GIANT IN TOWN** Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved tale of friendship is brought to the stage with the aid of puppetry and music, Mon 16 - Tues 17 Jan, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**JURASSIC LIVE** Interactive adventure for younger audiences, featuring 'mind-blowing' special effects and puppetry, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Jan, The Alexandra, Birmingham

## Light Entertainment

**TONY STOCKWELL: PSYCHIC MEDIUM** Join the star of TV's Street Psychic for an evening of psychometry, photographs, readings and psychic prediction, Mon 16 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**LORD PISSINGTON'S BOOZY WOOLY COMEDY GALA!** A 'good old-fashioned night of gags, japes and a few cheeky tipples', Thurs 19 Jan, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**DESPITE EVERYTHING, PRICE STILL INCLUDES BISCUITS** One-woman show with original songs, topical stories and Jewish humour, Thurs 19 Jan, The Civic, Stourport

**FANNY GALORE'S BIG BINGO PARTY** Eyes down for a full house with the 'hostess with the mostest', Sat 21 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

**LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND - THE MUSIC OF VICTORIA WOOD** Tribute to the late writer & comedian, written and performed by BBC One's All Together Now star, Paulus, Sat 21 Jan, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**ERIC KNOWLES: WHAT'S IT WORTH? A**



*Looking For Me Friend - The Music Of Victoria Wood - Albany Theatre, Coventry*

witty and entertaining look at the world of antiques, Sun 22 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Science Museum

**THE NATIONAL RUNNING SHOW** The biggest community meet-up of the year, perfectly timed for runners who are training for events in the spring, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Jan, NEC, B'ham

**BELONGING AS MIXED: ARTS WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** A free weekend arts workshop, for people aged 16 to 25, using music, collage, poetry and song to create a performance piece, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Jan, Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

## Events

**PLANETARIUM LATES: THE FLOWERING DESERT** A live planetarium opera inspired by the experiences of Birmingham-based astrophysicist Dr Amaury Triaud and the discovery of the TRAPPIST-1 solar system, Thurs 19 Jan, Thinktank Birmingham



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### Gigs

#### BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Mon 23 Jan, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

#### JASMINE GARDOSI

Tues 24 Jan, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

#### CHARM OF FINCHES + LUKE DESCISCO

Tues 24 Jan, Temperance, Leamington Spa

PVRIS Wed 25 Jan, O2 Institute, Birmingham

#### BLACK FLAG + TOTAL CHAOS

Wed 25 Jan, The Asylum, Birmingham

#### KAYHAN KALHOR & ERDAL ERZINCAN

Wed 25 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

#### MAD JOCKS AND ENGLISHMEN

Wed 25 Jan, The Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

#### THE ROSELLYS

Wed 25 Jan, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

#### MADISON VIOLET

Wed 25 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

#### YOUNG GUN SILVER FOX

Thurs 26 Jan, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

#### GRANT LEE PHILLIPS

Thurs 26 Jan, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

#### J.J. + BABY DON

Thurs 26 Jan, O2 Institute, Birmingham

#### ARTIO + NOYOU

26 Jan, The Asylum, Birmingham

#### LEWIS CAPALDI

Thurs 26 Jan, Utilita Arena Birmingham

#### JOE BAYLISS

Thurs 26 Jan, Bromsgrove Folk Club

#### NORTHERN LIVE

Thurs 26 Jan, Albany Theatre, Coventry

#### WE THREE KINGS OF ROCK N ROLL - ORBISON, HOLLY & PRESLEY TRIBUTE

Thurs 26 Jan, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

#### MAGIC OF MOTOWN

Thurs 26 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

#### KULA SHAKER

Fri 27 Jan, O2 Institute, B'ham

#### UNDER THE COVERS

Fri 27 Jan, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

#### JULIAN TAYLOR

Fri 27 Jan, Temperance, Leamington Spa



#### DANNY ANSELL

Fri 27 Jan, hmv Empire, Coventry

#### THE BLACK CHARADE + FELL OUT BOY

Fri 27 Jan, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

#### THE JIVE ACES

Fri 27 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

#### SCOTT DOONICAN

Fri 27 Jan, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

#### THE SUBWAYS

Fri 27 Jan, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

#### CYDONIA KNIGHTS - MUSE TRIBUTE

Fri 27 Jan, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

#### SHOWADDYWADDY

Fri 27 Jan, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

#### MARTYN JOSEPH

Fri 27 Jan, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

#### THE SALTS

Fri 27 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

#### THE NEIL DIAMOND STORY

Fri 27 - Sat 28 Jan, The Core Theatre, Solihull

#### NEW RULES

Sat 28 Jan, O2 Institute, B'ham

#### WINGMEN

Sat 28 Jan, O2 Institute, B'ham

#### JESSIE REYEZ

Sat 28 Jan, O2 Institute, Birmingham

#### TALON

Sat 28 Jan, Symphony Hall, B'ham

#### POLLY PAULUSMA

Sat 28 Jan, Temperance, Leamington Spa

#### THE CARPENTERS LEGACY

Sat 28 Jan, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

#### FRED ZEPPELIN

Jan, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

#### JAZ DELOREAN + K.O.G

Sat 28 Jan, Drapers' Hall, Coventry

#### RUBY TURNER

Sat 28 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

#### DARK SIDE OF THE WALL

Sat 28 Jan, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

#### WRONG JOVI

Sat 28 Jan, Marrs Bar, Worcester

#### BLOBBIE WILLIAMS

Sat 28 Jan, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

#### ONE NIGHT IN TEXAS

Sat 28 Jan, Palace Theatre, Redditch

#### THE CLASSIC ROCK SHOW

Sat 28 Jan, Malvern Theatres

#### LABOUR OF LOVE - UB40 TRIBUTE

Sat 28 Jan, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

#### METAL MILITIA - METALLICA TRIBUTE

Sat 28 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

ULTIMATE MADNEZZ Sat 28 Jan, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

#### THE UPBEAT BEATLES

Sat 28 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

#### SHANIA TWAIN TRIBUTE

Sun 29 Jan, The Crescent, Birmingham

#### GIRLZ WORLD

Sun 29 Jan, The Crescent, Birmingham

#### FERN MADDIE

Sun 29 Jan, The Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

#### TIM BAKER

Sun 29 Jan, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

#### T.REXTASY

Sun 29 Jan, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

#### BOWIE EXPERIENCE

Sun 29 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

#### MARTYN JOSEPH

Sun 29 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

#### KIOKO

Mon 30 Jan, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

#### KESHI + DEB NEVER

Mon 30 Jan, O2 Academy, Birmingham

L.S. DUNES Mon 30 Jan, O2 Academy, B'ham

#### HONEY MOON

Mon 30 Jan, Drummonds, Worcester

#### HOLDING ABSENCE

Mon 30 Jan, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

#### DEEZ NUTS + THE ACACIA STRAIN + UNITY TX + BROTHERS TIL WE DIE

Tues 31 Jan, The Asylum, Birmingham

#### BLACK STONE CHERRY + THE DARKNESS

Tues 31 Jan, Restorts World Arena, Birmingham

#### CALLING PLANET EARTH - 80S TRIBUTE

Tues 31 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

#### WILSON AND WAKEMAN

Tues 31 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

#### THE BEST OF FRANKIE VALLI WITH GARETH GATES

Tues 31 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre



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GLITZ & GLAMOUR  
Shirley Caine, Gemma Ryan and Lisa to the floor at Ulster House

MEET THE PERRYS  
Clayton and Philippa bring their art show to the Midlands

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Must-see plays and musicals including the return to the Midlands

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**Coventry & Warwickshire** ISSUE 40 JANUARY 2023

## What's On

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## What's On

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### Classical

#### BROKEN BONES BRASS ENSEMBLE

Featuring Ollie Plant, Katie Blackburn & Ed Simons (trombone) & Archie McVicar (tuba). Programme includes works by Carmichael (arr. Ingo Luis), Messenger (arr. Ollie Plant), Joplin (arr. Ed Simons), Dvorak (arr. Ollie Plant), Tchaikovsky (arr. Ed Simons) & Debussy (arr. Michael Levin), Mon 23 Jan, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

#### CBSO PLAYS BEETHOVEN'S EMPEROR

**CONCERTO** Featuring Eduardo Strausser (conductor) & Cédric Tiberghien (piano). Programme includes works by Wagner, Beethoven & Prokofiev, Wed 25 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**MARTIN JAMES BARTLETT** Thurs 26 Jan, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE PIATTI QUARTET** Featuring Michael Trainor & Rebecca Chan (violins), Tetsuomi Nagata (viola) & Jessie Ann Richardson (cello), Thurs 26 Jan, Malvern Theatres

**PERFORMANCE PLATFORM: L'ÉTERNITÉ - HANJI FAN (VIOLIN)** Also featuring Robert Markham (piano). Programme includes works by Ravel, Messiaen, Chausson & Saint-Saëns, Thurs 26 Jan, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**CBSO DOUBLE BASS QUARTET** Featuring Anthony Alcock, Julian Atkinson, Damian Rubido Gonzalez & Jeremy Watt, Fri 27 Jan, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**TIM GARLAND & JASON REBELLO: THE LIFE TO LIFE TOUR** Fri 27 Jan, The Maidment Building, Shrewsbury School

**PIATTI QUARTET** Featuring Michael Trainor & Rebecca Chan (violins), Tesuomi Nagata (viola) & Ann Richardson (cello). Programme includes works by Ullmann, Haas & Beethoven, Fri 27 Jan, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

#### KENNETH HAMILTON PIANO LECTURE RECITAL: DEMONIC AND DIVINE

Programme includes Bach arr. Busoni, Chopin & Liszt, Fri 27 Jan, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

**THE KING'S SINGERS - NORTHERN LIGHTS** Fri 27 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

#### ARMONICO CONSORT: BIG BYRD!

Featuring Christopher Monks (director) & the English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble. Programme includes works by Josquin De Prez, William Byrd, Johannes Ockeghem & John Sheppard, Sat 28 Jan, Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

**RAUTIO PIANO TRIO** Featuring Jane Gordon & Jan Rautio (pianos) & Victoria Simonsen (cello).

Programme includes works by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff & Ravel, Sun 29 Jan, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**CBSO SOUNDS NEW** Featuring Clark Rundell (conductor). Programme features CBSO commissions by Anna Appleby, Kristina Arakelyan, Tyriq Baker, Stephane Crayton, Nathan James Dearden, Benjamin Graves and more... Sun 29 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER** Programme includes works by Stanford, JS Bach, Whitlock, Ligeti & Mulet, Mon 30 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

**TABEA DEBUS (RECORDER) WITH THE CEDAR CONSORT** Featuring Benedict Williams (harpichord & direction), Anna Curzon & Rachel Stroud (violins), Elitsa Bogdanova (viola), George Ross (cello) & Rosie Moon (double bass). Programme includes works by Telemann, Blavet, Bach & Handel, Tues 31 Jan, St Mary's Church, Warwick

### Comedy

**GARY DELANEY** Tues 24 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ANDY ZALTZMAN** Wed 25 Jan, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**HARRY HILL** Thurs 26 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, SARAH CALLIGHAN & DAVE FULTON** Thurs 26 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**STEWART LEE** Thurs 26 - Fri 27 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**RACHEL FAIRBURN** Fri 27 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**GUZ KHAN** Fri 27 Jan, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**DAVID O'DOHERTY** Fri 27 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

**JUSTIN MOORHOUSE** Fri 27 Jan, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**AMY MATTHEWS, SARAH CALLAGHAN, DAVE FULTON & COMIC TBC** Fri 27 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JOSH PUGH, CELYA AB & LEO KEARSE** Fri 27 - Sat 28 Jan, The Old Sticky Wicket, Redditch

**ADAM BLOOM, ELLIOT STEEL, PAUL TONKINSON & PETE OTWAY** Sat 28 Jan, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

**SCOTT BENNETT** Sat 28 Jan, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**SAM SERRANO, AMY MATTHEWS, SARAH CALLAGHAN & DAVE FULTON** Sat 28 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**LUCY PORTER** Sat 28 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**NOREEN KHAN, SUKH OJLA, EMILY LLOYD-SAINI & MARIA SHEHATA** Sun 29 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham



*The Tempest - Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon*

**BERT KREISCHER** Sun 29 Jan, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**BARBARA NICE, LINDSEY SANTORO & COMICS TBC** Sun 29 Jan, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**LADIES OF LAUGHTER FEAT. NOREEN KHAN, SUKH OJLA (PICTURED), EMILY LLOYD-SAINI & MARIA SHEHATA** Sun 29 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

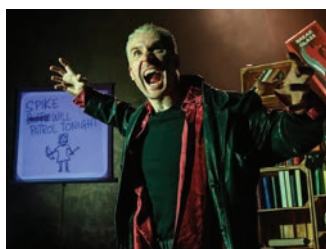


**GUZ KHAN** Sun 29 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

### Theatre

**MY THOUSAND YEAR OLD LAND (A SONG FOR BIH)** A story of the search for truth, justice and hope through three generations of women, Mon 23 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**BUFFY REVAMPED** Fast-paced theatre bringing the entire 144 episodes of the cult '90s TV show to the stage, Mon 23 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre



**TOM, DICK & HARRY** The Nonentities present an amateur version of Ray & Michael Cooney's farce, Mon 23 - Sat 28 Jan, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**THE FLINT STREET NATIVITY** Lichfield Players present a 'warm and witty' play where the children are played by adults, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

**NOUGHTS AND CROSSES** Malorie Blackman's captivating drama of love, revolution, and what it means to grow up in a divided world, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND** Presented by Kays Theatre Company, Wed 25 Jan, Worcester Swan Theatre

**HOWARD'S END** Mark Farrelly's acclaimed reflection on the life and loves of comedian Frankie Howard, Thurs 26 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ASSEMBLYWOMEN!** Aristophanes' play follows the women of Athens as they disguise themselves as men to infiltrate the government and take over the city. Presented by Warwick University Department of Classics & Ancient History, Thurs 26 - Fri 27 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**WODEHOUSE IN WONDERLAND** Cahoots Theatre Company presents William Humble's play, based on the life and writings of PG Wodehouse - with songs by Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Ivor Novello, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Jan, Malvern Theatres

**CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL** Amateur version presented by Cannock Chase Drama Society, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Jan, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**THE TEMPEST** Alex Kingston plays Prospero in Shakespeare's elemental tale of survival and forgiveness, Thurs 26 Jan - Sat 4 March, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SHERLOCK HOLMES - THE SIGN OF FOUR** One-man show in which Jonathan Goodwin plays Sherlock Holmes and a miscellany of other larger-than-life characters, Fri 27 Jan, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs





*Jurassic Live - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury*

**VAMPIRE'S ROCK** Classic rock musical starring Steve Steinman and a cast of singers, dancers and musicians, Fri 27 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**CINDERELLA: THE ADULT PANTO** Market Theatre Company present an evening of 'corny jokes, raunchy plots and blatant sexual innuendo using minimum set props and costumes', Sat 28 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

**PETER PAN** Amateur version presented by The Arts Centre Telford, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Jan, Telford Theatre

**TWINKLE** Philip Meeks' revenger's comedy, Sun 29 Jan, Loft Theatre Company, Leamington Spa

**LADIES (DOWN UNDER)** Amanda Whittington's fast-paced comedy - and sequel to Ladies Day. Journey with the fish-filleting foursome as they experience the trip of a lifetime in the

land of Oz, Mon 30 Jan - Sat 4 Feb, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

**THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's iconic murder-mystery starring Todd Carty (Major Metcalf) and Gwyneth Strong (Mrs Boyle), Mon 30 Jan - Sat 4 Feb, Malvern Theatres

## Kids Shows

**HUMPTY DUMPTY** Pantomime version of the classic children's nursery rhyme, Fri 27 Jan - Sat 4 Feb, The Civic, Stourport

**JURASSIC LIVE** Interactive adventure for younger audiences featuring 'mind-blowing' special effects and puppetry, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THE SMARTEST GIANT IN TOWN** Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved tale of friendship is brought to the stage with the aid of puppetry and music, Sun 29 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

**THE SMARTEST GIANT IN TOWN** Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved tale of friendship is brought to the stage with the aid of puppetry and music, Tues 31 Jan, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**FORBIDDEN NIGHTS 2023 TOUR: SEXY CIRCUS** Featuring a cast of acrobats, male vocalists, fire acts, aerial artists and circus performers, Fri 27 Jan, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE** An evening of cabaret, comedy, music, circus and burlesque, Sat 28 Jan, Dudley Town Hall

**GIRLZ WORLD** A non-stop diva extravaganza celebrating pop stars Arianna Grande, Billie Eilish, Pink, Taylor Swift, Miley Cyrus, Dua Lipa and more... Sun 29 Jan, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Talks & Spoken Word

**DANCING TO MUSIC YOU HATE WITH JASMINE GARDOSI** The award-winning spoken-word artist, beatboxer and multiple slam champion presents a brand-new show about gender identity, coming to terms with queerness, and 'finding the words', Tues 24 Jan, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**PASTA (POETS AND STORY TELLERS ASSEMBLE)** An open-mic night with a difference... Tues 24 Jan, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**AN EVENING WITH LEIGH BARDUGO** Join the bestselling fantasy author as she talks about her new novel, *Hell Bent*, Wed 25 Jan, The Old Rep, B'ham

**HENRY BLOFELD: MY DEAR OLD THINGS** The Test Match Special favourite recounts his days as a young England hopeful and how an encounter with a bus knocked him off his stride... Thurs 26 Jan, Halesowen Cornbow Hall



## Light Entertainment

**THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SERIAL KILLERS** Join true-crime expert Jennifer Rees to explore one of forensic psychology's most troubling topics, Tues 24 Jan, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

**JASON FOX: LIFE AT THE LIMIT** 'Breath-taking' story of Special Forces soldiering; a chronicle of operational bravery, adventure and courage both on and off the battlefield, Tues 24 Jan, Malvern Theatres

**SHELL SUIT CHER: BELIEVE IN BINGO** Laugh, dance and sing along to Cher's greatest hits - and hear about the superstar singer's wild journey from Vegas to Mecca... Fri 27 Jan, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**JORDAN ADAMS: ONE NIGHT ONLY** Lichfield performer Jordan presents some of the biggest songs from West End and Hollywood musicals in an evening of music and chat, Fri 27 Jan, Lichfield Garrick



**PSYCHIC SALLY** Evening of mediumship, Fri 27 Jan, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

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**BON JOVI**

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**THE BIG**



**MOTOWN & SOUL PARTY**

SUN 15 JANUARY



**Spiritual Psychic Night**  
with Karen Sherlock

(Channel 4's Celebrity Ghost Trip)

THURS 19 JANUARY

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**JILTED GENERATION**

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FRI 20 JANUARY

**ROXY MAGIC**

CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF BRYAN FERRY & ROXY MUSIC

SATURDAY 21 JANUARY



**INTERGALACTIC FAMILY RAVE**

SUNDAY 29 JANUARY

BUTTERMARKE / SHREWSBURY

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Big Fish Little Fish



Big Fish Little Fish  
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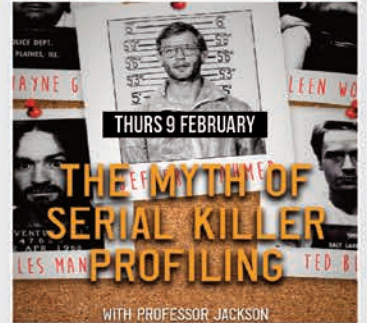
BACK TO THE 80S DJ SET

SAT 4 FEBRUARY

THURS 9 FEBRUARY

**THE MYTHS OF SERIAL KILLER PROFILING**

WITH PROFESSOR JACKSON



HOMETOWN GLORY PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

BACK BY DEMAND!

FRI 10 FEBRUARY

**ADELE**

IN CONCERT

STARRING NATALIE BLACK & HER LIVE BAND



**Cloudbusting**

The Music of Kate Bush

FRI 17 FEBRUARY

"Utterly, genuinely brilliant!"  
- UK's Great Rock magazine

Love & Anger




**Whitesnake**

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2023

SAT 25 FEB 2023 SHREWSBURY

**ROB LAMBERT!**

A CELEBRATION OF THE SONGS & MUSIC OF GEORGE MICHAEL



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THURS 23 MARCH

An audience with **Marilyn & Tia**



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**THE TOTAL STONE ROSES**

**OASYS**



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FEAT. ITV'S CRAIG HALFORD

BACK BY DEMAND!



EMERITUS AWARD WINNING KELLY DUNN

**The Dolly Show**

CELEBRATING THE LIFE & MUSIC OF COLLY PARTON

SAT 13 MAY



Saturday 20 May 2023

The Gary Barlow Tribute

**Dan Hadfield as Gary Barlow**

"He's Brilliant!" - Gary Barlow



Gordon Hendricks as **ELVIS**

THE KING'S VOICE

SAT 17 JUNE




Howard Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 2LF (2 MINS FROM THE TRAIN STATION)

BOOK: [www.thebuttermarket.co.uk](http://www.thebuttermarket.co.uk)



The background is a solid red color, decorated with scattered gold confetti consisting of small circles and eight-pointed stars. The main text is written in a large, elegant, gold-colored cursive font.

# Happy New Year

WISHING YOU HEALTH AND HAPPINESS  
FROM THE WHAT'S ON TEAM