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INTERVIEW INSIDE



Wolverhampton & Black Country

ISSUE 442 NOVEMBER 2023

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inside:

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as the BBC Good Food Show's winter edition returns to the NEC



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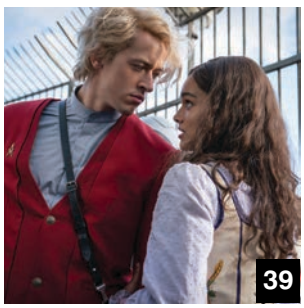

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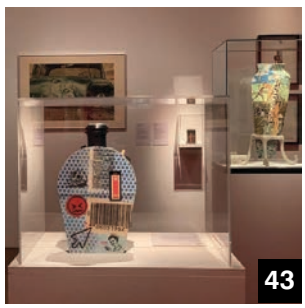

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Lighting up the Cathedral

Lichfield Cathedral is once again presenting a special light show for Christmas.
Delivered by acclaimed animation team Illuminos, the show will use popular carol In The Bleak Midwinter to tell the Christmas story, in the process 'introducing visitors to a kind and generous fox who gives gifts to other animals that he meets on his journey to see the newborn baby Jesus'... The Christmas Light Show runs from Saturday 16 to Wednesday 20 December and also on Friday the 22nd.
Tickets are available by visiting the Cathedral's website.

Bill Bailey back in the region with touring show



Comedian Bill Bailey is bringing his brand-new touring show, Thoughtifier, to Birmingham's Resorts World Arena early next year.
Promising a show that's replete with his 'trademark musical stylings and characteristic wit', Bill stops off in Brum on Tuesday 13 February.
For ticket information and to find out more, visit resortsworldarena.co.uk

A singalong with Matilda!

A unique interactive 'sing-a-long-a' show featuring the film Matilda The Musical will visit the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent early in the new year (Sunday 14 January).
Guests are strongly encouraged to wear fancy dress for the event, and full audience participation is 'essential'.
To find out more, visit atgtickets.com/stoke

G4 celebrates Christmas at Midlands cathedrals



The festive season is coming to the Midlands a few weeks early this year, courtesy of crossover classical favourites G4.
The one-time X Factor stars are bringing their Christmas show to the cathedrals of Lichfield (Tuesday 14 November), Worcester (Tuesday 21 November), Hereford (Wednesday 22 November), and Coventry (Tuesday 5 December). For further information and to book tickets, visit g4official.com

L.O.L. Surprise! heading to Wolverhampton venue

The hugely popular L.O.L. Surprise! dolls will be brought to life in a brand-new touring production next spring.
Featuring 'show-stopping choreography, exciting fashions and the ultimate Instagrammable sets', the School's Out tour stops off for three performances at The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton on Sunday 14 April.
The dolls have become a global phenomenon in recent years, with numerous celebrities, including Kim Kardashian, known to collect them.
To purchase tickets for the Wolverhampton shows, visit LOLSurpriseLIVEonTour.com



Major Titanic exhibition sailing into the NEC

A major exhibition about the Titanic - the British passenger liner which sank on its maiden voyage in 1912 after striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean - is visiting Birmingham's NEC next summer (Saturday 27 July - Sunday 25 August).
The display features brand-new interactive exhibits, remarkable footage of the wreckage, a diverse range of artefacts from the vessel, and a selection of props from the 1997 Kate Winslet/Leonardo DiCaprio blockbuster film.
For further information about the show, visit titanicbirmingham.co.uk

Andre Rieu to return to Resorts World Arena



André Rieu and his 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra will visit Birmingham's Resorts World Arena next spring.
The world-renowned Dutch violinist & conductor makes a pit-stop at the venue on Friday 17 May as part of a UK & Ireland tour.
For further information and to book tickets, visit resortsworldarena.co.uk

Christmas at Ironbridge

There's no shortage of festive fun to enjoy at Ironbridge Gorge next month.
The countdown to Christmas begins across the weekend of the 2nd & 3rd, when visitors to the hugely popular Shropshire attraction can enjoy breakfast with Santa and a festive afternoon tea.
December at Ironbridge also includes two Victorian Christmas Weekends and two evening events at Blists Hill Victorian Town...
For further information and to find out what's happening when, visit the website: ironbridge.org.uk



Shaun Ryder in Stourbridge

Happy Mondays and Black Grape frontman Shaun Ryder is hitting the road with a new spoken-word tour next year. The wild man of rock will be stopping off at Stourbridge Town Hall with his Happy Mondays, And Fridays, And Saturdays, And Sundays show on Wednesday 25 September. To book tickets, visit the website: boroughhalls.co.uk



Gladys Knight says farewell

Superstar singer Gladys Knight will visit Birmingham's Symphony Hall next summer as part of a farewell tour. The seven-time Grammy winner stops off at the venue on Tuesday 25 June. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit bmusic.co.uk

Oktoberfest tickets on sale

Tickets are now available for the 2024 edition of Shropshire Oktoberfest.
Featuring live music, a comedy club, a silent disco, carpool karaoke and over 150 real ales, ciders, gins, wine and cocktails, the popular event will take place in Shrewsbury Quarry on Friday 4 & Saturday 5 October.
To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website: shropshirefestivals.co.uk



The Vivienne and Strictly's Craig are off to see The Wizard!

Strictly Come Dancing legend Craig Revel Horwood will star as The Wicked Witch of the West when hit musical The Wizard Of Oz visits Birmingham Hippodrome next summer (Tuesday 11 - Sunday 16 June). RuPaul's Drag Race UK winner The Vivienne will then take on the famous role a few weeks later, when the production stops off at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre (Tuesday 30 July - Sunday 4 August).... More information about the show can be found at birminghamhippodrome.com and grandtheatre.co.uk



Mika heads for Wolverhampton

Platinum-selling artist Mika will next autumn stop off at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall as part of his highly anticipated Apocalypse Calypso tour.
The announcement comes just weeks before the release of the Beirut-born singer's new album on Friday 1 December.

New pup-tastic musical coming to the Midlands in 2024

A new musical version of 101 Dalmatians will visit Birmingham theatre The Alexandra next summer as part of a UK tour (Tuesday 2 - Saturday 6 July).
Based on Dodie Smith's classic book and reimagined from last year's acclaimed Regent's Park Open Air Theatre production, the show features 'spectacular puppetry, show-stopping choreography, hilarious songs and irresistible puppies!'
For more information and to purchase tickets, visit atgtickets.com/birmingham



Free Radio brings the hits to Resorts World Arena



Tom Grennan, Becky Hill and Cian Ducrot are among the artists who'll be performing at this year's Free Radio Hits Live event at Birmingham's Resorts World Arena.
The show takes place on Friday 24 November, with more information available on the venue's website.

Tamworth Castle wins top visitor attraction award

Tamworth Castle remains in the top 10% of attractions when it comes to pleasing customers, according to new figures released by international travel website Trip Advisor.
Commenting on the news, Tamworth Borough Council Chief Executive Andrew Barratt said: "The council prides itself on offering such an incredible gem as a heritage attraction, with more than 900 years of history to explore inside this great monument." For more information about the venue, visit tamworthcastle.co.uk

Derek Boshier exhibition still available to view

An exhibition celebrating the 60-year career of artist Derek Boshier continues to show at Wolverhampton Art Gallery this month.
Taking a rare overview of his career, Image In Revolt features examples of Derek's artwork from the post-war period right through to the digital age. His more recent work includes expressive paintings and drawings confronting gender, technology and war at the height of the #MeToo and Black Lives Matter movements. The exhibition shows until Sunday 21 January.





Festive gardens set to light up Telford Town Park

The Chelsea & Maxell Gardens in Telford Town Park will next month be transformed into a Twelve Days of Christmas show of light and sound. Visitors are invited to enjoy carols and festive music at the bandstand, while at the same time keeping an eye open for naughty elves! The gardens are open daily from Friday 15 to Wednesday 20 December.

Get your festive skates on at Attingham Park!

Shropshire's Attingham Park is this Christmas hosting 30-minute skating sessions on an innovative rink crafted from eco-friendly synthetic acrylic ice.
The rink will be open every afternoon from Saturday 2 December to Sunday 7 January (excluding Christmas Day). To find out more, visit nationaltrust.org.uk

Aled Jones' touring show to visit Lichfield Garrick

Singer Aled Jones will visit Lichfield Garrick next spring (Monday 15 April) as part of a brand-new tour.
Commenting on the news, Aled said: "I'll be telling stories about how it all began, then taking the audience on a journey through my career. There'll be songs, there'll be stories, and there'll be one or two surprises. There'll also be a book. It's going to be a very busy 2024, and I can't wait to get on the road and visit interesting places I've never visited before - and of course see my wonderful fans!" For further information and to purchase tickets, visit lichfieldgarrick.com

A cacao celebration...

A company which provides mushroom tinctures for medicinal purposes is celebrating its second birthday next month by holding a five-hour 'cacao celebration' at Dorrington Village Hall in Shrewsbury (Saturday 16 December).
The special event, hosted by Mama's Cottage Mushrooms - aka Kate Schenk and Matty Brookes - will feature meditation, healing and two hours of live music from DJ Manoeuvre. To find out more about the company and book tickets for the event, visit mamascottagemushrooms.org

Motionhouse to return to Theatre Severn in 2024

Award-winning Leamington Spa company Motionhouse will visit Shrewsbury next spring with their critically acclaimed 'dance-circus adventure', Nobody.
Bringing together 'raw physical strength and gravity-defying choreography', the production stops off at the town's Theatre Severn on Tuesday 2 April. Tickets are available by visiting the venue's website.

B:Music

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11 Nov | TH
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11 Nov | SH
The Brand New Heavies



12 Nov | SH
Classical Spectacular



15-17 Nov | SH
Eddie Izzard: The Remix



18 Nov | TH
Gareth Malone: Sing -Along-A-Gareth-2



21 Nov | TH
Marti Pellow: Pellow Talk, The Lost Chapter



23 Nov | TH
Boris Giltburg Plays Rachmaninov



01 Dec | SH
Symphony Orchestra of India

B:Festive

You never forget a great night out, or the person who made it possible! Whether you want to pop tickets or a gift voucher in a loved ones stocking or make memories with your bestie during the festive season: there's something for everyone at B:Music venues Town Hall & Symphony Hall this Christmas!

bmusic.co.uk

Acosta show out on tour

A show conceived more than a decade ago by Birmingham Royal Ballet Director Carlos Acosta will visit Birmingham Hippodrome next spring (Monday 6 & Tuesday 7 May).
Taking the title On Before and featuring Carlos himself performing as both a soloist and alongside Laura Rodríguez - a founding member of his Cuban dance company, Acosta Danza - the production is being presented at the venue by Norwich Theatre and its co-producing partner, Valid Productions.
More information and tickets are available at birminghamhippodrome.com



Core panto is heading to the Artrix (Oh yes it is!)

Solihull's Core Theatre is moving a number of its upcoming shows - including this year's pantomime production of Jack And The Beanstalk - to Artrix Arts Centre in Bromsgrove due to the temporary closure of its main auditorium.
Existing ticketholders for the panto and other affected productions are currently being contacted, and a number of shows taking place at Artrix in November and December are now back on general sale, or will go on sale imminently.
The rest of the Core building remains open.
For more information about what's on at the Core and Artrix, and to book tickets, visit thecoretheatre.co.uk

The Crooked House the theme at Dudley festival

Himley's iconic Crooked House pub, which burned down and was subsequently demolished in August, will be the theme of this year's Dudley Winter Ales Fayre.
More than 60 real ales and ciders will be available to enjoy at the event. The fayre takes place at Dudley Town Hall from Thursday 23 to Saturday 25 November.



World-class dance at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre has joined Dance Consortium, an organisation committed to touring 'the best contemporary dance from around the world' to venues across the UK & Ireland.
To mark the brand-new collaboration, the consortium will next year bring São Paulo Dance Company to the Grand. The talented ensemble are touring the UK for the first time and visit Wolverhampton on Friday 15 & Saturday 16 March. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit grandtheatre.co.uk

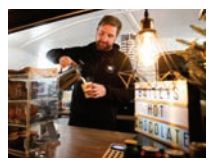
Hit movie gets the full-orchestra treatment

Hit 1990 film Home Alone will be screened at Utilita Arena Birmingham this Christmas, with the movie's John Williams-composed score being performed live by a full orchestra and choir.
Home Alone In Concert stops off in the city on Wednesday 20 December as part of a UK arena tour.
To find out more, visit the venue's website: utilitaarenabham.co.uk

RAF Museum volunteer awarded an MBE

RAF Museum Midlands volunteer Roy Martin has been awarded an MBE to mark 50 years of service and commitment to the heritage sector.
Roy was presented with his medal by HRH The Prince of Wales in a ceremony held at Windsor Castle last month.
Commenting on the news, RAF Museum Midlands' CEO, Maggie Appleton, said: "Roy is a brilliant engineer and problem-solver - and even more important, he supports all of us with his warmth and generosity of spirit. Roy's award is a very fitting and much-deserved tribute."

Festive goodies on offer at Weston Park market



Weston Park is hosting a Christmas market across two weekends next month.
Bringing together more than 100 local food and craft traders, the market takes place on 2 & 3 and 9 & 10 December.
Weston's miniature railway will be open across both weekends, as will Temple Woods for visitors wanting to take a stroll.
To find out more, visit weston-park.com

Cut The Crap! with Sharon Osbourne

Sharon Osbourne is visiting Birmingham theatre The Alexandra in the new year with a brand-new show (Wednesday 24 January).
Titled Cut The Crap, the production will see Ozzy Osbourne's better half 'revealing all' about 'some of the hardest years of her eventful life - from the anguish of a broken marriage and heavy-metal icon husband Ozzy's infidelities, to the constant spectre of drug abuse in her family, the loss of friends, betrayal by colleagues, and her ongoing battles with mental-health issues'. To book your seat, visit atgtickets.com/birmingham

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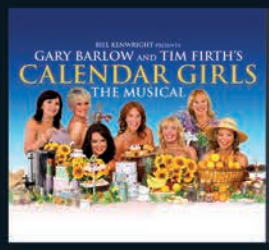
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JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

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SING-A-LONG-A MATILDA

SUN 14 JAN 2024

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REGENT THEATRE

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POP PRINCESSES
THU 2 NOV | VICTORIA HALL

PAUL YOUNG – BEHIND THE LENS
FRI 3 NOV | VICTORIA HALL

LOST IN MUSIC – ONE NIGHT AT THE DISCO
SAT 4 NOV | VICTORIA HALL

DANIEL MARTINEZ FLAMENCO – ART OF BELIEVING
SAT 18 NOV | VICTORIA HALL

SIMON REEVE – TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
SUN 19 NOV | VICTORIA HALL

THE SERIAL KILLER NEXT DOOR WITH EMMA KENNY
WED 22 NOV | VICTORIA HALL

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THE NUTCRACKER

brings a sprinkling of fairy dust to the New Vic for Christmas

by Diane Parkes

Firm festive family favourite The Nutcracker offers plenty of magic and sparkle as it takes audiences young and old on a series of enchanting adventures. Newcastle-under-Lyme's New Vic Theatre is this Christmas presenting a version of the story that blends drama with dance and promises to delight. The venue's artistic director, Theresa Heskins explains what theatre-goers can expect from the show...

The New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme is promising families and schools a truly special theatrical experience this festive season, courtesy of its very own production of The Nutcracker.

Adapted and helmed by the theatre's artistic director, Theresa Heskins, the brand-new show - subtitled A Christmas Fairytale - brings together drama, music and magic to conjure up a series of enchanting adventures.

In order to create a new work for audiences of all ages, Theresa has gone back to the original Nutcracker fairytale, written by Prussian author ETA Hoffman, and blended it with elements of Tchaikovsky's hugely popular ballet.

"It's an amazing story about Christmas," says Theresa, "and about the toys under the Christmas tree, and the fairy at the top of the tree coming to life. They have an adventure to protect Christmas from the Mouse Queen, who wants to eat all the sweets."

The story sees youngster Marie taking on the rogue rodent with the help of some familiar characters, including the Nutcracker doll and the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Theresa's inspiration for the sweet-grabbing Mouse Queen came from her own life, when she discovered that mice have a taste for chocolate...

"My little brother is a real chocolate fiend. I was clearing up his room and discovered that a mouse had run riot and eaten all his chocolate. And it had even nibbled anything the chocolate had been near, such as his i-pad case.

"I realised then just how much mice love chocolate! So our idea is that the baubles which are hanging on the Christmas tree are handmade gingerbread and chocolate, and the Mouse Queen just finds all of that irresistible - and she will destroy Christmas by destroying the Christmas tree.

"Our Mouse Queen, played by Kaitlin Howard, is six foot tall and an amazing fighter - so this is a quite seriously dangerous mouse that we've got on stage here!"

While the production features some of Tchaikovsky's much-loved music, it is very much a drama rather than a ballet, says Theresa.

"This has a lot more plot, which comes from the book. It's a proper play, and it's an adventure. There's loads of fighting in it and also a lot of dancing - we're still honouring its existence as a ballet - but it's got a clear story and characters and dialogue.

"We have three musicians - and some of the cast are musicians as well - so we'll be recreating that music, and we're really excited about that. Faz Shah is our musical director and a really talented lead violinist. James Atherton, who is adapting and directing the music, is collaborating closely with his friend Tchaikovsky to create slightly edited music - but anybody who loves the music or the ballet will find all their most precious moments intact and celebrated.

"We're hoping that it will work for people of all ages, as our Christmas shows always do. We have really tiny children coming in and people through the generations - right up to quite elderly people who are coming along with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Families often come together, and our Christmas show becomes a family event which they will often come back to year after year."

The production also includes a sprinkling of fairy dust. "We're always big on magic, and Christmas is our favourite time of year. We're a theatre-in-the-round, so it's often quite tricky to make magic work here, but we work really hard at Christmas to bring something quite extraordinary to the space.

"So we bring some magic to make the tree grow, and we also have a character from the book, Uncle Drosselmeyer, who's a magician. And then there are all sorts of other wonders and treats, like how we make it snow inside so it will be 110 per cent Christmas.

"The theatre-in-the-round is a unique experience. It's so alive, and what you see opposite you is other members of the audience. It's a very live event, and your imagination is part of that."

The New Vic team create a different Christmas production each year, with recent offerings including versions of Alice In Wonderland, The Prince And The Pauper and The Snow Queen. Running for approximately two months, the festive show is always a winner with local audiences.

"About one in 10 people from across the Potteries come to our Christmas show every single year. So it feels like a huge responsibility - but also a very special gift that we're able to make for the people of the area - to create this very special thing that has become so many people's Christmas tradition.

"It's always a very lovely show. It's not panto; it's a proper piece of theatre that all the family can come to and hopefully be inspired by for the rest of their lives. So many families are dispersed, but they come back to see each other at Christmas, and one of the things we offer is the opportunity for a family to come and do something Christmassy together."

The theatre's festive show is also a big draw for local schools, whose children are invited to go beyond the stage experience and discover more about the story.

"About two-thirds of our shows are for school groups. We ask them to engage with the ideas beforehand by making a work of art for our exhibition space that is then exhibited all through the run. We have workshops and a fantastic pack for them to be engaged in, too.

"They will come right from reception class. Sometimes a whole school comes for a Christmas treat, and it's so special to see all those young people enjoying a piece of theatre. For some of them, it will be the first theatre they've seen in their lives, and that's fabulous; to think that forever after they will feel that the theatre is a place which will welcome them and where they can enjoy being.

"We absolutely make sure that the experience is the most magical and will give them memories for years to come."

The Nutcracker: A Christmas Fairytale shows at the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, from Friday 17 November to Saturday 27 January


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Boris Giltburg Plays Rachmaninov

Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 23 November

"Two of the Preludes were the beginning of my own discovery of Rachmaninov, and I fell in love, completely and hopelessly."
So says the phenomenally talented Boris Giltberg, a pianist renowned for the sensitivity and panache with which he performs the composer's work.
To mark the 150th anniversary of Sergei Rachmaninov's birth, Boris is here playing three of the great Russian composer's much-loved Preludes. He begins with the early Prelude in C sharp minor, a piece which was demanded as an encore by audiences wherever Rachmaninov performed. The concert also features Preludes Op 23 and 32.

The Notos Quartett

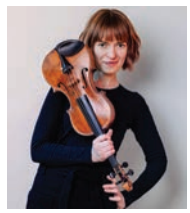
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 8 November

The Notos Quartett's mission statement is an impressive one: to perform the well-known masterpieces, to reveal lost and forgotten treasures, and to champion new compositions for the unique genre of the piano quartet...
All of which they've been doing to excellent effect, along the way picking up numerous prestigious awards and establishing themselves as one of Europe's most accomplished chamber ensembles. Visiting Ludlow for a third time, they present a programme featuring works by Mozart, Walton and Brahms.



Classical Spectacular

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 12 November

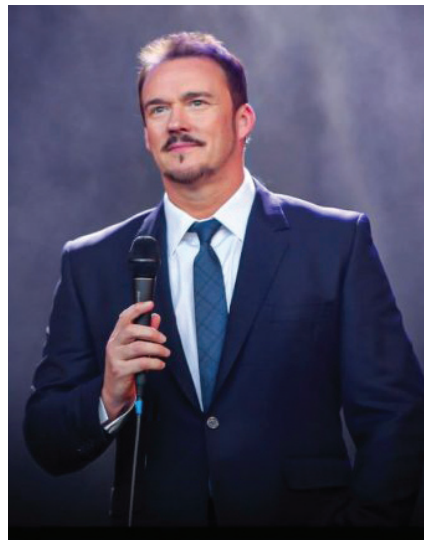


This well-established annual event sees the London Concert Orchestra presenting more classics than you can shake a conductor's baton at, with Nessun Dorma, Rule Britannia! and Land Of Hope And Glory certain to have the audience flag-waving in the aisles.
Elgar's Nimrod features too, as does Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending, Ravel's Bolero, Vivaldi's The Four Seasons and Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty Waltz.
And with fireworks and lasers also contributing to the spectacle, expect to be reminded of those balmy Summer Proms nights, when the bubbly flowed freely and Christmas was but a distant expense on a faraway horizon...
Anthony Inglis conducts; the soloists are Fenella Humphreys (violin - pictured) and Viv McLean (piano).

Russell Watson

Shrewsbury Abbey, Thurs 16 & Sat 18 November

It's more than 20 years since Russell Watson released debut offering The Voice, an album which topped the classical charts in both the UK and US, catapulting him to stardom.
Despite often being accused of sitting on the fence musically, the man widely referred to as 'the people's tenor' boasts an army of loyal and appreciative fans - a Midlands contingent of whom will no doubt be packing out Shrewsbury Abbey for this latest concert. Expect to hear 'classic songs old and new, together with a selection of hits from his illustrious career'.



Magical Mozart By Candlelight

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 16 November

Surely an ideal classical music experience for a dark autumn night, this cosy candlelit event finds the European Baroque Ensemble and Singers presenting a programme of Mozart's best known and most loved compositions. Featured pieces include Symphony no40, Lacrimosa (requiem D Minor), and Eine Kleine Musik, as well as excerpts from operas The Magic Flute, The Marriage Of Figaro and Cosi Fan Tutte.
The show has certainly been well received on its travels - although some reviewers have lamented the fact that the necessary stage lighting has somewhat compromised the 'by candlelight' element of the experience.



THE BOHEMIANS
Comprehensive re-enactment of Queen's greatest hits
Friday 3 November



THE MAKINGS OF A MURDERER
Investigating the UK's most notorious serial killers
Friday 10 November



A CELEBRATION OF FATHER TED
Starring renowned Irish stand-up and actor Joe Rooney
Friday 10 November



NOEL FITZPATRICK
An uplifting and motivating live show from TV's *Supervet*
Saturday 11 November



CLASSICAL CHILLS LIVE
Feat. Gig Caritas Orchestra, conducted by Keith Horsfall
Sunday 12 November



SOUL TRAIN
All aboard for a fine feast of 1960s and 70s soulful gems
Thursday 16 November



AN EVENING WITHOUT KATE BUSH
Celebrating one of British music's most influential voices
Thursday 16 November



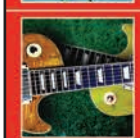
BOWIE EXPERIENCE
A spectacular show featuring all the hits from A to Ziggy
Friday 17 November



THERE'S A MONSTER IN YOUR SHOW
Brand new musical show based on Tom Fletcher's books
Thursday 23 November



BALLET CYMRU
Roald Dahl's *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Three Little Pigs*
Friday 24 November



THE MUSIC OF PETER GREEN
Celebrating the life and music of Fleetwood Mac founder
Friday 24 November



DAVE GORMAN
Top stand-up back with hit show *PowerPoint to the People*
Thursday 30 November

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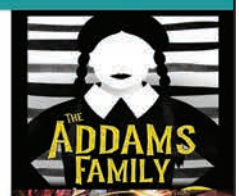
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80S MANIA
Fri 17 November • 7.30pm • £27.00



AMCS PRESENTS DICK WHITTINGTON
Thurs 23 – Sat 25 November • 7.30pm
(2.30pm Sat matinee) • £8.00 – £15.00



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WIZARD OF OZ BALLET
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MAGIC OF MOTOWN
Thursday 14 December • 7.30pm • £29.00



SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS: CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME
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Sound Of The Sirens

Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury, Sun 12 November

Rightly considered to be one of the UK's hardest-working folk acts, Abbe Martin & Hannah Wood are nowadays reaping the rewards of a decade spent honing their craft. The West Country duo, who write and perform everything from beautiful, emotive ballads, to upbeat, foot-stomping, hands-in-the-air anthems, have been widely praised for the quality of their live shows, during which their authentic camaraderie and natural chemistry is clear for all to see.



Ian Prowse & Amsterdam

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 3 November

Currently frontman of Liverpool pop/rock group Amsterdam, singer-songwriter Ian Prowse previously played with Cheshire indie rockers Pele, whose debut offering, Fireworks, was released to great critical acclaim... To celebrate its 30th anniversary, Ian is revisiting the album with his six-piece Amsterdam band.





The Dead South

The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton, Sat 4 November

Canadian four-piece The Dead South are used to being an anomaly pretty much wherever they go.
Rising to stardom on YouTube and often referring to themselves as "Mumford And Sons' evil twins", the band produce music that harnesses aspects of punk, fingerpickin' and bluegrass. In the process they take a progressive and tightly constructed approach to their acoustic output.
"Our version of bluegrass is mixed with the punk, rock and metal influences we listened to growing up," explain the boys. "We really love the storytelling aspect of bluegrass, and we're a bluegrass band in instrumentation; it's just that in terms of writing songs and how we perform, we feel more like a punk or rock band."

Cucamaras

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 23 November

Cucamaras certainly didn't step into the limelight fully formed.
The Nottingham indie band freely admit that they're nowadays less than impressed with some of their early music, which they bluntly describe as '**cking soulless'.
A 'bit of a sit-down' together saw them taking a fresh approach to songwriting and musicmaking. The change in direction has resulted in them becoming one of the hottest emerging bands around.

China Crisis

The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 16 November

Initially a politically charged post-punk band inspired by their love of David Bowie, Steely Dan, Brian Eno and Talking Heads, China Crisis adapted their music, created a more commercial sound, and took the 1980s by storm... Expect all their greatest hits when they stop off in the Black Country this month, including Christian, Black Man Ray and King In A Catholic Style.

Chris Difford

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 18 November

Along with writing partner Glenn Tilbrook, Squeeze founding member Chris Difford has penned some of the most enduring songs of the last half century, including Up The Junction, Cool For Cats and Labelled With Love.
As with many high-profile figures, the Grammy-nominated and double Ivor Novello Award-winning lyricist has of late embraced the podcast world. His show, titled I Never Thought It Would Happen, has seen him joined by musical guests including Nile Rodgers, Sting, Robbie Williams, Billy Bragg and Dame Evelyn Glennie to talk about the highs and lows of their careers.



LET'S HEAR IT FROM THE BOY!

Boy George talks about making his panto debut in Peter Pan at Resorts World Arena...



by Steve Adams

A spectacular big-budget adaptation of Peter Pan flies into Birmingham this Christmas, with elements of cirque, animation and animatronics all helping to put a new spin on JM Barrie's classic adventure story. The show also sees pop superstar Boy George make his pantomime debut as Captain Hook, a role that enables him to show off his evil side - as he tells What's On...

The producers behind last year's arena-filling pantomime Elf The Musical are at it again this festive season. A new production of Peter Pan, which they're proclaiming a 'supersize spectacle', comes complete with special effects, aerial stunts, immersive digital sets and even a huge floating galleon. Oh, and there's a cast of 50, including a dozen cirque performers, a troupe of Irish and Highland dancers, rising comedy star Jordan Conway, and pop icon Boy George (another Boy who never grew up?) as the villainous Captain Hook.

The play marks 62-year-old George's debut in pantomime, and he's revelling in the chance to play the bad guy.

"I'm really looking forward to playing Captain Hook and showing off my evil side!" he says. "I make my first entrance on the life-size galleon that sails around the stage in front of an amazing water-wall fountain.

"Although the show has traditional pantomime elements, it is so much more, being a mix of cirque and spectacular event. And I get a chance to fight a giant animatronic crocodile! What's not to like?"

Playing Hook comes after a lengthy Culture Club tour of the UK, US and Australia - and the scale of 'the world's biggest panto' production is clearly something that appealed.

"The scale and spectacle is what attracted me. If I was going to do a panto, it would have to be something special and unique," he says, admitting he'd turned offers down in the past.

"With me, whenever I do something, it's very instinctual and in-the-moment, so it wasn't something I thought about long and hard. I'd seen that Martin Kemp had done it on TV, and I thought it would be fun. It's very British. I think it's going to be a hoot."

As much as the scale of the production is what drew George to it, when I suggest that the spectacular visuals and special effects might ease any pressure on him as the show's star name, he's having none of it.

"I'm definitely not going to hide behind the hydraulics! When I do something, I commit to it completely. I don't do anything in a half-hearted manner, whether it's making a cup of coffee or playing Captain Hook. All those things are going to make the show fun, but I wouldn't do it if I wasn't prepared to do everything I can to make it great!"

Whether 'doing everything' means he'll finally get round to reading the JM Barrie novel or watching any of the numerous movie adaptations is another matter, as George admits he's not overly familiar with the story.

"It's one of those things that's always been there. I don't know it. I've never read the Bible, but I know that."

Previous interpretations are clearly not as important as the current one, and George is quick to highlight elements of the new production that are likely to be, er, highlights...

"There's one bit in the show where I get 200 inflatable cannon balls thrown at me by the audience. It's going to be insane. I'm looking forward to learning the sword fights, too."

He's also relishing working with the rest of the cast, and expects to have plenty of fun with Jordan Conway, who's playing Hook's nemesis, Peter Pan.

"He's very dedicated and has a similar sense of humour to me. I'm sure he and I will be adlibbing plenty, especially in a scene where we trade insults before we launch into the sword fight. He's just done a 15,000-feet sky-dive in costume to publicise the show. I'm not that dedicated!"

A cast member he knows even better is Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills star Dorit Kemsley, who will make her stage debut in the show as the mermaid. The two are long-term friends and George is godfather to both her children, but he's clearly not prepared to get into anything too personal during our conversation.

"Obviously I've already met some of the cast and they are all adorable, so it's going to be a fun, family-orientated experience.

"I don't see it as work, I see it as fun. I've never really had a regular job, so to me it's very exciting."

He's had 'irregular' jobs, of course, which in recent times have included appearing in I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here! and as a judge on TV talent show The Voice. Variety and novelty seem to be important factors in his working life, and the chance to keep being that Boy who never grew up.

"I've always been a bit of a kid at heart - I still have a sense of adventure and welcome new challenges. The important thing is to embrace new ideas, and with Peter Pan I plan to take it seriously and do the best I can."

He's determined to do the same with his music, and admits he's desperate to get back into the studio to put the finishing touches to some new solo material before going back on the road again.

"I've recorded enough music to release 10 albums in one day! I'm going to be doing my own thing next year. I've got some projects in the pipeline, but in terms of 'live', I want to go out with my own solo band - and I won't be doing any Culture Club songs."

Avoiding his biggest hits sounds like a risk, but George evidently likes taking them - and the life of a touring musician and performer is clearly one that suits him.

"I love touring - I could spend my entire life on the road. I don't necessarily enjoy the travelling aspect of it, but I love arriving in new places, I love a hotel room and I love room service."

It's a lifestyle that looks set to continue. Once the Peter Pan tour is over in January, he's heading back across the Atlantic, confirming the rumours that he'll be performing a residency of solo shows in New York.

"It looks like I'm heading for Broadway after Christmas. No rest for the wicked - and they don't get any more wicked than Captain Hook."

Peter Pan shows at Resorts World Arena, Birmingham, on Friday 22 & Saturday 23 December

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER











































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Eddie Izzard

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 15 - Fri 17 November

Not many comedians make it to God-like status through stand-up alone. Jerry Seinfeld had a TV show, while Saturday Night Live alumni like Steve Martin and Bill Murray used Hollywood to make the big-time.

Only performers like Bill Hicks, Jackie Mason and Lenny Bruce managed it through stage work alone - but you can definitely add Eddie Izzard to that list.

Eddie's been working a live crowd since the late 1980s, building a colossal reputation via high-quality material based around skewed logic and surreal tangents.

This latest visit to the Midlands sees the 61-year-old comic present a show described by its publicity as 'a beautiful, hilarious journey spanning a 35-year career of thought-provoking, intelligent and surreal ideas'.



Sally Anne Hayward

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 18 November; Stourbridge Town Hall, Sat 15 June



If you're a Sarah Millican, Russell Howard, Russell Kane, Hal Cruttenden or Suzi Ruffell fan and have attended some of their shows, there's every chance that prior to the main event, you will have had your laughter muscles nicely lubricated for you by Sally-Anne Hayward.

A real comedian's comedian, Sally-Anne is here standing in the full glare of the spotlight herself, her ever-so-nice persona concealing a caustic wit, cutting cynicism and generally bitchier side that serves her well as she takes a tongue-in-cheek look at modern life.



Lucy Beaumont

Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 9 November; Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Sun 12 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 23 November

No less a laughter merchant than the highly praised Arthur Smith has described Lucy Beaumont as 'the next Victoria Wood in the making'. Others have called her 'a riot' and praised her 'devastating comic timing'.

For Lucy's part, though, she's just grateful that performing no longer feels like an out-of-body experience.

"I started out acting but quickly realised I needed to try something else," says the Hull-born comedian, who is married to fellow comic Jon Richardson, with whom she often appears on television. "I've had all sorts of humorous things happen to me in my life, so I thought it made sense to see how I'd do at being funny."

Reginald D Hunter

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 3 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 10 November; Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 17 November; The Old Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 28 March



One of the most popular comedians currently working the UK comedy circuit, the Georgia-born Reginald D Hunter's no-nonsense style and hugely amusing perspectives on the differences between the US and the UK have struck a real chord with his audiences. "I felt like an outsider in America when I was growing up," he reveals, "and I feel like an outsider in Britain now. The difference is that feeling like an outsider in Britain seems... normal. There are people who've lived here all their lives who feel like outsiders, but one of the things I love about Britain is that it makes room for what y'all like to call 'the eccentric'. I mean, hell, Britain makes a warm and comfortable space for mother****ers who just like staring at trains! I think that's very evolved."

Adam Rowe

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 17 November; Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 1 December; Dudley Town Hall, Fri 9 February

Adam Rowe well remembers the day he died in Stockport (on stage, of course).

"It was the day I got my A-Level results," recalls the Liverpool-born comedian, "and I realised I wasn't going to university for another year. I decided to rant about my day and not do my material. I died on my arse and got gonged off. Awful."

Fortunately for Adam, most of his gigs bear no resemblance to that one. Blending an affable persona with a quick wit and clever material, he's now well established on the UK comedy circuit and is definitely worth a look.





A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

Midlands actor Ian McIntosh doesn't have a religious background, but playing the lead role in a critically acclaimed production of Jesus Christ Superstar has made him curious about the stories that inspired Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic rock opera...

Two years after its 50th anniversary, Jesus Christ Superstar remains one of the best-known and most controversial rock musicals of them all.

Telling the story of the final weeks of Jesus' life through the eyes of his betrayer, Judas Iscariot, the hit musical, written by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, was only intended as a concept album - until, that is, unexpectedly huge sales prompted a concert tour and eventually a stage production, which opened on Broadway in 1971.

The show has gone on to enjoy five decades of global success, but no one expected it to turn out that way. In a recent interview, Lloyd Webber recalled a potential investor knocking it back as 'the worst idea in history', not least because their version of the story drew the ire of Christians and Jews alike. The former accused the producers of blasphemy - omitting the resurrection and portraying Judas as a hero, among other charges - and the latter of antisemitism, with Jewish leaders fearing the show laid the

by Steve Adams

blame for Jesus' crucifixion at their door.

None of which sounds like typical musical fare, but the quality of the show and its iconic score - which contains classic tunes such as I Don't Know How To Love Him, Gethsemane and the title song - has made it a global phenomenon, with countless productions all over the world.

The latest version, a gritty reimagining by Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, more than keeps the ball rolling, winning critical acclaim as well as an Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival. And if the original took liberties with its biblical source material, then the latest version could be seen as an even riskier venture, making the story about the idolisation of a rock star rather than a religious figure.

Coventry-born actor Ian McIntosh plays Jesus as "the idolised lead singer of an indie band". Ian accepts that while it might not be to everyone's taste, there's nevertheless a truth, honesty and even reverence to the endeavour, much like the original.

"It's difficult not to offend anybody nowadays, but I think Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice have created a story that holds some sort of fundamental truth," he says. "Suffering is what life is, and being courageous through the suffering is what it's about."

Ian says he's witnessed virtually no adverse reaction to the show - there's been one protestor outside one theatre so far. Indeed, if anything, he thinks it has opened people's eyes to 'the story behind the (new) story', particularly for those who had little or no interest in the religious element in the first place.

"I think people are grateful that the message is being translated in a way that brings curiosity about the story of Christianity. Even though that might not have been what they were going for, it's an amazing stepping stone - especially for me, who doesn't come from a Christian or religious background; I'm curious now to understand what all these stories mean."

Ian also thinks making Jesus the leader of an indie rock band - Judas and Mary are fellow members, Pilate an ageing rock star - gives the story a contemporary relevance and resonance as well as metaphorical connection to the original.

"The versions that have gone before might not have been exactly cheesy, but they were quite camp in how they were performed, whereas this one is more gritty and down to earth; a modern retelling of the story."

A publicity image of a blood-spattered Jesus being crowned with thorns definitely supports his claims.

"Yeah, it's pretty gory, but we want it to be real and hard-hitting. We tell the story of the pressures of somebody who is an idol but who's about to give it all up while he's right at the top, and no one understands why. He's giving up his voice, his instrument and his artistry, but the idea is that he's been promised that he'll achieve legendary status.

"That's how we've worked it. In the same way that Jesus died for our sins on the cross, he did it for us and we didn't understand why, but his legend is still going 2,000 years on. Plus, there's also the conflict, as he doesn't want to give it up - he wants to enjoy it while it's going so well."

Although this all sounds like it might be diluting a tale that so many revere - especially as the show ends with a crucifixion but no redemptive resurrection - Ian thinks that the lack of resolution adds a power and depth which some audience members find quite involving.

"It's really surprising to see how well audiences are taking a show that isn't just escapism. It's making them question themselves. I think they really appreciate being treated like adults.

"I had an Instagram message from somebody who said they were at the show with their mum, dad and brother, and that they all sat in silence in the car on the way home, as it had affected them so much. It feels really good to be a part of something that does that to people... They also said it was the best version they'd ever seen, so although it affected them, it didn't traumatise them or anything."

The show itself has plenty of laughs too, largely in the shape of comedian Julian Clary, who plays King Herod - although sadly not in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

"He's very, very funny - he's got naturally funny bones - and comes on stage in this enormous gold cloak, which adds to the bizarre nature of the show! We try to play on the absurdity of everything - even Jesus being put on a cross to die while people are singing Jesus Christ Superstar."

Ian admits "the audience clearly knows it's Julian Clary dressed up" when the comic is on stage, but says Timo Tatzber, the alternative Herod when Clary is unavailable, puts a totally different, edgier slant on the character.

"Timo comes from a musical theatre background and has his own quirky take on it - a lot more energy. His 'bizarre' is different, but it's still very bizarre."

Bizarre works in this context, of course, and Ian, who's been in more than a dozen musicals - including We Will Rock You and The Commitments - admits he's in awe of so many elements of the production.

"This isn't just me doing a plug, but I've never been in anything that's so complete as far as choreography, staging and music goes - musical supervisor Tom Dearing is a genius!

"The lighting is ridiculously good - in a touring show you sometimes lose that, but with this show the structure is a solid piece of apparatus, so the lighting can be recreated perfectly every night."

This sounds suspiciously like the rock concert his band are recreating?

"That's it, yeah," he agrees, before tragically falling at the final hurdle, telling me the show is performed in the style of a Mystery Play, without knowing that his home city is famous for having its own version ("Really? That's amazing! I must check them out!"). In his defence, he did leave Coventry at the age of 16 - a successful audition for Masters Performing Arts College in Essex put paid to his plans to be an electrician - so I let him elaborate all the same.

"We run on stage and you can see the whole structure being set up, ready to tell this story to the audience. I won't give the end away, but the idea is that we're immersed in the story but it starts with us being a mystery-play touring group that sets the stage up in the first place - it's really cool."

Jesus Christ Superstar shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 14 to Saturday 18 November; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Monday 19 to Saturday 24 February; and Birmingham Hippodrome, from Monday 22 to Saturday 27 April



Murder In The Dark

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 7 - Sat 11 November

"It's a ghost story surrounding a modern, dysfunctional family," says Tom Chambers, in talking about new play Murder In The Dark. "Travelling back from a funeral, they're involved in a car crash on New Year's Eve and are taken in by what seems like a nice old farmer's wife. She offers them temporary salvage in her farm cottage, but then all sorts of weird things start happening.

"The line is blurred between what's real and what's surreal, as the consequences of their past catch up with them in this eerie place. Things get scary because it's a psychological thriller, but at the same time you might be laughing because it's also unbearably comedic!"

Jesus Christ Superstar

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 14 - Sat 18 November; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 19 - Sat 24 February; Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 22 - Sat 27 April

Spreading the Gospel according to Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, the phenomenal rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar hits the road again. The production was Rice and Lloyd Webber's second collaboration and certainly courted its fair share of controversy when it first exploded onto the Broadway stage. With hits like I Don't Know How To Love Him, Hosanna, What's The Buzz?, and of course the title song itself to recommend it, the show tells the story of the adult life of Jesus Christ, as he teaches and preaches, performs miracles, ruffles the establishment's feathers and is eventually condemned to death... Originally staged by London's Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, this reimagined production won the 2017 Olivier Award for best musical revival.

I, Daniel Blake

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 8 - Sat 11 November



As the eponymous hero in Ken Loach's multi-award-winning film, I, Daniel Blake, comedian, actor & writer Dave Johns won the hearts of cinema-going audiences across the world.

So when he was asked to adapt the movie for a stage show, he jumped at the chance.

The story follows Dan, a fiftysomething Geordie, who has worked his whole adult life as a carpenter. After suffering a heart attack so serious that his doctors tell him to give up work, he turns to the state for support. But his benefits claim becomes a Kafkaesque nightmare in which he receives anything but help...

Women Of The Windrush

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 23 & Fri 24 November

The experiences of women who travelled to the UK from the West Indies between the 1940s and 1960s provides the subject matter for this celebratory opera, a stage reimagining of Shirley J Thompson's 1992 film, Memories In Mind: Women Of The Windrush Tell Their Stories.

Birmingham-based soprano Abigail Kelly leads the production, which brings together 'mesmerising' music with 'seamlessly woven' archival and film footage.

The opera visits Birmingham as part of a UK tour marking 75 years since the arrival in Britain of the Empire Windrush. The ship brought with it more than 800 passengers from the Caribbean, people who had travelled across the world to help rebuild Britain following the Second World War.

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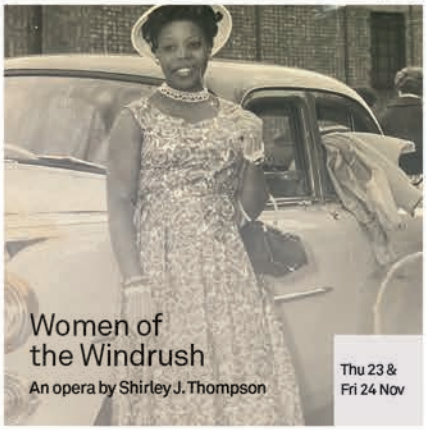
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Sat 11 Nov



Fri 17 Nov - Sat 9 Dec



Thu 23 & Fri 24 Nov



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Mon 12 - Sat 17 Feb 2024

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Wed 21 Feb - Sat 2 Mar 2024



Tue 5 Mar - Sun 7 Apr 2024

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Thu 11 - Sat 13 Apr 2024



Welsh National Opera

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 7 - Sat 11 November

This year celebrating its 80th anniversary, Welsh National Opera (WNO) is a regular visitor to the Midlands, performing hugely popular seasons of work at Birmingham Hippodrome. The company is committed to producing operas which are extremely accessible for its audiences, whether they be seasoned attendees or people checking out the artform for the very first time.
Keeping that mission statement firmly in its sights, WNO stops off in the second city this month with three stylish productions.

The first, Osvaldo Golijov's Ainadamar, reimagines the life of the Spanish poet & playwright Federico García Lorca. Labelled by the Falangist militia as a 'homosexual socialist', he was brutally executed in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War...
This is followed by a production of Verdi's timeless opera, La Traviata...
WNO's third offering, a family show titled Space Spectacular, provides youngsters with the chance 'to experience extraterrestrial activity, learn fun facts, and orbit the incredible world of opera and classical music'.

Dream State

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 13 & Tues 14 November

In a world where people no longer need sleep, Sleg and Grace decide that it's high time they dreamed big...
With its stated aim being to celebrate 'all that is good, bad, ugly, weird and wonderful about the world', Stratford-upon-Avon-based theatre company Sweet Sorrow visits Birmingham with this new short play, a production that explores 'dreams, what it means to *feel*, and our obsession with distraction'.

Picnic At Hanging Rock

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Tues 14 - Thurs 16 November

Joan Lindsey's Picnic At Hanging Rock, written in 1967, is widely considered to be one of Australia's greatest-ever novels.
Taking place on Valentine's Day in 1900 and framed as though it were a true story, it follows a party of students and tutors from Appleyard College for Young Ladies as they set out on a picnic to the secluded volcanic outcropping of Hanging Rock. But while they're there, three of the schoolgirls and their tutor go missing, never to be seen again...
This 'chilling adaptation' of the classic novel sees five performers explore the story in an effort to find a solution to the puzzling mystery.

Eric's Pride And Prejudice

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Mon 27 November - Sat 9 December

Eric Smith - actor David Graham's delightfully dysfunctional character - has certainly earned his place in the hearts of New Vic audiences since first appearing at the venue way back in 1999.
The Staffordshire favourite here makes a welcome return with his comic take on Jane Austen's classic tale. As usual with an 'Eric' production, the action is accompanied by a nostalgic 1960s soundtrack.

Gravest Fears

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 14 November

It's very much the time of year for spinetingling ghost stories, and this well-reviewed touring production is here presenting two classics of the genre. Both were written by English 'master of menace' MR James in the early 20th century, and both feature a cathedral as the seat of terror.
In The Stalls Of Barchester Cathedral, an ambitious cleric falls prey to an ancient curse built into the very fabric of the building...
An Episode Of Cathedral History, meanwhile, sees ill-advised restorations lead to the discovery of an ancient tomb... Robert Lloyd Parry stars.

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The Importance Of Being... Earnest?

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 November; Crewe Lyceum, Fri 24 - Sun 26 November

Anybody turning up at the theatre expecting to see a conventional version of Oscar Wilde's The Importance Of Being Earnest is in for a bit of a surprise.

Sure, this brand-new show is based on Wilde's oft-performed Victorian comedy, but the company behind it, the interestingly named Say It Again, Sorry?, have very much put their own spin on events.

When a traditional production of Earnest gets underway, everything seems to be going according to plan... until, that is, the lead actor fails to arrive on cue. His non-appearance sees the situation quickly descend into chaos, with the company desperately needing the audience's assistance as they battle to get the performance back on track...

A Noble Game

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 9 November

Described as a royal murder-mystery, A Noble Game focuses its attention on the outsider girlfriend of a twentysomething prince entering a dangerous game of deception and betrayal at a dinner party of privileged Gen-Z individuals.

When a murder is committed, a race against time - to find the killer and save everybody's public image - ensues. But in the age of social media, is it worse to be considered a murder suspect or find yourself faced with the horrifying prospect of being cancelled?...

After a successful run at Warwick Arts Centre, A Noble Game is currently in development to become 'bigger and better', a fact which means its enthusiastic cast will be performing the two-act play 'script in hand' and with minimal production.

The presentation is free to attend.

Jekyll & Hyde

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Fri 17 November



Dr Jekyll is not himself! Robert Louis Stevenson's classic gothic novella tells the tale of a brilliant but obsessive scientist whose sadistic alter-ego wreaks havoc across Victorian London.

This dark and twisted tale of love, redemption and the seductive power of evil stars Jonathan Goodwin as both Jekyll and Hyde.

The House With Chicken Legs

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 7 - Fri 10 November

Marinka is a young girl with a big problem. She's desperate to be normal; to stay in one place for long enough to make some new friends. But how can she possibly achieve her dream when her house has chicken legs and keeps her moving on?

Award-winning theatre company Les Enfants Terribles are the talented ensemble behind this stage adaptation of Sophie Anderson's bestselling book of the same title.



Tess

Malvern Theatres, Tues 14 & Wed 15 November

'Specialists in creating physical theatre on original equipment,' is how Ockham's Razor - the contemporary circus company presenting this bold new vision of Thomas Hardy's Tess Of The D'Urbervilles - describes itself.

"Rather than paint the circus performer as a superhuman character capable of impressive feats, we make work that draws on the human and the real, where the characters go through recognisable experiences, emotions and conflicts which the audience can relate to."

With Hardy's classic story hailed for its nuanced evocation of female relationships and sexual desire, Ockham's Razor will certainly have plenty of raw material with which to work. "Our retelling captures the beauty, heartbreak and yearning of the novel," the company explains, "and draws upon the incredible strength of the circus body to create a Tess as heroic as Hardy intended."

Cowbois

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 18 November

"Cowbois is co-directed by me and Sean Holmes [associate artistic director of Shakespeare's Globe]," explains playwright Charlie Josephine in talking about Cowbois. "It's a big queer cowboy show full of everything you'd expect from a western. But our lone ranger is a gender outlaw who fights patriarchy and inspires a queer revolution."

The lone ranger mentioned by Charlie is handsome bandit Jack Cannon, whose arrival in a sleepy, isolated, goldrush-era Wild West town bereft of men quickly puts the cat among the pigeons...

"My brain is fizzy and my body likes to move," says Charlie, whose pronouns are they/them. "I'm proper passionate about making art that's honest, visceral, sweaty - and particularly stories that centre working-class women and queer people."

ALISON HAMMOND MATT SLACK
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Jack and the Beanstalk

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Jack And The Beanstalk

**Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Wed 29 November - Sun 7 January**

If you're a dyed-in-the-wool fan of the Theatre Severn panto experience, you'll be delighted to know that this year's offering is following the usual recipe for success. What does that mean in practice? Well, to put some meat on the bone, it means Paul Hendy is writing it, Evolution is producing it, and Brad Fitt (pictured) is starring in it. Actually, Brad's taking the directorial reins as well, and not for the first time either - he also helmed last year's Theatre Severn pantomime production of Beauty And The Beast.
"There are pantos out there that go a bit near the knuckle - but I don't think ours does, really," says Brad. "I would never tell a joke that was offensive or rude. Sometimes you can use a double entendre - but then that's in your mind, that's not me. You have to blame yourself!"

Cinderella

**Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Wed 22 November - Sat 13 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 the most popular of all pantomimes...
And as is usual with the Belgrade's main-stage Christmas show, this year's production of Cinders has been written & directed by the multi-talented Iain Lauchlan.
'Spectacular sets, lavish costumes and singalong songs' all feature in a show that's sure to delight audience members of all ages.



The Nutcracker

**New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Fri 17 November - Sat 27 January**

"The ambition to do a stage play of The Nutcracker is one I've treasured for some time," says New Vic Artistic Director Theresa Heskins. "I want to bring together ETA Hoffman's original story with the adaptation by Alexandre Dumas and Tchaikovsky's music into a new play telling the story of the enchanted Nutcracker, who takes a journey up the Christmas tree to the Kingdom of Sweets to settle a score with the ferocious Mouse Queen.
"It's going to be a gripping story that's absolutely jam-packed with magic, beautiful music, and Christmas sparkle!"

The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe

**The Rep, Birmingham,
Tues 14 November - Sun 28 January**

This much-loved story from the pen of CS Lewis is rightly regarded as an all-time classic of children's literature. It sees the lion-god Aslan coming to the aid of four youngsters who've accidentally stumbled into his mystical world of Narnia...
This hit show visits Birmingham direct from the West End and features 'magical storytelling, bewitching stagecraft and incredible puppets'.

The Box Of Delights

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sun 7 January

The Box Of Delights, the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) festive family treat, is based on Poet Laureate John Masefield's fantasy novel of the same name, first published in 1935.
Returning home for Christmas, schoolboy Kay Harker finds himself unexpectedly entrusted with a small wooden box that has magical powers beyond his wildest dreams. But a ne'er-do-well wizard is after the box and will stop at nothing to get it, even threatening to cancel Christmas...
The RSC is promising theatre-goers a 'fantastically festive' production, with Justin Audibert taking the director's chair. Justin's previous work for the Company includes a critically acclaimed version of The Taming Of The Shrew back in 2019.
The Box Of Delights is suitable for children aged seven-plus.

Beauty And The Beast

**Lichfield Garrick,
Fri 24 November - Sun 7 January**

In common with Theatre Severn's pantomime production of Jack And The Beanstalk (see top of the page), the Garrick's Beauty And The Beast has been written by Paul Hendy and is produced by Evolution.
And also in common with Theatre Severn, the Garrick has a 'Dame of longstanding' taking centre-stage in its show... Sam Rabone has spent many a festive season in a nice frock or several at the venue, and this year returns to star as Madame Bellie Fillop.
Ben Thornton is back too, with the cast also including Six The Musical's Natalie Pilkington, starring as the Fairy, and Les Miserables actor Melad Hamidi taking on the role of the prince.



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Motionhouse: Starchitects Save Santa!
Fri 17 Nov - Sat 30 Dec
All ages

Catastrophe strikes! It's Christmas Eve and Santa has gone missing...
Blast off into the galaxy with the Starchitects, an adventurous group of friends who leave their cosy sleepover to embark on a daring rescue mission.

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Motionhouse: Starchitects Save Santa!

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Thurs 16 November - Sat 30 December

After scoring a stellar success with Starchitects, Motionhouse Dance Company now returns with a family-friendly sequel-show - and not a moment too soon, by the look of it! Why? Because it's Christmas Eve, Santa's gone missing, and the festive season is in serious danger of being cancelled.
Cue, the Starchitects - a group of adventurous friends who blast off into the galaxy to rescue the gift-dispensing Mr Claus.
Featuring 'gravity-defying choreography and amazing digital projections', this brand-new production is being hailed by Motionhouse as 'a visual spectacle like no other'.
If the company's first Starchitects show is anything to go by, you won't be disappointed.

Disney On Ice Presents 100 Years Of Wonder

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Wed 1 - Sun 5 November



Disney On Ice is back in Birmingham this autumn half-term-holiday with 100 Years Of Wonder. Featuring Mirabel and the stars of Encanto for the very first time in the UK, the show also includes plenty of well-established on-ice favourites...
There's Moana and Maui - who'll be busy trying to save the island of Motunui - the Disney Princesses, Frozen's Anna, Elsa & Olaf, the Toy Story gang, The Sorcerer's Apprentice from Fantasia, and Dory, Nemo, Marlin and new pal Hank.
The storyline sees Mickey Mouse being joined by his friends on a journey to discover his favourite memory of all time.

Stick Man

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Tues 14 - Thurs 16 November



"Freckle Productions send shivers down my spine," reveals Julia Donaldson, the co-creator (along with Alex Scheffler) of the hugely popular children's book on which this show is based. "They're so lively and innovative. I love their production of Stick Man, and so do the audiences."
Featuring a trio of talented performers, the show brings together puppetry, songs, live music and 'funky moves' to tell the story of Stick Man's desperate attempts to get back to the family tree.
Suitable for children aged three and older.

There's A Monster In Your Christmas Show

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington, Tues 7 November; Halesowen Town Hall, Thurs 23 November; Malvern Theatres, Sat 2 - Wed 6 December; Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 5 - Sat 6 April

Children's author Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures here leap from page to stage, as his critically acclaimed Who's In Your Book? series makes its debut as a brand-new musical.
The show sees Little Monster being joined by friends Dragon, Alien and Unicorn for 50 minutes of comedy, chaos and high-energy fun, during which the pals will be learning all about the joy of friendship and books.

The Gruffalo, The Giant And The Mermaid With Julia Donaldson

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 10 & Sat 11 November

What could possibly be more exciting for an avid Julia Donaldson fan than a visit to the theatre to watch a stage adaptation of one of her stories?...
...Well, how about a visit to the theatre to actually *meet* Julia - and to enjoy a show that's based on not just one of her bestselling children's books but several?
The Gruffalo author is joined by a cast of four to present a production that boasts songs, puppetry and plenty of audience interaction.
And just to top off what promises to be a memorable experience for little ones, Julia will be available to sign books at the end of each performance.

Milkshake Live

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 5 November

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

Tales From Acorn Wood

Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Tues 21 & Wed 22 November

Stage adaptations of books by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler invariably offer theatrical magic aplenty, so this is definitely a show that's well worth catching.
Presented by the team behind two other hit kids' productions, Dear Zoo Live and Dear Santa, the show features clever puppetry, toe-tapping songs, and the chance to join in with Pig and Hen's game of hide & seek.

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Paul Zerdin

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 5 November; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 9 November

"As a ventriloquist, I can get away with jokes that other comedians can't," explains Paul Zerdin. "I've got the luxury of taking the p*ss out of myself, but through the characters rather than me just being relentlessly self-deprecating.

"I can get away with having a go at the audience much more too; you get to be cheekier. Mocking the front row is a trademark of my characters, but I'm evolving my audience interaction beyond that."

Comedian and ventriloquist Paul, who won the 10th season of America's Got Talent back in 2015, here returns to the Midlands with brand-new show Puppetman.

Charles And Diana: The Reunion Tour

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Fri 17 - Sat 18 November



If you're someone for whom the decade of Glasnost, yuppies, Miami Vice and mullet hair-dos (we're talking the 1980s here) took place to a soundtrack of pounding pop numbers, then this is the show for you. Presented against a backdrop of hits from the likes of Ultravox, Madness, Billy Idol and Yazoo, The Reunion Tour sees Prince Charles & Lady Di presiding over 'a right royal 1980s knees-up'.

The show is performed by Tracey Collins and Russell Lucas. Tracey is a character comedian whose fun-filled creations include Audrey Heartburn, Elvis Lesley and Shell Suit Cher. Russell is best known from The Bobby Kennedy Experience and as co-creator of An Evening Without Kate Bush.

Fairytale In New York

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 3 November; Lichfield Garrick, Mon 6 & Tues 7 November; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Wed 15 November; Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 14 December

With a West End run and two sell-out tours under its belt, Fairytale In New York visits the Midlands in fine fettle and with an enviable reputation in tow.

The high-energy production - described by its publicity as 'the ultimate feelgood Irish-inspired Christmas show' - features a cast of singers, musicians & dancers performing a selection of much-loved yuletide songs - from chart-toppers such as White Christmas to traditional carols like Silent Night. Throw in some of 'the greatest Irish singalong songs of all time' and you've got the kind of show that should well and truly put you in the Christmas spirit.

The Rat Pack: Christmas In Vegas

Telford Theatre, Shropshire, Wed 29 November

The warm and authentic friendship between Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr - particularly during its heyday in the late 1950s and early 1960s - continues to be the stuff of legend.

The three superstar singers, affectionately known as The Rat Pack, were fun-loving guys who brought entertainment to millions with a nice'n'easy style it was hard to dislike...

This seriously impressive touring show, paying loving tribute to Frank, Dean and Sammy, is packed to its yuletide rafters with memorable tunes - from Frank's My Way, through Dean's Amore, to Sammy's Mr Bojangles. It also features a host of festive favourites, including Winter Wonderland, Let It Snow and White Christmas.

The Greatest Magician

Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Mon 20 November; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 13 January; Lichfield Garrick, Mon 13 May

In a production originally directed by his uncle, the late Paul Daniels, James Phelan baffles, befuddles and bemuses with feats of sorcery that seem certain to draw gasps of astonishment from awestruck audiences.



"I learned by watching and emulating what Paul did on TV," says James, "but I've been really careful not to do his stuff in my own show, or to inadvertently use his lines. I really need to avoid saying 'You'll like it' and then accidentally adding 'Not a lot!'!"

Queenz: The Show With Balls

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 18 November; The Core Theatre, Solihull, Tues 21 November; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 3 - Fri 5 April

Loved and adored by celebrities including Gary Barlow and Dawn French, Queenz is described as 'a trailblazing, life-affirming drag extravaganza that's currently taking the UK by storm'.

The show sees death-dropping divas slaying the biggest hits of all time - and there won't be a lip-sync in sight! So get ready to sing along to reimagined classics from The Spice Girls, Lady Gaga, Little Mix, Britney, Whitney and everything in between...



BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET



Photo © Manvir Rai

Director Carlos Acosta

Sir Peter Wright's

The Nutcracker

17 November – 9 December

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Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 17 November - Sat 9 December

Sir Peter Wright's version of this firm festive favourite returns to the Hippodrome courtesy (of course) of Birmingham Royal Ballet. Created in 1990 as a thank-you to the city for its support of the company following its move to the Midlands from London's Sadler Wells, Sir Peter's production is seen by many as the finest interpretation of Tchaikovsky's magnificent and mesmerising score.

In true Christmas spirit, the story follows the young Clara as she's swept up in a fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery, before finally being transformed into a beautiful ballerina. A magical, must-see show for theatre-going dance lovers everywhere, the production was last year enhanced by a £1million makeover.

Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs

Stourbridge Town Hall, Fri 24 November

Touring to an impressive number of venues throughout the UK on an annual basis, Ballet Cymru has garnered a reputation for innovative, challenging and original productions presented in an unpretentious way.

The company's Stourbridge show sees the dancers performing two of Roald Dahl's much-loved Revolting Rhymes - a 1982 collection of reinterpreted fairytales featuring surprise endings.



Crown Ballet: Swan Lake

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Wed 15 November; Telford Theatre, Thurs 23 November



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...

After last year scoring a hit with a solidly impressive version of this timeless classic - complete with Tchaikovsky's mesmerising score - the well-regarded Crown Ballet from Moldova make a welcome return to the UK

Bert & Nasi: The Beginning

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 29 November

Described by its two performers as a surreal meditation on life, The Beginning is an alternative dance piece about, well, beginnings: beginnings of shows, beginnings of relationships, beginnings of difficult moments... The aforementioned performers are Bertrand Lesca and Nasi Voutsas, two talented dancers who explore and muse on the different ways in which they can or could have started their shows and lives working together... The production sees them collaborating with a chorus of 15 non-professional participants, all of whom are 60 and over. It's a move which is aimed at providing a gentle reminder that beginnings don't stop with age, 'and that we can always choose when and how we want to begin.'




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James Wilton Dance: The Four Seasons

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Thurs 9 November

The award-winning James Wilton's choreography is always distinctive, his productions powered by an energy the audience can almost reach out and touch. Wilton's in-demand company previously scored a massive hit with Leviathan - a retelling of Herman Melville's Moby Dick - which is widely considered to be the ensemble's best and most finely tuned work to date.
James here makes a welcome return with The Four Seasons, a show which uses Max Richter's recomposed version of Vivaldi's seminal work and features the company's signature blend of capoeira, acrobatics, martial arts and classical dance.

Unknown Realms

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 7 November

Committed to the presentation of contemporary dance inspired by the African Diaspora, ACE Dance & Music here collaborate with two internationally acclaimed Black male choreographers - Serge Aime Coulibaly (Burkina Faso) and Vincent Mantsoe (South Africa) - to present a double bill of work which they describe as 'transcending the past and present'.
The Night Before Tomorrow sees people engaging in their last dance ahead of an uncertain future. Mana, The Power Within, meanwhile, aims to 'trace the journey of past lives by unifying beliefs & cultures'.



Waltzing The Blue God

The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 10 - Sat 11 November

Wolverhampton-based Jaivant Patel Company pop down the road to perform a show that presents traditional Indian artform Kathak in the context of a modern contemporary Britain that's proud of its LGBTQI+ narratives. The production is part-autobiographical, with choreographer Jaivant reimagining the Queer symbolism of Hindu gods Shiva and Krishna, and the role they played in his sexual awakening and spiritual relationship to faith.



Sonia Sabri Company: Roshi

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 9 November



"We've always tried to create something which is groundbreaking and pioneering," says Sonia Sabri. "I feel proud to say that we present something that's very new and very different. We've been at the forefront of creating new ideas for a long time, and that's exactly what we intend to continue doing."
Sonia's belief in the need to push the boundaries of dance is reflected in this new production - a show which she describes as "a captivating combination of Kathak dance, with live music and vocals from a global palette of styles, driven by the bold rhythms of Tabla percussion".

Rhythm Of The Dance Christmas Special

Malvern Theatre, Tues 2 November; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 19 November

Audiences are promised an evening of flutes, flailing fiddles, inspiring dances and, on this particular occasion, Christmas music, when popular touring show Rhythm Of The Dance stops off in the Midlands this month.
Expect world champion dancers, multiple costume changes, a state-of-the-art light & sound presentation, and impressive performances by talented vocalists and multi-instrumentalist musicians.

Giselle

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 6 November



Premiered in Paris in 1841, Giselle tells the story of a peasant girl who takes her own life when she finds out that the man with whom she has fallen in love, a nobleman named Albrecht, is engaged to another woman.
After Giselle's funeral, Albrecht visits her unconsecrated grave and finds himself in mortal danger: The Wilis, a sisterhood of ghosts who, in life, were jilted by their lovers, have returned to take their terrible revenge...
Adolphe Adam's surreal romantic ballet is here presented by Classical Ballet & Opera House.


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The Marvels CERT tbc

Starring **Brie Larson, Samuel L Jackson, Zawe Ashton, Teyonah Parris, Iman Vellani, Park Seo-joon** Directed by **Nia DaCosta**



And still they come! This is the 33rd film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, with plenty more slated for release across the next few years.

Great news indeed for fans of superheroes, spandex, and superheroes who wear spandex.

This latest entry sees Carol Danvers - aka Captain Marvel - shouldering the burden of a destabilised universe after reclaiming her identity from the tyrannical Kree and taking revenge on the Supreme Intelligence...

At the time of going to press, the film's tracking numbers - which provide a long-range estimate of how a release will fair at the box office - were far from great.

Might The Marvels be the next in a line of Marvel and DC movies to underperform commercially? Maybe superhero fatigue is finally setting in with the cinema-going public...

Released Fri 10 November



The Hunger Games: The Ballad Of Songbirds And Snakes CERT 12a (157 mins)

Starring **Rachel Zegler, Hunter Schafer, Tom Blyth, Jason Schwartzman, Peter Dinklage, Kjell Brutschiedt** Directed by **Francis Lawrence**

Years before he would become the tyrannical President of Panem, 18-year-old Coriolanus Snow is the last hope for his fading lineage, a once-proud family that has fallen from grace in a post-war Capitol.

With the 10th annual Hunger Games fast approaching, the young Snow is assigned to mentor Lucy Gray Baird, the female tribute from impoverished District 12. But after Lucy commands all of Panem's attention by defiantly singing during the reaping ceremony, Snow thinks he might be able to turn the odds in their favour. Uniting their instincts for showmanship and newfound political savvy, Snow and Lucy's race against time to survive will ultimately reveal who is a songbird, and who is a snake...

Not only is The Ballad Of Songbirds And Snakes the fifth installment in the Hunger Games film series - serving as a prequel to the original 2012 movie - it's also Director Francis Lawrence's fourth consecutive movie in the franchise. So if you enjoyed the previous three, you know what to do...

Released Fri 17 November

Thanksgiving CERT tbc

Starring **Rick Hoffman, Gina Gershon, Patrick Dempsey, Milo Manheim, Addison Rae, Karen Cliche** Directed by **Eli Roth**

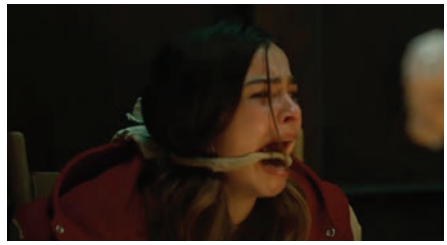
After a Black Friday riot ends in tragedy, a mysterious Thanksgiving-inspired killer known only as 'John Carver' terrorises Plymouth, Massachusetts - the birthplace of the annual holiday - picking off its residents one by one.

The seemingly random killings are soon revealed to be part of a larger, sinister plan. But will the town uncover the killer and survive Thanksgiving... or are they about to become guests at his twisted holiday dinner-table?...

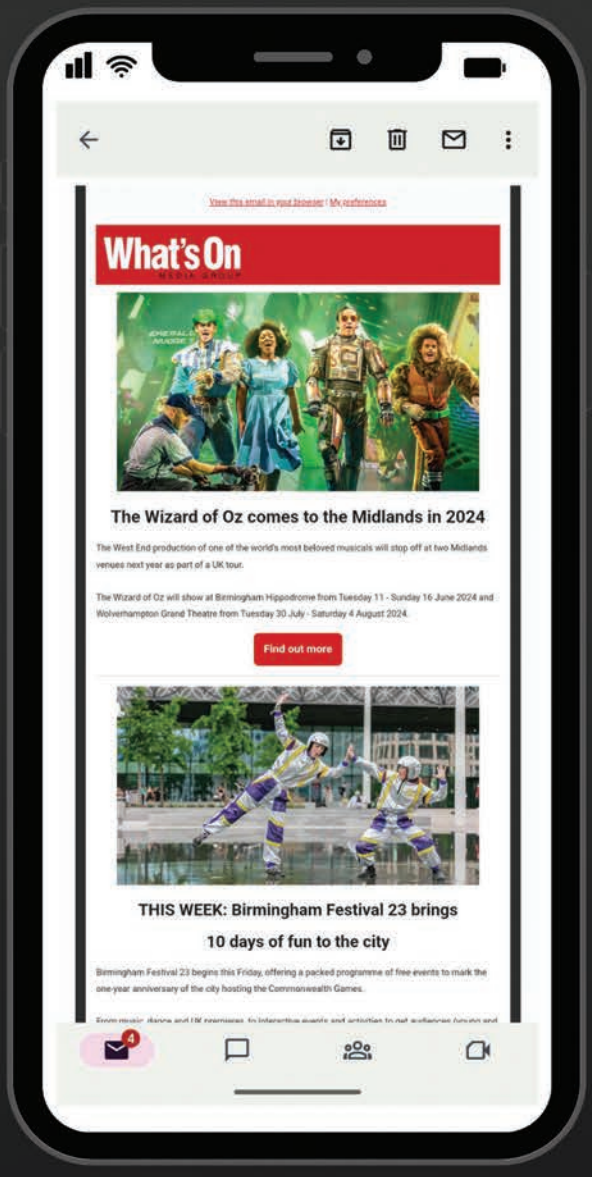
The inspiration for this latest horror pic from Eli Roth, his first in 10 years, was a mock trailer of the same name that he created for the movie Grindhouse back in 2007.

Roth has since been added to a list of directors known as The Splat Pack - a group of indie filmmakers specialising in highly violent movies produced on a low budget.

Released Fri 17 November



What's On
MEDIA GROUP



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SIGN UP TO OUR FORTNIGHTLY E-NEWSLETTER TO RECEIVE THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT NEWS FROM ACROSS THE REGION - AS WELL AS COMPETITIONS AND OFFERS FOR THEATRES, GIGS, DINING OUT AND MORE...

SIMPLY SCAN THE QR TO SIGN UP TODAY

Saltburn CERT tbc

Starring **Rosamund Pike, Carey Mulligan, Barry Keoghan, Archie Madekwe, Jacob Elordi, Richard E Grant** Directed by **Emerald Fennell**

A spectacularly successful year for Margot Robbie might be about to get even better. As well as producing and starring in billion-dollar-grossing summer blockbuster Barbie, she's also produced this intriguing mystery drama, which last month premiered in the prestigious opening slot of the BFI London Film Festival, garnering huge critical acclaim.

Directed by Emerald Fennell, whose breakout movie, Promising Young Woman - for which she won an Academy Award for best original screenplay - was also produced by Robbie, the film focuses on the character of student Oliver Quick. Struggling to find his place at Oxford University, Oliver finds himself drawn into the world of the charming and aristocratic Felix Catton, who invites him to his eccentric family's sprawling estate - Saltburn - for a summer never to be forgotten...

Released Fri 17 November





Wish CERT tbc

With the voices of **Ariana DeBose, Evan Peters, Chris Pine, Alan Tudyk, Harvey Guillén, Angelique Cabral** Directed by **Chris Buck** and **Fawn Veerasunthorn**

Walt Disney's animated musical comedy is set in the magical kingdom of Rosas, where 17-year-old Asha, a sharp-witted idealist, makes a wish so powerful that it's answered by a cosmic force - a little ball of boundless energy called Star.

Together, Asha and Star confront a formidable foe - the ruler of Rosas, King Magnifico - in a desperate attempt to save the kingdom from the fate that otherwise awaits it...

The character of Asha is being voiced by Ariana DeBose. "Asha is kinda like me in some ways," reveals Ariana. "She's got many parts to her: She's so smart, she's got a great sense of humour, and she's trying to take care of the people she loves most in the world. She's a leader but doesn't realise it. She's just living and doing, and learning along the way. She doesn't always get it right, though - which is the definition of being human.

"[With this film] I think audiences can be excited about original songs and an original story. It's all the Disney magic you know and love, but it looks like us, and that's really exciting."

Released Fri 24 November

Napoleon CERT tbc

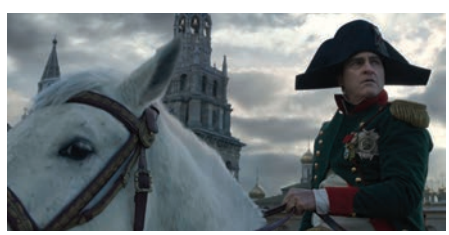
Starring **Vanessa Kirby, Joaquin Phoenix, Rupert Everett, Ben Miles, Ludivine Sagnier, Mark Bonnar** Directed by **Ridley Scott**

Legendary and prolific octogenarian filmmaker Ridley Scott is the man at the helm of this greatly anticipated historical drama, a movie that's being marketed via its publicity machine as 'a spectacle-filled action epic'.

Unravelling against a backdrop of large-scale filmmaking, the movie charts Napoleon Bonaparte's swift and ruthless climb to the role of emperor, viewed through the prism of his addictive and often volatile relationship with his wife and one true love, Josephine de Beauharnais.

"These kinds of films are like climbing a mountain," Scott told Entertainment Weekly. "At the ground level, the peak looks a long way off. But as you climb up the hill with your partners... sometimes pieces don't fit - and you're already at 20,000 feet! "It's a continual day-by-day process, but that's why I do it. I love it."

Released Wed 22 November





Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Mon 1 April

"We are facing urgent biodiversity and climate crises, and photography is a powerful catalyst for change."
So says Dr Doug Gurr, director of the Natural History Museum, which has developed and produced this year's Wildlife Photographer Of The Year competition.
"The exhibition reveals some of nature's most wondrous sights," adds Dr Gurr, "whilst also offering hope and achievable actions that visitors can take to help protect the natural world."
The hugely prestigious show - visiting the Herbert as part of an extensive tour - features a host of awe-inspiring images capturing fascinating animal behaviour and breathtaking landscapes.



Special K 1961 © Derek Boshier. All Rights Reserved, DACS 2023.

Derek Boshier: Image in Revolt

Sat 7 Oct 2023 - Sun 21 Jan 2024

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Derek Boshier is a celebrated founding figure of the British Pop art movement. Since he burst onto the swinging London scene of the early 1960s, his work has joyfully and rigorously mined subjects from popular culture to offer commentaries on world events and cultural phenomena.

Celebrating 60 years of this restlessly inventive artist's work, *Image in Revolt* offers a rare overview of Boshier's career and lifelong fascination with popular culture. Featuring iconic Pop paintings of the 1960s, and distinctive drawings, collages and films of the 1970s, the show also brings together more recent bodies of work confronting gender, technology and war.

The exhibition is curated by independent curator Helen Little in collaboration with Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Free admission

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Pop Art & Pottery

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sun 7 April

Using Wolverhampton Art Gallery's impressive Pop Art collection as an anchoring point, this free exhibition presents a wide selection of work by contemporary ceramic artists who use everyday objects as their canvas for pop-culture references.

Special-edition dinner plates, tea services, vases and mugs are among the items on show. Many of the included objects come from private collections and are here being displayed in public for the very first time.

A number of works from the city's Pop Art collection have also been made available to view alongside the exhibition.



Marley Starskey Butler: Thirty-Six

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 11 November - Sun 28 January

Thirty-Six is the first solo exhibition of Birmingham-based multidisciplinary artist Marley Starskey Butler, whose lived experience of social work, and becoming a social worker later in life, informs the show.

Featuring photography, video, audio and text, the exhibition sees Marley bringing together artworks made between 2009 and the present day. The included pieces range from explorations of the artist's own children's services records, to considering what it means to assess somebody else's capacity to safeguard and care for a child.

Thirty-Six's main themes revolve around family, empathy, trauma, identity and understanding. The exhibition culminates in a free-to-attend Artist Talk event in MAC's Hexagon Theatre on Thursday 18 January, during which Marley and curator Roma Piotrowska will discuss the artist's creative process and the works in the exhibition.

Jo Gane: Liquid Silver

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, until Sun 11 February

Jo Gane's latest exhibition sees the artist & educator using her research into Victorian photographic processes to produce new works that examine how these early methods and materials left their mark on people and the environment.

"My practice is based around photographic archives and history," explains Jo. "Central to that practice is the idea of the photograph as a two-dimensional slice of history and its function in relation to the progression of time."

The exhibition is the result of a partnership between Compton Verney, Coventry Biennial and Warwickshire Libraries.



Phantom Sculpture

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Sun 10 March

This new exhibition aims to find links between sculpture's past, present and future. Featuring work by some of the most important artists from the last century, the show also considers the discipline's physical relationship to space, and how it embodies lived experiences, notions of place and cultural significance.

Anthony Caro, Richard Deacon, Mona Hatoum, Sarah Lucas and Rachel Whiteread are among the established and upcoming artists whose work is included in the exhibition.



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9, 10, 16 & 17 December

BLISTS HILL VICTORIAN TOWN

CHRISTMAS WEEKENDS



2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 December

COALBROOKDALE

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



13 & 20 December, 6pm – 9pm

BLISTS HILL VICTORIAN TOWN

CHRISTMAS LATES



2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 December

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Santa Trains

depart Kidderminster on selected dates from 25 November



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BBC Good Food Show

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 23 - Sun 26 November

It's once again time to eat, drink and be merry as the winter edition of the BBC Good Food Show comes to the NEC.
As well as watching celebrity chefs - including The Hairy Bikers, Nadiya Hussain (pictured), and James Martin - cook up a storm on the show's Big Kitchen stage, visitors can also pick up some tasty festive treats from hundreds of hand-picked producers.
Also back by popular demand is the Fabulous Food Finds Tasting Theatre - a great place to sample a selection of products - and the Winter Workshops - offering handy hints & tips on how to make a variety of festive treats.

Fireworks Night

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Sat 4 November

Explore the streets of Blists Hill by night and soak up a carnival atmosphere.
The popular Victorian town will come to life on the evening of the 4th, with steam billowing from the foundry at a casting demonstration and static steam engines in evidence around the town.
Visitors will be able to purchase drinks and nibbles from the New Inn Public House and explore some of the museum's most popular exhibits.
The event culminates in a set-to-music Victorian fireworks extravaganza.





Mind Body Spirit Festival

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 17 - Sun 19 November

Featuring inspirational and motivational speakers, musicians, artists and performers from across the globe, Mind Body Spirit Festival celebrates 'the ultimate gathering of the tribes'.
The event covers a wide range of subjects, from feng shui to meditation, and also features a wellbeing studio offering free classes in yoga, dance and movement.
For those in need of peace and calm, the Alchemy of Sound provides meditation sessions and immersive sound experiences, whilst the Ceremony Space is a free-to-use sanctuary in which to relax and recharge.
Visitors can also browse a host of health & wellbeing products, jewellery, supplements and organic foods made available by a variety of exhibitors.

Four shows for the price of one at the NEC

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 November

From baking to baubles, the NEC will be a hive of festive creativity this month as four shows descend on the venue for a four-day mega event.
The Creative Craft Show and Simply Christmas (Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 November) are perfect events for those looking to get their craft on. Attractions include workshops, exhibitors and demonstrations covering all areas of crafts, including knitting, cross stitch, paper crafting, jewellery & dressmaking, and stitching.
Meanwhile, those who like to get creative in the kitchen can enjoy Cake International and Bake International (Friday 3 - Sunday 5 November), featuring competition pieces, lifesize installations and live demonstrations by cake artists from around the world.
Plus, by purchasing a ticket for one of the shows, you'll gain access to all four.
Now that's what we call (early) Christmas cheer!



Bonfire & Fireworks Night

Weston Park, Shropshire, Sun 5 November

Weston Park's bonfire is one of the biggest in the region and comes complete with two dazzling firework displays (the first is at 6pm, the second at 7.30pm).
The bonfire will be surrounded by street-food vendors serving a wide variety of cuisine, from gourmet burgers, loaded fries and fish & chips, to warm, freshly cooked sugared donuts.
A traditional funfair features plenty of rides to keep visitors of all ages entertained.



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25th NOV – 24th DEC

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Ice Skate Birmingham

Centenary Square, Birmingham, Thurs 2 November - Sun 7 January

Ice Skate Birmingham and the Big Wheel make a welcome return to Centenary Square this month.
While the wheel offers the opportunity to enjoy fantastic views across the city, the weather-proofed ice rink accommodates up to 300 people per session.

Younger or inexperienced skating enthusiasts can keep upright by using special penguin aids.
And when skaters have finished their Torvill & Dean routine, they can warm themselves up with some festive fare in the nearby Ice Lounge and double deck rooftop bar.



Santa's Winter Wonderland

SnowDome, Tamworth, Sat 11 November - Sun 7 January

Tamworth's SnowDome is being transformed into a winter wonderland this festive season. Step into the Christmas Village - where you can say hello to Santa's real-life furry friends - take a ride on the carousel, check out the festive game zone, visit Santa's house and drop off your gift list.
And that's not all... Visitors can also play and slide around in real snow on the Christmas trail, explore the enchanted forest, battle it out in a snowball fight, and enjoy Santa's all-new Summit Slide.
Plus, Santa, Rudolph and the North Pole Players will be performing a brand-new stage show based on the classic rags-to-riches fairytale of Cinderella.

Step into Christmas at Cadbury World

Cadbury World, Birmingham, weekends from Sat 18 November - Sat 23 December, and also Thurs 21 & Fri 22 December

Festive celebrations get under way at Cadbury World this month. The popular venue is presenting a whole host of seasonal activities for families to enjoy, all of which come complete with that ever-important chocolately twist.
Visitors can catch one of the 17 daily performances of the Santa Show (included in the ticket price), where his super-helpful elves will be handing out gifts to young audience members.
Before heading for home, be sure to swing by the world's biggest Cadbury shop to pick up some handmade Christmas chocolates.



Visit Santa: Vintage Sleigh Experience

Coventry Transport Museum, Sat 25 November - Sat 23 December

The Vintage Sleigh Ride experience returns to Coventry Transport Museum this month. Wander through a magical winter wonderland of festive activities and snowy scenes before taking a ride on an enchanting vintage sleigh pulled by two trusty reindeer. Your next stop? Lapland. Meet Santa, tell him your Christmas wishes and collect a special gift!... The Vintage Sleigh Ride experience includes museum admission tickets for the day of your visit.



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Winter Glow

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Fri 24 November - Sat 6 January

The 2023 edition of Winter Glow features a number of new activities, including elf circus-skills workshops and pet experiences (on selected dates).
One of the event's key features, the outdoor light trail, will take visitors on a journey around the North Pole, following the story of the Golden Snowflake and be bigger than ever this year.
Other highlights include personalised 'Santa experiences', an indoor ice rink, a food quarter, fairground and Christmas market (which is available to visit without a ticket).

Santa's Grotto Experience

National SEA LIFE Centre, Birmingham, Sat 25 November - Sat 24 December



Get ready to dive into the ultimate, er, *fish*-mas adventure at the National SEA LIFE Centre in Birmingham, as Santa and his elves set about the business of spreading some serious Christmas cheer!
Sea explorers can check out more than 2,000 incredible creatures - including a colony of Gentoo penguins, *jaw*-some sharks and the UK's only sea otters - before heading to Santa's spectacularly snowy grotto, where every child will receive a special gift to take home with them.

Santa Trains

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, selected dates from Sat 25 November - Sun 24 December

Experience a magical rail journey courtesy of Severn Valley Railway's Santa Trains.
After walking through a winter wonderland at Kidderminster Station to meet Mrs Christmas and her elf, guests will collect a hot drink & sweet treat and board the steam train for a journey to Arley station.
Once there, they will be treated to a live stage show, featuring a host of festive characters alongside Father Christmas as he prepares for the biggest night of the year.
The train journey back to Kidderminster comes complete with a 'present-shaped surprise' for every child.



Alderford's Santa Island Experience

Alderford Lake, North Shropshire, Fri 24 November - Fri 22 December

Discover the story of Santa and his elves on a magical adventure across Alderford Lake this festive season.
On arrival at the venue, the elves will welcome guests with a tasty treat, after which the adventure begins...
Families can cross the wishing bridge and head to the toy workshop, where little ones can try their hand at making toys.
Then it's time to pay a visit to the grotto, where Santa will be waiting to hear the children's Christmas wishes...

Christmas Bricktacular

Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham, Sat 25 November - Sat 24 December

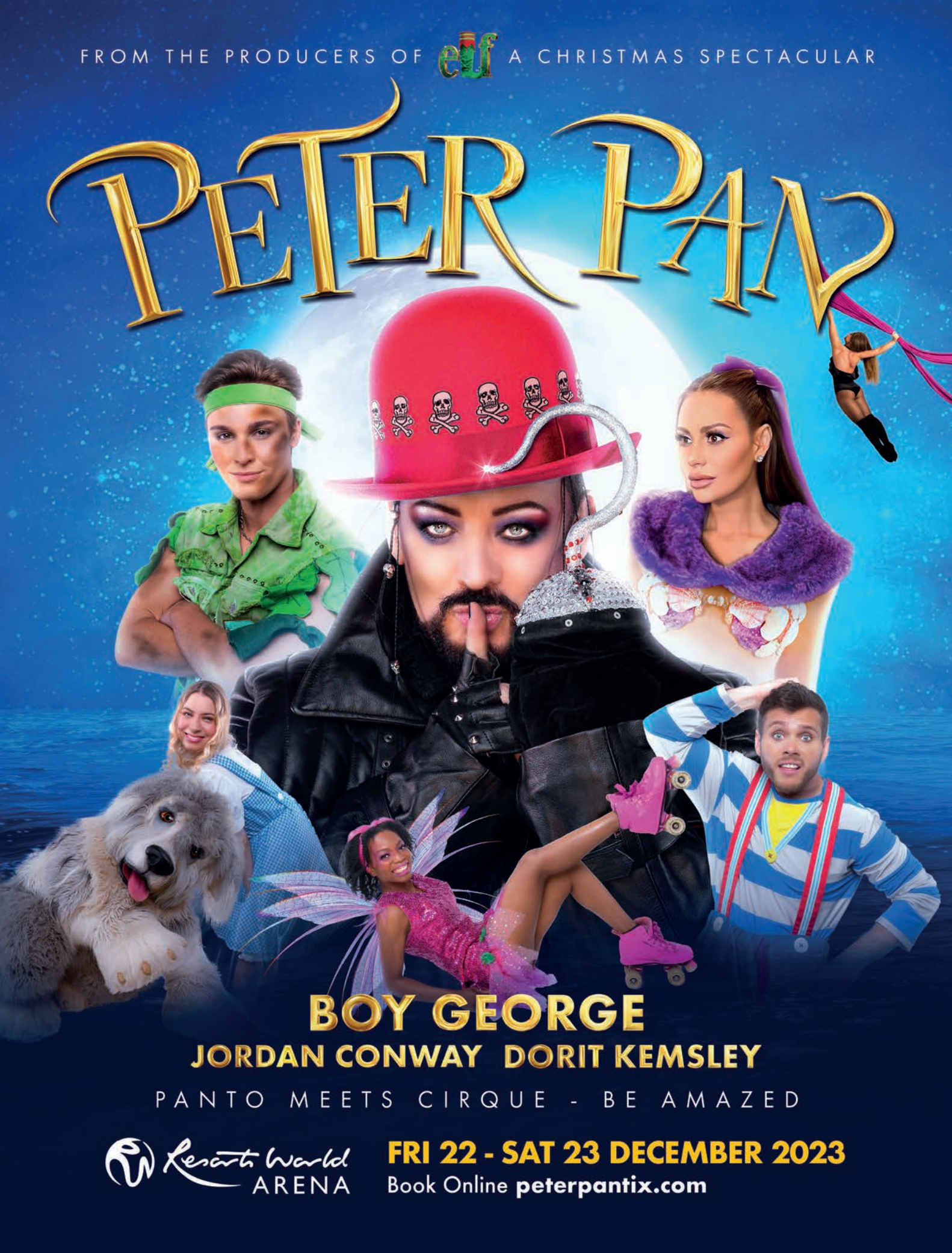
Have yourself a brick-tastic little Christmas at Legoland Discovery Centre.
Get into the festive spirit by joining in with a selection of magical activities, including a scavenger hunt in the winter wonderland-themed Miniland. There's also the chance to build a Christmas tree out of Lego and meet Lego Santa in his brick grotto.
Fun rides, build & play zones and a 4D cinema further add to the popular visitor attraction's festive offer.



North Pole Adventure

National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire, selected dates from Sat 25 November - Sun 24 December

Enjoy a magical trip to the North Pole with this fully immersive experience!
Grab your personalised ticket, check-in, and head through the Magical Portal. Then explore a Victorian high street, give busy elves a helping hand in their workshop, and say hello to a talking polar bear beneath the stunning spectacle of the Northern Lights.
The experience concludes with a special meeting with Father Christmas, during which children can choose a gift to take home.


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thelist

Your week-by-week listings guide

November 2023



Gaia by Luke Jerram at Lichfield Cathedral until Sun 5 November

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

What's On

Wed 1 - Sun 12 November



Peppa Pig's Fun Day Out - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Wed 1 & Thurs 2 November

Mon 13 - Sun 19 November



John Robins - Telford Theatre, Oakengates, Shropshire

Wed 15 November

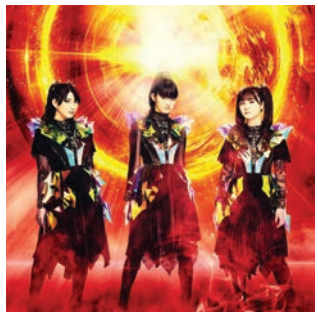
Mon 20 - Sun 26 November



The Imporatnce Of Being Earnest? - Crewe Lyceum

Fri 24 - Sun 26 November

Mon 27 - Thurs 30 November



Babymetal + Vukovi - The Wulfrun at The Halls W'hampton

Wed 29 November

VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

MALI MORRIS: CALLING Major solo exhibition documenting Mali's changing approach to her art in the past 25 years, until Fri 22 Dec, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

DEAN KELLAND: IMPOSTER SYNDROME Exhibition featuring a number of Dean's new films, prints and sketchbooks that reimagine the psychoanalytic dialogue that has occurred between Pop Art and prison art since the 1960s, until Fri 22 Dec, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham

WATERSHED Group exhibition exploring the relationship between Birmingham and Elan Valley in Wales - two places inextricably linked by water, until Sun 5 Nov

MADGE GILL: THE CLOUDS WILL BURST THE SUN WILL SHINE AGAIN Exhibition featuring drawings, paintings, embroidery and archival material showcasing the beautiful work of self-taught artist Madge Gill, until Sun 26 Nov

DIGITAL ZINES Exhibition of work created by seven Birmingham secondary schools during summer 2023 as part of Reframe, a new digital-skills project sponsored by Apple, until Sun 7 Jan

New Art Gallery, Walsall

A SENSE OF PLACE Featuring artworks created across the West Midlands, with a focus on nature, collections and wellbeing, until Sun 26 Nov

ANNETTE PUGH: HAPPENSTANCE Featuring newly commissioned oil paintings that explore traces of human presence in the landscape, until Sun 7 Jan

PRIDE & PRIVILEGE AT THE CLASS ACT Temporary exhibition exploring class and identity, until Sun 9 June

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

SMTC: 100 YEARS OF MUSICAL THEATRE Featuring exhibits marking the rich history of Shrewsbury Musical Theatre Company (SMTC), until Fri 10 Nov

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

ODE TO NANA Exhibition by Jioni Warner, in celebration of Windrush 75, that explores the ideas of legacy, struggle and change, until Sat 4 Nov

EMBODIMENTS OF MEMORY BY OSMAN YOUSEFZADA (BCB 2023) Series of sculptural works taking visitors on a journey through birth, life, death and the thereafter, until Sun 5 Nov

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

FRIENDS IN FOCUS Exhibition bringing together a selection of artworks from the gallery's permanent collection, until Sun 5 Nov

SOFT POWER Su Richardson's humorous and subversive crocheted sculptures confront notions of femininity and domesticity. until Sun 10 Dec

POP PARADE Showcasing the gallery's most iconic pop artworks by leading British and American artists, until Sun 31 Dec

DEREK BOSHIER: IMAGE IN REVOLT Major exhibition offering a rare overview of Boshier's career and lifelong fascination with popular culture, until Sun 21 Jan

Elsewhere:

CARNIVAL GLASS SOCIETY 40TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION Showcase of work exploring the history of carnival glass manufacture, until Sun 5 November, Stourbridge Glass Museum

JOURNEY THROUGH CREATION Mini installations celebrating the Earth and the stages of its creation according to the Bible, until Sun 5 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

THE DAILY GRIND: THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE Exhibition shining a spotlight on the lives and voices of the people who have worked in the industries of the Ironbridge Gorge, from the early days of the 18th century until the end of the First World War, until Sun 5 November, Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, Shropshire

WILLIAM COBBING: SOCIAL SUBSTANCE Part of the British Ceramics Biennial, William Cobbing presents video, sculpture and performance exploring how clay is used to tell stories, until Sun 5 Nov, Airspace, Stoke-on-Trent

SUE LEAVETT - THERE AND BACK Exhibition of prints and paintings exploring elements of repetition and pattern making, until Fri 17 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

HERE AND THERE: PENELOPE TIMMIS New body of work featuring paintings inspired by travel between the UK and Australia, Wed 1 Nov - Wed 29 Nov, The Rose Paterson Art Gallery, The Granary, Weston Park, Shifnal

HIDING: GRACE CURRIE Thought-provoking exhibition by local emerging artist Grace, Fri 10 Nov - Thu 21 Dec, The Gateway, Shrewsbury

Gigs

NEONE THE WONDERER Wed 1 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LEITH ROSS Wed 1 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

LANCEY FOUX Wed 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MCFLY Wed 1 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LINDISFARNE Wed 1 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS Wed 1 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THIS SUMMITY FEVER + WHY SPIDERS + MIJHA Wed 1 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

GRADE 2 Thurs 2 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

J HUS Thurs 2 Nov, Utilita Arena B'ham

CORELLA Thurs 2 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

CHRIS WHILE AND JULIE MATTHEWS Thurs 2 Nov, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

GUY DAVIS Thurs 2 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey



LOST IN MUSIC Thurs 2 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

LORRAINE BROWN Thurs 2 - Fri 3 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

DUB PISTOLS + BAREFOOT BANDITS Fri 3 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BABY QUEEN Fri 3 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

LIL TJAY + JOONY + DINA AYADA Fri 3 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS + JAMES HOLROYD Fri 3 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

THE FOOZ FIGHTERS Fri 3 Nov, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

MARTI PELLOW Fri 3 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

THE BOHEMIANS Fri 3 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall

OASISH + THE SMITHS UTD Fri 3 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

YNGWIE MALMSTEEN Fri 3 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

SOUTH OF SALEM + SHE BURNS RED Fri 3 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolves

IAN PROWSE AND AMSTERDAM Fri 3 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

PAUL YOUNG Fri 3 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

WEST COAST EAGLES Fri 3 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

RIDING THE LOW Fri 3 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

AZIZ IBRAHIM Fri 3 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

THE CAVERN BEATLES Fri 3 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

HAZE Fri 3 Nov, The Station, Cannock

MARK HARRISON Fri 3 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

MOBIUS LOOP Fri 3 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THIS FLIGHT TONIGHT - THE SONGS OF JONI MITCHELL Fri 3 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

REVOLUTION Fri 3 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

COUNTRY SUPERSTARS Fri 3 Nov, Telford Theatre, Oakengates, Shropshire

WILL BARNES QUARTET Fri 3 Nov, SpArC, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

EMBODIMENT + ANY GIVEN REASON + PAST THE FALL Fri 3 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

MICHAEL STARRING BEN Fri 3 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

ROSE CITY BAND Sat 4 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PUNK ROCK FACTORY Sat 4 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ANIMALS AS LEADERS + ALLUVIAL + ALLT Sat 4 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JALEN NGONDA Sat 4 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

VISTAS Sat 4 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

OLIVER TREE + TOMMY CASH Sat 4 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

PEACE Sat 4 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

BEVERLEY KNIGHT Sat 4 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BON GIOVI + AIR TIGHT 80S + ROXXI RED + HARD GRAFT Sat 4 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

A WEEK FULL OF MONDAYS + CITYLIGHTZ + THE CREATURE APPEAL + KID CHARLEMAGNE + METHODS + ROSA CAELUM + SMOKIN ESKIMO + WATERMARK Sat 4 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

THE DEAD SOUTH + HENRY WAGONS Sat 4 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

ROXETTE UK Sat 4 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

LOST IN MUSIC - ONE NIGHT AT THE DISCO Sat 4 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

FLOYD IN THE FLESH - THE DARKSIDE OF THE MOON AT 50! Sat 4 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

THE ELO TRIBUTE SHOW Sat 4 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

A VISION OF ELVIS Sat 4 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

SMOKE OVER ELSEWHERE + BLU SYRUP + MAVIS + PREHISTORIC BITCH Sat 4 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

TOKEN Sun 5 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ROBERT PLANT PRESENTS SAVING GRACE FEATURING SUZI DIAN Sun 5 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PAUL YOUNG Sun 5 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

Classical Music

THREE MIRACLES WITH THE CBSO Featuring Nicholas Carter (conductor), Carolin Widmann (violin) & the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes works by Haydn, Ligeti & Brahms, Wed 1 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

SONATA - AN EVENING WITH BOGLÁRKA GYÖRGY & AMY BUTLER Programme includes works by Beethoven, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Dvorak, Fritz Kreisler, Nigel Hess & Henryk Wieniawski, Wed 1 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

PAVEL KOLESNIKOV PIANO CONCERT Programme includes works by Górecki, Beethoven, Messiaen, Mozart & Schubert, Thurs 2 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

SOUTH WALES MALE CHOIR Also featuring renowned local poet Michael Carding, Sat 4 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SHREWSBURY CANTATA CHOIR Programme includes works by Mozart & Haydn, Sat 4 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

STRICTLY PIANO Featuring Viv McLean. Programme includes works by Chopin, de Falla, Gershwin, Satie & more... Sat 4 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

Comedy

FRANKIE BOYLE Wed 1 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

BRIDGET CHRISTIE Wed 1 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

JORDAN GRAY Thurs 2 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, SCOTT CAPURRO & COMIC TBC Thurs 2 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NICK DOODY, ALISTAIR BARRIE, JACOB NUSSEY, MAX POOLE & DAVE TWENTYMAN Thurs 2 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

ROGER MONKHOUSE, DAN SMITH & COMICS TBC Thurs 2 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

CHRISTIAN BRIGHTY Fri 3 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PHIL WALKER, JAKE BAKER, GRIFF & CHRIS OXENBURY Fri 3 Nov, Two Gates Club, Tamworth

DAMAN BAMRAH Fri 3 Nov, Aston Hall, Wrexham

CONNOR BURNS, JACOB HAWLEY, SCOTT CAPURRO & TATTY MACLEOD Fri 3 - Sat 4 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SEANN WALSH Sat 4 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

OMID DJALILI, STEPHEN BAILEY, JACK GLEADOW & WAYNE BEESE Sat 4 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

JOHN ROBINS Sat 4 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

MARK WATSON Sat 4 Nov, Aston Hall, Wrexham

TOM STADE Sat 4 Nov, Maesgwyn Hall, Wrexham

MÂLÂELE, FRÎNCULESCU, NEGOITÂ ȘI BIRTAȘ Sun 5 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RACHEL FAIRBURN Sun 5 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE GORMAN Sun 5 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

CARL HUTCHINSON Sun 5 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Theatre

CONSTANT COMPANIONS New Alan Ayckbourn observational comedy, set in a world in which humans turn to artificial friends for 'companionship without compromise', until Sat 4 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

COWBOIS A 'rollicking' queer western about a handsome bandit named Jack Cannon, until Sat 18 Nov, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

TWELVE ANGRY MEN Hollywood star Patrick Duffy leads the cast in Reginald Rose's gripping courtroom drama, Mon 30 Oct - Sat 4 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

PETER PAN GOES WRONG Mischief are back with their riotous spin on a timeless classic, Mon 30 Oct - Sat 4 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

FRANKENSTEIN Stafford Players present an amateur version of Mary Shelley's classic tale, Tues 31 Oct - Sat 4 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

CALAMITY JANE Amateur version presented by Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society (CHAOS), Tues 31 Oct - Sat 4 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

BROWN BOYS SWIM Karim Khan examines the pressures faced by young Muslim men in an 'exhilarating' new play about fitting in and striking out, Tues 31 Oct - Sat 4 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

THE BOX OF DELIGHTS The RSC's festive family show follows an orphaned schoolboy who finds himself the guardian of a small wooden box with powers beyond his wildest dreams, Tues 31 Oct - Sun 7 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MODEL VILLAGE New comedy satire set in an acre of idyllic 1930s England, Wed 1 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

THE TIGERFACE SHOW A weird & wonderful comedy performance that asks us to re-think our childhood



Peppa Pig's Fun Day Out - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

aspirations in the hope of finding some child-like happiness in adulthood, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ANNIE JNR Market Drayton Amateur Dramatic Society presents its version of the much-loved rags-to-riches story, Wed 1 - Fri 3 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

MUM'S THE WORD Laurie Brett, Sarita Plowman & Poppy Tierney star in an uplifting show about 'navigating motherhood and the drama life throws at you', Thurs 2 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

TIME TRAVELLING WITH THE JAZZ QUEENS A musical odyssey through time to meet icons of the jazz age - Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald & Nina Simone included. Suitable for children aged eight-plus, Thurs 2 Nov, Blackheath Library, Rowley Regis

LES MISERABLES SCHOOL EDITION Amateur version presented by Get Your Wigle On, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE INVISIBLE MAN Original comedy presented by Our Star Theatre Company, Fri 3 Nov, Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

THE GOLDEN PEARL PIRATES AND THE CURSE OF SKULL ISLAND Fun-filled family adventure with Captain Betty Breakwater, Silly Billy Bones and Pretty Polly Plank, Fri 3 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

'ALLO 'ALLO Starcross Youth Theatre present an amateur production based on the classic BBC comedy of the same name, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DISCOVERING ANTARCTICA: HEROIC TALES OF SHACKLETON, CREAN & SCOTT Award-winning one-man show that brings to life the story of Tom Crean - intrepid explorer and one of Ireland's unsung heroes, Sat 4 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

BIG DICKEY WHITTINGTON Adult comedy pantomime. Strictly over-18s only, Sat 4 Nov, Whitchurch Civic Centre, North Shropshire

Kids Theatre

THE SINGING MERMAID Julia Donaldson & Lydia Monks' enchanting children's story is brought to life using puppetry, music and song, Tues 31 Oct - Wed 1 Nov, Lichfield Garrick



MINIATURE TRAVELLING CIRCUS Puppetry and magic combine in Little Angel Theatre's production for younger audiences, Tues 31 Oct - Thurs 2 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

PEPPA PIG'S FUN DAY OUT Song, dance and muddy puddles in an oinktastic new show for younger audiences, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS 100 YEARS OF WONDER Celebrate with Mickey, Minnie, and their Disney friends while reliving the adventures of your favourite characters, Wed 1 - Sun 5 Nov, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR A fang-tastic family show featuring ultra-violet puppetry and Halloween hits, Thurs 2 Nov, Telford Theatre

POP PRINCESSES Featuring a soundtrack of top pop hits from artists such as Little Mix, Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift, Meghan Trainor and Miley Cyrus, plus songs from popular films and musicals, Thurs 2 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU Meet an eclectic group of animals as they discuss their life experiences and the challenges they face in a rapidly changing world dominated by humans, Thurs 2 Nov, Smethwick Library

MORGAN & WEST'S MASSIVE MAGIC SHOW FOR KIDS! Expect 'gawps, gasps and guffaws in a funny and fantastical magic-filled extravaganza', Thurs 2 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU Meet an eclectic group of animals as they discuss their life experiences and the challenges they face in a rapidly changing world dominated by humans, Fri 3 Nov, West Bromwich Central Library

THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU Meet an eclectic group of animals as they discuss their life experiences and the challenges they face in a rapidly changing world dominated by humans, Sun 5 Nov, Blackheath Library

Dance

THE WIZARD OF OZ Ballet Theatre UK present a two-act, full-length ballet based on L Frank Baum's iconic story, Fri 3 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

JAIVANT PATEL COMPANY: DEEPAVALI, THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT Evening of South Asian dance showcasing Bollywood, Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Bhangara and Dandiya Raas in celebration of Diwali, Sat 4 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

Light Entertainment

UP TO SPOOK Showcase of ghoulish ghost tales, hell-bound horror stories, petrifying poems and spellbinding songs, Thurs 2 Nov, Old Rep, B'ham

TWO MR PS IN A PODCAST LIVE: THE SHOW AND TELL TOUR The award-winning podcast hits the road again with tales from the classroom, Thurs 2 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

WI-FI WARS Live comedy game show in which everyone can play along. Recommended for ages 6-plus (matinee), 12-plus (evening), Thurs 2 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK Irish-inspired Christmas show featuring an international cast of singers, musicians and dancers, Fri 3 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

YUKON HO! 'A funny, bizarre, dark and (mostly) true one-woman, cabaret-style guide to surviving an unbelievably mad life in Canada's frozen north', Fri 3 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

STORY BAZAAR - EXQUISITE TALES FOR ADULTS Welsh storyteller Cath Little trades the smallest of tales with resident storyteller Peter Chand, Sun 5 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

PAUL ZERDIN Brand-new comedy show from the acclaimed ventriloquist and America's Got Talent winner, Sun 5 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

STORY BAZAAR: SHORT SHORTS Cath Little & Peter Chand tell thoughtful, moving and eerie traditional tales for adults, Sun 5 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

FAULTY TOWERS THE DINING EXPERIENCE Interactive West End show inspired by the classic 1970s BBC comedy series, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Talks & Spoken Word

HENRY NORMAL AND NIGEL PLANER An evening with two renowned poets and writers. Q&A session and book signing also feature, Thurs 2 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

MARTIN CARTHY: REMEMBER ME TO THE ONE WHO LIVES THERE Music and conversation with Jon Wilkes, Fri 3 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

GARTH MARENGHI'S INCARCERAT BOOK TOUR Join the Sunday Times bestseller & Archduke O'Darkdom as he talks about his latest offering, Fri 3 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

WATERSHED: ARTIST TALK Coinciding with the Watershed exhibition, Rowena Harris discusses her creative process with Rosie Slay (Elan Links), Sat 4 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Events

TREATS & CHILLS The Wicked Witch of



the North has cast a spell over the venue, until Wed 1 Nov, SnowDome, Tamworth

SPOOKY STAY AND PLAY Event encouraging little ones to enjoy creative, interactive and sensory play, until Fri 3 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

FRIGHT AT THE MUSEUM FAMILY SHOW Prepare for a monstrous show full to the brim with freaky facts and spooky science, until Fri 3 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

OCTOBER HALF-TERM ACTIVITY - SPOOKY SCIENCE Spooky science activities for children aged four to 11, until Fri 3 Nov, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

SPOOKY MILL TOURS A family-friendly and spooky guided tour of the historic watermill, until Fri 3 Nov, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

SPOOKTACULAR Featuring pumpkin pickins, spooky shows and the mega slide mountain, until Fri 3 Nov, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

PUMPKINFEST Featuring Pumpkin Alley, the Little Scare House and a spooky trail, until Sat 4 Nov, Park Hall Farm, Shropshire

HALLOWEEN HALF TERM AT STOKESAY CASTLE Gather round for tales from spooky storytellers and solve creepy clues in the Halloween Quest, until Sun 5 Nov, Stokesay Castle, Shropshire

GANDEYS CIRCUS Brand-new Halloween Spooktacular Big Top show for all the family, until Sun 5 Nov, Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

BRICK OR TREAT: MONSTER PARTY Get into the Halloween spirit with some fang-tastic activities, until Sun 5 Nov, Legoland Discovery Centre, B'ham

GAIA Touring artwork by artist Luke Jerram, until Sun 5 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire

BRICK OR TREAT: MONSTER PARTY Featuring a 'scarevenger' hunt, a Lego pumpkin patch and more, until Sun 5 Nov, Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham

HALLOWEEEN AT DRAYTON MANOR Live entertainment, 'terrific' trails and your favourite rides and attractions, until Sun 5 Nov, Drayton Manor Resort, Staffs

ASCARIUM: TRICKS & TREATS Follow an immersive trail to help the witches and warlocks find their missing potion ingredients and discover some of the spookiest creatures of the sea, until Sun 5 Nov, National SEA LIFE Centre, Birmingham

GANDEYS CIRCUS Brand-new Halloween Spooktacular Big Top show for all the family, until Sun 5 Nov, Merry Hill, Dudley

SPOOKY SPECTACULAR Join Patch the pumpkin-scarecrow and his new friend, Mitzy Monster, until Sun 5 Nov, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

VICTORIAN VERMIN Learn how Victorians coped with vermin, with rat-themed activities for all the family to enjoy, until Sun 5 Nov, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

POTIONS AND NOTIONS Drop-in event in which kids can conjure up spooktacular clay creations in which to hold their imaginary potions and spells, until Sun 5 Nov, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge

HALLOWEEN HARVEST Listen to a scarecrow story, then follow the trail to find the Apley scarecrows, until Sun 5 Nov, Apley Farm Shop, Shropshire

JET AND SPACE WEEK A whole week of activities exploring space, jets and the future of the RAF, until Sun 5 Nov, Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford

STARGAZING EVENING Out-of-hours session in which visitors can explore the stars above the museum, learn how to use a telescope and find out about the constellations, Wed 1 Nov, RAF Museum Midlands, Cosford

TAS SCIENCE HUB Learn about planets and moons in the solar system and the search for Exoplanets in the universe, Wed 1 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

COULD YOU SURVIVE THE STONE AGE? Drop-in session. Handle ancient artefacts, learn how to make tools for survival, and work like an archaeologist, Wed 1 Nov, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, Shropshire

POP UP PLANETARIUM Gaze at the stars and take a trip into space to learn all about the wonders of the solar system, Thurs 2 Nov, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

VICTORIAN BLACKSMITH EXPERIENCE DAY Try your hand at the most visceral of activities; pull on some gloves, pick up a hammer and feel the heat of the furnace, Thurs 2 Nov, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

SIMPLY CHRISTMAS Featuring exhibitors showcasing exclusive ranges of bespoke and unusual gifts, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

MOBILE PLANETARIUM: SPACE ODYSSEY For the first time ever, the RAF Museum is hosting a huge mobile planetarium, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 Nov, RAF Museum Midlands, Cosford

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW Offering shopping, workshops and inspiration for new and established crafters, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 Nov, NEC, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET Offering a large range of traditional gifts and a selection of tempting food & drink, Thurs 2 Nov - Sun 24 Dec, Birmingham City Centre



Gaia - Lichfield Cathedral

ICE SKATE BIRMINGHAM Birmingham's largest, all-inclusive undercover ice rink is back! Thurs 2 Nov - Sun 7 Jan, Centenary Square, Birmingham

PLAY BY NIGHT Dartmouth Park playground and splash pad will be lit up in multiple colours, Fri 3 Nov, Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich

IBIZA CLASSICS FIREWORKS PARTY An evening of 'dance anthems, bangin' tunes and a fireworks extravaganza', Fri 3 Nov, Edgbaston Stadium, B'ham

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS Fireworks, bonfire and a BBQ, Fri 3 Nov, Leek Hockey Club, Staffordshire

ULTIMATE FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR Enjoy firework displays and your final chance to ride the rollercoasters before the end of the season, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Nov, Alton Towers, Staffs

BAKE INTERNATIONAL A new baking show co-located with Cake International, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

CAKE INTERNATIONAL A show for lovers of all things cake, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FIELDS OF REMEMBRANCE Honour and remember those who lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Nov, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

BONFIRE NIGHT Featuring two bonfire displays, fairground rides, live music and food & drink stalls, Sat 4 Nov, Alderford Lake, Shropshire

DIWALI Celebrate the Festival of Lights with drop-in craft workshops, Mehndi and performances from dancers and musicians, Sat 4 Nov, New Art Gallery, Walsall

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR & FUNFAIR Jam-packed evening of entertainment and funfair rides, with the night culminating with a firework extravaganza Sat 4 Nov, Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham

FIREWORKS NIGHT Soak up the carnival atmosphere as you explore the Victorian streets after dark, Sat 4 Nov, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

NIGHT OF COLOURS FIREWORKS Featuring two firework displays and a family-friendly funfair, Sat 4 Nov, Wolverhampton Racecourse

HIMLEY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS 'A night at the movies'-themed fireworks display, Sat 4 Nov, Himley Hall, Dudley

BIDDULPH MOOR FIREWORKS Featuring a fireworks display, lantern parade, a kids' disco and more, Sat 4 Nov, Biddulph Moor Village Hall, Staffs

SANDWELL FIREWORKS Featuring fireworks, live entertainment, music, food, licensed bars and a funfair, Sat 4 Nov, Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR Tamworth's free firework spectacular returns, Sat 4 Nov, Tamworth Castle Grounds, Staffordshire

FIREWORKS ON THE FARM Enjoy fireworks, live music, a fair and food & drink stalls, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Nov, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

FROST FAIR Featuring a wide selection of handmade crafts and Christmas gifts created by talented Shropshire craftspeople, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Nov, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

STAFFORDSHIRE FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA Enjoy fireworks, food and a funfair, Sun 5 Nov, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT With two dazzling firework displays across the evening, one giant roaring bonfire and a traditional funfair, Sun 5 Nov, Weston Park, Shropshire

BINGO LOGO A bingo rave with the chance to win big prizes, including holidays! Fri 3 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

THE DARTS SHOWDOWN Featuring PDC World Darts champions and other players, Fri 3 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Christmas

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Thursday 14th, Friday 15th, Saturday 16th,
Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd

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Gigs

NORAH JONES Mon 6 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GILBERT O'SULLIVAN Mon 6 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

SISTER SLEDGE Mon 6 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BOOTLEG SIXTIES Mon 6 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

DYLAN JOHN THOMAS Tues 7 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JORJA SMITH Tues 7 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE WONDER YEARS Wed 8 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FLETCHER + ARXX Wed 8 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LIL TJAY + JOONY + DINA AYADA Wed 8 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

ARI HOENIG TRIO Wed 8 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

PAUL YOUNG Wed 8 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETERS Wed 8 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

MALEVOLENCE + SYLOSIS + GUILT TRIP + JUSTICE FOR THE DAMNED Thurs 9 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

LITTLE SIMZ + HAK BAKER + OSIRIS THE GOD Thurs 9 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

NOTHING BUT THIEVES + KID KAPICHI + KING NUN Thurs 9 Nov, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

PAUL YOUNG Thurs 9 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

CAVALERA + EXHUMED + INCITE Thurs 9 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

CORY TAYLOR Thurs 9 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

PRETTY BOY FLOYD + THE MIDNIGHT DEVILS Thurs 9 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

SHOW OF HANDS Thurs 9 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE PIGEON DETECTIVES + ELLUR + JACK CATTELL Fri 10 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

UNIT16 + SOCIAL FORMAT + THE COSMETICS + THE CAGE + LOVE NOR MONEY Fri 10 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

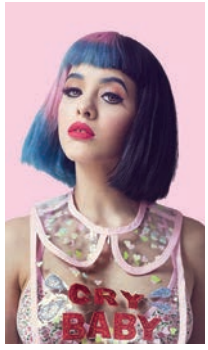
EMPIRE STATE B*STARD + BENEFITS Fri 10 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

PAUL YOUNG Fri 10 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

FROM THE JAM + SKIDS Fri 10 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

BOTOWN - THE SOUL OF BOLLYWOOD Fri 10 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

MELANIE MARTINEZ Fri 10 Nov, The Civic at The Halls W'hampton



OASISH Fri 10 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

BEVERLEY KNIGHT Fri 10 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

SINGAROUND Fri 10 Nov, The Albion, Burton upon Trent

SUNNY SWEENEY Fri 10 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

THE SOUND OF SHREWSBURY FOLK Fri 10 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury

GENESIS CONNECTED Fri 10 Nov, Telford Theatre, Shropshire

STRICTLY ABBA Fri 10 Nov, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

KROKE Fri 10 Nov, Hermon Arts, Oswestry, North Shropshire

DOGSFLESH + THE HATE + JIFNOTCIF Fri 10 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

THE STREETS Fri 10 - Sat 11 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TALON Fri 10 - Sat 11 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

AYRA STARR Sat 11 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

KING KRAB + MARTIN FERAL + BLINDEYE + RED BY NIGHT + SNOWBLIND Sat 11 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES Sat 11 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JULIE JULY BAND Sat 11 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

BLACK PARADE Sat 11 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

SISTER SLEDGE Sat 11 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

WE THREE KINGS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL Sat 11 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

T.REXTASY Sat 11 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE JAM'D Sat 11 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MARTIN SPEAKE QUARTET Sat 11 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury

MAETLIVE AND THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS Sat 11 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

WATERMELON CHRONICLES Sat 11 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

50 CENT + BUSTA RHYMES + JEREMIH Sun 12 Nov, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

FODEN'S BAND Sun 12 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

SUPREME QUEEN Sun 12 Nov, The Prince Of Wales, Cannock

CHRISTINA ALDEN & ALEX PATTERSON Sun 12 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

SCOTTISH SYMPHONY Featuring Cristian Macelaru (conductor), Ray Chen (violin) & the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Wed 8 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

NOTOS QUARTETT Programme includes works by Mozart, Walton & Brahms, Wed 8 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

JOHN WILSON & HIS SINFONIA OF LONDON: HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST HITS Featuring special guest soloists Kim Criswell & Jamie Parker, Thurs 9 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ONYX BRASS QUINTET Programme includes works by Bach, Shostakovich, Holst, Arnold & Gershwin, Fri 10 Nov, United Reformed Church, Shrewsbury

PETER DONOHOE PIANO RECITAL Featuring Salomé Chitaia (piano duo). Programme includes works by Ravel, Debussy, Chopin & R Schumann, Fri 10 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ROGER JUDD ORGAN RECITAL Sat 11 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

LUDLOW MALE VOICE CHOIR & MORRISTON RFC CHOIR Sat 11 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

STAFFORD SINFONIA Featuring Jack Lovell-Huckle (music director) & Emily Chapman (soloist), Sat 11 Nov, Rising Brook Community Church, Stafford

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY LITURGICAL CHOIR Featuring Paul Rodmell (director), Sat 11 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

MANCHESTER CONCERT ORCHESTRA: CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR Featuring Anthony Inglis (conductor), Fenella Humphreys (violin) & Viv McLean (pianist). Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky, Vaughan Williams, Bizet, Elgar, Vivaldi, Wood, Puccini, Ravel & more... Sun 12 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHARITY CHAMBER RECITAL IN AID OF MACMILLAN Sun 12 Nov, Shrewsbury School

CLASSIC CHILLS LIVE Featuring the Gig Caritas Orchestra conducted by Keith Horsfall. Programme includes the William Tell Overture, Elgar's famous Nimrod, Karelia Suite, and Marquez Danson no 2, Sun 12 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

Comedy

FRANKIE BOYLE Mon 6 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

IGNACIO LOPEZ & TOM EVANS Tues 7 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE GORMAN Tues 7 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

MYRA DUBOIS Wed 8 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE ALTER COMEDY CLUB Wed 8 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

ALFIE BROWN Wed 8 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LUCY BEAUMONT Thurs 9 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR & SAMMY DOBSON Thurs 9 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT RICHARDSON, MARC JENNINGS, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, SAMMY DOBSON & RICHARD SPALDING Fri 10 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOM ALLEN Fri 10 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent



IMRAN YUSUF, MAUREEN YOUNGER, DARIUS DAVIES & WAYNE BEESE Fri 10 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

RICH HALL Fri 10 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

REGINALD D. HUNTER Fri 10 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DANNY DEEGAN, HAYLEY ELLIS & ALEX KEALY Fri 10 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

MATT RICHARDSON, MARC JENNINGS, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR & SAMMY DOBSON Sat 11 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK SIMMONS Sat 11 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

FREDDY QUINNE, DOMINIC HATTON-WOODS, RACHEL CREEGER & PHIL CHAPMAN Sun 12 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LUCY BEAUMONT Sun 12 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

Theatre

MARK THOMAS: ENGLAND & SON A 'kaleidoscopic odyssey', where disaster capitalism, empire, stolen youth and stolen wealth merge into the simple tale of a working-class boy who just wants his dad to smile at him, Tues 7 - Wed 8 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: AINADAMAR Award-winning opera fusing dance, theatre and music to reimagine the life of Spanish poet & playwright Federico García Lorca, Tues 7 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

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THE HOUSE WITH CHICKEN LEGS Puppetry, live music and magic combine to bring Sophie Anderson's much-loved novel to life. Presented by Les Enfants Terribles, Tues 7 - Fri 10 Nov, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

MURDER IN THE DARK Tom Chambers and Susie Blake star in a spine-chilling ghost story that promises to keep audiences on the edge of their seats, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Amateur version by Five Towns Theatre, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG Amateur version presented by Bilston Operatic Company, Wed 8 - Sat 11 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE ADDAMS FAMILY Walsall Operatic Society present an amateur version of the award-winning musical comedy, Wed 8 - Sat 11 Nov, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

A NOBLE GAME - R&D EVENING A royal murder-mystery packed with eccentric characters, plot twists and 'hysterical' Gen-Z lingo, Thurs 9 Nov, Old Rep, Birmingham

BUTCHERED Sweeney Todd meets The Trap Door in a bloodthirsty absurdist thriller about 'doing what has to be done', Thurs 9 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

42 CROWNS A wry and quirky observation of the activities of various kings and queens through history. Performed by four actors and a musician, Thurs 9 Nov, SpArC, Bishops Castle, South Shropshire

MUM'S THE WORD Laurie Brett, Sarita Plowman & Poppy Tierney star in an uplifting show about 'navigating motherhood and the drama life throws at you', Thurs 9 Nov, Telford Theatre, Shropshire

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: LA TRAVIATA Verdi's heart-wrenching tale of thwarted love, scandal and self-sacrifice, Thurs 9 - Sat 11 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

MID WALES OPERA - BEATRICE AND BENEDICT Berlioz's final opera, based on Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing, Fri 10 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

CHOOSING CHILDREN Theatre and digital projections combine to create an immersive experience 'addressing some of the most challenging questions of our time', Sat 11 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

VITA AND VIRGINIA Abridged version of Eileen Atkins' play that brings to life the friendship of literary genius Virginia Woolf and aristocratic poet Vita Sackville-West, Sat 11 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

Kids Theatre

THE GRUFFALO, THE GIANT AND THE MERMAID WITH JULIA DONALDSON Julia Donaldson and a cast of four present a brand-new show packed with songs, puppetry and audience participation. Every performance will be followed by a book-signing session with Julia, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: PLAY OPERA LIVE Space-themed interactive and educational family show. Suitable for all ages, Sat 11 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

Dance

UNKNOWN REALMS ACE Dance & Music double bill featuring contrasting works examining the past and present, Tues 7 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ROSHNI - SONIA SABRI COMPANY A 'beautifully intimate crafting of dance and live music, transporting and uplifting the audience on a journey of joy', Thurs 9 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

JAMES WILTON DANCE: THE FOUR SEASONS Abstract choreography featuring the company's signature blend of capoeira, acrobatics, martial arts and classical dance, Thurs 9 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

THE WIZARD OF OZ Ballet Theatre UK present a two-act, full-length ballet based on L Frank Baum's iconic story, Fri 10 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

WALTZING THE BLUE GODS A liberating tale from the Jaivant Patel Company reimagining the Queer symbolism of the Hindu gods, Shiva and Krishna, through North Indian classical dance, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK Irish-inspired Christmas show featuring an international cast of singers, musicians and dancers, Mon 6 - Tues 7 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

THAT'LL BE THE DAY CHRISTMAS SHOW 2023 Nostalgic sleigh ride through the golden age of rock & roll, Wed 8 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS? Leading man Adam - an actor turned paranormal investigator - unravels the legends of theatre ghosts, Wed 8 Nov, Telford Theatre, Shropshire

A CELEBRATION OF FATHER TED WITH JOE ROONEY Featuring 'silly delights, quizzes and a dancing priests competition', Fri 10 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall



Frances Rossi Tunes & Chat - Stourbridge Town Hall

RAVE ON Tour through music's most revolutionary decades, featuring the hits of Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry and more... Fri 10 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

NOEL FITZPATRICK BEYOND SUPERVET Noel explores how caring for animals can help us heal, and how medicine can be as uplifting as music, Fri 10 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

NOEL FITZPATRICK BEYOND SUPERVET Noel explores how caring for animals can help us heal, and how medicine can be as uplifting as music, Sat 11 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

FRANCIS ROSSI: TUNES & CHAT A unique evening in which Francis reprises fan favourites from a remarkable career, Sat 11 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS: CRUISIN' FOR A BLUESIN' TOUR The very best in rhythm & blues, soul, country and Motown, 'with a few surprises and lots of lunacy', Sat 11 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

STEVE STEINMAN'S ANYTHING FOR LOVE - THE MEAT LOAF STORY New production featuring over 25 of Meat Loaf and Jim Steinman's greatest hits, Sun 12 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

AN EVENING WITH STUART BROAD Join one of England's greatest cricketers as he talks about the highs and lows of his career, Tues 7 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

POETRY JAM LIVE A non-genre-specific open-mic night for poets starting out, seasoned veterans and everyone else with a story to tell, Thurs 9 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BEZ IN CONVERSATION: THE NINE LIVES OF A HAPPY MONDAY Join Bez as he tells the story of a bad lad turned good, Fri 10 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

THE MAKINGS OF A MURDERER! Scottish detective David Swindle explores the stories behind some of Britain's most notorious serial killers, Fri 10 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

AN EVENING WITH WAHAJ ALI & SARMAD QADEER An exclusive and intimate event in which two personalities of Pakistani entertainment share their talents and stories, Sat 11 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

Events

COCOMELON Join JJ on a singalong adventure, Mon 6 - Fri 24 Nov, National SEA LIFE Centre, B'ham

CANDLELIGHT: TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR SWIFT An intimate and unique musical experience, lit by the gentle glow of candles, Thurs 9 Nov, Birmingham Cathedral

FIG TRAMPOLINE GYMNASTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Over 1,000 gymnasts from over 50 countries compete across eight days, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

LANCASTER INSURANCE CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW Visit seven halls filled with 3,000 classic cars, 300 car clubs and 350-plus exhibitors, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT See the museum transformed after dusk and discover sound, light and dance experiences inspired by South Asian music and Bollywood glamour, Sat 11 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

TRIPPING THE LIGHT - A FANTASTIC SHOW A live show all about the science of light, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND With real snow, real animals and the all-new winter wonderland show, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Nov, SnowDome, Tamworth

Gigs

SISTER SLEDGE Mon 13 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

STEELEYE SPAN Mon 13 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

DEATH CULT 8323 + LILI REFRAIN Tues 14 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

TEENAGE FANCLUB + SWEET BABOO Tues 14 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE STYLISTICS Tues 14 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

FAR FROM SAINTS Wed 15 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

PENGUIN CAFE Wed 15 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls W'hampton

THE CONQUISTADORS PLAY THE SONGS OF PROCOL HARUM Wed 15 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

MICHAEL STARRING BEN Wed 15 Nov, The Prince Of Wales, Cannock

EMBRACE Thurs 16 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

NASHVILLE, BAD BOYS OF COUNTRY Thurs 16 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

SOUL TRAIN Thurs 16 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

CHINA CRISIS Thurs 16 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

MARK CHADWICK + JESS SILK + MATT JOHNSON Thurs 16 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

THE SISTERS OF MERCY Thurs 16 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, W'hampton

SUZI QUATRO Thurs 16 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA Thurs 16 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent



SEA GIRLS Thurs 16 Nov, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent

THE HARA Thurs 16 Nov, The Underground, Stoke

THE FRASER ANDERSON QUARTET Thurs 16 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BILL ORCUTT GUITAR QUARTET Thurs 16 Nov, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

SHOWADDYWADDY Thurs 16 Nov, Telford Theatre, Oakengates, Shropshire

BASSET Thurs 16 Nov, Quatt Village Hall, South Shropshire

FIDLAR Fri 17 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

NOAH KAHAN Fri 17 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PETER CAT RECORDING CO Fri 17 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BOWIE EXPERIENCE Fri 17 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

STEVE AJAO + CRACKER Fri 17 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

THE ANSWER + KIRA MAC Fri 17 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, W'hampton

ALISON RAYNER QUINTET Fri 17 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

HEAVEN 17 + RUSTY EGAN Fri 17 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE KINGS OF HONG KONG Fri 17 Nov, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

80S MANIA Fri 17 Nov, The Prince Of Wales, Cannock

SARATHY KORWAR Fri 17 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE SPECIALS LTD Fri 17 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE RONALDOS Fri 17 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MAN THE LIFEBOATS + THE WHIPJACKS Fri 17 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

BURNING HEART Fri 17 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

BASSET Fri 17 Nov, Priest Weston Village Hall, South Shropshire

ALI SETHI Sat 18 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

BOB VYLAN Sat 18 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

PORTSIDE + PLASTIC FICTION + VIBRANT DUCKS + NEVER STAY DOWN + DOWNFALL 77 Sat 18 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ABSOLUTE BOWIE Sat 18 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CIAN DUCROT Sat 18 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LOUIS TOMLINSON Sat 18 Nov, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

BEATLEMANIA Sat 18 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

JOLLY ROGER + SHOTGUN MARMALADE Sat 18 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

JAMES DELARRE & SAUL ROSE Sat 18 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

ABBA REUNION Sat 18 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls, W'hampton

BLOODMORES Sat 18 Nov, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

CHRIS DIFFORD Sat 18 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MICROBABY Sat 18 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THOMAS NICHOLAS BAND Sat 18 Nov, The Firefly, Oakengates

FRANKIE ARCHER Sat 18 Nov, Hermon Arts, Oswestry, North Shropshire

BRUNO MAJOR Sun 19 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BILLY STRINGS Sun 19 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MICHAEL ALDAG Sun 19 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE Sun 19 Nov, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

THE JAM 1982 Sun 19 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

BACH & SCHUMANN WITH THE CBSO Featuring Richard Egarr (conductor & harpsichord), Laura van der Heijden (cello) & the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes works by Bach, Haydn & Schumann, Tues 14 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MULTIPIANO ENSEMBLE Programme includes works by Rachmaninov, Scriabin, Medtner & Arensky, Thurs 16 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

MAGICAL MOZART BY CANDLELIGHT Thurs 16 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

RUSSELL WATSON Thurs 16 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

QUINBORNE CHOIR & SOUTH BIRMINGHAM SINFONIA Programme includes works by Handel, Haydn & Choral works by Mozart, Eybler & the Haydn brothers, Sat 18 Nov, St Hilda's Church, Abbey Road, Smethwick

RUSSELL WATSON Sat 18 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

PHOENIX SINGERS Featuring Anthony Pinel (organ) & David Thomas (conductor). Programme includes works by Poulenc, Lauridsen & Whitacre, Sat 18 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

LUDLOW ORCHESTRA Featuring Claire Tocknell (leader), Jonathan Lyness (conductor), Ilid Jones (oboe). Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Strauss & Mendelssohn, Sat 18 Nov, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

Comedy

GARY DELANEY Tues 14 Nov, Aston Hall, Wrexham

ED BYRNE Wed 15 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

JOHN ROBINS Wed 15 Nov, Telford Theatre, Oakengates, Shropshire



MARK WATSON Wed 15 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

EDDIE IZZARD Wed 15 - Fri 17 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, MATT BRAGG & KYRAH GRAY Thurs 16 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham

ALFIE MOORE Thurs 16 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

ADAM ROWE Fri 17 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

JIMMY MCGHIE, SIMON WOZNIAK, MATT BRAGG, KYRAH GRAY & ED KEAR Fri 17 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HELEN BAUER Fri 17 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK CRAM, SHELF & DANE BUCKLEY Fri 17 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

DAWN FRENCH Fri 17 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

CERYS NELMES, MARK MAIER, PETER BRUSH & THE RAYMOND AND MR TIMPKINS REVUE Fri 17 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

ED BYRNE Fri 17 Nov, Aston Hall, Wrexham

MILTON JONES, STEPHEN BAILEY, SUSIE MCCABE & WAYNE BEESE Fri 17 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

JIMMY MCGHIE, SIMON WOZNIAK, MATT BRAGG & KYRAH GRAY Sat 18 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LINDSEY SANTORO Sat 18 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SALLY-ANNE HAYWARD Sat 18 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

SCOTT BENNETT, LINDSEY SANTORO, FREDDY QUINNE & COMIC TBC Sat 18 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

DANNY MCLOUGHLIN, ADAM STAUNTO, DAMION LARKIN & COMIC TBC Sat 18 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

RUSSELL HOWARD Sat 18 - Sun 19 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

STAND UP INTERNATIONAL Sun 19 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROUGH WORKS: NEW MATERIAL NIGHT Sun 19 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham

Theatre

DREAM STAGE Sweet Sorrow Theatre Company presents a new short play about 'dreams, what it means to feel, and our obsession with distraction', Mon 13 - Tues 14 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

GRAVEST FEARS A reading of two chilling tales by MR James, the master of the English ghost story, Tues 14 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR A new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice's iconic musical, Tues 14 - Sat 18 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL Brand-new production of the Gary Barlow & Tim Firth musical starring Tanya Franks, Maureen Nolan, Lyn Paul, Amy Robbins, Paula Tappenden, Marti Webb & Honeysuckle Weeks,

Tues 14 - Sat 18 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE CS Lewis' classic novel is brought to life via 'puppetry, magical storytelling and bewitching stagecraft', Tues 14 Nov - Sun 28 Jan, The Rep, Birmingham

THE RAGGED TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS Political conjuring, tricks, projection, live music and song combine in Neil Gore's one-person version of the classic novel by Robert Tressell, Wed 15 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SCHOOL OF ROCK THE MUSICAL Amateur version performed by Shrewsbury Musical Theatre Company, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BRAZEN A one-woman show about coming of age, the nature of idolatry and the transformative power of music, Thurs 16 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DRIFTWOOD Pentabus Theatre & Thickskin present a story about hope, love, belonging and 'the tides within us', Fri 17 Nov, Farlow and Oreton Village Hall, South Shropshire

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY! A GOTHIC PUB ROCK OPERA Musical comedy thriller 'with a cast of Hollywood superstars and rock god legends all celebrating a British institution'... and performed by only two people! Fri 17 Nov, Stoke St Milborough Village Hall, Ludlow, South Shropshire

THE NUTCRACKER: A CHRISTMAS FAIRYTALE Much-loved festive tale packed with magic, music and enchanting characters, Fri 17 Nov - Sat 27 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

DRIFTWOOD Pentabus Theatre & Thickskin present a story about hope, love, belonging and 'the tides within us', Sat 18 Nov, Yarpole Parish Hall, North Herefordshire

Kids Theatre

MOTIONHOUSE: STARCHITECTS SAVE SANTA! New festive show for families fusing gravity-defying choreography, digital projections and magical characters, Thurs 16 Nov - Sat 30 Dec, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Dance

THE NUTCRACKER Classical Ballet & Opera House presents its version of the seasonal favourite, Tues 14 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

'STILL LIFE' AT THE FREEFALL CAFE Birmingham Royal Ballet celebrates 21 years of impacting attitudes towards learning disabled performers, Wed 15 - Thurs 16 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME? Dance, projection and art installation feature in a performance which follows the journey of someone with dementia navigating an ever-changing world... Fri 17 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DIVERSITY: SUPERNOVA Brand-new show from the acclaimed street dance troupe and winners of Britain's Got Talent 2007, Fri 17 - Sun 19 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE NUTCRACKER Birmingham Royal Ballet's sumptuous festive production. Expect magic, falling snow and a spectacular 30ft Christmas tree, Fri 17 Nov - Sat 9 Dec, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE NUTCRACKER Presented by Stephanie Parrott School of Dance, Sat 18 Nov, The Brewhouse, Burton upon Trent

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Festive favourites performed by 'world-class musicians, star vocalists and world champion dancers', Sun 19 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Light Entertainment

THE WORLD CUP AFTER PARTY - THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE RUGBY LIVE Join James Haskell, Mike Tindall and Alex Payne as they share their own World Cup stories and recap the action from this year's rugby world cup, Mon 13 Nov, The Alexandra, B'ham



GARETH MALONE SING-ALONG-A-GARETH-TWO Gareth creates songs on the spot and helps the audience write their own ditties, in what promises to be an uplifting celebration of community and song, Tues 14 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK Irish-inspired Christmas show featuring an international cast of singers, musicians and dancers, Wed 15 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITHOUT KATE BUSH A homage to the music, fans and mythology of one of the most influential voices in British music, Thurs 16 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

CHARLES & DIANA: THE REUNION TOUR Join Charles and Di (aka Tracey Collins & Russell Lucas) for a musical cruise through the cultural commonwealth of the 1980s, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

A TASTE OF IRELAND Music & dance show starring dancers from Lord Of The Dance and Riverdance, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SHOCK HORROR Ghost story combining live performance, illusion and film, 'taking audiences on a terrifying journey into childhood nightmares', Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

NICK ROSS ORCHESTRA "THE GLENN MILLER & RAT PACK ERA" IN THE CHRISTMAS MOOD Recapture the sounds of a bygone era in an evening of music & song featuring some Christmas Big Band arrangements, Sat 18 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Talks & Spoken Word

THE SERIAL KILLER NEXT DOOR WITH EMMA KENNY Join psychological therapist and crime commentator Emma as she explores what makes a killer, Thurs 16 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

CODEBREAKERS - THE STORY OF ENIGMA Dr Mark Baldwin presents one of the Second World War's most fascinating stories, Fri 17 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

SIMON REEVES: TO THE END OF THE EARTH An evening with one of the world's most adventurous travellers, Sun 19 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

Events

CHRISTMAS IN CATHEDRAL SQUARE Featuring Midlands-based crafts, gifts and food & drink traders, Wed 15 Nov - Sun 17 Dec, Cathedral Square, Birmingham

FESTIVE GIFT FAIR Featuring thousands of unusual gifts, stocking fillers, decorations, artisan food & drink, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

FIG TRAMPOLINE GYMNASTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Over 1,000 gymnasts from over 50 countries compete across eight days, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

BLAKESLEY BY NIGHT An atmospheric costumed evening tour, Fri 17 Nov, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

PEAKY BLINDERS NIGHTS Grab your flatcap and don your finest threads for a night of fun and revelry as you step into the smoky underworld of the 1920s, Fri 17 - Sat 18 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

MIND BODY SPIRIT FESTIVAL Bringing together inspirational, motivational speakers, musicians, artists and performers from across the globe, Fri 17 - Sun 19 Nov, NEC, Birmingham



CHRISTMAS MARKET From holly to hampers, cakes to candles, and mince pies to mistletoe, get ready for the festive season! Sat 18 - Sun 19 Nov, Apley Farm Shop, Shropshire

CHRISTMAS ARTISAN, CRAFT AND GIFT MARKET Featuring local makers, creators and enterprises, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Nov, Bantock House, Wolverhampton

CHRISTMAS AT CADBURY WORLD Father Christmas spreads festive cheer in his tree-mendous stage show! Sat 18 - Sun 19 Nov, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

THE ENGLISH WINTER FAIR The country's largest national winter primestock show, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Nov, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS Join Father Christmas and his loveable elf at Trentham's North Pole, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Nov, Trentham Estate, Staffs

ELF SCHOOL Get your little ones enrolled at Trentham's new Elf School, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Nov, Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

MOTORCYCLE LIVE IN ASSOCIATION WITH BIKESURE The UK's largest motorcycle show, supported by over 50 motorcycle and scooter manufacturers, Sat 18 - Sun 26 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ 2023 TRAIN RIDE Arrive in your pj's and listen to the onboard cast re-tell The Polar Express story, Sat 18 Nov - Sat 23 Dec, Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire

SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND Featuring real snow, real animals and the all-new winter wonderland show, Sat 18 Nov - Sun 7 Jan, SnowDome, Tamworth

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Featuring plenty of stalls from which to buy your Christmas presents, Sun 19 Nov, Ford Green Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

Gigs

L DEVINE + IEUAN Tues 21 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MARTI PELLOW Tues 21 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ULI JON ROTH Tues 21 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD Tues 21 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

WARD KNUTUR TOWNES Tues 21 Nov, Hermon Arts, Oswestry, North Shropshire

SLEAFORD MODS + SPECIAL INTEREST + MELONYX Wed 22 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

KENNY THOMAS Wed 22 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE STYLISTICS Wed 22 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

DUB FX Thurs 23 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE PRODIGY Thurs 23 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

CUCAMARAS Thurs 23 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

ROBERT PLANT PRESENTS SAVING GRACE FEATURING SUZI DIAN Thurs 23 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

LOS PACAMINOS FT PAUL YOUNG Thurs 23 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

HOT MILK + WITCH FEVER + MODERN ERROR Fri 24 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE ELECT + MERE MORTALS, + BLACKFEATHER + CONTORTION + STATIC BRAINS Fri 24 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ALABAMA 3 + OL' TIMES Fri 24 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BIG COUNTRY + VOODOO RADIO Fri 24 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

ROVING CROWS Fri 24 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

SMASH INTO PIECES + CYAN KICKS Fri 24 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

MARILLION Fri 24 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE ULTIMATE BOYBAND PARTY SHOW Fri 24 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

KEITH JAMES: THE MUSIC OF CAT STEVENS Fri 24 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

SINGAROUND Fri 24 Nov, The Albion, Burton upon Trent

DUKE SPECIAL Fri 24 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

PRAYING MANTIS Fri 24 Nov, The Station, Cannock

FLEETWOOD MAD Fri 24 Nov, Lichfield Guildhall

THE FAZYS Fri 24 Nov, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

DUB PISTOLS Fri 24 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE ORIGINAL WANTED Fri 24 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

THE KING'S VOICE STARRING GORDON HENDRICKS Fri 24 Nov, Telford Theatre, Shropshire

ARCHETYPE Fri 24 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

FILKIN'S DRIFT Fri 24 Nov, Chelmarsh Parish Hall, South Shropshire

MAN MADE HELL + IMPERIAL AVENUE + BASEMENT ORPHANS + ROCK DOVE + SERENITY Sat 25 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FRIENDLY FIRES Sat 25 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SCOUTING FOR GIRLS Sat 25 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE SMYTHS + BILLY BLAGG Sat 25 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BILLY BRAGG Sat 25 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ANNE MARIE Sat 25 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

THE COUNTERFEIT STONES Sat 25 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

THE DUALERS Sat 25 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

ROBERT PLANT PRESENTS SAVING GRACE FEATURING SUZI DIAN + TAYLOR MCCALL Sat 25 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE GERRY CINNAMON EXPERIENCE + NOEL GALLAGHER'S HIGH FLYING CARPETS Sat 25 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

FASTLOVE - A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MICHAEL Sat 25 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Sat 25 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE VIEW Sat 25 Nov, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent

THE BEAT Sat 25 Nov, Jollees, Stoke-on-Trent

P!NK LIVE - STARRING VICKY JACKSON Sat 25 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE ENDINGS Sat 25 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

KILL THE WITCH + MUFUNTA + COWER, HOUNDS! Sat 25 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

FILKIN'S DRIFT Sat 25 Nov, Bitterley Village Hall, South Shropshire

THE 502S Sun 26 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE MARY WALLOPERS Sun 26 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GONG + OZRIC TENTACLES Sun 26 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DADI FREYR Sun 26 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls W'hampton

FM + BLACK DIAMOND Sun 26 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

FILKIN'S DRIFT Sun 26 Nov, Welshampton Parish Hall, North Shropshire

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Bach, Grier, Walford Davies, Karg-Elert & Mendelssohn, Mon 20 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ETERNAL ROMANCE WITH THE CBSO Featuring Daniele Rustioni (conductor) & Francesca Dego (violin). Programme includes works by Wagner, Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann & Brahms, Wed 22 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BORIS GILTBURG: PLAYS RACHMANINOV Programme comprises Rachmaninov's Prelude in C sharp minor, Op 3 No 2; Preludes, Op 23 & Preludes, Op 32, Thurs 23 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE MARCHES CHOIR: HAYDN'S NELSON MASS Programme also includes Pergolesi's Magnificat and Mozart's Laudate Dominum, Sat 25 Nov, St John's Church, Bishops Castle, South Shropshire

CBSO & THE ORCHESTRAL QAWWALI PROJECT Featuring Ben Palmer (conductor), Rushil Ranjan (composer/Music Director, Harmonium, Piano, Guitar), Abi Sampa (lead vocalist / harmonium), Parkash Pal (tabla), George Kakas (harmonium), Lydia Alsonso (cello), Vidya Patel (dancer) & the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sun 26 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

Comedy

GARY DELANEY Tues 21 - Wed 22 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

SARAH MILLICAN Wed 22 Nov, Telford Theatre, Oakengates, Shropshire

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, THE RAYMOND AND MR TIMPKINS REVUE & DANNY MCLOUGHLIN Thurs 23 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SARAH MILLICAN Thurs 23 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

JOHN KEARNS & PAT CAHILL Fri 24 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GARRETT MILLERICK, THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN & ROBIN GRAINGER Fri 24 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOSH BERRY Fri 24 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

GARRETT MILLERICK, THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN & COMIC TBC Sat 25 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MICK MILLER Sat 25 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

KARL PORTER & FRIENDS Sun 26 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RAJ POOJARA, SUKH OJLA, JAY SODAGAR & ANUVAB PAL Sun 26 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NICK HELM, AMY GLEDHILL, JOSH PUGH, BRENNAN REECE & SEETA WRIGHTSON Sun 26 Nov, Aston Hall, Wrexham

Theatre

LES MISERABLES Amateur version presented by Stoke Youth Musical Theatre Company, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE 39 STEPS Don't Go Into The Cellar present John Buchan's classic spy thriller, Wed 22 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

I'M GLAD I ASKED Michele O'Brien's one-woman show, exploring the heartaches, shared memories, love and conflict that bind generations together, Wed 22 - Thurs 23 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

PETER PAN THE MUSICAL Amateur version presented by Birmingham & Midland Operatic Society (BMOS), Wed 22 - Sat 25 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

WOMEN OF THE WINDRUSH Celebratory opera portraying inspirational narratives from the lives of women who travelled to the UK from the West Indies in the 1940s, '50s & '60s, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

DICK WHITTINGTON AND THE SECRET OF SKULL ISLAND Dick Whittington moves to the Caribbean in this new swashbuckling tale presented by Aldridge Musical Comedy Society, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Nov, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST? Oscar Wilde's story of love, mistaken identity and double lives - on this occasion with a twist! Fri 24 - Sun 26 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Festive family favourite starring Sam Rabone as Madame Bellie Fillop, Ben Thornton as Phillipe, Kat Chatterton as Belle, Melad Hamidi as the Prince and the Beast, Natalie Pilkington as the Fairy and Sarah Annakin as the Enchantress, Fri 24 Nov - Sun 7 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

Kids Theatre

TALES FROM ACORN WOOD An enchanting lift-the-flap experience based on favourite stories by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler, Tues 21 - Wed 22 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre



THERE'S A MONSTER IN YOUR SHOW Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures jump from page to stage in this brand-new musical show, Thurs 23 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall

Dance

SWAN LAKE Crown Ballet presents its version of the timeless romantic tale, Thurs 23 Nov, Telford Theatre, Shropshire

EMPTY ORCHESTRA A BSL contemporary dance show about singing, with major karaoke hits presented and explored through choreography and sign language, Fri 24 Nov, Arena Theatre, W'hampton

BALLET CYMRU; LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD & THE THREE LITTLE PIGS A double-bill of dance featuring choreographed interpretations of two of Roald Dahl's classic tales, Fri 24 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

DIWALI UTSAV SITARON KE SANG A family-friendly celebration featuring some of the best British South Asian dance artists, companies and community groups from the West Midlands and across the UK, Sat 25 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Light Entertainment

THE GREATEST MAGICIAN An evening with the BBC's Trickster: Live presenter, James Phelan, Mon 20 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS? Leading man Adam - an actor turned paranormal investigator - unravels the legends of theatre ghosts, Thurs 23 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

AN AUDIENCE WITH MATT LE TISSIER Former footballer Matt Le Tissier talks about his career, Thurs 23 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

ELVIS LESLEY: BURNIN' LOVE BINGO Join award-winning character comedian Tracey Collins (Shell Suit Cher, Audrey Heartburn) as she presents a very different Elvis... Fri 24 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

THE MAKINGS OF A MURDERER! Scottish detective David Swindle explores the stories behind some of Britain's most notorious serial killers, Mon 20 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

THE SERIAL KILLER NEXT DOOR WITH EMMA KENNY Join psychological therapist and crime commentator Emma as she explores what makes a killer, Wed 22 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Tren

Events

VICTORIAN PRINTERS EXPERIENCE DAY Learn the art of printmaking and discover the intricacies of a traditional letterpress as you design and typeset your very own poster in the historic setting of John Edmund's print shop, Wed 22 Nov, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

FESTIVE DAYS OUT Experience a world of festive fun, including the UK's only CBeebies Land, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Nov, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

WINTER FESTIVAL See the spectacular ruins transformed by lights, music and more, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Nov, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ TRAIN RIDE Meet all the characters from the film as you journey to the North Pole, Fri 24 Nov - Thurs 21 Dec, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

ALDERFORD'S SANTA ISLAND EXPERIENCE Discover the story of Santa and his elves, Fri 24 Nov - Fri 22 Dec, Alderford Lake, Shropshire

A SNOW PRINCESS CHRISTMAS Help Mrs Claus and the elves make some sand art before travelling through a winter wonderland to meet Santa, Fri 24 Nov - Sat 23 Dec, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

SANTA SAFARI Combining a four-mile winter safari and visit to Santa in his grotto, Fri 24 Nov - Sun 24 Dec, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

SAFARI SKATING Get your skates on and try the Safari Park's first ever festive ice rink, Fri 24 Nov - Sun 7 Jan, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

SANTA'S GROTTO Visit Santa in his grotto, set within the walls of the 11th-century castle, Sat 25 Nov, Dudley Castle

THE BRITISH IRONWORK CENTRE



Safari Skating - West Midland Safari Park

GROTTO Meet Mr & Mrs Claus in their magical grotto, Sat 25 Nov, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

MARKET DRAYTON FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS Featuring entertainment and live music, with the Christmas light switch-on taking place in the evening, Sat 25 Nov, Market Drayton Town Centre, North Shropshire

WREATH MAKING WITH RUSTIC AND WILD Get festive, learn a new skill and create a beautiful Christmas wreath, Sat 25 Nov, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, Shropshire

WORTHEN CHRISTMAS FAIR Packed with seasonal goodies to get visitors in the festive mood, Sat 25 Nov, Worthen Village Hall, Nr Shrewsbury

SANTA'S TOY WORKSHOP Make your own wooden reindeer to take home, Sat 25 Nov, World of Wedgwood, Stoke-on-Trent

SANTA TRAINS Enjoy a magical train journey to Arley, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kiddersminster

SANTA'S GROTTO Meet the man himself in his magical grotto, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, Peak Wildlife Park, Nr Leek, Staffordshire

ELF SCHOOL Get your little ones enrolled at Trentham's new Elf School, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

CHRISTMAS AT CADBURY WORLD Father Christmas spreads festive cheer in his tree-mendous stage show, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

SANTA PAWS WEEKEND Santa is waiting in his cosy grotto with a special treat for your furry friends, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, West Bromwich

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS Join Father Christmas and his loveable elf at Trentham's North Pole, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, Trentham Estate, Staffs

CHRISTMAS MAKERS MARKETS Showcasing award-winning local food & drink and arts & crafts, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND Featuring new attractions, including the Wishmas Express light trail and Enchanted Christmas Grotto, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, Drayton Manor, Staffs

THE 2023 WARLEY NATIONAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION Featuring over 80 working model railway layouts, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

NORTH POLE ADVENTURE Experience the wonder of Christmas on an adventure to the North Pole, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ TRAIN RIDE See the hit film theatrically recreated in this popular festive event, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Nov, Birmingham Moor Street Station

SANTA'S GROTTO EXPERIENCE Get ready to dive into the ultimate underwater fish-massy adventure as Santa and his elves fly back to Birmingham, Sat 25 Nov - Sun 24 Dec, National SEA LIVE Centre, Birmingham

NORTH POLE EXPRESS Entertainment along the way, plus each child gets a gift from Santa, Sat 25 Nov - Sun 24 Dec, Foxfield Railway, Staffordshire

CHRISTMAS BRICKTACULAR Get into the festive spirit with Christmas activities in the Lego playground, Sat 25 Nov - Sun 24 Dec, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

LUMINATE BIRMINGHAM Experience a 'spectacular illuminated trail, full of wonder and intrigue', Sat 25 Nov - Tues 2 Jan, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

STORYTIME IN SANTA'S GROTTO Enjoy a hot chocolate and a selection of stories read by Santa and his excitable elves, Sun 26 Nov, World of Wedgwood, Stoke-on-Trent


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Gigs

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MOVEMENTS Mon 27 Nov, XOYO, Birmingham

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD Mon 27 - Tues 28 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham



HOLDING ABSENCE + THORNHILL Tues 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SKYND Tues 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LORNA SHORE + RIVERS OF NIHIL + INGESTED + DISTANT Tues 28 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

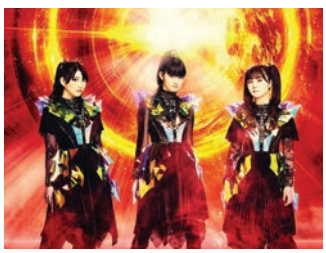
THE ELO SHOW Tues 28 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

STARSAILOR Tues 28 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

ZAK ABEL Wed 29 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE RUMJACKS + JESSE AHERN Wed 29 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BABYMETAL + VUKOVI Wed 29 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton



THE ORB Thurs 30 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

A.B.B.A AT THE DISCO Thurs 30 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

PETE TONG PRESENTS IBIZA CLASSIC Thurs 30 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

SPIKE + CHRIS HEILMAN + CHLOE MOGG Thurs 30 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

GREEN LUNG + INHUMAN NATURE Thurs 30 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

ALL THE YOUNG Thurs 30 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

ABBA REUNION Thurs 30 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS Thurs 30 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

THE ILLEGAL EAGLES Thurs 30 Nov, Aston Hall, Wrexham

Classical Music

SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Beethoven, Brahms & Tchaikovsky, Wed 29 Nov, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School

40 YEARS: SIMON HALSEY, THE CBSO & THE CBSO CHORUS Featuring Jennifer France (soprano) & Allan Clayton (tenor), Thurs 30 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

IGNACIO LOPEZ Tues 28 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

ANDY ROBINSON, SCOTT BENNETT, ELEANOR TIERNAN & COMIC TBC Thurs 30 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

IGNACIO LOPEZ Thurs 30 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

DAVE GORMAN Thurs 30 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

Theatre

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Festive family favourite starring Sam Rabone as Madame Bellie Fillop, Ben Thornton as Phillipe, Kat Chatterton as Belle, Melad Hamidi as the Prince and the Beast, Natalie Pilkington as the Fairy and Sarah Annakin as the Enchantress, until Sun 7 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

THE BOX OF DELIGHTS The RSC's festive family show follows an orphaned schoolboy who finds himself the guardian of a small wooden box with powers beyond his wildest dreams, until Sun 7 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE CS Lewis' classic novel is brought to life via 'puppetry, magical storytelling and bewitching stagecraft', until Sun 28 Jan, The Rep, Birmingham

ERIC'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE New Vic favourite Eric offers a unique take on Jane Austen's romantic classic - complete with '1960s songs, dancing, laughter and lots of fun', Mon 27 Nov - Sat 9 Dec, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG Little Theatre Company present their version of the fantasmagorical musical classic, Tues 28 Nov - Sat 2 Dec, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

OLIVER! The Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Music Society present an amateur version of Lionel Bart's much-loved musical, Wed 29 Nov - Sat 2 Dec, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK A giant of a pantomime starring Brad Fitt, Lucas Rush, Reece Duncan, Tommy J Rollason & Laura-Dene Perryman, Wed 29 Nov - Sun 7 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

RUMPELSTILTSKIN Join The Big Tiny as they present a new lederhosen-filled pantomime based on the Brothers Grimm fairytale, Thurs 30 Nov - Sun 3 Dec, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

Kids Theatre

MOTIONHOUSE: STARCHITECTS SAVE SANTA! New festive show for families fusing gravity-defying choreography, digital projections and magical characters, until Sat 30 Dec, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Dance

THE NUTCRACKER Birmingham Royal Ballet's sumptuous festive production. Expect magic, falling snow and a spectacular 30ft Christmas tree, until Sat 9 Dec, Birmingham Hippodrome

SOLASTAGIA New work by Polish-born dance artist Kasia Witek which invites both the audience and performers to experience the range of emotions the climate crisis evokes, Thurs 30 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Light Entertainment

IT'S SHOWTIME - THE CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW Singalong to two hours of non-stop festive favourites, including Let It Snow, Jingle Bells, Baby It's Cold Outside, Sleigh Ride, Winter Wonderland, White Christmas, Jingle Bell Rock and more... Mon 27 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

PSYCHIC SALLY Evening of mediumship, Tues 28 - Wed 29 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

CHRISTMAS CRACKER Eighteen regional schools perform a festive programme of songs under the directorship of Ula Weber, Tues 28 - Thurs 30 Nov, Walsall Arena

RAT PACK CHRISTMAS IN VEGAS Swing into Christmas with a yuletide treat for all the family, Wed 29 Nov, Telford Theatre, Shropshire

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES! Presented by Lichfield Operatic Society, Wed 29 Nov - Fri 1 Dec, The Hub @ St Marys, Lichfield

THE OVERTONES IN CONCERT Featuring original material alongside feelgood classics, Thurs 30 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS: CRUISIN' FOR A BLUESIN' TOUR The very best in rhythm & blues, soul, country and Motown, 'with a few surprises and lots of lunacy thrown in for good measure', Thurs 30 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

PASS THE MEERKAT LIVE Evening of entertainment, comedy, music and 'unmatched vibes', based on the animated web series created by nine friends, Mon 27 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Events

CHRISTMAS IN CATHEDRAL SQUARE Featuring Midlands-based crafts, gifts and food & drink traders, until Sun 17 Dec, Cathedral Square, Birmingham

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ 2023 TRAIN RIDE Arrive in your pj's and listen to the onboard cast re-tell The Polar Express story, until Sat 23 Dec, Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire

SANTA SAFARI SANTA SAFARI Combining a four-mile winter safari and visit to Santa in his grotto, until Sun 24 Dec, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley

NORTH POLE EXPRESS Entertainment along the way, plus each child gets a gift from Santa, until Sun 24 Dec, Foxfield Railway, Staffordshire

CHRISTMAS BRICKTACULAR Get into the festive spirit with Christmas activities in the Lego playground, until Sun 24 Dec, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

SANTA'S GROTTO EXPERIENCE Get ready to dive into the ultimate underwater fish-massy adventure as Santa and his elves fly back to Birmingham, until Sun 24 Dec, National SEA LIFE Centre Birmingham

ICE SKATE BIRMINGHAM Birmingham's largest, all-inclusive undercover ice rink is back! until Sun 7 Jan, Centenary Square, Birmingham

SAFARI SKATING Get your skates on and try the Safari Park's first ever festive ice rink, until Sun 7 Jan, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND Featuring real snow, real animals and the all-new winter wonderland show, until Sun 7 Jan, SnowDome, Tamworth

CHRISTMAS PARTY WORLD 2023 A night of 'high-octane' entertainment, food & drink, all presented within the themed venue, Wed 29 Nov - Sat 23 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

WIN! with What's On...

Enter now at whatsonlive.co.uk to be in with a chance of bagging one of these fabulous prizes!



Win! A pair of tickets to see the RSC's The Box Of Delights

The RSC's 'magically festive' production of The Box Of Delights shows at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre until Sunday 7 January. We have a pair of tickets to give away for the afternoon performance on Saturday 18 November.

Competition closes Monday 6 November



Win! A family ticket to see Peter Pan The Musical

Peter Pan The Musical flies into Birmingham this festive season, showing at the Old Rep from Tuesday 5 until Sunday 31 December. We are offering our readers the chance to win a family ticket to see the show on Friday 29 December.

Competition closes Monday 18 December



Win! A family ticket to National SEA LIFE Centre Birmingham plus Santa's Grotto Experience

Get ready to dive into an underwater fish-massy adventure as Santa and his elves fly back to the SEA LIFE Centre to spread some festive cheer.

Competition closes Monday 20 November



Win! A family ticket to see The Nutcracker: A Christmas Fairytale

The New Vic in Newcastle-under-Lyme is presenting a brand-new adaptation of this classic festive story. We are offering our readers a chance to win a family ticket to the evening performance on Friday 15 December.

Competition closes Monday 4 December



Win! A family ticket to see The Gruffalo - plus merchandise

Tall Stories' musical adaptation of the classic picture book shows at Warwick Arts Centre from Saturday 2 to Sunday 31 December. We have a family ticket to give away to see the show, plus a plush Gruffalo toy and colouring book.

Competition closes Monday 27 November



Win! A family ticket to see The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe

Direct from the West End, The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe shows at Birmingham Rep from Tuesday 14 November to Sunday 28 January. We have a family ticket to give away for the evening performance on Friday 19 January.

Competition closes Monday 8 January

For your chance to WIN! with What's On, visit:

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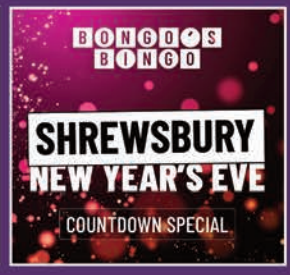












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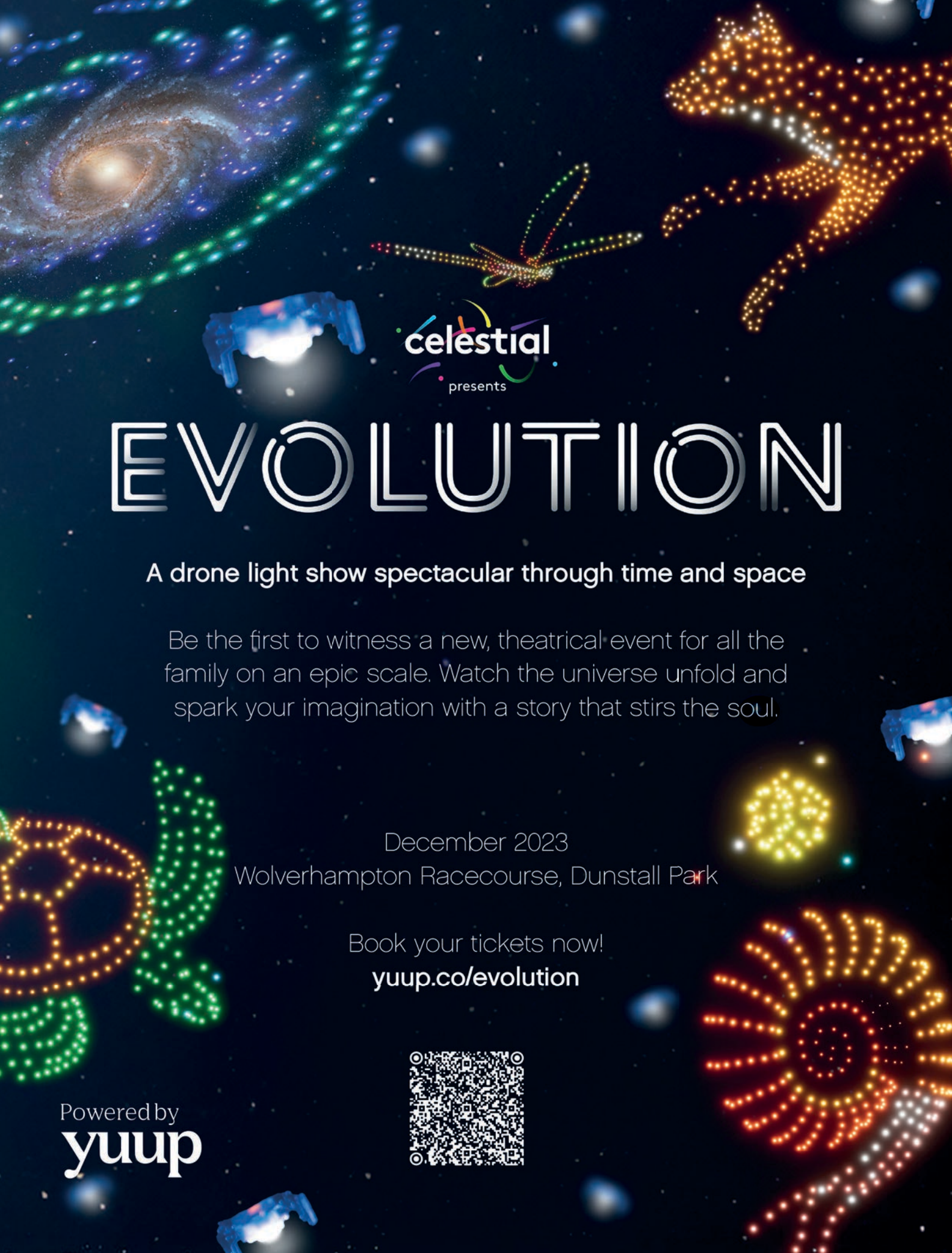




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