

Worcestershire

ISSUE 462 JULY 2025

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inside:

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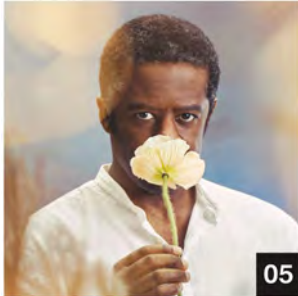
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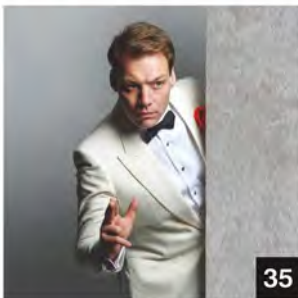
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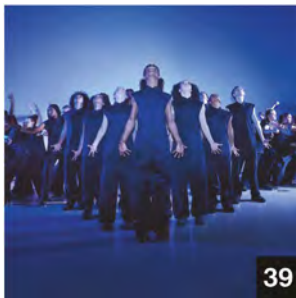
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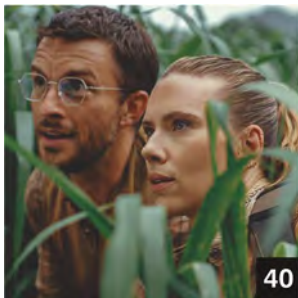
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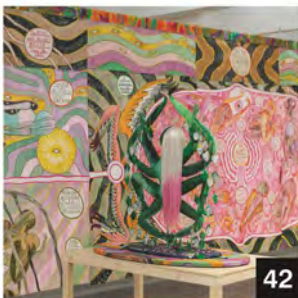
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What's On

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New Giants exhibition coming to the Midlands

A new exhibition, in which visitors get to encounter the 'awe-inspiring creatures' that roamed the Earth after the extinction of the dinosaurs, will open at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery on Saturday 2 August. Featuring life-sized 3D models and nearly complete skeletons, Giants includes interactive elements that allow visitors to step into the shoes of palaeontologists and biologists, engaging with the scientific processes behind fossil discovery and reconstruction. For further information, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk

Find Your Hero with the return of Disney On Ice

Disney On Ice returns to Birmingham in the autumn with a brand-new family-friendly adventure.

Boasting 'cutting-edge figure-skating, eye-catching costumes, stunning set designs, innovative lighting, thrilling special effects and high-flying jumps', Find Your Hero skates into the city's bp pulse LIVE arena from Wednesday 29 October to Sunday 9 November. Its cast of beloved characters includes Mickey Mouse, Moana & Maui, Anna, Elsa & Olaf from Frozen, The Little Mermaid and Rapunzel. To find out more and book your ticket, visit disneyonice.co.uk



Avoncroft Museum hosts open-air art competition

Popular Worcestershire visitor attraction Avoncroft Museum is hosting an open-air art competition on Sunday 13 July.

Participants can set up their equipment wherever they choose across the venue's 19 acres of countryside, produce their artwork, and then bring their completed piece to a public exhibition in the autumn. To find out more, visit avoncroft.org.uk



Bryan Adams joins line-up for Warwick Castle Live

Bryan Adams has been added to the line-up for next month's Warwick Castle Live series of concerts.

The Canadian singer will perform in the grounds of the iconic visitor attraction on Thursday 28 August, with Melanie C making a special guest appearance. Previously announced acts taking part in the three-day event are Texas (Friday the 29th) and Pet Shop Boys (Saturday the 30th). To check out ticket availability, visit warwickcastlelive.co.uk

World premiere of Poor to transfer to the Belgrade

Coventry's Belgrade Theatre will next spring present a brand-new stage adaptation of novelist Katriona O'Sullivan's bestselling memoir, Poor. Charting Katriona's journey, from a childhood of poverty in Coventry and Birmingham, to a position as a leading academic, the production will show at the venue next May.

A century of puppetry to be celebrated in Coventry

The Belgrade Theatre is hosting Coventry Puppet Festival at the end of the month.

The family-friendly event, celebrating a century of British puppetry and taking place on Tuesday 29 July, will feature live performances, variety acts, hands-on workshops and talks. For more information and tickets, visit belgrade.co.uk



Women In Rock heading to Malvern Theatres

The critically acclaimed UK tour of Women In Rock is coming to Worcestershire.

Celebrating 'the sensationally strong female leaders of rock', including Blondie, Suzi Quatro, Janis Joplin, Pink, Kiki Dee, Bonnie Tyler and Cher, the show visits Malvern's Forum Theatre on Sunday 13 July.

To find out more and book tickets, visit the website at malvern-theatres.co.uk



Sense & Sensibility on stage at Worcester venue

The Worcester Repertory Company is this month presenting a new stage adaptation of Jane Austen's Sense & Sensibility, in celebration of the author's 250th birthday. The show takes place in the grounds of The Commandery from Thursday 10 to Sunday 20 July. Tickets are available via worcestertheatres.co.uk



Image: The Three Musketeers, Worcester Repertory Company 2024

Midlands date for Dita Von Teese

The 'queen of burlesque', Dita Von Teese, is bringing 'her most enchanting show to date' to Birmingham early next year (The Alexandra, Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 February). Titled Nocturnelle, the production sees Dita 'taking inspiration from the magicians of the 19th century to conjure a world of wonder where sensuality meets magic'. To find out more and book your seat, visit myticket.co.uk

Benson Boone to play Utilita Arena

Benson Boone is bringing his American Heart tour to Birmingham in the autumn. The Grammy-nominated pop star will play Utilita Arena on Saturday 1 November. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the venue's website.



Twilight in concert at Symphony Hall

The first-ever Twilight movie will be screened by candlelight at Birmingham's Symphony Hall early next year, to mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of the first Twilight book. The screening will take place alongside a 12-piece ensemble of rock and orchestral musicians, who will be playing the film's score in perfect synchronisation with the movie. Twilight In Concert stops off at the venue on Sunday 8 February. To book your seat, visit the website at ticketmaster.co.uk



RSC announces its 2025/26 season of Stratford shows

New productions of Henry V and Cyrano de Bergerac - the latter starring Birmingham-born actor Adrian Lester (pictured) - form part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) programme of entertainment for its 2025/26 season.

A new two-part production of The Forsyte Saga also features, as does a new version of Macbeth and a new musical entitled The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind.

Commenting on the line-up of shows, RSC Co-Artistic Directors Tamara Harvey and Daniel

Evans said: "Since embarking on this journey together, our guiding principle has been to seek out bold and exciting works which deepen our understanding of ourselves, each other and the world around us. From illuminating and daring classical productions to inventive and socially resonant new writing, this season is a celebration of globally inspired stories, thrillingly told by the most exciting theatre artists of today." To check out the RSC's complete season of productions, visit rsc.org.uk



Fire & Dust...

The latest edition of Fire & Dust, Coventry's longest-running spoken-word event, takes place at the city's Belgrade Theatre on Friday 11 July. Along with a number of three-minute open-mic slots, the show will also include a headline set from Coventry Poet Laureate John Bernard.

Locomotives to star at Severn Valley Railway's Railway 200 special event

Two narrow-gauge locomotives will be included in the line-up for the Severn Valley Railway's Railway 200: Trains Through The Ages event (Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 July).

'Chaloner', from the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railway, will appear alongside 'Holy War', from the Bala Lake Railway.

Both will run on specially installed temporary tracks at Highley's Engine House Visitor Centre, offering footplate rides to visitors. For more information and tickets, visit svr.co.uk



Fun and frolics as Slava returns to the region

The award-winning Slava's Snow Show will return to the Midlands in the autumn. The hit production, which bagged an Olivier Award for Best Entertainment way back in 1998, is described by its official publicity as 'a visual and musical extravaganza, offering a dream-like vision that overflows with theatrical magic and humorous antics'. The show stops off at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra from Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 November as part of a UK tour. To find out more and book tickets, visit the production's website at slavasnowshow.com



Mean Girls The Musical heading for the Midlands

The award-winning Mean Girls The Musical will make a stop-off at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next summer as part of a UK tour. The hit show, which is based on the much-loved Paramount Pictures film of the same name, runs at the venue from Tuesday

23 to Saturday 27 June 2026.

For further information and tickets, visit grandtheatre.co.uk. The show will also be visiting Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent, on as-yet-unconfirmed dates.

Ex Cathedra announces 2025/26 concert season

Birmingham choir Ex Cathedra's 2025/26 concert season will boast a strong French flavour. Alongside a performance of Durufle's Requiem, the programme also includes Daniel-Lesur's impressionistic masterpiece Le Cantique des cantiques and works by Michel-Richard de Laland. As usual, Artistic Director Jeffrey Skidmore will conduct the majority of the season, including two much-loved works by JS Bach (his Christmas Oratorio and St John Passion) and the hugely popular Christmas Music By Candlelight concerts. To check out the whole season, visit the website at excathedra.co.uk

West Midlands dates for all-male theatre favourites

The Lord Chamberlain's Men are out and about in the West Midlands this month, presenting their production of Shakespeare's 'greatest romantic comedy', Twelfth Night. After giving a performance at Lichfield Cathedral as part of the Lichfield Festival on Tuesday 8 July, the all-male theatre company then make a stop-off at Coughton Court three days later, on Friday the 11th. Further



Comedy star takes The Cat's Pyjamas on tour

Griff Rhys Jones will visit three West Midlands venues this autumn as part of the second leg of his critically acclaimed tour, The Cat's Pyjamas. The much-loved comedian, writer, actor & television presenter stops off at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn on Tuesday 14 October, then returns to the region at Malvern Theatres on Sunday 2 November and Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Thursday 13 November. For further information, visit the website of the relevant theatre.



Veterans invited to share stories for new exhibition

Veterans from the 1950s to the present day are being invited to share their stories as part of a project that will see a new exhibition celebrating Worcestershire's military history being opened at local visitor attraction The Commandery. Further information is available by visiting worcestershireandmercianregimentmuseum.org

performances in the region during July take place at Shrewsbury Castle, on Tuesday the 29th & Wednesday the 30th, and Bantock House & Gardens on the final day of the month. The boys then return to the region at Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, on Tuesday 12 August. To find out more, visit tlcm.co.uk

River Festival Coventry to make an autumn return

The 2025 River Festival Coventry will take place on Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 September.

Located at FarGo Village, the annual event is a celebration of the River Sherbourne - which flows through Coventry - and features theatrical performances, live music, storytelling sessions, guided river walks, interactive crafts and workshops. To find out more, visit sherbournevalley.co.uk

New culinary destination opens in Leamington Spa

A new culinary destination has opened at Mallory Court Country House Hotel & Spa in Leamington.

Taking the name The Warwick, the restaurant combines 'refined British dining with a contemporary aesthetic' and is led by award-winning chef Stu Deeley. More information is available by visiting the venue's website at mallory.co.uk

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26 July | JBPS at Symphony Hall



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28 July | Symphony Hall

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Peacemakers events to celebrate anniversaries

The University of Warwick's School of Modern Languages & Cultures is collaborating with Coventry Cathedral to present a series of events marking the university's 60th birthday and the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two. Celebrating how 'intercultural awareness and empathy for others, developed through learning languages, can be a conduit for peace and diplomacy', the events are free to attend and will be held between this month and the autumn.

For further information, visit warwick.ac.uk

Scholarship named after late ELO musician Tandy

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC) has named a scholarship after Richard Tandy, the former Electric Light Orchestra keyboardist who died last year at the age of 76. The scholarship will support first-year undergraduates who are studying keyboard, piano or guitar.

Later this year, RBC will also open the Richard Tandy Production Suite, containing instruments, music equipment and memorabilia donated by his family. For more information, visit the website at bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire

Museum tribute to Ozzy

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is currently paying tribute to Ozzy Osbourne courtesy of a special exhibition. Available to view at the venue until Sunday 28 September, Working Class Hero showcases Ozzy's most prestigious international honours alongside photographs and videos telling his life story. The exhibition coincides with Ozzy's final Black Sabbath gig, which takes place at Villa Park - back in Aston, where he grew up - on Saturday 5 July. Black Sabbath fans can also enjoy a free outdoor photography exhibition, celebrating their heroes, in Victoria Square, and a 40-metre-long artwork on Navigation Street, outside New Street Station, created by renowned spray artist Mr Murals.



Make a summer splash and ride The Wave in Coventry

One of the UK's largest indoor waterparks is offering families the chance to make a real splash this summer.

Open every day during the school holiday for three two-hour sessions, award-winning Coventry venue The Wave features six epic slides, 'boasting everything from the disappearing floor of The Torrent, to a high-

speed rollercoaster ride on The Rapids'.

Younger visitors can enjoy The Reef, a large splash-pad featuring jets, sprays and slides, while The Wave Pool - churning 20 million litres of water every day - provides chill-seekers with an opportunity to ride the waves. To find out more about the venue, visit its website at thewavecoventry.com

Theatre company to visit Droitwich - four times!

Outdoor-theatre specialists Illyria are making four stop-offs at Worcestershire's Hanbury Hall next month.

After presenting a production of *Pride & Prejudice* there on Saturday 2 August, they then return to the venue exactly a week later, on the 9th, with their stage adaptation of *The Wind In The Willows*. They're back at the Hall yet again on Saturday the 23rd, to perform *HMS Pinafore*, and then make a final August visit to the venue on Saturday the 30th with *The Merry Wives Of Windsor*. To find out more, including details of Illyria's various other West Midlands engagements, visit illyria.co.uk

Friday 8 August with a local derby against Trent Rockets. As usual, the event will bring together live music, top DJs, street food and world-class cricket.

Each matchday in the competition will feature both men's and women's games, played back-to-back.

To find out more, including further details about all of Birmingham Phoenix's matches, go to thehundred.com/tickets

Celebrating Sir James Thornhill at Hanbury Hall

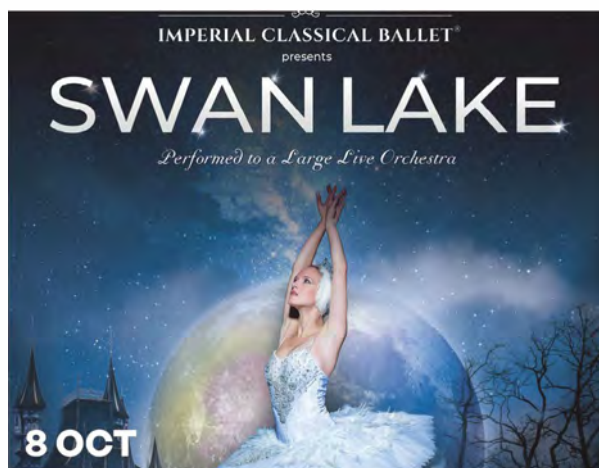
Hanbury Hall's exhibition celebrating the life and work of Sir James Thornhill will remain available to view until Friday 25 July. Sir James is the artist behind the Worcestershire venue's magnificent painted staircase. Displaying scenes from Greek mythology, the paintings were the main reason why the National Trust acquired the property, as it made Hanbury Hall stand out among other grand houses in the area. The exhibition is marking the 350th anniversary of Sir James' birth.

Howzat! The Hundred set for an Edgbaston return

Much-loved cricket competition The Hundred makes a highly anticipated return at Edgbaston Stadium next month. Home team Birmingham Phoenix's 2025 campaign gets underway at the venue on




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LICHFIELD FESTIVAL: BEST OF THE FEST



NEIL JONES: GINGERLAND

Lichfield Cathedral,
Thursday 10 & Friday 11 July

Strictly veteran Neil Jones premieres his latest show at this year's festival.

A family-friendly dance-theatre 'spectacular', Gingerland brings together Latin, hip-hop, ballroom, contemporary and street styles with 'mind-bending' effects, slow-motion sequences and a soundtrack of entirely original music.

Additional choreography is provided by, among others, award-winning dancer and Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Kieran Lai.

Lichfield Summer Festival is back this month, with a feast of entertainment and a smorgasbord of performances to enjoy across its 13 days. Whether you love folk, jazz or classical music, want to take a deep-dive into history, or fancy sampling a brand-new dance-theatre spectacular, the festival caters for all tastes - and goes out with a bang in a celebratory fireworks display at Lichfield's Beacon Park.

Here's a glimpse of what else is in store...

Lichfield Festival takes place at various locations across the city from Tuesday 8 to Sunday 20 July. To check out the full programme and book tickets, visit lichfieldfestival.org



JOE STILGOE

The Hub at St Mary's, Thursday 10 (Solo) & Friday 11 July (Trio)
After causing a stir at last year's festival, pianist, singer, comedian & raconteur Joe Stilgoe makes a welcome return to provide his audience with much-loved jazz hits, charm, and a little bit of chat. Joe's talent for tinkling the ivories will be showcased in a late-night solo special on Thursday the 10th. He is then joined the following evening by Tom Farmer on bass and Ben Reynolds on drums.



A BOY CALLED ANNE

The Hub at St Mary's, Monday 14 July
Anne Bonney may have existed in a man's world, but during the so-called Golden Age of Piracy, she became one of the world's most infamous and fearsome buccaneers. Tortive Theatre here presents a new solo play bringing to life the story of a woman who has captured the public's imagination for centuries. The show, starring Victoria Lucie as the Pirate Queen herself, tells a tale of love, sorrow and adventure on the high seas.



BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES

Lichfield Cathedral, Saturday 19 July
The orchestra, led by Principal Conductor Ryan Bancroft, returns to Lichfield Festival with a programme of music by Bruch and Beethoven. Bruch's much-loved Scottish Fantasy opens the evening in a virtuoso showcase for orchestra and violin. The soloist is Hana Chang (pictured). Beethoven's revolutionary Eroica (Symphony No3 in E-flat Major) follows - an emotional work which ushered in the Romantic era.



FRAU: THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC

The Hub at St Mary's, Saturday 12 July
Promising Piaf, protest songs and even penguins, this relaxed, intimate cabaret performance celebrates the words and music of female songwriters. Having premiered at the Spitalfields Festival, the show is created by and stars the stellar voices of Amy J Payne and Anna Pool. Expect laughs, reflective moments and joyful surprises, as you discover that some world-famous numbers might not have been written by who you thought they were...



JACQUI DANKWORTH

Lichfield Cathedral, Monday 14 July
Vocalist Jacqui Dankworth and her world-class trio - plus special guests the Carducci Quartet - celebrate the release of her new album, Windmills. Primarily known as a jazz singer, Jacqui also draws on influences including folk, soul, classical and blues. Her latest album features a selection of songs which have all 'struck a chord' in her life, with Michel Legrand's Windmills Of Your Mind serving as its centrepiece.



THE WIZARD OF OZ

Lichfield Cathedral School Gardens, Saturday 19 July
Offering a new spin on a classic tale, Paperback Theatre bring Dorothy's adventure bang up-to-date for audiences aged five-plus. Dot just wants everyone to shut up and leave her alone. Sick of her annoying new foster family, she longs to be somewhere else, somewhere far away, somewhere over the rainbow... Whether it's brains, heart or courage you need, this is the place to find it.



BOO HEWERDINE & YVONNE LYON

The Hub at St Mary's, Sunday 13 July
Boo Hewerdine has formed a songwriting partnership with Yvonne Lyon, creating songs full of nostalgia, beauty and hope. This concert celebrates the duo's new album, The Things You Find In Books. The record has been inspired by a noticeboard in Culzean Castle's second-hand bookshop which is adorned with items that have dropped out of donated volumes. Boo and Yvonne weave these fragmented, ephemeral stories with their own.



SAM EVERY (LITTLE) BIG BAND

Lichfield Cathedral, Friday 18 July
What if Frank Sinatra had sung the theme tune to Fireman Sam? Sam Every and his band - featuring some of the hottest young jazz talent in the UK - embark on a whirlwind tour of TV themes, reimagined as big-band classics. This fun, family-friendly concert is a great entry point into jazz - and the only place you can hear the Match Of The Day theme as a Count Basie swinger, or Coronation Street as a smoochy jazz ballad.



KASAI MASAI

The Hub at St Mary's, Sunday 20 July
Superstars of Soukous - Congolese dance music - Kasai Masai are influenced by sounds passed down through the generations. The group, who are originally from Congo and now based in London, present original compositions that move beyond traditional Congolese music to include galloping rhythms, strong melodies and passionate beats. Their work nods to the cultural diversity of the Congo - written in Swahili, Lingala and Kimongo.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Karis Kelly's new play debuts at the Coventry Belgrade



An award-winning play featuring four generations of women from the same Northern Irish family premieres in Coventry this month. A jet-black comedy about 'mothers, love and food', Consumed also has a lot to say about mental health, addiction and the long-term effects of conflict - as its writer, Karis Kelly, explains to What's On...

Winner of the Women's Prize for Playwriting 2022, *Consumed* is a black comedy that sees four generations of Northern Irish women begrudgingly reunited for a 90th birthday party that highlights how national identity, dysfunctional family dynamics and generational trauma can manifest themselves in emotional and mental health issues.

Which doesn't sound much of a laugh - but playwright Karis Kelly, who has written for TV shows including *Hope Street*, *Period Piece* and *The Break*, is keen to set the record straight.

"I don't want to depress anyone!" she laughs. "My style is very much dark comedy, and I love making people laugh. I think that's a very specifically Northern Irish experience - finding humour in even the darkest of moments and making people laugh because otherwise you might cry. That's very much the style of the piece - it's dealing with heavy themes but in a way that keeps the audience laughing - and I hope the ending is sufficiently uplifting."

Judges for the 2022 Women's Prize for Playwriting certainly thought so, choosing her script ahead of more than 850 other entries.

The success came at a time when Karis was seriously contemplating a change of direction. As was the case for many people, the Covid pandemic forced her to consider a career away from the arts: "I'd decided to step away from playwriting because it felt like a really difficult world to make work, so when I sat down and started to write *Consumed*, I was writing it more to understand myself and to understand the world - just to express something.

"It was a first or second draft that I submitted for the prize. I knew it was a play that had to be staged, so I did it just to get some feedback. At every stage when it got announced - for the long list, the short list, and then when I won - I was honestly, and still am, completely blown away."

During Covid she'd considered retraining to become a therapist "because I'm really interested in people", but the award win proved an instant fillip.

"I was really despondent and thinking I'm not going to carry on writing. Winning the Women's Prize was a little spark of hope in quite a difficult time and has changed my career completely, so I'm really, really grateful for it."

The competition is produced by Ellie Keel and touring theatre company Paines Plough, with the winning script guaranteed to be put into production by the latter. The involvement of the acclaimed company - which recently relocated to Coventry's Belgrade Theatre - is one of a number of happy coincidences for Karis, who interned in its literary department while a student. "I'm delighted to have the play produced by Paines Plough, because they're such a gorgeous company and an amazing team. I feel really celebrated by them. It's so full circle, and there are lots of gorgeous synchronistic moments to this production - we're also rehearsing at the London Irish Centre, and I grew up going to lots of cultural events there."

Speaking of growing up, Karis was born and raised in London but considers herself Irish, as her parents are from Bangor in Northern Ireland ("they left during the conflict"). The Kelly family dynamic, and the associated impact of displacement (all have since returned to Bangor) partly inspired the play, as well as her own diagnosis with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD).

"My parents are mixed marriage - my mum is Protestant, my dad is Catholic. That meant I always sat in the middle and held two sides of an argument at all times, and was able to recognise nuance and hold two truths at once.

"I sat down to start writing and the four characters [all with their own truths] came to me very quickly. But then the pandemic hit, and during that time I was diagnosed with OCD, which is often depicted as germaphobia, but that's not how mine was manifesting. So that set me on a journey to think about where it had come from."

Through research into transgenerational trauma, Karis discovered how individuals can be affected by things that happened generations before. This in turn made her trace the history of OCD in her own family, which she believes is based around a need for control and stretches back to the potato famine in the mid-1800s.

"I started to really think about all of those aspects and the things that we carry in our bodies and the history that's passed through our lineage and how that expresses itself in either mental health difficulties or compulsive behaviours or addictions. That's what inspired the play."

Even as the first performances approach, Karis says the piece is still evolving, not only because it looks at "the long-ranging effects of conflict and how they seed themselves in your DNA" but also because of the impact of wars currently raging around the globe.

"The world has shifted so much even from when I won the Women's Prize, so the story has become strangely pertinent. We're still developing it and finding new things to express all the time."

That said, at its heart, the play is very much about mothers and daughters: "It's four generations of a matriarchal line, and it looks at the expression of addiction and OCD through food and consumption, and it does that all centred around the dinner table at a 90th birthday party."

Making it all about mothers and daughters means the story is a universal one, she says, and although it's written specifically about Irish and Northern Irish women, most people who have read or will see it should instantly recognise the family dynamic: "It's not just for mothers and daughters; it's for husbands and sons and people who love women... It's really reflective of the relationships and dynamics within families. I think that's what drew the judges of the Women's Prize to it - they were like 'that's me, that's my mum, that's my grandmother.'"

Premiering the play in Coventry, which has a big Irish population, and where Roddy Doyle's male-centric Irish play *Two Pints* was a recent hit, is also appealing, she admits.

"I'm delighted that there's such a huge contingency of Irish people living in Coventry, who probably have very similar experience to me - people who have grown up in Irish households and maybe are both English and Irish, or feel Irish. Those complicated relationships are definitely expressed in the play. For instance, there's a character who's grown up in London but considers herself Irish, so hopefully they'll all see stuff that they resonate with."

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Consumed shows as part of Coventry Belgrade Theatre's See It First Festival on Friday 25 & Saturday 26 July. The production then returns to the venue from Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 September

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Composed over the final 25 years of his life and completed just one year before he died, the Mass is scattered with music and references that Bach considered to be his best work, or movements which he had allowed to develop over time and had returned to 'perfect' at a later date.

27th September 2025 7.30pm, Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

Tickets: www.armonico.org.uk 01926 334418

28th September 2025 7.30pm, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

Tickets: www.malvern-theatres.co.uk 01684 892277

Warwick performance is generously supported by John Cook, Braunston Marina, and Rosemary Holding Malvern Theatres performance is generously sponsored by John Osborn CBE.

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Birmingham Bach Choir: La Belle France

Great Malvern Priory, Sat 5 July

One of the city's oldest and most distinguished musical groups, Birmingham Bach Choir here gets its teeth into a selection of beautiful French music. The programme features Poulenc's Chansons Françaises, Debussy's Trois Chansons de Charles d'Orleans, and two

works by Fauré - Cantique de Jean Racine and his famous Requiem. Solo French organ pieces, plus the premiere of a short work by Russell Hepplewhite entitled Song Of Flight, are also included. Paul Spicer is the conductor, Martyn Rawles the organist.

CBSO & The Orchestral Qawwali Project

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 19 July

Symphony orchestra, Sufi poetry and classical dance is the winning combination powering the genre-defying Orchestral Qawwali Project.

Returning to Symphony Hall following a sell-out performance two years ago, the project - which is written & directed by critically acclaimed composer Rushil Ranjan - brings together rich orchestral arrangements (here performed by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra) with the soaring and effortless vocals of Abi Sampa.

Prize-winning conductor Melvin Tay is the man at the helm. The ever-brilliant CBSO Chorus lend their voices to proceedings.



Sir Willard White & The Brodsky Quartet

Lichfield Cathedral, Thurs 17 July

Two great names in classical music here join forces to present an eclectic evening of musicmaking featuring jazz and classical works, musical theatre numbers and evergreen pop standards.

Highlights of the concert, which is being presented as part of the Lichfield Festival, include a rendition of Ol' Man River, spirituals and folksongs, music from Porgy & Bess, and a performance of the oft-recorded My Way.

The concert marks the end of the Brodsky Quartet's critically acclaimed three-year Lichfield Festival residency.

Armonico Consort

Warwick Hall, King's High School, Tues 15 July

Founded in 2001 by organist & conductor Christopher Monks - and using authentic period instruments - Warwick-based baroque consort Armonico here turn their talents to the task of performing a concert of music inspired by epic medieval poem Beowulf. They are joined for the occasion by 250 children from AC Academy schools and choirs, former Royal Harpist Alis Huws and keyboardist Dan Goodger. A fresh narration by Will Towers is brought to life by celebrity guest Oz Clarke.

Three Choirs Festival

Various locations, Hereford, Sat 26 July - Sat 2 August

The Three Choirs is the oldest non-competitive classical music festival in the world.

The event brings together established favourites of the British classical choral tradition with works drawn from a broader, more international musical canvas.

Choral and orchestral concerts feature prominently in a week-long programme that also includes cathedral services, solo and chamber music recitals, masterclasses, talks, theatre, exhibitions and walks.

The action takes place each year, on a rotating basis, in one of three beautiful cathedral cities, Worcester, Gloucester and Hereford, the latter of which is hosting this year's proceedings.

Birmingham Festival Choral Society

Bromsgrove School, Sun 6 July

Established in 1843 and singing a wide variety of top-quality choral music from the 16th

century through to modern times, Birmingham Festival Choral Society is here performing a selection of folksongs and madrigals. The programme includes two extended song cycles by Sir John Rutter: The Sprig Of Thyme - an arrangement of traditional folk songs - and Birthday Madrigals, which incorporates settings of poems by, among others, William Shakespeare. David Wynne conducts; the pianist is Kevin Gill.





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Boomtown Rats 11.10
Rumer 13.10
Wet Wet Wet 17.10
Jessie J 18.10
Suzanne Vega 31.10
Maren Morris 07.11
Roland Gift 12.11
Adam Ant 15.11
Peter Andre 17.02
Suzi Quatro 19.04
Ray LaMontagne 02.06

B:Music
Town Hall & Symphony Hall

See the full lineup: bmusic.co.uk/whats-on

The Remi Harris Blues Rock Roadshow

Marrs Bar, Worcester, Thurs 17 July

Boasting a unique style that draws inspiration from artists including Django Reinhardt, Jimi Hendrix, Wes Montgomery and Led Zeppelin, Remi Harris presents eclectic shows that feature music which ranges from the acoustic jazz and swing of the 1930s and 40s, through to the psychedelic rock and blues of the 1960s and 70s. His Worcester stop-off this month sees him focusing on the latter, paying tribute to some of the era's most legendary artists.



The Warwick Sessions

St Nicholas' Park, Warwick, Wed 2 - Sun 6 July

This series of flagship events brings 'global names from the world of pop to the Midlands' across a five-day period.

The Warwick Sessions kicks off with headliners Train (with special guests Squeeze) on Wednesday 2 July. Beverley Knight and Will Young take to the stage the following evening (Thursday the 3rd), with The Stranglers (with special guests Buzzcocks and Skids) performing on Friday the 4th. Craig David Presents TS5 on the Saturday, and Elbow (with special guests Baxter Dury and Hamish Hawk) bring the sessions to a close on Sunday the 6th.



Oruã

The Tin at The Coal Vaults, Coventry, Fri 25 July

Significant players on Brazil's music scene, Rio de Janeiro-based band Oruã mix the electric pulses of deconstructed guitars over a mesmerising groove, producing music which takes both audience and band into a collective trance. Led by critically acclaimed guitarist & producer Lê Almeida, their sound is a quirky blend of lo-fi indie rock,

krautrock, noise, afrobeat and Brazilian influences.

"I believe very strongly in the power of music, both as a healing power and as therapy," Lê told *Psychedelic Baby* magazine. "Oruã's concerts stir up a lot of energy, and that moves me a lot. It makes me think very carefully about what to say in my lyrics... There is a lot of resistance in Oruã's music, and I try to make this resistance make sense to other people. I see this clearly at the shows."

Wet Leg

hmv Empire, Coventry, Tues 22 July

Rhian Teasdale and Hester Chambers each wear a small gold necklace made by Hester. One of the necklaces reads Wet; the other, Leg. Prior to the 2021 release of debut single Chaise Longue, those necklaces would have been cryptic to almost everyone else - but a lot has changed in the last four years...

Now the greatly deserving recipients of Brit, Ivor Novello and Grammy awards, Rhian, Hester and their band continue to go from strength to strength.

This month's Coventry show sees them launching sophomore album *Moisturizer*.

equal order with a power and sensitivity that speak volumes. Embrace his music... You will be amply awarded."

Kathryn Tickell and The Darkening

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Sat 19 July

Growing up in Northumbria, with a father who was an acclaimed performer of the songs of the area, Kathryn Tickell's musical path was more or less chosen for her. Nowadays a folk-scene veteran, she here joins forces with three other North-East England-based musicians (and Dr Stef Conner from Cambridge) to present a concert that explores the connecting threads of music, landscape and people over a period of almost 2000 years.



Jack Broadbent

Temperance, Leamington Spa, Fri 25 July

Jack Broadbent's fanbase is huge, ever-growing, and includes legendary keyboardist & singer-songwriter Bill Payne. "Jack's playing is superb," says Bill, in waxing lyrical about the man who's been hailed 'the master of the slide guitar'. "[He shows] an almost reckless abandon when he gets revved up. He is performing on the edge, and if he falls, so be it. The pieces will not break. Jack can whisper or shout in



EXHIBITION

Emma Talbot:
How We Learn To Love
Sat 5 Jul – Sun 5 Oct



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by Woodland Tribe
Fri 4 – Sun 6 Jul



National Play Day
Wed 6 Aug



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Jimmy Carr

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Sat 12 July;
Utilita Arena Birmingham, Wed 10 December

Jimmy Carr's comedy is all about quickfire, deadpan one-liners - so many of them, in fact, that he's not sure whether their content actually matters all that much: "People don't really remember the individual jokes I tell because I tell such a lot of them. What they do remember is how those jokes make them feel."

Jimmy is a comedian for whom no subject is off limits: "I'll talk about anything as long as I feel the joke justifies it. Sure, it may cause controversy - but then controversy is an easy story on a slow-news day. And I never apologise for jokes. After all, I'm not making a serious political statement, I'm just trying to make somebody laugh."

Lucy Beaumont

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 16 July; Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 10 December; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 11 December

"I started out acting but quickly realised I needed to try something else," says Hull-born comic Lucy Beaumont, who was diagnosed with ADHD a couple of years back and more recently separated from her husband and fellow comedian, Jon Richardson. "I've had all sorts of humorous things happen to me in my life, so I thought it made sense to see how I'd do at being funny."



Jonny Cole

Dudley Town Hall, Fri 4 July; Walsall Arena, Fri 11 July

"It's difficult for me to put my brand of comedy into an industry-standard soundbite," says local comedian Jonny Cole. "There are a lot of people who love Black Country humour and who'd love to go into a rough & ready Black Country pub just to listen to the banter - and that's exactly what I do. I've absorbed Black Country humour the whole of my life. I take it out of that pub - where people wouldn't dare go, in case they got their teeth knocked out - and I put it into a safe, controlled environment where they can enjoy it."



Mark Watson

The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield, Fri 18 July; Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffs, Fri 26 September; Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 27 September; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 2 November

Well established on the UK comedy circuit, Mark Watson was born in Bristol to Welsh parents and initially delivered his act with a Welsh accent, claiming he felt "more comfortable talking in a voice that I didn't quite recognise as my own".

"Comedy is certainly a time-consuming

element of my life," he admits, "but then while I'm out touring and on stage, there are people at home doing far less glamorous things. There have certainly been times when I've been very happy to say, 'Of course I'd like to stay and help out with that plumbing crisis, but the Midlands awaits!'"



Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival

Theatre Severn and various other venues across Shrewsbury, Wed 9 - Sun 13 July

As well as being a hotbed of food and folk music, Shrewsbury in recent times has also become a centre of comedy excellence, thanks to this hugely popular event. Five of the town's venues will be co-hosting the festival, which offers top-drawer comedians the chance to preview their new material in readiness for the Edinburgh Festival.

As on previous occasions, the 2025 edition of the five-day laugh-in is brought to a close with a special gala event at Theatre Severn,

with this year's line-up of laughter merchants comprising Troy Hawke, Lindsey Santoro, Tez Ilyas and Scott Bennett (pictured above). Other comedians contributing to the festival include Abandoman, Scott Bennett, Tony Law, Sally-Anne Hayward, Ignacio Lopez, Frankie Munroe, Dave Chawner and Stella Graham.

Terry Christian, one-time presenter of cult television series The Word, also puts in an appearance.



THINKING GAMES

Alan Davies talks about returning to the stage
for the first time in a decade

Comedian and QI star Alan Davies is back on tour for the first time in a decade - and the first time since the publication of an extraordinary memoir detailing his traumatic childhood. It's good to get back to doing the thing that really defines him, he tells What's On...

It's hard not to like Alan Davies. The Essex-born comedian is hugely engaging company, quick to laugh as well as mull over the ups, downs, complexities and absurdities of life. Which is especially gratifying in the wake of *Just Ignore Him*, his astonishingly candid second memoir that was published in 2020 and contained shocking revelations about his difficult childhood. The mother he adored died when he was six years old, he never got on with his two siblings - spending many family events as something of an outcast - and most alarmingly of all, he was sexually molested by his father.

The book is a tough read ("hard going but worth it" for writer and reader alike, says its author) but has been acclaimed for its candour and honesty. It has also been lauded for providing an insight into how such abuse manifests itself in the behaviour of the victim, something that has prompted many others to reach out, he says.

"A lot of people have been in touch with me who have had similar experiences and said very nice things about the book," he says. "I was told this would happen - that once launched into the world, it would develop a life of its own. I feel quite glad that I did it." Even though the book contains many moments of (mostly dark) humour, the content is hardly material for comedy routines - but does the very fact that it exists inform his new stand-up show, *Think Ahead*, which he's touring in the autumn?

"It does a bit, because I now feel able, just a little bit, to address some of the things that happened to me as a kid, and also to talk about the sort of stand-up comedian I am nowadays, as opposed to what I was in my 20s, and why I did the things I did then and how I am now."

In some ways, Alan will no longer be the same person to those who have read the book and/or know the story.

"Perhaps that's right; I'll see how it goes. Lots of [the show] is about my life now - the byline is that I spend more time in the pharmacy than the gym, and the title is about the inevitable thinking ahead you do as you reach the second half of your life... children growing

up, what the future holds and so on."

So 'Think Ahead' isn't the sort of arbitrary title comedians typically give their shows just to appease an agent with a poster to design?

"There's always an element of that, and it's always inevitable because it's unusual that you're gonna be naming a show that's fully written, so it's necessarily got to be a little open ended. I actually use the phrase 'think ahead' in one of the routines, and when I was tinkering with ideas, it's the one that stuck. Pithy and to the point!"

It's been 10 years since Alan last went out on tour, a gap almost identical to the one he left between stand-up stints in the early noughties. I wondered if it reflected a love/hate relationship with his craft, but it turns out he's largely been focused on other things.

"We had a third child nine years ago and things got pretty busy at home. I was still gigging when he was born, and then I did a Creative Writing MA at Goldsmiths College, and although it was part-time, I spent a couple of years on that. It's where I began to write *Just Ignore Him*. I carried on writing that, and then Covid happened - everything closed, and when I put the book out, I couldn't do any book festivals or appearances.

"I got back on the horse a little bit when things started opening up, and then I thought sh*t, I'm 60 next year, I better get out there."

Speaking of which, does he find returning to the stage nerve-wracking, or is it more like riding a bike?

"It's a bit of both. I know it'll be alright. I've got loads of material, and ideas for more. I'm going to book an opening act this time, which isn't something I did on the last two tours, which meant I ended up on stage two hours a night, and that was too much - too much for the audience, never mind me.

"So I'll do 70 to 80 minutes, and it should be a good night and everyone will go home happy. But there are always nerves - and you look at the tour dates and think 'Oh my God that's a lot of travelling about.' So you can have negative thoughts, but I know that once

I get on stage with the mic in my hand, I feel very at home. It's very much what I see myself as - a comedian."

The show's content is also very much about where he is now (he turns 60 next March) and will be "relatable for people of a certain age" he says.

"I've noticed my audience is growing up with me. I did a show recently in Milton Keynes and a phone went off, an alarm on a phone. I could see someone rummaging about, desperately trying to turn it off, and I said 'Is that alarm to remind you to take your medication?' And the woman said 'Yes, it is.' That got such a big laugh, but I knew that was my audience."

That said, he's quick to point out "it's not an OAP's show," and he'll constantly be on the lookout for new material to help it evolve.

"You're always hoping something new comes along - a new thought or a new line you can add in. I find most things funny, and the process of accumulating material is to jot down anything you hear or see that's funny. But you must write it down or you won't remember it - the worst thing for a comedian is to think of something funny and then forget it."

And while his three children provide an increasingly useful source of inspiration for material, he admits it's largely in terms of attitude rather than specific behaviour.

"I've got a routine I'm working on about kids parachuting and me nagging them about whether they've checked their 'chutes properly." He adopts a sullen teenager voice and says 'yeah yeah'. "And then, when they jump out of the plane, they've forgotten to pack it. And of course they leave the door open behind them. I've just thought of that while we're talking, so I better write that down."

There he goes, thinking ahead as ever.

.....

Alan Davies plays *The Alexandra*, Birmingham, on Monday 29 September and *Victoria Hall*, Stoke-on-Trent, on Friday 17 October



Mary Poppins

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 16 July - Sat 23 August

Everybody's favourite magical nanny is opening her umbrella and flying back into the Midlands!

PL Travers' popular fictional character has been a global superstar since Julie Andrews brought her to life in Walt Disney's hugely successful 1964 movie. Not surprisingly, the success of the film led to a stage version - albeit some 40 years later - and Disney and Cameron

Mackintosh's award-winning musical has been doing great business in theatres across the world ever since.

The show's timeless score includes the songs Jolly Holiday, Step In Time, Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and Feed The Birds. New songs and additional music & lyrics are provided by the Olivier Award-winning British team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe.

Bat Out Of Hell

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 30 June - Sat 5 July;
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 14 - Sat 19 July

A loose retelling of Peter Pan, this Jim Steinman/Meat Loaf extravaganza unfolds in a Manhattan of the future - one which has been turned into a desolate wasteland and is lorded over by a ruthless dictator named Falco. The evil tyrant is determined to rebuild the city by destroying disused tunnels and subways which have become residential areas for the homeless community. But a group of kids whose DNA is permanently frozen - meaning they will be 18 years of age forever - are equally determined to thwart his dastardly plans...



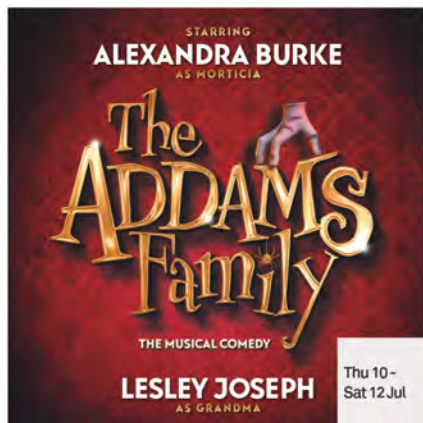
War Horse

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Thurs 10 - Sat 19 July

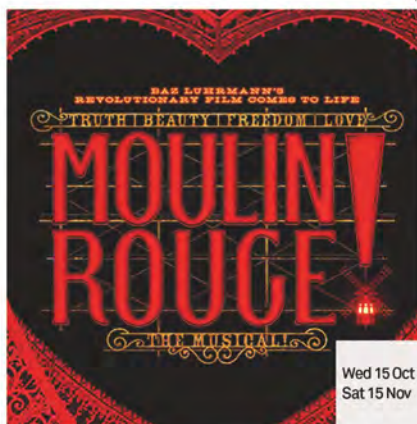
War Horse was described as the theatrical event of the decade when it opened in the West End in 2009, since which time it has won numerous coveted awards and continued to garner great praise.

Based on Michael Morpurgo's hugely popular 1982 novel and presented by the National Theatre, the show is best known for its life-sized horses, which are operated to astonishing effect by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company.

The story revolves around the character of a young man named Albert and his horse, Joey, who is sold to the cavalry and shipped to France at the beginning of the First World War. Joey's subsequent adventures lead to him finding himself alone in No Man's Land. But Albert is in no mood to give up on his beloved companion, and sets out to find him and take him home to Devon...



PREVIEW PERFORMANCES





Ghost Stories

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 1 - Sat 5 July; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 15 - Sat 19 July; Malvern Theatres, Tues 22 - Sat 26 July

After a couple of years spent giving London West End theatre-goers the heebie jeebies, Ghost Stories is this month spooking audiences across the West Midlands!

The brainchild of Andy Nyman - co-creator of Derren Brown's television and stage productions - and The League Of Gentlemen's Jeremy Dyson, the show focuses on the character of Professor

Goodman, a 'man of reason' who's determined to debunk the paranormal. But when he embarks on an investigation into three apparent hauntings, as recounted by a night-watchman, a teenage boy, and a businessman awaiting his first child, the professor finds himself at the outer limits of rationality - and fast running out of plausible explanations for what he's experiencing...

4:48 Psychosis

The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Thurs 10 - Sun 27 July

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is teaming up with the Royal Court Theatre to present 4.48 Psychosis, the final play written by Sarah Kane before she committed suicide in 1999 at the age of 28.

Plunging the audience into the mind of an unnamed protagonist grappling with severe depression, the play reunites the original cast, which included Daniel Evans, who is now co-artistic director of the RSC.

The final performance has been scheduled to take place at 4.48am on the morning of Sunday 27 July. It will be followed by a post-show discussion with the cast and creative team over breakfast.



Hamlet

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, until Sat 5 July

With its beguiling blend of madness, murder, mayhem, and many a famous quote, there's little wonder Hamlet continues to be one of Shakespeare's most frequently performed plays.

This well-reviewed version of the bard's endlessly thought-provoking tragedy sees Benedict Shaw taking the perilous voyage into his own psyche - a journey which any actor grappling with the complexities of the title role must surely make.



The Nag's Head

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Wed 16 - Fri 18 July

After inheriting a failing pub from their father, three estranged siblings discover an unnerving painting which he'd kept hidden from them for years - and not without good reason...

A play performed at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn but set in the county's spookiest pub, comedy-horror offering The Nag's Head is described by its performers, the London-based Make It Beautiful theatre company, as 'an ode to the great British pub culture, to things that go bump in the night, and to Shropshire'.

The play features original music and 'real paranormal accounts'.



South Asian

HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS



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MON 21
& TUE 22 JULY

NRITYA
BLACK COUNTRY
1960-2000

Screening of Nritya
Black Country Documentary
10am and 2pm

PRAVĀS
प्रवास
BLACK COUNTRY
1950 - 1990

Screening of Pravās Documentary -
The Story Of Gujarati Migration &
The Black Country 12pm and 4pm



Share Your Stories
10am - 5pm



Exhibitions
10am - 5pm

MON 21 JULY



Bhangra Bounce -
Storytime with Sohan
10am - 11am



Bollywood
Dance Workshop
11.30am - 1pm



Bhangra
Dance Workshop
2pm - 3.30pm



Film Screening: Bhaji On
The Beach with pre-show Q&A
7pm - 10pm

TUE 22 JULY



Bollywood and Bhangra
Memory Café With Roshni Pink
10am - 12pm



Craft Activities
with Daya Bhatti
1pm - 4pm



Business
Networking Event
6pm - 7pm



Film Screening: Bend It Like
Beckham with pre-show Q&A
7pm - 10pm

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The Last Laugh

The Alexandra, Birmingham,
Tues 22 - Sat 26 July

"I've written a play that imagines Eric Morecambe, Tommy Cooper and Bob Monkhouse sitting in a dressing room discussing life, death, comedy, and what it means to be funny," explains Paul Hendy, the one-time television presenter who's not only written *The Last Laugh* but is also producing and directing it. "Anybody who likes comedy and has an interest in the history of comedy - or, to be honest, just wants a good laugh - will enjoy this show, because ultimately it explores what it means to be funny, even if you don't know these actual comedians. Last year at Edinburgh, we had a lot of comedians come to see it, and they responded so positively because it was all so relevant to them."

Hot Mess

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome,
Thurs 24 & Fri 25 July

"The climate crisis is such an overwhelming issue, and talking about it can often feel really paralysing," say Jack Godfrey and Ellie Coote, the team behind *Hot Mess*, which this month shows in the Patrick Studio prior to heading north to the Edinburgh Fringe. "We wanted to create a musical that reminds us of the urgency of this issue, but in a way that is also entertaining, relatable, and sometimes ridiculous."

"*Hot Mess* is really a romcom about Earth and Humanity - an unlikely romance between an entire species and an entire planet - who have spent 200,000 years just trying to make their relationship work. We hope audiences will fall in love with these characters and want to root for them, even in their darkest moments."

The show has been produced by Birmingham Hippodrome's in-house New Musical Theatre Department.



By Royal Appointment

Malvern Theatres, Tues 1 - Sat 5 July

Familiar television faces Anne Reid (*Last Tango In Halifax*) and Caroline Quentin (*Men Behaving Badly*) team up to star in a brand-new show which takes a behind-the-scenes peek into the world of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

The play marks the theatre debut of novelist & screenwriter Daisy Goodwin, whose CV includes another brush with royalty in the form of hit ITV series *Victoria*.

Former Shakespeare's Globe artistic director Dominic Dromgoole helms the production.



Big Big Sky

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Sat 5 - Thurs 24 July

A heart-warming story about family relationships, friendship, love and loss, Tom Wells' *Big Big Sky* focuses on events which unfold at Angie's café, a venue which serves as a haven for hungry birdwatchers and tourists. As the birds begin to fly south and the team start to pack up for the end of the season, one final visitor arrives - an individual who is about to ruffle their feathers in the most life-changing of ways...

The Addams Family

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Thurs 10 - Sat 12 July

If you're up for an evening in the company of a kooky collection of freaks, weirdos and goofballs, then this is the show for you! The all-grown-up-now princess of darkness, Wednesday Addams, has fallen in love with a sweet young man from a respectable family. Wednesday's dad, Gomez, knows about the romance, but mom Morticia remains blissfully unaware of the situation. And that's very much the way it needs to stay - at least until the dinner at which the two families will finally meet. Needless to say, not everything goes according to plan...

Offering a lightheartedly spinetingly evening of music and laughter, this latest visit to the gloomy old mansion at 0001 Cemetery Lane sees Alexandra Burke (pictured) top-billing in the to-die-for role of Morticia, with *Birds Of A Feather* favourite Lesley Joseph appearing as Grandma.



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Sat 5 - Thu 24 July

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newvictheatre.org.uk

Image by musecreativecomms.co.uk



★★★★★
British Theatre Guide

★★★★★
The Cornishman

★★★★★
The Independent

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Individual venues might not host all titles.
Check tour dates online.

illyria.co.uk

Image: G17 Photography



Showstopper: The Improvised Musical

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 11 July

If ever there was a show worth seeing more than once, this is it - and not only because it's an Olivier Award winner. Showstopper! is exactly what it says on the tin, a musical that's improvised - meaning that no two nights are ever the same. The rotating cast of quick-witted performers take audience suggestions and then spin a brand-new comedy musical out of thin air, complete with tunes, lyrics, dances and harmonies. It's clever stuff, performed by clever people. And if previous audience reaction is anything to go by, you can expect to be well and truly gobsmacked.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 5 July; Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Sun 6 July; Bowring Park, Telford, Thurs 10 July; Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Fri 11 July

Accessible language, likeable characters and a series of comic capers with an ass combine to make A Midsummer Night's Dream one of Shakespeare's most popular works. Lysander and Demetrius both fancy Hermia, Helena's sitting on the shelf, Titania and Oberon are up to no good, and Puck's got his finger in more pies than Mr Kipling... Not that the plot is likely to be overly important in this particular production, given the fact that it's zany funsters Oddsocks who're at the helm! Expect plenty of madcap mayhem and knockabout fun from this always-value-for-money ensemble.

The Winter's Tale

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 12 July - Sat 30 August

One of Shakespeare's last plays - and featuring perhaps the quirkiest ever stage direction of 'exit, pursued by a bear!' - The Winter's Tale recounts the tragic story of the jealous King Leontes, whose unfounded belief that his wife, Hermione, has been unfaithful leads to a series of disastrous actions...

Director Yaël Farber makes her RSC debut, having recently helmed acclaimed productions of King Lear and an Olivier-nominated Macbeth for the Almeida Theatre. "The Winter's Tale is a beautiful and strange beast," says Yaël, "a mystery to be solved; a fusion of gritty tragedy and leaps of faith for both the characters and the audience. "We are in such a stark and brutal time in the

world - and this story plunges us into the shadows of human nature from the start. The journey then expands into a space of miracles and wonder.

"I am drawn to stories that explore the shadows - but I am most interested right now in the possibility of redemption. A redemption that is earned."



Scoundrel With A Sword

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 3 - Sat 5 July

Jars Of Clay take to the stage this month with a brand-new tale of action, intrigue and romance.

After years of living 'hand to mouth', the roguish Elphine finds herself unexpectedly welcomed into a highly regarded school of defence, where she learns not only to sword-fight but also how to deal with the amorous advances of one of her classmates...

Locomotive For Murder

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 24 July

Four characters board a train, but not everyone will survive... Thankfully, a world-famous detective is onboard, poised and ready to solve the seriously baffling murder-

mystery...

Outrageous accents and shaky alibis abound in this 'unique, one-of-a-kind, never-to-be-repeated' improvised whodunnit.

The production runs for 90 minutes (including an interval), with its creators, Pinch Punch, keen to reassure audiences that no improvisers will be harmed in the making of their show...

Much Ado About Falstaff

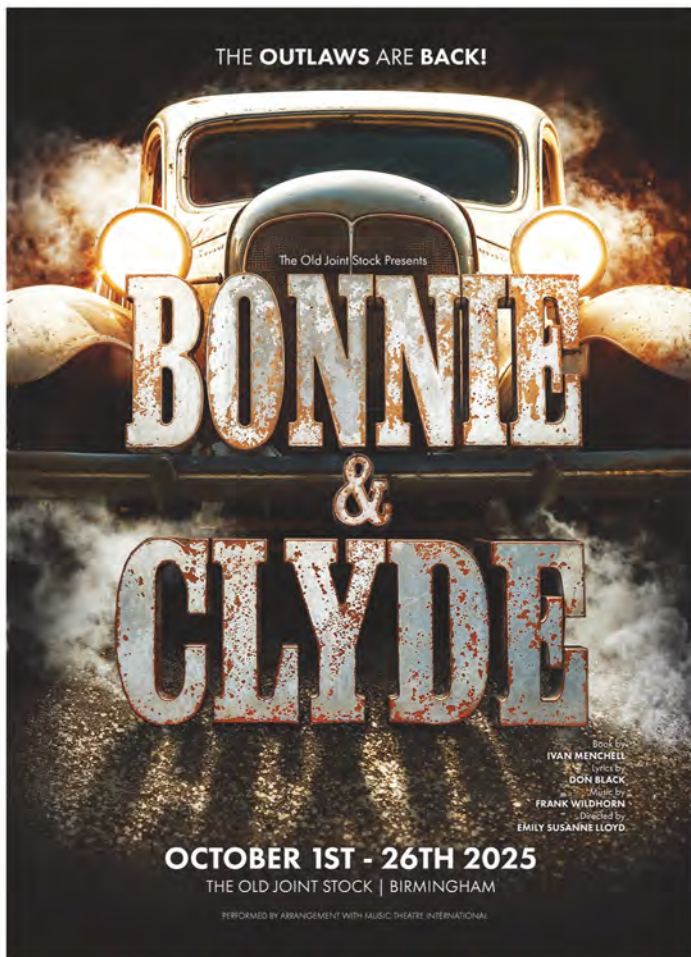
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 9 & Thurs 10 July

One of Shakespeare's greatest and most enduring comic creations is here returning to the stage in a brand-new show.

The famously vain, gluttonous and ale-supping Sir John Falstaff appears in three of the bard's plays, originally as a companion to Prince Hal in Henry IV Parts 1 & 2, and then as a philandering buffoon in The Merry Wives Of Windsor...

Telling a tale that revolves around Falstaff being chased by creditors demanding payment, GSP theatre company's new production is being advertised as 'an evening of jollity, frivolity, a definite lack of coequality, and more Shakespearean insults than ever previously heard on a theatrical stage'. Sounds like fun.





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The Dinosaur That Pooped

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 20 July;
Malvern Theatres, Sat 25 October; Lichfield
Garrick, Wed 29 October

Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter's touring production features new songs, a lot of laughs and (not surprisingly given the show's title) a whole load of poo!

Based on Tom and Dougie's bestselling children's books, *The Dinosaur That Pooped* follows Danny and Dino as they try to get hold of the last two tickets to their favourite rock band's final concert.

But with a villainous band manager lurking, nothing goes according to plan...

Will the band perform? Will Danny rock out? Or will Dino's rumbling tummy save the day?...

Splat!

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 12 July; Lichfield Garrick, Tues 22 & Wed 23 July; The Civic, Stourport, Wed 6 August

Of The Jackel is the theatre company behind this family-friendly physical comedy.

The show turns the spotlight on two artists, one neat, the other messy, as they attempt to cover the history of art, an endeavour that leads to chaotic consequences.

Exploring the themes of 'collaboration, play, dedication, spontaneity and letting go', the production 'features no language', is accessible for deaf audiences, and has been created with children aged between three and six in mind.



the whole wide world. And he could well be right, given that it involves enormous bottoms, pee-powered fireworks, fabulous fart machines and vast whoopee cushions! Science stunts and spectacular experiments abound in a show that promises to be both entertaining and educational.

The Koala Who Could

Swan Theatre, Worcester Mon 21 - Tues 22 July; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 24 - Sat 26 July; The Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 7 - Fri 8 August

Here's a fascinating fact about Claudia Winkleman that many of her admirers may not know: she's in love with Kevin the Koala from Rachel Bright & Jim Field's award-winning picture book *The Koala Who Could*. And given that she's waxed lyrical about the much-loved bestseller, which was published back in 2016, the *Strictly Come Dancing* and *Traitors* presenter would surely also adore this acclaimed stage adaptation! The 55-minute, interval-free show is suitable for kids aged two-plus and features plenty of catchy songs to get your youngsters up and dancing.



Spot's Birthday Party

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 1 - Wed 2 July; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 19 July

Steve the Monkey, Tom the Crocodile and Helen the Hippo are poised to party with birthday boy Spot the Dog in this theatrical adaptation of Eric Hill's classic book, *Happy Birthday Spot*.

Coming complete with singing, dancing and lots of interactive party games, the show is suitable for children aged two-plus.

Rude Science

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Mon 21 July

As science shows go, BBC Gastronomer Stefan Gates is pretty darned certain that his *Rude Science* production is the most revolting in

coloured Smeds and the blue-coloured Smoos never mix, causing Romeo & Juliet-style complications for the star-crossed lovers...

Created for children aged three-plus, this theatrical presentation of Donaldson and Scheffler's delightful space romance comes complete with a powerful but gently conveyed message about difference and tolerance.

The show was nominated for an Olivier Award last year in the Best Family Show category.

Natural History Museum: Dinosaurs Live

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 23 July; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 31 August; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 20 - Sun 21 September; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 27 September

Dinosaurs are once again roaming the region this year, thanks to this interactive show for all the family to enjoy.

Presented by the Natural History Museum in association with Mark Thompson Productions, *Dinosaurs Live!* provides youngsters with the chance to meet a host of impressive prehistoric creatures from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. Taking audiences on a fun- and fact-filled journey, the show is suitable for children aged three-plus.



The Smeds And The Smoos

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 5 & Sun 6 July

Another Tall Stories adaptation of a picture book by award-winning collaborators Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, *The Smeds And The Smoos* tells the intergalactic tale of a young Smed and a young Smoo who fall hopelessly in love. Problem is... the red-



KINDRED SPIRITS

Acclaimed RSC production *My Neighbour Totoro* is enjoying an extended run in the West End

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and Executive Producer Joe Hisaishi, in collaboration with Improbable and Nippon TV, have announced an extended West End run of My Neighbour Totoro. The production uses expertly implemented design and puppetry to bring the story to life on stage, showcasing the practical craftsmanship that goes into any RSC creation. What's On spoke to Ami Okumura Jones and Victoria Chen, who play young sisters Satsuki and Mei, to find out more...

Created in Stratford-upon-Avon and premiered at the Barbican Theatre in 2022, the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) spectacular stage production of My Neighbour Totoro has now taken up residence in London's Gillian Lynne Theatre, where it will show in an extended run of performances until next March.

The 1988 animated film of the same name (albeit with an American spelling) was created by Studio Ghibli and directed by Hayao Miyazaki. It has become an enduring classic, which combines a touching human story with wild, surreal fantasy.

The story follows 10-year-old Satsuki and her younger sister, Mei, as they adjust to a new life in the countryside with their father, in the hope that the change will eventually benefit their hospitalised mother. Exploring the natural world around her new home, Mei befriends Totoro, a formidably large - but very cuddly - spirit of the forest...

Ami Okumura Jones has portrayed Satsuki since the show's first inception. Victoria (Vic) Chen, who plays Mei, joined the company this year. Both Ami and Vic have memories of watching the film, and other Studio Ghibli creations, as children.

"My mother is Japanese, and I grew up in Hong Kong," says Ami. "The films were as foundational to my childhood as Wallace & Gromit or Toy Story might be for a more Western audience. I don't remember the first time I saw them - they were just always there."

For Vic, the sisters' story resonates with her own childhood experiences. "How do you navigate what the world is throwing at you? When you don't understand what's going on, you're moving to a new place, you've got to be brave, and you've got to make new friends - it can get quite scary. This story reminds us to be curious. To keep our hearts, our minds, and our arms open to whatever comes - and to have joy!"

All the characters are played by adult actors, but Vic and Ami are incredibly childlike on stage, partly due to their own performances, but also thanks to their fellow cast members.

"We work with such a great company of actors," says Vic. "They're really good at suspending their disbelief as they talk to us,

especially when we have Kimie Nakano's costumes on. We really look like kids!"

And while the story is definitely still a hit with youngsters, nostalgic adults also make up a proportion of its audience.

"When you watch My Neighbor Totoro, depending on where you are in life, it's astonishing how the film seems to change," Ami explains. "It's this magical fairytale when you're a kid, and then it becomes quite a heart-wrenching, bittersweet tale as an adult."

The stage show was adapted by Tom Morton-Smith and produced by the film's composer, Joe Hisaishi, with the Royal Shakespeare Company. While the story might seem decidedly un-Shakespearean, Vic has her own theories about why Totoro and the RSC are a perfect fit.

"The Royal Shakespeare Company is bringing stories to life from around the world, the way Shakespeare did, and bringing new audiences into the theatre. Listening to what people are interested in, bringing it to the stage, giving them a new experience - it makes a lot of sense for the RSC to be telling a story like this. It's poetic in its own way. I think Shakespeare would be proud, if he were alive."

"We are part of a long and very proud heritage," adds Ami, harking back to the RSC's contribution to mega-hits *Les Misérables* and *Matilda*. "They are champions of new and exciting work, as well as being custodians of Shakespeare."

My Neighbour Totoro, like *Les Mis*, premiered at London's Barbican Centre, the RSC's home-away-from-home in the capital. This year, the production has moved half an hour down the road to the Gillian Lynne Theatre, which has a slightly cosier stage set-up.

"What you gain there is a sense of intimacy that I really wasn't expecting," says Ami. "It's been magnificent watching the creative team and the backstage crew find solutions to how we fit this enormous, wonderful show in there... The backstage ballet and choreography is as impressive as what you see on stage."

Larger-than-life style is built into the design of the show - in particular, through the puppetry. Bringing to life creatures that were

originally dreamed up via hand-drawn animation is no mean feat. From the wobbly, chaotic chickens (Vic's favourite puppets) to the psychedelic, 12-legged Catbus (yes, it's a cat that is also a bus!), real care has been taken to represent the magic and wonder of each puppet's design.

"That journey is complete when you put them in the hands of the puppeteers, and they come to life," says Ami. "You get delicate, deceptively simple puppets, and then you get some really big ones that are marvels of design, engineering and puppetry... It makes our job easy - it's not difficult to believe they're alive."

Alongside recognisable characters, the play's score, rearranged and orchestrated by Will Stewart, will be familiar to fans of the film. In fact, it was a condition of the adaptation that composer Joe Hisaishi would be involved during production.

"The soundtrack is so iconic and so beloved," says Ami. "You can see the musicians throughout the show. The puppeteers are called the Kazego - 'wind spirits'. They are the spirits of the forest, who move the story about. The band are all in green, up in the trees - they are like spirits as well. Music is interwoven into the piece, and integral."

Ami has fond memories of the show's rehearsal period, in Stratford-upon-Avon: "We spent eight weeks of summer in the countryside around Stratford, making the show. It felt perfect. We were having our lunch next to the river, watching the swans, and then going back to create a show about the forest. The sticks that I drop in Act 1 - we needed some sticks, so a stage manager went out and collected some sticks! They stayed with us to the West End!"

"Talking about the spirits of the forest, among all those trees, we did feel like Will's spirit was smiling down at us, giving us the thumbs-up."

.....
My Neighbour Totoro shows at Gillian Lynne Theatre, London, until Sunday 29 March 2026

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Cirque: The Greatest Show - Reimagined

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 20 July; Lichfield Garrick, Sun 27 July; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Fri 10 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 31 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 1 November; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Thurs 6 November

Musical theatre and 'jaw-dropping' circus combine in this intriguing touring show, reimagined for 2025 and described by its official publicity as 'a vibrant, kaleidoscopic journey, bursting with colour, energy and excitement'.

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'.

This latest extravaganza also features Britain's Got Talent Golden Buzzer winner Max Fox.

Dad's Army Radio Show

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 9 July

You've seen the television show, now listen to the radio broadcast, with a pair of talented actors taking up position behind their microphones to play more than 25 characters between them.

The production features three much-loved episodes of David Croft & Jimmy Perry's classic 1970s' sitcom, complete with sound effects and vintage music.



Mathew Horne In Conversation

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sun 20 July; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 28 September

With Gavin & Stacey having been brought to an end by its creators, Ruth Jones and James Corden (who are also two of its stars, of course), fans of the mega-hit BBC TV comedy series will no doubt be chomping at the bit to bag their seat for this special evening.

The event sees Gavin himself, actor Mathew Horne, talking about his experiences on the show - from his favourite moments and behind-the-scenes anecdotes, to the impact which the popularity of the series has had on his everyday life.



Mr B: The Gentleman Rhymer

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 18 July

If you're looking for a novel theatrical experience to enjoy during the month of July, you should seriously consider buying yourself a ticket to see uber-talented parodist and banjolele player Jim Burke. Known professionally as Mr B The Gentleman Rhymer, Jim entertains audiences by performing his very own version of hip-hop (which he refers to as chap-hop and delivers in a Received Pronunciation accent). Expect songs about pipe smoking, cricket, and dressing with style and dignity.



Bonding

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Mon 14 July; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester; Fri 18 July; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 23 July; Macready Theatre, Rugby, Sat 26 July

Tired of waiting for the phone to ring with a job offer, out-of-work actor Cyril Blake decided to take matters into his own hands by writing Bonding.

"It's a one-person show where my character is a major James Bond fan and uses him as inspiration for how to live," Cyril told Starburst. "But as he gets older and wiser, he starts to question if this is a good idea..."



Ultimately, the show is about ideas of masculinity, and how we feel we need to express ourselves because of societal pressures. Sometimes that's positive, sometimes it's toxic. Oh, and [the show] is funny! That's not just *my* opinion - people actually laugh when I expect them to!"

G4 Phantoms Of The Popera

Dudley Town Hall, Tues 8 July

After scoring a hit in the first-ever series of The X Factor, G4 became one of the country's biggest crossover classical groups. Their debut album went straight to number one and sold more than 245,000 copies, making it the fastest-selling record of 2005. Although they disbanded two years and three albums later - citing as the reason their need to pursue individual interests - they reunited in 2014 for their 10th anniversary.

This latest concert tour sees them unleashing their trademark sound on 'the greatest showstoppers that musical theatre has to offer'.

Magic & Sex

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 14 July

Having scored a hit with debut offering Yoga & Sex... For Women (Over 40), Kathryn Haywood here turns her attention to the art of illusion. The Hong Kong-born comedian is promising a show in which she will 'baffle with her feats of mentalism', and 'confuse with what she keeps under her hat'.



ODD ONES, OUT

Fun-loving Oddsocks bring Shakespeare into the open air - and it works like a Dream...

Oddsocks Productions, formed in 1989 by husband & wife team Andy Barrow and Elli Mackenzie, have developed a reputation for bringing the fun side of Shakespeare into the open - quite literally. This month, the company tours their new production of A Midsummer Night's Dream to a selection of outdoor Midlands venues, promising a high-energy, feelgood show for all the family. Although this particular version will be shaken up for a modern audience, it's still definitely Shakespeare - as founder Elli explains to What's On...

Midlands-based fans of Oddsocks Productions know they're in for a good time when the summer season rolls around and the company's latest off-the-wall Shakespeare adaptation arrives in the region. Oddsocks have toured regularly for over 35 years, visiting outdoor venues with adventurous, inclusive and highly entertaining versions of centuries-old plays. For anyone who has yet to experience one of their offerings, now might be the time to give it a go. This year's summer tour features a new production of Shakespeare's magical comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - billed as great fun for anyone from age seven to 107 - with transformed tradesmen, star-crossed lovers and a sprinkling of fairy mischief. "Giving people an opportunity to see Shakespeare, and not see it as something that's unapproachable, is part of our mission," says Oddsocks co-founder Elli Mackenzie. "It's always a joy when we do a play which parents will be able to say to their children, 'I know this one - it's a fun one!' It's a good introduction to Shakespeare." Even if you're an Oddsocks regular, Elli is confident that this production will be unlike any version of the play that you've seen before.

"Athens becomes the Taste of Athens restaurant, and the lovers are actually on their first dates! It's still Shakespeare, it's still the text, it's still a huge amount of fun, but it's taken from a very modern perspective. The play within the play - featuring the 'rude mechanicals', who in our production are the kitchen staff - is hilarious, because Shakespeare was a genius. There's very little you need to do to it to make it work. If you've seen *A Midsummer Night's Dream* before, I can guarantee you've never seen it this way." When choosing which Shakespeare plays to perform, the Oddsocks team are conscious that much has changed since the author put quill to parchment - so they create a show which is suitably pitched to a modern crowd. "Even in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, we're making some changes, to make it more palatable for a contemporary audience. Four hundred and fifty years ago, what was acceptable to white, middle-aged playwrights and their theatre-goers is perhaps less so now - we're in the 21st century, and a little bit different. The nice thing is that we can be flexible with Shakespeare, just as long as we use the text, we make sense of it, and we don't make decisions which take it so far

removed that people can't follow it."

Oddsocks is something of a family endeavour. Elli and her husband, Andy Barrow, founded the company in 1989 after beginning their artistic collaboration (and relationship) at Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art.

"I've spent more of my life with Andy than not, and vice versa. The fact is, right from drama school, when we were in the same class, we have worked together - it's natural for us. It happens by osmosis now."

While the majority of performances in the tour take place in the open air, last month the company made a stop-off at a more traditional venue: Coventry's Belgrade Theatre. This has a practical impact - not least that the company aren't building their own stage. It also creates an environment where the actors can fine-tune their performances.

"The difference is that it's more intimate indoors. From a performer's point of view, there's more nuance. Small pauses, flicks of the eye, and small expressions go for nothing when you're working in a large, open-air space, with shouting peacocks, dogs, people walking past, and 500 people up a hill. You have to be really clear. It has to be bold and it has to carry."

Another factor when performing outdoors is the unpredictable weather. However, while gathering clouds might make an audience member reach for their brolly and waterproofs, it rarely puts a damper on the Oddsocks spirit.

"About 36 years we've been touring. Over each of those tours, we do between 54 and 56 performances throughout the summer in the UK and the Channel Islands, in 29 venues. I can count on one hand the number of times we've had to cancel - and that's usually been down to the fact that the audience can't get to the venue because of flooding. Usually, we carry on whatever the weather. It's a really important part of the audition process that we find actors who are prepared to work like that. Understandably, not every actor is."

"We're friends with actors who first worked with us in the early 1990s. In fact, our daughter is making a documentary about Oddsocks and our journey."

The company is raising money for the film with a GoFundMe campaign entitled *Oddsocks At 35*. "She's touching base with a lot of actors who worked with us over many years, whose highlights are times of the worst

weather; when the audience, diminished down to a sturdy 20 to 30, would sit there under whatever circumstances."

The theatrical fun continues with a second, non-Shakespearean tour for 2025. This autumn, Oddsocks present a new (indoor) offering: *Florence Nightingale - The Lady With The Hammer*. The show is inspired in part by the company's rehearsal space - a chapel that once belonged to Florence's family.

"We were working with an actor who plays her at the Florence Nightingale Museum in London - that's her day job - so her knowledge of this lady is incredible. It just seemed to come together, and we thought 'Let's investigate...' We realised what an amazing woman she was."

One of the company's aims when creating productions like *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is to pitch the show to appeal to audiences of any age. And Oddsocks' relationship with their punters, Elli says, is key to striking that balance.

"As soon as people arrive, we're out there, we're talking to them, we're selling programmes, we're welcoming them. It's important for our team to feel like we're hosts of a party... And people become familiar faces, and grew up with us. It's important to us that our plays speak to both children and adults. And it's true that there are things that go above the children's heads - it's not a children's show. It works best when it's an age mix."

And when it comes down to it, for Elli, the ability to make connections between people - on and off the stage - is the company's highest accomplishment.

"For me, our biggest achievement is bringing people together, in all its forms... We now have 11 'Oddsocks children' - people who might not exist had their parents not met whilst working with us. We have networks of people that get together just to come and see our shows."

A Midsummer Night's Dream shows at Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) on Sat 5 July; Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, on Sun 6 July; Bowring Park, Telford, on Thurs 10 July and Compton Verney, Warwickshire, on Fri 11 July

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THE HUNDRED





Rhythm Of The Dance

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 6 July

Audiences are promised an evening of flailing fiddles and cracking choreography when popular touring show Rhythm Of The Dance visits Wolverhampton this month. Taking its fans on a high-energy journey through hundreds of years of Irish dance and music, the hit show features award-winning world and Irish dance champions, multiple costume changes, a state-of-the-art light & sound presentation, and performances by talented vocalists and an Irish traditional band of multi-instrumentalist musicians. If you've not yet checked out the production, now in its 26th year of touring, this month's Grand Theatre stop-off provides a perfect opportunity to catch up with one of the most popular Irish step dance shows in the world.

Dianne and Vito: Red Hot & Ready

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 4 July;
Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Thurs 10 July

Strictly Come Dancing's Dianne Buswell and Vito Coppola are heading to the region with a brand-new show this month. Presented by Burn The Floor, Red Hot & Ready is being described as 'the ultimate high-voltage dance extravaganza, exploding with jaw-dropping choreography, heart-pounding music and breathtaking moves'. Vocalists, a live band, and a cast of multi-disciplined Burn The Floor dancers also feature.



Anton & Giovanni

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 24 July;
Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 25 July;
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 28 July

Two of Strictly Come Dancing's all-time best-loved professional dancers join forces to present a show that seamlessly blends 'breathtaking routines' with 'stunning choreography'.

Anton Du Beke has graduated from dancing to judging on Strictly, while Giovanni Pernice's time on the show came to a controversial conclusion when his 2023

dance partner, Amanda Abbington, went public with criticisms of his coaching methods.

Giovanni's ever-adoring fans will no doubt be happy to see him once again teaming up with Anton for this latest dance extravaganza.

London City Ballet: Momentum

The Rep, Birmingham, Tues 29 & Wed 30 July

The former resident company of Sadler's Wells, London City Ballet here presents a brand-new repertoire. The programme includes Haieff Divertimento, an early work by master choreographer George Balanchine, which was presumed lost for a period of 40 years following its premiere.

Liam Scarlett's Consolations & Liebestraum - a response to Franz Liszt's piano score depicting the lifecycle of a relationship - also features, as does a new work by emerging choreographer Florent Melac.

Alexei Ratmansky's Pictures At An Exhibition - 'bringing art to life', with Modest Mussorgsky's score set against a backdrop of Wassily Kandinsky's best-known masterpieces - completes the production's line-up of danceworks.

Celebrated ballerina Alina Cojocaru lends her talent to proceedings.



National Youth Dance Company: Gravity

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 23 July

England's flagship youth dance organisation, National Youth Dance Company (NYDC), have joined forces with guest artistic directors (and Olivier Award-winning purveyors of hip-hop dance-theatre) Boy Blue. The result is Gravity - a brand-new show 'all about forces and connections', which combines the skills of NYDC's young dancers with their mentors' radical vision.



Linden Dance: CAGED

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sun 13 July

Innovative contemporary/Afro dance fusion company Linden Dance here present a free drop-in performance of CAGED in their home city of Birmingham.

The piece, which takes place in the Outdoor Theatre at Midlands Arts Centre, sees four performers explore worlds of entrapment and safety, in, on and around a three-metre-high 'birdcage'. Expect feats of athleticism and daring physicality, presented against a punchy soundtrack - a creative response to the UK's loneliness epidemic.

Film highlights in July...



Smurfs CERT tbc (92 mins)

With the voices of **Rihanna, John Goodman, Hannah Waddingham, Natasha Lyonne, James Corden, Sandra Oh** Directed by **Chris Miller**

The Smurfs - anthropomorphic beings who live in mushroom-shaped houses in the forest - were all the rage here in the UK back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, not least because of the success of The Smurf Song. Released in the summer of 1978, the near-chart-topping number was memorably performed by a Santa Claus lookalike named Father Abraham. But the curious little blue creatures have a history which stretches back to the 1950s, when they were created by Peyo (the pen name of Belgian comic-book artist Pierre Culliford). Their global popularity in the ensuing decades has rarely waned, and this new movie looks set to give Smurfmania a significant boost - particularly as Rihanna is lending her voice to the project (playing the character of Smurfette). She's joined for the endeavour by John Goodman, James Corden and Sandra Oh.

Released Fri 18 July



Hot Milk CERT 15 (92 mins)

Starring **Emma Mackey, Vicky Krieps, Fiona Shaw, Vincent Perea, Yann Gael, Patsy Ferran** Directed by **Rebecca Lenkiewicz**

Screenwriter Rebecca Lenkiewicz here takes the helm for her directorial debut. Much admired for penning screenplays about simmering female discontent and rebellion - think *Disobedience* (2017), *She Said* (2022) and the Oscar-winning *Ida* (2013) - Lenkiewicz oversees the story of a cantankerous and wheelchair-dependent woman, Rose, and her daughter, Sofia, as they journey to a Spanish clinic in search of a cure for the mother's mysterious illness. With trouble brewing in their relationship and Rose undergoing treatment, Sofia finds an unexpected but welcome distraction from reality in the form of the sensual and free-spirited Ingrid... The film is adapted from the same-named 2016 novel by Deborah Levy.

Released Fri 4 July

Jurassic World: Rebirth CERT 12a (134 mins)

Starring **Scarlett Johansson, Rupert Friend, Jonathan Bailey, Mahershala Ali, Ed Skrein, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo** Directed by **Gareth Edwards**

Cinemasgoers just can't get enough of dinosaurs. Three years after the *Jurassic World* trilogy concluded (with each film netting in excess of a cool \$1billion at the global box office), the series is this month making yet another return. Five years after the events of *Jurassic World Dominion*, the planet's ecology has proven largely inhospitable to dinosaurs. Those remaining exist in isolated equatorial environments. The three most colossal creatures within the tropical biosphere hold, in their DNA, the key to a drug that will bring miraculous life-saving benefits to humankind.

Covert operations expert Zora Bennett (Scarlett Johansson) is contracted to lead a skilled team on a top-secret mission to secure the genetic material. When Zora's operation intersects with a civilian family whose boating expedition was capsized by marauding aquatic dinos, they all find themselves stranded on a forbidden island that had once housed an undisclosed research facility for Jurassic Park. There, in a terrain populated by dinosaurs of vastly different species, they come face-to-face with a sinister, shocking discovery that has been hidden from the world for decades... **Released Wednesday 2 July**



The Fantastic Four: First Steps CERT tbc

Starring **Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Ralph Ineson, Julia Garner** Directed by **Matt Shakman**

As with DC Comics' Superman (see below), Marvel Comics' Fantastic Four is being rebooted this year.

After a couple of okayish big-screen outings in 2005 and 2007, and then an execrable Marvel Cinematic Universe offering in 2015, Mr Fantastic, the Invisible Woman, the Human Torch and the Thing find themselves battling against planet-devouring space god Galactus and his metallic-skinned herald, the Silver Surfer.

First Steps' storyline - which unravels against the backdrop of a 1960s-inspired, retro-futuristic world - is being billed as the titular quartet's 'most daunting challenge yet'. But if rumours about the film's quality prove to be true, distributor Disney may well have a 'daunting challenge' of its very own to deal with... In a recent public test screening in Los Angeles, the movie apparently received a less-than-enthusiastic response, with media sources claiming that audience members slammed the film for its lack of character development and questionable CGI usage. Late-stage reshoots have been taking place; never a good sign.

Released Thurs 24 July



Superman CERT tbc (122 mins)

Starring **David Corenswet, Rachel Brosnahan, Nicholas Hoult, Maria Gabriela de Faria, Skyler Gisondo, Edi Gathegi** Directed by **James Gunn**



Look! Up on the screen. It's a bird. It's a plane. No, it's another Superman reboot! This latest attempt to redefine the most famous superhero of them all sees David Corenswet stepping into the spandex, with Marvelous Mrs Maisel star Rachel Brosnahan getting on board as Superman's on-off romantic interest Lois Lane. The UK's very own Nicholas Hoult plays the Last Son of Krypton's arch nemesis, Lex Luthor. The first film to be released under the DC Studios banner, Superman is being described as a singular blend of epic action, humour and heart, delivering a Man of Steel who's driven 'by compassion and an inherent belief in the goodness of humankind'.

James Gunn directs from his own screenplay. Gunn has previously enjoyed superhero success with Marvel Cinematic Universe's Guardians Of The Galaxy trilogy and - to a lesser extent, in 2021 - DC Comics' The Suicide Squad. **Released Fri 11 July**

Four Letters Of Love

CERT 12a (125 mins)

Starring **Pierce Brosnan, Helena Bonham Carter, Gabriel Byrne, Dónal Finn, Olwen Fouéré, Michelle Lucy** Directed by **Polly Steele**

The path to true love proves far from smooth for Nicholas and Isabel, whose family lives are challenging in the extreme.

Nicholas' father, William (Pierce Brosnan), comes home one day to shatter his family's quiet life, informing them that in a moment of divine intervention, God has instructed him to dedicate his life to painting. He quits his job and sets off for the coast, leaving his shellshocked wife and son to fend for themselves.

Meanwhile, Isabel and her family live a charmed existence on a nearby island. When tragedy strikes and her brother suffers a terrible accident, Isabel's parents (Helena Bonham Carter, Gabriel Byrne) decide in their grief to send her to a convent school on the mainland.

The young lovers embark on their own individual journeys of heartache and misplaced love, before fate contrives to pull the threads of their lives together... Based on Niall Williams' bestselling novel.

Released Fri 18 July



I Know What You Did Last Summer CERT 15

Starring **Madelyn Cline, Chase Sui Wonders, Jonah Hauer-King, Tyriq Withers, Sarah Pidgeon, Billy Campbell** Directed by **Jennifer Kaytin Robinson**



Just as concerns were growing that the slasher-film genre had had its day, along came I Know What You Did Last Summer in 1997 to breathe fresh life into it. Although given a mixed reception by the critics, the film was a major commercial success and quickly achieved cult status. It has since inspired a couple of sequels and, more recently, a television series...

This latest offering focuses on five friends who inadvertently cause a deadly car accident. Covering up their involvement, they make a pact to keep it a secret rather than face the consequences. But one year later, their past comes back to haunt them, forcing them to confront a horrifying truth: somebody not only knows what they did last summer but is also hell-bent on revenge...

Released Fri 18 July



Emma Talbot: How We Learn To Love

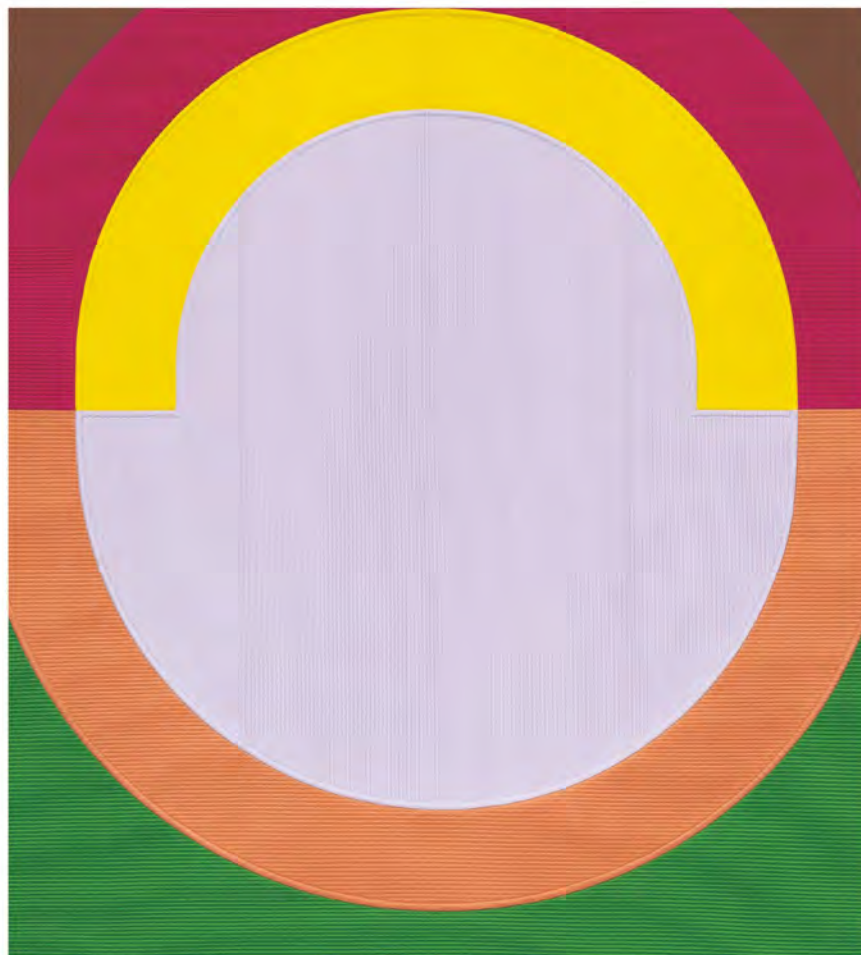
Compton Verney, Warwickshire,
Sat 5 July - Sun 5 October

Compton Verney's major summer exhibition features a collection of new and recent work by award-winning artist Emma Talbot which 'powerfully explores the experience of life; from birth to death'.

The show includes examples of Emma's sculpture, painting, animation, drawing and large-scale paintings on silk.

At the heart of the exhibition is an epic new installation called *The Tragedies*. Drawing on a selection of stories, including the Ancient Greek tale of Medea - who killed her two sons as an act of revenge - the artwork is a reflection on the 'unbelievable acts of aggression' which people feel compelled to commit during times of confrontation.

The exhibition also contemplates 'our shifting relationships with technology, language and communication', exploring how, in new forms and guises, they can transform public and political narratives.



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Exhibition supported by



Ikon is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Registered charity no. 528892. Image: Seulgi Lee, *U: Laugh out loud while clapping one's hands* (2023). Courtesy the artist and Gallery Hyundai Seoul (Seulgi Lee © ADAGP Paris 2025).



The Offbeat Sari

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, until Sunday 2 November

"The idea for the exhibition came from a desire to challenge the way that South Asian culture is conventionally depicted - as being timeless, or rigid in the colonial or post-colonial past."

So explains Priya Khanchandani, who has curated this major exhibition. The show celebrates the contemporary sari and brings together a selection of striking garments designed, worn and crafted by

people from India. "I wanted to showcase South Asia as a culture in the process of evolution, and one which is as relevant to contemporary fashion as anywhere else. "MAC is a fantastic place to present the exhibition. Its artistic programme reflects and represents the cultures of the city of Birmingham, and I think the show will resonate with Brummies of South Asian heritage in a meaningful way."



Thread The Loom

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, until 7 September

This group exhibition, celebrating the art of weaving, provides visitors with the chance to observe, engage with and participate in traditional and contemporary art & craft practices. The show will see an AVL Studio Dobby loom - on loan from Birmingham City University - being activated through a series of micro-residencies with international artist Seulgi Lee and five West Midlands weavers... Textiles produced on the loom will be exhibited alongside work by contemporary artists Raisa Kabir (work pictured above), Alis Oldfield, Bharti Parmar, Dinah Prentice and Su Richardson.

Shelter: The Outside In National Open Exhibition

The New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sunday 19 October

Shelter is the seventh National Open exhibition to be presented by Outside In, an award-winning charity dedicated to helping artists who encounter barriers to accessing the art world. These may include issues around health, disability, isolation, or the individual's social circumstance.

As part of Shelter, surrealist sculptor & furniture designer Chantal Pitts was selected for a 21-week residency at the gallery, during which period she developed an interactive and den-like installation that will serve as the exhibition's information hub.



Billy Dosanjh Endz Of The World: Coded Furnaces

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until 21 September

Film, photography, sculpture, print making and painting all feature in the artistic output of Billy Dosanjh, much of whose practice is set in the de-industrialised factory towns of the Midlands. This new exhibition of Billy's work considers the subject of technical evolution, examining the similarities between the Industrial Revolution and current technological developments, in particular the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

I Grew Up 90s

Worcester City Art Gallery, Sat 5 July - Sun 7 September

A trip down memory lane awaits visitors to this summer-long celebration of all things 1990s. Featuring more than 200 iconic objects and artworks, the show recalls toys, video games, fashions, food, films and music from the decade of Cool Britannia. In the process, it calls to mind all manner of cultural treasures, from the Spice Girls and Lara Croft, to Pokémon and Power Rangers.



Watch Us Lead

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, XXX

Multi-disciplinary artist Christopher Samuel's new exhibition highlights the experiences of disabled people of colour in Birmingham - and echoes the many facets of his own lived experience as a Black disabled man.

Bringing together stained glass and drawings with nine newly recorded interviews, the show investigates themes of stigma, belonging and agency.

Commenting on his exhibition, Christopher said: "The realisation of how important making this body of work is, was highlighted for me through the barriers I encountered [in delivering it] - showing that the system has not historically been set up to preserve stories or voices like mine."



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The Space Vault

Thinktank, Millennium Point, Birmingham, until end of August

Showcasing one of the UK's largest private collections of artefacts from human space exploration, The Space Vault is just one of a number of space-related activities and attractions available to enjoy at Thinktank across the summer holiday.

Highlights of the exhibition include: the mission checklists that saved the crew of Apollo 13 when its oxygen tank exploded; Commander Dave Scott's spacesuit umbilical, through which he communicated his first words as he stepped onto the surface

of the Moon; Lunar dust from the Hadley Rille landing site of Apollo 15; and material from the Apollo 11 command module...

As well as The Space Vault, summertime visitors to Thinktank can check out Lunar Lego Lab, Stargazers' Storytime, Rocket Lab and the Moonbase Construction Zone.

The popular visitor attraction is also hosting a special Stellar Space Day on Thursday 21 August, inviting families 'to blast off into a world of cosmic adventure' courtesy of 'a day filled with space-themed fun'.



Brick Dinos

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, Sun 7 September

This ongoing exhibition provides families with the opportunity to step back in time to the prehistoric world.

The show's attractions include a range of Lego dinosaur sculptures - created in collaboration with palaeontologists - behind-the-scenes videos, photo opportunities, and the chance to uncover fossils at an interactive 'dino dig'.

Visitors can also get creative with hands-on Lego and Duplo play, design their own dinosaurs on a graffiti wall, and take home

dinosaur-themed colouring sheets...

As well as the Brick Dinos exhibition, the Herbert is also hosting a craft programme called Lego Bricks & Creative Superheroes (running daily throughout the summer holiday, excluding Sundays and Mondays). The programme is split up into weeks and offers visitors plenty of opportunity to 'get crafty', whether by making wooden spoon superhero puppets, soap-carving a favourite dinosaur, or engaging in any number of other craft-related activities.

Medieval Day

Weoley Castle, Birmingham, Sat 19 July

Bin strikes may have been a blight on second-city life during 2025, but living in Birmingham in medieval times would probably have been a whole lot grimmer. If you fancy getting a taste of 'how things used to be' all those centuries ago, then Weoley Castle on Saturday the 19th is the place to head for. Reenactors, battle displays, guided tours, face painting and Warhammer activities are among the attractions enlivening this special event. A local team from the Portable Antiquities Scheme will also be adding to the fun, bringing along a number of intriguing objects for visitors to peruse.

Birmingham Cocktail Weekend

Various venues across the city, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 July

Cocktail lovers, rejoice - Birmingham Cocktail Weekend is making a mid-month return! The hugely popular event will see 40-plus participating venues each serving up a £6 signature cocktail for customers who are wearing the festival's official wristband. The wristband also provides access to 'a series of great events, a fab hotel discount, £5 mocktails and exclusive food offers'.


The Festival Of Brilliant

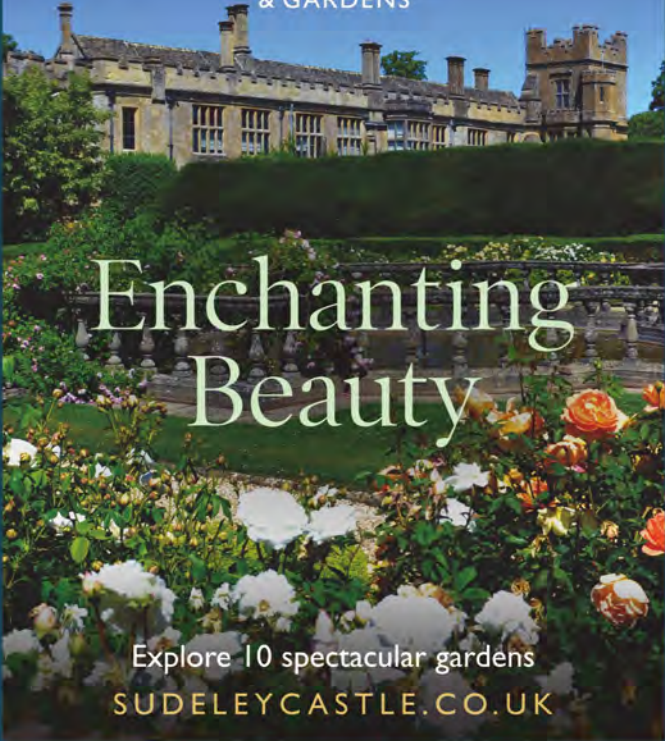
Biddulph Old Hall, Staffordshire, Fri 11 & Sat 12 July

Two Children's Laureates - Frank Cottrell Boyce and Joseph Coelho - are among the creatives taking part in this two-day celebration of children's books at Biddulph Old Hall (on Friday the 11th for schools and Saturday the 12th for families).

The event is making a welcome return following its success last year and will feature readings, talks, workshops, storytelling sessions and creative activities designed to 'feed the imagination'.




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Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum



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See website for ticket and events information including 90s themed Museum after Hours events
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Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum,
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Swinging Sixties

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster, Sat 26 & Sun 27 July

This year marks the Severn Valley Railway's (SVR) 60th anniversary - so what better way to celebrate the occasion than by stepping back in time to the decade in which it all began! Visitors to SVR across the final weekend of the month are being encouraged to dress up in their finest Swinging 60s gear and brace themselves for two days of nostalgia-drenched entertainment.

Highlights include steam and diesel trains hauling historic carriages, live music up and down the line, fairground attractions at the Engine House, a real ale festival at Kidderminster, and an impressive collection of classic cars from yesteryear. The Saturday night sees talented four-piece The Jaguars presenting a live-music concert at Kidderminster Station.



Three Counties Food & Drink Festival

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Sat 26 & Sun 27 July

Get ready to indulge your senses this month when the Three Counties Food & Drink Festival returns for its third year. The show's highlights include a 'jam-packed' schedule of demonstrations by, among others, TV chefs Simon Rimmer,

Cherish Finden, Francesco Mattana and Chris Bavin. Other festival attractions include wine-tasting sessions, live music, a kids' cookery school and the chance to sample and purchase food from 160-plus traders...

Camper Jam

Weston Park, Shropshire/Staffordshire border, Fri 4 - Sat 6 July

VW fans will no doubt be heading to Weston Park in their droves for this year's edition of Camper Jam.

Attractions include stalls to shop in, bars to cool off in, and plenty of live entertainment to enjoy across the three-day weekend.

Not only can visitors check out a variety of VW vehicles, they can also sample a host of fun attractions and activities, including tree climbing, craft workshops, a family circus and the infamous Disco Shed.

Music performers across the weekend include Levi Roots, Jaguar Skills, Sandi Thom and a number of tribute acts.

The Beach

Lichfield Cathedral, Sat 26 July - Sun 31 August

Life's a beach in Lichfield this month, as the cathedral brings the seaside to the city for the summer!

Sand, decking and deck chairs all feature, as does a programme of activities for families to enjoy.

Summer Of Fun'n'Flight

Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford, Sat 19 July - Mon 1 September

Royal Airforce Museum Midlands is certainly flying high in the entertainment stakes this school summer holiday.

Attractions to enjoy at the Cosford-located visitor attraction include mini golf, a summer sleuth trail, the chance to play giant garden games like Jenga and Connect 4, birds-of-prey displays, 'epic' laser tag battles and a 'wild and wacky' game show.

For kids who really like to keep on top of their education during the school holiday, the venue is running a special STEM Camp (Monday 28 July - Friday 1 August), inviting youngsters aged 10 to 14 'to dive into the exciting worlds of science, technology, engineering and mathematics'.



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The Reunion Car Show

Staffordshire Showground, Sun 13 July

Fans of the modified-car scene can this month revel in the return of The Reunion Show - a one-day celebration of the most unique and recognisable cars from the golden era of modifications. Boasting

legendary builds and cult classics, and with support from major brands including Pionner, the event features 1000-plus curated show cars, live audio displays and demos, music, merchandise and more.

Family History Weekend

Kenilworth Castle, Sat 19 & Sun 20 July

Youngsters can get hands-on with history at Kenilworth Castle this month, find out all about Elizabeth I's visit there in 1575, and have a go at junior jousting and sword-skills training. If you fancy something a little less vigorous, a family-friendly story walk offers the perfect opportunity to explore the castle. All events are drop-in and will be taking place throughout the day.

Fantasy Forest Festival

Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham, Fri 18 - Sat 20 July

Fancy a family-friendly fantasy forest festival this summer? Then Gloucestershire venue Sudeley Castle is the place to head for. Bringing together fans of all genres of fantasy, the increasingly popular event - it's sold out in each of the last two years - features the return of the much-loved costume competition. Capes'n'cowls at the ready...



Battle Of Shrewsbury Anniversary Weekend

Battlefield 1403, Shrewsbury, Sat 26 & Sun 27 July

If you're a slave to your passion for all things medieval, then as well as taking a step back in time at the already-featured Weoley Castle event (see page 45), you will surely want to check out this hugely popular historical get-together in Shropshire. Taking place to mark the famous Battle of

Shrewsbury - fought in 1403 between King Henry IV and a rebellious faction led by the Percy family - the family-friendly festival features a reenactment of the conflict and a variety of living-history activities, including traditional crafts and cookery.

1940s Weekend

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 12 & Sun 13 July

Journey back in time to the 1940s mid-month, courtesy of this special two-day event at the Black Country Living Museum. As well as finding out about the outbreak of the Second World War and the era's Dig For Victory and Make Do And Mend campaigns, visitors can also check out reenactors in authentic period costumes, admire an impressive display of vintage vehicles, and find out all about ration books, identity cards, gas masks and air-raid precautions. The venue will also be holding a special event on the Saturday evening which will see the streets and houses transformed into a homefront community, complete with live music and 1940s-style entertainment.



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*Your week-
by-week
listings guide*
July 2025

the list



Mary Poppins - Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 16 July - Sat 23 August

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

What's On

Tues 1 - Sun 6 July



Jeff Lynne's ELO -
Utilita Arena, Birmingham
Sat 5 & Sun 6 July

Mon 7 - Sun 13 July



Ignacio Lopez - Henry Tudor Inn,
Shrewsbury
Thurs 10 July

Mon 14 - Sun 20 July



Upton Blues Festival - various
venues in Upton upon Severn
Fri 18 - Sun 20 July

Mon 21 - Thurs 31 July



Kevin Rowland - Wulfrun Hall,
University of Wolverhampton
Wed 23 July

EXHIBITIONS NOW SHOWING ACROSS THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MODERN MUSE BY ARPITA SHAH A series of photographic portraits celebrating the identities and experiences of young South Asian women from Birmingham and the West Midlands.

CURTIS HOLDER: DRAWING CARLOS ACOSTA Curtis Holder, winner of Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year in 2020, was commissioned to draw Carlos Acosta, director of Birmingham Royal Ballet. This display brings together portraits Curtis made during the competition and his working sketches.

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

TOWERING DREAMS: EXTRAORDINARY ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS Exhibition exploring how architects of the 18th and early 19th centuries understood the world around them. Featuring extraordinary architectural drawings for amazing buildings, both real and imagined, until Sun 31 Aug

Coventry Music Museum

WE'LL LIVE AND DIE IN THESE TOWNS A new temporary exhibition, partially based on the anthemic song recorded by Coventry trio The Enemy, but also exploring how football, music and Coventry all combine.

OUR TOWN A tribute to This Town through the eyes of a supporting artist, including memorabilia and costumes. The museum also features a tribute to The Specials' Terry Hall and Roddy 'Radiation' Byers.

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

COVENTRY RUGBY CLUB A new display celebrating 150 years of Coventry Rugby Club, until Tues 30 Sept

DIPPY IN COVENTRY: THE NATION'S FAVOURITE DINOSAUR A three-year loan from the Natural History Museum, until Sat 21 Feb

JASON AND THE ADVENTURE OF 254 An exhibition by artist Jason Wilsher-Mills, revisiting childhood memories of what was happening inside and outside his body, during the transformative experience of becoming disabled and his creative awakening, Fri 11 July - Sun 5 Oct

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

SEULGI LEE: SPAN Lee has developed a unique artistic practice, combining conceptual approaches with artisanal methods. For her exhibition at Ikon Gallery, she explores a historical measurement - the span of the human hand, until Sun 7 Sept

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

A DIFFERENT VIEW: WOMEN ARTISTS IN THE COLLECTION The first survey of women artists in the gallery's collection, bringing together the work of over 50 painters, sculptors and photographers, until Sun 14 Sept

Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham

JASHAAN GILL: A NEW FASHION COMMISSION INSPIRED BY THE SARI In the spirit of The Offbeat Sari's ode to fashion innovation, MAC has commissioned Jashaan Gill, the designer behind internationally recognised Birmingham brand Jheez, to create a new fashion piece inspired by the sari, until Sun 2 Nov

MADE AT MAC: CONNECTED BY THREAD A showcase of textile works by learners from MAC's creative courses, until Sun 25 Jan

New Art Gallery, Walsall

THE JOY PROJECT A collaborative exhibition by the gallery's Youth Panel, exploring the concept of 'joy', and including a revival of The People's Show, which showcases local people's personal collections, until Sun 6 July

HANNAH MAYBANK: UN-STILL Hannah, whose practice was heavily influenced by access to the Garman Ryan Collection, has created a brand-new painting featuring chrysanthemum flowers, as a gift for the Gallery's 25th birthday, until Sun 17 May 2026

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE SOCIETY OF ARTISTS Show featuring the talents of local artists. The work includes sculpture as well as paintings from different media, and many of the works are for sale, until Sat 5 July

WATERCOLOURS Collection of works curated by the museum, featuring landscapes, animals and local scenes, until Sat 26 July

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

RBSA SUMMER SHOW 2025 The Gallery's biggest open-call exhibition of the year, with the show being displayed over all three floors, Thurs 3 July - Sat 2 Aug

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

THE NATIONAL GALLERY: ART ON YOUR DOORSTEP Stoke-on-Trent City Council is the first partner in the National Gallery's new national touring project. Fifteen life-size, printed masterpieces are installed in an outdoor exhibition in Bethesda Gardens, until Wed 7 Jan 2026

Rugby Art Gallery

BLUEPRINTS Exhibition exploring the literal and metaphorical blueprints that have shaped the cultural landscape of the gallery, under Sat 6 Sept

FUTURE FACES A display of self-portraits by Rugby's young artists, until Sat 26 July

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

SMALL WONDERS A selection of small works by members of the Wolverhampton Society of Artists, on the theme of Senses, and limited to a size restriction of 10-15 cms, until Fri 4 July

BILLY DOSANJH: ENDZ OF THE WORLD - CODED FURNACES Body of work considering technical evolution by examining the similarities between the Industrial Revolution and current technological developments, in particular the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI), until Sun 21 Sept

COME AS YOU REALLY ARE A 'joyous celebration' of local hobbies, creativity and passion, conceived by award-winning artist Hetain Patel and showcasing objects crafted, modified or collected by hobbyists based in the Midlands and beyond, Sat 12 July - Sun 5 Oct

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

JILLY OXLADE-ARNOTT: A CELEBRATION OF WORCESTER Making a welcome return - having begun her professional artistic career in Worcester - Jilly unveils new work depicting the city's historic architecture, until Sun 2 Nov

Also:

GREENER GLASS Explore the beauty and innovation of environmentally sustainable glass art in this unique exhibition, emphasising eco-friendly practices and the artistic exploration of environmental themes, until Sun 27 July, Stourbridge Glass Museum

BORDERLAND VISUAL ARTS & OPEN STUDIO WEEKENDS 2025 Annual exhibition of Oswestry artist collective, until Sat 28 July, Willow Gallery, Oswestry

KASRA JALILPOUR: GUT FEELINGS 2.0 The first large-scale exhibition by the Iranian multidisciplinary artist and writer; an exploration of 'queer' lives and rebellions in 19th-century Iran, until Sat 16 Aug, Grand Union, Digbeth, Birmingham

SURREAL SOLIHULL: OUTDOOR EXHIBITION Honouring the legacy of Emmy Bridgwater - the great surrealist artist & poet who called Solihull her home - this vibrant outdoor exhibition brings together

newly commissioned works by 29 talented artists from across the West Midlands, until Sun 31 Aug, Shirley Park, Solihull

STRIKE A MATCH: ELLIOT WALKER & BETHANY WOOD A tribute to the pair's shared practice and an exploration of their distinctive artistic voices, showcasing a broad spectrum of glassmaking techniques, until Sat 8 Nov, Stourbridge Glass Museum

VE DAY STREET PARTY AT CHERRY TREE ROAD Immersive exhibition in which visitors travel back in time to 1945 where the residents of Cherry Tree Road are getting ready to celebrate together on VE Day, until Sun 16 Nov, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffs

INSIDE THE PLAYROOM Imaginative new exhibition inviting children and their families to become art collectors! The gallery will be transformed into a colourful playroom, where a selection of affordable, child-friendly illustrations, paintings, collages and soft sculptures will be available for purchase, until Sat 31 Jan 2026, Stryx Gallery, Digbeth, Birmingham

BEYOND BOUNDARIES Nine artists exhibit work across a variety of media and styles, Wed 2 - Sun 13 July, Footprint Gallery, Shropshire

MOTHER TONGUE OTHER TONGUE POETRY EXHIBITION A display of poetry from the multilingual poetry competition that celebrates the many languages currently spoken in schools across the UK, Wed 2 July - Tues 2 Sept, Coventry Cathedral

STITCH BY STITCH 2025 An exhibition for established and emerging textile artists working with stitch, fabric and mixed media, Sat 5 July - Sat 30 Aug, Willow Gallery, Oswestry, Shropshire

MUSES AND MORE: VIVIANNE BEAUMONT Exhibition by figurative textile artist Vivienne Beaumont celebrating the Nine Muses, the rare 18th-century Chelsea porcelain group in the venue's collection, Sat 19 July - Mon 25 Aug, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR This world-renowned exhibition, now in its 60th year, celebrates the wonder of the natural world through the very best in wildlife photography, Sat 26 July - Sun 31 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

ONCE UPON A TIME: ART & STORY ENTWINED Exhibition curated by local artist and storyteller Maria Credali featuring visual and textile art, alongside recordings of stories. Visitors can scan the QR code next to the pictures to listen, Sat 27 July - Sat 30 Aug, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

Tuesday 1 - Sunday 6 July



Jeff Lynne's ELO - Utilita Arena Birmingham

Gigs

DAWN LANDES Tues 1 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

KEITH JAMES - THE SONGS OF NICK DRAKE Tues 1 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE NEW OBSESSION + THE RASCALS + STEREOTYPICAL + THE ILLUSION + BLUE STRAWBERRIES + UNCLE SHAMUS TO THE EMPIRE Tues 1 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

SID SIMONS Wed 2 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham



BBC RADIO WM CELEBRATES METAL IN THE MIDLANDS Wed 2 July, Birmingham Town Hall

JOSH ROUSE Wed 2 July, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

YOU ME AND THE TREES + MOLOKA Thurs 3 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

TEMPEST Thurs 3 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE BLOCKHEADS Thurs 3 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

HANNAH MICHELL Thurs

3 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

SANTÙ Thurs 3 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

DETROITWICH FUNK MACHINE Thurs 3 July, Tower Of Song, B'ham

THE HEAVY NORTH Thurs 3 July, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

THE WEEPING WILLOWS & BANJO JEN Thurs 3 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

THE JAZZ TONICS FEATURING JOSIE SODEN Thurs 3 July, The Grand Hotel, B'ham

AMIGOS OPEN MIC Thurs 3 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

MIKE SANCHEZ Thurs 3 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THE UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE Thurs 3 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

DEREK EYNON Thurs 3 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

STEVIE & LUTHER TRIBUTE SHOW Thurs 3 July, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

SKIPINNISH Thurs 3 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE DESTROYERS + KAROLINA WEGRZYN Fri 4 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CHARLOTTE YOUNG Fri 4 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

CLANN AN DRUMMA Fri 4 July, Castle & Falcon,

Birmingham

FINI BEARMAN Fri 4 July, 1,000 Trades, B'ham

RED BY NIGHT + PARLOUR CREEPERS Fri 4 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

TRIVAX Fri 4 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

JOE SPINOZA AND FRIENDS Fri 4 July, The Grand Hotel, B'ham

MADDY COOMBS Fri 4 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, B'ham

CONSERVATOIRE FOLK ENSEMBLE Fri 4 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

MORGANISATION Fri 4 July, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

VEHICLE Fri 4 July, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

ROY ORBISON & THE TRAVELING WILBURYS EXPERIENCE Fri 4 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

HOME SERVICE Fri 4 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT - A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON Fri 4 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

MIKE SANCHEZ Fri 4 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

MARC CHECKLEY Fri 4 July, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

ULTIMATE RNB Fri 4 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE TOM JONES

SONGBOOK Fri 4 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

GREEN HAZE - GREEN DAY TRIBUTE Fri 4 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ROCKING HORSE Fri 4 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MORETALICA Fri 4 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

A TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS Fri 4 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE Fri 4 July, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

KING OF POP STARRING NAVI Fri 4 July, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

SKABUCKS Fri 4 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

MOTORHEADACHE Fri 4 July, The Robin, Bilston

CHRIS HELME Fri 4 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

WHITESNAKES JOURNEY Fri 4 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

PEASHOOTER Fri 4 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

DAVE BUSBY Fri 4 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

FREESHOW + THE RAGING MABELS Fri 4 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

RED LEMONS Fri 4 - Sat 5 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

MIKE DAVID'S BAND Sat 5 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

UNDER THE COVERS Sat 5 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

BLACK SABBATH, OZZY OSBOURNE, METALLICA AND MORE Sat 5 July, Villa Park, Birmingham

BILLY OCEAN Sat 5 July, bp pulse LIVE, B'ham

KILLERSTREAM Sat 5 July, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

THE FLANEURS + LOVE NOR MONEY + SUNSCRAPE + BLUNDER Sat 5 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DARKSIDE - THE PINK FLOYD SHOW Sat 5 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ROCK FOR HEROES Sat 5 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THE TAKE THAT EXPERIENCE Sat 5 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE FATHER TEDS Sat 5 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE TOTAL STONE ROSES Sat 5 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

MYSTERIOUS BLUES Sat 5 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE SMYTHS Sat 5 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

VICKY JACKSON AS PINK Sat 5 July, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

SYNTH Sat 5 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

NU-CASTLE Sat 5 July, The Robin, Bilston

KERRY WORTON + TIM PARKES Sat 5 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

ROB LAMBERTI:

PERFECTLY GEORGE Sat 5 July, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE SHANIA TWAIN STORY Sat 5 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

ULTIMATE LEPPARD Sat 5 July, The Station, Cannock

THE BLACK FEATHERS Sat 5 July, Hermon Arts, Oswestry, North Shropshire

WOLVES IN ALCATRAZ + ATHENA'S REVENGE + DARK ROOT FALLS Sat 5 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

JEFF LYNNE'S ELO Sat 5 - Sun 6 July, Utilita Arena Birmingham

TAXI FOR JESUS Sun 6 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO Sun 6 July, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

EVERY HELL + TERMINALS + A-TOTA-SO Sun 6 July, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

BLACK SHERIF Sun 6 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SKA TRAIN Sun 6 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE STONKING JOHNSON Sun 6 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

TAKE@THAT Sun 6 July, Rugby Theatre

RICH PARSONS Sun 6 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? - TINA TURNER TRIBUTE Sun 6 July, Crewe Lyceum Theatre



Skipinnish - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

HANNA CSERMEY PIANO RECITAL Tues 1 July, St Almund's Church, Shrewsbury

CBSO: SO VOCAL & FRIENDS Featuring Casey Bailey (poet) & Millicent B James (composer & singer), Thurs 3 July, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

PAUL CARR: ORGAN RECITAL Programme comprises Louis Vierne's Symphony No. 6, Thurs 3 July, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME RECITAL Featuring Isaac Boulter (voice) & David Hardie (piano), Fri 4 July, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

STEFAN DONNER ORGAN RECITAL Fri 4 July, St Mary's Church, Warwick

THE MALVERN SPA ASSOCIATION CONCERT Featuring Carol Green (director). Programme includes works by Mozart, Handel & Liz Dilot-Johnson, Fri 4 July, Malvern Theatres

CONCERTS IN THE ROUND Featuring Godfrey Leung (organ), Fri 4 July, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

CBSO: AN EVENING OF QAWWALI Featuring Chahat Mahmood Ali Qawwal (vocals), Sat 5 July, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: LA BELLE FRANCE Featuring Martyn Rawles (organ) & Paul Spicer (conductor). Programme includes works by Poulenc, Debussy & Fauré, Sat 5 July, Great Malvern Priory

PHOENIX SINGERS: SONGS FROM STAGE AND SCREEN Featuring James Llewelyn Jones (musical director), Sat 5 July, Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School

JUNIOR RBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: C'EST FANTASTIQUE! Featuring Tommaso Nista (conductor). Programme includes works by Leoncavallo, Dukas & Berlioz, Sat 5 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

DA CAPO: SCENES FROM CHILDHOOD Featuring John Adams (director). Programme features choral arrangements of childhood songs and rhymes, Sat 5 July, St Mary's Church, Warwick

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR: THIS LOVE BETWEEN US Featuring Jessica Johnson (soprano), Cathy Bell (alto), Gopal Kambo (tenor), Robert Pritchard (bass), Debipriya Sircar (sitar), Bhindarjit Neer (tabla), Jim Bate (conductor) & The Beauchamp Sinfonietta. Programme includes works by JS Bach & Reena Esmael, Sat 5 July, All Saints' Church, Leamington Spa

ORGAN RECITAL: STEFAN DONNER Programme includes works by Planyavsky, Kreuz, Howells & more..., Sat 5 July, Shrewsbury Abbey

ALEX TRIGG ORGAN RECITAL Sat 5 July,

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

THE CORY BAND Featuring Philip Harper (musical director), Sat 5 July, St Laurence Church, Ludlow

BREWOD SINGERS: MUSIC FOR SUMMER Featuring Can Teideal Folk Band, Sat 5 July, Jubilee Hall, Brewood

STONE CHORAL SOCIETY: SOUNDS OF THE SEA Featuring Hallam Choral Society. Programme includes works by Stanford, Whitacre & Gjeilo, Sat 5 July, Holy Trinity Church, Eccleshall

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY: MIDSUMMER FOLKSONGS Featuring David Wynne (conductor) & Kevin Gill (piano). Programme includes works by John Rutter, Sun 6 July, Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School

PAUL CARR ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Handel, Susato, Spicer & more..., Sun 6 July, Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley

Comedy

PATRICK DRAPER & NICK COPPIN Tues 1 July, Crown Inn, Telford

EMMANUEL SONUBI & COMICS TBC Wed 2 July, Herberts Yard, Birmingham



CARL DONNELLY & ADAM GREENE Wed 2 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, B'ham

JOHN ROBINS & COMICS TBC Wed 2 July, Lichfield Garrick

JIM NORTON & JIM FLORENTINE Thurs 3 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TONY LAW & COMICS TBC Thurs 3 July, Cherry Reds, Birmingham



EMMANUEL SONUBI & COMICS TBC Thurs 3 July, Hockley Social Club, Birmingham

EL BALDINIHO, ANDREW O'NEILL, MAXINE WADE & DAVE TWENTYMAN Thurs 3 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

PHIL ELLIS, CARL DONNELLY, RICKY BALSHAW, MICHAEL AKADIRI & DOM HATTON-WOODS Fri 4 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JONNY COLE Fri 4 July, Dudley Town Hall

JON WAGSTAFF, DAN EVANS, DOUG CARTER & COMIC TBC Fri 4 July, The Mount Pleasant Hotel, Great Malvern

DAVE CHAWNER & AL KITSON Fri 4 July, Ecgwins Club, Evesham

GORDON SOUTHERN, LIAM TUFFY, JACOB HAWLEY & ADAM BEARDSMORE Sat 5 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

PHIL ELLIS, CARL DONNELLY, RICKY BALSHAW & MICHAEL AKADIRI Sat 5 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

REGINALD D HUNTER & COMICS TBC Sat 5 July, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

RICHARD BLACKWOOD, WHITE YARDIE & SLIM Sun 6 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHRADDHA JAIN Sun 6 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

MARK SIMMONS Sun 6 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

PATRICK MONAHAN Sun 6 July, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

ALFIE MOORE Sun 6 July, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

SAMANTHA DAY Sun 6 July, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

IAN STONE Sun 6 July, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

MARKUS BIRDMAN Sun 6 July, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

Theatre

MARRIAGE MATERIAL Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti's adaptation of Sathnam Sanghera's critically acclaimed novel. Iqbal Khan directs, until Sat 5 July, The Rep, Birmingham

BAT OUT OF HELL Rock musical featuring the iconic music of Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf, until Sat 5 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

HAMLET Benedict Shaw takes the lead in Stafford Shakespeare's summer production, until Sat 5 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE CONSTANT WIFE Rose Leslie stars in a reimagining of Somerset Maugham's subversive comedy, until Sat 2 Aug, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

DEAD ON CUE Spooky thriller set in the same theatre dressing room, during the same play, at the same theatre, but 60 years apart, Tues 1 - Thurs 3 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ROCK OF AGES Obsidian Theatrical Productions present an amateur version of the hit jukebox musical, based on the film of the same name, Tues 1 - Sat 5 July, The Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

GHOST STORIES A 'truly terrifying' theatrical experience, created by Andy Nyman and The League Of Gentlemen's Jeremy Dyson, Tues 1 - Sat 5 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT Anne Reid

and Caroline Quentin star in a celebratory new play about the kind of power that only a queen can wield, Tues 1 - Sat 5 July, Malvern Theatres

STARFALL Grand Arena Youth Theatre present Charis McRoberts' star-blazing adventure, in which Sagittarius goes missing and the council of the Cosmos is in chaos, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

SHREK, THE MUSICAL JR Amateur version presented by Ormiston Forge Academy, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 July, Halesowen Town Hall

ROBIN & THE SHERWOOD HOODIES Musical comedy taking audiences into the heart of Sherwood Forest in a bid to discover the truth behind the legend of Robin Hood, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 July, Number 8, Pershore

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL JR Amateur version presented by Script Youth Musical Theatre Company, Wed 2 - Sat 5 July, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield

EVITA Our Star Theatre Company present an amateur version of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical, Wed 2 - Sat 5 July, Malvern Theatres

ONE FOR ALL Second Thoughts Drama Group present a celebration of one-act plays: Sarah Campbell's Moving On, Lynn Brittny's Dig For The Diggers, Georgina Monk's Set In Stone and Robert Scott's All By Myself, Wed 2 - Sat 5 July, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

SIX - TEEN EDITION Lichfield Musical Youth Theatre present an amateur show based on the award-winning musical Six, Wed 2 - Sat 5 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

LES MISERABLES Amateur version presented by Five Towns Theatre, Wed 2 - Sat 5 July, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE Award-winning coming-of-age musical presented by Curtain Call Productions, Wed 2 - Sat 5 July, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

SECOND SUMMER OF LOVE An uplifting, high-energy, physical-theatre story about coming of age and mid-life recovery, Thurs 3 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SCOUNDREL WITH A SWORD Jars Of Clay present a brand-new tale of action, intrigue and romance, Thurs 3 - Sat 5 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

SISTER ACT THE MUSICAL Ludwig Theatre Arts present an amateur version of the hit musical, Thurs 3 - Sat 5 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

ANNIE Amateur version of the much-loved rags-to-riches story, Thurs 3 - Sat 5 July, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE WIZARD OF OZ Amateur version of the much-loved musical, Thurs 3 - Sat 5 July, Benn Hall, Rugby

SISTER ACT Curtain Call Studios present an amateur version of the hit musical, Thurs 3 - Sun 6 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

GOOD GIRL Bawdy and bold comedy show, taking audiences on a whirlwind tour of female sexuality, gender dynamics, and sexual fantasies, Fri 4 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

LOVE HURTS Brand-new show from Steve Steinman featuring powerhouse vocals and a live band. Expect hits by Fleetwood Mac, Heart, Whitesnake, Billy Idol, Tina Turner and more..., Fri 4 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE GIN CHRONICLES: A SCOTTISH ADVENTURE Vintage, radio-style comedy adventure transporting audiences into a world of mischief, mayhem, live sound effects and 1940s derring-do, Fri 4 - Sun 6 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

HAY FEVER Amateur version of Noel Coward's comic play, Fri 4 - Sat 12 July, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

FALSE ACCOUNTS Lance Neilsen's darkly satirical take on Britain's biggest miscarriage of justice, Sat 5 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

GREYFRIARS BOBBY Don't Go Into The Cellar present a heartwarming one-man adaptation of a classic tale, based on the true story of a highland terrier and his unwavering loyalty to his master, Jock, Sat 5 July, The Henrican, Evesham

YOU'RE BARD! Interactive show where the audience decide everything - from the play to the performance style, Sat 5 July, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

5 MISTAKES THAT CHANGED HISTORY Paul Coulter's one-man historical comedy show about five people and how their mistakes (big and small) changed the world, Sat 5 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Amateur version presented by StageScreen Youth Musical Theatre Academy, Sat 5 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

BAD WOMEN DOING BAD THINGS Four short psychological thrillers, presented as part of the Bodacious Baddies series. Suitable for audience members aged 18-plus, Sat 5 July, The Black Box Theatre, Birmingham

THE CHELMSLEY TALE Storytelling adventure for all the family, bringing to life the fairytales and legends surrounding the origins of Chelmsley Wood, Sat 5 July, Chelmsley Wood Library, Solihull (11am); The Core Theatre, Solihull (2pm)

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY Amateur version of Ray Cooney's hit farce, Sat 5 - Sat 12 July, Oldbury Rep

BIG BIG SKY Tom Wells' heart-warming story about family relationships, friendship, love and loss, Sat 5 - Thurs 24 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Outdoor Theatre

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST The Crescent Theatre presents an amateur version of Oscar Wilde's farce, Tues 1 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Oddsocks present a high-energy, fast-paced version of Shakespeare's classic comedy, Sat 5 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST The Crescent Theatre presents an amateur version of Oscar Wilde's farce, Sat 5 - Sun 6 July, Harvington Hall, Nr Kidderminster

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Oddsocks present a high-energy, fast-paced version of Shakespeare's classic comedy, Sun 6 July, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

Kid's Theatre

SPOT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY Interactive show for younger audiences based on Eric Hill's classic children's book. Expect catchy songs, dancing, and lots of party games, Tues 1 - Wed 2 July, Lichfield Garrick

BING'S BIRTHDAY Brand-new stage show for younger audiences, promising fun, laughter and surprises, Tues 1 - Wed 2 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE SMEDS AND THE SMOOS Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's interplanetary tale of star-crossed aliens, Sat 5 - Sun 6 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

DISNEY'S MOANA JR. Amateur version of the Disney favourite, presented by Theatre On The Steps' Youth Theatre, Sat 5 - Sun 6 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

Dance

DIANNE & VITO: RED HOT & READY High-voltage dance extravaganza featuring Strictly stars Dianne Buswell & Vito Coppola, Fri 4 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CELTICA 2025 - 20TH ANNIVERSARY Evening of Irish music & dance 'celebrating two decades of passion, artistry and community', Fri 4 - Sat 5



The Constant Wife - Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

DYNAMIC YOUTH EXPERIENCE Flexus Dance Collective showcase a series of short works alongside a brand-new collaborative piece, Sat 5 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

SCIENCE MUSEUM: THE LIVE STAGE SHOW Explosive family show which promises to ignite curiosity, fuel imagination and inspire in new and creative ways, Sun 6 July, Malvern Theatres

Light Entertainment

EIGHT: THE ONE WOMAN DRAG KING MUSICAL PARODY Henry VIII has returned to the living and is attempting to clear his name in a 'bonkers' show featuring singing, dancing and 'maybe even some podcasting', Wed 2 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SCUMMY MUMMIES: HOT MESS Brand-new comedy show featuring songs, sketches, stand-up and sparkly catsuits, Thurs 3 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE GREATEST SHOW Arabesque School Of Dance present a showcase of musical theatre hits, Sat 5 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

FAULTY TOWERS: THE DINING EXPERIENCE Interactive comedy experience during which audiences can enjoy a three-course meal while being entertained by the Faulty team, Sat 5 July, The Civic, Stourport

SATIE 100 Stan's Cafe mark 100 years since the passing of composer Erik Satie with a performance of *Memoirs Of An Amnesiac*, a theatre show made by the company in 1992 and revived for this special performance (with the original cast), Sat 5 July, Our Facility, Birmingham

THE MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS Tribute to the West End and Broadway

featuring 2s Company - aka Paul Roberts & Becky Gosling, Sat 5 July, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

JOHN'S BOYS WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR As seen on Britain's Got Talent, Sat 5 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE Acclaimed touring production showcasing the essence of Ireland and featuring musicians, vocalists and world champion dancers, Sun 6 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

ADHD UNMASKED Join ADHD speaker, coach, former TV & radio presenter and late-diagnosed ADHDer Hester Grainger for 'an evening of conversation, laughter, and a refreshingly honest look at life', Sun 6 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Talks & Spoken Word

REVEREND RICHARD COLES: BORDERLINE NATIONAL TRINKET Gossip, wit, wisdom and anecdotes from the only British vicar to have had a number-one single, Wed 2 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE GRADE CRICKETER WITH JIMMY ANDERSON Join Pez, Higgos and cricketing legend Jimmy for a live podcast, 'as England and India go toe-to-toe in a battle of imperial power, ownership, and who can cry more' ..., Thurs 3 July, Birmingham Town Hall

NAYAB MIDHA: RAJKUMARI 'A relatable & whimsically poetic experience, Fri 4 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Events

UNDER THE SEA FAMILY TRAIL Navigate your way around the venue to find all eight animals and plants from under the sea, until Fri 4 July, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum



Railway 200 Celebrations - Severn Valley Railway

RAILWAY 200 CELEBRATIONS Featuring a packed programme of events and activities celebrating the railway's 200-year history, until Sun 6 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire

BRICK DINOS Featuring Lego dinosaur sculptures designed in collaboration with palaeontologists, until Sun 7 Sept, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

HIGH 5 HOLIDAYS Enjoy fun activities designed to keep the whole family

entertained, Tues 1 July - Sun 31 Aug, Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

STUDIO KAVACHI INDIAN FOLK ART WORKSHOP Learn how to draw a beautiful peacock in the Madhubani art style, Wed 2 - Wed 9 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THURSDAY TOURS AT BLAKESLEY HALL A guided tour of the fascinating Tudor building, Thurs 3 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

ASTONISHINGLY ASTON A guided tour of Aston Hall, Fri 4 July, Aston Hall,

Birmingham

THE HIGH DOSAGE TOUR OF STEWARD'S CHEMIST SHOP Step inside the shop and see items that are not usually on display, Fri 4 July, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL Try mini dishes from local traders' latest menus, Fri 4 - Sat 5 July, Victoria Square, Birmingham

LIBRARY TOURS Climb the spiral staircase to see one of the cathedral's best-loved treasures, Fri 4 - Sat 5 July, Lichfield Cathedral

CHILDREN'S BUILDING SOCIETY BY WOODLAND TRIBE Use hammers, saws, drills and wood to construct a life-size castle, boat or aeroplane, Fri 4 - Sun 6 July, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

CAMPER JAM A weekend dedicated to the VW community, celebrating everything from T1s to T6s, Fri 4 - Sun 6 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

WYTHALL BUSFEST Discover over 100 restored, vintage and modern buses from up and down the country, Sat 5 July, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

MOTOR MORNINGS An opportunity for car and motorcycle enthusiasts to show off their vehicles, Sat 5 July, Coventry Transport Museum

HANBURY COUNTRYSIDE SHOW Featuring more than 700 exhibitors, 200 trade stands and 300 competitions, Sat 5 July, Park Hall Farm, Hanbury, Worcestershire

MIDPEX 2025 Biennial exhibition attended by stamp collectors and postal historians, Sat 5 July, Warwickshire Event Centre, Leamington Spa

HALESOWEN CARNIVAL & MUSIC FESTIVAL Sat 5 July, Highfield Park, Halesowen

NETHERTON PARK FUNDAY & MUSIC FESTIVAL Sat 5 July, Netherton Park

BOSTIN BLACK COUNTRY BASH Free event showcasing local talent, Black Country culture and local businesses, Sat 5 July, Walsall Arboretum

WELLINGTON ITALIAN SCOOTER FESTIVAL Featuring plenty of scooter memorabilia and the market square filled with bikes, Sat 5 July, Market Square, Wellington

WILD WEST WEEKEND Meet the cowboys and cowgirls for an action-packed weekend, Sat 5 - Sun 6 July, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

RAILWAY 200: TRAINS THROUGH THE AGES As well as a busy timetable of trains and lots to see and do along the line, there's also the opportunity to visit the Railway 200 Exhibition Train, Sat 5 - Sun 6 July, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

OSWESTRY FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL Bringing together independent producers, street-food vendors, local distillers and brewers, Sat 5 - Sun 6

July, Oswestry, North Shropshire

TRUCKFEST Offering unrivalled access to the truck and road haulage industry, from owner drivers/operators through to the largest fleets in the UK, Sat 5 - Sun 6 July, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

JURASSIC JULY Keep 'em peeled for a cunning raptor or a towering T-rex roaming the Discovery Trail, Sat 5 - Sun 6 July, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

STEAMPUNK WEEKEND Blists Hill's streets are transformed into The Town That Never Was, combining sci-fi and Victoriana, Sat 5 - Sun 6 July, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

FAMILY TRAIL - WHAT DID THEY WATCH IN THE 90S? Find out about popular TV & film in the 1990s, Sat 5 July - Sun 7 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

MGF 30TH ANNIVERSARY Check out a whole host of MGF and MG TF vehicles, Sun 6 July, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

LADIES OF LEISURE - PLEASURES AND PASTIMES IN JANE AUSTEN'S ERA

Historian Lucy Adlington showcases original fashions for sport and dancing. Hilarious readings from Jane Austen's novels also feature, Sun 6 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

EDITION DOG LIVE 2025 Featuring live performances, a tail-wagging dog picnic, a fun-filled dog show, and a chance to meet the breeds, Sun 6 July, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

STOURBRIDGE CARNIVAL 2025 Sun 6 July, High Street, Stourbridge

Festivals

WARWICK SESSIONS Line-up includes Elbow, The Stranglers, Train, Wed 2 - Sun 6 July, St Nicholas' Park, Warwick

ALDERFEST Line-up includes Ella Henderson, Pixie Lott (pictured), Vengaboys, Fri 4 - Sat 5 July, Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, North Shropshire



NAPTON MUSIC FESTIVAL Line-up includes Coldplace, Marblehead, Swift & Styles, Fri 4 - Sat 5 July, Napton Village Hall Grounds, Napton On The Hill, Warwickshire

CAMPERJAM Line-up includes Levi Roots, Jaguar Skills, Sandi Thom, Fri 4 - Sun 6 July, Weston Park, Shropshire/Staffordshire border

What's On

MEDIA GROUP



STAY IN THE LOOP!

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



SIMPLY SCAN THE QR TO SIGN UP TODAY

Monday 7 - Sunday 13 July



The March Violets - O2 Institute, Birmingham

Gigs

STEVIE WONDER Mon 7 July, Utilita Arena Birmingham

THE DEBORAH BONHAM BAND Mon 7 July, The Market Theatre, Ledbury

BANDANGLE Mon 7 July, Bill's Kitchen, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

SMOKEY ROBINSON Tues 8 July, Utilita Arena Birmingham

GYPSY STRINGS REVIVAL Tues 8 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

ELLIOT JAMES REAY Tues 8 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JULIE DEXTER & BAND Wed 9 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

ANOTHER AUDIENCE WITHOUT JAKE THACKRAY Wed 9 July, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

THE SWAPS + STEVE WALWYN + JONATHAN READ Wed 9 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

BIG SPECIAL + MEATDRIPPER Wed 9 July, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

THE FAZELEYS + SWEATY WEDNESDAY + NECKLACE + ALFRESCO LOVE SOUNDS Thurs 10 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AYODI Thurs 10 July, The Jam House, B'ham

GUITAR WOLF + BLACK MEKON Thurs 10 July, The Night Owl, B'ham

ERIN LILLY Thurs 10 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

JAMES MADDOCK Thurs 10 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

THE JOHN RICHARDS BAND Thurs 10 July, Bromsgrove Folk Club

BATTLE OF THE BARDS - ROUND ONE Thurs 10 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

AMIGOS OPEN MIC Thurs 10 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

SMOKIN' ADE WAKELIN BAND + THE BARFLYS Fri 11 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SEAN REEVES Fri 11 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

HEADSHRINKERS + RETAIL STORE Fri 11 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham

TOMORROW'S WARRIORS JUNIOR BAND X MFY TAKEOVER Fri 11 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, B'ham

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER FEATURING CARLA THOMAS Fri 11 July, Birmingham Town Hall

GURDAS MAAN Fri 11 July, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

DJABBIC 3 Fri 11 July, Tower Of Song, B'ham

THE REMI HARRIS BLUES ROCK ROADSHOW Fri 11 July, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

THE MARCH VIOLETS Fri 11 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

Birmingham

GLAM45 Fri 11 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

BATSCH + PROJECT OVERLOAD + GLITCHED LIQUID Fri 11 July, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

SPUNK VOLCANO AND THE ERUPTIONS + ZERO TOLERANCE + STRIP SEARCH TRAMP + DRONGOS FOR EUROPE + COVID 21 Fri 11 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE SHERBERTS Fri 11 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE BRUM BEATLES Fri 11 July, The Market Theatre, Ledbury

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE - OASIS TRIBUTE Fri 11 July, Regal, Tenbury Wells

SIX LITTLE FINGERS Fri 11 July, Marrs Bar, Worcester

ELO EXPERIENCE Fri 11 July, Malvern Theatres

THE BOWIE BAND Fri 11 July, Malvern Cube

THE PHONICS Fri 11 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

AC/DSHE Fri 11 July, The Robin, Bilston

EDDY MORTON Fri 11 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

THE GRUNGE EXPERIENCE Fri 11 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE SUMMER SHOWCASES - PART 1 Fri 11 July, Fenton Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

U2UK Fri 11 July, The Station, Cannock

DIRTY MONKEYS Fri 11 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

GIGSPANNER BIG BAND Fri 11 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MOTLEY CRUDE Fri 11 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MR G AND THE FAITH HEALERS Fri 11 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

HIGH ON ADAMS Fri 11 July, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

DR SAVAGE + AIR HEART Fri 11 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

GENEVIEVE JAZZ Fri 11 - Sat 12 July, The Grand Hotel, Birmingham

JAMES OLIVER BAND Sat 12 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LEVI WASHINGTON Sat 12 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

MIDNIGHT CITY Sat 12 July, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

MICHAEL MORROW & THE CULPRITS Sat 12 July, Joe Joe Jims, B'ham

THE PRINCE EXPERIENCE ... ENDORPHINMACHINE Sat 12 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KILLERSTREAM Sat 12 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

SENSES + SUNS OF REST + MAMA FEAT.

ANTONELLA + SAM LAMBETH Sat 12 July, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

HUNG LIKE HANRATTY + THE BACKSTREET ABORTIONS + LOGOZ + VOMIT + AMASS + LIDSKÉ ZDROJE Sat 12 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE STRAIGHTHEADS Sat 12 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

PINK TRIBUTE CONCERT Sat 12 July, The Benn Hall, Rugby

DIRE STREETS Sat 12 July, Regal, Tenbury Wells

CIARS Sat 12 July, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THIS FLIGHT TONIGHT -

THE SONGS OF JONI MITCHELL Sat 12 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

TAYLORMANIA Sat 12 July, Malvern Theatres

FASTLOVE - A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MICHAEL Sat 12 July, Malvern Theatres

LINKWELLS Sat 12 July, West Malvern Social Club

LAURA ASTON WITH HER LA BAND Sat 12 July, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

THE CROUPIERS Sat 12 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

LIMEHOUSE LIZZY Sat 12 July, The Robin, Bilston

WIZARDS OF OZ + PRIEST UNLEASHED + MOTORKILL + BILLION DOLLAR ALICE Sat 12 July, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

PAUL DOWNES & PHIL BEER Sat 12 July, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

GLAM 45 + SWEET 45 Sat 12 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

PINK LIVE: STARRING VICKY JACKSON Sat 12 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE SOUTH Sat 12 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

HAMMERED Sat 12 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

THE REGGAEATORS Sat 12 July, Ludlow

Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

DESIRE LINES + THE REVENANTS + WORRIED Sat 12 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

GUSTAF Sun 13 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CHEEKFACE & MARTHA Sun 13 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ROOD END + THE TEALS + VERLOREN + THE WAITING ROOM Sun 13 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE MAZ MITRENKO BAND Sun 13 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

TWO YEAR BREAK + CRUSHED BY WAVES + ROYALS Sun 13 July, The Flapper, B'ham

HIGHWAY 61 Sun 13 July, The Brasshouse, Birmingham

POP VOICES PRESENTS BIG HEART BIG SOUND! Sun 13 July, Birmingham Town Hall

REGGAE FEST BIRMINGHAM Sun 13 July, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

THE FIRM Sun 13 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

WOMEN IN ROCK Sun 13 July, Malvern Theatres

ALBERT LEE Sun 13 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

CHAPPELL ROAN UK Sun 13 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury



Elliot James Reay - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

ARMONICO CONSORT: RACHMANINOV VESPER BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Christopher Monks (director), Tues 8 July, Malvern Theatres

LOLA FLEXEN PIANO RECITAL

Programme includes works by Koechlin, Prokofiev & Dutilleul, Tues 8 July, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

SUMMER CHANCEL CONCERTS

Featuring Theoc Baroque (early music consort), Wed 9 July, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL: TALLAND QUARTET

Featuring Orla McGarrity & Dylan Edge (violins), Rebecca Stubbs (viola) & Nathan Jackson-Turner (cello), Thurs 10 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

YOUNG ORGANISTS' PLATFORM

CONCERT Fri 11 July, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

HARRY SULLIVAN ORGAN RECITAL Fri 11 July, St Mary's Church, Warwick

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL: EWAN MILLAR

(OBOE) Programme includes works by Musgrave, Finzi, Poulenc & more..., Fri 11 July, St Michael's Church, Lichfield

SING TOGETHER: WARWICK YOUTH

CHOIR Featuring Kim Begley (narrator). Programme includes works by David Gaukroger & Zimmer, Fri 11 July, Coventry Cathedral

CONCERTS IN THE ROUND

Featuring Imogen Garner (mezzo soprano) & John Gough (piano), Fri 11 July, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM SINFONIA:

SUMMER CONCERT Featuring Sabrina Ko (conductor), Roman Kosyakov (soloist) & James Hamilton (leader). Programme includes works by Glinka, Rachmaninov & Sibelius, Sat 12 July, St Hilda's Church, Bearwood, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA: CARNIVAL OF ANIMALS A family friendly adventure through the animal kingdom, featuring works by Rossini, Stravinsky & more..., Sat 12 July, St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL: THE PADDINGTON

TRIO Featuring Tuulia Hero (violin), Patrick Moriarty (cello) & Stephanie Tang (piano). Programme includes works by Ravel, Sat 12 July, St Michael's Church, Lichfield

LEAMINGTON SINFONIA: MAGIC AND

MYSTERY Featuring Joe Davies (conductor) & Edward Boothroyd (leader). Programme includes works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Bizet & Dukas, Sat 12 July, All Saints Church, Leamington Spa

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHORUS: A CELEBRATION OF ELIZABETHAN MUSIC

Programme includes works by Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons & Tomkins, Sat 12 July, St John's Church, Kenilworth

VOX POPULI: EVERYTHING MUST

CHANGE Featuring Harvey Brough (director & arranger), Emily Dankworth & Kate Brook (soloists). Programme includes songs of Revolution and Redemption by Nina Simone, Johnny Cash, and Randy Newman, Sat 12 July, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA Featuring Edward Caine (conductor) & Phil Ypres-Smith (accompanist), Sat 12 July, St Benedict Biscop Church, Wornbourn

HALESOWEN ORCHESTRA: SUMMER

CLASSICS Programme includes works by Beethoven, Gouvy, Hummel & more..., Sat 12 July, Carters Lane Baptist Church, Halesowen

STAFFORD CHORAL SOCIETY: SUMMER

SONGS & SONNETS Sat 12 July, White Eagle Club, Stafford

MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

Programme includes a repertoire of traditional and popular music, Sat 12 July, St Chad's Church, Pattingham

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA Featuring Dan Watson (conductor), Phil Houghton (leader) & Ben Creighton Griffiths (jazz soloist). Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky, Berlioz & Creighton Griffiths, Sun 13 July, Greig Hall, Alcester

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL: TENEBRAE - PATH

OF MIRACLES Sun 13 July, Lichfield Cathedral

Comedy

ADELE CLIFF, ED ACZEL, ERIC RUSTON & ANDREW BIRD Mon 7 July, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

TONY LAW & LIAM TULLEY Wed 9 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

IAN STONE & SAMANTHA DAY Wed 9 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, B'ham

MICK MILLER & NINA GILLIGAN Wed 9 July, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

MATT CHORLEY Thurs 10 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NATE KITCH Thurs 10 July, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

DAN NIGHTINGALE Thurs 10 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

IGNACIO LOPEZ Thurs 10 July, Henry Tudor Inn, Shrewsbury



MRS SMITH Thurs 10 July, St Mary's

Church, Shrewsbury

LOU CONRAN Fri 11 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

JONNY COLE Fri 11 July, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

FRANKIE MUNROE Fri 11 July, Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

TERRY CHRISTIAN Fri 11 July, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

STELLA GRAHAM Fri 11 July, Old Post Office, Shrewsbury



JOE ZALIAS, DIANE SPENCER, MAD RON & JAMES COOK Fri 11 July, Bedworth Civic Hall

CAREY MARX, SIMON WOZNIAC, BLANK PENG & PETER FLANAGAN Fri 11 - Sat 12 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DUTCH BARN SPIRIT OF COMEDY Sat 12 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

KATE DOLAN & PHIL ELLIS Sat 12 July, Old Joint Stock, Birmingham

ADAM ROWE Sat 12 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

PAUL SINHA & MICHAEL SHAFAR Sat 12 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

JIMMY CARR Sat 12 July, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

A POLITICAL BRUNCH #1 Sat 12 July, Red Brick, Shrewsbury

DAVE CHAWNER Sat 12 July, Red Brick, Shrewsbury

TONY LAW Sat 12 July, Henry Tudor Inn, Shrewsbury

TROY HAWKE Sat 12 July, Henry Tudor Inn, Shrewsbury

JOSH JONES Sat 12 July, Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

SCOTT BENNETT Sun 13 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

A POLITICAL BRUNCH #2 Sun 13 July, Red Brick, Shrewsbury

SALLY-ANNE HAYWARD Sun 13 July, Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

TEZ ILYAS Sun 13 July, Henry Tudor Inn, Shrewsbury

TROY HAWKE, CALLY BEATON, TEZ ILYAS, LINDSEY SANTORO, ABANDOMAN & SCOTT BENNETT Sun 13 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Theatre

PETER PAN Musical version of JM Barrie's family adventure, Tues 8 - Wed 9 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

THE SOUND OF MUSIC QMTS present an amateur version of Rodgers & Hammerstein's family musical, Tues 8

- Sat 12 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MUCH ADO ABOUT FALSTAFF A new comedy by Simon Downing which sees Giles Shenton star as Shakespeare's comic creation, Wed 9 - Thurs 10 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

UNFILTERED: PENTABUS YOUNG WRITERS FESTIVAL A showcase of new stage plays, written by rising stars from the West Midlands and performed by professional actors, Wed 9 - Thurs 10 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

HIGH FIDELITY Theatre 1 present an amateur stage adaptation of Nick Hornby's iconic novel, Wed 9 - Sat 12 July, Crown Wharf Theatre, Stone

MY CHILD, OH MY CHILD Amateur version of Danny Masewicz's powerful story of reconciliation, forgiveness and love, Wed 9 - Sat 12 July, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

HOME & HORIZONS FESTIVAL Annual celebration of Birmingham's young talent, featuring more than 400 performers across 15 shows, Wed 9 - Sun 20 July, The Rep, Birmingham

THE ADDAMS FAMILY Much-loved kooky musical starring Alexandra Burke as Morticia, Lesley Joseph as Grandma, Clive Rowe as Uncle Fester and Ricardo Afonso as Gomez, Thurs 10 - Sat 12 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE ADDAMS FAMILY Amateur version presented by Palace Youth Theatre, Thurs 10 - Sat 12 July, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF MUSICAL Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur version of the West End musical, which in turn is based on 'everyone's favourite baking show', Thurs 10 - Sat 12 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

WAR HORSE The National Theatre's award-winning production of Michael Morpurgo's much-loved novel, set during the Great War, Thurs 10 - Sat 19 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

4:48 PSYCHOSIS Sarah Kane's final masterpiece plunges audiences into the mind of an unnamed protagonist grappling with severe depression, Thurs 10 - Sun 27 July, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

REMYTHED From Sheherazade to Anansi, by way of Lady Godiva, Remythed takes myths and legends from the backgrounds of its performers and reshapes, reforms, and retells them, Fri 11 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SHOWSTOPPER! THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL Brand-new musical comedy created from scratch at each performance, as audience suggestions are transformed on the spot into all-singing, all dancing productions, Fri 11 July, Lichfield

Garrick

UNRAVELLING MY PARTS A one-off preview of an unusual collection of miniature poetry dramas from the award-winning Roderick Dungate, Fri 11 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE TRAIL TO OREGON! Interactive musical which follows a family of five and the challenges they face as they embark on a dangerous journey, Fri 11 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

MY THOUSAND YEAR OLD LAND (A SONG FOR BIH) Documentary-style theatre piece based on survivor testimonies from the genocides and war crimes that took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s..., Fri 11 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

HORNBAG Leah Fennell's musical-comedy, in which she reveals the mortifying details of her (lack of a) love life, Fri 11 - Sat 12 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS A reimagining of HG Wells' dystopian classic which asks the very pertinent question: What happens when the line between truth and fiction isn't just blurred but weaponised?, Fri 11 - Sat 12 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

FOOTLOOSE Birmingham Youth Theatre present an amateur version of the hit musical, which in turn is based on the film of the same name, Fri 11 - Sun 13 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST The Crescent Theatre presents an amateur version of Oscar Wilde's farce, Sat 12 July, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THE WIZARD OF OZ: YOUTH EDITION Join Dorothy and Toto as they embark on a journey to the Land of Oz. Amateur version presented by The Roses Young Creatives, Sat 12 July, The Roses Theatre, Kidderminster

THE WIZARD OF OZ: YOUTH EDITION Join Dorothy and Toto as they embark on a journey to the Land of Oz. Amateur version presented by Breakout Performing Arts, Sat 12 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE ACTOR WITH A THOUSAND FACES Pretender Productions present Thomas Baxter's story about the journey of a new actor from drama school to first auditions, castings and agents... Sat 12 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE NIGHT WATCH The Crescent Theatre Company present an amateur version of Sarah Waters' story of illicit love and everyday heroism, Sat 12 - Sat 19 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

TO BE A(I) HUMAN KRYPT Senior Company present a thought-provoking exploration of humanity's

evolving relationship with artificial intelligence, Sat 12 - Sun 13 July, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

THE WINTER'S TALE Yaël Farber makes her RSC directing debut, helming Shakespeare's story of love, loss and rebirth, Sat 12 July - Sat 30 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST The Crescent Theatre presents an amateur version of Oscar Wilde's farce, Sun 13 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham

AROUND THE WORLD (OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN) IN 80 MINUTES Featuring Charles Court Opera, Sun 13 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

ONCE UPON A FAIRY TALE: A JOURNEY THROUGH LIGHT AND DARK Songs, dances and drama, inspired by the light and dark of beloved fairytales, Sun 13 July, The Regal, Tenbury Wells

Outdoor Theatre

TWELFTH NIGHT Shakespeare's romantic comedy, presented by all-male troupe The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Tues 8 July, Lichfield Cathedral



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST The Crescent Theatre presents an amateur version of Oscar Wilde's farce, Wed 9 - Thurs 10 July, Selly Manor, Birmingham

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Oddsocks present a high-energy, fast-paced version of Shakespeare's classic comedy, Thurs 10 July, Bowring Park, Wellington, Telford

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Worcester Rep present a new version of Jane Austen's Regency romance, Thurs 10 - Sun 20 July, The Commandery, Worcester

TWELFTH NIGHT Shakespeare's romantic comedy, presented by all-male troupe The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Fri 11 July, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Oddsocks present a high-energy, fast-paced version of Shakespeare's classic comedy, Fri 11 July, Compton Verney, Warwickshire



Remythed - The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Kid's Theatre

OF THE JACKEL: SPLAT! Physical comedy about art and creativity. Suitable for audience members aged three to seven, Sat 12 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Dance

DIANNE & VITO: RED HOT & READY High-voltage dance extravaganza featuring Strictly stars Dianne Buswell & Vito Coppola, Thurs 10 July, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

SUNRISE TO SUNSET Shropshire Inclusive Dance present a 'celebration of how we move through the day and how the day moves us', Thurs 10 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LINDEN DANCE: CAGED Outdoor theatre piece where emotive themes are reflected in an 'athletic, daring physicality and a punchy soundtrack', Sun 13 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Light Entertainment

G4: PHANTOMS OF THE POPERA Celebration of musical theatre, Tues 8 July, Dudley Town Hall

BOX OF FROGS An evening of 'high-octane, improvised comedy nonsense', based entirely on audience suggestions, Wed 9 July, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Qtr, Birmingham

DAD'S ARMY RADIO SHOW Perry and Croft's classic BBC comedy is brought to life by two actors with two microphones and a whole lot of

sound effects, Wed 9 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

FORBIDDEN NIGHTS Unleash your inhibitions in an all-male show celebrating nine years of muscles, mayhem and over 11,000 shirt rips! Thurs 10 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE MUSIC OF COLDPLAY BY CANDLELIGHT Thurs 10 July, Worcester Cathedral

CÉLINE DION BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring the UK's leading Céline tribute, January Butler and her spectacular live band. Expect to hear all the anthems, performed live by candlelight, Thurs 10 July, St Mary's Church, Warwick

BOX OF FROGS An evening of 'high-octane, improvised comedy nonsense', based entirely on audience suggestions, Fri 11 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

SHOW STOPPERS 2025 Summer showcase presented by Starcross Theatre Company, Fri 11 - Sat 12 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DES COLEMAN & THE ALL STAR BIG BAND Join the West End star for an evening of music, laughter and stories, Sat 12 July, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET The 'creme de la creme of the cabaret world' take to the stage to surprise and delight, Sat 12 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS Celebration of the greatest hits from the West End and Broadway, Sat 12 July, Dudley Town Hall

UNPICKING THE HEM - STORY BAZAAR FEAT. PETER CHAND & DAVID HUGHES Sun 13 July, Wolverhampton Arts Centre



The Festival of Brilliant - Biddulph Old Hall, Staffordshire

Talks & Spoken Word

APPLES AND SNAKES X FIRE&DUST

Special edition of Coventry's longest-running spoken-word event. Open mic and a headline set from John Bernard feature, Fri 11 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Events

EXPLORE THE MCC: TEXTILES THROUGH TIME The opportunity to see, study, handle, photograph and sketch a select group of textiles from the museum collection, Wed 9 July, Museum Collection Centre, Nechells, Birmingham

THURSDAY TOURS AT BLAKESLEY HALL Guided tour of the fascinating Tudor

building, Thurs 10 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM COCKTAIL WEEKEND Enjoy £6 signature cocktails across all participating venues, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 July, venues across Birmingham

ASTONISHINGLY ASTON A guided tour of Aston Hall, Fri 11 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

BEHIND THE SCENES MUSIC HALL TOUR Discover centuries of history on a behind-the-scenes tour, Fri 11 July, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

THE FESTIVAL OF BRILLIANT Celebration of children's books, featuring readings, talks, workshops, storytelling sessions and creative activities, Fri 11 - Sat 12 July, Biddulph Old Hall, Staffordshire

STRENGTH IN DEPTH UK CHAMPS 2025 A weekend of competitive fitness, Fri 11 - Sun 13 July, NEC, Birmingham

1940S EVENING An evening of nostalgic entertainment, Sat 12 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

BLACK COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL A live-music event featuring performances by artists from across the West Midlands, Sat 12 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

BIRMINGHAM CRAFT BREW FESTIVAL Featuring bottomless craft beer, cider, wine, non-alcoholic beer, soft drinks and prosecco, Sat 12 July, The Custard Factory, Birmingham

MURDER MYSTERY DINING TRAIN EXPERIENCE Dine on fine food and drink as you attempt to solve the mystery, Sat 12 July, Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire

CLASSIC & VINTAGE TRANSPORT FESTIVAL Featuring classic cars and iconic transport vehicles, Sat 12 July, British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

ULTRA WHITE COLLAR BOXING Enjoy an evening of boxing bouts, raising money for charity in the process, Sat 12 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

1940S DAY Wander through period-accurate shops, homes, and industrial workplaces, Sat 12 - Sun 13 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

JURASSIC JULY Keep 'em peeled for a cunning raptor or a towering T-rex roaming the Discovery Trail, Sat 12 - Sun 13 July, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CIDER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL Featuring tribute artists across two days of music, Sat 12 - Sun 13 July, Stratford-upon-Avon Rugby Club

COMIC CON MIDLANDS Featuring names from movies, TV, streaming, gaming, anime, and sports entertainment, Sat 12 - Sun 13 July, NEC, Birmingham

SUMMER OF PLAY Set sail on the haybale ship HMS Shugborough and the toddler-sized haybale tugboat. Explore the play hub, complete with sandpits, maze and outdoor games, Sat 12 July - Sun 7 Sep, Shugborough Estate, nr Stafford

BMC & LEYLAND SHOW SUPPORTED BY PETER JAMES INSURANCE Featuring hundreds of display vehicles from BMC, British Leyland and Rover Group, Sun 13 July, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS TOUR Chance to experience life at Weston Park, both as it used to be and as it is today, Sun 13 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

SPONSORED BREAKS COLOUR RUN A 3km colour run in support of Sponsored Breaks, a non-profit organisation providing respite breaks to Armed Forces and blue light families, Sun 13 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

THE REUNION SHOW 2025 Featuring around 2,000 modified show cars, Sun 13 July, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford



Festivals

MOSTLY JAZZ FUNK AND SOUL FESTIVAL Line-up includes Ezra Collective, War, Goldie, Fri 11 - Sun 13 July, Moseley Park, Birmingham

FUSE FESTIVAL Line-up includes Girlband, Blue Nation, The Ogretones, Fri 11 - Sun 13 July, Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffordshire

ALSO FESTIVAL Line-up includes Molotov Jukebox (pictured), Miya The Sun, Smag Pa Dig Selv, Fri 11 - Sun 13 July, Park Farm, Warwickshire



LET'S ROCK SHREWSBURY Line-up includes Holly Johnson, Tony Hadley, Matt Goss, Sat 12 July, The Quarry, Shrewsbury

THE CHRISTIANS



FEATURING THE HITS:
HARVEST FOR THE WORLD ★ IDEAL WORLD
FORGOTTEN TOWN ★ + MANY MORE

FRI 1 AUG
THE BUTTERMARKE
SHREWSBURY

Monday 14 - Sunday 20 July



Lynyrd Skynyrd - Utilita Arena Birmingham

Gigs

YOUTH FOUNTAIN Tues 15 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

THE GEORGIA THUNDERBOLTS Tues 15 July, The Robin, Bilston

KATIE MALCO Wed 16 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLUE ROSE CODE Wed 16 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

LYNYRD SKYNYRD Wed 16 July, Utilita Arena Birmingham

LINKAI + SECRET LOVE ORCHESTRA + SAM SWANCOTT + ORKAH Thurs 17 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NIK WEST Thurs 17 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

AMIE K Thurs 17 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

ALEX THOMPSON AND GEORGIA BRAY Thurs 17 July, The Grand Hotel, Birmingham

THE DOOBIE BROTHERS Thurs 17 July, Utilita Arena Birmingham

AMIGOS OPEN MIC Thurs 17 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE REMI HARRIS BLUES ROCK ROADSHOW FT. DAVE SMALL Thurs 17 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

ALBERT LEE Thurs 17 July, Huntingdon Hall,

Worcester

SAMI Q AND THE 48 CRASHERS Thurs 17 July, The Robin, Bilston

QUINT STARKIE Thurs 17 July, Hermon Arts, Oswestry, North Shropshire

THE NATURE CENTRE + LOBBY Fri 18 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HAPPY MONDAZE Fri 18 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THIS FALLEN CITY + HONEYTALKS + CALL OF THE VOID + MADE YOU LOOK/MADE YOU STARE + ON CRASH SUNDAY + PARALLEL STATES Fri 18 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CHRIS CHARNLEY Fri 18 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

OUR WORLDS COLLIDE + YAKOV MCINTOSH + LAOKU + GILL + NOT NOW BERNARD Fri 18 July, The Dark Horse, Moseley

POLAR Fri 18 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

A CELEBRATION OF U2 Fri 18 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

ALEX THOMPSON AND FRIENDS Fri 18 July, The Grand Hotel, Birmingham

SPEAK! Fri 18 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE MAJOR TOMS Fri 18 July, Tower Of Song,

Birmingham

CHILDREN OF THE GRAVY Fri 18 July, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

LOGICALTRAMP Fri 18 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE ROCKET MAN - ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE Fri 18 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THE DETOUR Fri 18 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE SESSION + TRUST CLUB + HOMEBREAD + STEREOTYPICAL Fri 18 July, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

THE DARKNISS Fri 18 July, Arches Venue, Coventry

BRUCE JUICE Fri 18 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

PUSHRODS UK Fri 18 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

GBH + THE SAMPLES + BRASSICK Fri 18 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

ESSENTIAL 80S Fri 18 July, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

MOSH TALGIA Fri 18 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

ION MAIDEN Fri 18 July, The Robin, Bilston

SPACEHOPPERS Fri 18 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

NIC CAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE Fri 18 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Fri

18 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE GUITAR EXPERIENCE Fri 18 July, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

DES COLEMAN & THE ALL STAR BIG BAND Fri 18 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

ZZTOPPD Fri 18 July, The Station, Cannock

SEX BOMB - THE MUSIC OF TOM JONES Fri 18 July, Lichfield Garrick

KD AND THE DOGS Fri 18 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

AIRTIGHT 80S Fri 18 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE BEAUTIFUL WAYS Fri 18 July, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

NAKED SUNDAY + LUNDGREN + BAD MONKEY + THE ELECTRIC WARRIORS Fri 18 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

THE COLLECTIVE Fri 18 - Sat 19 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

VO & LOZ Sat 19 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JOHN MCKAY'S REACTOR + RACHEL MAYFIELD GROUP Sat 19 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HOME COMING + THE LOUSEKATEERS + ON THE CINDER + BEACH FRONT + CHASING THE FALL + HOMETRUTHS Sat 19 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

TOM SEALS Sat 19 July, The Grand Hotel, Birmingham

MIDDAY MANTRA Sat 19 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

80S MANIA Sat 19 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

BRITPOP UNITED Sat 19 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

A BAND CALLED MALICE Sat 19 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

DARK GRIN Sat 19 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

INNER EMPIRE Sat 19 July, Queens Hall,

Nuneaton

ION MAIDEN Sat 19 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

KATHRYN TICKELL AND THE DARKENING Sat 19 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

NOUGHTY NINETIES Sat 19 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

MASTERS OF THE SCENE - ABBA THE SHOW Sat 19 July, The Robin, Bilston

THE FREDDIE & QUEEN EXPERIENCE Sat 19 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

CLASSIC BLUES SHOW Sat 19 July, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

MORETALICA Sat 19 July, The Station, Cannock

AIN'T NO DISCO Sat 19 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

ROCK THE 80S Sat 19 July, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

FISH NIGHT + SOLCADE + KOTONIC Sat 19 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

DRONGO'S FOR EUROPE + ROTUNDA + METH CLUB 7 + NO RELIGION Sun 20 July, Redrum, Stafford

RUST FOR GLORY - NEIL YOUNG TRIBUTE Sun 20 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PETE HYDE AND THE VIEILLARDS Sun 20 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

RAINBOW VOICES Sun 20 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

DRAKE Sun 20 July, Utilita Arena Birmingham

THE BELL BAND'S OPEN MIC Sun 20 July, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

MICHELL, PFEIFFER AND KULESH Sun 20 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

FRANKIE LEE AND THE CASUALS Sun 20 July, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

JULIAN SMITH Sun 20 July, Evesham Town Hall

A + MILLIE MANDERS & THE SHUTUP + SPUNGE + THE RAMONAS + WONK UNIT Sun 20 July, The Robin, Bilston

WOLFSBANE + HILLBILLY VEGAS + MUDDIBROOKE Sun 20 July, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

CELINE - MY HEART WILL GO ON Sun 20 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

RICH PARSONS Sun 20 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Sun 20 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Blue Rose Code - Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

Classical Music

HARTFORD CHORALE Featuring Jack Anthony Pott (director), Mon 14 July, St Mary's Church, Warwick

IGNAS MAKNICKAS PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Carlvine, Ravel & Chopin, Mon 14 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

ARMONICO CONSORT: AC ACADEMY PRESENTS BEOWULF Featuring Christopher Monks (director), Alis Huws (harp), Dan Goodger (keyboards) & Oz Clarke (narrator), Tues 15 July, Warwick Hall

SUMMER CHANCEL CONCERTS Featuring The Northwick Consort (recorders), Wed 16 July, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

SIR WILLARD WHITE & BRODSKY QUARTET Thurs 17 July, Lichfield Cathedral

RBC & EX CATHEDRA SCHOLARS: LANGUAGE OF THE BAROQUE Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor) & Elizabeth Kenny (theorbo). Programme includes works by Salazar, Monteverdi, Purcell & more..., Fri 18 July, St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME RECITAL Featuring Victoria Harley (voice) & Alex Wyatt (piano), Fri 18 July, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

CBSO & THE ORCHESTRAL QAWWALI PROJECT Featuring Melvin Tay (conductor), Rushil Ranjan (composer, arranger & piano), Abi Sampa (vocalist) & CBSO Chorus, Sat 19 July, Symphony Hall, B'ham

MIDDAY MANTRA: SUMMER SERENADE Sampad's series celebrating South Asian musical traditions, Sat 19 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIENNIAL BAROQUE 2025: DOMESTIC HANDEL Featuring Penelope Appleyard (soprano), Miki Takahashi (violin), Imogen Seth-Smith (baroque cello), Annabel Knight (baroque flute & recorder) & Robin Bigwood (harpsichord), Sat 19 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BUTE WIND QUINTET Programme includes works by Milhaud, Mozart & Vaughan Williams, Sat 19 July, St Michael's Church, Lichfield

JAN LIEBERMANN ORGAN PROM Programme includes works by Hollins, JS Bach, Willan & more..., Sat 19 July, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES Featuring Hana Chang (violin). Programme includes works by Bruch & Beethoven, Sat 19 July, Lichfield Cathedral

THE GENTS OF ST JOHN'S: THE MYSTERY OF FAITH Programme includes works by Byrd, Harris, Lassus & more...,

Sun 20 July, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

JENEBA KANNEH-MASON (PIANO) Programme includes works by Chopin, Debussy, Florence Price & more..., Sun 20 July, Lichfield Cathedral

Comedy

CHLOE PETTS & MARISE GAUGHAN Wed 16 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHRIS CANTRILL & HANNAH PLAYS Wed 16 July, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

ANDREW DOHERTY & JOHNNY WHITE Wed 16 July, Old Joint Stock, Birmingham

DALISO CHAPONDA & AARON WOOD Wed 16 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, Birmingham

LUCY BEAUMONT & COMICS TBC Wed 16 July, Lichfield Garrick

JONNY PELHAM & ROB AUTON Thurs 17 July, Old Joint Stock, Birmingham

GARETH MUTCH, ANDY ASKINS, SCOTT BENNETT, VLAD ILICH & KELLY FORD Fri 18 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK WATSON Fri 18 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

KAZEEM JAMAL, DAVID HOARE, AARON SIMMONDS & DAN JOHNES Sat 19 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

GARETH MUTCH, ANDY ASKINS, SCOTT BENNETT & ANNIE BOYLE Sat 19 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

BONDING Cyril Blake takes the lead in a one-man show exploring the myth, legend and legacy of James Bond, Mon 14 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THE THINGS WE FORGET TO CHANGE Up Yours Theatre Company present Rhia Burston's claustrophobic exploration of guilt, coercion and the slow suffocation of control, Mon 14 - Wed 16 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

BAT OUT OF HELL Reimagined staging of Jim Steinman's timeless musical. Glenn Adamson, Sharon Sexton, Rob Fowler & Katie Tonkinson star alongside an eight-piece rock band playing live on stage, Mon 14 - Sat 19 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN Rebecca Vaughan's wry and incisive one-woman show, exploring the history of literature, feminism and gender, Tues 15 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

TWISTED! THE MUSICAL Anything Theatre Company tell the story of a young man who becomes entangled with a working-class flower girl, Tues 15 - Sat 19 July, The Old Rep, B'ham

GHOST STORIES A 'truly terrifying theatrical experience' created by

Andy Nyman and The League Of Gentlemen's Jeremy Dyson, Tues 15 - Sat 19 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SIX THE MUSICAL Broadway and West End hit in which the six wives of Henry VIII take to the stage to tell their stories in an 80-minute celebration of 21st-century girl power, Tues 15 - Sat 19 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE NAG'S HEAD Make It Beautiful Theatre Company present a spooky comedy concerning three estranged siblings who inherit their father's failing pub, only to discover an unnerving painting he'd kept hidden from them for years..., Wed 16 - Fri 18 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL Musical Youth Theatre Stafford present an amateur version of a show that brings to life favourite characters from the world of Dr Seuss, Wed 16 - Sat 19 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

TWO Lichfield Players present an amateur version of Jim Cartwright's snapshot of life in a local pub, Wed 16 - Sat 19 July, Lichfield Garrick

DOCTOR FAUSTUS Amateur version of Christopher Marlowe's tale of vanity, greed and damnation, Wed 16 - Sat 26 July, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

MARY POPPINS Multi-award-winning musical in which Stefanie Jones and Jack Chambers reprise the roles of Mary Poppins and Bert, Wed 16 July - Sat 23 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

MATILDA THE MUSICAL JR. Ludwig Arts present an amateur version of Roald Dahl's much-loved musical, Thurs 17 - Sat 19 July, Regal, Tenbury

WHEN THE BIRDS COME Forefront Theatre Company present Tallulah Brown's play, telling the story of Margaret and Stanley, two children whose world is disappearing due to rising sea levels and Western influence, Fri 18 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

BONDING Cyril Blake takes the lead in a one-man show exploring the myth, legend and legacy of James Bond, Fri 18 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

STRIPTease Slawomir Mrozek's play features two men - an intellectual and an activist - imprisoned in a room, both trying to preserve their will, Fri 18 - Sun 20 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES Collection of funny, lively and emotional monologues celebrating womanhood and sexuality, Sat 19 July, The Rep, Birmingham

SISTER ACT JNR Amateur version presented by Stagecoach Newcastle-under-Lyme, Sat 19 July, Mitchell Arts Centre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

FROZEN THE MUSICAL JR. Amateur

version presented by Thespian Arts Theatre CIC, Sat 19 July, Rugeley Rose Theatre

SAVING GAIA New work of family-friendly theatre which gently explores themes of play, wellbeing, identity and nature. Expect fairies on skates, songs, dance puzzles and plenty of fairy dust, Sun 20 July, Malvern Theatres

INTO THE WOODS JR Students from PQA Edgbaston present an amateur version of Stephen Sondheim's fairytale musical, Sun 20 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Outdoor Theatre

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY The Pantaloons present a fast-paced version of Jane Austen's story of 'scandals, scoundrels and severely sprained ankles', Fri 18 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

TWELFTH NIGHT Folksy Theatre present Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identities and joyful endings, Fri 18 July, Biddulph Grange Gardens, Staffordshire

THE WIZARD OF OZ Paperback Theatre present an open-air production that brings the classic story 'bang up to date', Sat 19 July, Lichfield Cathedral School Gardens

TWELFTH NIGHT Folksy Theatre present Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identities and joyful endings, Sat 19 July, The Dorothy Clive Garden, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

ROBIN HOOD Folksy Theatre production featuring 'live music, silliness and audience participation', Sat 19 July, Wightwick Manor Gardens, Wolverhampton

ROBIN HOOD Folksy Theatre production featuring 'live music, silliness and audience participation', Sun 20 July, Martineau Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Cycling theatre troupe The Handlebards present a bicycle-powered production of Shakespeare's much-loved comedy, Sun 20 July, Coventry Cathedral

TWELFTH NIGHT Folksy Theatre present Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identities and joyful endings, Sun 20 July, Whittington Castle, Nr Oswestry, North Shrops

Kid's Theatre

THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED Stage adaptation of Tom Fletcher & Dougie Poynter's bestselling books. Expect plenty of laughter and a whole lot of poo! Sun 20 July, Wolverhampton

Grand Theatre

TOM GATES New stage show bringing Liz Pichon's bestselling books to life, Sun 20 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Light Entertainment

MAGIC & SEX Brand-new show in which Kathryn Haywood delves into the art of illusion and becomes a fully fledged magician, Mon 14 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH DAVID BRADLEY Join the Harry Potter and Game of Thrones actor for an intimate evening filled with stories, songs and surprises, Tues 15 July, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

ANGRY BOATER FEAT JOEL SANDERS Join the star of Channel Four's Narrow Escapes for an evening of stand-up, storytelling and brutally honest reflections on chasing dreams, letting go of everything you know, and floating into the unknown, Wed 16 July, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MR.B - THE GENTLEMAN RHYMER Expect gentlemanly takes on outré themes, with a few chap-hop classics and covers along the way, Fri 18 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DES COLEMAN & THE ALL STAR BIG BAND Join the West End star for an evening of music, laughter and stories, Fri 18 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

KARL LOXLEY: SONGS FROM THE STAGE Featuring musical favourites from The Greatest Showman, Les Miserables, The Lion King and many more..., Sat 19 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

LINE DANCING WITH THE DOUBLE DOLLY'S An evening of comedy, live Dolly Parton songs and line dancing, Sat 19 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CBSO & THE ORCHESTRAL QAWWALI PROJECT A blend of Sufi poetry, Indian classical dance and soaring vocals, Sat 19 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CIRQUE: THE GREATEST SHOW - REIMAGINED Featuring a fusion of musical theatre and circus acts. Britain's Got Talent's Max Fox stars, Sun 20 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE PEOPLE'S SHOW SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA Sun 20 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Events

THURSDAY TOURS AT BLAKESLEY HALL Guided tour of the fascinating Tudor

building, Thurs 17 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

BARREL AND BOND WHISKY TASTING Whisky-tasting course, delivered by an SQA accredited guide with expertly curated food pairings, Thurs 17 July, The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham

GIN TASTING & GLASS ETCHING NIGHT Enjoy a carefully selected range of distinctive gins and create your own etched gin glass, Fri 18 July, Stourbridge Glass Museum

EVENING TALK - ROGUES, VILLAINS & PEAKY BLINDERS Hear tales of cunning rogues and dastardly villains, and discover the cells where the real Peaky Blinders were locked up, Fri 18 July, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

RAIL ALE TRAIL STAFFORDSHIRE 2025 Spanning five-and-a-half miles, with events both on-board and off, Fri 18 - Sun 20 July, Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire

FANTASY FOREST FESTIVAL 2025 This hugely popular and inclusive festival brings together fans of all genres of fantasy, Fri 18 - Sun 20 July, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

POLLINATOR TRAIL Learn all about insects and the flowers they love, Fri 18 July - Sun 7 Sept, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

THE DYNAMIC BIRD IN ANGLO-SAXON METALWORK - ILLUMINATING IMPERMANENT MOTIFS Public talk exploring sixth-to eighth-century bird motifs adorning swords and shields from the Staffordshire Hoard and Sutton Hoo burials, Sat 19 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

DAY OF DANCE Watch Morris-dancing groups perform at stations along the line, Sat 19 July, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

A FIRST CLASS MURDER - MURDER MYSTERY EVENING Put on your detective's hat and climb aboard for a night of mystery and suspense, Sat 19 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

MEDIEVAL DAY AT WEOLEY CASTLE Learn what life was like in medieval Birmingham. Featuring re-enactors, battle displays, guided tours and more, Sat 19 July, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL CHARITY DAY & ABSEIL Event raising money for 14 charities, Sat 19 July, Coventry Cathedral

FESTIVAL FIREWORKS Free fireworks display to celebrate the last weekend of the Lichfield Festival, Sat 19 July, Beacon Park, Lichfield

PANORAMA TOWER OPEN DAY Enjoy panoramic views of the countryside from the balcony, Sat 19 July, Croome, Worcester

POLYNESIAN PARTY Meet the Polynesian Princess, listen to a storytime or join her for a singalong, Sat 19 July, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

SUMMERTIME SANTA See Santa as he visits his furry and feathered friends whilst enjoying a bit of a summer break, Sat 19 July, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

BONGO'S BINGO The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 19 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MALVERN HIGHLAND PONY SHOW Sat 19 - Sun 20 July, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

FAMILY HISTORY WEEKEND Have a go at junior jousting and sword skills training. Explore the castle on a family-friendly story walk, Sat 19 - Sun 20 July, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

RAILS TO VICTORY Featuring 1940s living history, vintage vehicle displays and live entertainment, Sat 19 - Sun 20 July, Statfold Country Park, Tamworth

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY A range of activities themed around archaeology and wellbeing, Sat 19 - Sun 20 July, Powis Castle and Garden, Welshpool

SANDWELL & BIRMINGHAM MELA The biggest South Asian music festival in Europe, Sat 19 - Sun 20 July, Victoria Park, Smethwick

ATHELSTAN 1100 The week will include Anglo-Saxon living history, talks and lectures, music and more, Sat 19 - Sun 27 July, Tamworth Castle

SUMMER OF FUN AND GAMES Featuring 'all sorts of fun', from soft play and mini golf, to archery and den building, Sat 19 July - Sun 31 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

COMPTON VERNEY QUEST BY BROTHERS MCLEOD Help Knight Sir Louis and wizard Pearl in an adventure around the house and grounds, Sat 19 July - Sun 31 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

FAMILY BAGS OF FUN Time-travel back to the 90s with fun children's activity bags this summer holiday, Sat 19 July - Sun 31 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

FIND THE PIRATE SHIPS! FAMILY TRAIL Follow your treasure map to see if you can discover all the 3D pirate ships waiting to be found, Sat 19 July - Sun 31 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

PLAYFUL PLANET | EARLY YEARS EXHIBITION This immersive exhibition invites young visitors into a specially designed world of sensory spaces, Sat 19 July - Sun 31 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

SUMMER OF PLAY AT CROOME Celebrating all things bugs and biodiversity, with critter-themed fairground games, hands-on creative

workshops and a mini theatre, Sat 19 July - Sun 31 Aug, Croome, Worcester

WONDROUS TREES Interactive free summer programme aiming to spark curiosity about the great outdoors and unlock the tales behind trees, Sat 19 July - Sun 31 Aug, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

SUMMER AT THE BUTTERFLY FARM Featuring competitions, butterfly life cycle, mini-beast, beetle mania and pupae demonstrations, Sat 19 July - Mon 1 Sept, Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm

FARMARAMA Five gigantic paddling pools and over 250 tonnes of golden sand transform the farm into 'the best beach going', Sat 19 July - Mon 1 Sept, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

ACORNS BUBBLE RUSH A foamtastic event raising money for Acorns Hospice, Sun 20 July, Walsall Arboretum

BIKE 4 LIFE One of the UK's most popular and biggest ride outs, attracting more than 6,000 bikers and pillions, Sun 20 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

PIRATES AND PRINCESSES DAY Meet some of your favourite princesses and pirates onboard the heritage trains and in the stations, Sun 20 July, Telford Steam Railway, Shrops

CRYSTAL MILE FACTORY WALKING TOUR Led by a knowledgeable local guide, explore the history of the iconic glassmaking factories in the Wordsley area, Sun 20 July, Stourbridge Glass Museum

VINTAGE CAR RALLY Enjoy some vintage cars driving by while you visit the farm, Sun 20 July, Fordhall Farm, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

SUMMER ADVENTURES AT DUDMASTON HALL Enjoy taking part in activities around the site, Sun 20 July - Sun 31 Aug, Dudmaston, nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Festivals

WOODSHROP Line-up includes Only Elton John, New Jovi, Creedence Clearwater Review, Thurs 17 - Sun 20 July, West Mid Showground, Shropshire

UPTON BLUES FESTIVAL Line-up includes Wille and the Bandits (pictured), Nine Below Zero, The Deadshots, Fri 18 - Sun 20 July, various venues around Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire



Gigs

WEATHERDAY Mon 21 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HOBO JOHNSON Mon 21 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GEORDIE GREEP Tues 22 July, XOYO, Digbeth, Birmingham

EVE SELIS & FRIENDS Tues 22 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

WET LEG Tues 22 July, hmv Empire, Coventry



ROCK FOR HEROES Tues 22 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THRASH Wed 23 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

"HONEYBOY" HICKLING BAND Wed 23 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

REQUIEM INFERNUM Wed 23 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

DJANGO CHUTNEY Wed 23 July, The Exchange, Birmingham

THE BOOKSHOP BAND Wed 23 July, Number 8, Pershore

LITA FORD + VIXEN + CHEZ KANE Wed 23 July, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

HOME SERVICE Wed 23 July, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

THE DRIFTERS Wed 23 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

RAFAEL NANNETTI Thurs 24 July, The Grand Hotel, Birmingham

QUEEN IFRICA Thurs 24 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

DEERHOOF Thurs 24 July, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

PHIL ODGERS & BOBBY VALENTINO Thurs 24 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

AMIGOS OPEN MIC Thurs 24 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

JEANINES + LIGHTEADED + SASSYHIYA Thurs 24 July, Just Dropped In, Coventry

LIGHT OF ETERNITY Thurs 24 July, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

KILLER RHAPSODY - A NIGHT OF QUEEN Thurs 24 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

FAYE SMITH & PAUL WETTON Fri 25 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

ANGELS OF DARKNESS Fri 25 July, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

CLOUD STUDIES + GRANDE VALISE +

FALLING & LAUGHING Fri 25 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

BORN JOVI Fri 25 July, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

GUNS 2 ROSES + METALLICA RELOADED Fri 25 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LIL TECCA Fri 25 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LET'S ROCK THE 70S Fri 25 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THIS FLIGHT TONIGHT Fri 25 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

JACK BROADBENT Fri 25 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS Fri 25 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

UNDER THE COVERS Fri 25 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

ORUA + DUKE KEATS Fri 25 July, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

JACKHAMMER Fri 25 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE HOME GROWN + PUNCH AND JUDAS + THE ROLLOCKS + TELLEMAHOOCAH Fri 25 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MILES HUNT Fri 25 July, Regal, Tenbury Wells

THE KING OF POP WITH NAVI Fri 25 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

LUKE COMBS UK TRIBUTE Fri 25 July, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

THE KAISER MONKEY KILLERS Fri 25 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BORN IN THE 80S Fri 25 July, The Robin, Bilston

FASTLOVE - TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MICHAEL Fri 25 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE NASHVILLE SOUNDS EXPERIENCE Fri 25 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

HI ON MAIDEN Fri 25 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE SPICE GIRLS EXPERIENCE Fri 25 July, Lichfield Garrick

A DIFFERENT THREAD Fri 25 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

THE SUPERSKAS Fri 25 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

KINGS OF LYON + THE UK STROKES Fri 25 July, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

BOMBS FOR BREAKFAST + SICK OF THE RIOT Fri 25 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

DINO BAPTISTE AND THE NIGHT TRAIN Fri 25 - Sat 26 July, The Grand Hotel, Birmingham

NANNA RADLEYS Fri 25 - Sat 26 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

BLUMONDE Sat 26 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LIVE MUSIC IN THE SQUARE Sat 26 July, St Paul's Square, Birmingham

SKASTUDS Sat 26 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

HEAVY BEAT BRASS BAND + THE TROUBLE Sat 26 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham

WEDNESDAY 13 + FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS Sat 26 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

GASOLINE & MATCHES + SAVANNAH GARDNER + MR PAUL ADAMS + LUCY SHAW + NICOLE ALLAN Sat 26 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THOMAS HEPPPELL Sat 26 July, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

THE WAR AND TREATY Sat 26 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LADY SINGS THE BLUES - THE SONGS OF BILLIE HOLIDAY Sat 26 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

SYNTH Sat 26 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

SLEEP BROKEN Sat 26 July, Arches Venue, Coventry

BEDROCK BULLETS Sat 26 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

CHOCOLATE STARFISH - TRIBUTE TO LIMP BIZKIT Sat 26 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE NASHVILLE SOUNDS EXPERIENCE Sat 26 July, Regal, Tenbury Wells

WEEKEND ANTHEMS Sat 26 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS Sat 26 July, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

ALIVE AND KICKING + U2+1 Sat 26 July, The Robin, Bilston

THE SMYTHS Sat 26 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

FAT LIP Sat 26 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

INTO THE SHADOWS Sat 26 July, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

AKA NOEL GALLAGHER Sat 26 July, The Station, Cannock

ROCK FOR HEROES Sat 26 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE MIGHTY BOING Sat 26 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

MICROBABY Sat 26 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

7 YEAR WAR + VISITOR + ABSOLUTION Sat 26 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

LUKE COMBS UK Sat 26 July, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

THE SANCTUM: MODERN METAL FESTIVAL Sat 26 - Sun 27 July, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

MIKE DAVIDS BAND Sun 27 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

MELODIES OF DEVOTION: A NIGHT OF QAWWALI & NASHEED Featuring Qalandar Qawwali Band, Oujidane Nasheed Group, Aashiq Al Rasu & Fitra Kids Nasheed Choir, Sun 27 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC Sun 27 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

TOM MARTIN'S CROSSROADS BLUES & ROOTS Sun 27 July, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

A DIFFERENT THREAD Sun 27 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

LET'S EIGHTIES Sun 27 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

TEN Sun 27 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

LAURA ASTON & THE LA BAND Sun 27 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

STEVE WICKHAM & RAY COEN Tues 29 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

KRISTEEN YOUNG + DSM IV Thurs 31 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DEL CAMINO Thurs 31 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

NOISE AGENTS + THE DOLLHEADS + TWIST OFF! + SIDEBORG Thurs 31 July, The Dark Horse, Moseley, B'ham

ENDA KENNY Thurs 31 July, Bromsgrove Folk Club

THE REVIVALS Thurs 31 July, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

THE GENTS OF ST JOHN'S CHOIR: OUT OF THE DEEP Programme includes works by Tallis, Byrd, Stainer & more..., Mon 21 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THE FRENCH HORN CONNECTION Wed 23 July, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

OLIVER NEALE ORGAN RECITAL Fri 25 July, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2025 Featuring the festival's own choirs, internationally-recognised soloists, and the world-renowned Philharmonia Orchestra, Sat 26 July - Sat 2 Aug, Hereford Cathedral

SONGS FOR A SUMMER AFTERNOON Voluntary donations to Erdington Food Bank, Sat 26 July, Six Ways Erdington Baptist Church, B'ham

BENJAMIN GROSVENOR PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by R Schumann & Mussorgsky, Sun 27 July, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA: BRAHMS 2 Featuring Michael Seal (conductor). Programme includes works by Strauss II, Churher & Brahms, Sun 27 July, Birmingham Town Hall

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Comedy

GLENN MOORE & ERIC RUSHTON Wed 23 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THOR STENHAUG & KEVIN DANIEL Wed 23 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, B'ham

RACHEL FAIRBURN, AARON TWITCHEN & KWAME ASANTE Thurs 24 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KINGS HEATH COMEDY FEST: IAN CRAWFORD, JAY HANDLEY Thurs 24 July, Fletchers, Birmingham

SAM NICORESTI Thurs 24 July, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

PUNIT PANIA Fri 25 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LINDSEY SANTORO Fri 25 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KINGS HEATH COMEDY FEST: RACHEL BAKER & COMICS TBC, ASH BAKER & MAX PONSONBY Fri 25 July, Fletchers, Birmingham

JOSH PUGH Fri 25 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DEE ALLUM Fri 25 July, Schooners, Birmingham

LUCY PORTER Fri 25 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

BARRY DODDS, PHIL NICHOL, HANNAH PLATT & PAUL F TAYLOR Fri 25 - Sat 26 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT PRICE, ASHLEY FRIEZE, OMAR BADAWY & KAREN BAYLEY Sat 26 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

FREDDIE HAYES Sat 26 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DOM BANT & HANNAH WEETMAN, HASAN AL-HABIB, RUTH HUSKO Sat 26 July, The Duke, Birmingham

SUSIE GRUMBALL & HAT STUFF, HARRY JENKINS PLUS QUEER AS JOKE Sat 26 July, Fletchers, Birmingham

RACHEL BAKER Sat 26 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FATIHA EL-GHORRI + BARBARA NICE + THE MAGIC LADY Sat 26 July, Circus Mash, Birmingham

KINGS HEATH COMEDY FEST: PAUL SAVAGE, RUTH HUSKO, CHLOE REYNOLDS, MARY FLANIGAN, MAC CARVALHO, CONLAN & FRIENDS Sat 26 July, Schooners, Birmingham

JAMES COOK + MARY FLANIGAN + PHIL PAGETT Sat 26 July, Schooners, Birmingham

NOREEN KHAN, ANNETTE FAGON, TEJ DHUTIA & SHAZIA MIRZA Sat 26 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

STEPHEN K AMOS Sat 26 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

KINGS HEATH COMEDY FEST: ERIC RUSHTON, HAYLEY ELLIS & HARRIET DYER Sun 27 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LINDSEY SANTORO, BARBARA NICE & COMICS TBC Sun 27 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

STIRCHLEY GLITTER SISTERS Sun 27 July, Houlblon, Birmingham

DANNY CLIVES Sun 27 July, The Duke, Birmingham

GARETH WILLIAMS Sun 27 July, Houlblon, Birmingham

KINGS HEATH COMEDY FEST: SACHIN KUMARENDRAN, JON HIPKISS & HANNAH WEETMAN Sun 27 July, Schooners, Birmingham

GLENN WOOL Wed 30 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, NINA GILLIGAN & COMIC TBC Thurs 31 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

Theatre

THE BEAR Play In The Park present Anton Chekhov's comedy exploring love, pride and the absurdity of human behaviour, Mon 21 - Tues 22 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE LAST LAUGH Paul Hendy's 'laugh-a-minute play' reimagines the lives of three British comedy legends: Eric Morecambe, Tommy Cooper and Bob Monkhouse, Tues 22 - Sat 26 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL Amateur version presented by Stoke Youth Musical Theatre Company, Tues 22 - Sat 26 July, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

HOME, I'M DARLING The Stafford Players present an amateur version of Laura Wade's dark contemporary comedy, Tues 22 - Sun 27 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BONDING Cyril Blake takes the lead in a one-man show exploring the myth, legend and legacy of James Bond, Wed 23 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

EVERY LITTLE KNOT Teepee Productions present James Piercy's play of secrets, blame and betrayal, Wed 23 - Thurs 24 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE Forefront Theatre Company present a stage version of the 2004 coming-of-age film, Thurs 24 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

LOCOMOTIVE FOR MURDER A totally improvised, 'totally outrageous' murder-mystery where killing the cast and cracking the case is in the hands of the audience, Thurs 24 July, Lichfield Garrick

HOT MESS New pop musical about love, hope, and the ultimate break-up. Danielle Steers (SIX The Musical) and Tobias Turlay (Mamma Mia!), star, Thurs 24 - Fri 25 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

CONSUMED A pitch-black and twisted tale of dysfunctional family dynamics, generational trauma and national

boundaries, Fri 25 - Sat 26 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

QUEEN E ROCKS! A retelling of Elizabeth's reign (sort of) - complete with a live band on stage. A Made In 48 Hours production, Sun 27 July, Talisman Theatre & Arts Centre, Kenilworth

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur version of the cult musical comedy, Mon 28 - Tues 29 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE TRIAL. CASE 2 Set In Stone Theatre present a unique immersive experience during which the audience are the jury as a murder trial unfolds..., Tues 29 July - Sat 2 Aug, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

TALES OF DRAKE Nick Wilkes' one-man show concerns a former sailor recounting his travels and experiences while serving under Sir Francis Drake, Tues 29 July - Sat 2 Aug, Malvern Theatres

FOOTLOOSE Amateur version presented by the Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Youth Theatre, Tues 29 July - Sat 2 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

MASTERS OF THE VERSE New musical blending modern and classic text, original music, and a powerful message celebrating the enduring power of Shakespeare's timeless words to shape and inspire the future, Wed 30 July - Sun 3 Aug, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

TOAD OF TOAD HALL Jonathan Goodwin plays author Kenneth Grahame, Mr Toad and a host of other characters in a one-man stage version of the much-loved riverside tale, Thurs 31 July, Oscars, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

THREE MEN IN A BOAT Jonathan Goodwin portrays Jerome K Jerome in a show scripted by Jonathan himself, Thurs 31 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

MOANA JR Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur version of the Disney adventure, Thurs 31 July - Fri 1 Aug, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE MOST PERILOUS COMEDIE OF ELIZABETH I The Three Inch Fools present a brand-new Tudor musical romp in which Good Queen Bess takes to the stage, Thurs 24 July, Shrewsbury Castle

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The Three Inch Fools present an outdoor version of the Bard's iconic comedy, Thurs 24 July, Powis Castle & Gardens, Powys

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The Three Inch Fools present an outdoor staging of the Bard's iconic comedy, Fri 25 July, Acton Scott Hall, Nr Craven Arms, South Shropshire

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Illyria present an outdoor version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Sat 26 July, Moseley Old Hall, Nr Wolverhampton

THE RIVALS Rain Or Shine Theatre present Sheridan's comedy of manners, Tues 29 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

THE BIG BAD WOLF The Plandits present a brand-new rock & roll musical featuring 'folklore's most notorious villain', Tues 29 July, Castle Bromwich Gardens, Birmingham

TWELFTH NIGHT Shakespeare's romantic comedy, presented by all-male troupe The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Tues 29 - Wed 30 July, Shrewsbury Castle

TWELFTH NIGHT Shakespeare's romantic comedy, presented by all-male troupe The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Thurs 31 July, Bantock House & Gardens, Wolverhampton

Kid's Theatre

RUDE SCIENCE Entertaining and educational show packed with outrageous science stunts and encyclopaedic knowledge, Mon 21 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE KOALA WHO COULD An empowering and chuckle-out-loud story about embracing change. Based on Rachel Bright & Jim Field's popular children's book, Mon 21 - Tues 22 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

OF THE JACKEL: SPLAT! A physical comedy about art and creativity, suitable for audience members aged three to seven, Tues 22 - Wed 23 July, Lichfield Garrick

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM: DINOSAURS LIVE Touring family show fusing fun and facts, as life-like dinosaurs are brought alive on stage, Wed 23 July, Lichfield Garrick

TOM GATES New stage show bringing Liz Pichon's bestselling books to life, Wed 23 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Outdoor Theatre

TWELFTH NIGHT Folksy Theatre present Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identities and joyful endings, Tues 22 July, Martineau Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham

THE MOST PERILOUS COMEDIE OF ELIZABETH I The Three Inch Fools present a brand-new Tudor musical romp in which Good Queen Bess takes to the stage, Wed 23 July, Powis Castle & Gardens, Powys

THE KOALA WHO COULD

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PRINCESSES UNITE - THE ULTIMATE POP PRINCESS PARTY

Magical musical adventure for younger audiences, Sat 26 July, Stourbridge Town Hall

PRINCESS PICNIC

Three classic princesses entertain with song, dance and much more..., Sun 27 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DINOSAUR ADVENTURES LIVE: THE BIG JURASSIC STORM

Adventure show for younger audiences featuring pre-historic giants and roar-some babies, Mon 28 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THE SOOTY SHOW

Get ready for magic and mayhem as Sooty is joined by Sweep and Soo in a fun-filled show for all the family, Tues 29 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Dance

GRAVITY National Youth Dance

Company present a choreographed show exploring the power of connection, Wed 23 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

ANTON & GIOVANNI: TOGETHER AGAIN

'Breath-taking routines and stunning choreography with a seamless blend of ballroom, Latin and musical theatre', Thurs 24 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

ANTON & GIOVANNI: TOGETHER AGAIN

Fri 25 July, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

ANTON & GIOVANNI: TOGETHER AGAIN

Mon 28 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LONDON CITY BALLET: MOMENTUM

Tues 29 - Wed 30 July, The Rep, B'ham

Light Entertainment

WICKED SING-A-LONG

A screening of the award-winning film, with lyrics on screen so that audience members can sing along, Tues 22 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

EAGLES BY CANDLELIGHT

Thurs 24 July, Worcester Cathedral

THE D-DAY DARLINGS

Take a musical journey back to wartime Britain, Thurs 24 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

FATT BUTCHER'S BIG MEATY GAMESHOW

Expect 'big prizes, face-melting live vocals, and big belly laughs' in a brand-new game show from cabaret superstar and notorious sausage-smuggler Fatt Butcher, Fri 25 July,

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

PUPPET SPECTACULAR GLOW SHOW

An hour-long UV puppet show featuring a cast of colourful characters and bringing together music, humour and glow-in-the-dark visuals, Fri 25 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

YEH DOSTI - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SHOLAY

Music & dance show transporting audiences back to Bollywood's golden era, Fri 25 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE BEATLES BY CANDLELIGHT

Fri 25 - Sat 26 July, Lichfield Cathedral

MAMMA MIA: HERE WE GO AGAIN

Introducing The Dynamos, a 'fresh and exciting' girl group who are putting their own spin on Donna & The Dynamos from the hit stage & screen musical, Sat 26 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE CLASS OF 55: A ROCK N ROLL

REWIND Fully immersive tribute to Buddy Holly and Jerry Lee Lewis, Sat 26 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BEYOND THE BARRICADE

The UK's longest-running musical theatre concert, featuring the best of Broadway and the West End, Sat 26 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

CIRQUE: THE GREATEST SHOW - REIMAGINED

Featuring a fusion of musical theatre and circus acts. Britain's Got Talent's Max Fox stars, Sun 27 July, Lichfield Garrick

A NIGHT OF VARIETY LIKE NO OTHER

Celebrating 100 years of British puppetry and featuring Steve Hewlett, Hacker the Dog and Zippy, alongside Michel Jordan's High Jinx Magic Illusion & Circus. Tony Lidington comperes, Tues 29 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE DASILVA MARIONETTE CIRCUS

TROUPE Featuring 'aerial acrobatics on the flying trapeze, spectacular cycling stunts, and humorous antics from the show's cheeky clowns', Tues 29 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

BOX OF FROGS

An evening of 'high-octane, improvised comedy nonsense', based entirely on audience suggestions, Wed 30 July, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Qtr, B'ham

Talks & Spoken Word

THE MAKINGS OF A MURDERER 2

Former Metropolitan Police murder squad senior investigating officer Colin Sutton talks about his remarkable career, and what it's like to chase and catch a serial killer, Wed 23 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DEXY'S KEVIN ROWLAND - A LIFE IN CONVERSATION

A 'special evening' in

which the Dexy's frontman discusses his new memoir, Bless Me Father, Wed 23 July, Wulfrun Hall, University of Wolverhampton



STEVE HEWLETT COMEDY

VENTRILOQUISM TALK Join the Britain's Got Talent finalist as he talks about some of the UK's greatest-ever ventriloquists, Tues 29 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Events

SAHM - BHANGRA BOUNCE - STORYTIME

WITH SOHAN Learn all about colourful farming dance, Mon 21 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SAHM - BOLLYWOOD DANCE WORKSHOP

Workshop delivering a full Bollywood experience, including the chance to learn a dance routine, Mon 21 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SAHM - BHANGRA DANCE WORKSHOP

Jodi dancers bring the vibrant spirit of Punjab to life with a high-energy Bhangra dance workshop, Mon 21 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

TILT FESTIVAL

Train with world-class artists and enjoy circus, dance, and physical theatre performances, Mon 21 - Sat 26 July, West Midlands Circus & Creation Centre, B'ham

MOONBASE CONSTRUCTION ZONE

Use Imagination Playground blocks to design and construct your very own moonbase, Mon 21 July - Sun 31 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

FALCONRY EXPERIENCES

Experience the ancient art of falconry, Tues 22 July - Fri 29 Aug, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL AT THINKTANK

Live music event, Wed 23 July, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

HERITAGE AND HABITAT AT BLAKESLEY HALL

Outdoor activities focusing on sustainability and the natural world, Wed 23 July, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

HARVINGTON HISTORY FESTIVAL

A week of 'fascinating talks, lively discussions, and captivating performances', Wed 23 - Sun 27 July, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

KNIGHT SCHOOL

Children of all ages are invited to join the fun at Sudeley's Knight School, every Wednesday & Thursday throughout the school summer holiday, Wed 23 July - Thurs 28 Aug, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL:

JAZZ FOR FAMILIES Enjoy a relaxed performance, during which children can learn about instruments and enjoy new sounds, Thurs 24 July, The Exchange, 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham

THE GAME FAIR

Celebration of fieldsports and country life, Fri 25 - Sun 27 July, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

CAMP SEVERN KIDS FESTIVAL

Including shows, foam parties, donkey rides, inflatables, the big beach and more, Fri 25 - Mon 28 July, West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury

SENSASIAN FESTIVAL FREE FAMILY DAY

Featuring a range of activities celebrating South Asian culture, Sat 26 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire

THE SEALED KNOT - THE BATTLE OF

HARTLEBURY A 17th century battlefield is brought to life by The Sealed Knot, Sat 26 - Sun 27 July, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

GREAT BRITISH FOOD FESTIVAL

The family-friendly festival returns to Weston after six years, Sat 26 - Sun 27 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

SWINGING SIXTIES

Featuring live music up and down the line, fairground attractions at the Engine House, a real ale festival at Kidderminster, and classic cars from yesteryear, Sat 26 - Sun 27 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

THREE COUNTIES FOOD & DRINK

FESTIVAL Featuring TV chefs in the cookery theatre, food & drink traders and demos, Sat 26 - Sun 27 July, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS TOUR

Chance to experience life at Weston Park, both as it used to be and as it is today, Sun 27 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

HERITAGE AND HABITAT AT BLAKESLEY HALL

Outdoor activities focusing on sustainability and the natural world, Wed 30 July, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

HOUSE OF MASH HULLABALOO CIRCUS

WORKSHOP AND SHOW New immersive musical and circus skills workshop, Wed 30 July, Midlands Arts Centre (mac), Birmingham

THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS

Featuring 1,200 competition quilts, over 200 exhibitors and 370-plus workshops and talks, Thurs 31 July - Sun 3 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

Festivals

WARWICK FOLK FESTIVAL

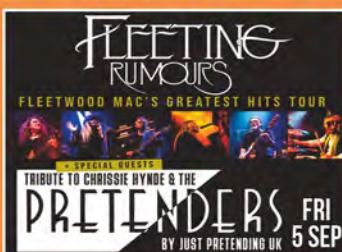
Line-up includes Kate Rusby, Le Vent du Nord, Melrose Quartet, Thurs 24 - Sun 27 July, Castle Park, Warwick

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