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ISSUE 449 JUNE 2024

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inside:

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Kym Marsh talks about starring as the wicked Cruella de Vil



LAUGHTER & CHAOS

Voices Of Evil at the Old Joint Stock Theatre...



CULINARY DELIGHTS

BBC Good Food Show Summer returns to the NEC





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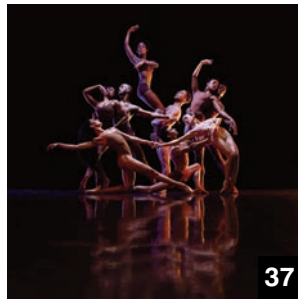
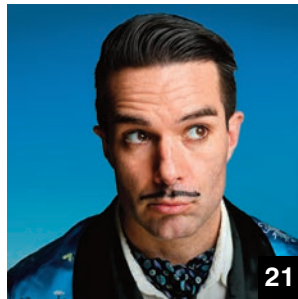
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What's On

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CS Lewis' classic story returns to Birmingham

A celebrated production of CS Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe* will visit Birmingham theatre The Alexandra next year as part of a major new tour (Tuesday 27 - Saturday 31 May 2025).

Commenting on the news, the show's director, Michael Fentiman, said: "The production celebrates the magic of live theatre and is led by a multi-talented cast of actors, singers, musicians, dancers and puppeteers. It is a celebration of the possibilities of the collective imagination and the boundless wonders of individual skill." For further information and to book tickets, visit atgtickets.com/birmingham

Midlands organisations receive Arts Council cash

Arts Council England has awarded a total of £3,238,499 to seven West Midlands cultural and creative organisations.

The money comes from the Government-funded Capital Investment Programme and will be used to improve accessibility, reduce environmental impact and support new business models.

The seven beneficiaries are the Birmingham-based ACE Dance & Music and Grosvenor Road Studios, Stourbridge Glass Museum, Stoke-on-Trent's Portland Inn Project, the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Hereford Museum Service and the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Geology museum is best 'hidden gem' in Brum area

Lapworth Museum of Geology has been named the best 'hidden gem' in the Birmingham area.

The honour has been attained by the venue as a result of research conducted by tour operator software provider Bókun, which is part of the Tripadvisor family. The company examined over 1,000 destinations using Tripadvisor reviews containing the phrase 'hidden gem'.

Other Birmingham venues to feature on the list include Soho House, Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Coffin Works and the Back-to-Backs. The research also revealed that Birmingham and London are the best UK cities in which to find hidden gems, and that England is home to the most hidden-gem locations worldwide.



Taylor Swift summer party at The Button Factory

A Taylor Swift summer party is coming to The Button Factory in Birmingham on Saturday 8 June.

The event will feature a tribute act, accompanied by dancers, with tunes spun by a DJ. Attending in fancy dress is encouraged. For further information and to purchase tickets, visit thebrunchclub.co.uk



Hip-hop and grime meets opera at the Hippodrome

Theatre-going audiences are being invited to take a journey into the depths of Black-British culture, class and belonging at Birmingham Hippodrome this month. Presented in the venue's Patrick Studio on Thursday 6 & Friday 7 June, Tones 'combines the gritty underground sounds of hip-hop, grime and drill with the melodrama of opera to present a piece of gig theatre like no other'. For further information and to book tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Core Theatre confirmed to reopen in spring 2025

Solihull Council will reopen the Core Theatre auditorium in spring next year. The council's aim is that, by April 2025, the auditorium will be hosting shows, performances and film screenings, with a full theatre programme in place from September of next year. To check out upcoming shows, visit: thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk

AJ & Curtis to star in Moulin Rouge tribute

A show paying tribute to hit musical *Moulin Rouge* will visit the region in the autumn as part of a UK tour.

Come What May, starring AJ and Curtis Pritchard, stops off at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Thursday 10 October.

To find out more and book tickets for the show, visit cuffeandtaylor.com



Three plays in a month for hardworking RBC actors

Actors from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire are certainly keeping busy this month, presenting productions based on three much-loved plays. A new version of *As You Like It*, showing at the city's MAC venue on Saturday 1 June, is followed by *Faustus: That Damned Woman* at the Crescent Theatre - from Thursday the 13th to Saturday the 15th - and *Queen Lear*, also at the Crescent, from Thursday the 20th to Saturday the 22nd.

Harry on tour...

Harry Hill is heading out on tour early next year and will be stopping off at a number of Midlands venues.

Harry's latest show, New Bits & Greatest Hits, sees the big-collared comedian 'offering new insights into the hot topics of the day, including the demise of the SCART lead, the 'culture wars', the differences between crabsticks and rhubarb, and the origins of Tiramisu'.

To find out where and when Harry is appearing in the region, visit harryhill.co.uk



City date for Janet Jackson

Five-time Grammy Award winner Janet Jackson is bringing her Together Again tour to Birmingham in the autumn.

The show - which celebrates Janet's 50 years in the music business and the 35th anniversary of her critically acclaimed album, Rhythm Nation - stops off at Utilita Arena on Friday 27 September. To book a seat, visit the website theticketfactory.com



Van Gogh touring exhibition stopping off at the NEC

A multimedia touring show celebrating Vincent van Gogh's life and work is visiting Birmingham this summer.

Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience will show at the NEC from Thursday 1 August to Sunday 1 September. Combining more than 300

of the artist's paintings with cutting-edge technology and a specially curated soundtrack, the 'stunning sensory extravaganza' has so far been viewed by more than five million people across the world... To find out more about the show, visit the website thenec.co.uk



Disney On Ice to bring Road Trip Adventures to Brum

Grab your mouse ears and get your skates on - Disney On Ice is heading back to Birmingham with a brand-new show!

Titled Road Trip Adventures, the production features new and classic tales, world-class skating, high-flying acrobatics and up-close character interactions. The show stops off at Utilita Arena from Wednesday 30 October to Sunday 10 November. For more information and tickets, visit utilitaarenabham.co.uk

Gladiator Giant to star in Grand Theatre pantomime

Gladiators star Giant has joined the cast of this year's Wolverhampton Grand Theatre pantomime production of Beauty And The Beast. The Midlands-born 6ft 5inch star of the hit BBC television series will take on a 'villainous new role' in the family-friendly panto, which runs at the venue from Saturday 30 November to Sunday 5 January.

For further information and to purchase tickets, visit grandtheatre.co.uk



Victoria Wood Playwriting Prize winner named

Actor & playwright Eugene O'Hare has won Birmingham Rep's inaugural Victoria Wood Playwriting Prize For Comedy with his humorous two-act play, Portugal. Conceived by The Rep's artistic director, Sean Foley, in partnership with The Victoria Wood Foundation and supported by BBC Comedy, the prize is 'the first ever major playwrighting award dedicated to the art of comedy'. Eugene's play follows the fortunes of a working-class Belfast woman whose desire to find a new life in Portugal throws her family and fiancé into a mad spin. Congratulations to Eugene on his greatly deserved success!

Evershed Sutherland continue support for MAC

Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) has renewed its corporate sponsorship deal with global lawyers Eversheds Sutherland. The three-year partnership will see the company sponsoring a number of major exhibitions and community events at MAC which have a special focus on wellbeing and sustainability.



Big Wheel keeps on turning at the cathedral

Visitors to Birmingham's Cathedral Square can enjoy a bird's-eye view of the



city this summer (until Sunday 1 September), thanks to the presence of a giant wheel. Brought to the cathedral grounds by Danter Attractions, the company responsible for the Christmas wheel in Centenary Square, the attraction boasts 24 spacious gondolas - each capable of accommodating up to six people - which reach a maximum height of 35 metres. The aerial experience is accompanied by a commentary about the city.

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Four summer concerts at Warwick Castle next month

Midlands music lovers will no doubt be heading to Warwick Castle in their droves next month, when the popular visitor attraction hosts a series of summer concerts. Kickstarting the programme of gigs on Thursday 18 July is the London Concert Orchestra, who will be performing the music of Hollywood composers Hans Zimmer and John Williams. The following night it's the turn of McFly, with special guests The

Hoosiers, to entertain the masses, before London Concert Orchestra return on Saturday the 20th to perform 'ultimate dance hits from the 90s'. The castle's summer concert season is then rounded off on Sunday the 21st by Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, with special guests Johnny Marr and The WAEVE. For more information and to book tickets, visit premier.ticketek.co.uk

Covid collection at the Library of Birmingham

A poignant photographic collection, documenting and highlighting the profound impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people worldwide, is showing at Library of Birmingham. Little Faces Big Feelings is available to view at the venue until Saturday 29 June. The project brings together 16 artists from internationally diverse backgrounds to shed light on the social and emotional challenges faced by children 'during lockdowns and thereafter'... To find out more about the exhibition, visit the website redeye.org.uk



BCMG to present new opera at CBSO Centre

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group will present the world premiere of a brand-new opera next month. Titled Sonata For Broken Fingers, and performed at the city's CBSO Centre on Sunday 14 July, the piece takes its inspiration from the remarkable life of Maria Yudina, a virtuoso pianist and survivor of Joseph Stalin's purges. For further information and to book tickets, visit the group's website: bcmg.org.uk

British Motor Museum to host STEM Careers days

The British Motor Museum in Gaydon, Warwickshire, is hosting four STEM Careers days over the course of the next few weeks. Taking place on Wednesday 26 & Thursday 27 June, and then on Thursday 11 & Friday 12 July, the special events will feature a range of interactive STEM-based activities for secondary school pupils in years seven to 10. For more information about the events, visit britishmotormuseum.co.uk

B:Music

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**Richard Thompson:
Ship to Shore** 03 June | Symphony Hall



Between The Covers: Live
04 June | Town Hall



**Collabro: 10th Anniversary
Reunion Concert** 07 June | Symphony Hall



**Fanna-Fi-Allah
Sufi Qawwali** 07 June | Town Hall



Britpop Classical
08 June | Symphony Hall



Bhangra Symphonica
08 June | Town Hall



**Disney in Concert: The Sound
of Magic** 11 June | Symphony Hall



Shalamar: Greatest Hits
14 June | Symphony Hall



**Nadiya & Kai:
Behind The Magic** 24 June | Symphony Hall



JUST ANNOUNCED

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Various Dates | Symphony Hall

Highlights Include: Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra
Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra | German
National Orchestra | Vasily Petrenko & The Royal
Philharmonic Orchestra & many more!

bmusic.co.uk

There's something for
everyone this June!

Bright lights of Vegas come to the Midlands

A circus which merges Las Vegas traditions and contemporary styles with extreme stunts and classic clown escapades is visiting the Midlands this month.

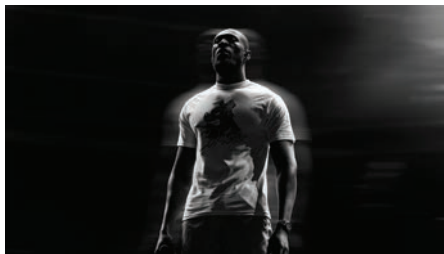
Circus Vegas finishes its run at Birmingham's NEC on Sunday 2 June. It then visits Worcester's Sixways Stadium from Wednesday the 26th to Sunday the 30th. Further information about the show is available at circusvegasuk.com



Debut exhibition for local freelance photographer

A showcase of photographs of artists performing in front of massive audiences, presented alongside images capturing intimate behind-the-scenes moments, is currently available to view at Birmingham's Grosvenor Road Studios.

The exhibition features the work of Johnathan Williams, a local freelance photographer who has covered major awards ceremonies like the MOBOs and taken pictures of bands and artists performing at festivals including Wireless, Parklife, All Points East and Reading & Leeds. Johnathan's debut exhibition is available to view until October.



Arab film festival at MAC

The UK's largest and longest-running Arab film festival returns for its ninth edition this month (Tuesday 18 - Sunday 30 June).

The British Film Institute-supported Safar Film Festival includes a number of movies that will be screened in Birmingham (at the city's Midlands Arts Centre).

For more details about the event, visit its website: safarfilmfestival.co.uk

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Birmingham Royal Ballet take over BMAG's Waterhall

If you've ever fancied finding out more about the operations of one of the country's most acclaimed ballet companies, then now's your chance.

Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) has announced a short residency at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's (BMAG) Waterhall Gallery (Wednesday 26 June - Tuesday 2 July), during which various aspects of life in a ballet company - both on and off stage - will be showcased.

An exhibition, demonstrations, the chance to watch and join in dance classes, and an introduction to making your very own tutu, all feature. A special Night At The Museum event is also planned, offering visitors the chance to enjoy both BMAG's Victorian Radicals exhibition and a series of short performances, including the world premiere of a new work by BRB dancer Olivia Chang Clarke. For further information and to book tickets, visit brb.org.uk

Dance company set to explore regeneration

Midlands-based Keneish Dance Company is visiting numerous local venues with a brand-new contemporary dance performance piece.



Taking the title *Balance*, the work is described as a production in which art meets science, 'featuring the delicate choreography of the human immune-system cells and cellular movement'.

The show is choreographed by the ensemble's artistic director, Keisha Grant, who said: "Creating this work has opened my understanding of human cells, their movement, behaviour, how they respond to environment, how they react, protect us and rejuvenate, resulting in the creation of this exciting new work, which will be incorporated into the company's wellbeing programming."

To find out where and when the company is appearing over the next few months, visit the website: keneishdance.com

Best of the Blues coming to Solihull's Core theatre

Although the main auditorium of Solihull theatre The Core is closed until 2025, the venue is making good use of its Studio space during the second half of this year, with its programme of shows including three Blues-music gigs. Blues rocker Simon 'Honeyboy' Hickling and his band pay a visit this month (Friday 14 June), with PJ Baker's Blues Irregulars and Jimmy Regal & The Royals then stopping off at the venue in the autumn. To find out more about what's on in the Studio, visit thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk

Turning Japanese at Brum's Symphony Hall

Birmingham's Symphony Hall is set to play host to a Japanese orchestra for the first time in more than 25 years.

The Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra of Tokyo will perform at the venue (Wednesday 23 October) as part of the 2024/25 classical music season, presenting a concert that will include performances of Beethoven's Violin Concerto and Rachmaninov's Second Symphony. To check out Symphony Hall's complete programme of concerts, visit the website bmusic.co.uk/bclassical



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as Colonel Mustard



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Directed by **MARK BELL**



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PUPPY LOVE

Waterloo Road and former Coronation Street favourite Kym Marsh talks about playing the ever-so-evil Cruella de Vil in a touring musical version of 101 Dalmatians, coming to Birmingham theatre The Alexandra next month...

Actress and singer Kym Marsh is perhaps best known for her roles as feisty Michelle Connor in Coronation Street and the doughty school dinner lady Nicky Walters in Waterloo Road.

But this summer Kym takes on a very different character when she dons a black & white wig to become arch evildoer Cruella de Vil in the touring musical version of the classic children's tale 101 Dalmatians.

Based on the 1956 novel by Dodie Smith, the show tells the story of Dalmation dog couple Pongo and Perdi, who have a perfect life with their 15 puppies - until, that is, the puppies are stolen to order for Cruella.

As if stealing Pongo and Perdi's puppies isn't bad enough, Cruella adds the 15 to a larger collection at her mansion and prepares to kill them all so that their black & white spots can be turned into a designer fur coat for her...

First staged at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in London in 2022, 101 Dalmatians The Musical embarks on its first UK & Ireland tour this summer, coming to Birmingham theatre The Alexandra early next month.

So why was Kym keen to take on the role?

"Cruella de Vil is the most iconic villain of all time," she explains, "so I just knew it would be so much fun - and judging by rehearsals, I was right! I love everything about playing Cruella. Playing a villain is always so much fun because you get to play someone so far removed from yourself, so you can play around. Cruella, though - I mean, she's everything; she's evil, she's unhinged - she's also funny and witty and so camp. She's the ultimate baddy - the costumes, the hair, the make-up; it's like playing dress-up!"

For many people, Cruella is the fashionista with a heart of stone, as depicted in the 1961 Walt Disney animation in which she is a caricature of wickedness. Kym is determined that her portrayal will be more nuanced.

"She is evil, yes, but she's also so many other things. For a start, she's so, so funny. And then there are many places to go within the

script, many things to pull out in terms of her traits; there's even a bit of vulnerability about her, actually, which is very interesting. I and the brilliant team I'm working with share ideas, and I think that helps the process of showing who Cruella is.

"I hope audiences love my portrayal of Cruella. I want people to be intrigued by her, be humoured - and also a little bit afraid. I'm sure there will be lots of boos from children!"

Kym first rose to fame as a member of pop group Hear'Say, which was created through the ITV reality television show Popstars in 2001. Also featuring Myleene Klass, Suzanne Shaw, Noel Sullivan and Danny Foster, Hear'Say's first release, Pure And Simple, charted at number one. But after three top-10 singles and two albums, Kym announced that she was leaving the band to pursue a solo career. She quickly moved into television, gaining parts in Holby City and Doctors as well as being a regular panellist on Loose Women. In 2006 she joined Coronation Street, and in the following 13 years saw her character experience a series of tragedies, including the stillbirth of her child - a storyline for which Kym won the 2017 British Soap Award for Best Female Dramatic Performance.

Kym has also been a regular on stage, with lead roles in shows including Saturday Night Fever, Fatal Attraction and the Take That musical Greatest Days.

And she knows Birmingham well.

"I've been to Birmingham before with various shows and I always love coming here. I've also hosted the Pride of Birmingham Awards for the last few years and have met some extraordinary people doing that. The people in Birmingham are always very friendly and make you feel welcome. The theatre audiences are fabulous, and I just can't wait to come back."

Kym is sharing the Cruella role with former Steps singer Faye Tozer, with each playing different venues during the six-month tour. While Kym plays Cruella at the Alex, Faye

takes on the role when the show plays the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in August. Kym explains the cast change is due to television commitments.

"I have to return to Manchester for a few weeks to film Waterloo Road, which is when Faye takes over. Faye is a pro, and I'm certain she will be fabulous. I don't foresee any challenges for either of us - we'll both bring our own unique take on the Cruella character, and I hope people will love both of our portrayals."

The musical has been adapted for the stage by Zinnie Harris, with music & lyrics by Douglas Hodge and book by Johnny Knight. The dogs and puppies are played by puppets designed by Toby Olié, who has worked on shows including War Horse, Animal Farm, Spirited Away and The Little Mermaid.

Kym says children and adults alike will enjoy the production.

"People will love everything about the show. It's fun for all the family. It's funny, it's scary, it's thoroughly entertaining - the whole cast is just exceptional, and I just know everyone will not want it to end. It's a show that the whole family can come to. Bring the kids, bring the parents, grandparents - the whole family will love it. People should come for that reason.

"There are a lot of layers to the story, but I think the main messages you take away are that working as part of a team is always better than going it alone. That, and of course that real baddies always get their comeuppance!"

.....
Kym Marsh stars in 101 Dalmatians at The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 2 to Saturday 6 July.

The production then stops off at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton from Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 August, with Faye Tozer starring in the role of Cruella de Vil.



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Sophie Gilphin director

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Classical music from across the region...



Ex Cathedra: Summer Music By Candlelight

St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, Thurs 13 June; St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, Fri 14 June; St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, Tues 18 June

Jeffrey Skidmore once again picks up the baton to conduct Birmingham's highly rated early music ensemble, on this occasion in a concert that Ex Cathedra confidently predict will see people heading for home singing of

summertime. The programmes for these annual get-togethers, presented by candlelight as dusk falls, move seamlessly from seasonal favourites to popular gems and accessible new music.

An Evening With Anna Lapwood

Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 20 June

With more than one million followers on social media, it's fair to say that Anna Lapwood is bringing the magic of the organ to the masses. Hailed by Gramophone as 'the dream ambassador for classical music', Anna is here performing a mix of her favourite traditional classical and contemporary music. Featured works include Hans Zimmer's *Interstellar*, *The Da Vinci Code* and *Inception*, Philip Glass' *Mad Rush*, Alan Menken's *Hunchback Of Notre Dame* and Claude Debussy's *Clair de lune*.



RBC Symphony Orchestra

The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Fri 14 June

Acclaimed conductor Martyn Brabbins joins forces with the RBC (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire) Symphony Orchestra for what's being described as 'a spectacular end-of-year celebration'. The two-hour concert features three works: Busoni's *Piano Concerto in C* - a bewilderingly difficult composition, here being wrestled with by the RBC's immensely talented *Emanuil Ivanov* (pictured); Respighi's *Pines Of Rome*, a work of 'dazzling orchestral colour' and a perfect showcase for the whole orchestra; and the world premiere of *The Lily*, a new work by RBC composition student *Kinna Whitehead*, who features as vocalist.



Madam Butterfly With CBSO & Kazuki Yamada

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 29 June

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's (CBSO) chief conductor & artistic advisor, Kazuki Yamada, is the man at the helm for this sure-to-be-impressive performance of a composition close to his heart.

Telling the story of a geisha girl who marries an American naval officer, only to find that he soon returns home and marries another, Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* has become one of the most popular operas of all time... The CBSO is joined for the concert performance by highly rated Japanese soprano *Maki Mori* (pictured).



Summer Festival Of Music

various locations including the Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham, Sun 9 - Fri 21 June

A highlight of the academic year for musicians at the University of Birmingham, the annual Summer Festival Of Music this year includes contributions from the university folk band and string orchestra, electro-acoustic student compositions, and a performance of Shostakovich's fifth symphony by the Summer Festival Orchestra.

New music by student *Oliver Beck* and a performance by *Jessie Lewis* - the winner of the annual Society Soloist Competition - also feature. The festival opens with a reunion event for the university's popular brass band.



A WHOLE LOTTA LOVE

Irresistible beats. Musical fusion. Bhangra Symphonica is set to excite and inspire Birmingham audiences this month...



This month's Birmingham Town Hall concert by Bhangra Symphonica - an integration of bhangra-rock fusion band Kissmet and classical music masters Orchestra of the Swan - promises to be a big, bold and beautiful experience. What's On spoke to Ron & Buzz Singh of Kissmet, alongside Orchestra of the Swan's artistic director, David Le Page, to get a flavour of the epic collaboration...

Bhangra Symphonica is the meeting of two genre-blending powerhouses. Orchestra of the Swan, headed up by Artistic Director David Le Page, aim to break down the starchy stigma around classical music, while Kissmet, started by brothers Ron and Buzz Singh, blends traditional bhangra with classic rock. In collaboration, they create a thrilling and mesmerising experience, and are bringing that irresistible energy to Birmingham this month.

The partnership began, however, in a much humbler setting, with David visiting Ron and Buzz in Peterborough, to test the waters together in a jam session.

"Dave got his violin and I had my harmonium, and they just sang to each other," Ron explains. "It was such a revelation playing with Dave, because he's an absolutely phenomenal musician.

"We knew that the sound was completely unique; I've never heard anything like it before - this whole fusion of different genres, different instruments, different languages and different cultures, all coming together. But they work so well!"

The first iteration of Bhangra Symphonica hit the stage in Coventry, followed by a show at Alcester's Ragley Hall, featuring a selection of classical musicians from Orchestra of the Swan, the remainder of Kissmet, and most importantly, an audience.

"Being a classical musician, you don't always get instant feedback from the audience," says David. "The concerts that we do with Bhangra Symphonica are akin to a religious experience in some ways. I know it's expected in any live performance, but especially at these gigs - the audience is as important as the band."

"We try to make the audience another band member," adds Buzz, "so that everyone feels a part of the experience. Like Dave said, it feels religious - I think it also feels spiritual. We're all on that same journey; we're all looking to find peace, happiness and safety within ourselves."

Bhangra Symphonica's fusion reaches beyond the music into the groups' respective audiences. "It breaks down lots of barriers," says Buzz. "As Kissmet, who are singing in English, Punjabi, Hindi, playing rock music and playing bhangra, that was already quite unique in itself. Now, bringing the orchestra on with us as well - lots of our audiences have never heard violin live, or cello."

Kissmet's melting pot of influences stretches back to Buzz and Ron's childhood, and the street where they grew up in Peterborough. Ron explains: "Within half a mile there was the Pentecostal church, so on Sunday morning we were hearing gospel. Right next door to that was the mosque, and we would

hear the Friday evening call to prayers. You'd walk a bit further down the road and there was the Marcus Garvey Centre, playing Rastafarian reggae music. A bit further down, there was the Sikh temple, the Hindu Samaj, the Ukrainian club, the Roman Catholic church... As we were going to school, we heard all these different musical genres playing at the same time.

"As children, you don't realise that they're different; you just think of it as music - you don't even think that they're all singing in different languages."

The final piece of Kissmet's puzzle was the influence of rock music.

"We listened to Top Of The Pops and we'd hear Whole Lotta Love," says Ron. "Then, when we became musicians, I'd say to my guitarist 'Can you play the Top Of The Pops tune?' 'What, Whole Lotta Love?' I listened to it and I thought, that sounds Indian to me... so we'd start singing Punjabi lyrics over the top."

The band's new collaboration with Orchestra of the Swan has brought a further dimension to the sound experience, blending a classical influence into the mix.

Buzz paints a picture of Bhangra Symphonica's stage presence: "We're Sikhs with turbans and beards, and we've got English bass players, and we've got an orchestra behind us. It's amalgamating what we all are - we're all from one source. That's where the spiritual energy comes into it. People are listening to the sounds of each genre mixing together, and that's basically what we are as human beings."

Orchestra of the Swan, David attests, have just as much to gain from the collaboration: "It's enlightening on both sides completely. It broadens our horizons. It's an amazing body of music, the classical world, but sometimes its amazingness is a little bit like a museum piece - it reached the end of the 19th century and felt a bit stuck.

"One of the first things I did was get rid of the penguin suits and tails, all of that stuff, so it felt like there were human beings playing the music. At the heart of it, the music of Beethoven and Mozart is extraordinary, and it's emotional, and it really connects. What doesn't connect are some of those unhelpful rituals that are associated with the classical world, like clapping in a certain place..."

"No one told me about that one, Dave," interrupts Ron, "clapping in the wrong place!"

"I quite often say to the audience 'I don't mind where you clap,'" David continues. "I've tried to foster that approach in the classical world, but that's kind of slow progress. When we work with Bhangra Symphonica, it's amazing for the classical musicians to

suddenly feel such an extraordinarily strong and immediate reaction to what you're playing."

The practicalities of this collaboration needed to be considered as well. Buzz, as Kissmet's drummer, had to be flexible to balance the new instrumentation: "With the percussion side, you do have to adjust slightly because it's not like rock and bhangra: bam bam bam! Now we're putting a bit of class into our performance! So there's slight changes in volumes and beats, but that's what you have to do - you have to give everybody respect in their own instrument. We want everybody to be heard."

Bhangra Symphonica's combined influences, instruments and individuals creates something really special. The band perform at Birmingham Town Hall on the 8th of June - a venue David knows well, having frequently performed there with Orchestra of the Swan: "We haven't played there for a while now, but we used to play there several times a season. It's a very grand mid-19th century institution building, and it was refurbished about 15 years ago. It still has that Victorian feel to it, but it's a modern, airy space as well. It has a lot of different kinds of music - classical music, but lots of bands as well. It feels like it's the right setting for what we're doing - joining these two musics together."

With the venue fitting Bhangra Symphonica like a glove, there's one thing missing: the audience. The gig promises to be quite a spectacular experience - and according to Ron, the electricity in the room is essential: "As artists, it's so important for us to have that level of engagement with the people in front of us. Without them, we can't do anything. Dave, Buzz and I, we're not musicians who want to perform and have people listening to us - we want to perform and have people interacting with us, engaging, and going on the journey with us."

The group are driven by a wish to unite people's experiences, resonating all the way from the music, to the stage, to the audience. As Ron says: "The whole world is disintegrating into chaos, and we've got this little jewel of harmony, happiness, unity, diversity and multiculturalism - all the positive words you can put together. We need people to sit up and listen, because this is an opportunity to bring people together.

"Come with open ears, open minds, open hearts, and we will go on an incredible journey together."

.....
Bhangra Symphonica plays at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday 8 June

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Live music from across the city...

Ty Segall

The Crossing, Birmingham, Sat 29 June

Ty Segall is not a man to rest on his laurels. If he's not out on tour, the California-born musician & singer-songwriter is likely to be found in the studio making albums.

Initially inspired by glam, heavy rock and punk influences, including David Bowie, Marc Bolan, Black Sabbath and The Stooges, Ty specialises in urgent-sounding garage-rock, generated with the assistance of howling vocals and a distortion-heavy guitar. His output has somewhat mellowed in style across the years, nowadays taking its cues from, among others, Neil Young, The Beatles, early T-Rex and Grateful Dead.

He visits Birmingham in support of latest album *Three Bells*, a January 2024 release which has gone down well with the critics.



Spiers & Boden

Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Birmingham, Thurs 6 June

John Spiers & Jon Boden's MAC stop-off this month will no doubt see the sold-out signs going up at the Cannon Hill Park venue. Spiers & Boden are, after all, folk-music royalty. Having exploded onto the scene back in the early days of the new millennium, they quickly picked up numerous BBC Radio Two Folk Award gongs and then formed hugely successful folk band Bellowhead. As a duo they continued to carve out occasional opportunities to play some gigs, but called it a day 'for the foreseeable future' in 2014. Folk fans everywhere were suitably delighted when they ended a seven-year hiatus with 2021's 13-track album, *Fallow Ground*.



Bat For Lashes

Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 18 June

With two Ivor Novello wins, three Mercury and three BRIT nominations to her name, London-based British Pakistani artist Natasha Khan is back in Birmingham this month to promote *The Dream Of Delphi*, her

recently released sixth album which reflects on the conception and birth of her daughter. Natasha has performed under the Bat For Lashes moniker for the last 15 years. "The name doesn't really mean anything," she once revealed to the *New York Times*. "It just conjured up Halloween-y images and sounded metal and feminine."

Smashing Pumpkins & Weezer

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Fri 7 June

Two alternative rock pioneers for the price of one is the name of the game when Smashing Pumpkins and Weezer share the bill at Utilita Arena early this month.

Smashing Pumpkins burst onto the scene in the late 80s with a winning blend of rock, pop, shoe-gaze, metal, goth, psychedelia and electronic. They've since gone on to sell over 30 million albums worldwide and win a host of coveted awards.

Weezer have been similarly impressive in the album-sales stakes since releasing their debut offering 30 years ago, while their music has been streamed billions of times... In short, this is not a concert any self-respecting rock fan would want to miss.

2004, the hit record, which featured tracks including *Helicopter*, *Banquet* and *So Here We Are*, peaked at number three in the UK albums chart.

Ora Cogan

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Mon 24 June

"Writing this album was very much a lifeline; transformative and healing." Ora Cogan is talking about her critically acclaimed record, *Formless*, which she's supporting with this Birmingham gig. The album, which took form in the abyss of pandemic isolation ("I spent a lot of time wandering aimlessly in the woods with my dog") sees the Vancouver Island-based singer-songwriter "re-calibrating an internal compass constantly thrown off by the magnetism of a deranged world."



Bloc Party

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Fri 28 June

Indie rock band Bloc Party here warm up for their biggest concert to date, in London's Crystal Palace, by celebrating the 20th anniversary of seminal debut studio album *Silent Alarm*. Recorded in Copenhagen and London with producer Paul Epworth in mid-

Plus 12 Dance Bands

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- Ward Thomas
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- Ceilidhs
- Peatbog Faeries
- El Pony Pisador
- The Sentimentals & friends
- The Wandering Hearts
- Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening
- Le Vent du Nord
- Dream in Colors
- The Celtic Social Club
- Bella Hardy
- London Afrobeat Collective
- The Pleasures
- Suntou Susso Band
- HEISK
- Ranagri
- The Hello Darlins
- Joshua Burnell Band
- The Magpies
- NATI
- Sidiki Jobarteh Trio
- The Hunch
- Rosie Hood Band
- James Delarre & Saul Rose
- Lady Nade
- Joli Blon
- Mazula
- Winter Wilson
- Suntou Susso (solo)
- Anthony John Clarke
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Festivals coming to the region in June...

Nocturne Live

Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire,
Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June

Nocturne Live is a series of concerts which sees a fantastic line-up of artists performing against the spectacular backdrop of Blenheim Palace's Great Court.

Why not make the most of your visit and spend the day at the stunning venue before the concert begins? With an Annual Pass, you can enjoy everything that the palace, park & gardens has on offer, before enjoying an incredible evening of music.

2024 line-up includes: Crowded House, Turin Brakes, Sheryl Crow, Chaka Khan, Sister Sledge, Soft Cell (pictured), Heather Small, Sugababes and Melanie C.



Download Festival

Donington Park, Derby, Fri 14 - Sun 16 June

With top billing consistently taken by some of the biggest names in rock and metal, it's not hard to see why Download is one of the most popular and well-attended festivals in the country.

Conceived as a follow-up to the Monsters Of Rock Festival, Download partly owes its name

to the pioneering way in which it uses technology to connect with audiences and build a community.

2024 line-up includes: Queens Of The Stone Age, Fall Out Boy (pictured), Avenged Sevenfold, Royal Blood, The Offspring, Limp Bizkit, Machine Head, The Used, Electric Callboy, Pantera, Black Stone Cherry, Sum 41, Enter Shikari, Corey Taylor and Billy Talent

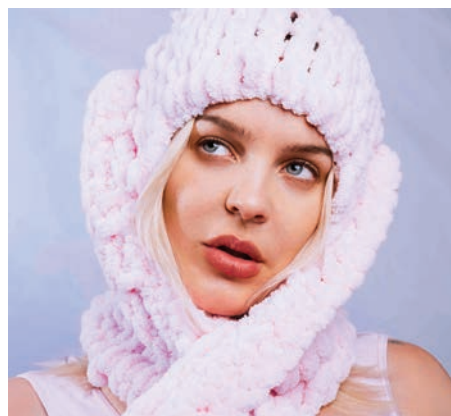
Upton Jazz

various venues in Upton-upon-Severn,
Worcestershire, Fri 28 - Sun 30 June

Registered charity Upton Jazz Association has a couple of aims. One is to provide and encourage jazz music by inviting high-quality, award-winning and international talent to Upton. Its second aim is to encourage local and talented young people to explore the music and develop their skills and confidence in performance.

All profits from the sale of tickets are used to support the aims of the charity.

2024 line-up includes: Panama Quartet, Debbie Arthur's Quartet, Malvern Jazz Jam, Alan Barnes with John Hallam, Tom Kincaid, Nick Milward and Tom Hil, Hanley School Jazz Band, Amy Roberts Quintet (pictured) and Hotsy Totsy.



Beardy Folk Festival

Hopton Court, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire,
Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June

Beardy Folk Festival is a beautifully crafted midsummer weekend boasting a programme of folk, roots and acoustic music.

There are plenty of workshops to sample too, including group singing, French dancing, ceilidh, yoga, morris dancing, spoken word, comedy, storytelling, woodland craft making and circus skills.

2024 line-up includes: Kate Rusby, Mad Dog Mcrea, The Magic Numbers, Blackbeard's Tea Party, 3 Daft Monkeys, The Deep Blue (pictured), Michele Stodart, An Audience With Bob Harris, Martin Stephenson & The Daintees and Blair Dunlop.

Forest Live

Cannock Chase Forest, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 June

Forest Live is a major live-music series held annually in forests around the UK.

Forestry England use the money the concerts raise to run important conservation projects, keep growing trees, and maintain beautiful natural areas for everyone to enjoy.

Last year they planted some 7.4 million trees, cared for the nation's 1,500 woods and forests sustainably and welcomed a staggering 291 million visitors.

2024 line-up: Olly Murs, Anne-Marie (pictured), The Charlatans and Johnny Marr.



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Comedy previews from across the region...

Sally-Anne Hayward

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's ever-so-nice persona conceals a caustic wit, cutting cynicism and generally bitchier side that serves her well as she takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the world around her. Her latest stand-up offering is Egg Shortage, a show in which she recounts 'hilarious tales of dating apps, fragile neighbours, and trying to hold in farts on a yoga retreat'.



Viggo Venn

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 26 June

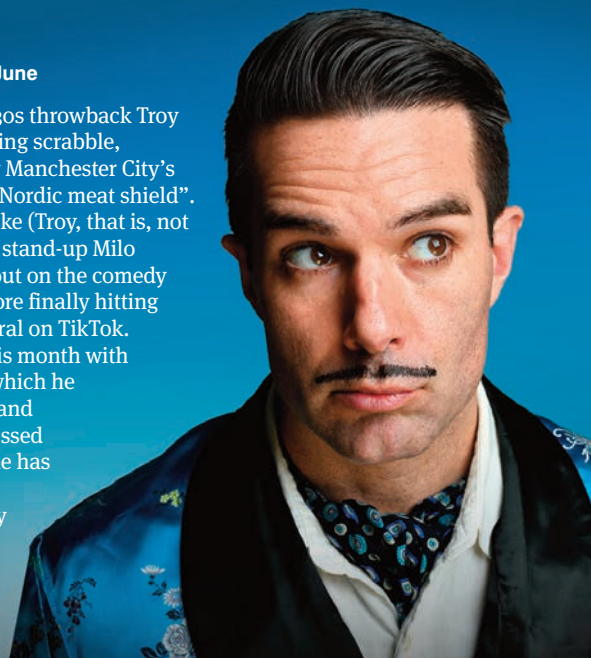
Viggo Venn hit the big time last summer when he became the 2023 winner of ITV's Britain's Got Talent, since which time he's been basking in the glory of finally achieving his long-desired transformation from Norwegian clown to British comedian. The BGT judges were certainly effusive in their praise for the talented 35-year-old, with Bruno Toniolo hailing him one of the most memorable characters since Mr Bean and Simon Cowell declaring his act to be like nothing he'd ever seen before. Viggo visits Shrewsbury this month as part of his first-ever national tour.



Troy Hawke

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 29 June

Erudite and home-schooled 1930s throwback Troy Hawke lists his hobbies as playing scrabble, conspiracy theories and calling Manchester City's Erling Haaland "a tremendous Nordic meat shield". The foppish Errol Flynn-lookalike (Troy, that is, not Erling) - as played by character stand-up Milo McCabe - had been out and about on the comedy circuit for a good few years before finally hitting the online jackpot and going viral on TikTok. Troy is visiting the Midlands this month with The Greeters Guild, a show in which he 'examines his unlikely genesis and explores exactly why a well-dressed man simply being nice to people has caused such a kerfuffle'. Expect an evening of splendidly incongruous, occasionally brain-addling, delivered-with-warmth comedy.



Ruby Wax

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 29 June

American comedian Ruby Wax here presents what has been described as her rawest, darkest and funniest offering yet. "The original idea behind this show [titled I'm Not As Well As I Thought I Was] was based on the extreme journeys that I wanted to take in order to find an antidote to living a frazzled life," says Ruby. "Along the way, I wanted to find meaning, peace, happiness - the stuff we're all chasing. However, after some transcendent experiences, I ended up in a mental institution... Obviously, I didn't find what I was looking for..."



Rhod's best-loved gags include: "In the Bible, God made it rain for 40 days and 40 nights. That's a pretty good summer for Wales... That's a hosepipe ban waiting to happen." And "A spa hotel? It's like a normal hotel, only in reception there's a picture of a pebble."

Catherine Bohart

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 9 June;
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 26 June

'The OCD, bisexual offspring of a Catholic deacon'. Catherine Bohart's natural enthusiasm ensures excellent rapport with her audience, for whom the Irish comedian seems to have a genuine affection. Her jokes include: "Lesbian sex is like cricket: it goes on forever and there's a lot of men watching it at home, alone, on the internet."



Rhod Gilbert

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 7 June

Welsh funnyman Rhod Gilbert has acquired a huge and still-growing following thanks to a high-energy brand of grumpiness that marks him out as one of the top comedians of his generation. He's returning to the Midlands this month with Rhod Gilbert And The Giant Grapefruit, a show in which he discusses his recent battle against stage four head and neck cancer.

THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS...

Birmingham Hippodrome is this month welcoming blockbuster musical Hamilton for the summer season...



When multi-award-winning musical Hamilton opened in the West End, it was the hottest ticket in town. Created by Lin-Manuel Miranda, the show - which tells the story of American founding father Alexander Hamilton through a mix of musical styles including hip-hop, rap, blues and jazz - had been a smash hit on Broadway and was the musical everyone was talking about.

Now Hamilton is on tour across the UK, coming to Birmingham Hippodrome this summer - and the buzz continues. For its two lead actors, Shaq Taylor as Hamilton and Sam Oladeinde as his friend and then nemesis, Aaron Burr, that fever pitch is both exciting and a little daunting.

"It's equally as thrilling as it is terrifying," says Sam, who understudied a host of lead parts in the West End production before taking on the role of Burr for the tour. "I think there is a huge amount of pressure and anticipation that comes with being part of this thing which everyone has heard of called Hamilton. But also I think, because the piece simply is incredible, very quickly that terror dies down, and it's just pure excitement and joy because the show carries everybody through; it really does. It's incredibly special."

Both men knew of the musical from its early days in the US and were keen to be part of its story.

"I've been a fan of Hamilton from when it first came out," says Shaq, "and from then on, I've been completely immersed in the whole world that is Hamilton. Now, to be able to be a part of that world is very scary because there's a lot to live up to. A lot of great artists have paved the way before me, and now to put my own stamp on this machine is amazing. So it's both very daunting and joyful at the same time."

London-born Shaq has a host of theatre credits to his name, including the Beast in Disney's Beauty And The Beast and Javert in Les Misérables. One of the benefits of touring is that it offers actors the chance to really dig into a role.

"That is the luxury of doing it so many different times," Shaq explains. "You get the chance to make so many choices and explore different nuances and play different elements of the character."

"They are very complex characters. I like how instinctive Hamilton is, how everything he does and says comes from his heart and he means it. It's always from a place of 'I feel this way, I'm going to say it this way and

everyone else is going to hear me.' From the way he has grown up as a young man, I feel like that has conditioned him to have this bravado, this 'me against the world' stance, and I feel he never loses that throughout this piece."

But, Shaq adds, Hamilton also has his flaws: "He is someone who definitely flies too close to the sun. There are moments in the piece where I catch myself, as Shaq, saying 'Just think about that situation a bit more and choose a different route because it would be better for yourself and those around you.' But unfortunately that's not how the story goes."

For Sam, who has recently appeared as vocalist Zalon Thompson in the Amy Winehouse film *Black*, the chance to play Aaron Burr on tour was an opportunity not to be missed.

"I understudied several different roles in the West End, but I never went on for Burr, so it felt like the journey wasn't quite complete. So I feel like we are ending the journey, doing all of the tracks that I've learned and doing it in such a celebratory way, taking it to the audiences and breathing perhaps a different life into the show."

"The joy of doing the show eight times a week is that you fill out Aaron and he becomes an entire human being. And just like *I* am different Monday to Saturday, so Aaron Burr is different Monday to Saturday. It's really interesting when people come to the show more than once and say 'I saw a couple of different things today, and that was really exciting.' I think I've been able to delve deeper into the role, and I hope that means that audiences have been able to take even more from the story."

So why do the guys think Hamilton has been such a runaway success?

"I think the show is a building with many, many doors," explains Sam, "and absolutely everyone on this planet can find a door they like [through which] to enter the piece. People love the show for so many different things. You might love the hip-hop beat, you might love the lyricism, you might fall in love with the love story, you might fall in love with the politics."

"The show has every element of every type of story in it, but it's done so well that you fall in love with the show for one reason, and then you get to witness the joy of everything else. Every single element of the show is a strength - the choreography, the direction, the music, the band, the performances on stage, the sound, the lighting - the show has

won record numbers of awards in the UK, in America, around the world, and that's for a reason."

Shaq believes its story, in which a nascent nation takes on the weight of the British Empire and wins, resonates in its David & Goliath struggle.

"There's a strong togetherness that everyone can relate to in some sort of way, whether it's in their local community or fighting for something that they believe in. It may not be as big as this, but there's an undeniable force of togetherness when people fight for something they believe in."

Before taking on the role, Shaq learned a good deal more about the historical figure of Hamilton and his era.

"It's good to know the basics so that you can immerse yourself in the world of Alexander Hamilton. Ron Chernow's *Alexander Hamilton*, the book that the musical is based off, is so detailed. It goes through the emotions of Hamilton from a young age. It holds so much information that never made it into the musical, but it's good to know those parts of his life to connect the dots and create nuances within our piece."

Sam, too, spent time learning more about the real-life characters, reading biographies of both Hamilton and Burr - and making some research visits.

"I used to work as a lawyer in New York, so the last time I was there, I went and visited some of the venues that we find ourselves in in the show. Then just doing a bit of a deep dive into the history of the show itself was fascinating, as well as trying to understand all of the musical references."

"Hamilton and Burr are written so well and are polar opposites. I think that Burr feels a sense of jealousy quickly and doesn't necessarily understand that his success doesn't negate others' success, and the other way round. But I also think he is a very intelligent and kind and considerate person, so I try and play Aaron in a way that makes the audience feel that they *are* Aaron in those situations. I think it's much easier to think of yourself as Aaron, who is an ordinary person, who is smart but a little bit flawed, as opposed to this unique, headstrong, bright Hamilton. He is the exception to the rule - which is why the musical is Hamilton!"

.....
Hamilton shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 25 June to Saturday 31 August



The Wizard Of Oz

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 11 - Sun 16 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 30 July - Sun 4 August

Craig Revel Horwood (Hippodrome) and The Vivienne (Grand Theatre) star as the Wicked Witch of the West alongside Aston Merrygold as the Tin Man in this classic story from the imagination of L Frank Baum.

A marvellous mix of magic, mayhem and munchkins, the terrific tale tells the story of Kansas resident Dorothy Gale and her unexpected trip over the rainbow to the colourful land of Oz.

Once there - and accompanied by a literally brainless scarecrow, a tin

man who's missing a heart and a cowardly lion in urgent need of some courage - she determines to travel along the Yellow Brick Road, visit the Emerald City, and ask the Wonderful Wizard of Oz to help her find her way back home to Kansas...

Only trouble is, the aforementioned Wicked Witch of the West has other, far more sinister plans for her...

Featuring the iconic original score from the Oscar-winning MGM film - including Follow The Yellow Brick Road, We're Off To See The Wizard, and of course Over The Rainbow - this hit show visits the Midlands direct from the London Palladium and includes additional songs by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

Frankie Goes To Bollywood

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 11 - Sat 15 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 2 - Sat 6 July

Frankie never wanted to be a star; she just wanted a family. But after a chance encounter with an up-and-coming director, she finds herself transported to Bollywood...

Described as a breathtakingly colourful journey of romance, sweeping songs and vibrant dance, Frankie Goes To

Bollywood has been inspired by real stories of British women who've been 'caught in the spotlight of the biggest film industry in the world'. The show is a Rifco Theatre Company, Watford Palace Theatre and HOME Manchester co-production.



The 39 Steps

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 4 - Sat 8 June

Anybody who remembers the various film versions of classic John Buchan spy thriller The 39 Steps would be hard-pressed to call any of them 'humorous'. So it's a bit weird, to say the least, to imagine an adaptation of the story that majors in belly laughs. Nonetheless, that's exactly what's being served up here, in a much-loved show that's been doing the rounds for many a year.

So why not catch up with handsome hero Richard Hannay as he battles to remain impressively stiff-upper-lipped in the face of dastardly murders and life-threatening encounters with double-crossing secret agents.

Four fearless actors take on 139 roles in a 100-minute show that offers plenty of fun.



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THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST

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THE TIN MAN

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Tue 11 - Sun 16 Jun

Windrush - The Journey

Thu 13 - Sat 15 Jun

British Black Ballet - Island Movements

Sat 22 Jun

HAMILTON

Tue 25 Jun - Sat 31 Aug

My Son's a Queer,
(But what can you do?)

Thu 11 - Sat 13 Jul

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A BEWITCHING NEW MUSICAL

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THE WEST END & BROADWAY HIT MUSICAL

hairspray

Mon 16 - Sat 21 Sep

BOTOWN

Sat 21 Sep



Windrush: The Journey

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 June

With a well-deserved reputation for championing diverse talent in opera, Pegasus turn their attention to the journey of Windrush, showcasing a tapestry of music and storytelling while at the same time celebrating three Black classical composers: Chevalier de Saint Georges, Richard Thompson and Des Oliver...

A free exhibition, featuring photographs, music and local Windrush testimony, will be on display at the Hippodrome during the week of the show.

Rush

The Rep, Birmingham, Tues 25 - Sat 29 June

Pegasus Opera Company's production at the Patrick Studio (see above) isn't the only opportunity for Midlands theatregoers to immerse themselves in the story of the Windrush generation this month... Subtitled A Joyous Jamaican Journey, Rush is written and narrated by John Simmit and features ska, rock steady, calypso, gospel, lovers rock, dancehall and Reggae music, all played live by the JA Reggae Band.

Shakespeare In Love

Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent, Tues 25 - Sat 29 June

The Burton-based Little Theatre Company here present a stage version of the Marc Norman & Tom Stoppard-scribed Oscar-winning film of the same name. The story finds the usually brilliant bard of Stratford struggling with writer's block. Meanwhile, Viola De Lesseps - desperate to be an actor even though women are

forbidden to be on stage - disguises herself as a boy and auditions for Will's new play. When the two meet by chance, the encounter becomes the inspiration for one of the greatest love stories ever told...

Austen's Women: Lady Susan

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 19 June

Tudor queen. Shell-shocked soldier. Hollywood icon... Dyad Productions' Rebecca Vaughan portrays a dazzlingly diverse array of characters in her critically acclaimed



solo shows. With previous theatrical offerings having included Elizabeth, Female Gothic and A Room Of One's Own, Rebecca now returns with a brand-new show about Lady Susan Vernon, the coquettish, black-widow protagonist of an early novella by Jane Austen, believed to have been written in 1794 but not published until 1871.

The Massive Tragedy Of Madame Bovary

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 17 & Tues 18 June

Vermin, visual absurdity, wild animals and a nun are brought together in Ha Hum Ah and Minack Theatre's version of Gustave Flaubert's Madame Bovary. Described by its publicity as irreverent, irrepressible and irresistible, the production sees four actors battling 'hilarious mishaps and misbehaving props to tell the (massively) tragic story' of a woman who's desperately in need of a little fun in her life.

The Mousetrap

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 3 - Sat 8 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 25 - Sat 29 June

Not only has everybody heard of Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, everybody's seen the show as well - haven't they?... Okay, maybe not, but as the production recently celebrated its 70th anniversary, it's fair to say its capacity to put bums on seats is absolutely beyond question. Not surprisingly the world's longest-running show, its touring version is now making a welcome return to the Midlands. EastEnders' Todd Carty top-bills in Shrewsbury, and is then joined in Wolverhampton by Only Fools And Horses favourite Gwyneth Strong.

Oddsocks: Julius Caesar

Tamworth Castle, Sun 9 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 17 - Wed 19 June; Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Wed 26 June; Bowring Park, Telford, Sun 7 July; Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Thurs 12 July; Victoria Gardens, Tewkesbury, Sun 14 July; Brueton Park, Solihull, Tues 13 August

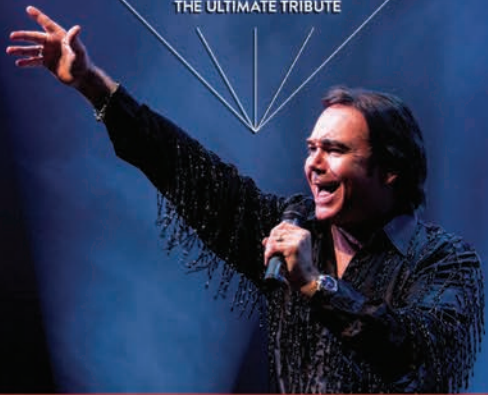
When Roman emperor Caesar is assassinated by a group of prominent senators, one of his staunchest supporters, Mark Antony, manages not only to turn the crowd against the conspirators but also to defeat them in battle...

But let's avoid getting too bogged down in the whys and wherefores of Shakespeare's extremely serious tale of conspiracy and bloody murder - given that it's here being presented by zany funsters Oddsocks! The ever-entertaining band of theatricals are promising their audiences thrills and spills aplenty, including the tearing of togas, the swishing of swords, some splendidly preposterous puppetry and the biggest battle scene ever created by five actors. In short, it's time to brace yourself for the kind of laughs you have no right to expect in a production of Julius Caesar...



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Theatre previews from around the region



The Syndicate

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 18 - Sat 22 June; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 25 - Sat 29 June

With their jobs and livelihoods under threat, five supermarket workers have a stroke of luck when their lottery syndicate numbers come in. But will a share of the jackpot make their dreams come true - or their nightmares a reality?... This stage adaptation of the popular Kay Mellor-written television series is being directed by the late playwright's daughter, the actress Gaynor Faye.

"Mum's shoes are big ones to fill," says Gaynor, "but I understand what her vision was for this production because I had been by her side from the very beginning. I'm excited for everyone to see it."

The show stars two familiar faces from the world of television soap operas: Brooke Vincent (Sophie Webster in Coronation Street) and Samantha Giles (Emmerdale's Bernice Blackstock).

Twelfth Night: A Cornish Tale

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 21 June - Sun 7 July

Comedian Seann Walsh takes on the coveted role of Malvolio in this Stafford Festival Shakespeare production, the second to be performed in the Gatehouse theatre rather than outdoors in the grounds of the town's castle.

As with many Shakespeare comedies, Twelfth Night is based on a case of mistaken identity, with Viola disguising herself as a boy and causing all manner of awkward romantic shenanigans. However, the play's continuing popularity can mainly be attributed to its hilarious (well, by Shakespeare's standards anyway) comic sub-plot, in which the merciless Sir Toby Belch and his foolish companion, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, seek to humiliate the pompous Malvolio (and achieve their aim in fine style)...

As the show's subtitle makes clear, this particular version of Twelfth Night comes complete with a Cornish theme.

Natalie Anderson and the Bafta-winning Molly Windsor also star.

Yes, We're Related

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 6 & Fri 7 June

According to its publicity, audience members should get ready to laugh, cry and 'eat trifle' when they take their seat for Florence Lacey-Evans' 'nutty new comedy'.

Showing in Birmingham prior to a run at the Edinburgh Fringe, the play finds Sara, who's in denial about the death of her mother, being visited by her estranged older sister, Saskia. Events then take a turn for the worse as a result of a secret being revealed, one which sees the sisters' relationship going from bad to absolutely catastrophic...



Kyoto

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Tues 18 June - Sat 13 July

Written by Joe Murphy and Joe Robertson, Kyoto is being produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company in collaboration with Good Chance - of which the aforementioned Joes are founders and co-artistic directors. The organisation started life in the Calais 'Jungle' refugee camp in the mid-2010s, where thousands of people were waiting for their 'good chance' to reach the UK. When the Joes visited the camp, they decided to build a dome theatre there, so that people of all nationalities could come together to share stories, music and art. Having since enjoyed a major critical success



with a play about the refugee experience (The Jungle), Murphy and Robertson have now turned their attention to another highly topical subject: climate change...

Described as a fast-paced political thriller, their new play takes audiences into the heart of the historic 1997 climate summit, which took place in the Japanese city of Kyoto (hence the title).

With time running out, the world's nations scramble to agree the first-ever legally binding emissions targets. They're desperate to get the deal signed, sealed and delivered - but American oil lobbyist and master strategist Don Pearlman has other ideas...

Party Games!

Malvern Theatres, Tues 25 - Sat 29 June

With a general election on the not-too-distant horizon, what better time to check out a play about the chaos of government and the state of politics in the UK?

It's the year 2026, and John Waggner, the newly elected leader of the centrist and hastily formed One Nation Party, presides over a hung parliament, a discontented electorate and a workforce of striking cheese makers.

He and his power-hungry MPs must cling onto authority through whatever shaky means possible. Can one man, a Svengali spin doctor and some dodgy data unite the country? And what role can his wife, the King and a large spider play in keeping the lights on? This acerbic new comedy stars Matthew Cottle, Debra Stephenson and Ryan Early.

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Theatre for younger audiences



In The Night Garden Live!

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 21 & Sat 22 June; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 4 & Fri 5 September

If your little ones are big fans of the much-loved CBeebies television series, they're certain to adore this live version as well. And it's not only the kids who're in love with the stage shows; according to audience surveys and parents' reviews, nine out of 10 adults consider In The Night Garden Live to be a five-star theatrical experience. The show lasts for 55 interval-free minutes, sees Igglepiggle looking for his friends in the Night Garden (by following their funny sounds), and features a very special visit from 'the amazing flying Pinky Ponk'.

Zog And The Flying Doctors

Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Fri 14 - Sat 16 June; William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Sat 22 - Sun 23 June

Freckle Productions' hugely popular stage version of the much-loved Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler story finds accident-prone dragon Zog providing an air-ambulance service with the assistance of his 'flying doctor' crew - namely, Princess Pearl and Sir Gadabout. But Pearl's uncle, the king, doesn't believe that princesses should be doctors, so before too long she finds herself locked up in the castle and once again forced to wear a crown and a 'silly frilly dress'. Needless to say, help is soon at hand...



Dragons & Mythical Beasts Live

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 1 & Sun 2 June

If you caught and enjoyed Dinosaur World Live when it toured to the region, then Dragons & Mythical Beasts Live should also float your boat, as it's produced by the very same creative team. An interactive show for all the family to enjoy, the production boasts a cast of 'magnificent monsters and terrifying beasts'. These include the colossal Stone Troll, the mysterious Indrik and Japanese Baku, the Tooth Fairy (who's 'not as sweet as

you'd think'), an adorable unicorn and a majestic griffin. Oh, and there's a dragon, too - but the producers strongly advise that you avoid at all costs waking it up...



Charlie Cooke's Favourite Book

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Tues 11 & Wed 12 June; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Tues 16 & Wed 17 July; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 27 - Sun 29 September

Given the success of so many other stage adaptations of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's hugely popular stories (see, for example, Zog And The Flying Doctors elsewhere on this page), it's a real no-brainer to mount a live version of Charlie Cook's Favourite Book. Presented via the ever-popular combination of clever puppetry and enchanting songs, the show follows Charlie's attempts to get his sister to read. Charlie himself loves reading. For him, there's nothing better than settling down to enjoy a favourite book about a pirate... who also has a favourite book... about Goldilocks... who also has a favourite book...



about a knight... who also has a favourite book... You get the idea?... Created for children aged between three and eight, the show has a running time of one hour.

PSYCHEdelight: Mohand & Peter

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 15 & Sun 16 June

Mohand Hasb Alrosol Abdalrahem and Peter Pearson visit Birmingham with this critically acclaimed play, a family-friendly work of physical theatre which celebrates the country and culture of Sudan, the home of refugee Mohand. "Every day for the past five years, I witnessed how much my cast miss their homes," says Sophie Bertrand Besse, whose participatory theatre company, PSYCHEdelight, is producing the show. "I saw pictures of beautiful lakes, mountains and ancient buildings; videos of family gatherings, birthdays and silly cats. I Facetimed brothers, sisters, but also nieces and nephews - those kids that we spoil at weekends but that the people I work with have never held in their arms because they are not allowed to go back. Not for a wedding, not for a funeral, never. Their country is not just a war zone or a Taliban nest, it's their homes. With Mohand and Peter, we aim to celebrate them."



EASY PEASY

Staffordshire's New Vic Theatre is this month presenting
a brand-new circus-fairytale adaptation of
Hans Christian Andersen's *The Princess And The Pea...*



Staffordshire's New Vic Theatre has joined forces with Upswing contemporary circus company and London's Unicorn Theatre to present an innovative stage version of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Princess And The Pea*. The play promises to be a circus spectacle that provides fun for all ages - and features a huge pile of mattresses! What's On spoke to New Vic Artistic Director Theresa Heskins, who has adapted and co-directed the show, to find out more...

Rehearsals are up and running for *The Princess And The Pea* at London's Unicorn Theatre, before it transfers to the New Vic on Wednesday 19 June. What's behind the decision to create this show, Theresa?

It was the artistic director here at the Unicorn, actually, who asked me and Upswing's Vicki Dela Amedume to think about a version of *The Princess And The Pea*, Hans Christian Andersen's short story. Vicki's a circus director and I love comedy, so immediately we thought we wanted to do something that's a piece of circus slapstick; really funny, really full of circus and energy, really engaging, and aimed at a very wide audience, from very little ones right up to adults who like a laugh - and who doesn't?

What's your history in terms of working with Upswing and the Unicorn?

It's our first time working with the Unicorn. They're the country's leading theatre for children and young people, and the New Vic's programme of work for children and young people is really significant and important to us - and to hundreds of thousands of young people in the area - so it's wonderful working with them.

Upswing we've been working with for about 12 years, bringing circus to the New Vic and to New Vic audiences, most recently with Astley's Astounding Adventures, which was incredibly popular and breathtaking and wonderful. The New Vic's actually engaged in a partnership with Upswing to bring circus to the Potteries, and that means creating shows, circus performance, community events, education and training.

Astley's Astounding Adventures was a big hit - is there pressure to follow on from last year's triumph?

There always is when you do something that's been successful. Our last Hans Christian Andersen was a version of *The Snow Queen*, at Christmas a few years ago. That was really popular, and it won the UK Theatre Award for Best Show for Children & Young People. We've got pressure on all sides, for our track record with Hans Christian Andersen and with Astley's Astounding Adventures, and all sorts of other things.

When you're making work for young people, I think that's a huge responsibility too. You want the whole family to come and have a wonderful time, and you're making an impact that a child's probably going to remember for

the rest of their lives. We do remember those early theatre experiences more than any others.

Why do you think circus has been such a big hit in Stoke?

We are quite unique, I think. Because the inventor of the modern circus, Phillip Astley, came from Newcastle-under-Lyme, it's in our bones. He's our Shakespeare, really. Circus has a special importance in our area.

You can go to the circus in any country and understand it. It's a kind of international artform that goes beyond language and crosses all age ranges.

The Princess And The Pea actually has no words in it, so it's as accessible as possible to as wide an audience as possible, in that true circus form.

What makes Hans Christian Andersen's stories work so well when adapted for the stage?

There's something very strong about his concepts - the mattress tower is a really strong image. Thinking about *The Snow Queen*, the sense of all that ice and snow and frost is very evocative. *The Little Mermaid* is one of his, and that sense of the world under the sea makes such a brilliant theatrical environment. I suppose they've all also got quite a lot of action, and really enticing stories that are quite poignant and quite funny at the same time.

How do you make sure that your shows have a broad appeal?

We sort of always make them with the family in mind, because usually the way young people are coming to the theatre is within quite a wide family group - often a group with three or four generations coming along together. Everybody primarily wants the children to enjoy it; they want to make sure that they're having a lovely time, but we want them *all* to enjoy it.

I think fundamentally it comes down to making sure that the theatre-making is very sophisticated. There's nothing simple about the approach we take. The soundtrack is incredibly complicated - there's this raft of really detailed sound effects that need a lot of skill to deliver. The circus performers are doing very complicated skills that they're learning from the ground up in some instances. Everything about it - the design and lighting and everything - is very

sophisticated, but the storytelling is fast and energetic and full of action. I think that's what keeps young people engaged. Slapstick humour of the Laurel & Hardy type has huge appeal across the generations.

Is it a modern interpretation of the story?

It's a bit of a remix, but we're not setting it in modern times - it's set in fairytale land. It's interesting - the original story is one paragraph long. It's an elevator pitch rather than a story!

The story we have in mind - the princess is trying to get a good night's sleep and is so sensitive that she can't sleep, and there's a pea under the bed - that's all it is.

We've had a brilliant experience here at the Unicorn, where for six weeks before rehearsal started, every Saturday a group of young people and their families came in, and we worked with them to get a sense of what the story might be from their point of view; what music they like, what makes them laugh...

One of the things we found all of them talked about, the children *and* the parents, was the difficulty of getting to sleep at night even without a pea under the bed. It feels as though it's a very important part of every parent and child's life - the bedtime stories or the bedtime songs.

What are you looking forward to most about the production?

So much! I'm particularly looking forward to seeing the audience. We had a small group of young people in on Saturday that we've been working with, who saw some of it, had a sneak preview and told us what they thought. I suppose the thing that's been really interesting is that, in drawings and in storybooks, a mattress tower with a person sleeping on the top of it is a really easy thing. When you try to build a tower of 20 mattresses and put a performer on top of it, it's very different!

If they're covered in slippery fabrics, the mattresses fall off, taking the performer with them. How do you get up a mattress tower? Do you jump up, do you climb up, what do you do to get up there? And how do we keep it still? It's quite an engineering miracle that had to be created.

.....
The Princess And The Pea shows at New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, from Wednesday 19 until Saturday 29 June

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Voices Of Evil

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Sat 29 - Sun 30 June

Self-described 'poof prince of puppets' Lachlan Werner is here joined for an evening of laughter and chaos by a green-faced witch named Brew. The witch is a puppet brought to life by Lachlan via the nowadays woefully undervalued art of ventriloquism. The show's storyline sees Brew deciding to sacrifice Lachlan - to help with his self-esteem - only to find that the endeavour inadvertently releases a sinister entity with an unbridled lust for destruction... A debut show from Lachlan, *Voices Of Evil* should tick plenty of boxes for anybody who likes their comedy delivered with a substantial - but in no way traumatising - side-order of horror, gore and ritualistic blood sacrifice...

The Horne Section's Hit Show

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 18 June;
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 11
September

A six-headed comedy band comprising five talented musicians and one non-musical stand-up, The



Horne Section have been blowing their own trumpet to excellent effect for well over a decade now. Led by comedian (and creator of Bafta-winning television series *Taskmaster*) Alex Horne, and specialising in spoof and comedy songs, the boys have plenty of TV appearances to their name and also boast a chart-topping podcast. The fellas visit Warwick Arts Centre this month with a show that blends 'comedy, songs, enthusiastic dancing and a lot of mucking about'.

Mrs Kapoor's Daughter's Wedding 2 Mauritius

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 23 June

Mrs Kapoor's Daughter's Wedding scored a big hit when it toured to the Midlands, and there's every chance that this sequel - featuring the same winning blend of relatable comedy and Bollywood-style glamour - will be accompanied by a similar cascade of well-deserved plaudits when it stops off in Birmingham this month. The show's storyline is wafer-thin, but where the production really scores is with its high-

energy feelgood factor, imaginatively blending dancing and singing to create a party atmosphere that's clearly enjoyed by audiences and performers alike.

Between The Covers Live

Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 4 June

This coming together of celebrity book worms sees actors Kacey Ainsworth and Stephen Mangan, comedian Jo Brand and bestselling author Joseph O'Connor waxing lyrical about some of their favourite reads. The show is based on the popular same-named BBC television series hosted by Sara Cox.

Uncanny: I Know What I Saw

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 2 June; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 3 July

Danny Robins, the creative force behind spooky podcast *The Battersea Poltergeist* and spiningtling stage production *2:22 - A Ghost Story*, here makes a welcome return with a chilling showcase of real-life stories of the supernatural. Brought to life through 'thrilling theatrical invention in a mix of projection, sound and spellbinding storytelling', the terrifying tales relate to very modern hauntings. Danny and the team will not only be recounting the strange encounters but also debating what they think actually happened in each case.



La Voix

Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Thurs 27 June

One-time Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist La Voix has been playing the cabaret circuit for all she's worth these last few years, picking up plaudits - and devoted fans - like they're going out of fashion.

As her stage name suggests, she's an impressive vocalist, but she's also a talented impersonator and bitingly funny comedian. Past routines have seen her explaining that the only difference between performing as Shirley Bassey and Tina Turner is that, when she's impersonating Tina, she leaves the coat hanger in her dress and holds a football between her legs!

Cirque: The Greatest Show

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 24 & Tues 25 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 4 July; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 27 July; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 13 September

Musical theatre and jaw-dropping circus combine in this intriguing touring show.

The production sees stars of the West End performing alongside 'amazing aerialists, incredible contortionists and fabulous fire jugglers' as they undertake 'thrilling feats of agility and flair'... *Cirque* is certainly an interesting concept, and it's to be hoped that the performers really embrace the challenge of seamlessly combining two such hugely popular art forms.



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Dance previews from across the region

Ballet Black

The Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 13 & Fri 14 June

Award-winning Ballet Black comprises British and international dancers of black and Asian descent and takes an impressively daring approach to its work. Under the guidance of Artistic Director Cassa Pancho, the company is here making a welcome return to the Rep to perform a mouthwatering double bill...

Taking the umbrella title of Heroes, the show includes award-winning choreographer Mthuthuzeli November's *The Waiting Game* - a contemplation on the purpose of life, infused with a dynamic soundtrack featuring the voices of Ballet Black artists. Accompanying Mthuthuzeli's creation is a celebratory and original piece by Franco-British artist and Scottish Ballet choreographer-in-residence Sophie Laplane. Created especially for Ballet Black, the new work, titled *If At First*, explores the complexity of humanity, heroism and self-acceptance... Heroes has a running time of 95 minutes, including an interval.



Black British Ballet: Island Movements

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 22 June

Driven by a pulsating soundtrack of reggae, calypso and contemporary black British music, this 30-minute show explores the impact of the Windrush generation's experiences on their families, communities and society.

The production is presented as part of a project celebrating and sharing the hidden history of black pioneers in British ballet. A 45-minute Q&A session will take place after the show.

Ballet Cymru: Romeo A Juliet

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Mon 10 June; The Roses, Tewkesbury, Fri 28 June; Lichfield Cathedral, Thurs 11 July

The proudly Welsh and impressively creative Ballet Cymru has garnered a reputation for presenting productions which are innovative, challenging and original. Touring to a host of venues throughout the UK on an annual basis, the company is here making a welcome return to the Potteries with its energetic adaptation of *Romeo & Juliet*, a show which earned plenty of praise the last time it visited the New Vic Theatre.

KVN Dance Company: Coppelia

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 20 June

Eccentric toy maker Dr Coppelius' lifesize clockwork doll, Coppelia, causes quite a stir - not only in the heart of the red-blooded Franz but also in the mind of his jealous fiancée, Swanilda, who foolishly mistakes Coppelius' creation for a flesh-and-blood rival... KVN Dance Company fuse classical ballet with contemporary dance and hip-hop to present a show that brings together Leo Delibes' dazzling score - remixed by Richard Berg - with some truly impressive choreography. The production runs for just short of two hours and includes an interval.



Echoes: Mi Flamenco

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 21 June

Filmic imagery, music to stir the soul and extraordinarily emotive flamenco dancing is the winning combination of ingredients with which Mi Flamenco has cooked up this eagerly anticipated feast of entertainment. "Our inspiration comes from how flamenco speaks to us," explains the company. "We are constantly evolving to find ways of expressing that voice to our audiences; to intrigue and inspire."

Nadiya & Kai: Behind The Magic

Malvern Theatres, Thurs 13 June; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 24 June

"I can't wait for everyone to see our new show," says Ukrainian dancer Nadiya Bychkova in talking about this latest on-stage team-up with her real-life partner and fellow *Strictly* star Kai Widdrington. "It's so exciting to be able to throw a lifetime of my thoughts, visions and dreams into *Behind The Magic*, and to create something unique and inspiring with the most talented and incredible people."

Featuring 'fabulous outfits, wonderful music and, of course, sensational dancing', the production invites its audience behind the scenes to witness 'how the magic comes together'.

"Starring in *Once Upon A Time*, our first headline tour, was the realisation of a lifelong dream for both Nadiya and I, a real career highlight," says Kai. "Now we get the chance to do it all over again this summer with our brand-new show!"



Film highlights in June...



Inside Out 2 CERT PG (100 mins)

With the voices of Amy Poehler, Phyllis Smith, Lewis Black, Tony Hale, Liza Lapira, Maya Hawke Directed by Kelsey Mann

Disney and Pixar's first Inside Out film proved to be an unexpectedly huge hit, so a sequel was of course an absolute no-brainer.

And speaking of brains, that's exactly where this second film yet again takes its audience; into the mind of newly minted teenager Riley. The visit there coincides with a profoundly significant happening - headquarters is undergoing a sudden demolition, to make room for something entirely unexpected: new Emotions! Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust, who've long been running a successful operation by all accounts, aren't sure how to feel when Anxiety shows up. And it looks like she's not alone...

Released Fri 14 June

The Watched CERT tbc (102 mins)

Starring Dakota Fanning, Georgina Campbell, Olwen Fouère, Siobhan Hewlett, Hannah Howland, Alistair Brammer
Directed by Ishana Shyamalan

When young artist Mina gets stranded in an expansive, untouched forest in western Ireland, she unknowingly becomes trapped alongside three strangers who are watched and stalked by mysterious creatures every night... Having scored a significant hit as director with last year's Knock At The Cabin, M Night Shyamalan now looks set to enjoy further success - on this occasion as co-producer - with this spine-tingling adaptation of AM Shine's supernatural horror novel. The film sees Night Shyamalan's daughter, Ishana, taking the directorial reins for the very first time.

Released Fri 7 June



The Bikeriders CERT 15 (116 mins)

Starring Jodie Comer, Austin Butler, Tom Hardy, Michael Shannon, Mike Faist, Boyd Holbrook Directed by Jeff Nichols

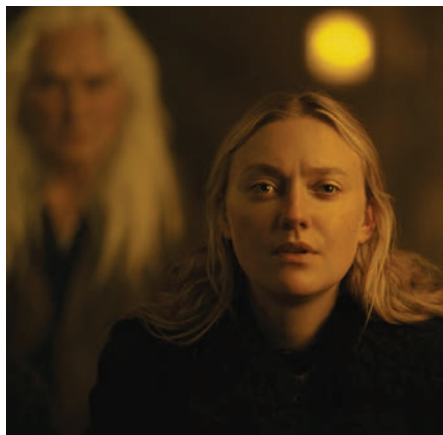
Jodie Comer yet again displays her star quality in this critically acclaimed biker movie. She's joined by Austin Butler, whose impressive performance offers further evidence - were any to be needed - that he's got plenty more in his acting locker than his often-spellbinding impersonation of Elvis from a couple of years back.

Capturing a rebellious time in America, when the culture and people were changing at

seemingly breakneck speed, The Bikeriders sees a strong-willed Kathy (Comer) finding herself inextricably drawn to Benny (Butler), the newest member of The Vandals, a Midwestern motorcycle club led by the enigmatic Johnny (Tom Hardy, in excellent form).

Much like the country around it, the club begins to evolve. As it transforms from a gathering place for local outsiders into a dangerous and violent underworld, Benny finds himself forced to choose between Kathy and his loyalty to The Vandals...

Released Fri 21 June



Kinds Of Kindness CERT tbc (164 mins)

Starring **Emma Stone, Jesse Plemons, Willem Dafoe, Margaret Qualley, Hong Chau, Joe Alwyn** Directed by **Yorgos Lanthimos**

"It's a contemporary film, set in the US," director Yorgos Lanthimos explained to the Guardian, in talking about his latest movie, Kinds Of Kindness. "Three different stories, with four or five actors who play one part in each story, so they all play three different parts. It was almost like making three films, really."

Following on from *The Favourite* and *Poor Things*, Yorgos once again teams up with Emma Stone, calling to mind other well-established director-actor partnerships such as Scorsese and De Niro, Tarantino and Samuel L Jackson. This latest collaboration is an epic (at nearly three hours in length) triptych fable, following a man without choice who tries to take control of his own life; a policeman who is alarmed that his wife, who was missing-at-sea, has returned and seems a different person; and a woman determined to find a specific someone with a special ability, who is destined to become a prodigious spiritual leader...

The film has met with a mixed reception from the critics. That said, there does seem to be a general concensus of opinion about one thing: even if *Kinds Of Kindness* is an off-kilter affair unlikely to be to everybody's taste, it certainly makes for an absorbing watch.

Released Fri 28 June



A Quiet Place: Day One

CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Lupita Nyong'o, Joseph Quinn, Djimon Hounsou, Alex Wolff, Maliike Jubal, Thea Butler** Directed by **Michael Sarnoski**

The sightless aliens with supersharp hearing and an insatiable lust for blood are back for a third movie. This one's a prequel bereft of A-listers, but don't let that worry you - if the first two films in the franchise are anything to go by, another nailbitingly tense cinematic experience awaits.

Whereas the previous movies were set in remote areas, this one features the city streets of Brooklyn in New York as its backdrop. And being a prequel, it concerns

itself with what happened to civilisation *before* the start of the original film, which dedicated fans of the franchise will recall kicked off on 'Day 89'. Plenty of scope there, then, to tell the gripping tale of why Earth went silent after alien invasion..

"The biggest thing for me was that the first two films very much circle around a family and these people that have established relationships," director Michael Sarnoski told Entertainment Weekly. "I wanted to explore a little more of what it would look like for strangers to have to go through the end of the world together."

Released Fri 28 June



Horizon: An American Saga - Chapter 1

CERT tbc (181 mins)

Starring **Kevin Costner, Dale Dickey, Jena Malone, Sienna Miller, Sam Worthington, Michael Angarano** Directed by **Kevin Costner**

Having won a best director Oscar for 1990's *Dancing With Wolves* - and then watched on as the next film he helmed, *The Postman*, accumulated scorn and derision rather than plaudits and glittering prizes - Kevin Costner here takes the directorial chair for only the fourth time in his filmmaking career.

A multi-faceted chronicle, *Horizon: An American Saga* spans the four years of the Civil War and promises to take audiences on an emotional journey across a country in brutal conflict with itself.

Chapter two is being released later in the summer, with chapter three currently in the works and a fourth film scheduled to follow.

Released Fri 28 June



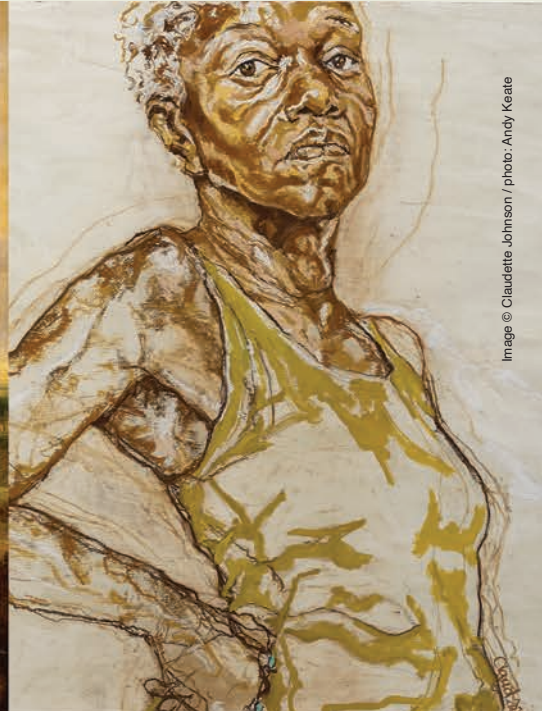


Image © Claudette Johnson / photo: Andy Keate

DOWN TO A FINE ART

A jewel in the crown of the Midlands art scene,
Birmingham's Barber Institute reopens its doors this month...



Birmingham’s Barber Institute of Fine Arts reopens late June after almost nine months of building improvement works. This year’s highly anticipated exhibitions include a first solo show in the Midlands from Turner Prize nominee Claudette Johnson, botanical drawings from the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, and a fresh look at Pre-Raphaelite paintings that’s not to be sniffed at...

The Barber, situated in the green, airy surroundings of Birmingham University, has been closed for building improvement work for almost nine months. Its return has been highly anticipated by regular visitors, who will be looking forward to seeing beloved works from the collection again when the gallery reopens on Saturday 22 June. The collection contains works by masters ranging from Botticelli to Rubens, and from the Pre-Raphaelites to the Impressionists, as well as esteemed 20th century artists. “We’ve always been regarded as a small art gallery with a collection that punches far above its weight,” says Andrew Davies, communications & marketing manager at the Barber. “It’s like a mini National Gallery.”

One of the interesting things about the Barber’s permanent collection is its examples of unusual works by well-known masters. The two Rubens masterpieces, for instance, are not epic scenes of Biblical stories or classical history. Instead, there’s a tranquil landscape of the artist’s estate in Belgium, and an unassuming yet masterful portrait of a monk lost in his devotions.

The gallery will this year host exciting exhibitions of botanical illustrations from the V&A and well-loved Pre-Raphaelite works explored in a new way. There will also be a celebration of contemporary Turner Prize nominee Claudette Johnson.

The Johnson exhibition was confirmed by the Barber’s current director, Professor Jennifer Powell, before the artist’s shortlisting for the Turner Prize. Her work often takes the human figure as its subject, and in particular explores the experience of Black women, including herself. Entitled *Darker Than Blue*, the exhibition includes a loan from Coventry’s Herbert Art Gallery and brand-new works created with the Barber show in mind. *Darker Than Blue* is Johnson’s first solo show in the Midlands. Having studied fine art at Wolverhampton School of Art (now part of Wolverhampton University), she was a key member of the Blk Art Group, and her work will be exhibited at the Turner Prize show at Tate Britain in September, immediately after being on display at the Barber.

“It’s wonderful that Claudette has been nominated and recognised for her incredible work,” says Professor Powell. “It is really powerful, with striking and confident line work - and her figures always hold your gaze.”

Opening along with the wider gallery this month, Johnson’s exhibition is a fitting celebration to mark the completion of the

Barber’s first phase of scheduled redevelopments.

The main change to the venue that regular visitors might notice is the complete redevelopment of the Lady Barber exhibition gallery, named after the venue’s founder. The exhibition space, originally a painting store and technicians’ workshop, has been taken back to the bare bricks and rebuilt. Not originally created for use as a gallery, the room now contains state-of-the-art lighting and air-conditioning systems, as is appropriate for a gallery that frequently houses priceless works.

The conversion of this space in a Grade-1 listed building has been handled with care, creating an unmistakably modern gallery that is also in keeping with the four main historic picture galleries.

Another thing eagle-eyed visitors might notice is a change to the way Renaissance paintings and sculptures are exhibited in the Green Gallery. Previously displayed chronologically, the Barber has been working for over a year with Chloe Church, National Gallery Curatorial Trainee, who developed an alternative way of looking at the paintings. The Green Gallery will now group works by theme within the broad chronological pattern, with bay sections devoted to shared subjects such as devotional works, portraiture, the influence of ancient Greece and Rome, and Venetian art. The re-grouping gives context to different works, and the opportunity to explain why those subjects were repeatedly chosen.

The second phase of redevelopment will begin in early 2025, so art fans in the Midlands are encouraged to make the most of the Barber’s exciting programme before the next wave of building improvement begins. The focus of the redevelopment will swap from improving the gallery spaces to enhancing the visitor experience, and retrofitting a ventilation system into the Barber’s elegant concert hall.

The original 1930s Art-Deco concert hall is situated in the middle of the building, without external ventilation, so the building works will include a new system which extracts ‘used’ air from the hall and pumps in fresh air.

A frequent problem when working in historic buildings is the need to make sure they are accessible to as many people as possible. As a 1930s building, with steps up to the main entrance, the Barber can prove hard to navigate for some. There is step-free rear access, but the works scheduled for 2025 will

create an easier journey into the building for visitors with additional mobility needs.

Before the final stage of redevelopment begins, the Barber’s 2024 programme has much to offer. Lunchtime gallery talks, open to everyone, will begin again - the first being an introduction to Claudette Johnson’s exhibition on Wednesday 26 June. There’s also a programme for younger audiences, including a family festival in August, upholding Lady Barber’s mission to promote ‘the study and encouragement of art and music’.

Other exhibitions include *The Hidden Lives Of Plants*, a selection of visually lovely botanical watercolours, drawings and prints from London’s V&A Museum, and *Women In Power*, assembled from the Barber’s extensive coin collection.

Autumn’s exhibition, *Scent And The Art Of The Pre-Raphaelites*, meanwhile, will explore largely forgotten ideas about smell in the 19th and early 20th century. Apparently, there was actually a belief in Victorian times that you could smell a rainbow - it smelt like spring flowers and meadows. One of the paintings to be lent to the show by Birmingham Museum & Art Galley - *The Blind Girl*, by Millais - depicts two young girls breathing in the scent of the rainbow.

The exhibition is going to be a multi-sensory experience, complete with concealed machines pumping spritzes of scent in the gallery at the press of a button.

And this isn’t the only multi-sensory installation in the upcoming season either - as Professor Powell explains: “In Claudette’s show there will be a sound installation by Trevor Mathison, who’s a contemporary sound artist. Trevor has created a soundscape that combines aspects of the Barber experience - the echoes and sounds of the galleries - with the sound of Claudette working in the studio.

“It’s the first time that Claudette and Trevor have ever worked together as well, and it’s the first time that Claudette has had this sound aspect in an exhibition.


“We can’t wait to welcome visitors back to the Barber and to our exhibitions.”

.....

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts reopens on Saturday 22 June, along with the exhibitions Claudette Johnson: *Darker Than Blue* and *The Hidden Lives Of Plants*. *Scent And The Art Of The Pre-Raphaelites* opens on Friday 11 October



THE
BARBER
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Claudette Johnson

Darker Than Blue

22 June - 15 September 2024

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What's On

MEDIA GROUP



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SIMPLY SCAN THE QR TO SIGN UP TODAY

Visual Arts previews from around the region



Acts Of Creation: On Art And Motherhood

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 22 June - Sun 29 September

A Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition that ‘plunges into the joys and heartaches, mess, myths and mishaps of motherhood’, Act Of Creation features more than 100 artworks - ‘from the feminist avant-garde to the present day’.

The exhibition explores the lived experience of being a mum, offering a ‘complex account’ that engages with contemporary concerns about gender, caregiving and reproductive rights.

Collecting Coventry

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 27 April 2025

Seventy-five years of collecting is being celebrated in this brand-new and long-running exhibition.

Featuring a selection of objects dating from the founding of the Herbert Art Gallery in 1949 through to the present day, the show is being presented across four of the Herbert’s rooms.

Featured objects and curiosities include a 4.5 billion-year-old meteorite, a Covid testing kit, LS Lowry’s famous painting of Ebbw Vale and a number of items being displayed for the very first time.



Summer Exhibition

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Sun 23 June

Coventry’s Warwick Arts Centre is hosting three concurrent exhibitions this month... Bologna-based Rwandan artist Francis Offman’s Economics Of Painting showcases canvases that tell stories of friendship, conversation and travel... Swiss creative Nicole Bachmann’s There Are Tides In The Body is a new film commission. Set across two locations in Kent and Spon End in Coventry, the film considers the body as a site of knowledge by using movement and voice to ‘embody vocabulary’ and create new meaning...

Completing the trio of exhibitions, Activate/Assemble/Amplify contemplates the creative future of Coventry’s children and young people. Sharing artworks and performances made throughout the year as part of youth and schools projects, the exhibition explores the participants’ vision for themselves and their city.

Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Wed 12 - Sun 23 June

This collaboration between Ikon and local mental-health consortium Living Well features photographs taken by Birmingham-born artist Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora.

Jaskirt has been working with local communities, taking photographic portraits against the backdrop of the city’s green spaces, and exploring the benefits of nature in terms of people’s health. After its stay at Ikon, the exhibition heads to the city’s Selly Oak district, where it will be showcased at the Living Well Consortium and Birmingham Mind venue Grounded - a community-focused wellbeing cafe & hub.

Abbey Road Music Photography Awards

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, until Fri 14 June

Symphony Hall’s collaboration with the iconic Abbey Road Studios continues this month. Abbey Road is, of course, the London-located purpose-built recording studio made famous by its association with The Beatles.

For the past three years, the studio has run the Music Photography Awards. The initiative is designed to champion emerging and undiscovered young photographers, and to celebrate ‘the unforgettable, unique and unsung musical moments’ from the previous 12 months. As part of the collaboration, Symphony Hall is hosting a month-long exhibition of work by the 2023 Music Photography Awards nominees and winners.

Across nine categories, including ‘Live’, ‘Icon’, ‘Undiscovered’ and ‘Hip Hop 50’, the exhibition offers a unique opportunity to view the photographs in a distinctive setting.

A series of masterclasses and panel talks - led by local, established music photographers and Music Photography Awards alumni - also runs across the month, in addition to special performances by emerging Birmingham-based musicians.



Image: Harry Styles by Anthony Pham (‘Music Moment of the Year’ award winner, 2023)

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BBC Good Food Show Summer NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June

Boasting tasty food, mouthwatering recipes, and in-the-kitchen entertainment served up by some of the nation's most celebrated chefs, the summer edition of the BBC Good Food Show makes a welcome return mid-month.

TV chefs including Michel Roux (pictured), James Martin and Nadiya Hussain will be

sharing their culinary skills and cooking live on stage.

The show's ever-popular shopping village returns too, providing visitors with plenty of opportunity to 'taste, try and buy' a wide range of delicious produce from an impressive selection of food & drink suppliers.



BBC Gardeners' World Live NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June

Green-fingered visitors to BBC Gardeners' World Live will, as usual, find plenty to delight them.

As well as taking ideas and inspiration from the show gardens and displays, attendees can also pick up tips and tricks from TV gardeners including Monty Don, Frances Tophill and Adam Frost.

Meanwhile, the Floral Marquee and Plant

Village will boast a vast array of top-quality nurseries from which to make purchases for your next gardening project.

And if all that gardening leaves you peckish, be sure to check out the neighbouring BBC Good Food Show Summer (see above), entry to which is included with all tickets to Gardeners' World Live.

Weston Park Air Show International

Weston Park, Shropshire, Fri 14 - Sun 16 June

Model and full-sized aircraft taking to the skies, off-road and circuit model-car racing, model boats and helicopters, trade stands, food & drink stalls and a craft fair all feature among the attractions at this three-day show. Youngsters are catered for too, courtesy of a funfair, and there's live music to enjoy in the evenings.

Pyrotechnics, gliders and fireworks light up the sky on the Saturday night.



Warwickshire Game & Country Fair

Wroxall Park, nr Warwick, Sat 22 & Sun 23 June

Set within the surroundings of Wroxall Park, Warwickshire Game & Country Fair returns this month.

Visitors can enjoy a mixture of main-arena attractions running throughout the day - including falconry and scurry driving - alongside a host of smaller country sports arenas and workshops.

The show's World of Dogs attraction features a variety of dog displays, the Shooting Village provides visitors with the opportunity to have a go at clay shooting, and the Craft Village offers a wide variety of items to buy. The fair's popular Chainsaw Carving Area is back too, featuring daily 30-minute speed carves during which all chainsaw carvers race against the clock to produce a carving that is then sold at auction.



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Events previews from around the region



The World of Park & Leisure Homes Show

NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, Fri 28 - Sun 30 June

As the biggest event of its kind in the UK, The World of Park & Leisure Homes Show provides a fantastic opportunity to discover and consider a leisure lifestyle. Visitors can view more than 50 state-of-the-art leisure lodges and residential park

homes, check out the latest designs and innovations, and discover affordable luxury. There's also the chance to pick up some expert advice and find out more from people already enjoying the leisure lifestyle.



Step Back To The 1940s

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster, Sat 29 & Sun 30 June and Sat 6 & Sun 7 July

A taste of all things vintage comes to the Severn Valley Railway this month, as the 16-mile line and all of its stations host a festival of 1940s-themed fun. Taking place across two weekends, the event features an array of attractions and entertainment, including 1940s singers and dancers, a wartime wedding, and jitterbug sessions. There's even the chance to hear a rousing speech by Winston Churchill!

Vintage traders will be selling their wares at the Engine House at Highley, with a flypast from the Lancaster Bomber on the Sunday of both weekends. New for 2024 is the chance to meet Herr Flick, Helga and Lieutenant Gruber from the much-loved BBC TV series 'Allo 'Allo!. Big Band shows take place at Kidderminster station on the Saturday evening of both weekends.

RAF Cosford Air Show

RAF Museum Midlands, Cosford, Sun 9 June

The RAF Cosford Air Show returns this month with an action-packed flying display that features powerful demonstrations of modern military aircraft from the Royal Air Force and international military partners. Participants include F35 Lightning from 617 Sqn, the RAF Typhoon Display Team and the ever-popular Red Arrows. On-the-ground entertainment comes in the form of, among other attractions, static displays of aircraft, a Vintage Village with reenactors, and STEM hangars offering family-friendly interactive activities.



Classic & Vintage Commercial Show

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire, Sat 8 & Sun 9 June

Take a nostalgic trip back in time by checking out hundreds of pre-2003 commercial vehicles at British Motor Museum this month. The display features Morris Minor and Ford Transit vans, familiar marques of the 1950s and 60s - including Fodens, ERFs, AECs and Leylands - and Volvos and Scania's, which took over the roads of Britain from the 1970s onwards. Visitors can also take advantage of a large autojumble and, within the museum, cast their eye over two model shows.



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Events previews from around the region



Royal Three Counties Show

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Fri 14 - Sun 16 June

Hailed as one of the UK's biggest celebrations of the great British countryside, the Royal Three Counties Show offers a long weekend of animal encounters, interesting displays and expert agricultural insights. Special guests at this year's get-together include Bake Off winner Matty Edgell, pop star-turned-farmer JB Gill, Countryfile's Matt

Baker and Clarkson's Farm's Kaleb Cooper. Other highlights include The Future of Farming Zone - hosting a line-up of informative talks and Q&A sessions - the Food & Drink Theatre, the Equine Village, the Countryside Arena and Adventure Avenue.



Cheltenham Science Festival

Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham, Tues 4 - Sun 9 June

Cheltenham Science Festival makes a welcome return this month, providing a platform for scientists, futurologists and thought-leaders to help make sense of the world around us. Visitors are guaranteed a creatively curated programme to spark their curiosity, with lots of free family activities available to enjoy

alongside a range of ticketed events. Highlights include FameLab - the largest public-facing science communication competition and training programme in the world - and Voicebox - a visually striking, Instagrammable space presenting free events for young talent.

Potfest By The Lake

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Fri 21 - Sun 23 June

An artisan ceramics market showcasing the work of 80 of the UK's finest ceramics makers, Potfest returns to Compton Verney for a fourth year and has become a highlight in every potter's calendar. Work by local and continental makers also features.



Comic Con Midlands

Telford International Centre, Shropshire, Sat 15 & Sun 16 June

Celebrating all things pop culture, Comic Con Midlands heads to Telford this month. Numerous familiar faces from movies, TV, streaming, gaming, anime and sports entertainment will be in attendance, including Lucy Lawless, Jodie Whittaker and Alyssa Mialno.

The show also features: unique props and set builds; cosplayers strutting their stuff on stage; retro and modern gaming areas; and trader and artist zones.

Adventure Bike Rider Festival 2024

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, Fri 28 - Sun 30 June

Back for its fifth year, this popular event brings together the adventure motorcycling community for three action-packed days. The festival features 40km of exclusive on-site trails, guest speakers across four stages, the world's biggest motorcycle manufacturers and over 130 exhibitors.

Away from the biking, attractions include more than 20 live bands and over 50 food vendors.





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Your week-
by-week
listings guide
June 2024



Hamilton at Birmingham Hippodrome - Tues 25 June - Sat 31 August

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

What's On

Sat 1 - Sun 9 June



Ed Gamble - The Alexandra, Birmingham

Sat 1 June

Mon 10 - Sun 16 June



Vince Staples - O2 Institute, Birmingham

Thurs 13 June

Mon 17 - Sun 23 June



Bilal Zafar - The Glee Club, Birmingham

Sat 22 June

Mon 24 - Sun 30 June



Looking For Me Friend - Thimblemill Library, Smethwick

Sat 29 June

VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

VICTORIAN RADICALS Exhibition presenting works by 19th-century artists, designers & makers, from the Pre-Raphaelites to the arts & crafts movement, until Thurs 31 Oct

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

JASKIRT DHALIWAL-BOORA: GREEN SPACES The Birmingham-born artist has worked with local communities, taking photographic portraits against a backdrop of the city's green spaces and exploring the benefits of nature to our health, Wed 12 - Sun 23 June

FEEDING CHAIR A collaborative exhibition, featuring artwork by Jade Montserrat, inviting parents and carers to feed their young children in galleries and other public venues, Wed 5 June - Sun 7 July

DION KITSON: RUE BRITANNIA Solo exhibition dissecting British class and identity, reshaping its visual hallmarks and traditions across sculpture, installation, film and found objects, until Sun 8 Sep

NATIONAL TREASURES: ARTEMISIA IN BIRMINGHAM & JESSE JONES: MIRROR MARTYR MIRROR MOON As part of the National Gallery in London's bicentennial celebrations, Ikon hosts Artemisia Gentileschi's masterpiece, Self Portrait As Saint Catherine Of Alexandria. Jesse Jones explores the entwined histories of Gentileschi, Saint Catherine, and the pagan philosopher Hypatia, until Sun 8 Sep

Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham

MADE AT MAC: CELEBRATING CERAMICS Showcasing the creativity and skill of participants, tutors and artist pass holders who created work at MAC in 2023, until Sun 2 June

TATIANA WOLSKA: LEISURE AS RESISTANCE Wolska's first solo exhibition in the UK sees the artist using recycled materials to create captivating sculptures, until Sun 2 June

PAULINE FARRAR: TALKING POINTS Farrar returns to MAC with a new installation co-created with members of MAC's Women's Group - Making It Together. Their shared work touches on issues of isolation, disability, and the power of gardening as a rejuvenative tool for wellbeing, until Mon 26 Aug

TEREZA BUSKOVA: HIDDEN MOTHERS Installation following a project which aimed to empower women, especially migrant mothers facing isolation, and drew inspiration from Victorian photography. Sat 1 June -

Sun 29 Sept

WHO CARES? WITH KAYE WINWOOD Community exhibition in collaboration with Balsall Heath CATS, who support families with disabled children and young people, representing the caregivers' creative journey via objects, words and images, Thurs 6 June - Sun 22 Sept

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

NATURE AND NURTURE Exhibition showcasing works by Tom Millard RBSA and Melanie Keevil, with both artists being inspired by urban and rural landscapes, the human form and its relationship with the natural world, until Sun 9 June

RBSA SUMMER SHOW Open-call exhibition featuring nearly 250 submissions from artists around the world, and working in any media, Thurs 13 June - Sun 21 July

Elsewhere:

SILVER LINING: DION KITSON AT JW EVANS Exhibition of Kitson's artworks, coinciding with the artist's first major solo exhibition at Ikon Gallery, until Fri 6 Sept, JW Evans Silver Factory, Birmingham

BOTANICAL ARTS & CRAFTS Exhibition of botanical illustrations, paintings and crafts celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Birmingham Society of Botanical Artists, until Sun 8 Sept, Winterbourne House & Gardens, Birmingham

INTERNATIONAL GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR EXHIBITION A selection of photographs embracing the word 'garden' in its broadest definition, until Sat 29 June, The Birmingham Botanical Gardens

STOLEN MOMENTS: PORTRAITS IN JAZZ Exhibition of photographs by Garry Corbett, offering a window into Birmingham's vibrant jazz scene, until Fri 13 Dec, Bramall Hall, University of Birmingham

ENCODED REALITIES Bridging art and science, this exhibition playfully decodes hidden patterns, structures and complexities of different health conditions and their impact on human experiences. Fri 7 - Sat 22 June, Centrala, Digbeth, Birmingham

DIRTY NAILS (LES ONGLES NOIRS) 'A sticky experimental thing happening between Dakar, Senegal and Birmingham, with an invitation to: play, grieve, hum; throw soil on white walls; dance, pray, touch and be moved by the unknown'. Fri 7 June - Sat 27 July, Eastside Projects, Digbeth, Birmingham



The Smashing Pumpkins + Weezer - Utilita Arena Birmingham

Gigs

RIDING THE LOW + JOSEPH HOOLIGAN + WILF SPIV Sat 1 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

ELLE-J WALTERS BAND Sat 1 June, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr

JAY SEAN + VÉYAH + KAYAM Sat 1 June, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE ROSADOCS Sat 1 June, O2 Institute, Digbeth

YES Sat 1 June, Symphony Hall

VOX POCKETS Sat 1 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

JIMMY ATE WORLD + WARNING + THE BLINK 182 SHOW Sat 1 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

REELIN' IN THE DAN Sun 2 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

NIGHT THIEVES + CRYSTALLINE Sun 2 June, Devil's Dog, Digbeth

UUHAI Sun 2 June, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

SUNKEN Sun 2 June, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

WOLVES IN ALCATRAZ + THIS ELEGANT CHAOS + FOULPLAY Sun 2 June, Subside Bar, Digbeth

DANNI NICHOLLS Sun 2 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

REBECCA FERGUSON + TOM SEALS + ELOISE VIOLA Sun 2 June, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN Sun 2 June, Lichfield Garrick

SEAN FINDLAY & ADAM SMITH Mon 3 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

ALYSSA BONAGURA Mon 3 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

AMELIA COBURN Mon 3 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

MEMORIAL Tues 4 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

RUBY WATERS Tues 4 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

SWIM DEEP + PRIMA QUEEN Wed 5 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

FUSION Wed 5 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

AERIAL SALAD Wed 5 June, The Victoria, John Bright Street

RBC AFRO-CUBAN JAZZ ORCHESTRA Wed 5 June, Hockley Social Club, Hampton Street

BRIGID O'NEILL Wed 5 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

STATUS QUO + LAURENCE JONES Wed 5 June, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

CLAIRE MARTIN & RAY GELATO Wed 5 June, Lichfield Garrick

JOHNNY2BAD Thurs 6 June, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

JODIE NICHOLSON Thurs 6 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

GIRLS IN SYNTHESIS Thurs 6 June, The Dark Horse, Moseley

RED + LANSDOWNE Thurs 6 June, O2 Academy

EL MOONO Thurs 6 June, Subside Bar, Digbeth

SPIERS AND BODEN Thurs 6 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Cannon Hill Park

LOST SONGS OF SCILLY Thurs 6 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

MILES HUNT Fri 7 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

HOMECOMING + SAVE OUR SHIPS + LUNAR HIJACK Fri 7 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

CULTURE DUB ORCHESTRA Fri 7 June, The Dark Horse,



Ruby Waters - The Smallbrook Lounge

Saturday 1 - Sunday 9 June

Moseley

COUNTRY FEST Fri 7 June, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ONLY THE POETS Fri 7 June, O2 Academy

PALUCH X SŁOŃ Fri 7 June, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

SPANGLED Fri 7 June, Dead Wax, Digbeth

BLACK CILICE + ABDUCTION + SANGUINE RELIC Fri 7 June, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

CHARLIE PYNE QUARTET Fri 7 June, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter

MASCA Fri 7 June, The Victoria, John Bright St

COLLABRO Fri 7 June, Symphony Hall

FANNA-FI-ALLAH SUFI QAWWALI Fri 7 June, Birmingham Town Hall

THE SMASHING PUMPKINS + WEEZER Fri 7 June, Utilita Arena Birmingham

LOVEBREAKERS Fri 7 June, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

MR APOLLO + SMALL CHANGES Fri 7 June, Tower Of Song, Pershore Rd

ULTIMATE RNB Fri 7 June, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

ELO AGAIN Fri 7 June, The Robin, Bilston

JOOLS HOLLAND & HIS RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA Fri 7 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

URBAN INTRO Fri 7 - Sat 8 June, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr



Danni Nichols - The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

THE HEELS Sat 8 June, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

DIRTY DC Sat 8 June, The Dark Horse, Moseley

DARREN WHARTON'S RENEGADE Sat 8 June, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ROSA CAELUM Sat 8 June, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE SOUTHMARTINS Sat 8 June, O2 Academy

DOLLY PARTON VS KENNY ROGERS Sat 8 June, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

REGRETS Sat 8 June, Dead Wax, Digbeth

BHANGRA SYMPHONICA Sat 8 June, Birmingham Town Hall

BRITPOP CLASSICAL Sat 8 June, Symphony Hall

PET SHOP BOYS Sat 8 June, Utilita Arena Birmingham

CUD + INDEPENDENT COUNTRY + BRIAN LIGHTNING + THE BITTER LEMONS Sat 8 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Cannon Hill Park

DAN WHITEHOUSE WITH

GUSTAF LJUNGGREN Sat 8 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Cannon Hill Park

BOOGALOO BABES Sat 8 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BLACK VOICES: SONGS OF NINA SIMONE PLUS EMILY SAUNDERS Sat 8 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SUMMER PUNCH Sat 8 June, Coventry Building Society Arena

DISCO INFERNO Sat 8 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HER HEAD'S ON FIRE + WOOD & NAILS + BACK TEETH Sun 9 June, The Dark Horse, Moseley

THE AC30'S Sun 9 June, The Night Owl, Digbeth

THIRTY SECONDS TO MARS Sun 9 June, Utilita Arena Birmingham

OUR MAN IN THE FIELD Sun 9 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

BYE BYE BABY - MUSIC OF FRANKIE VALLI Sun 9 June, Lichfield Garrick

Classical Music

RBC EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLE Featuring Gen Li (baroque cello), Paul Kowal (harpsichord), William Sherratt (baroque oboe), Kalu Ramirez (baroque violin) & Riko Suzuki (recorder). Programme includes works by Telemann, J.S. Bach & Fasch, Sat 1 June, Library of Birmingham

NATIONAL OPEN YOUTH ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Meredith, Vivaldi, Nyman & more... Sun 2 June, Birmingham Town Hall

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: GAELIC VISIONS Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor). Programme includes works by MacCunn, Arnold, Stanford & Beach, Sun 2 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

AT THE MOVIES! Featuring Paul Carr (organ). Programme includes works by R Strauss, J Williams, H Zimmer, Beethoven & more... Sun 2 June, Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley

THOMAS TROTTER ORGAN RECITAL Also featuring Simon Gledhill. Programme includes works by Schubert, Rutter, Benjamin & Moszkowski, Mon 3 June, Birmingham Town Hall

XINYUAN JIANG PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Chopin, Scriabin & Stravinsky, Tues 4 June, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ROBIN BIGWOOD HARPSICHORD RECITAL Programme includes works by J.S. Bach, Weds 5 June, Organ Studio, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RBC HARPSICHORD DAY: HARPSICHORDS & FRIENDS Featuring Conservatoire musicians, Weds 5 June, Organ Studio, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: VESPER OF THE BLESSED EARTH Featuring Ludovic Morlot (conductor), CBSO Chorus & University of Birmingham Voices. Programme includes works by John Luther Adams & Sibelius, Thurs 6 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DAVID SAINT ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by J.S. Bach, C. V. Stanford, Franck & Monnikendam, Thurs 6 June, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: NORDIC TO NEW WORLD Featuring the Career Accelerator String Fellows. Programme includes works by the Danish String Quartet, Pereira & Price, Fri 7 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF MUSIC: UNIVERSITY BRASS BAND REUNION Featuring Stuart Birnie & Stephen Roberts (conductors). Programme includes old favourites and classics from the brass band repertoire, Sun 9 June, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall

Music Building, University of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: GAELIC VISIONS Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor). Programme includes works by MacCunn, Arnold, Stanford & Beach, Sun 9 June, Leominster Priory

Comedy

MARLON DAVIS, KEVIN DANIEL, ELERI MORGAN & DARIUS DAVIES Sat 1 June, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

BRENNAN REECE, DAVE LONGLEY, ROBERT WHITE & RAJ POOJARA Sat 1 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ED GAMBLE Sat 1 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham



MARK THOMAS Sat 1 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Birmingham

BARRY DODDS, ROGER MONKHOUSE, BRENNAN REECE & COMIC TBC Sat 1 June, Lichfield Garrick

KANE BROWN Sun 2 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BRIAN CONLEY Sun 2 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

BRIAN BUTTERFIELD Wed 5 June, Birmingham Town Hall



CHRIS DISTEFANO Thurs 6 June, O2 Institute, Digbeth

CHRIS FORBES, DARREN HARRIOTT, BAS RAHMAN, FINLAY CHRISTIE & COMIC TBC Fri 7 June, The Glee Club, B'ham

UPSTAIRS AT CHERRY REDS Fri 7 June, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

DARIUS DAVIES, PREET SINGH, ALISTAIR BARRIE & JON PEARSON Sat 8 June, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

CHRIS FORBES, DARREN HARRIOTT, FINLAY CHRISTIE & COMIC TBC Sat 8 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOMMY SANDHU Sun 9 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CATHERINE BOHART Sun 9 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham



Jools Holland - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Theatre

COME FROM AWAY Olivier & Tony award-winning musical telling the real-life story of the 7,000 air passengers from all over the world who were grounded in Canada during the wake of 9/11, until Sat 1 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE BUDDHA OF SUBURBIA Emma Rice stage adaptation of Hanif Kureishi's exploration of family, friends, sex, theatre and belonging, until Sat 1 June, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

SUNSHINE ON LEITH Amateur version presented by Solihull Theatre Company, until Sat 1 June, Bushell Hall, Solihull School

ENGLISH European premiere of Sanaz Toossi's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, set in a classroom in Iran where four adult students grapple with the challenge of learning English, until Sat 29 June, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

AS YOU LIKE IT Blue Duck Theatre Company presents its version of Shakespeare's tale of romance and mistaken identity, Sat 1 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

THE ADVENTURES OF DOCTOR DOLITTLE Illyria present an outdoor production of the much-loved fantasy tale. Suitable for all ages, Sat 1 June, Winterbourne House & Garden, University of Birmingham

THE 39 STEPS Smash-hit comedy recreating John Buchan's classic spy thriller, Tues 4 - Sat 8 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

WISE WOMEN Midlands-based Calathea Arts tell the stories of Margo and Margaret, two women treading the same path 375 years apart, Wed 5 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

LIBERATION SQUARES Three teenage girls forge an unlikely friendship in a play inspired by graphic novels, hip-hop, pop culture and real-world activists, Wed 5 - Fri 7 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SHREK THE MUSICAL Trinity Players present an amateur version of the smash-hit Dreamworks film, Wed 5 - Sat 8 June, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Richard Goulding and Samantha Spiro star in a new production of Shakespeare's tale of mischief and double dealing, Wed 5 June - Sat 7 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR Aunty Jen Productions present Joan Littlewood's pioneering musical, satirising the folly, farce and tragedy of the First World War, Thurs 6 June, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

TONES: A HIP HOP OPERA Join Jerome,

aka The Professor, as he navigates his way through Black British culture, class and belonging on a path to self-discovery, Thurs 6 - Fri 7 June, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

YES, WE'RE RELATED Florence Lacey-Evans' 'nutty new comedy', focusing on sibling grief and chaos, Thurs 6 - Fri 7 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS! Grusha's Theatre Company present a production concerning three controversial Black Country women and their mission to tell their stories. The play is written by former Birmingham Poet Laureate Adrian Johnson, Fri 7 June, Thimblewell Library, Smethwick

CONSENT Amateur version of Nina Raine's 'powerful, painful and funny play', which, set in a courtroom, sifts the evidence from side to side and puts Justice herself in the dock. Note that this play contains strong language and themes of sexual assault, Sat 8 - Sat 15 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Kid's Theatre

MADAGASCAR THE MUSICAL CBBC star Karim Zeroul stars as King Julien in an adventure musical based on the hit DreamWorks film, Thurs 30 May - Sun 2 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



SPOT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY Interactive and accessible show based on Eric Hill's much-loved children's book, Fri 31 May - Sat 1 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

CLAYTIME Indefinite Articles present a 'play with clay' event for kids aged three to six. Expect to enter a world of fabulous forms, amazing animals and morphing monsters, Sat 1 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

DRAGONS AND MYTHICAL BEASTS LIVE An award-winning show featuring 'spectacular puppetry' and 'spell-binding adventure'. Suitable for audience members aged three-plus, Sat 1 - Sun 2 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

OUT OF THE HAT Long Nose Puppets present a show for younger audiences that tells a story of friendship and the true magic of nature, Sun 2 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

Light Entertainment

CIRCUS VEGAS All-new show featuring Wheel of Death & Globe of Speed alongside high-wire and hair-hanging acts. Acrobatic displays from Ukraine's Didyk Troupe and Tanzania's Bellagio Warriors also feature - as does Edy the Clown, until Sun 2 June, NEC, Birmingham

BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET Enjoy sultry striptease, witty wisecracks and saucy songs as the creme de la creme of the cabaret world take to the stage to surprise and delight, Sat 1 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

UNCANNY: I KNOW WHAT I SAW Danny Robins hosts a live investigation into the paranormal, Sun 2 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

SHOULD I DELETE THAT? Join Em & Alex for a night of embarrassing stories, DMCs and general Should I Delete That? chaos as they embark on their first-ever live tour, Sun 2 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

BETWEEN THE COVERS LIVE Live version of the nation's favourite TV book club, featuring Kacey Ainsworth, Jo Brand, Stephen Mangan and bestselling author Joseph O'Connor, Tues 4 June, Birmingham Town Hall

PAUL ZERDIN: PUPPETMAN Join Paul and his creations - Sam, Albert, Baby and Roger the Bodyguard - in a brand-new comedy show for 2024, Tues 4 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BEHIND THE MIC: BROADCASTING LEGENDS Join broadcasters Nick Owen, Jim Rosenthal and Pat Murphy as they give an insight into 50 years of fun and games on TV and radio, Wed 5 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BOX OF FROGS Birmingham's premiere improv group present an evening of high-octane comedy nonsense, based entirely on audience suggestions, Fri 7 June, The Core, Solihull



THE D-DAY DARLINGS - 80TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR Featuring new arrangements of songs from the era, slick choreography and special guest performances, Fri 7 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

A NIGHT ON BROADWAY Amateur cabaret show presented by Timmins

Academy of Dance, Fri 7 - Sat 8 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

BULLYACHE: WHO HURT YOU? A radical reimagining of choreographer Kenneth McMillan's ballet L'histoire de Manon and erotic thriller Showgirls. University of Birmingham String Ensemble feature. Jonathan Silk conducts, Sat 8 June, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

BACK TO BACHARACH Featuring The Magic Moments Orchestra and a West End cast, Sat 8 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

MUSICALS BY CANDLELIGHT Collection of musical theatre classics from productions including Rent, Avenue Q, Bonnie & Clyde and Little Shop Of Horrors... Sat 8 - Sun 9 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE BOOK OF MUSICALS: CHAPTER TWO Showcase of musical theatre songs performed by students from School of Theatre Excellence, Sun 9 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH JOHN LYDON Join the former Sex Pistols frontman as he talks about his unique and extraordinary career, Sun 9 June, Birmingham Town Hall

Talks & Spoken Word

EMMA KENNY - THE SERIAL KILLER NEXT DOOR One of the UK's most notable psychological therapists and crime commentators, Emma here reveals what creates a serial killer, Tues 4 June, Lichfield Garrick

Events

JURASSIC GARDENS Learn fascinating facts about dinosaurs, and snap a memorable photo, until Sun 2 June, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

MADE IN THE BLACK COUNTRY Celebrate Black Country people and products, until Sun 2 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

CHARACTER WEEK Meet your favourite kids' characters across the half-term holiday, until Sun 2 June, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

UK GAMES EXPO Featuring hundreds of exhibitors showing, demonstrating and selling tabletop games of all types, until Sun 2 June, NEC, B'ham

MIDLANDS AIR FESTIVAL Featuring over 100 hot-air balloons, until Sun 2 June, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

BRICK OCEAN AT THE ENGINE HOUSE Go under the sea and discover ocean-themed brick model installations, until Sun 2 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

Saturday 1 - Sunday 9 June

MEDIEVAL MAYHEM Medieval fun for all the family, until Sun 2 June, Tamworth Castle

KNITTED BLOSSOM AND POETRY TRAIL Admire the blossom in the gardens and the knitted blossom displays produced by talented volunteers and local craft groups, until Sun 9 June, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

LEGO® NINJAGO® Find your dragon power, until Sun 30 June, Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham

SEAHORSE HOTEL Check out the new seahorse area, until Sun 30 June, National SEA LIFE Centre, Birmingham

PLAY AND MAKE ZONE Discover the world of STEM via a selection of crafts which you can enjoy at your own pace, until Sat 31 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

MOTOFEST COVENTRY Cultural festival celebrating transport heritage, Sat 1 - Sun 2 June, Coventry City Centre

SANDWELL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL This year's theme is 'wild-hood', inspiring young minds to roam free and imaginations to soar, Sat 1 - Sun 2 June, Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, West Bromwich

THE RESONATE FESTIVAL OF ARTS &

CULTURE Explore culture and creativity from across the world at this festival-style day for people of all ages, Sun 2 June, University of Warwick, Coventry



MAC'S ARTS MARKET Featuring a range of stalls with a broad selection of quality handmade products, Sun 2 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Birmingham

BRITISH OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 One of the most prestigious and historic tournaments in professional squash returns to Birmingham, Sun 2 - Sun 9 June, The Rep, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM DESIGN FESTIVAL A celebration of the local, national and international design industry, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 June, various venues across Birmingham

THREE COUNTIES CHAMPION DOG SHOW Over 120 breeds of dogs compete for

the Best in Show title, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 June, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

ROSIE'S RETRO BAZAAR: VINTAGE & ANTIQUE MARKET Showcase of 20th century and retro style, from furniture and fashion to homeware and memorabilia, Sat 8 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

WOLVERHAMPTON PRIDE 2024 Celebrating the local LGBTQIA+ community, Sat 8 June, Wolverhampton City Centre

GARDENS CINEMA: BARBIE An outdoor screening of Barbie, set against the stunning backdrop of the Botanical Gardens, Sat 8 June, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

SUSTAINABLE SHAKESPEARE COMMUNITY DAY Find out how local and regional groups and organisations tackle climate change and protect our natural environment, Sat 8 June, Shakespeare's New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

THEATRE TOUR A behind-the-scenes venue tour with knowledgeable guides, Sat 8 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham

AI FUTURES: EXTREME ROBOTICS Join researchers from the University of

Birmingham's Extreme Robotics Lab for a family-friendly venture into the world of advanced robotics and AI, Sat 8 June, The Exchange: 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham

FAMILY HERITAGE TOURS An interactive exploration of The Exchange, Sat 8 June, The Exchange: 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham

BCU INSPIRED FESTIVAL: FAMILY DAY Showcasing the talent and creativity of the university's arts, design and media students, Sat 8 June, Birmingham City University's City Centre Campus

FARGO X BROKEN SOULS RESCUE DOG FEST A fun day out for you and your four-legged family members, raising money for Broken Souls Rescue, Sat 8 June, FarGo Village, Coventry

HEY DUGGEE VISIT Take a heritage train ride out into the countryside to see Duggee, who will be appearing at regular intervals throughout the day at the Engine House Visitor Centre, Highley, Sat 8 - Sun 9 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

RAF COSFORD AIR SHOW A full day of family fun and aircraft displays, Sun 9 June, RAF Cosford, Albrighton, Nr Wolverhampton

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Kebu - Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

Gigs

DANNY MELLIN Mon 10 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

RAQUEL RODRIGUEZ + GARETH DONKIN Tues 11 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

ASTREL K + HOOPLA BLUE Tues 11 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

KEBU Tues 11 June, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

CHARM OF FINCHES + MIA KELLY Tues 11 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

RICHARD HAWLEY Tues 11 June, The Wulfrun at The Halls, Wolverhampton

ELLE LIMBEAR Wed 12 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

KNOXVILLE HIGHWAY Wed 12 June, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr

OBELISK + TOM SOUTH & THE LIFELINE + CRYING CLUB Wed 12 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

AFTERTHOUGHT + THE POLYGONS + YUP DIDI Wed 12 June, Dead Wax, Digbeth

DOJA CAT + HEMLOCKE SPRINGS Wed 12 June, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

JAMES + RAZORLIGHT Wed 12 June, Utilita Arena Birmingham

IAIN MATTHEWS Wed 12 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

JIM Thurs 13 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

WASTED YOUTH + THEE ACID TONGUE Thurs 13 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

APOLLO GOLD™ + ANTHEMS™ Thurs 13 June, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

VINCE STAPLES Thurs 13 June, O2 Institute



GARETH DUNLOP Thurs 13 June, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

MIKE FLETCHER'S SILENT FORM Thurs 13 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Cannon Hill Park

CARA LUFT Thurs 13 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

THE MCCARTNEY SONGBOOK Thurs 13 June, Lichfield Garrick

DEM BOYZ Fri 14 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

NO PROOF Fri 14 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

ALEXANDER STEWART Fri 14 June, O2 Academy

CHRIS BATCHELOR'S ZOETIC Fri 14 June, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE JAZZ ORCHESTRA & AFRO-CUBAN JAZZ ORCHESTRA Fri 14 June, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

SHALAMAR Fri 14 June, Symphony Hall

HONEYBOY HICKLING BAND Fri 14 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

XODUS: TRIBUTE TO BOB MARLEY AND THE WAILERS Fri 14 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Fri 14 June, Lichfield Garrick

THE JACK CADES Sat 15 June, The Night Owl, Digbeth

PORKPIE Sat 15 June, O2 Academy

ENJOY THE SILENCE Sat 15 June, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

AN AUDIENCE WITH HIGHGATE GOSPEL CHOIR Sat 15 June, Birmingham Town Hall

SMOKIN' ADE WAKELIN Sun 16 June, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

BONUS RPK Sun 16 June, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

BIKINI KILL Sun 16 June, The Crossing, Digbeth

ALFIE BOE Sun 16 June, Symphony Hall

Classical Music

STILL LIFE WITH GUITAR Featuring Jacqueline Pischorn (voice). Programme includes works by Weber, Giuliani & Keller, Mon 10 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO CUPPA CONCERT Featuring a small ensemble of musicians from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme specially created for people living with dementia and their carers, Tues 11 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

RBC CODA 2024 Featuring new works from members of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's composing department, Tues 11 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

EX CATHEDRA: SUMMER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor). Programme includes works by Benjamin Britten, Charles Villiers Stanford & Liz Dilot Johnson, Weds 12 June, Hereford Cathedral

RBC LUNCHTIME CONCERT Featuring Simone Damiani (piano) & Paola Cadarelli (violin), Thurs 13 June, St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: SUMMER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor). Programme includes works by Benjamin Britten, Charles Villiers Stanford & Liz Dilot Johnson, Thurs 13 June, St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton

CBSO: BARBER & RACHMANINOFF Featuring Kevin John Edusei (conductor) & Alisa Weilerstein (cello). Programme includes works by Dvořák, Barber & Rachmaninoff, Thurs 13 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EPIC BRASS Featuring the Tredegar Town Band, Ian Porthouse, Josh Geddes & Alan Gifford (conductors), Dewi Griffiths (cornet) & Siôn Jones (euphonium). Programme includes works by Holst, E Ball, Curnow & Boëllmann, Thurs 13 June, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

LUNCHTIME RECITAL Free concert, Fri 14 June, Birmingham Cathedral

RBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Martyn Brabbins (conductor), Emanuil Ivanov (piano) & Kinna Whitehead (voice). Programme includes works by Busoni, Respighi & a world premiere of The Lily, by Kinna Whitehead, Fri 14 June, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

IVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring the Piccadilly Sinfonietta, Katie Stillman (violin) &

Warren Mailley-Smith (piano). Programme also includes Chopin's Piano Concerto No.1 in E Minor, Sat 15 June, Birmingham Cathedral

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR: FRENCH ROMANTICS Featuring Adrian Lucas (conductor), David Briggs (organ), Philippa Hyde (soprano), Thomas Castle (tenor) & Jolyon Loy (bass). Programme includes works by Vierne, Duruflé & Dupré, Sat 15 June, Tewkesbury Abbey

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF MUSIC: SUMMER FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA Featuring Daniele Rosina (conductor) & Jessie Lewis (violin). Programme includes a world premiere of Oliver Beck's Heroica, with works by Bruch & Shostakovich, Sun 16 June, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

Comedy

CLINTON BAPTISTE Fri 14 June, Birmingham Town Hall



GARETH MUTCH, KEITH FARNAN, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, MAD RON & MATT STELLINGWERF Fri 14 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MORGAN REES & SHARON WANJOHI Fri 14 June, The Glee Club, B'ham

TOM STADE, ROB MULHOLLAND, JONNY PELHAM & WAYNE BEESE Fri 14 June, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

RICH WILSON, AARON TWITCHEN, IAN SMITH & SULLY O'SULLIVAN Sat 15 June, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

GARETH MUTCH, KEITH FARNAN, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH & SAANIYA ABBAS Sat 15 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

EMMANUEL SONUBI Sun 16 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SAANIYA ABBAS Sun 16 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SUKH OJLA Sun 16 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

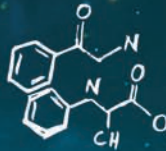
TOMMY SANDHU Sun 16 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

Theatre

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY THE MUSICAL BMOS presents an amateur version of the hit musical based on Roald Dahl's much-loved children's book, Tues 11 - Sat 15 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham



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Museums

FRANKIE GOES TO BOLLYWOOD New musical inspired by real stories of British women who have been caught in the spotlight of the biggest film industry in the world, Tues 11 - Sat 15 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



THE WIZARD OF OZ Craig Revel Horwood stars as the Wicked Witch of the West alongside Aston Merrygold as the Tin Man in a spectacular new production based on the much-loved classic, Tues 11 - Sun 16 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

LONDON SUITE The Highbury Players present an amateur version of Neil Simon's four-act comedy set in a swanky London hotel, Tues 11 - Sat 22 June, Highbury Theatre, Sutton Coldfield

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Royal Birmingham Conservatoire present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's romantic comedy, Wed 12 - Sun 16 June, Lightwoods Park & House, Sandwell

WET FEET A poignant comedy about two lives that collide in the most unlikely of places. Note that this show contains themes of a sexual nature and audience members must be aged 16+, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

WINDRUSH - THE JOURNEY Pegasus Opera Company fuse music and storytelling to celebrate Black classical composers, past, present and future... Thurs 13 - Sat 15 June, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL Amateur version of the romantic comedy celebrating self-discovery and resilience, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

FAUSTUS: THAT DAMNED WOMAN Royal Birmingham Conservatoire present Chris Bush's reimagining of a classic cautionary tale, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

KING LEAR A 'compelling' new production in which director Vyacheslav Yehorov draws on the parallels between Ukrainian refugees in the small town of Uzhhorod in the west of the country, and the themes of Shakespeare's famous tragedy, Fri 14 - Sat 15 June, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE MAGIC FLUTE New opera company Wild Arts present Mozart's surreal tale of magic and romance, Sat 15 June, Lichfield Garrick

Kid's Theatre

PSYCHEDELIGHT: MOHAND AND PETER Humour and visual poetry combine in a family-friendly show celebrating Sudan and the magic of friendship across cultures, Sat 15 - Sun 16 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Birmingham

IS THAT A YETI, HETTY? Crow's Nest Theatre present a live-illustrated storytelling show, performed at a window. A free drop-in event for families, Sat 15 - Sun 16 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Birmingham

Light Entertainment

DISNEY IN CONCERT: THE SOUND OF MAGIC A symphonic celebration in which the renowned Novello Orchestra bring to life soundtracks and characters from the Walt Disney Animation Studios, Tues 11 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH PSYCHIC SALLY Tues 11 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

MAGICIAN TWINPOSSIBLE An evening of comedy magic pieces and theatrical illusions set to music, Wed 12 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH TREVOR & GARY That'll Be The Day's Trevor Payne & Gary Anderson take to the road to share 40 years of history through music, stories and laughter, Wed 12 June, Lichfield Garrick

PUNT AND DENNIS: WE ARE NOT A ROBOT Hugh Dennis and Steve Punt, back on tour for the first time in 10 years, Wed 12 June, Birmingham Town Hall



ALL THE LOVERS: A NIGHT OF LIVE QUEER MUSIC & DANCING An evening of live music and dance celebrating favourite independent queer music artists from across the UK - including Pink Suits, Mickey Callisto and Spit XL... Wed 12 June, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SHELL SUIT CHER: BELIEVE IN BINGO Sat 15 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

RAVE ON: THE ULTIMATE 50S AND 60S EXPERIENCE Enjoy a nostalgic musical journey featuring classics from Elvis, Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, The



The Wizard of Oz - Birmingham Hippodrome

Beatles, Connie Francis, Neil Sedaka, Little Richard, Roy Orbison, Lulu, The Beach Boys and many more... Sat 15 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

KS CHITHRA: REWIND UK TOUR 2024 A soul-stirring performance paying homage to Chithra's timeless classics and new musical masterpieces. Featuring a 14-piece live orchestra and singers Madhu Balakrishnan, Nishad and Anamika, Sun 16 June, Birmingham Town Hall

Talks & Spoken Word

MARTIN PARR: AUTOPORTRAIT Join the celebrated photographer as he discusses his extensive career, Mon 10 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Birmingham

Events

BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE Featuring presenters and top experts, show gardens and a floral marquee, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June, NEC, Birmingham

BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW SUMMER Featuring chefs and experts sharing their culinary skills and cooking live on stage, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June, NEC, Birmingham



REEL AND MEAL: CLUE A screening of the 1985 film alongside a themed meal, Fri 14 June, Midland Arts Centre (mac), Birmingham

ROYAL THREE COUNTIES SHOW One of

the UK's largest celebrations of the countryside and rural life, Fri 14 - Sun 16 June, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

WESTON PARK AIR SHOW INTERNATIONAL Back for its 27th year, attracting visitors and pilots from all the over the world, Fri 14 - Sun 16 June, Weston Park, Shropshire

WESTON PARK FIREWORK & AERIAL PYRO SPECTACULAR Featuring the Aerospax Display Team, who combine formation aerobatics with night-time pyrotechnics, Sat 15 June, Weston Park, Shropshire

DOZE UNDER DIPPY Stay overnight in the museum, snoozing under the feet of a 26-foot Diplodocus, Sat 15 June, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

CELEBRATING SANCTUARY: REFUGEE WEEK TAKEOVER AT MAC Enjoy music, dance, poetry, theatre and family fun, Sat 15 June, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Birmingham

MIXED TRACTION & REAL ALE FESTIVAL Serving up to 20 real ales alongside a busy service of steam and diesel trains, Sat 15 - Sun 16 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

COMIC CON MIDLANDS 2024 Special event for fans of movies, TV, streaming, gaming, anime and sports entertainment, Sat 15 - Sun 16 June, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

FIRING UP FOR FATHERS DAY Featuring heritage vehicles, vintage tractors and car club displays, Sat 15 - Sun 16 June, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

ANIMECON UK A showcase of the best in Asian pop culture, Sat 15 - Sun 16 June, NEC, Birmingham

NATIONAL CYCLING SHOW Popular show bringing together industry experts to educate, inspire and motivate, Sat 15 - Sun 16 June, NEC, Birmingham



Crypta - The Asylum

Gigs

LYDIA LUNCH & MARC HURTADO PLAY SUICIDE AND ALAN VEGA Mon 17 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

CRYPTA Tues 18 June, The Asylum, Hampton Street

BAT FOR LASHES Tues 18 June, Birmingham Town Hall

NICK MASON'S SAUCERFUL OF SECRETS Tues 18 June, Symphony Hall

EMILY DUFF Tues 18 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Tues 18 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

GIRLS ALOUD Tues 18 - Thurs 20 June, Resorts World Arena, B'ham

YOLANDA CHARLES' PROJECT PH Wed 19 June, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

PATRILINEALS + THE SKUM Wed 19 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

BIG TIME RUSH Wed 19 June, O2 Academy

UNDERSIDE Wed 19

June, Dead Wax, Digbeth

LOUIS DUNFORD Thurs 20 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

BOWIE EXPERIENCE Thurs 20 June, The Alexandra Theatre

THE AMY WINEHOUSE BAND Thurs 20 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BUDAPEST CAFÉ ORCHESTRA Thurs 20 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

MOTÔRHEADACHE Fri 21 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

MOTHER VULTURE + TATTOO MOLLY + BLANCO NEGRA + HAZE Fri 21 June, Devil's Dog, Digbeth

OASIS MAYBE Fri 21 June, The Night Owl, Digbeth

LIZZIE AND THE BANSHEES Fri 21 June, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

ROOTED + CORBYN + SPELLGAZE + CLOUTSYDER + EQUINOX Fri 21 June, Dead Wax, Digbeth

JALEN NGONDA + OLIVE JONES Fri 21 June, The Crossing, Digbeth

PHIL ROBSON ORGAN

TRIO Fri 21 June, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Qtr

THE CONSERVATOIRE FOLK ENSEMBLE Fri 21 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

NSG Fri 21 June, XOYO, Digbeth

WANNABE - THE SPICE GIRLS SHOW Fri 21 June, The Alexandra, Theatre

THIRD CULTURE COLLECTIVE X ASHNAA Fri 21 June, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

THE ROLLING CLONES Fri 21 June, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

ERASURED Fri 21 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

B'SPOKE Fri 21 - Sat 22 June, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

ROXY MAGIC Sat 22 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

PUNIK + DRONGOS FOR EUROPE + LIARBILITIES + COMPLETE DYSFUNCTION Sat 22 June, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

TROY REDFERN Sat 22 June, The Asylum, Hampton Street

THE NOTEBENDERS Sat 22 June, Birmingham Town Hall

KINGS OF LEON + THE VACCINES Sat 22 June, Utilita Arena B'ham

ALL 4 INDIE VS BRITPOP UNITED Sat 22 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN Sat 22 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



Big Time Rush - O2 Academy

Classical Music

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF MUSIC: STRING ORCHESTRA Mon 17 June, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

THOMAS TROTTER ORGAN CONCERT Mon 17 June, Birmingham Town Hall

UNIVERSITY MUSIC SCHOLARS A relaxed showcase performance, Tues 18 June, The Dome, Bramall Music Building, University of B'ham

EX CATHEDRA: SUMMER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor). Programme includes works by Benjamin Britten, Charles Villiers Stanford & Liz Dillnot Johnson, Tues 18 June, St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, B'ham

CHAMBER MUSIC & SOLOISTS CONCERT Informal lunchtime concert featuring ensemble and solo performances, Wed 19 June, The Dome, Bramall Music Building, University of B'ham

UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC BRASS Featuring Stephen Roberts (conductor), Wed 19 June, The Green Heart, Birmingham University

CBSO: MENDELSSOHN'S ITALIAN SYMPHONY Featuring Olari Elts (conductor) & Ariel Lanyi (piano). Programme includes works by Farenre, Mozart, Schubert & Mendelssohn, Wed 19 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF MUSIC: SUMMER VOICES Featuring singers from across the campus, Thurs 20 June, The Dome, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH ANNA LAPWOOD Programme includes works by H Zimmer, Glass, Menken, Debussy, Rani & O Belli, Thurs 20 June, Birmingham Town Hall

TIANJIAN XIE PIANO CONCERT: CHOPIN NIGHT Thurs 20 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK CHAMBER CHOIR: APPEAR & INSPIRE Programme includes works by Lobo, Smith-More, Pärt & Britten, Fri 21 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM MALE VOICE CHOIR: SUMMER CONCERT Featuring Steve Roche (music director), Chris Walk (accompanist) & Clare Ray (percussion), Sat 22 June, Holy Name Catholic Church, Great Barr

BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: NOH REIMAGINED BCMG musicians explore traditional Japanese Noh Theatre. Programme includes new works by Ben Nobuto & Hollie Harding, plus works by Toshio Hosokawa & Misato Mochizuki, Sun 23 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Comedy

UNDER THE RAINBOW COMEDY Wed 19 June, The Rainbow, Digbeth, B'ham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, CONNOR BURNS & STEVE WILLIAMS Thurs 20 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOE MCTERNAN Thurs 20 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEVE BUGEJA Fri 21 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOE MCTERNAN, ABIGOLIAH SCHAMAUN, CONNOR BURNS & STEVE WILLIAMS Fri 21 - Sat 22 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROGER MONKHOUSE, DANI JOHNS, JACK SKIPPER & CERY'S NELMES Sat 22 June, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

BILAL ZAFAR Sat 22 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham



BIG DEAL COMEDY NIGHT Sat 22 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Theatre

THE MASSIVE TRAGEDY OF MADAME BOVARY Ha Hum Ah Productions and the Minack Theatre offer a fresh take on Gustave Flaubert's complex novel. Note that the production contains strong language and mature themes, Mon 17 - Tues 18 June, Lichfield Garrick

JULIUS CAESAR 2024 One of the most famous political coups in history gets the Oddsocks treatment, Mon 17 - Wed 19 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE TELLING: I, SPIE Concert-play telling the imagined story of renaissance composer & lutenist John Dowland's brush with the Elizabethan secret service, Tues 18 June, Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon



THE TROUBLE WITH TEENS Drama Tees present a brand-new devised tale about school life at its worst, Tues 18 - Wed 19 June, Lichfield Garrick

SIX Award-winning musical in which the wives of Henry VIII take to the

mic to tell their tales, remixing 500 years of historical heartbreak into an 80-minute celebration of 21st-century girl power, Tues 18 - Sat 22 June, Birmingham Hippodrome



KYOTO Fast-paced political thriller which places audiences right at the heart of the historic 1997 Kyoto climate summit, Tues 18 June - Sat 13 July, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

DEATHTRAP All & Sundry Productions present an amateur staging of Ira Levin's classic comedic thriller, Wed 19 - Sat 22 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

RHYMES AGAINST HUMANITY Improvised musical, totally ad-libbed with prompts from the audience, Thurs 20 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

QUEEN LEAR Royal Birmingham Conservatoire present Shakespeare's timeless story of pride, cruelty, power and love, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

HAMLET The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's most famous tragedy, Fri 21 June, Packwood House, Solihull

TWELFTH NIGHT: A CORNISH TALE Seann Walsh, Natalie Anderson (Emmerdale/Fool Me Once) & BAFTA winner Molly Windsor (Traces) star in a new production of Shakespeare's much-loved comedy, Fri 21 June - Sun 7 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

REVOLUTION Razzamatatz Theatre School presents a showcase of music, choreography and acting, Sat 22 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

MRS KAPOOR'S DAUGHTER'S WEDDING 2 MAURITIUS A British Asian comedy featuring singing, dancing and dhol... Sun 23 June, The Alexandra, B'ham

Kids Theatre

IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE Join Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends in a fun-filled live show which also includes a very special visit from the amazing flying Pinky Ponk, Fri 21 - Sat 22 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

LAIKA THE SPACE DOG Lori Hopkins' story for children about an ordinary dog who went on an extraordinary journey into space, Sat 22 June, Wednesbury Library

Dance

COPPELIA KVN Dance present a contemporary reimagining of a classic ballet, Thurs 20 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

BLACK BRITISH BALLET: ISLAND MOVEMENTS Epic tale of a Windrush family that focuses on the story of a young soldier in World War Two, Sat 22 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

Light Entertainment

CLOSURE? One-act comedy performance lecture following Lydia De La Murr y on a journey of self-discovery, Wed 19 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

G4 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR Wed 19 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

HENRY WINKLER: THE FONZ AND BEYOND Join the Happy Days actor and bestselling author as he shares his heart-warming story in celebration of his memoir, Being Henry, Thurs 20 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

GIRLS NIGHT OUT WITH FLAT AND THE CURVES A glittery cabaret described as Sex And The City meets The Spice Girls, Thurs 20 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

KATHERINE AND PIERRE: A KATY PERRY DRAG MUSICAL Lip-sync, mime, acrobatics and choreography come together in TalkSmall's genre-defying production 'that plays out the highs and lows of a relationship in a way you've never seen before', Fri 21 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

LEA SALONGA - STAGE, SCREEN & EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN Featuring stage & screen classics from Lea's best-known roles in Miss Saigon, Les Miserables, Aladdin, Mulan and more... Fri 21 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

RAT PACK LIVE Featuring all-time favourites including New York, New York, That's Amore, My Way, Mr Bojangles and That's Life, Fri 21 June, Lichfield Garrick

CBSO: THE MUSIC OF HANS ZIMMER Featuring Nicholas Buc (conductor), Andrew Pogson & Dan Golding (presenters). Programme includes Zimmer's music from Sherlock Holmes, Pirates of the Caribbean, Inception, Kung Fu Panda & more... Fri 21 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

ROCKETMAN, WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA The critically acclaimed Oscar-winning musical fantasy, charting the life of the legendary Elton John, presented live in concert with a full orchestra, Sat 22 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



Katherine And Pierre: A Katy Perry Drag Musical - Old Joint Stock Theatre

THE BEST OF JOHN WILLIAMS Featuring the London Concert Orchestra. Programme includes music from Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Schindler's List & more... Sun 23 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

AN EVENING WITH SIR GEOFF HURST Friend and agent Terry Baker interviews England's 1966 World Cup hero, Wed 19 June, Lichfield Garrick

Events

A TOUR OF THE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION Join the curator for a tour of Warwick University's art collection, exploring artworks that address the subject of migration, Wed 19 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE BIG BANG FAIR Featuring hands-on activities, careers panels and workshops, Wed 19 - Fri 21 June, NEC, Birmingham

WORLD REFUGEE DAY Learn more about the experience of refugees, Thurs 20 June, The Exchange: 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham

COMMUNITY GAMES Bringing the

businesses from the District together for a fun afternoon of sports challenges, Fri 21 June, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

THE AUTISM SHOW Packed with informative talks, free professional consultations, specialist providers, and interactive features and workshops, Fri 21 - Sat 22 June, NEC, Birmingham

POTFEST BY THE LAKE Showcasing the work of 80 of the UK's finest ceramics makers, Fri 21 - Sun 23 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

DENNY VS CASH A night of championship boxing, Sat 22 June, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

ORIENTAL EXPRESS A Chinese-inspired dining experience on the railway, Sat 22 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

GIN TRAINS Gin-tasting session combined with a leisurely ride along the railway, Sat 22 - Sun 23 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

WARWICKSHIRE GAME & COUNTRY FAIR Featuring the very best in countryside activities and entertainment, Sat 22 - Sun 23 June, Wroxall Park, nr Warwick

QUEENS HEATH PRIDE Free festival, Sun 23 June, Heathfield Community Centre Car Park, Kings Heath



Lea Salonga - Stage, Screen & Everything In Between - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



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Bloc Party - O2 Institute, Digbeth

Gigs

ORA COGAN + MICHAEL B. THOMAS Mon 24 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

JESS VINCENT AND KATIE WHITEHOUSE Mon 24 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

TMDISTANT + YAOUNDEBOXINGCLUB Tues 25 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

UNDEROATH Tues 25 June, O2 Institute, Digbeth

GLADYS KNIGHT Tues 25 June, Symphony Hall

CSS Tues 25 June, XOYO, Digbeth

KIM GORDON Wed 26 June, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ANGEL SNOW Wed 26 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

UB40 - THE LEGACY Wed 26 June, Lichfield Garrick

AYNSLEY LISTER Thurs 27 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

DEL CAMINO Thurs 27 June, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

MIKE SILVER Thurs 27 June, Bromsgrove Folk Club

BLOC PARTY Fri 28 June, O2 Institute, Digbeth

HEADSHRINKERS Fri 28 June, Dead Wax, Digbeth

MATTHEW HALSALL Fri 28 June, The Crossing, Digbeth

RICHARD FAIRHURST TRIO Fri 28 June, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Qtr

DREAMSCAPES Fri 28 June, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

TROYE SIVAN + JODIE HARSH Fri 28 June, Utilita Arena Birmingham

SUPERSONIC QUEEN Fri 28 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

TARA JAFF, MEHDI AND ADIB ROSTAMI Fri 28 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

DOCTOR DIABLO AND THE RODENT SHOW Sat 29 June, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

APOLLO GOLD Sat 29 June, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

PARTY101 Sat 29 June, O2 Academy

TY SEGALL Sat 29 June, The Crossing, Digbeth

BOLLYWOOD TIME MACHINE Sat 29 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BOOTLEG BEE GEES Sat 29 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

JULIE JULY BAND Sun 30 June, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

NATHANIEL RATELIFF AND THE NIGHT SWEATS Sun 30 June, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton



Nathaniel Rateliff And The Night Sweats - The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME RECITAL Free concert, Fri 28 June, Birmingham Cathedral

PENE PATI (TENOR) IN CONCERT Informal afternoon concert, Fri 28 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CHORAL UNION: FROM BAVARIA TO BOHEMIA Featuring Colin Baines (conductor), Darren Hogg (organ) & guest musicians. Programme includes songs by Elgar, Shearing, The Beatles & Queen, Sat 29 June, Selly Oak Methodist Church, Birmingham

CBSO: MADAM BUTTERFLY Featuring Kazuki Yamada (conductor), Thomas Henderson (director), Maki Mori (Cio-Cio San), Pene Pati (Pinkerton) Christopher Purves (Sharpless) & the CBSO Chorus, Sat 29 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

CATHERINE BOHART Wed 26 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

JEFF INNOCENT & COMICS TBC Thurs 27 June, Herberts Yard, Birmingham

GAVIN WEBSTER, ELF LYONS, DAVE FULTON, BRUCE DEVLIN & MAGS MCHUGH Fri 28 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TROY HAWKE Sat 29 June, Birmingham Town Hall

GAVIN WEBSTER, ELF LYONS, DAVE FULTON & BRUCE DEVLIN Sat 29 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL F TAYLOR, PETER BRUSH, TANIA EDWARDS & COMIC TBC Sat 29 June, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

RUBY WAX Sat 29 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ADAM BEARDSMORE, JULES O'BRIAN, RICHARD DADD, MASAI GRAHAM, RACHEL BAKER, MATT BRAGG & TAL DAVIES Sun 30 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HARE OF THE DOG COMEDY Sun 30 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Theatre

SAINTS AND SINNERS BOA Year 12 Musical Theatre students present an array of songs from much-loved musicals including Sister Act, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Producers, Guys And Dolls and Heathers... Mon 24 - Tues 25 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THE SYNDICATE Kay Mellor comedy-drama following the change in fortune of five supermarket employees. Samantha Giles (Emmerdale) and Brooke Vincent

(Coronation Street) star. Gaynor Faye directs, Tues 25 - Sat 29 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham



CALAMITY JANE Amateur version of the famous Wild West musical, Tues 25 - Sat 29 June, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THE MOUSETRAP Todd Carty and Gwyneth Strong star in Agatha Christie's world-famous murder mystery, Tues 25 - Sat 29 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HAMILTON Lin-Manuel Miranda's multi-award-winning musical tells the story of America's Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton, Tues 25 June - Sat 31 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome



THE WAITING ROOM Moon Kim's 'eccentric and surreal piece' uses 'physicality, dreamy words and a strange song about watermelons' to explore relationships and attachment, Wed 26 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JULIUS CAESAR 2024 One of the most famous political coups in history gets the Oddsocks treatment, Wed 26 June, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

CHARLEY'S AUNT The Crescent Theatre's touring summer show - a classic tale of mistaken identity featuring angry uncles and a beautiful exotic aunt, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING... EARNEST? Say It Again, Sorry? present an unpredictable twist on Oscar Wilde's comedy classic, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 June, Lichfield Garrick

ROMEO AND JULIET Illyria presents an outdoor staging of the world's greatest love story, Fri 28 June, Winterbourne House & Garden, University of Birmingham

VOICES OF EVIL 'Horri-fying' debut show from the award-winning 'poof prince of puppets'. Expect your worst nightmares to come to life in a ceremony of paranormal tricks and

forest live

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CUFFE AND TAYLOR

treats, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CHARLEY'S AUNT The Crescent Theatre's touring summer show - a classic tale of mistaken identity featuring angry uncles and a beautiful exotic aunt, Sun 30 June, Castle Bromwich Gardens, B'ham

Dance

NADIYA AND KAI: BEHIND THE MAGIC Brand-new show in which the Strictly couple invite audiences into their world, sharing their personal journeys through the world of dance, Mon 24 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

BOLLYWOOD TIME MACHINE An evening of laughter, dance and timeless melodies, Sat 29 June, The Core, Solihull

DIVA OF THE DECADES! Celebrating the powerhouse voices and iconic performances of the biggest divas in music history, Sat 29 June, The Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND: THE MUSIC OF VICTORIA WOOD Whistle-stop tour through some of Victoria Wood's best-loved songs, Sat 29 June, Thimblemill Library, Smethwick

BEYOND BROADWAY Featuring hits from West End and Broadway musicals, with guest performances by West End stars, Sun 30 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

HARRY BAKER: WONDERFUL Brand-new show from the World Poetry Slam champion, Mon 24 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham



Events

STOWE VALLEY AND FRIENDS ARTS FESTIVAL 2024 Pupils from schools in the Stowe Valley Multi-Academy Trust - as well as a few other like-minded schools - showcase their talents and skills, Wed 26 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE WORLD OF PARK & LEISURE HOMES SHOW 2024 Find out more about the park & leisure home lifestyle, Fri 28 - Sun 30 June, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

1960S EVENING Enjoy 1960s music, see vintage vehicles, check out 60s fashion trends, and dance the night away with some of the decade's most famous characters, Sat 29 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

NETBALL SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL 2024 The top four teams from the UK's elite domestic netball competition come together for one final day to decide the placings for the season, Sat 29 June, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM RUM FESTIVAL A celebration of the finest rums from around the world, Sat 29 June, The Cuban Embassy, Moseley

TAKE OFF FLIGHT BUSKING Find out which wing shape keeps your paper plane in the air the longest, and which files the furthest, Sat 29 June, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

STEP BACK TO THE 1940S BIG BAND SATURDAY NIGHT SHOW Hosted by the 20-piece Kalamazoo Dance Band alongside special guests, Sat 29 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

PRINCESS CONCERT: ENCHANTED AFTERNOONS Step into a world where fairy tales collide with pop sensation! Sing and dance to your favourite princess tunes alongside chart-topping hits by artists such as Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Little Mix, Meghan Trainor, Miley Cyrus, Dua Lipa, and many more... Sat 29 June, St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, B'ham

STEAMPUNK WEEKEND Featuring elaborate costumes on parade, traders selling accessories and clothing, live entertainment and fascinating exhibits, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

STEP BACK TO THE 1940S Step back in time as you travel by heritage steam train to each station, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

SANDWELL COURTYARD FAIR Meet the local makers, sellers and crafts people of Sandwell, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, West Bromwich

Festivals

UPTON JAZZ FESTIVAL Line-up includes Panama Quartet, Dave Bronwing's Jazzcats, ArtDeco Hot Jazz Orchestra, Fri 28 - Sun 30 June, various venues in Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire



Looking For Me Friend: The Music of Victoria Wood - Thimblemill Library, Smethwick

the telling presents

I, Spie

by Clare Norburn

"mesmerising" - The Guardian

Spooks meets Blackadder: a play about composer John Dowland and his grisly dealings with the Elizabethan Secret Service, soundtracked live by songs, lively tavern & courtly music



TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2024 7.30PM
Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon

Tickets: www.thetelling.co.uk/i-spie-stratford

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 family ticket to see Peppa Pig's Fun Day Out!

Packed full of singing and dancing (and muddy puddles!), Peppa Pig's Fun Day Out guarantees giggles and snorts for all Peppa fans - and provides a perfect introduction to theatre for your little ones. We have a family ticket (4 tickets) to give away for this oinktastic stage show when it stops off at The Alexandra, Birmingham, on Wednesday 31 July.

Competition closes Friday 19 July



Win! Two adult weekend camping tickets to this summer's Shrewsbury Folk Festival!

Shrewsbury Folk Festival returns late summer (West Mid Showground, Friday 23 - Monday 26 August) with four days of folk, Americana, blues and world music.

We are offering one reader the chance to win two adult weekend camping tickets for this year's get-together.

Competition closes Monday 5 August



Win! Two tickets to see Girls Aloud in concert!

Celebrating 22 years since their Popstars: The Rivals win, Girls Aloud have come together for a huge arena tour. The eagerly anticipated shows will feature all of the band's greatest hits, including the chart-topping Sound Of The Underground, The Promise and I'll Stand By You... We have two tickets to give away to see the girls perform at Birmingham's Resorts World Arena on Thursday 20 June.

Competition closes Friday 14 June



Win! Two tickets to see 101 Dalmatians: The Musical!

Telling the story of fashionista Cruella de Vil's wicked attempts to swipe all the Dalmatian puppies in town and create a fabulous fur coat for herself, this hit musical visits the region direct from London's West End and stars Kym Marsh as Cruella.

We have two tickets to give away for the show when it stops off at The Alexandra, Birmingham, on Tuesday 2 July.

Competition closes Friday 21 June

For your chance to WIN! with What's On, visit:
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THU 18 JULY, DOOR @ 5.30PM

THE MUSIC OF
HANS ZIMMER
vs
JOHN WILLIAMS

HARRY POTTER • JURASSIC PARK • STAR WARS
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN • TOP GUN
THE DARK KNIGHT RISES • BATMAN BEGINS
GLADIATOR • SUPERMAN • INDIANA JONES
THE LION KING • INTERSTELLAR • E.T.



SAT 20 JULY, DOOR @ 5.30PM



CLASSICAL

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
SIGMA
FREEMASONS (RUSSELL SMALL)



FRI 19 JULY, DOOR @ 5.30PM



McFLY

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
THE HOOSIERS
ELVANA

SUN 21 JULY, DOOR @ 5.30PM



NOEL GALLAGHER'S
HIGH FLYING BIRDS

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
JOHNNY MARR
The WAEVE (Graham Coxon & Rose Elinor Dougall)

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