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ISSUE 463 AUGUST 2025

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inside:

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one-day music festival returns
to Midlands Arts Centre



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What's On

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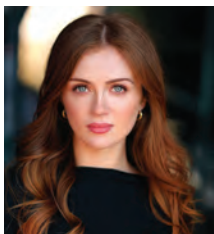
It's the Fashion Police!

Birmingham's West Midlands Police Museum has unveiled its newest exhibition. Fashion Police: Uniforms Through The Ages is a celebration of the timeless evolution of police uniforms 'and the rich stories woven into every thread'.

Commenting on the new display, Heritage Manager Corinne Brazier said: "It's vital that we find fresh and engaging ways to connect people with over 200 years of policing history. This exhibition represents months of hard work, detailed research, and true collaboration. Each recreated uniform tells a powerful story - not just of policing, but of the communities we serve."

Maisie Smith to star in The Talented Mr Ripley

The Crown's Ed McVey and EastEnders actor and Strictly Come Dancing finalist Maisie Smith will star as Ripley and Marge respectively when the first-ever UK tour of The Talented Mr Ripley stops off at Birmingham Repertory Theatre next month.



Adapted for the stage from the famous Patricia Highsmith novel, which is this year celebrating its 70th anniversary, the production shows at the Centenary Square venue from Monday 22 to Saturday 27 September. Tickets for the show are available via the website at birmingham-rep.co.uk

A Christmas Ball for Cinderella at the Old Rep

Birmingham's BOA Group will be taking audiences to a magical Ball at the city's Old Rep Theatre this Christmas.

The multi-academy creative & digital industries trust is presenting a pantomime version of Cinderella as its festive family show. The production runs at the city-centre venue from Saturday 22 November to Wednesday 31 December. Tickets can be purchased via the website at oldrep.co.uk

Hippodrome launches new sustainability plan

Birmingham Hippodrome has launched a brand-new sustainability plan for the theatre. The plan - which contains 10 core commitments covering areas such as creative

programme, governance & values, partnerships and training - will look at improving the theatre's environmental performance. This will be done by cutting direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions and addressing resource use in works. Further information about the venue's ongoing work towards sustainability can be found at birminghamhippodrome.com

Step into another world at the NEC this month

Virtual reality (VR) attraction Universum Birmingham continues to run at the city's NEC until Sunday 24 August (excluding Tuesdays). The presentation features three VR experiences which are showing in the UK for the first time ever: Napoleon - The Immersive Saga; Wild Immersion; and Fairy Tales. To find out more about the attraction, visit universumvr.com/birmingham

Line-up announced for 2025 comedy festival

Birmingham Comedy Festival's 2025 edition will run from Friday 3 to Sunday 12 October. The annual event - this year featuring in excess of 80 performances and including contributions from Joe Lycett

(pictured), Henning Wehn, Geoff Norcott and Gary Delaney - will take place across a variety of city venues. More information about the festival can be accessed at bhamcomfest.co.uk



A load of bull in the city...

A new art trail based on the iconic Birmingham bull is now available to view on the city's streets - and all in the name of charity.

Birmingham Hospice has partnered with Wild In Art - a global producer of art trails - to create the attraction, which will remain in place until Sunday 14 September.

The 40 fibreglass bull sculptures will then be auctioned off, on Thursday 16 October, to raise vital funds for the hospice.

As well as the large sculptures, there are a further 88 smaller bull sculptures available to view in city locations. These have been designed and adopted by local schools and groups as part of the trail's Learning & Community Programme.



Old Joint Stock to stage first festive family show

Birmingham's Old Joint Stock Theatre has announced that its first-ever family Christmas show will be 'a heartwarming and magical musical reimagining of the beloved tale of Pinocchio'. The production shows at the city-centre venue from Thursday 18 to Tuesday 30 December. To purchase tickets, visit the website designmynight.com

Midlands gig for Lewis Capaldi

Scottish singer-songwriter Lewis Capaldi's autumn tour will include a visit to Birmingham (Utilita Arena, Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 24 September). To access further information and book a ticket visit utilitaarenabham.co.uk



A Utilita stop-off for The Prodigy

Electronic music band The Prodigy are heading out on tour next year, making a stop-off at Birmingham's Utilita Arena on Saturday 18 April. They will be joined for the show by DJ Carl Cox. Tickets can be purchased at theprodigy.com

HMV Vault date for Tom Grennan

Singer-songwriter Tom Grennan will visit HMV Vault Birmingham on Sunday 10 August to meet fans and sign artcards celebrating the release of his new album, Everywhere I Went Led Me To Where I Didn't Want To Be.

Tom's visit to the city comes just five days before the album is released - on Friday the 15th - and just 25 days before he returns to headline at Utilita Arena (Thursday 4 September).



TV favourite Kym Marsh set to star in psychological thriller

Kym Marsh is to star in the world-premiere stage production of psychological thriller *Single White Female*.

Kym, who's probably best known for her many years spent portraying the character of Michelle Connor in *Coronation Street*, will play the part of recently divorced mum Allie.

The play is based on the same-named 1992 film starring Bridget Fonda and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Commenting on the news, Kym said: "I remember being totally gripped by the movie when I first saw it in the cinema... Get ready to be thrilled, shocked and entertained - and watch out for those stiletto heels!" *Single White Female* visits Birmingham theatre The Alexandra from Tuesday 5 to Saturday 9 May 2026. For further information and to purchase tickets, visit the website at atgtickets.com



Tom Davis in the region in 2026

Comedian Tom Davis will spend much of 2026 out on the road with brand-new stand-up show *Spudgun*. Tom's tour includes stop-offs at two West Midlands venues: Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Saturday 21 March, and Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday 10 May. For tickets, visit the website of the relevant venue.

National Youth Orchestra to perform Star Wars soundtrack in Birmingham

The National Youth Orchestra will this month perform the *Star Wars* soundtrack in Birmingham as part of an epic summer tour. The talented ensemble appear at the city's Symphony Hall venue on Wednesday 6 August. The concert will also feature Caroline Shaw's *The Observatory* and Holst's *The Planets*. To find out more and book tickets, visit bmusic.co.uk



The Anchor in Digbeth to reopen this month...

Celebrated Birmingham pub The Anchor in Digbeth is to reopen mid-to-late August, with its new proprietor pledging to 'restore the city gem to its original glory'.



Peter Connolly, founder-director of community bar & music venue Nortons Digbeth, has taken on the Grade II listed Victorian landmark & business following its closure under previous management in June. Peter will work with experts to 'sensitively and meticulously' revive the building's classic interior and exterior features, including the original bar fittings, pincushion leather bench seating and brass fixtures. The renovation will also introduce new elements in keeping with the building, alongside revitalising The Anchor's original snug and lounge bars.

Dance favourite Jasmin bringing NOW to MAC

Dance favourites the Jasmin Vardimon Company are celebrating their 25th anniversary with a brand-new show.



Taking the title NOW, the touring production revisits favourite moments from the company's repertoire, 'while reflecting the current moment, the continuous movement of time, and the act of performance within live art'. The show is being performed at Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) on Friday 24 & Saturday 25 October. Tickets can be booked at macbirmingham.co.uk

Autumn date at XOYO for Panjabi Hit Squad duo

Panjabi Hit Squad are coming to the second city. The boundary-pushing duo, who have been at the forefront of South Asian music & culture for the past two decades, will visit XOYO Birmingham on Friday 14 November. For more information and to book your place at the event, visit Ticketek.



Tasty! Birmingham's restaurant festival makes a return

Birmingham Restaurant Festival has revealed the list of 50 eateries which will be providing foodies with 'exciting and affordable dining experiences across the city' over the course of the month.

Now in its fourth year, the festival takes place every August and offers 'exclusive

menus for incredible value'.

Among the venues participating in 2025 are the Michelin-starred Adam's and Simpsons. Both restaurants will be offering exclusive menus for £70. To find out more about the event and make a reservation, check out birminghamrestaurantfestival.co.uk

Gala dinner to raise vital funds for MND research

Birmingham's Edgbaston Stadium will this autumn host a star-studded gala dinner to raise funds for research into Motor Neurone Disease.

Described as 'a night of dazzling performances, as celebrities from stage, screen and sport don elaborate costumes to compete as mystery entertainers', the event takes place on Saturday 18 October. Well-known names who will be in attendance include former cricketer Phil Tufnell and actor & TV personality Christopher Biggins. To find out more, visit the website at tickettailor.com

Concert to mark Horrible Histories anniversary

The Horrible Histories stage shows will be 20 years old in 2026 - and to mark the milestone, Birmingham Stage Company is touring a special event.

Horrible Histories - The Concert, featuring favourite songs and characters from the award-winning BBC TV series, will visit Birmingham theatre The Alexandra on Friday 20 & Saturday 21 February. Tickets are available at atgtickets.com

West End star Lee Mead to appear as Barnum

West End favourite and former Joseph star Lee Mead will take the title role when a brand-new touring production of Barnum stops off at Birmingham Hippodrome next spring.

The show visits the venue from Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 April. For further information and to book tickets, go to the theatre's website at birminghamhippodrome.com



Paul Zerdin out on tour...

One-time America's Got Talent winner Paul Zerdin is visiting three West Midlands venues in the autumn, including the Lichfield Garrick. Ventriloquist Paul will bring brand-new show Jaw Drop to the theatre on Wednesday 10 September. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the venue's website at lichfieldgarrick.com



GREAT NIGHTS OUT B:MUSIC

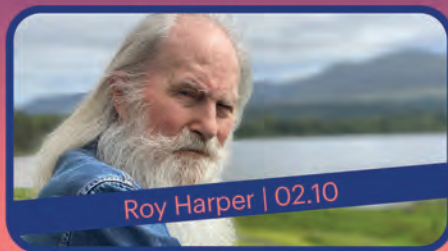
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Paul Carrack to bring new show to Symphony Hall

Paul Carrack will visit Birmingham's Symphony Hall next spring as part of a UK tour. The much-loved singer-songwriter stops off at the venue on Thursday 7 May.

For further information and to purchase tickets, visit the website bmusic.co.uk



Bromsgrove arts centre to host amateur festival

Bromsgrove's Artrix arts centre is hosting a long weekend of amateur theatre at the start of this month (finishing on Sunday 3 August).

The National Drama Festival is a competitive showcase comprising a selection of award-winning productions. Theatre-goers are invited to watch as many of the plays as they choose. They can also participate in any or all of the event's Feedback Forums and Studio Spotlight sessions, focusing on subjects including rehearsal techniques, puppetry, screen projection and playwriting. To find out more, visit ndfa.co.uk

University and Gardens in new research team-up

University of Birmingham and Birmingham Botanical Gardens are teaming up to undertake research projects designed to improve understanding of the natural world and the cultural benefits of the gardens. Commenting on the news, Professor William Bloss, pro-vice chancellor and head of the College of Life & Environmental Sciences at University of Birmingham, said: "The Botanical Gardens are an oasis of biodiversity in the heart of Birmingham. Having access to such a rich and diverse space opens up a wealth of opportunities for unique research into rewilding our urban landscapes with flora that can improve environments, mitigate against man-made climate change, and support economic growth."



Brand-new state-of-the-art track at Dunstall Park venue

Wolverhampton is set to become the new home of greyhound racing in the Midlands, with construction accelerating on the brand-new state-of-the-art track at Dunstall Park. Located within the grounds of Wolverhampton Racecourse, the multi-million-pound development marks a major milestone for the sport, with operations transitioning from the historic Perry Barr

Stadium to the new facility in time for the autumn racing season.

To celebrate the move, free trackside tickets are now available to the public...

Simply sign up online (wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk) to receive a ticket valid for any greyhound fixture at Dunstall Park between the late summer/early autumn launch and Saturday 31 January 2026.

Sutton Coldfield venue to host summer send-off

Digbeth Dining Club will host a brand-new family-friendly music, food & entertainment festival at the end of the month.

Titled Good Stuff and taking place at Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club on Saturday 30 August, the 'summer send-off' event will feature street-food traders, roaming performers, grass-roots musicians, a circus workshop, a silent disco, inflatables, bubble machines and a world-record attempt. Tickets for the event can be purchased at skiddle.com

Irish festival set for an autumn return in Digbeth

Birmingham music venue Nortons Digbeth will next month mark the halfway point to national Irish holiday St

Patrick's Day with a lively programme of 'music and culture'.

The special event, titled Halfway Fest and featuring 'live music, comedy, creamy pints and craic', takes place from Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 September. Traditional Irish folk band CLADA (pictured) bring the festival to a close. Tickets are available at skiddle.com



Mamma Mia! Abba stage show returning in 2026

Abba's long-running stage musical, Mamma Mia!, is to make a welcome return to the Midlands next spring.

The hit show, which is now in its 26th year and has been seen by over 11 million people, will make a stop-off at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 12 to Saturday 30 May. Tickets are available via the venue's website at birminghamhippodrome.com



A star-studded line-up at B:Music's two venues

Bill Bailey, Geoff Norcott, Engelbert Humperdinck, Suzanne Vega, Lulu and The Boomtown Rats are among the well-known names who will be performing in Birmingham across the late summer/early autumn period.

They will all be appearing as part of the line-up of entertainment being presented by B:Music, the charity responsible for city-centre venues Town Hall and Symphony Hall. To check out the whole programme and book tickets, visit the charity's website at bmusic.co.uk

A SPARKLING SEASON AWAITS



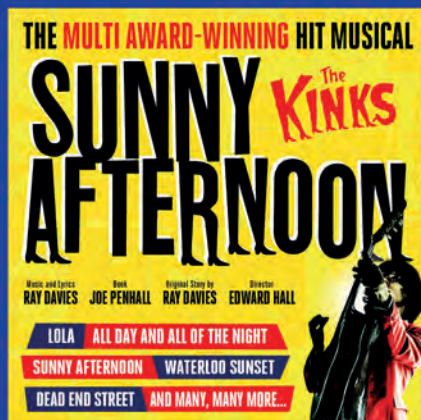
Thu 4 – Tue 9 Sep



Sat 20 – Sat 27 Sep



Mon 13 – Sat 18 Oct



Tue 21 – Sat 25 Oct
CAP Thu 23 Oct 7.30pm



Tue 11 – Sat 15 Nov



Tue 18 – Sat 29 Nov
CAP Sat 22 Nov 2.30pm AD Sat 29 Nov 2.30pm



Tue 2 – Sat 6 Dec



Tue 9 Dec – Sat 3 Jan 2026
CAP Thu 18 Dec 7.30pm AD Sat 20 Dec 2.30pm



Tue 27 – Sat 31 Jan 2026

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SNOWBALL EFFECT

The magical world of Slava's Snowshow
returns to Birmingham this autumn

Playful, poignant and visually breathtaking, Slava's Snowshow returns to Birmingham this autumn. A spontaneous and unique feat of high-quality clowning, the production is the brainchild of Slava Polunin, who has been bringing magic to the stage for more than five decades. What's On caught up with him at his Paris headquarters to find out more about his multi-award-winning show...

To my right, a red piano and red pianist glide past on a green raft, floating on a murky river and playing music into the air. In the distance, I can hear the drums and whoops of a carnival of fools as they dance through the trees. And I've left behind a clown riding a bicycle, which pumps out bubbles to a courtyard full of excited children.

In front of me sits the man responsible for this garden of delights: Slava Polunin. With his trademark white whiskers sticking out at right angles from his cheeks, a fool's cap on his head and his eyes painted black and white, Slava is every inch the clown - and all that is happening around us is part of his world of fantasy and phantasmagoria.

This weekend Slava has turned his home outside Paris, the 18th century Yellow Windmill, and its 10 hectares of grounds into the Pulcinella Festival, celebrating the historic commedia dell'arte character who has featured in theatre for centuries. Strolling through the gardens are hundreds of visitors dressed in fantastical costumes and speaking a host of different languages, here to step into Slava's imagination for a few hours.

This is a world which also inspired his most successful touring stage production, Slava's Snowshow, which comes to Birmingham in November.

First staged in 1993, now an international phenomenon, and blending slapstick comedy, heart-wrenching tenderness, dramatic spectacle and moments of wonder, Slava's Snowshow focuses on the adventures and interactions of a group of yellow clowns and green clowns. It has been seen by audiences in more than 60 countries across Europe, the Americas, the Far East, Australasia and Asia, along the way receiving multiple awards, including an Olivier for Best Entertainment and a Time Out for Best Show. Many in its audiences are return visitors - and that, says Slava, is because no two performances are exactly alike.

"The show is like jazz; there are notes and points, but then you can do whatever you want," he explains. "When you understand your audience, you change it, you hold the moments.

"It's not like a comedy, where you have repetition of the same gags. It's very important for us to have the mood and the atmosphere of each performance. People come not to see what is happening in the scene, because a lot of people have already seen the performance and are returning

again and again, but because they want to experience what we create - this special atmosphere, this childish feeling of happiness, liberty, joy and playfulness."

Slava is so determined to ensure the show creates an individual experience every time that he chooses the cast just before each performance.

"We have a team of around 100 people, but I need only up to 15 per show, and we decide in advance who will go on the tour. But then the artists don't know what part they will play - they find out only 30 minutes before the performance.

"They all try to know all of the roles, and I look at them and decide in that moment if this person is in the mood to play this part today. It's like a few minutes before the show starts, I put a new key in the lock. I say 'at what angle will we play the performance today?'"

Slava says that each person in the audience will respond differently to the show, depending on their own experiences in life and even on that particular day.

"There are a lot of layers. There are mundane, everyday things, right through to very cosmic, eternal things. And so I try to make it so that every person in the audience will find their own interest in the Snowshow. For the children, it's the play; the grandmother will have tears in her eyes because of the destiny of the character; the professor will receive joy from the new language; the punk will have joy in finding it all upside-down; the romantic will see the love.

"This show allows us to return to our childhood. Growing up, people lose the idea of wanting to achieve their dreams. I remind them about it, and they return to what were the most important things in their lives; what they have lost as they grew up."

Now aged 75 and having spent more than five decades creating and performing magical works, Slava has been living his own dream throughout his lifetime.

"I still think that I am seven years old," he laughs, gesturing towards the performances taking place around us. "This is my playground and these are my toys. I enjoy this, and people around me enjoy it with me. It's very easy to be a child - you just have to observe and be surprised and always amazed."

Slava grew up in a small town in Russia. He

enjoyed performing in school productions before moving to Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg) to join a mime studio. He trained in theatre skills in London and believes the British have a very distinctive sense of humour.

"When I come to the UK, I always play the card of nonsense because that is the UK for me. Lewis Carroll is one of my favourites, and Monty Python was genius; I think they re-invented the attitude towards laughter. That's why I love the UK - Tommy Cooper, Max Wall, Charlie Chaplin; there are a lot of people who do laughter in the UK. The humour is the best in the world. When I go to the UK, it's like I am returning to my homeland. This whole show is for the British."

As a child in Russia, each winter Slava saw the power of snow. It would fall so heavily he could dig tunnels six feet down. It was his playground. But he was also constantly warned about its dangers. So when he came to create a production based on his own experience of life, he returned to that time, and to the idea of snow as both a tiny flake and a potentially cataclysmic force of nature.

"At the beginning, the show was called Yellow and the accent was on the person, the character. But then I realised that it's not that important that this character exists; it's what happens to him that matters. This little yellow dot in this endless space in blueness - he thinks, feels, and then tries to fight destiny. And his destiny is snow, and snow is something beautiful and something terrifying. There is the question: when there is a snowstorm and it destroys everything, is it a good thing or is it a bad thing? But in reality, it is both at the same time - and life is like that. Everything in life can be a win and it can be a loss."

The pianist has long drifted back down the river, and the parade of fools has paused for a break. A group of visitors have discovered our interview spot behind the trees and are waiting for us to finish in the hope they can meet Slava. He gives me a smile to ensure I understand that he is wanted elsewhere, and then turns to welcome them into his world.

.....

Slava's Snowshow runs at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra from Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 November

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STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTES

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) has announced its 2025/26 season, presenting a compelling programme of concerts connected to the city's vibrant cultural identity - and featuring Laura Mvula, Star Wars, Mahler and more. What's On spoke to the Orchestra's CEO, Emma Stenning, and to Catherine Arlidge, Director of Artistic Planning, to find out what treats are in store - whether you're a long-term supporter of the CBSO or an orchestral-music novice...

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) is looking forward to a new season of classical greats, presented alongside beloved music from stage and screen.

The season, which kicks off on Wednesday 17 September with Elgar's *Dream Of Gerontius*, will feature an appearance from Birmingham-born superstar Laura Mvula, orchestral epics, and of course, concerts conducted by CBSO Music Director Kazuki Yamada, who begins a full Mahler Symphony Cycle in January.

While the new season is already generating excitement from the CBSO's long-term supporters, CEO Emma Stenning reveals that it has also caused a buzz within the orchestra itself.

"There was a wonderful moment when we introduced the programme to the orchestra," she explains. "When we talked about Kazuki's Strauss programme, they started cheering! It's the kind of music that the orchestra longs to play.

"We'll see more projects with The Orchestral Qawwali Project (Friday 12 June), who sell out wherever they go. Our latest project with them has just sold out at the Barbican in London - that concert will play here in Birmingham and then transfer to London.

"We're also working on a partnership with Classically Black, which is a project of Black lives in music. We're delighted to be bringing Laura Mvula back to the stage on Friday 10 October. Laura is, of course, Birmingham born and bred. She once worked front-of-house at the CBSO Centre - she composed some of her early music on the piano in our rehearsal room, I think - and is now a superstar."

The season also features other well-known faces, as Catherine Arlidge, the CBSO's Director of Artistic Planning, explains.

"Mark Kermode is coming to talk about a book he's written, which is a history of movie music, on Saturday 7 February. And it's Carlo Rizzi's first time with us. He was the music director of Welsh National Opera, and he's playing two concerts with us (Wednesday 15 & Friday 17 April). And one of our all-time favourites, Benjamin Grosvenor (pictured), is back on Wednesday 6 May!"

When it comes to the orchestral programming, the season's finale features a

piece of music that is deeply connected with the CBSO, as Catherine explains: "The closing concert of the season - Kazuki Conducts *Harmonium*, on Saturday 4 July 2026 - is going to be epic. It's a full orchestra and huge chorus. *Harmonium* by John Adams is a piece the CBSO premiered in Europe in 1987. Its world premiere was in America, and we did the European premiere, so it's a piece that's got real history with us."

Appreciation for orchestral music is on the rise, not only through film and video game soundtracks, but also as people use streaming services to access classical music.

Emma is keen to highlight the fact that the CBSO offers a helping hand to those who want to explore classical music for the first time: "We had a brilliant week last year where the orchestra played at the Bullring and at New Street Station, and we played smaller concerts all across the city - all for free. We're doing that again; that's the first thing in the brochure this year... Again, totally free! Come and get a sense of what the orchestra is about, and how incredible the experience of live music is."

Emma adds that the brochure itself has a new feature to help audiences navigate new music - without first needing in-depth knowledge about the composers or performers.

"On the front of the brochure, we run through words like 'adventurous, calming, comforting, moving, powerful...' and as you look through the programme, you'll see each concert has got two or three badges attached. All of those 'mood badges' have been applied by Kazuki or the artists, and sometimes the audiences. So it should be a really good signpost for people, to help them find their way into the programme."

"There will be things in the season that people have heard of, even if you're not an orchestra-goer," adds Catherine. "We've got the *Star Wars* trilogy - three films with live orchestra, from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 October. We've also got a Charlie Chaplin film, with live orchestra (Saturday 25 April). We've got a Bernstein night (Saturday 20 June), with bits from *West Side Story*, and we've got a James Bond night (Friday 20 February). There's also a Queen night this autumn (Sat 20 September)..."



"Movies and musicals are a great 'way in' for people to discover orchestral music, because if you've seen a movie, you've heard an orchestra play. We had a concert earlier this season which was the animated film *How To Train Your Dragon*, with the orchestra playing live. The soundtrack is phenomenal! It was just such a happy night, seeing the hall full to the brim with families - people coming for the first time. It's a magical way to discover the orchestra."

And for anyone who prefers a more traditional orchestral programme, there are definitely treats in store, led by Kazuki Yamada.

"Kazuki is with us until at least 2029," says Catherine. "So this season, we've started a Mahler cycle - all nine Mahler symphonies will be performed by the orchestra over those four years. Mahler One kicks off the series on Thursday 15 January. That's a long-term project, which will take audiences on a long journey. It's also really good for the orchestra, because you start to cement your style together and build a unique voice."

With tickets already on sale, Catherine and Emma hint at the concerts likely to prove particularly popular. Puccini's *Tosca* is scheduled towards the end of the season, on Saturday 27 June, and Kazuki's aforementioned Strauss programme takes place late this year, on Wednesday 10 December. Both might well end up selling like hot cakes, so book your tickets while you can.

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The CBSO's 2025/26 brochure is available at cbso.co.uk/season-25-26. Tickets for the season are on sale now.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Martha Wainwright stops off in Shrewsbury



Acclaimed singer-songwriter Martha Wainwright is one of the headline acts at this month's Shrewsbury Folk Festival. The event comes at the end of a tour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her debut album. But as much as she's enjoyed looking back, she's ready to start making new music too, as she explains to What's On...

As the daughter of Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, and sister of Rufus Wainwright, American-Canadian singer-songwriter Martha Wainwright (she was born in New York, but raised in Montréal) is arguably the epitome of folk-rock royalty. But as much as family connections brought opportunities to perform and learn about the music industry, they also cast quite the shadow when it came to being seen as an artist in her own right.

"I had so much opportunity through nepotism to play and get seen, that's for certain," she says. "And I was associated with these great songwriters - Kate and Anna [McGarrigle, her mum's sister], Loudon and Rufus - but I had to prove myself somewhat, even to myself."

As a result, her self-titled first album, which is 20 years old this year, went through a lengthy period of gestation.

"It was a real process to get the record out, partly because the market at that time already had a couple of Wainwrights! And obviously Rufus' first and second albums were so powerful and so strong, and I was a part of those records in that I was a backup singer. I sang on those records and toured a lot with him. It's not that there wasn't enough room for both of us, but I needed to pave my own way."

That meant "almost 10 years of playing, doing gigs, making mistakes, writing songs", releasing DIY cassettes and EPs, and fighting back against record executives who either wanted her to sound more folk, like her mother, or more pop, like Cyndi Lauper. It was only after a chance meeting with producer Brad Albetta, who went on to become her husband, that the record finally got made. It was recorded over a period of 18 months when his studio was available.

"We just kept on working and getting these great mixes out, and I'd send them to labels, but only after it was mixed and sequenced. It was a huge relief once it came out."

Soon after that happened, she flew to the UK to appear on Later... With Jools Holland, earning instant critical acclaim as well as an audience she never really expected.

"For me, that was the real moment. It's not like I got off the plane and people were screaming, but it was *almost* like that, in that I got to London and did a show for press - back then the press was so important - and pretty quickly I was getting a lot of attention."

One of the tunes that prompted the most attention was Bloody Mother F**king Asshole (she kindly refers to it as "BMFA"), which was initially a tirade against her estranged father (among others, she says). It has since gone on to have a life of its own, to her great satisfaction.

"In some ways that song, from the first moment I sang it, was my most useful song but also least personal in a way. It seems bigger than me just writing a song about my feelings in that moment."

It also earns the loudest singalongs - even at arguably demure folk concerts - and appeals to a greater number of people, she says.

"The audience, with their eyes closed, are shouting it back; usually the younger people [but] it seems to affect different people, different ages, and different walks of life too. Sometimes I see people in my audience who maybe wouldn't listen to a classic singer-songwriter like myself, and maybe that song has brought them to my music because it has a broader appeal."

Everyone likes a bit of anger and attitude from time to time, of course.

"Yeah, and I think there's a swearing part that's fun - but beyond that, the rest of the lyrics are interesting and it's quite poetic... I don't think it's a feminist song and men can enjoy it too, but it has a powerful message that in some way people can click into. So it seems larger than myself, which is a great thing, as that's sort of what you're hoping for. As a songwriter you write these personal songs - or I write very autobiographical songs - and you hope they'll go beyond that and have a life of their own."

That debut album ("sort of the quintessential one") has certainly lasted the course too. It was very much a case of planting a flagpole for how she saw herself as an artist.

"The first record set the tone or the stage for me as a songwriter in many ways, which I was happy for, because it was a record that was a long time in the making and has a variety of themes and styles that I've been able to build on over the last 20 years."

Speaking of which, has performing songs that are 20, and in some cases 30, years old made her think about how they, and her life, have changed in the interim? And has the process of revisiting them provided any inspiration for new material?

"I think it's done both. It's thrown me back there, in that I had to try to remember how to play some of the songs and then practise

them. So I was thrown back into that time, and primarily I was amazed that not much has changed and that I'm the same person.

"Now the bulk of the touring is over, I have this incredible want, and need, to write songs. I just started again, and I feel in some ways that they are informed by the first record and a return to the essence of who I was, and who I am, as a songwriter. So that's been very comforting, and exciting. A lot of the shows have also been sold out, so that has motivated me and put some wind in my sail too."

She believes playing festivals like Shrewsbury ("thanks for telling me how to pronounce it!") can be a source of inspiration too, as they provide an opportunity - and challenge - to connect with people previously unfamiliar with her music.

"Playing for audiences where some of them don't know the material is... I don't wanna say more satisfying, but it can be. If you can win them over by the end of the set, then you've really accomplished something."

"For songwriters like me, and this is a terrible thing to say, a lot of my audience was also my parents' audience, and a lot of those people are dying. I'm glad to see that people's children are now invited to the show, and I see more people at the shows who are my age, hovering around 50. I think that's because their kids are old enough that they can keep them at home!"

And given that she's scheduled to play on two different days at Shrewsbury, will she be out there among them, checking out other acts and enjoying the festival vibe?

"Oh yeah, that's a huge thing for me - especially when I was younger but even now - because that's where I discover a lot of music, or have in the past. I'm not always inspired to check out Spotify and new artists because I'm busy or on the road myself. I find that I've found most of my exciting discoveries by sharing the stage or seeing the person who's on right before me or right after, because at a festival I have the opportunity to walk by. I've always enjoyed that. When you're in a festival, you're more open to the spirit of that kind of discovery."

.....

Martha Wainwright plays Shrewsbury Folk Festival on Sunday 24 & Monday 25 August

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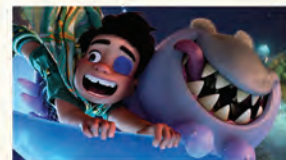


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Festivals coming to the region this month...

The Big Statfold Weekender

Statfold Country Park, Tamworth,
Fri 22 - Sun 24 August

Looking for a great value, family-friendly festival? Then look no further than the Big Statfold Weekender.

Forget your '9 to 5' and instead 'saddle up' as Statfold Country Park transforms into a toe-tappin' celebration of all things country on the Friday. The Saturday features a mix of local artists and tribute acts.

Street food, bars, unlimited train rides, a vintage fairground and family attractions are on offer throughout the weekend - and camping is available, too!

2025 line-up includes: Live In Technicolour (pictured), Forever Jackson, The Runaway Killers, Only Elton and Shania Up To Now



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Páirc Summer Series

New Irish Centre, Birmingham,
Sat 23 & Sun 24 August

A two-day celebration of Irish music and culture, Páirc features a mix of international headline acts and local talent.

The event promises fun for all the family and comes complete with street food, Guinness and real ale trucks, and no shortage of festival merchandise.

2025 line-up includes: The Saw Doctors, The Undertones (pictured), Nathan Carter, Sharon Shannon Big Band, The High Kings and The Tumbling Paddies



Shrewsbury Folk Festival

DMOS People West Mid Showground,
Shrewsbury, Fri 22 - Mon 25 August

A highlight of any folk fan's calendar, this four-day fest brings together centuries of musical tradition in one picturesque setting. Steeped in history, the border town of Shrewsbury provides an ideal backdrop for the festival's mash-up of modern, medieval

and everything in between, where grassroots cultures collide in dynamic fusion styles. Take along the whole family for dance and workshops as well as live music.

2025 line-up includes: Levellers, Skerryvore, Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy, Martha Wainwright, Holy Moly & The Crackers, El Pony Pisador and Judie Tzuke (pictured)



Ryland Caravan 2025

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham,
Sun 10 August

MAC's one-day music festival rolls into the venue's outdoor theatre for a third year and boasts a brilliant line-up of indie legends. Hosted by Birmingham's favourite alternative cowboys, Independent Country, the festival features shoegaze icons Miki Berenyi Trio (pictured), the UK's hottest new band, The Tubs, and indie fan favourite Stuart Murdoch. Best known as lead vocalist, songwriter & founding member of Belle & Sebastian, Stuart will be performing a rare acoustic set, settling down for a Q&A, and reading from new novel Nobody's Empire.

Penkridge Open Air

Penkridge Sports & Recreation Centre, Pinfold Lane, Fri 22 - Sun 24 August

Back for a fourth year and this time running over the August bank holiday, Penkridge Open Air festival presents live performances by a host of artists, bands and local talent across multiple stages.

Other festival attractions include a food vendor, BMX stunt show, circus acts, craft stalls, a funfair and a bar.

2025 line-up includes: Vengaboys, Nik Kershaw (pictured), Boney M, N-Trance, Chesney Hawkes, Go West, The Weather Girls, The Real Thing and Big Country





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10AM - 2PM



HOCKLEY HURRAH

Once a printing factory, Hockley Social Club is now an all-day, all-night hangout space where food, music and culture collide, curated and operated by Birmingham's famous Digbeth Dining Club (DDC). Now, after five wonderful years, the venue is going to close. What's On caught up with founder Jack Brabant to talk about his Social Club memories and find out what we can expect from the DDC team going forward (spoiler alert: there's a lot!)...

Founded in 2012, Digbeth Dining Club is a multi-award-winning events & venue operator which has transformed the Midlands' food landscape by turning some of the region's most unique venues into vibrant street-food destinations.

But you probably already know that.

What you might not know is that, after five fantastic years of delivering award-winning street food, world-class culture & music experiences, and hugely popular community events, Hockley Social Club, one of the venues that Digbeth Dining Club operates, has announced its closure.

"It's no lie that the hospitality industry is in a tough spot at the moment, and we're no different to anyone else in how it's affected us," explains founder Jack Brabant. "With rising costs, we could see that, within 12 months, we potentially may have been forced to close the doors overnight. Making the decision to close means we get to put on some great events, ensure that staff and contractors are looked after, and also let our customers come before it closes.

"I've been an advocate of support for hospitality from governments over the years, and yet it seems to be falling on deaf ears. We're seeing daily closures in hospitality. Hopefully they will start to listen soon, as the industry is in a precarious situation."

In its five years, Hockley Social Club has welcomed over half a million customers, worked with 175 traders offering hundreds of types of cuisines to food fans, and hosted over 5,000 events. And, in true fashion, Jack and the team have curated a wonderfully diverse selection of events to enjoy before the venue closes its doors on New Year's Eve.

"We've got a packed calendar all the way until the end of the year. Wingfest will be partnering with us again mid-August for the world's best festival for all things chicken. We welcome back the CBSO for a Halloween-inspired special. We've got Adam Rowe and Jeff Innocent joining us for Close Up Comedy in September, and then in November we celebrate our 100th show with some special guests. For those looking for a little dance, we welcome Grooverider to Artum, which is housed within Hockley Social Club, in October."

Despite opening in 'the wrong part of town',

the venue has been a huge success since its inception in 2020.

"That was a bit of a tongue-in-cheek comment! Since our Digbeth days, we've always been told that we open in the wrong parts of town, and yet people come. We've tried to reflect what makes the Midlands tick, representing all aspects of it. Whether that was ballet, grime, food, bhangra, country, classical, comedy, spoken word - you name it, we've probably put it on!"

The phrase 'something for everyone' can often be somewhat wide of the mark when promoting venues and events. However, Hockley Social Club really has provided something for everyone. With such a diverse programme, we wanted to talk to Jack about some of his highlights over the years...

"I really enjoyed the madness of doing click & collect during Covid. The fact that we managed to turn that around in four weeks, and had street food as well as food & drink independents, was really rewarding. It was like one big independent supermarket.

"Bringing the likes of the CBSO and Birmingham Royal Ballet to the venue was fantastic! The ballet collaboration between myself and Tom Rogers from BRB had been in the pipeline for around five years, so to get it off the ground was amazing. It was especially good seeing people who hadn't been to either a CBSO or BRB show before being introduced to something they'd never seen.

"On the music front, we've had the pleasure of working with so many artists, like Todd Edwards, Guy Called Gerald, Dave Lee, Wookie as a quarterly resident, but also the likes of Call Me Unique and Shanty Town, our amazing local artists who champion Brum.

"Finally, our comedy brand, Close Up Comedy. Harry Jenkins and Freddy Quinne built it as a small concept, and in the space of three years it's become one of the most established comedy clubs in the UK. We also have our festival, Comedy At The Castle, which has gone national.

"When Covid happened, we genuinely thought that might be the end of it all. In March 2020, we were welcoming 8,000 customers every weekend to our Digbeth site. Then, overnight, that was it. The fact that we had to leave Digbeth and start again, coming



to where we are today, is a highlight.

"We were a small team prior to Covid, and we now have a large team. Most importantly, the venue team are the ones who have made it a success. It's a bit of a madhouse, due to us constantly doing different events, yet they make it all work."

Digbeth Dining Club also operates food & events venue Herbert's Yard in Longbridge, and is currently on a summer tour of the Midlands, visiting 40 locations.

"We're back in some of our favourite spots between August and September. Lichfield, Warwick Castle and Himley Hall are all favourites of ours. We've got a new location in Hednesford on 16 August, and we also have our All The Good Stuff Festival coming to Sutton Rugby Club on 30 August. It's a food & music festival for the whole family, and we'll be making a world-record attempt where everyone can join in!"

So, what does the future hold for the beloved Brummie business? Plenty, by the sound of it!

"Hockley closing is sad, but it gives us the opportunity to focus on different areas of the business, as well as look at opening new venues and events. We're looking forward to opening a new venue in the Black Country, with the majority of the team from Hockley moving over to there, as well as expanding our Comedy At The Castle Festival across the UK. And a huge festival celebrating the best of the Midlands' food, arts, music and culture would be great! If any councils want to have a chat about spaces, I'm always available..."

.....
To find out more about Hockley Social Club and Digbeth Dining Club, visit the respective websites.

SATURDAY DAY FEVER

“...because life’s too short to save the dancing for after dark”



When she's not acting, Line Of Duty star Vicky McClure wears another, surprisingly different hat - as the host of a daytime clubbing party visiting venues up and down the country! Together with husband Jonny and pals including Jon McClure of Reverend & The Makers fame, Vicky's devised an innovative event that's bringing people together to dance and have fun - as she recently explained to What's On...

If you ever thought clubbing was just about under-25s stumbling home at 3am, think again. Day Fever - the unstoppable daytime disco dreamt up by Line Of Duty star Vicky McClure, her husband Jonny Owen, and pals including Jon McClure of Reverend & The Makers - is flipping the nightlife script, one sunlit dancefloor at a time.

Born from a WhatsApp chat and now heading to 24 towns and cities in September, Day Fever brings affordable, joy-filled clubbing into the daylight hours. "The first one sold out in two seconds," Vicky beams. "We did Nottingham, then Sheffield, then Merthyr and Cardiff, and it just flew from there."

It all started with a simple idea - as Jon explains. "Jonny just said, 'Have you ever seen those bars in town during the day? They're rammed!' We were like, come on then, let's do it, and it went nuts."

This new feelgood phenomenon sees people of all ages, literally from their 20s to their 70s, letting loose on packed dancefloors.

"We've had Jonny's mum sneak in a bottle of gin and stash it in a bush outside in Cardiff," Jon jokes. "That's the vibe! Bit of mischief, loads of laughs, and not a bit of trouble."

And it's that warmth, spontaneity and inclusiveness that keeps people coming back.

Vicky's voice lifts when she talks about the kind of people turning up to dance: "It's mothers and daughters, friends reconnecting, people on chemo, people grieving. These are your nurses, your cleaners, your teachers. These are the people keeping the world spinning, and now they've got somewhere to let go and feel joy."

One story that's stayed with her is a woman who had barely seen her friends or family unless it was for a wedding or a funeral.

"Now she's got a new frock every month, and she's out at Day Fever. She goes shopping Friday night, gets her hair done, and makes a proper event of it. That's magic, isn't it?"

Inclusivity isn't just a buzzword here; it's baked into the experience. "We've had people in wheelchairs come up on stage, and the crowd goes wild," says Vicky, visibly moved. "It's electric. We want it to be accessible to everyone. It makes your hairs stand on end."

While you might catch a familiar face on the decks - Jonny, Vicky, or even Jon's wife and fellow Reverend & The Makers band member Laura - most Day Fever events are led by local DJs. "We've been really selective," Vicky



explains. "They know their crowd; they know what their people want to hear. And they're smashing it."

And yes, music is taken very seriously.

"There's a loose structure," says Jon. "Bit of Northern Soul to kick off, disco, 80s bangers, 90s dance, a singalong, maybe some indie... but we always have Whitney. If Vicky's there, it's the law."

Vicky grins. "Hits across the generations, that's the key. We've done themed nights, even Christmas clubs. And we'll ask, 'Do you want more Christmas songs?' and they're like 'Nah, just give us the hits!' You just get a feel for it."

Regional pride plays a part, too. "Manchester goes mad for Oasis," says Vicky, "Nottingham's got its favourites, and we make sure to tap into that local energy. It's about community, about people being together."



With so many entertainment options pricing people out, Day Fever deliberately keeps things cheap. Vicky says. "We've always wanted it to be affordable. A night out can be £100 easy. We didn't want this to be that."

"Jonny said from day one it's for ordinary people," adds Jon. "Families, people with kids. We're not here to rip people off."

Venues love it, too. "We shut up shop at 8pm," Vicky explains, "They do a quick turnaround and run their usual night from 10. They're making great takings and reaching a new crowd. It's been a game changer for loads of clubs."

If Day Fever feels like a family party, that's because it kind of is. "Jonny and I are married," says Vicky, "Jon's wife DJs, his brother Chris and childhood friend Jamie are involved. Even Jonny's daughter Katie's behind the decks! It's one big gang, and when people come through the doors, they're part of it, too."

It's not uncommon to see Vicky herself dancing on stage with partygoers, selfies flying and smiles everywhere. "When people realise we're just there to have fun too - that we're not up on a pedestal - they really get into it," she says. "And I mean, come on, when else do you get to go clubbing with your mum?!"

"We've had offers to take it abroad, but we're being really careful. It's only 18 months old - it feels like a decade! - but we want to make sure we look after what we've built."

The gang have even announced their own Day Fever festival at Nottingham's Arboretum on the 23rd of August. "We've got loads of ideas," she teases. "But for now, we're just enjoying this moment. It's simple, and it works."

Vicky is filming Trigger Point and Jon's touring Australia - and both say they miss Day Fever when they're away. "Sounds a bit daft," Jon chuckles, "but it cheers me up. You leave feeling lighter."

And that's the magic, really. Day Fever isn't just a disco; it's a dose of pure happiness.

.....

Day Fever comes to the O2 Institute, Birmingham, on Saturday 6 September and Kasbah, Coventry, on Saturday 27 September.



Mary Poppins Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sat 23 August

Everybody's favourite magical nanny has opened her umbrella and flown 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.

The Winter's Tale

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

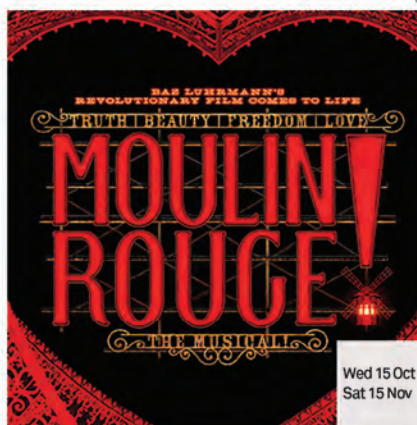
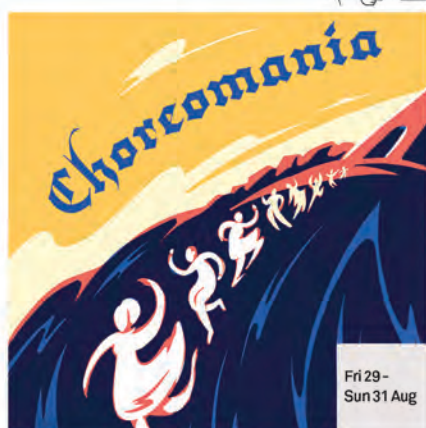
"The Winter's Tale is a beautiful and strange beast," says Yaël, "a mystery to be solved; a fusion of gritty tragedy and leaps of faith for both the characters and the audience."

"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."



Image credit: Marc Bremner





Inspector Morse: House Of Ghosts

The Rep, Birmingham,
Thurs 28 August - Sun 14 September

Author Colin Dexter's crossword-solving, ale-supping, classical music-loving Oxford detective is back in business, this time on stage.

On the back of a series of well-received novels, Morse became a household name in the 1980s and 90s courtesy of actor John Thaw, who played him in 33 feature-length television episodes. Spin-off shows *Lewis* and *Endeavour* followed in the 21st century - and now the cerebral sleuth is making a welcome return in the form of *Strictly Come Dancing*'s Tom Chambers.

This brand-new stage adaptation, based on an original story, finds Morse investigating the on-stage death of a young actress, and in the process uncovering a connection to sinister events in his own dim and distant past.

The Signalman

Malvern Theatres, Wed 27 - Sat 30 August

Charles Dickens' famous short story tells the tale of a Victorian-age signalman who's haunted by visions of impending disaster on his isolated stretch of line.

This latest stage adaptation is presented by Middle Ground Theatre Company, who are kickstarting an autumn tour of the show with this late-summer run in Malvern.



Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 27 - Sat 30 August; Malvern Theatres, Tues 9 - Sat 13 September; Lichfield Garrick, Mon 2 - Sat 7 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 23 - Tues 24 March

Seen by tens of millions of people across the globe, *Buddy* is an enormously enduring and touchingly affectionate portrayal of one of rock & roll's earliest and brightest stars. Charting the singer's meteoric rise to fame and fortune, and following his career

through to his very last performance, the show features timeless *Buddy* classics such as *That'll Be The Day*, *Peggy Sue*, *Oh Boy*, *Rave On* and *Everyday...* The multi-award-winning *West End* is visiting Birmingham Hippodrome for the first time in 11 years.



Be More Chill - The Musical

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Wed 6 - Sun 31 August

Sci-fi musical *Be More Chill* boasts an impressive online following of faithful fans and has enjoyed outings both in the *West End* and on Broadway.

The show's storyline follows the fortunes of high-school student and social outcast Jeremy Heere, who's desperate not only to become popular with his peer group but also impress the girl of his dreams.

The answer to his problems seems to be the 'SQUIP' - a supercomputer pill that tells its user what to do and say. But after swallowing the 'medication', Jeremy finds out that trying to be someone you're not can come at a

significant cost...

The show is based on the same-named 2004 novel by Ned Vizzini, a much-heralded young writer who died by suicide at the age of 32.

Timon Of Athens

The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Wed 20 & Thurs 21 August

This new Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) production provides a rare opportunity to check out one of the bard's least-performed plays. A dark satire questioning whether anything can be considered of true value in a world of unfettered greed, the play was likely written by Shakespeare in collaboration with Thomas Middleton. This latest production is being presented by the RSC's highly rated Next Generation Act Young Company.



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Theatre previews from around the region



The Two Gentlemen Of Verona

The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Mon 4 - Sun 31 August

Little known but lots of fun, *The Two Gentlemen Of Verona* is one of Shakespeare's very earliest comedies. It is here being presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company in a version lasting just 80 minutes - a fact which makes it an ideal introduction to the bard for younger members of the family.

The plot centres on the subject of male friendship and betrayal, as lifelong friends Proteus and Valentine fall out over Silvia, the Duke of Milan's strong-willed daughter. Expect plenty of Elizabethan-style humour, as lovers chase through the woods and Shakespeare's much-loved device of mistaken identity complicates matters further.

Choreomania

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Fri 29 - Sun 31 August

Medieval-influenced singing and contemporary electronic dance music combine in this movement-led performance by British Youth Music Theatre.

The show's story unfolds in 16th-century Strasbourg, a town living on the edge, having recently been through multiple plagues and famines. Religion dominates, but the church cannot solve the muddling mystery of the townspeople who just can't stop dancing...

Chopped Liver & Unions

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire,
Thurs 14 August; Courtyard Theatre, Hereford,
Wed 8 October

If you've never heard of Sara Wesker, you're not alone - but her largely forgotten story is a truly remarkable one.

Born in 1901, the tiny yet larger-than-life Sara - the aunt of acclaimed playwright Sir Arnold Wesker - became a real trailblazer in the trade union movement, leading 'the singing strikers of 1928', battling fascists at Cable Street, and helping to shape the radical politics of her age.

Paying loving tribute to her, this one-woman Blue Fire Theatre Company production is visiting Ludlow and Hereford having played to sold-out audiences 'from New York to Edinburgh'.



Fairlight

Edgbaston Archery & Lawn Tennis Society,
Birmingham, Sat 30 August

In the 'unusual subjects for a musical' stakes,

Fairlight is riding high, examining, as it does, the subject of queer invisibility in the world of tennis.

The production intertwines its numerous songs with accounts of Victorian prosecutions of gay men, demonstrations of the rules of lawn tennis, and interviews with current LGBT+ tennis professionals.





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Outdoor Theatre previews from around the region



The Merry Wives Of Windsor

Dudmaston Hall, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, Thurs 7 August; Winterbourne Gardens, Birmingham, Sat 9 August; Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Worcestershire, Sat 30 August

Mistresses Page and Ford believe it's high time the fat knight Sir John Falstaff was taught a lesson. After all, the big fella's been courting them both, claiming that each is his one and only true love and caring not a jot that they're both married!

A tale of buck-baskets, frolicsome fairies and men dressed as women,

this is Shakespeare at his comic best. Expect your sides to be as near to splitting as they're ever likely to be when engaging with the works of Stratford's most famous son. Presented by much-loved outdoor-theatre specialists Illyria.

HMS Pinafore

Bowring District Park, Wellington, Shropshire, Sat 9 August; Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Sat 23 August

Illyria Theatre here gets to grips with Gilbert & Sullivan's HMS Pinafore, a comic opera in two acts that marked the pair's fourth collaboration and proved to be their first major success.

A classic tale of forbidden love across different social classes, the production comes complete with sharp dialogue, catchy tunes, and some seriously slapstick humour.



Pride And Prejudice

Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Sat 2 August; Upton House and Gardens, Nr Banbury, Sat 9 Aug; Moseley Old Hall, Nr Wolverhampton, Fri 29 August

Elegant Georgian settings and wonderful comic characters abound in this stage adaptation of Jane Austen's famous romantic novel.

The foolish and marriage-obsessed Mrs Bennet is relentless in her pursuit of suitable men for her five daughters to marry. But her increasingly desperate quest generates all manner of muddle and mayhem in the process...

This oft-performed story is here presented by Illyria Theatre. The company - which has garnered an enviable reputation for producing high-quality theatrical fare for performance in the great outdoors - is touring four shows this summer. Its productions of HMS Pinafore and The Merry Wives Of Windsor are previewed elsewhere on this page.

The Wind In The Willows

Shrewsbury Castle, Thurs 14 August

Multi-award-nominated Immersion Theatre bring their trademark style and energy to this stage adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's much-loved countryside tale.

A firm family favourite, Grahame's classic story ably demonstrates the way in which one life can command the full attention of three others! Mole, Badger and Ratty simply don't have time for any of their own interests - they're way too busy having to look after their reckless and irrepressible friend, Toad...



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Natural History Museum: Dinosaurs Live!

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.

In The Night Garden

The Rep, Birmingham, Sat 2 - Wed 6 August

If your little ones are big fans of the popular CBeebies television series, they're certain to love the live versions as well.



And it's not only the kids who're in love with the stage shows. Audience surveys and parents' reviews reveal that, for nine out of 10 adults, the productions are five-out-of-five theatrical experiences! This currently touring show is titled Igglepiggle's Busy Day.

Captain Cauliflower And Marvin the Mischievous Moose

Smethwick Library, Wed 27 August

With the autumn school term looming on the all-too-near horizon, your youngsters may need cheering up. If so, there's



every chance that this 50-minute theatrical offering will put them back in a resoundingly happy space. Promising 'extreme silliness and unquestionable danger', the show sees Captain Cauliflower and his ever-faithful moose engage in an 'unforgettable adventure' that takes them up into outer space and deep down under the ocean. But can the intrepid pair get the better of their evil arch nemesis, the oh-so-odorous Onion Man?... Presented by award-winning 'masters of the absurd' Mad Etiquette.

A Squash And A Squeeze

Brierley Hill Civic, Wed 27 & Thurs 28 August; Malvern Theatres, Sun 31 August & Mon 1 September

If you've previously checked out and loved other stage adaptations of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's books - think of, for instance, The Gruffalo, Stick Man and Room On The Broom - why not give A Squash And A Squeeze a go?



A Little Angel Theatre and Lowry collaboration - telling the tale of a little old lady and a flappy, scratchy, greedy, noisy crowd of farmyard animals - the show has been created with children aged between three and eight in mind. Beautiful puppets and enchanting songs are very much the order of the day.

catchy songs to get your youngsters up and dancing.

The Boy With Wings

The Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 21 - Sat 30 August

Sir Lenny Henry's well-received children's book, about one boy's interstellar efforts to save the galaxy, is here adapted for the stage. The story's main protagonist is 12-year-old Tunde, a boy whose life takes numerous unexpected turns when he sprouts giant wings and discovers that his dad is a powerful alien warrior...



Bin Rat

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Wed 20 August

Live music, physical comedy, puppetry, visual storytelling and oodles of silliness. Welcome to the wonderful world of The Last Baguette, a Wiltshire-based theatre company who major in exploring important issues of the day via entertaining, accessible and eccentric work. The zany funsters' latest show sees them inviting audiences to join them on a rummage through the rubble with Bin Rat, to discover where all the junk goes. Described as a fun, feral and family show, the pay-what-you-choose production runs for 50 minutes and is suitable for all ages.



The Koala Who Could

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





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SAT 30 AUG



Harry Potter
AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE
IN CONCERT

SUN 31 AUG

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BENEATH THE STARS

Warwick Castle brings legendary live music back to its historic grounds this summer, with four consecutive evenings of exceptional open-air entertainment. The Castle's picturesque Pageant Field will come to life in the last days of August, as icons Bryan Adams, Texas and Pet Shop Boys take to the stage. The weekend is rounded off with a family favourite film: *Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone*, screened with accompaniment from a live orchestra. With bars and food stalls on hand and on-site accommodation available - from glamping to deluxe rooms - this is an end-of-summer experience to remember...

BRYAN ADAMS

Thursday 28 August

This year's Warwick Castle Live series kicks off with Bryan Adams' brand-new Roll With The Punches tour, which shares its laissez-faire name with his upcoming album, due to be released the following day. With a career lasting over four decades and hits like *Summer Of 69* and *(Everything I Do) I Do It For You*, Bryan's return to the spotlight won't be coming to an end any time soon - his last tour stretched across three years and 16 countries! Catch his electrifying gig at Warwick Castle - which also features as special guest ex-Spice Girl Melanie C - to hear new hits alongside classic anthems.

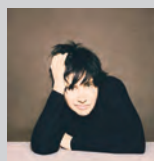


TEXAS

Friday 29 August

After an acclaimed sell-out arena tour, Texas return to thrill the crowd, promising a showcase that features five decades of music. Fronted by singer & guitarist Sharleen Spiteri, the Glasgow band was formed in 1986 and has been causing a stir and regularly impacting the charts ever since, from 1989 debut single *I Don't Want A Lover*, right through to latest album *Hi*, released in 2021.

Texas' appearance at Warwick Castle is also the last gig of their 2025 tour, so jump on board for the summer's grand finale. Heather Small supports.



PET SHOP BOYS

Saturday 30 August

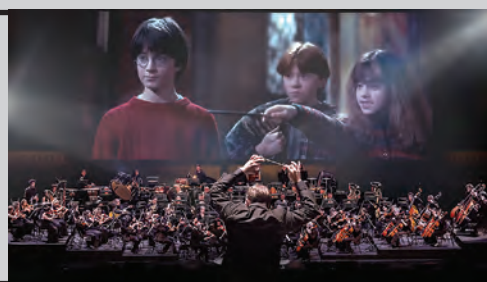
Pet Shop Boys are bringing their first-ever greatest hits show to Warwick Castle - and with support from DAVE Pearce's Dance Anthems, it's sure to be one big party!... The much-loved electro-pop duo have enjoyed 20-plus top-10 hits and earned plenty of accolades during the course of their illustrious career. Last year, *Dreamworld: The Greatest Hits Live* sold out a five-night residency at the Royal Opera House, so don't miss the chance to hear *West End Girls*, *It's A Sin* and a host of other fantastic songs from their back catalogue.



HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE Sunday 31 August

As Warwick Castle Live draws to a close, enjoy a magical evening with a difference. CineConcerts presents a high-definition screening of the first film in the Harry Potter series - with its iconic soundtrack performed live by a symphony orchestra. And as this is a picnic-style event, don't

forget your thermos and a camping chair! Re-live the movie that enchanted the world, with music - composed by film-score giant John Williams - that's every bit as memorable as the wand-waving antics of Harry, Ron and Hermione.



For more information and to book tickets, visit warwick-castle.com

Film highlights in August...



Freakier Friday CERT PG (111 mins)

Starring **Jamie Lee Curtis, Lindsay Lohan, Chad Michael Murray, Mark Harmon, Julia Butters, Manny Jacinto**
Directed by **Nisha Ganatra**

It's taken 22 long years, but fans of hit movie *Freaky Friday* finally have a sequel to get excited about. *Freakier Friday* sees Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan reprise their roles as Tess and Anna Coleman respectively. The story picks up years after Tess and Anna endured an identity crisis. Anna now has a daughter of her own and a soon-to-be stepdaughter. As they navigate the myriad challenges that come when families merge, the two women discover that lightning might indeed strike twice...

"The truth is I'm quite old, and I have worked a lot," Jamie told *JustJared.com*, "and everywhere I go, the movie that people want to know about is *Freaky Friday*..."

"[This new] movie is just freakier in all aspects. It's funnier, and there's more physical comedy. The switches are freakier."

Released Fri 8 August



The Life Of Chuck

CERT 15 (111 mins)

Starring **Tom Hiddleston, Jacob Tremblay, Benjamin Pajak, Cody Flanagan, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Karen Gillan** Directed by **Mike Flanagan**

Winner of the People's Choice gong at the Toronto International Film Festival - and based on a 2020 novella by Stephen King - *The Life Of Chuck* focuses-in on the world of Charles 'Chuck' Krantz as he experiences 'the wonder of love, the heartbreak of loss, and the multitudes contained in all of us'... As might reasonably be expected of a film-festival award winner, the movie has garnered plenty of praise, with critics referring to it in the most glowing of terms. 'A life-affirming masterpiece' and 'a stunning celebration of the moments that make life worth living' feature among the accolades bestowed upon it.

Director Mike Flanagan has form - impressive form, at that - when it comes to filming the stories of Stephen King. He has previously helmed critically acclaimed adaptations of the bestselling author's *Doctor Sleep* and *Gerald's Game*.

Released Fri 22 August



The Naked Gun

CERT 15 (105 mins)

Starring **Liam Neeson, Pamela Anderson, Paul Walter Hauser, Kevin Durand, Liza Koshy, Danny Huston** Directed by **Akiva Schaffer**

Now here's a blast from a distant past... Back in the late 1980s and early 90s, *The Naked Gun* films were all the rage, with the original 1988 movie being followed by two similarly well-received sequels. All three starred Leslie Nielsen as bumbling and frequently nonplussed police officer Frank Drebin, a character he'd first played in the now-cult 1982 television show *Police Squad!*.

Boasting surreal humour and fast-paced slapstick comedy, both the TV series and the

Naked Gun movies were the brainchild of Jim Abrahams and brothers David and Jerry Zucker, who'd previously hit box-office paydirt with 1980 disaster-movie parody *Airplane!*...

This sequel to the original *Naked Gun* trilogy finds Liam Neeson playing Frank Drebin Jr - the son of Nielsen's iconic character - as he leads *Police Squad* and investigates the murder of a woman's brother.

Not that the details of the storyline are even remotely important in this instance; it's the gags by which the film will sink or swim - and if the original trilogy is anything to go by, expect them to come thick and fast.

Released Fri 1 August

The Roses CERT tbc

Starring **Benedict Cumberbatch, Olivia Colman, Allison Janney, Andy Samberg, Kate McKinnon, Ncuti Gatwa** Directed by **Jay Roach**

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. But beneath the façade of their seemingly ideal life, a storm is brewing. As Theo's career nosedives while Ivy's flourishes, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites...

The film is based on Warren Adler's 1981 novel, which was previously adapted for the big screen in 1989 under its actual title of *The War Of The Roses*. The movie starred Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner as the titular couple, with Danny DeVito in a supporting role and also taking the directorial reins.

Released Fri 29 August



Caught Stealing CERT tbc

Starring **Austin Butler, Regina King, Zoë Kravitz, Matt Smith, Vincent D'Onofrio, Liev Schreiber, D'Pharaoh Woo-A-Tai** Directed by **Darren Aronofsky**

High-school baseball phenomenon Hank Thompson no longer plays the sport he loves, but life is otherwise pretty sweet; he's got a great girl, tends bar at a New York dive, and his favourite team is making an audacious underdog run at the pennant. But then things go suddenly and dramatically awry. When his punk-rock neighbour Russ - played by former *Dr Who* star Matt Smith - asks him to take care of his cat for a few days, Hank suddenly finds himself caught in the middle of a motley crew of threatening gangsters who all want a piece of him. Problem is, he has absolutely no idea why. As Hank attempts to evade their ever-tightening grip, he's got to use all his hustle to stay alive long enough to find out... Based on the 2004 novel by Charlie Huston.

Released Fri 29 August

Materialists CERT 15 (116 mins)

Starring **Dakota Johnson, Chris Evans, Pedro Pascal, Zoe Winters, Marin Ireland, Dasha Nekrasova** Directed by **Celine Song**

Lucy, an ambitious New York City matchmaker, finds herself torn between the perfect match and her imperfect ex...

That's the storyline of *Past Lives* director Celine Song's new movie *Materialists* - and while the *premise* may seem straightforward enough, in the opinion of Dakota Johnson, who plays Lucy, the *choice* which her character faces is anything but. "People are in a very strange place in evolution," Johnson told AP News, "and I think the difference between these two characters and

these two men, sure they are different ends of the spectrum in terms of, like, technical value, materialistic value, but also, each of them have the opposite in terms of psycho-spiritual value and emotional value, and what they can offer the other person in terms of soul evolution and growth.

"Perhaps because she works in this world of trying to understand people and what they want, [Lucy] is forced to go more inward, really interrogate herself and say, what do I really want and what is actually important in this life? Is it how much money I have, or is it how truly loved I am?"

Released Fri 15 August



BIRMINGHAM WEEKENDER IS BACK!

Birmingham Weekender is making an eagerly anticipated return this August Bank Holiday. Taking place from Saturday the 23rd to Monday the 25th, the free-to-attend, family-friendly festival will be much in evidence across the city centre and feature colourful outdoor installations, exhilarating performances and engaging experiences for all.

Produced by Birmingham Hippodrome in partnership with Bullring, this year's programme celebrates the very best local, national and international artists. The festival is supported by Arts Council England, Without Walls, Global Streets, Network Rail and United By 2022. Check out some of the event's highlights across this special feature...

WAITING SONG BY MISH WEAVER

New Street Station Concourse - Sat 23 - Mon 25 Aug, 12.45pm, 2.45pm & 4.45pm

Waiting Song asks you to consider what you hope for. A crescent-shaped rig provides a striking, sculptural installation, with 15-minute circus performances taking place throughout the day. In the show, two trapeze artists perform powerful choreography while singing - their song being a conversation about what they are waiting for.



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Wildlife Photographer of the Year

26 July - 31 August
Lichfield Cathedral



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Visual Arts previews from around the region

**GIANTS** Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Sat 2 August - Sun 2 November

Entertainment and education are brought together in this new exhibition, a show which celebrates the 'awe-inspiring creatures' that roamed the Earth after the extinction of the dinosaurs. 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, providing a not-to-be-missed opportunity to engage with the scientific processes that lie behind fossil discovery and reconstruction.

**Jason And The Adventure Of 254**

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 5 October

A monumental figure in a hospital bed is the centrepiece of Jason Wilsher-Mills' major solo exhibition, a show in which the artist explores the transformative experience of becoming disabled as a child. Paralysed from the neck down until he was 16 - by an autoimmune condition triggered when he contracted chickenpox at the age of 11 - Jason was unable to physically explore the wider world around him. Instead, he came to inhabit an interior world, one which was filled with action heroes, TV shows, films, comics, books and his own imagination... The exhibition has been commissioned by the Wellcome Collection, a free London-located museum and library dedicated to exploring the past, present and future of health.

Ozzy Osbourne: Working Class Hero

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 28 September

"Ozzy is proof that no matter where you start in life, with passion, grit, and a little bit of madness,



you can achieve the extraordinary."

So speaks Sharon Osbourne, celebrity wife of heavy metal legend Ozzy, who last month made a final appearance with Black Sabbath.

In a fanfare of publicity, the band played Villa Park, in so doing returning, of course, to Aston, the Birmingham district in which they kickstarted their illustrious career way back in the late 1960s. The Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery exhibition, which is free to enter, showcases Ozzy's most prestigious international honours, presenting them alongside photographs and videos that chart his journey from working-class kid to global rock legend. This exhibition is a thank-you to the fans and the city of Birmingham, the place where it all began," continues Sharon. "We're so proud to bring it home."

Hannah Maybank: Un-Still

New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 17 May 2026

With a practice very much rooted in the still-life genre - and turning primarily towards nature to find artistic inspiration - Walsall-born Hannah Maybank uses raw, natural materials to create pigments from which to develop beautifully delicate watercolours...



Hannah's New Art Gallery exhibition includes Gathering, a brand-new painting, featuring autumnal chrysanthemums, which she's gifted to the venue in celebration of its 25th birthday.

The Offbeat Sari

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

Celebrating the contemporary sari, this major exhibition brings together a selection of striking garments designed, worn and crafted by people from India.

The show has been conceptualised by Priya Khanchandani, the head of curation at London's Design Museum.

"The idea for the exhibition," says Priya, "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..."

"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."





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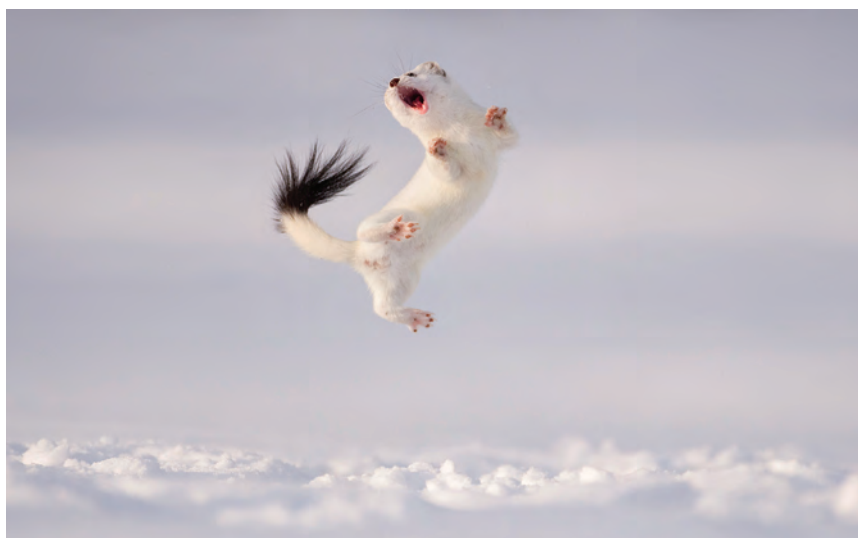


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Visual Arts previews from around the region



Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Lichfield Cathedral, until Sun 31 August

"We are facing urgent biodiversity and climate crises," says Dr Doug Gurr, director of the Natural History Museum, which has developed and produced this prestigious competition. "Photography is a powerful catalyst for change. And as we mark 60 years of Wildlife Photographer Of The Year, we also celebrate generations of visitors who have been inspired by the

beauty and majesty of its images, and the millions of connections which have been made with nature."

Visiting Lichfield as part of an extensive national and international tour, the show features a host of awe-inspiring images capturing fascinating animal behaviour and breathtaking landscapes.



Come As You Really Are Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sun 5 October

Award-winning artist Hetain Patel's exhibition Come As You Really Are is a joyous celebration of local hobbies, creativity and passion, featuring objects crafted, modified or collected by hobbyists based in the Midlands and

beyond. On display are items uniquely crafted by crocheters, needleworkers, knitters, woodturners, model makers, cosplay creators, potters, painters and many more. Presented in partnership with Artangel.

Vivienne Beaumont: Muses And More

Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire, until Mon 25 August

This latest exhibition by figurative textile artist Vivienne Beaumont celebrates the Nine Rococo Muses, the rare 18th-century Chelsea porcelain group which features in Upton House's collection. The individual fabric designs, printed onto cotton and reflecting the fragility of the porcelain, feature colours and patterns that are individual to each Muse.

I Grew Up 90s

Worcester City Art Gallery, until 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.

Shrewsbury Arts Trail

Various locations in and around Shrewsbury town centre, until Sun 31 August

Shrewsbury Arts Trail is back for another summer, with contributors to the popular event including sculptural artist Andrew Logan and local sculptor Halima Cassell. Now in its fifth year, the festival features an open-air sculpture trail and multiple exhibitions.

Strike A Match

Stourbridge Glass Museum, until Sat 8 November

Glassblowing artists Elliot Walker and Bethany Wood have been collaborating for the better part of a decade. During that time, they have routinely combined their distinctive artistic voices to create a shared practice. Their work has seen them use a broad spectrum of glassmaking techniques, from intricately sculpted still lifes, to conceptual installations and luminous molten paintings.





OFF THE WALL

August sees Compton Verney showing that it's so much more than an art gallery...



The Compton Verney estate in Warwickshire has been providing visitors with an ‘art in the park’ experience for over 20 years. Alongside a permanent art collection, the venue also hosts boundary-pushing installations and exhibitions, a programme of workshops, and numerous family-friendly events. Compton Verney’s director of creative programming, Abby Viner, explains to What’s On how this month’s line-up of imaginative activities aims to blend art with nature, creativity, and all-important play...

Compton Verney is promising an August packed with fun and creative activities for all the family.

The historic Grade I listed Robert Adam mansion house, surrounded by 120 acres of Capability Brown grounds, is hosting a series of activities, exhibitions, workshops and play days throughout the school holidays.

Established in 2004, the Warwickshire visitor attraction is also celebrating being named one of just five finalists in the Art Fund Museum of the Year Award.

For Compton Verney’s director of creative programming, Abby Viner, the accolade recognises the immense work the museum & art gallery has undertaken over the past 20 years to offer attractions for everyone.

“A lot of places talk about the idea of art, nature and creativity,” says Abby, “and it really is exactly what the experience is like at Compton Verney; it’s really immersive.

“As soon as you step into our grounds from the sculpture park, where you are welcomed by art, to the wildflower meadows and the trees that are everywhere, it really is a place where you feel this direct connection between art and nature.

“And then, on top of that, we work really hard to think about creativity, and how we connect people to how you make and understand the artwork. That means it’s a really brilliant, multi-generational family day out. You can be running through the meadows, there’s outdoor sculpture, there are the collections, there are interactive activities for kids, there are guided nature or archaeology walks, there’s the café. There really is something for everyone.”

The museum houses six core collections, including 18th-century Neapolitan art, 14th- to 15th-century Northern European work, British portraits and miniatures, ancient Chinese bronzes, folk art, and the Marx-Lambert collection of popular British art. But visitors can do more than simply view the paintings and objects.

“There are engagement activities in all of those gallery places,” says Abby. “So in the Sensory Naples experience, you can smell what a volcano smells like or pick things up that are in the paintings. You can hear the music that’s being played. It’s a really immersive environment.”

In addition to the core collections, Compton Verney is this summer providing a host of additional displays and activities. Among them is Stourbridge-born artist Emma Talbot’s *How We Learn To Love* exhibition (showing until Sunday 5 October), which features sculpture, animation, drawing and large-scale paintings on silk.

“Emma is an international artist, but she was born in the Midlands. Her work deals with quite big themes; she makes these enormous silk paintings that are hard-hitting but also romantic.”

Emma’s work looks at the connections between human grief and joy, and the cycle of nature - themes visitors can also explore through additional events and activities.

For children, Stratford-upon-Avon authors The Brothers McLeod have written a special book for the museum; *The Compton Verney Quest* is inspired by their popular *Knight Sir Louis* series.

“It’s all about telling stories. In their book, the knight Sir Louis comes to Compton Verney, and it’s been taken over by the evil Volcano von Volare, who is trying to eat all the artworks and has kidnapped King Otter and Queen Owl. This then leads to a really adventurous exploration of the site, which will bring all the family together. It also brings families into the gallery spaces so that they can engage with the stories there and create their own narrative.”

Compton Verney also celebrates National Play Day on Wednesday 6 August with a host of events for children and the launch of the Play Wagon, a new commission from Studio Hardie.

“Will Hardie will be known to many readers from the television series *George Clarke’s Amazing Spaces*. He’s created this Play Wagon especially for us, and the design is inspired by the architecture and the art you might see here. It will be totally interactive - so you’ll be able to climb into it and out of it - there are blocks, a slide, and it can be moved around the site. And then children, with their imaginations, can transform it into anything they like.”

The period following Play Day will see a range of workshops and events leading up to the Big Play Weekend (Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 August), when the site will be scattered with building blocks and giant inflatable

sculptures created by Ringworld.

“There will be lots of playful activities that relate to creativity and imagination. It’s about having fun, as you’re more likely to be creative if you’re having fun. Compton Verney is all about choosing what you want to do and letting your imagination and creativity run free.”

Alongside the fun, Compton Verney is also inviting visitors to dig a bit deeper, with the internationally acclaimed artwork *Gilt* by Hew Locke. Commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, this is the first time the four large sculptures which comprise the exhibit have been displayed in the UK.

“*Gilt* is installed on the portico of Compton Verney - so as you walk over the bridge, it’s there. They are enormous sculptures, so you will see these beautiful glistening trophies sitting on Compton Verney. But then, if you go round the back of them, you will see they are hollow edifices and are made of fibreglass; they’re not actually these gold trophies at all! And that starts the questions. Hew’s work starts to gently prod and ask ‘So why is this place, this beautiful 18th-century mansion, here? Where did all the money for this come from? And all the objects that are in the museum, where did they come from and why are they here?’

“It’s a real coup for us to have the work and ask these questions here. It’s interesting to see the different kinds of stories *Gilt* starts to question when it’s put within the English country house context.”

All of this month’s activities aim to encourage people from all backgrounds to visit.

“There’s space for everybody at Compton Verney, and we’re working really hard to think about who lives in our region and how we can engage with them. We might have international artists and other conversations, but we are a place for the Midlands. We constantly think about who lives here and how we can provide something unique within the context of the Midlands.”

.....

To find out more about Compton Verney’s events and activities, or to book workshops, visit comptonverney.org.uk



Birmingham
Museums



The Space Vault
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Events previews from around the region



Festival Of Sport

Packington Estate, Warwickshire, Fri 1 - Mon 4 August

The UK's largest sports-focused weekend festival takes place in Warwickshire this month.

Featuring family-friendly fun and games, Festival Of Sport comes complete with a wide selection of activities to enjoy, including athletics, zumba, rugby, hockey,

rowing and skateboarding.

Live bands, DJs, an open-air cinema, a food village, circus performers and appearances by 'a whole host of sporting legends' further adds to the fun. This year's get-together also features a stronger Wellness Zone, including a pop-up sauna, yoga, pilates and talks.



Shropshire Petal Fields

Shropshire Petals, Newport, until Sun 3 August

Shropshire Festivals has once again teamed up with Shropshire Petals to present the hugely popular flower field experience. Visitors can explore a myriad of brightly coloured flowers - think delphiniums,

cornflowers, sunflowers and wildflowers - as well as immerse themselves in forest fun and get busy with their cameras taking the perfect photo. Saturday the 2nd and Sunday the 3rd are both dog-friendly days.

Knight School

Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham, until Thurs 28 August

On Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer holiday, little visitors to Sudeley Castle can enroll in Knight School.

Children of all ages are invited to dress up and take part in knight-themed activities, including sword-fighting, archery and jousting. Successful knights will leave the castle grounds both knighted and certified.



Ikon Textile Fair

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Mon 25 August

Ikon's free-to-attend celebration of textiles from across the West Midlands offers visitors the opportunity to meet local makers and find out more about their creative practices.

Minsterley Show

Manor Farm, Cruckton, Shropshire, Sat 16 August

Shropshire's oldest one-day agricultural show is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2025. From very modest beginnings, Minsterley Show is now a multi-class exhibition of the very best in modern agriculture - and features lots more besides... This year's packed programme includes livestock showcases, crafts, and family entertainment, with high-flying daredevils the Stannage Stunt Team topping the bill.





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Events previews from around the region



Telford Balloon Fiesta Telford Town Park, Shropshire, Fri 22 - Sun 24 August

Telford's annual Balloon Fiesta makes a welcome return this August bank holiday. A weekend of aerial displays, shows, live music and family fun will be kickstarted by

Night Glow on the Friday evening. The event will see a display of hot-air balloons of all shapes and sizes illuminating the night sky, accompanied by a soundtrack of music.



Vintage Transport Extravaganza

Severn Valley Railway, Sat 9 & Sun 10 August

Severn Valley Railway's festival of transport returns this month - bringing together a selection of vintage vehicles from throughout the ages for one bumper weekend across the full length of the line. Start your journey at any station and check

out the wide variety of on-display vehicles whilst travelling on the train and experiencing the golden age of steam. Cars, tractors, traction engines, buses, motorbikes, and of course steam locomotives and diesel engines, all feature.

The Hundred

Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham, Fri 8, Tues 12, Sun 17 & Fri 22 August

Much-loved cricket competition The Hundred makes a highly anticipated return this month. Home team Birmingham Phoenix's 2025 campaign gets underway on 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.



Great British Beer Festival

NEC, Birmingham, Tues 5 - Sat 9 August

Thousands of ale lovers are set to descend on the NEC this month as the Great British Beer Festival makes its debut at the Birmingham venue.

Visitors to the show can sample hundreds of unique ales, ciders, perries and craft beers from around the world, with interactive tastings and live music also featuring.

40 Years of Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm

Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm, until Mon 1 September

Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year - and to mark the milestone, the much-loved visitor attraction is hosting a number of special activities.

Throughout the summer holidays visitors can enjoy competitions, write a birthday wish in the Discovery Zone, and take part in butterfly life cycle, mini-beast, 'beetle mania' and pupae demonstrations... A new exhibition within Rainforest Realm, housing a pair of Sumatran pit vipers, has also opened.





IKON TEXTILE FAIR

MONDAY 25 AUGUST, 11AM-4PM

FREE ENTRY

Ikon Gallery
Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

IKON



Ikon is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Registered charity no. 528892.

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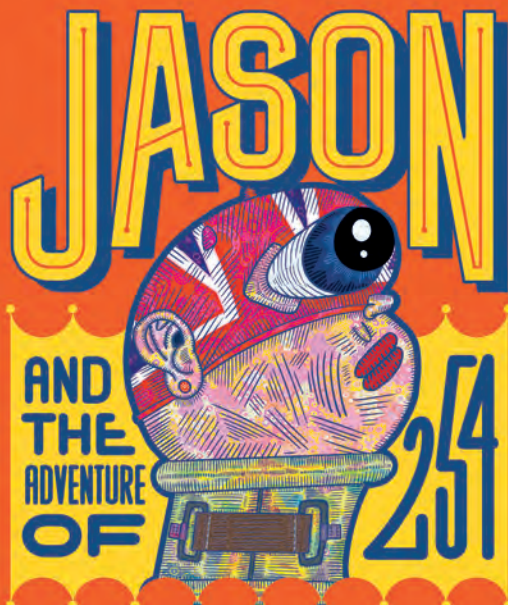
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Herbert
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Events previews from around the region



Stellar Space Day Thinktank, Millennium Point, Birmingham, Thurs 21 August

Thinktank is this month celebrating the opening of its newest exhibition, Space Vault, with an 'out-of-this-world' day filled with 'intergalactic fun and creativity'. Families can unleash their inner engineer via Lego Rover building workshops, get crafty with space-themed junk modelling

and night-sky finger painting, or explore the cosmos-inspired sensory den. Highly Sprung Performance will also be making an appearance with 'The Roswells' (pictured) - an alien family who are on the holiday of a lifetime in Great Britain, Earth...

The Beach

Lichfield Cathedral, until Sun 31 August

The Beach is back at Lichfield Cathedral for a fourth summer - and comes complete with a family-friendly boat-shaped play area called Noah's Ark.

August visitors to the cathedral can also check out the Wildlife Photographer Of The Year exhibition and get involved with a variety of animal-themed family activities.



Summer Fiesta

Weston Park, Shropshire/Staffordshire border, Sun 24 & Mon 25 August

Weston Park's Summer Fiesta returns for a fifth year, bringing with it a line-up of local artisan food & drink producers, unique crafts, street food, fairground rides, and live music from the Dirty Rockin Scoundrels.

The whole estate will be open to explore, offering visitors the chance to take long walks around the parkland, relax in the formal gardens, run wild in the woodland adventure playground or enjoy a journey around Temple Wood on the miniature railway.

Colourscape

West Park, Wolverhampton, Sun 3 August

Eye Music Trust's walk-in labyrinth, Colourscape, is back at West Park this month. The popular attraction, an immersive world of intense colour and light, features musicians and dancers who will lead visitors on 'a unique journey of the senses'.

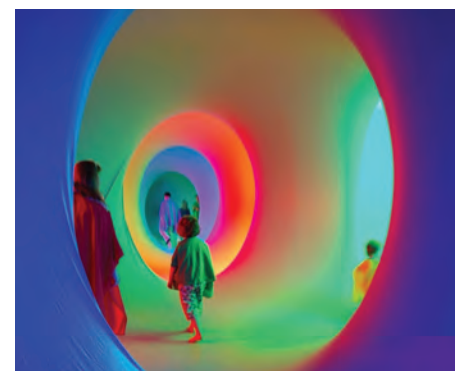


Photo credit: Jenny Harper

Where's Wallaby? across the Staffordshire Moorlands, until Fri 5 September

Staffordshire Moorlands is this month playing host to a collection of colourful and larger-than-life wallaby sculptures. Inspired by the local history of wallabies in the Moorlands, Where's Wallaby? - organised by OUTSIDE and Peak Wildlife Park - features 10 hand-painted sculptures co-

designed by local artists with community groups and schools. Anyone who visits all the sculptures and collects their names can enjoy discounted entry to visit real wallabies at Peak Wildlife Park.



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Events previews from around the region



Birmingham Weekender Birmingham City Centre, Sat 23 - Mon 25 August

Free family-friendly festival Birmingham Weekender will once again take over the city centre across the bank holiday weekend. Produced by Birmingham Hippodrome in partnership with Bullring, this year's programme celebrates the very best local, national and international artists. The festival kicks off on the Saturday with a vibrant carnival presented by ACE Dance &

Music. Across the weekend, festival-goers can sample a varied and imaginative programme. Highlights include international productions and installations presented in partnership with Global Streets, and new national commissions from Without Walls, bringing together some of the UK's leading outdoor artists.

Brick Dinos

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until 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).



Summer Shakespeare Playday

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Wed 6 August

To celebrate National Playday, the Royal Shakespeare Company is hosting a day of free family-focused activities inspired by Shakespeare's imagined Italy. Attractions include The Two Gentlemen Of Verona outdoor sculptural trail in Swan Gardens, outdoor storytelling for children aged between four and eight, drop-in sensory play sessions for the under-fours, and interactive guided tours of The Play's The Thing exhibition for youngsters aged seven and older.



MedievalFest Worcester Cathedral, Wed 13 - Sat 16 August

Worcester Cathedral steps back in time mid-month to provide fun for all ages from the Middle Ages!

Festival attractions include a series of film screenings, a crafts market, toddler story times, creative workshops and historical talks.

The event concludes with a lavish four-

course banquet in The Old Palace, where guests are encouraged to don their finest medieval attire and enjoy live music. Although many of the activities on offer during MedievalFest are free to experience, a number are chargeable and require pre-booking to secure a place. Check out the cathedral's website for further details.



BIN AND GONE

When a regional story hits the national news, it's not always cause for celebration. As Birmingham's bin strike continues - along with media coverage of streets piled high with rubbish, and ghoulishly oversized rats - the question of who is responsible looms as large as an overflowing wheelie bin. Birmingham's own Lauren O'Rourke - actor, writer & comedian, whose credits include *Drifters*, *The Inbetweeners Movie* and *White Gold* - has tackled the unsavoury subject in a play at the National Youth Theatre's new writing festival, StoryFest. *Bin Girl*, set against the backdrop of the city's ongoing strike, is hailed as a fiercely relevant comic drama that questions who gets given the blame, and explores the limits of female solidarity... Lauren here talks about the process of dramatising current events which, for her, are literally close to home...

What was your original inspiration behind creating *Bin Girl*?

National Youth Theatre had asked me to investigate the recent TikTok movement and the rise of the 'Trad wife' - women tapping out from the workplace and returning to a homely, domestic role. Some discussions on that topic made me feel that life is, in fact, complicated for women. You can do it all, but you'll mostly be doing it yourself. There's a lot to juggle.

Then an article appeared with the headline 'Women to blame for the Birmingham bin strikes,' and I thought 'Sure, of course we are!' I found it amusing, and I realised I wanted to delve deeper into that world.

How do the experiences of acting and writing differ for you?

Both are equally terrifying. The first sharing of the first draft of *Bin Girl*, I couldn't make eye contact with any of the cast! I had such fears that they wouldn't like it, get it, believe it... However, it's been amazing to see them take my words and make them their own and nail the characters.

Both are creative processes that produce a lot of nervous adrenaline, but with writing, at least I have a little more control. And I can hide!

The play explores the current Birmingham

bin strikes. How have you tried to dramatisate events that are still ongoing?

I've used humour as much as I can! What's excellent about this happening live is that there's some amusing, real content across social media, which has also allowed me to include all sorts of media within the piece. Cilla Black's *Bin Song* has been a handy treat - no spoilers!

How have you explored the themes of blame and female solidarity in the play?

The narrative across the media is that the bin workers can't be negotiated with because the council are still to settle a huge equal-pay liability or are at risk of creating new claims. I wanted to explore a world where one woman fights for what's right and the other women would rather not - heap a load of rubbish on everyone, and that pressure builds. Sometimes, as women, we have lots of obstacles before us, and doing 'what's right' isn't necessarily the easiest or beneficial option.

What does it mean for you to tell a story that's close to your own home?

It's essential. I'm really proud of my roots and my humble upbringing. Everyone in my area has a humour and authenticity, and a sparkle behind the eye. However, the country knows things are tough, and our sparkle is

diminishing.

The people of Birmingham have been massively let down - I even played a social-media clip within the show that describes Birmingham as the worst city in Europe. That's hard to swallow, so I'm glad I get to represent.

What do you hope audiences who aren't from Birmingham will take away from the play?

The piece will speak to all regional towns. This story isn't just for Birmingham. It's about the constant squeezing and squashing of the working man/woman. Throw 17 tonnes of rubbish and giant rats into the street, we might just crack.

It also speaks to women - how we can be excellent to each other, but also the ability to be very cruel and unsupportive at times. That's because women are under more pressure than they've ever been. However, I hope that they take joy. That they have a good night and feel entertained.

.....
Bin Girl was recently performed at the National Youth Theatre's headquarters in North London - as part of StoryFest 2025 - by an ensemble cast full of local Birmingham talent.



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

thelist

Birmingham Weekender - The Bullring & Southside - Sat 23 - Mon 25 August

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

What's On

Fri 1 - Sun 10 August



Viking Re-enactment -
Stafford Castle
until Sun 31 August

Mon 11 - Sun 17 August



Jake Lambert - Ludlow
Assembly Rooms, Shropshire
Sat 16 August

Mon 18 - Sun 24 August



Skerryvore -
Shrewsbury Folk Festival
Fri 22 - Mon 25 August

Mon 25 - Sun 31 August



High Tea With A Twist - Midlands
Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham
Mon 25 August

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

EMII ALRAI: RIVER OF BLACK STONE Inspired by the disruptive nature of volcanic eruption and paintings of Vesuvius in the gallery's Naples collection, Emii Alrai weaves together ancient mythologies, research and nostalgia as a critical response to our times, until Sun 15 June

EMMA TALBOT: HOW WE LEARN TO LOVE A collection of new and recent work that explores the experience of life, from birth to death, until Sun 5 Oct

THE TAOTIE After an 18-month residency, Gayle Chong Kwan presents an exhibition of her new work alongside the venue's renowned Chinese collection, until Tues 31 March

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 tributes to The Specials' Terry Hall and Roddy 'Radiation' Byers.

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

BRICK DINOS Step back in time and explore the prehistoric world with Brick Dinosaurs, brought to life with stunning Lego creations by artist Warren Elsmore and his team, until Sun 7 Sept

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 Dippy the diplodocus is in Coventry on a three-year loan from the Natural History Museum, until Sat 21 Feb 2026

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

AMAZING ARTBOXES A free family trail for the summer holiday. Local makers have produced joyful, playful and imagination-igniting miniature worlds, located throughout MAC's building, until Sun 21 Sept

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 2026

New Art Gallery, Walsall

SHELTER An exhibition of works from the New Art Gallery & Outside In's collections, accompanying the national exhibition on the same theme, until Sun 19 Oct

NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY Group exhibition of newly commissioned works by Mia Banks, Mandeep Dillon and Tegen Kimbley, variously exploring ecocriticism, 'looking' as a contemplative act, and the abstraction and reinterpretation of everyday materials, until Sun 9 Nov

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

US & THEM Exhibition using the museum's collections to focus on how our lives are inextricably linked with animals, whether as pets, working colleagues or food, until Sat 20 Sept

THE ART OF TRAVEL: NICKY THOMPSON The graphic designer, illustrator, lecturer, fine artist and manager of boutique design studio Lemondrop Creative presents his contemporary travel art, until Sat 20 Sept

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, until Sat 2 Aug

RBSA WATERCOLOUR PRIZE 2025 The first RBSA Prize of its kind for over a decade celebrates work created using water-based media - including watercolour, ink, gouache and acrylic paint - by artists from all around the world, Thurs 7 Aug - Sat 13 Sept

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

STOKE ON TRENT COLLEGE: DAYDREAMING Creative & digital student showcase of works from the college's Levels 1-4, until Sun 31 Aug

A CENTURY OF COLLECTING 1925 - 2025 Exhibition marking the City of Stoke-on-Trent's centenary and providing a snapshot of the varied collections the Museum & Art Gallery cares for, until Sun 7 Sept

100 YEARS, 60 DESIGNERS & 1 FUTURE A specially commissioned collection of plates, hand decorated by 1882 Ltd's potters, working from artwork donated by 60 of the UK's leading artists, architects, designers, musicians and creative polymaths, until Sun 7 Dec

JESUS & THE POPE BY ROBBIE WILLIAMS Potteries-born Robbie has worked with ceramic design brand 1882 Ltd at its factory in Barlaston to transform two of his 'inkling' drawings into four vibrant and abstract ceramic works of art, until Sun 7 Dec

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, opposite the Gallery, until Wed 7 Jan 2026

Rugby Art Gallery

GREAT & SMALL: CRAFTED CREATURES Exhibition of objects from the Crafts Council Collection, encouraging children and families to explore how animals have been represented in craft, until Sat 6 Sept

COLLECTING RUGBY: 25 YEARS ANNIVERSARY A display looking at a quarter century of object collection in Rugby, and the history of the museum, until Thurs 4 Oct

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

BILLY DOSANJH: ENDZ OF THE WORLD - CODED FURNACES A 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

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

JILLY OXLADE-ARNOTT: A CELEBRATION OF WORCESTER Now an established international artist, Jilly Oxlade-Arnott started her professional artistic career in Worcester. This show unveils new work depicting the city's historic architecture, until Sun 2 Nov

Also:

HELIOS AT COVENTRY CHARTERHOUSE Luke Jerram's seven-metre sculpture combines solar imagery, light and sound to highlight the sun's intricate details, until Sun 10 Aug, Coventry Charterhouse

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, B'ham

DECOMMISSIONED: CAROLINE POOL A collection of direct portrayals of the elderly, addressing society's representation of its ageing population, until Sat 23 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

PRINT NOW! Print exhibition and print fair by Colour Now, until Fri 29 Aug, Gateway Gallery, Shrewsbury

CAROLYN BLAKE: FURTHER THAN MEMORY CAN REACH Exhibition of paintings which takes a journey around the grounds of Winterbourne House, from the time it was built to the present day, until Sun 14 Sept, Winterbourne House and Garden, Birmingham

DIFFERENT STROKES: THE LOCAL PAINTINGS OF BOB RHODES AND THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN MATTHEW WEBB Exploring the legacy of two local men: artist Bob Rhodes and Captain Matthew Webb, the first man to swim the Channel, until Sun 2 Nov, Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge

SUMMER CAMP SHOW This celebration of the membership, and the work they make, sees the members taking over the gallery, Sat 2 - Sat 9 Aug, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

BMI SUMMER SHOW Featuring paintings by artists who have shown work at the Birmingham & Midland Institute during the last two years, Mon 18 Aug - Sat 27 Sept, The Birmingham & Midland Institute

MIDLANDS POTTERS EXHIBITION: ALL FIRED UP Featuring more than 200 ceramic items, all of which will be available to buy, created by 20 members of Midlands Potters Association, Sat 19 - Mon 25 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire



The Warlocks - Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

Gigs

H&H HOUSE BAND
PERFORM 'THE BENDS'
BY RADIOHEAD Fri 1 Aug, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

FAMILY OF STRANGERS + KICK THE CLOWN + STRIP SEARCH TRAMP Fri 1 Aug, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

MIDNIGHT CITY SOUL BAND Fri 1 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

FAIR WEATHER RIDERS Fri 1 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 1 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

ALBINO TARRANTINO Fri 1 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ALEX HARRY Fri 1 Aug, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

FRONT ROW Fri 1 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE CARPENTERS EXPERIENCE Fri 1 Aug, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

MELVIN HANCOX BAND Fri 1 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

FLASH - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN Fri 1 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE SPICE GIRLS EXPERIENCE Fri 1 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

ATOMIC Fri 1 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

SARAH MILLER & DAN MACHIN Fri 1 Aug, The Quarter at Potbank, Stoke-on-Trent

JOHNNY2BAD Fri 1 Aug, The Station, Cannock

CHANGE AT BAKER STREET Fri 1 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

THE CHRISTIANS Fri 1 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MJM BAND Fri 1 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

TRUE ORDER - THE SOUND OF NEW ORDER Sat 2 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE BLACK FRIDAYS + COLLECTIVE SLEEP Sat 2 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

OWES Sat 2 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

PUNX REBELLION OF CHINA + HIPERSONA + SLUTCH + HEALTHY JUNKIES + BATTERY ACID + LADY RAGE Sat 2 Aug, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

THE LIARBITLITS + FACE UP + ROTUNDA + LEECH BLEEDERS Sat 2 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

RICKY COOL + THE IN CROWD Sat 2 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

FIREWATCHERS Sat 2 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

BLOOD DEALER Sat 2 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

PRETTY GREEN: A TRIBUTE TO THE JAM Sat 2 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

PIL (PUBLIC IMAGE LTD)

+ ALIASKID Sat 2 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

LINK N PARK Sat 2 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ROADHOGS Sat 2 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ULTIMATE 70S SHOW Sat 2 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

THE OTHER COUNTRY Sat 2 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

METEORA + LIMP BISCUIT Sat 2 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

YNGWIE MALMSTEEN Sat 2 Aug, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

SANDKINGS Sat 2 Aug, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

SHED SEVEN + WESTON LONEY Sat 2 Aug, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE SMITHS LTD Sat 2 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE HAIRY BARTENDERS Sat 2 Aug, The Quarter at Potbank, Stoke-on-Trent

BOYZLIFE Sat 2 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

HONEYBOY HICKLING Sat 2 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

DIVAS WITH GEM AND FRIENDS Sat 2 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO Sun 3 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

THE CREW X QUEENS HALL YOUTH JAM SESSION Sun 3 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ROCK IT DOG Sun 3 Aug,

Queens Hall, Nuneaton

BULLITZ 23 + FANTAZMAZ + SHACKLEFORD + ROUND EYE Sun 3 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

TRIBUTE TO OLIVIA RODRIGO AND SABRINA CARPENTER Sun 3 Aug, Malvern Theatres

SWIFT & STYLES - TRIBUTE SHOW Sun 3 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

ELTONESQUE Sun 3 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

RICH PARSONS Sun 3 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

LAKEVIEW + LACEY Mon 4 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ELECTRONIC MUSIC OPEN MIC Mon 4 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

MICE IN A MATCHBOX Mon 4 Aug, Bill's Kitchen at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

HEATHEN APOSTLES Tues 5 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE WARLOCKS Tues 5 Aug, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

EXTREME + MASSIVE WAGONS Wed 6 Aug, O2 Academy, B'ham

CLOUDY GALVEZ Wed 6 Aug, B'Eats, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JOOLS & THE JAZZAHOLICS Wed 6 Aug, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

ELEANOR DUNSDON AND GREGOR BLACK Wed 6 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE UNRAVELLING WILBURYS Wed 6 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shrops

HELICON + KAVUS TORABI Thurs 7 Aug, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

CARROLL THOMPSON Thurs 7 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

HANNAH MICHELL Thurs 7 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

VINNY PECULIAR Thurs 7 Aug, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

COURTNEY CYRUS - A DISNEY SONGBOOK

Thurs 7 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

TARA BANDITO + YWS GWYNEDD + CANDELAS + CELAVI Thurs 7 Aug, Aston Hall, Wrexham

STARCAT Fri 8 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MASTERS OF SABBATH Fri 8 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

BEDROCK BULLETS Fri 8 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

VEE JAY KING AND HIS DUKES Fri 8 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

WARBRINGER + EXORCISM + SOULRIDE + MOUNT SLATRA Fri 8 Aug, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

THE APPEARANCE Fri 8 Aug, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

RISE Fri 8 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Fri 8 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

ANT-TROUBLE Fri 8 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE ROOTERS Fri 8 Aug, The Crew, Nuneaton

KAISER MONKEY KILLERS Fri 8 Aug, Drummonds, Worcester

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE + ADORED Fri 8 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

COLDPLAY IT AGAIN + OASIS HERE NOW + STEREOCONICS Fri 8 Aug, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

PET SHOP BOYS TRIBUTE Fri 8 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE LET IT BEATLES UK Fri 8 Aug, Two Gates Club, Tamworth

THE EMINEM SHOW Fri 8 Aug, The Station, Cannock

BLAX ABBATH + MOTORHEADACHE Fri 8 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MR BLACK Fri 8 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

GRUFF RHYS + GRIFF LYNCH + YNYS + WRKHUSE Fri 8 Aug, Aston Hall, Wrexham

SHARP CLASS Sat 9 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

THE UNTOUCHABLES Sat 9 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

LAST OF EDEN Sat 9 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

LUKE CONCANNON AND STEPHANIE HOLLENBERG Sat 9 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

OASIS Sat 9 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE FATBACK BAND Sat 9 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

DIRTY DC Sat 9 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

SCENE IT ALL Sat 9 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ICONIC 80S VS 90S Sat 9 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BIG UP THE 90'S Sat 9 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE CLASSIC BLUES SHOW Sat 9 Aug, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY Sat 9 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

WIZARDS OF OZ - OZZY OSBOURNE TRIBUTE Sat 9 Aug, The Station, Cannock

UNFORGIVEN Sat 9 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

MARK JENKINS - PINK FLOYD'S 'WISH YOU WERE HERE' Sat 9 Aug, The Hive, Shrewsbury

ULTIMATE BLINK 182 Sat 9 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE UNKNOWN Sat 9 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

BIG BOSS MAN Sat 9 - Sun 10 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

REGGAE FEST BIRMINGHAM Sun 10 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

KICK THE FRIDGE Sun 10 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ROBIN MCAULEY + LYIN RAMPANT Sun 10 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE CARPENTERS GREATEST HITS LIVE WITH TONI LEE Sun 10 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

ASHLEY WAGNER ORGAN RECITAL Fri 1 Aug, St Philip's Cathedral, B'ham

JULIAN HELLABY PIANO RECITAL Fri 1 Aug, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

LONDON SCHOOLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Matthew Coorey & Ammal Bhatia (conductors). Programme includes works by Sibelius, Lyadov, Sculthorpe & Shostakovich, Sat 2 Aug, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR: LAND OF SEA & SKY Featuring songs telling stories of rivers, mountains & clouds - from old folksongs to new compositions, Sat 2 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

DONIZETTI: THE ELIXIR OF LOVE Featuring Orlando Jopling (conductor) alongside Galina Averina, Timothy Nelson & Xavier Hetherington (vocals). The Wild Arts Ensemble also feature, Sat 2 Aug, Malvern Theatres

ALEXANDER FLOWER ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Handel, Coates, Ball & Elgar, Sat 2 Aug, Shrewsbury Abbey

ANGELA SONES ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Johnson, J.S. Bach, Fletcher & more..., Sat 2 Aug, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

PAUL CARR ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by J.S. Bach, Saint-Saëns, Bossi & more..., Sun 3 Aug, Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley, Stourbridge

BRAHMS: EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM Featuring Jeff Stewart (conductor), Jennifer Clark (soprano), Andrew Mayor (baritone), Jonathan Hope & Piers Maxim (pianos), Tues 5 Aug, Great Malvern Priory

SIMON EARL ORGAN CONCERT Tues 5 Aug, Tewkesbury Abbey

THE OPERETTES Featuring Dellal McDonald (piano), Harriet Hunter & Joanne Mayling (sopranos), Tues 5 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA: BEYOND Featuring Dalia Stasevska (conductor). Programme includes works by J Williams, C Shaw & Holst, Wed 6 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HARRY BROWN LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL Fri 8 Aug, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

THE NATIONAL SCOUT AND GUIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CONCERT BAND ANNIVERSARY CONCERT Programme includes works by Márquez, Bernstein, Holst & more..., Sat 9 Aug, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE NATIONAL CHORUS'S CHOIR OF GREAT BRITAIN SUMMER CONCERT Featuring Dan Ludford-Thomas (musical director), Sat 9 Aug, Royal

Birmingham Conservatoire

WILL TODD: A MASS IN BLUE Featuring Melinda Hughes (soloist), Ben Saul Sextet D'amour & the Festival Chorus, Sat 9 Aug, Great Malvern Priory

Comedy

EDDY BRIMSON, JOE WELLS, NINA GILLIGAN, JOSEPH EMSLIE & TOM HOUGHTON Fri 1 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HASSAN PHILLS Fri 1 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HANNAH BYCZKOWSKI & RACHEL FAIRBURN Fri 1 Aug, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

JON PEARSON, RICKY BALSHAW, LOVDEV BARPAGA & LOU CONRAN Fri 1 Aug, Oscars, Ludlow, South Shropshire

THE RAYMOND AND MR TIMPKINS REVUE, PRAKASH JIRJADHUN, CARL JONES & DAVE LONGLEY Sat 2 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EDDY BRIMSON, JOE WELLS, NINA GILLIGAN & TOM HOUGHTON Sat 2 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT RICHARDSON, ANDREW BIRD & COMICS TBC Sat 2 Aug, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

FAT PENGUIN COMEDY CLUB Wed 6 Aug, The Patrick Kavanagh, B'ham

ADAM ROWE & SOME MATES Thurs 7 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PROJECT MAYHEM COMEDY Thurs 7 Aug, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

PAUL PIRIE, ELEANOR TIERNAN, VINCE ATTA & COMIC TBC Fri 8 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL PIRIE, ELEANOR TIERNAN, VINCE ATTA & HAYLEY ELLIS Sat 9 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHABBZ KARIEM, MICAH HALL, SLIM, LIMAH, GERMAIN & BIRMINGHAM STEPPAS Sun 10 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MOANA JR Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur version of the Disney adventure, until Fri 1 Aug, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

FOOTLOOSE Amateur version presented by the Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Youth Theatre, until Sat 2 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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..., until Sat 2 Aug, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

FOOTLOOSE Amateur version presented by the Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Youth Theatre, until 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, until Sun 3 Aug, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL Summer Youth Project staging, until Sun 3 Aug, Rugby Theatre

NATIONAL DRAMA FESTIVAL A competitive showcase celebrating amateur theatre across the British Isles and beyond, until Sun 3 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MARY POPPINS Multi-award-winning musical in which Stefanie Jones and Jack Chambers reprise the roles of Mary Poppins and Bert, until Sat 23 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

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

THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON Don't Go Into The Cellar present an outdoor version of HG Wells' scientific romance, which sees the story's two protagonists boldly go where no Victorians have gone before, Fri 1 Aug, Greyfriars House, Worcester

JUKE & LAKE: MAKE OR BREAK Comic theatre performance which follows a slapstick duo as they face their biggest challenge - a day job! Sat 2 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

BRING IT ON THE MUSICAL Curtain Call Studios present an amateur stage version of the hit film, Sat 2 Aug, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ROMEO & JULIET Presented by The South Devon Players, Sat 2 Aug, The Black Box, Birmingham

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA 80-minute version of Shakespeare's story of love, friendship and growing up, Mon 4 - Sun 31 Aug, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

LOLLIPOP LADIES Curious Cargo present a 'comic character walkabout show' consisting of just one or two performers, Tues 5 Aug, Brasshouse Community Centre. This free event forms part of the Big Family Theatre Weekend

JAH MAKIN IT HAPPEN - A REGGAE MUSICAL The story of aspiring reggae singer Johnny Morgan, who leaves Jamaica to start a new life in the UK during the Windrush era, Wed 6 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE BODY SNATCHER & THE HANGED MAN'S BRIDE Double-bill of works featuring Robert Louis Stevenson's

The Body Snatcher and Charles Dickens' The Hanged Man's Bride, Wed 6 - Fri 8 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

BE MORE CHILL - THE MUSICAL Acclaimed coming-of-age musical based on the novel by Ned Vizzini, various dates between Wed 6 - Sun 31 Aug, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CATS Wing It Theatre present an amateur version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's feline musical, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 Aug, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

FAME National Youth Musical Theatre - in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome - present a new version of the much-loved musical, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

DISNEY NEWSIES JR. Stoke Youth Musical Theatre present the true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City, Fri 8 Aug, Stoke Rep Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Outdoor Theatre

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, Sat 2 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Illyria present Oliver Gray's adaptation of Jane Austen's romantic classic, Sat 2 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY The Pantaloons present a fast-paced version of Jane Austen's story of 'scandals, scoundrels and severely sprained ankles', Sun 3 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Illyria present an outdoor version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Sun 3 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

TREASURE ISLAND Jenny Wren Productions present an outdoor version of Robert Louis Stevenson's famous adventure story, Sun 3 Aug, The Lenches Ampitheatre, Evesham

THE RIVALS Rain Or Shine Theatre present an open-air version of Sheridan's comedy of manners, Sun 3 Aug, The Mere, Ellesmere, North Shropshire

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Paperback Theatre present an open-air version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Tues 5 Aug, Himley Hall, Dudley

THE RIVALS Rain Or Shine Theatre present an open-air version of Sheridan's comedy of manners, Wed 6 Aug, The Leintwardine Community Centre, North Shropshire

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The

Three Inch Fools present an outdoor version of the Bard's iconic comedy, Thurs 7 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Paperback Theatre present an open-air version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Thurs 7 Aug, Victoria Gardens, Tewkesbury

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Award-winning outdoor theatre company, Ilyria promise a night of laughter and hijinks under the stars, Thurs 7 Aug, Dudmaston Hall, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The Three Inch Fools present an outdoor version of the Bard's iconic comedy, Fri 8 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

THE RIVALS Rain Or Shine Theatre present an open-air version of Sheridan's comedy of manners, Fri 8 Aug, Severn Valley Country Park, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Ilyria present an outdoor version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Sat 9 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

HMS PINAFORE Ilyria present an outdoor version of Gilbert & Sullivan's timeless comic opera, Sat 9 Aug, Bowring Park, Telford, Shropshire

MACBETH The Dukes Theatre Company promise 'a dynamic reimagining' of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, Sat 9 Aug, Woodhill Park, Oswestry, North Shropshire

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Award-winning outdoor theatre company, Ilyria, promise a night of laughter and hijinks under the stars, Sat 9 Aug, Winterbourne Gardens, Birmingham

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS Quantum Theatre present a brand-new version of Lewis Carroll's timeless classic, Sun 10 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

MACBETH The Dukes Theatre Company promise 'a dynamic reimagining' of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, Sun 10 Aug, Sudeley Castle & Gardens, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire

Kids Theatre

PRINCESSES UNITE 'The ultimate children's pop princess party', Fri 1 Aug, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE Fun-filled show in which favourite characters are brought to life. Featuring magical puppets and enchanting music, Sat 2 - Wed 6 Aug, The Rep, Birmingham

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, Thurs 7 - Fri 8 Aug, The Rep, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

BINGO AT TIFFANYS WITH AUDREY HEARTBURN Join award-winning character comedian Tracey Collins as she hosts an evening of hilarious bingo games, raucous singalongs and glamorous dancing, Sat 2 Aug, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ATTENTION ALL SHIPPING Bestselling author & award-winning broadcaster Charlie Connelly brings the quirky shipping forecast to life, celebrating what he regards as the greatest invention of the modern age, Sat 2 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

MIDSUMMER MASTI: 6 WEDDINGS, 9 SONGS AND 50 SARIS Evening of festivities during which a colourful mix of wedding sari traditions and dance collide, Sun 3 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

MINI POP PARTY Show for younger audiences featuring singing, dance routines, photo opportunities and more..., Sun 3 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

THE UNRAVELLING WILBURYS Evening of musicianship and tongue-in-cheek humour, Wed 6 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

BI-CURIOUS GEORGE: QUEER PLANET 'London's loveable nature boy' and award-winning drag king Bi-Curious George invites you to join him for a raucous celebration of queerness and the animal kingdom, Thurs 7 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham



YEH DOSTI: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SHOLAY Featuring 'unforgettable songs and dances that have defined Bollywood cinema', Fri 8 - Sat 9 Aug, The Rep, Birmingham

KEVIN JAY COMEDY HYPNOTIST Also featuring internationally renowned stage magician Paul Roberts, Sat 9 Aug, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek

Talks & Spoken Word

IRONBRIDGE POETRY SLAM WINNERS EVENT Featuring Brenda Read-Brown, Shakquille & John Woodall, Sat 2



Viking Re-enactment - Stafford Castle

Aug, Dawley Town Hall, Telford, Shropshire

A FLOCK OF STORIES - FAMILY STORYTELLING SESSION Animal stories from around the world, performed by professional storyteller Maria Credali, Sun 3 Aug, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

POETRY JAM LIVE Featuring 'poets who are starting out, seasoned veterans, and everyone else with a story to tell', Thurs 7 Aug, Justham Family Room & Jane How Room, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Events

THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS Featuring 1,200 competition quilts on display, over 200 exhibitors and 370-plus workshops and talks to enjoy, Thurs 31 July - Sun 3 Aug, NEC, B'ham

LET'S GET PHYSICAL Featuring junior fitness classes, welly wanging, a giant inflatable football dartboard and 'movement in all sorts of ways' around the farm, until Sun 3 Aug, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, Shropshire

SHROPSHIRE PETAL FIELDS Shropshire Festivals has teamed up with Shropshire Petals to create 'a summer destination like no other', until Sun 3 Aug, Shropshire Petal Fields, Newport

THE GREAT COVENTRY TIME TREK HISTORY COMES ALIVE - WITH A MEDIEVAL TWIST Explore Coventry's rich and dramatic history, until Wed 20 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

UNIVERSUM BIRMINGHAM Visitors can choose from three immersive VR adventures, until Sun 24 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

BUCCANEER BOOTCAMP Featuring pirate-themed activities, until Wed 27 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

KNIGHT SCHOOL Children of all ages are invited to dress up and join in the fun! Every Wednesday & Thursday throughout the month, until Thurs 28 Aug, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

HANDS-ON SUMMER FUN Get hands-on with real historical objects, enjoy dressing up and have a go at rag rugging, until Thurs 28 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

FALCONRY EXPERIENCES Experience the ancient art of falconry, until Fri 29 Aug, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

LEGO BRICKS & CREATIVE SUPERHEROES Craft activities inspired by Jason Wilsher-Mills' Adventure Of 254 exhibition and the Brick Dinos installation, until Sat 30 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

WHODUNNIT SUMMER FAMILY TRAIL Search for clues and find out whodunnit in this castle mystery, until Sun 31 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

MYTHICAL BEASTS Track down the runaway creatures, restore order to the timeline, and bring peace back to the castle, until Sun 31 Aug, Tamworth Castle

SUMMER ADVENTURES AT DUDMASTON HALL Enjoy taking part in the activities around the site, until Sun 31 Aug, Dudmaston, nr Bridgnorth, Shrops

THE BEACH WITH NOAH'S ARK Free beach fun with wildlife-themed activities, until Sun 31 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

THE ORCHARD SANDPIT Play with sand toys & games, and grab yourself an ice cream from Hayley's Kitchen café, until Sun 31 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

MOONBASE CONSTRUCTION ZONE Use Imagination Playground blocks to design and construct your very own moonbase, until Sun 31 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

SUMMER OF FUN AND GAMES Featuring a selection of activities, from soft play and mini golf to archery and den building, until Sun 31 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

COMPTON VERNEY QUEST BY BROTHERS MCLEOD Help Knight Sir Louis and wizard Pearlin in an adventure

around the house and grounds, until Sun 31 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

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, until Sun 31 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

PLAYFUL PLANET | EARLY YEARS

EXHIBITION Immersive exhibition inviting young visitors into a specially designed world of sensory spaces, until Sun 31 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

FREDDO'S FESTIVAL OF FUN Take your seat and enjoy the show as Freddo takes you on a musical journey through the world of pop, country and rock, until Sun 31 Aug, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

FLOWER FIELDS Get lost in a sea of thousands and thousands of wildflowers, until Sun 31 Aug, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

LEGO SUMMER OF PLAY Featuring a selection of activities and entertainment, from buzzing bee builds and designing a playful city, to the DJ GoodVibes dance party and Miniland surprises, until Sun 31 Aug, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

SUMMER OF SENSES Immerse yourself in different themes each day of the week and explore the collection from new and interesting perspectives, until Mon 1 Sept, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

THE GREAT SUMMER ADVENTURE

Featuring magic shows, sheep racing and a tractor safari, until Mon 1 Sept, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

SUMMER AT THE BUTTERFLY FARM

Featuring 'competitions, butterfly life cycle, mini-beast, beetle mania and pupae demonstrations', until 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', until Mon 1 Sept, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

WHERE'S WALLABY? Free sculpture trail of colourful and quirky wallaby sculptures, until Fri 5 Sept, across the Staffordshire Moorlands

SUMMER OF PLAY Set sail on the haybale ship HMS Shugborough, and toddler-sized haybale tugboat, and explore the play hub, which comes complete with sandpits, a maze and outdoor games, until Sun 7 Sept, Shugborough Estate, nr Stafford

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

FAMILY TRAIL - WHAT DID THEY WATCH IN THE 90S?

Find out about popular 1990s TV shows and films on a special trail around the venue, until Sun 7 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

POLLINATOR TRAIL Learn all about the Gardens' insects and the flowers they love, until Sun 7 Sept, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

PIRATE TREASURE HUNT Join Captain Careless on a swashbuckling adventure, until Sun 7 Sept, National SEA LIFE Centre Birmingham

MAISY'S MAIZE MAZE Follow the clues to find your way out of the maize maze, until Sun 28 Sept, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

HERITAGE AND HABITAT 'Fun-filled outdoor activities', all with a focus on sustainability and the natural world, Fri 1 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR & FINDS

HANDLING Join archaeologist & Compton Verney volunteer Hilary Calow as she brings the site's past to life, Fri 1 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

VAN BUREN CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Learn new skills, including plate spinning, diabolo and hula hoop, Fri 1 Aug, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

OPEN AIR CINEMA NIGHTS Featuring Shaun Of The Dead and Labyrinth, Fri 1 - Sat 2 Aug, Dudley Zoo

BIRMINGHAM RESTAURANT FESTIVAL A celebration and showcase of restaurants across the city, Fri 1 - Sun 31 Aug, various venues across Birmingham

THE GRIMWOOD MUSEUM ADVENTURE

FREE TRAIL Spot Grimwood characters hiding around the museum, Fri 1 - Sun 31 Aug, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

SUPERHERO SUMMER From interactive trails to toe-tapping shows, there's something here for every little superhero-in-training, Fri 1 - Sun 31 Aug, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

OSWESTRY SHOW Featuring over 120 trade stands, hundreds of exhibitors and a large variety of displays and activities, Sat 2 Aug, Oswestry Showground, North Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

ARTISAN MARKET Discover an 'incredible selection' of handmade treasures produced by talented artisans across the country, Sat 2 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

SAME DIFFERENCE 2025 Festival celebrating dance, music, and all types of visual arts in a fully inclusive way, Sat 2 Aug, West Park, Wolverhampton

WIZARDING SCHOOL ONE: THE ART OF WIZARDRY Unlock the secrets of

spellcasting and learn the core skills of wand work and enchanting spell, Sat 2 Aug, Tamworth Castle

ABBA GARDEN PARTY Non-stop Abba hits on an open-air terrace, Sat 2 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

DESIBLITZ TRUCK ART BUS: THE

MUSEUM ON WHEELS A living, travelling exhibition that celebrates the diverse histories of the city, Sat 2 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

LOST IN SOUND - A SILENT DISCO IN THE MUSEUM AFTER DARK 'Coventry's premium silent-disco experience', Sat 2 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

VIKING RE-ENACTMENT An entertaining, educational and interactive day out, suitable for all the family, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Aug, Stafford Castle

CELEBRATION OF BEER & BREAD The Devereaux Regiment perform the very important task of testing Avoncroft's harvest-related produce, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

BRICK WEEKEND Featuring large Lego train displays and Lego models created by amateur builders across the country, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

THE GRIMWOOD MUSEUM ADVENTURE

TRAIL Spot Grimwood characters hiding around the museum, Sat 2 - Sun 24 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery; Aston Hall; Sarehole Mill & Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

MYTON'S CYCLE CHALLENGE 2025

Saddle up for the ever-popular 50km, 100km and 100-mile distances, Sun 3 Aug, Warwick Myton Hospice

MARVELLOUS MAKERS A 'buzzing creative space' featuring different activities every week, Sun 3 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

SUNDAY KITCHEN SCIENCE Try a new experiment that you can easily recreate at home, Sun 3 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

HERITAGE AND HABITAT 'Fun-filled outdoor activities', all with a focus on sustainability and the natural world, Sun 3 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

YOUNG DRIVER LESSONS Featuring the Young Driver Under 17 driving school, Sun 3 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

COLOURSCAPE Immersive world of colour and light, with live music performances and dance, Sun 3 Aug, West Park, Wolverhampton

ARTS MARKET: INSPIRED SOUTH ASIAN

ARTS AND CULTURE Expect a range of stalls featuring a broad selection of handmade products, including prints, paintings, ceramics and textiles, Sun 3 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

THE PINK PRINCESS PARTY

Aurora from Sleeping Beauty and Rapunzel from Tangled, Sun 3 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MAKE DO AND MEND: LINOCUT

PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP Get creative with local artist Holly Wardale in this hands-on linocut printmaking workshop with a sustainable twist, Sun 3 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

Festivals

LAKEFEST Line-up includes Faithless, Echo & The Bunnymen and Busted, Wed 6 - Sun 10 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR Line-up includes Trivium, Machine Head & Gojira, Thurs 7 - Sun 10 Aug, Catton Hall, Derbyshire

FARMER PHIL'S FESTIVAL Line-up includes Dreadzone, T.Rex - The Music of Marc & Mickey plus The Animals and Friends, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Aug, Near Gatten Farm, Ratlinghope, Shropshire

RYLAND CARAVAN Line-up includes Miki Berenyi Trio, The Tubs & Stuart Murdoch, Sun 10 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham



Brick Weekend - Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

Gigs

CONNOLLY HAYES Mon 11 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

3 INCHES OF BLOOD + SPIRIT ADRIFT Tues 12 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

JAM NIGHT Tues 12 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

LIAM CROMBY Wed 13 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

REZN Wed 13 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

MATT PALMER'S EAGLE JAZZ BAND Wed 13 Aug, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

THE SWAPS Wed 13 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

BLUES CLUB Wed 13 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE MOSELEY BROTHERS Wed 13 Aug, Oscars, Ludlow, South Shropshire

CHRIS RENZEMA Thurs 14 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SLADY Thurs 14 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

PISSED JEANS Thurs 14 Aug, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

DR SURE'S UNUSUAL PRACTICE Thurs 14 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ERIN LILLY Thurs 14 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

SOULS OF MISCHIEF Thurs 14 Aug, XOYO, Digbeth, Birmingham

MARK MORRISS Thurs 14 Aug, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath, Birmingham

54 NORTH Thurs 14 Aug, Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

HEAVEN 17 Thurs 14 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SNOT + THE FEAR Thurs 14 Aug, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

PRESS GANGERS SHANTY BAND Thurs 14 Aug, Bill's Kitchen, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

HIGH HORSES Fri 15 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham

DEFINITELY OASIS Fri 15 Aug, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

THE 3 SIXTIES Fri 15 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

LENNOX + BROKEN SOUND PARKWAY Fri 15 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

MELVINS Fri 15 Aug, XOYO, Digbeth, Birmingham

DAVE LARGIE: JOHN HOLT + REGGAE Fri 15 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

GHOST UK + VOLBEATEN Fri 15 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

CLAMPDOWN UK Fri 15 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ABBA ETERNAL Fri 15 Aug, Drummonds, Worcester

G-DFATHER RETURNS - JAMES BROWN

TRIBUTE Fri 15 Aug, Dudley Town Hall

THE FOO FIGHTERS UK Fri 15 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

FLASH - QUEEN TRIBUTE Fri 15 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

YOUNG KNIVES Fri 15 Aug, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

DARK ROOT FALLS + GNAWING HUNGER + WOLVES IN ALCATRAZ + A THOUSAND CUTS Fri 15 Aug, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

MASTERS OF THE SCENE - ABBA TRIBUTE Fri 15 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

SO-OASIS Fri 15 Aug, The Quarter at Potbank, Stoke-on-Trent

BEDROCK BULLETS Fri 15 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

MJ THE LEGACY STARRING CJ Fri 15 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE WILDFIRE Fri 15 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

THE ROTUNDAS Fri 15 Aug, Oscars, Ludlow, South Shropshire

ELLE-J WALTERS BAND Fri 15 - Sat 16 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

EDGAR MACIAS QUARTET Sat 16 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SOUND OF THE LIONESS: TRIBUTE TO AMY Sat 16 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

GIBBY HAYNES + EVICSHEN Sat 16 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BURNING ROPE Sat 16 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

CODE3 Sat 16 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

METAL FATIGUE Sat 16 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

NOTHING BUT A GOOD TIME Sat 16 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

SIMULATION MUSE + THE RUNAWAY KILLERS Sat 16 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE DEAD DAISIES + SCARLET REBELS + DAN BYRNE Sat 16 Aug, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

ULTIMATE GREENDAY Sat 16 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

R.I.P.D Sat 16 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

WALT MCCLEMENTS + LUCY SISSY MILLER Sat 16 Aug, The Unitarian Church, Shrewsbury

FEE FEE & THE SENTIMENTS Sat 16 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

THE REMI HARRIS BLUES BAND FEATURING DALE BARHAM Sat 16 Aug, Ludlow Brewery, South Shropshire

STAYAWHILE Sun 17 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SUBTERRANEANS Sun 17 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

IGLU + HARTLY Sun 17 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

HORROR VACUI + DLINA VOLNY Sun 17

Aug, The Tin at The Coal Vaults, Coventry

THE CHEEZE Sun 17 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MARK JENKINS - 50 YEARS OF "WISH YOU WERE HERE" Sun 17 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

RICH PARSONS Sun 17 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

THE SABRINA CARPENTER + OLIVIA RODRIGO LIVE TRIBUTE SHOW Sun 17 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE DIRTY ROCKIN' SCOUNDRELS Sun 17 Aug, Ludlow Brewery, South Shropshire

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH MARC MURRAY Tues 12 Aug, Tewkesbury Abbey

ANGELA SONES ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Bach, Franck, A Fletcher & more..., Tues 12 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

PAUL CARR - LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Mozart, Dupré Pärt & more..., Thurs 14 Aug, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

CONCERTS IN THE ROUND 2025 Featuring Corinne Frost (cello) & Janine Parsons (piano), Fri 15 Aug, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

YUGEN SAXOPHONE QUARTET Featuring Ewan Wright, Emily Plumb, Alicia Hillman & Dominic Cotta (saxophones). Programme includes works by Lagos, Piazzolla, Gershwin & more..., Sat 16 Aug, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

CHARLES FRANCIS ORGAN PROM Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Whitlock, J.S. Bach & more..., Sat 16 Aug, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

Comedy

BILL BAILEY: WORK IN PROGRESS Mon 11 - Sun 17 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

STEVE PUNT Thurs 14 Aug, Bill's Kitchen, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

SEAN COLLINS, TOM TOAL, LUKE CHILTON, JENNY COLLIER & ALEX EGAN Fri 15 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

PHIL COOPER, CHRIS BROOKER & HARRIET DYER Fri 15 Aug, Ludlow Brewery, South Shropshire

JACK BRYAN Sat 16 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

SEAN COLLINS, TOM TOAL, LUKE CHILTON & JENNY COLLIER Sat 16 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

EDDY BRIMSON, FRAN GARRITY, MATT STELLINGWERF & TONY VINO Sat 16 Aug, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

JAKE LAMBERT Sat 16 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire



Theatre

BRONTË Malvern Theatres Young Company present Polly Teale's powerful reimagining of the turbulent lives of the Brontë sisters, Tues 12 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

MISS PLYMLEY One-woman show providing an insight into Georgian and Regency life as experienced by Shropshire's Katherine Plymley, Wed 13 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE Big 3 Theatre present an amateur version of the award-winning coming-of-age musical, Wed 13 - Sat 16 Aug, Rugeley Rose Theatre

CHOPPED LIVER AND UNIONS The story of Sara Wesker, who, as the leader of the 'singing strikers of 1928', helped shape the radical politics of her age, Thurs 14 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

TUCK EVERLASTING National Youth Musical Theatre - in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome - tell the story of 11-year-old Winnie Foster and her quest for adventure, Thurs 14 - Sat 16 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

WEST SIDE STORY Stage Experience present an amateur version of 'one of the greatest love stories ever told', Thurs 14 - Sat 16 Aug, The Alexandra, Birmingham

FAT HAM James Ijames' compelling and Hamlet-inspired examination of love and loss, pain and joy, Fri 15 Aug - Sat 13 Sept, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE DUSTBUSTERS 'An interactive and whimsical performance guaranteed to have audiences laughing, dancing and dusting in a unique approach to housekeeping', Sat 16 Aug, Haden Hill House Museum & Park, Cradley Heath. This free event forms part of the Big Family Theatre Weekend

FOOTLOOSE YOUTH EDITION Amateur version based on the hit 1980s film, Sat 16 Aug, Palace Theatre, Redditch

FRANKENSTEIN - AFTERGLOW Neon-gothic battle of self-determination between man and monster which elaborates on Mary Shelley's famous novel, Sat 16 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

Outdoor Theatre

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Illyria present an outdoor version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Tues 12 Aug, Brockwood Animal Sanctuary, Nr Dudley

THE WIZARD OF OZ Paperback Theatre present an open-air production that brings the classic story 'bang up to date', Tues 12 Aug, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

TWELFTH NIGHT Shakespeare's romantic comedy, presented by all-male troupe The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Tues 12 Aug, Alderford Lake, Nr Whitchurch, North Shropshire

TWELFTH NIGHT Shakespeare's romantic comedy, presented by all-male troupe The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Thurs 14 Aug, Arley Hall & Gardens, Cheshire

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Immersion Theatre present an innovative version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Thurs 14 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle, Shropshire

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Illyria present an outdoor version of

Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Fri 15 Aug, De Montfort Hall, Leicester

THE WIZARD OF OZ Paperback Theatre present an open-air production that brings the classic story 'bang up to date', Sat 16 Aug, Bolton Gates Arts, Staffordshire

THE WIZARD OF OZ Paperback Theatre present an open-air production that brings the classic story 'bang up to date', Sun 17 Aug, Cotteridge Park, Birmingham

WIND IN THE WILLOWS Immersion Theatre present an innovative version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Sun 17 Aug, Dudmaston Castle, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Kids Theatre

MRS ARMITAGE ON WHEELS Scoot Theatre fuse live music, puppetry and physical comedy in an interactive and energetic show celebrating the joy of getting outdoors and being active, Wed 13 Aug, Number 8, Pershore

KID CARPET'S SUPER MEGA ROCKIN ROCK SHOW All the best bits from Kid Carpet's anarchic family shows, mashed up and remixed to create the gig of the century, Thurs 14 Aug,

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham
PAW PATROL LIVE! THE GREAT PIRATE ADVENTURE Action-packed, music-filled production based on the animated pre-school series, Sat 16 Aug, Utilita Arena Birmingham

LAIKA THE SPACE DOG Lori Hopkins' lively family show is a retelling of the story of the first dog in space (with a twist!). Suitable for children aged three-plus, Sat 16 Aug, Haden Hill House Museum & Park, Cradley Heath. This free event forms part of the Big Family Theatre Weekend

SPECIAL DELIVERY A Bird In The Hand Theatre present a simple story about the delights of trying something unexpected. Suitable for children aged three-plus, Sat 16 Aug, Haden Hill House Museum & Park, Cradley Heath. This free event forms part of the Big Family Theatre Weekend

THE FISHER AND HIS WIFE Lempen Puppet Theatre Company present a 20-minute production based on the Brothers Grimm fairytale, Sun 17 Aug, Haden Hill House Museum & Park, Cradley Heath. This free event forms part of the Big Family Theatre Weekend

MRS ARMITAGE ON WHEELS Scoot Theatre fuse live music, puppetry and

physical comedy in an interactive and energetic show celebrating the joy of getting outdoors and being active, Sun 17 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

THE WRONG BROTHERS Feasible Ferret Theatre present a walkabout production using slapstick routines and humorous interactions to pay homage to the inventors and machines that didn't get off the ground, Sun 17 Aug, Haden Hill House Museum & Park, Cradley Heath. This free event forms part of the Big Family Theatre Weekend

THINGAMABOB Matt Pang fuses circus, invention and humour to bring to life giant ball slinging and self-exploding handcrafted gadgetry, Sun 17 Aug, Haden Hill House Museum & Park, Cradley Heath. This free event forms part of the Big Family Theatre Weekend

Light Entertainment

REX FACTOR - BATTLE OF THE CHAMPIONS Graham Duke and Ali Hood's live podcast reviews the kings



**Worcester Cathedral
MEDIEVAL
FEST**

Wednesday 13 August
7pm: Robin Hood, Men in Tights • 9.30pm: Legend

Thursday 14 August
2pm: Disney's Robin Hood • 7pm: A Knight's Tale
9.45pm: The Seventh Seal

Friday 15 August
2pm: Disney's Tangled • 7pm: Willow
9.45pm: The Secret of Kells

Saturday 16 August
2pm: Disney's The Sword in the Stone
7pm: The Princess Bride • 9.30pm: Labyrinth

Experience the Cathedral like never before!
Enjoy classic family favourites in a stunning setting,
with popcorn and other food and refreshments.



**Book your tickets now
on the Cathedral website
to avoid disappointment!**

SCAN HERE



and queens of history, scoring them on a selection of factors before deciding whether they have the, er, Rex Factor! Fri 15 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

TAYLOR SWIFTIE JUKEBOX Tribute concert celebrating Taylor Swift, Fri 15 - Sun 17 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

SOI SUMMER FEST One-day celebration showcasing up-and-coming talent across multiple genres, Sat 16 Aug, The Benn Hall, Rugby

MICHAEL BURDETT - BEFORE FAME The extraordinary back story of one of the world's greatest pop duos - George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley - is here told by the man who discovered them, Sat 16 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

WHISKY TANGO FOXTROT Jack Bryan's 'hilarious, moving and gritty tales' of policing from the late 1970s onwards, Sat 16 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

Talks & Spoken Word

ADAM BUXTON - I LOVE YOU, BYEEE (IN CONVERSATION WITH JOE LYCETT) Join the actor, comedian & podcaster as he talks about his new memoir. Presented by The Heath Bookshop, Tues 12 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Events

TROT ON REGARDLESS - A HISTORY OF THE MOUNTED POLICE Join the ride with Stefan Wild as he trots through a brief history of police horses patrolling West Midlands streets, Mon 11 Aug, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

DINOSAUR TAKEOVER DAY Step back in time for a Jurassic adventure, Mon 11 Aug, Trentham Gardens, Staffs

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON Do you have what it takes to go forward into the Dragon Initiation Programme? Mon 11 - Fri 15 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

SCIENCE WEEK WITH GRANDOLPH THE WIZARD Get hands-on with microscopes and science equipment, Mon 11 - Sun 17 Aug, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

HOLIDAY CLUB - GIRLS ONLY Chance for girls and those identifying as female to experience STEM-activities led by a variety of STEM and STEAM experts, Tues 12 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

SAILBOAT GLASS AND DRIFTWOOD WORKSHOP Join glass artist Terri Malcolm for a hands-on workshop, Tues 12 Aug, Stourbridge Glass

Museum

HANDS-ON SUMMER FUN Immerse yourself in the castle's past as you handle real objects from history and get dressed up, Tues 12 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

YOUNG EXPLORERS HOUSE TOUR Join the storyteller to step back in time and explore the house, Tues 12 Aug, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire

LOCOMOTIVE LEARNING WEEK Event designed for young rail enthusiasts aged between seven and 15, Tues 12 - Fri 15 Aug, Statfold Country Park, Tamworth

ARTS CLUB: SUMMER FUN AT THE MUSEUM Series of 'fun activities', from jewellery making to pattern printing, Wed 13 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

BUCCANEER BOOTCAMP Featuring pirate-themed activities, Wed 13 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

CIRCUS SKILLS Join Circus Sensible for workshops and demonstrations of popular circus skills, Wed 13 Aug, Shugborough Estate, nr Stafford

SPLIT PIN PUPPETS Choose from a variety of puppets and make your very own split pin puppet, Wed 13 - Thurs 14 Aug, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

MEDIEVALFEST 2025 Medieval merriment takes over the entire estate. Fun for all from the Middle Ages! Wed 13 - Sat 16 Aug, Worcester Cathedral

HANDS-ON SUMMER FUN Immerse yourself in the castle's past as you handle real objects from history and get dressed up, Thurs 14 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

MY FIRST MUSEUM TOUR Relaxed and child-friendly tour of the museum, Thurs 14 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

90S GET ARTY! Get creative with fun family workshops inspired by iconic 1990s children's TV shows, Thurs 14 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

WIZARDING SCHOOL TWO: CARE OF MYTHICAL BEASTS Discover the mysteries of dragon fire, the healing touch of unicorns, and the wisdom of gargoyles, Thurs 14 Aug, Tamworth Castle

A LA PUPPET CARTE Duo or trio of pop-up puppet stages built onto the back of electric tricycles, Thurs 14 Aug, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

SUMMER FAMILY SPORTS Series of family-friendly sports activities, Thurs 14 Aug, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

ART MASTERCLASS: MODROC

SCULPTING Hands-on workshop teaching children aged eight to 14 how to use Modroc, Thurs 14 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry



Mrs Armitage On Wheels - Number 8, Pershore & Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shropshire

GARDENS CINEMA Outdoor screenings in partnership with Mockingbird Cinema & Flatpack, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CLAY MINI BOTTLE OVENS Have a go at making your very own clay bottle oven to take home as a souvenir of your visit, Fri 15 Aug, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

VJ DAY Featuring free talks, workshops and 1940s music, Fri 15 Aug, Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford

HERITAGE AND HABITAT 'Fun-filled outdoor activities', all with a focus on sustainability and the natural world, Fri 15 Aug, Sarehole Mill, B'ham

REMEMBERING VJ DAY - 80 YEARS ON, NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE EVENT Royal British Legion event at the base of the Armed Forces Memorial, Fri 15 Aug, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

THE WESTERN MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW Featuring 450-plus new and used motorhomes and campervans for sale, Fri 15 - Sun 17 Aug, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

BONGO'S BINGO - WISH UPON A BINGO A Disney-inspired special edition, Sat 16 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

INTERNATIONAL WOLF DAY Fence-feed wolves, listen to talks and more, Sat 16 Aug, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

SINGIN' ON THE TRAIN Jump on the train and travel to stations to hear male choirs in full song, Sat 16 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

WIZARDING SCHOOL TWO: CARE OF MYTHICAL BEASTS Discover the mysteries of dragon fire, the healing touch of unicorns, and the wisdom of

gargoyles, Sat 16 Aug, Tamworth Castle

A MEDIEVAL BANQUET IN A MEDIEVAL BISHOP'S PALACE Enjoy a lavish medieval banquet in the surroundings of The Old Palace, overlooking the River Severn, Sat 16 Aug, Worcester Cathedral

CREEPY CRAWLIES IN THE CASTLE Featuring live animal encounters and a creepy crawly trail, Sat 16 - Sun 17 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS: THE PARTY TOUR Featuring, among other attractions, rides behind steam engines Thomas, James and Percy, Sat 16 - Sun 17 Aug, Statfold Country Park, Tamworth

OSWESTRY BALLOON CARNIVAL 2025 Featuring an array of colourful hot-air balloons, live music, interactive displays and more, Sat 16 - Sun 17 Aug, Cae Glas Park, Oswestry, North Shropshire

SUNDAY KITCHEN SCIENCE Try a new experiment that you can easily recreate at home, Sun 17 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

MARVELLOUS MAKERS 'Buzzing creative space' featuring different activities every week, Sun 17 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

JAPANESE PERFORMANCE SHOW The only indoor Japanese car show in the UK and Europe, Sun 17 Aug, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

HERITAGE AND HABITAT 'Fun-filled outdoor activities', all with a focus on sustainability and the natural world, Sun 17 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

ASTON MARTIN - CELEBRATING VANTAGE Celebrating 75 years of the Vantage name and 20 years of Gaydon Vantage, Sun 17 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

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Gigs

HORSE JUMPER OF LOVE Mon 18 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LACHLAN BRYAN AND THE WILDES Mon 18 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

YHWH NAILGUN Tues 19 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MAKEOUT + KEEP FLYING Tues 19 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

RAINBOW GIRLS Tues 19 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

BRITNEE KELLOGG Tues 19 Aug, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

LUKE HAINES & PETER BUCK Wed 20 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LOUM Wed 20 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

HONOR ISABELLA Wed 20 Aug, B:Eats, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE HENRY GIRLS Wed 20 Aug, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

GOLDEN EAGLE JAZZ BAND Wed 20 Aug, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

TRAGEDY: ALL METAL TRIBUTE TO THE BEE GEES Wed 20 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

AN EVENING OF... ELVIS Thurs 21 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE CAROLINE BOMB Thurs 21 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

DETTA KENZIE Thurs 21 Aug, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

THE BASIL GABBIDON BAND Fri 22 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

OUTBACK + VOIDLURKER + PHANTOM DROID + DEATH BY HANGING Fri 22 Aug, Dead Wax, Digbeth, B'ham

MERRY HELL Fri 22 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa



ICONIC 80S V 90S Fri 22 Aug, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

FLASHBACK Fri 22 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

NICKELBACK UK - TRIBUTE TO NICKELBACK Fri 22 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

GRACIE BEVERLEY Fri 22 Aug, Regal, Tenbury Wells

ROCK FOR HEROES Fri 22 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

WHITE TYGER Fri 22 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

SOUL'D OUT UK Fri 22 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

FRED ZEPPLIN Fri 22 Aug, Eleven,

Stoke-on-Trent

BRITPOP UTD VS ALL4 INDIE Fri 22 Aug, The Station, Cannock

WINGWALKERS Fri 22 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

THE NICKELBACK EXPERIENCE Fri 22 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

4 MEN CALLED BOB Fri 22 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE Fri 22 - Sat 23 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

TAXI FOR JESUS Sat 23 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SILVER BARS Sat 23 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JUST DOIN' IT - STATUS QUO TRIBUTE Sat 23 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, B'ham

THE ZEPPELIN 3 Sat 23 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

ACID MAMMOTH Sat 23 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

MADISON AVENUE Sat 23 Aug, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

BLACK ROSE SOCIETY Sat 23 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ABBA - SWEDE DREAMZ Sat 23 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

MOTLEY CRUDE Sat 23 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

BEE SMITH Sat 23 Aug, The Civic, Stourport

ABBA GOLD Sat 23 Aug, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE ABSOLUTE STONE ROSES Sat 23 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

LUNA WAVES Sat 23 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

FRUITMACHINE Sat 23 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE GABBIDON BAND Sun 24 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE BITTER LEMONS + PLANET STRANGE Sun 24 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

DUST Sun 24 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

JAKE BYRNE Sun 24 Aug, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

LEE OSBORNE Sun 24 Aug, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

THIRSTY WORK Sun 24 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

JUNCTION 77 Sun 24 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

BUDDY MONDLOCK Sun 24 Aug, Marrs Bar, Worcester

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Sun 24 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

SIMPLY DYLAN Sun 24 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

LOKKO + MAGNATAS COURT + NAKED SUNDAY + SAD VACATION + THE DAVE BARRON BAND Sun 24 Aug, The Station, Cannock

WILD CANDY Sun 24 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

SIMON BELL - LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Tues 19 Aug, Tewkesbury Abbey

CHARLES WOOLER ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by J.S. Bach & Vierne, Tues 19 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

ALLAN WALKER ORGAN RECITAL Fri 22 Aug, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

ESO YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring James Topp (conductor). Programme includes works by Tippett, Howell & Elgar, Fri 22 Aug, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

SEAN PERCIVAL, PETE SELWOOD, TREVOR BICKLES & COMIC TBC Fri 22 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SEAN PERCIVAL, PETE SELWOOD & COMICS TBC Sat 23 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JIMMY CRICKET Sat 23 Aug, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

RICHARD BLACKWOOD (PICTURED), ANDREW MENSAH, GBEMI OLADIPO, JOE BINGHAM & TRAVIS JAY Sun 24 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham



Theatre

LIGHTNING BOY National Youth Music Theatre - in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome - tell the story of 16-year-old Zeus and his struggle to survive under the oppressive rule of his tyrannical father and dysfunctional brothers, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE WIZARD OF OZ Paperback Theatre relocate Oz to Birmingham in a theatre production inspired by the Midlands' very own UB40, Ozzy Osbourne, The Streets and Nick Drake. Suitable for audience members aged five-plus, Fri 22 Aug, Central Library, West Bromwich

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG A Stafford Gatehouse Summer School 2025 production based on Ian Fleming's fantastical tale for children, Fri 22 - Sat 23 Aug, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

HI-DE-HI ERIC A 'fun-filled frolic and fabulous foolishness' is on the cards as New Vic regulars Eric and Bev

forgo an expensive foreign holiday for a season break in the UK, Sat 23 Aug - Fri 5 Sept, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE NEXT GENERATION SCHOOL OF ROCK THE MUSICAL Five Star Theatre present an amateur version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's smash-hit show, Sun 24 Aug, The Benn Hall, Rugby

Outdoor Theatre

THE RIVALS Rain Or Shine Theatre present an open-air version of Sheridan's comedy of manners, Thurs 21 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster

MACBETH The Dukes Theatre Company promise 'a dynamic reimagining' of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, Thurs 21 Aug, Powis Castle & Garden, Welshpool, Powys

MACBETH The Dukes Theatre Company promise 'a dynamic reimagining' of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, Fri 22 Aug, Spetchley Park Gardens, Spetchley, Worcestershire

TREASURE ISLAND Jenny Wren Productions present an outdoor version of Robert Louis Stevenson's famous adventure story, Fri 22 Aug, Tewkesbury Abbey

HMS PINAFORE Illyria present an outdoor version of Gilbert & Sullivan's timeless comic opera, Sat 23 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

MACBETH The Dukes Theatre Company promise 'a dynamic reimagining' of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, Sat 23 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens; Sun 24 Aug, Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

Kids Theatre

BIN RAT!! The Last Baguette fuse music, physical comedy, puppetry and visual storytelling in a family performance that looks into refuse and recycling, Wed 20 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

TINY CLOWN'S BIG ADVENTURE! Grandly Strange Puppet Theatre present a story of discovery and imagination which features 'the best monster made out of a lampshade that you will ever see in your life'. Suitable for audiences three-plus, Thurs 21 Aug, Blackheath Library, Rowley Regis

THE BOY WITH WINGS New stage adaptation of Sir Lenny Henry's book, telling the story of a 12-year-old boy with superpowers. Expect music, puppetry and space rifles..., Thurs 21 - Sat 30 Aug, The Rep, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

THE MUSIC OF U2 BY CANDLELIGHT

Featuring a spectacular cast of world-class vocalists and epic live band, experience U2's biggest hits like never before, Thurs 21 Aug, St Mary's Church, Warwick

TAYLOR SWIFTIE JUKEBOX Tribute concert celebrating Taylor Swift, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE MUSIC OF LORD OF THE RINGS

Mystery Ensemble promise a magical evening during which they will transport audiences into the heart of Tolkien's universe, Sat 23 Aug, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BEACH, PLEASE! Comedy drag and guest interview show, described as being like breakfast TV but with more lip syncing. Hosted by Shrewsbury drag queens Cruella de Phil and Amaranta del Toro, Sat 23 Aug, The Hive, Shrewsbury

CANDLELIGHT: THE BEST OF HANS

ZIMMER Featuring music from film favourites such as The Lion King, The

Dark Knight, Interstellar and more, performed by Sekine Quartet, Sat 23 Aug, St Philip's Cathedral, B'ham

CANDLELIGHT: ED SHEERAN MEETS

COLDPLAY A live, multi-sensory musical experience, with music performed by Sekine Quartet, Sat 23 August, St Philip's Cathedral, B'ham

Talks & Spoken Word

OUR HOME TOWN A celebration of Ludlow in words and pictures, Sat 23 Aug, Ludlow Methodist Church, South Shropshire

Events

GOING ON A BEAR HUNT Go in search of bears around the meadows, Mon 18 - Fri 22 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

BIRDIE WEEK Featuring flying displays presented by Shropshire Falconry, Mon 18 - Sun 24 Aug, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

MINI MOTORISTS MONDAYS Make

musical instruments to accompany a rendition of Car, Car, Truck, Jeep by Katrina Charman and Nick Sharratt, Mon 18 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

HANDS-ON SUMMER FUN Immerse yourself in the castle's past as you handle real objects from history and get dressed up, Tues 19 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

HOLIDAY CLUB - GIRLS ONLY Chance for girls and those identifying as female to experience STEM activities led by a variety of STEM and STEAM experts, Tues 19 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

YOUNG EXPLORERS HOUSE TOUR Join the storyteller to step back in time and explore the house, Tues 19 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire

BRIDGNORTH CAB RIDES Join the driver and second man in the cab to experience life aboard the locomotive, Tues 19 - Wed 20 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

ARTS CLUB: SUMMER FUN AT THE MUSEUM Featuring a selection of activities, from jewellery making to pattern printing, Wed 20 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

HOLIDAY CLUB - KIDS Hands-on STEM activities for children aged between seven and 10, Wed 20 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

WHEELS ON WEDNESDAYS Welcoming all types of wheels, both modern and classic, Wed 20 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

BUCCANEER BOOTCAMP Featuring pirate-themed activities, Wed 20 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

CIRCUS SKILLS Join Circus Sensible for workshops and demonstrations of popular circus skills, Wed 20 Aug, Shugborough Estate, nr Stafford

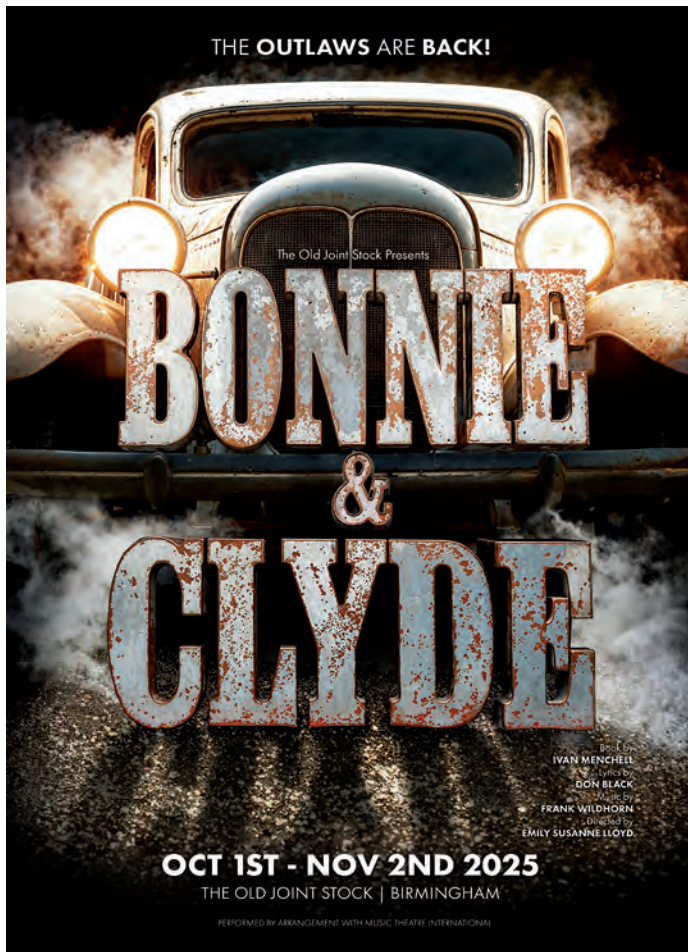
CLAY OZZY OWLS Make your own clay pinch pot Ozzy Owl to take home, Wed 20 - Thurs 21 Aug, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

MY FIRST MUSEUM TOUR Relaxed and child-friendly tour of the museum, Thurs 21 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

90S GET ARTY! Get creative with fun family workshops inspired by iconic 1990s children's TV shows, Thurs 21 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

HANDS-ON SUMMER FUN Immerse yourself in the castle's past as you handle real objects from history and

THE OUTLAWS ARE BACK!



The Old Joint Stock Presents

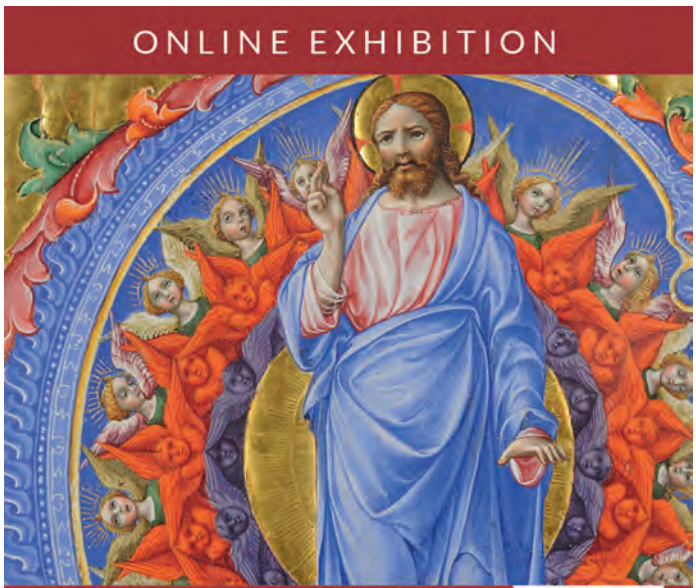
BONNIE & CLYDE

Book by IVAN MENCHELL
Lyrics by DON BLACK
Music by FRANK WILDHORN
Directed by EMILY SUSANNE LLOYD

OCT 1ST - NOV 2ND 2025
THE OLD JOINT STOCK | BIRMINGHAM

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ONLINE EXHIBITION



Fragments of Devotion

A Sensory History of Illuminated Manuscript Cuttings




VIEW ONLINE FROM 30 JUNE 2025
devotion.barber.org.uk

THE BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



get dressed up, Thurs 21 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

WIZARDING SCHOOL THREE: THE ART OF POTION BREWING Learn the secrets of magical ingredients, perfect brewing techniques, and discover how to craft potions with powerful effects, Thurs 21 Aug, Tamworth Castle

STELLAR SPACE DAY Blast off into a world of cosmic adventure with a day of space-themed activities, Thurs 21 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

LET'S PLAY! EXCITED AND CALM Exploration of excitement and calmness via yoga and zumba, Thurs 21 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

SUMMER FAMILY SPORTS Family-friendly sports activities, Thurs 21 Aug, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

MALVERNS CLASSIC Family-friendly celebration of mountain biking, Thurs 21 - Mon 25 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

STATFOLD GOES COUNTRY Evening of country & western entertainment, Fri 22 Aug, Statfold Country Park, Tamworth

HOLIDAY CLUB - KIDS Hands-on STEM activities for children aged between seven and 10, Fri 22 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

HERITAGE AND HABITAT 'Fun-filled outdoor activities', all with a focus on sustainability and the natural world, Fri 22 Aug, Sarehole Mill, B'ham

MUSEUM AFTER HOURS: BABY ONE MORE TIME Night of 90s music, moves, and themed cocktails, Fri 22 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

THE BIG FEAST 2025 Free outdoor event which sees art and artists popping up in streets, buildings and underused spaces in the city centre, Fri 22 - Sat 23 Aug, Stoke-on-Trent City Centre

TELFORD BALLOON FIESTA Featuring stage shows, live acts, family activities, and of course, hot-air balloons taking to the skies, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Aug, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

DEVOTED A ChristCentral festival for all the family, Fri 22 - Mon 25 Aug, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford

SEE THE MAGIC INSIDE GLASS Explore the world of glass using a real polariscope, Sat 23 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

WIZARDING SCHOOL THREE: THE ART OF POTION BREWING Learn the secrets of magical ingredients, perfect brewing techniques, and discover how to craft potions with powerful effects, Sat 23 Aug, Tamworth Castle

PET BLESSING SERVICE A service of celebration for 'our beloved animal companions', Sat 23 Aug, Worcester Cathedral

BONGO'S BINGO The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 23 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

GRAVITY SHOW 2025 Bringing together supercars, custom builds and classics, as well as drift and race cars, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

ART AND CRAFT FAYRE Featuring a whole host of suppliers showcasing hand-crafted items, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

THE HUMAN COLLECTIVE WELLNESS FESTIVAL Featuring yoga, workshops, a mindful market and more, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Aug, FarGo Village, Coventry

1940S WEEKEND Featuring re-enactors, promenaders, vintage traders, military vehicles and a selection of entertainment, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Aug, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

MEDIEVAL LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND Featuring living-history displays, medieval encampments, authentic armour displays, battle re-enactments and more, Sat 23 - Mon 25 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

KNIGHTS' TOURNAMENT Step back in time and get up close to the action as rival knights compete in 'the ultimate test of strength and skill', Sat 23 - Mon 25 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

SUNDAY KITCHEN SCIENCE Try a new experiment that you can easily recreate at home, Sun 24 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

MARVELLOUS MAKERS 'Buzzing creative space' featuring different activities every week, Sun 24 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

HERITAGE AND HABITAT 'Fun-filled outdoor activities', all with a focus on sustainability and the natural world, Sun 24 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

SHREWSBURY STEAM RALLY Featuring vintage and steam-powered vehicles of all shapes and sizes, Sun 24 - Mon 25 Aug, Onslow Park, nr Shrewsbury

WOODVILLES MEDIEVAL LIVING HISTORY CAMP Join 'The Woodvilles' for an interactive living-history show featuring cooking, crafts and combat, Sun 24 - Mon 25 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

SUMMER FIESTA Featuring local artisan food & drink producers, unique crafts, street food, live music from the Dirty Rockin Scoundrels and more..., Sun 24 - Mon 25 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire

KNIGHTS & PRINCESS SCHOOL Featuring foam sword-training games and medieval princess shows, Sun 24 - Thurs 28 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire



My First Museum Tour - Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Festivals

SUNSHINE FESTIVAL Line-up includes Adam Ant, Ocean Colour Scene & Toyah, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 Aug, Fish Meadow, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire

BEERMAGEDDON FESTIVAL Line-up includes GBH, Face Up & Dog Tired, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 Aug, Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

THE BIG FEASTIVAL Line-up includes Nelly Furtado, Travis & The Wombats, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Aug, Kingham, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

THE BIG STATFOLD WEEKENDER Line-up includes Live In Technicolour, Forever Jackson & Only Elton, Statfold Country Park, Tamworth, Fri 22 - Sun 24 August

PENKRIDGE Line-up includes Vengaboys, Nik Kershaw & Boney M, Penkridge Sports Recreation Centre,

Pinfold Lane, Fri 22 - Sun 24 August

CAMPER CALLING Line-up includes Clean Bandit, Razorlight & Example, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Aug, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes The Levellers, Oysterband & Skerryvore (pictured), Fri 22 - Mon 25 Aug, DMOS People West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury



PAIRC SUMMER SERIES Line-up includes The Saw Doctors, The Undertones & Nathan Carter, The New Irish Centre, Birmingham, Sat 23 - Sun 24 August



Knight's Tournament - Kenilworth Castle



Xhosa Cole - Wolverhampton Arts Centre

Gigs

FULL FLOWER MOON BAND Mon 25 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

THROWING MUSES Tues 26 Aug, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

WEIRD ON PURPOSE: CELEBRATING EMERGING TALENT Wed 27 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KAYAM Wed 27 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MADI SASKIA Wed 27 Aug, B:Eats, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SAUCE CITY JAZZ BAND Wed 27 Aug, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

JAZZCAT + TRUST CLUB Thurs 28 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TO THE GRAVE Thurs 28 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

CHERRY B Thurs 28 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

TO THE GRAVE Thurs 28 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

SLUNG Thurs 28 Aug, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

STONETHROW Thurs 28 Aug, Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

TAYLOR SWIFT TRIBUTE Thurs 28 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

RYAN DAVIS & THE ROADHOUSE BAND Thurs 28 Aug, The Tin at The Coal Vaults, Coventry

THE OLIVIA RODRIGO EXPERIENCE Thurs 28 Aug, The Civic, Stourport

DEAN FRIEDMAN Thurs 28 Aug, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

DEM BOYZ FEATURING PETER COXX & BUGGY NHAKENTE Fri 29 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BIG SPECIAL + HESSKA + MERMAID CHUNKY + MOIN + WATER DAMAGE + SKLOSS Fri 29 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SKABUCKS Fri 29 Aug, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

COAST TO COAST Fri 29 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

DYSKINETIC + KRIS HALPIN Fri 29 Aug, B:Eats, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ESCUELA GRIND Fri 29 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

PALEJOY Fri 29 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

BOOTLEG BEE GEES Fri 29 Aug, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

XHOSA COLE Fri 29 Aug, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

BEATLES COMPLETE Fri 29 Aug, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

RATS IN THE KITCHEN - UB40 TRIBUTE Fri 29 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

UNDER THE COVERS Fri 29 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

FLEETWOOD BAC Fri 29 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SERIOUSLY COLLINS Fri 29 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE ANTARCTIC MONKEYS Fri 29 Aug, The Station, Cannock

BONEY M Fri 29 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

FRONTROW Fri 29 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

THIS CARPENTERS MASQUERADE Fri 29 Aug, Rugeley Rose Theatre

THE JAM'D Fri 29 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

GUTTERSNIPE Fri 29 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE SALOPIAN MIXTAPE Fri 29 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

GOLDEN KEYS Fri 29 Aug, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

SUBTERRANEANS Fri 29 - Sat 30 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

NIRVARDY Sat 30 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AUNTY RAYZOR + AYA + BACKXWASH + BUÑUEL + DEATH GOALS Sat 30 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT: A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON Sat 30 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THAT'S SO 90S Sat 30 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

SIGNING OFF UB40 Sat 30 Aug, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

THE VIRGINMARYS + FURY + TATTOO

MOLLY + ELECTRIC BLACK + APRIORI Sat 30 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

PRAYING MANTIS + STORMCHILD + THE DEEP + MR. DIBS + THE DEAD CAN WAIT Sat 30 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE AUSTRIAN STONES Sat 30 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

VIVA MORRISSEY Sat 30 Aug, Marrs Bar, Worcester

ULTRA 90S VS 2000S Sat 30 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

MAETLIVE Sat 30 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

STONE BROKEN + JAYLER + SAM MILLAR Sat 30 Aug, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

WILL SMITH Sat 30 Aug, Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

RAINBOW RISING + DEEPEST PURPLE Sat 30 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

NIRVANA UK Sat 30 Aug, The Station, Cannock

THE PLAYLIST PARTY BAND Sat 30 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

UPFRONT ROCK Sat 30 Aug, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

CREDENCECE CLEARWATER REVIEW : GREEN RIVER TOUR Sat 30 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

CHASTITY BELT + HONK Sun 31 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ABDULLAH MINIAWY + BRIDGET HAYDEN & THE APPARITIONS + CALLIOPE + CINDER WELL Sun 31 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CERI JUSTICE & THE JURY Sun 31 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

DEEPER CUT Sun 31 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

CREEDANCECE CLEARWATER REVIEW Sun 31 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

RICH PARSONS Sun 31 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

Classical Music

CAROLYN CRAIG ORGAN RECITAL Mon 25 Aug, Great Malvern Priory

BANK HOLIDAY ORGAN RECITAL Mon 25 Aug, All Saints Church, Leamington Spa

PAUL CARR LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL Tues 26 Aug, Tewkesbury Abbey

JOHN ROBINSON ORGAN CONCERT Tues 26 Aug, Hereford Cathedral

LAURENCE CALDECOTE ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Tomkins, Thiman & Harris, Tues 26 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

PAUL CARR LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL Fri 29 Aug, St Alkmund's Church, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

DANIEL GORDON PIANO RECITAL Fri 29 Aug, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

Comedy

BILL BAILEY Wed 27 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



FAT PENGUIN COMEDY CLUB Wed 27 Aug, The Patrick Kavanagh, B'ham

JOSH PUGH, MATT BRAGG, TOM WARD & COMICS TBC Thurs 28 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, MATT PRICE & SOL BERNSTEIN Thurs 28 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BILL BAILEY Thurs 28 Aug, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

LOST VOICE GUY, MATT PRICE, SOL BERNSTEIN & TRIXX Fri 29 - Sat 30 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE FULTON, JACOB NUSSEY, JONNY AWSUM & KAREN BAYLEY Sat 30 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

IGNACIO LOPEZ, MAD RON, HARRY JENKINS & ANDY FOX Sun 31 Aug, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

Theatre

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) A fast-firing production covering 37 Shakespeare plays in under two hours, Mon 25 - Sat 30 Aug, Talisman Theatre & Arts Centre, Kenilworth

BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY Award-winning West End show celebrating one of rock & roll's earliest stars. Featured hits include 'That'll Be The Day, Oh Boy, Rave On, La Bamba, Chantilly Lace, Peggy Sue and many more....', Wed 27 - Sat 30 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

INSPECTOR MORSE: HOUSE OF GHOSTS Colin Dexter's beer-drinking crossword-solving Oxford detective makes a return, this time on stage. Tom Chambers plays Morse, Thurs 28 Aug - Sun 14 Sept, The Rep, Birmingham

CANVAS The Company Of Shadows - a local Butoh group - explore the human condition: 'our fragile bodies, life's challenges, and our inexhaustible desire to make art to make sense of the world', Fri 29 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

CHOREOMANIA British Youth Music Theatre present a movement-inspired musical exploration of the 1518 dancing plague. Written by Evie Atkin and Evie Press, Fri 29 - Sun 31 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

FAIRLIGHT Brand-new electropop musical about queer invisibility in tennis, Sat 30 Aug, Edgbaston Archery and Lawn Tennis Society, Birmingham

Outdoor Theatre

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, Fri 29 Aug, Packwood House, Lapworth

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Illyria present Oliver Gray's adaptation of Jane Austen's romantic classic, Fri 29 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Nr Wolverhampton

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Award-winning outdoor theatre company Illyria promise a night of laughter and hijinks under the stars, Sat 30 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

THE RIVALS Rain Or Shine Theatre present an open-air version of Sheridan's comedy of manners, Sat 30 Aug, Witley Court, Worcestershire

THE RIVALS Rain Or Shine Theatre present an open-air version of Sheridan's comedy of manners, Sun 31 Aug, Priory Park, Great Malvern

THE TALE OF JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK Quantum Theatre present an outdoor version of the much-loved Beatrix Potter tale, Sun 31 Aug, Caldecott Park, Rugby

THE BIG BAD WOLF The Plandits present a brand-new rock & roll musical featuring 'folklore's most notorious villain', Sun 31 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

Kids Theatre

CAPTAIN CAULIFLOWER AND MARVIN THE MISCHIEVOUS MOOSE Mad Etiquette present clowning for little ones, sharing adventures that take place in outer space and under the ocean, Wed 27 Aug, Smethwick Library

MR. SHADOW Shadowgraphy present a light-hearted family show featuring a host of beautiful creatures, Wed 27 Aug, St Patrick's Church Hall, Wolverhampton

THE KOALA WHO COULD Empowering and chuckle-out-loud story about embracing change. Based on Rachel Bright & Jim Field's popular children's book, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 Aug, Lichfield Garrick

SUPERSONIC KIDS GIG: MERMAID CHUNKY Featuring big sounds for little people, Sat 30 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

DINOSAURS LIVE Touring family show fusing fun and facts, as life-like

dinosaurs once again roam the region! Sun 31 Aug, The Alexandra, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

HIGH TEA - WITH A TWIST Levantes Dance Theatre fuse aerial circus with contemporary dance and theatre to tell a story without language, Mon 25 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

BUSK Project Dance Company present 'a compelling story of redemption and hope', Tues 26 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE CARPENTERS MASQUERADE The 'UK's most authentic Carpenters tribute show', Fri 29 Aug, Rugeley Rose Theatre

QUEEN BY CANDLELIGHT 'Ultimate tribute show' featuring some of the most iconic songs of all time, Sat 30 Aug, The Alexandra, Birmingham

FROM DOWN UNDER TO DOWNING STREET Hour-long cabaret show featuring Drag Race Down Under star Ivanna Drink, Sat 30 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ASAP LIVE! 'The Philippines' longest-running, multi-awarded musical variety programme', Sat 30 Aug, bp pulse Live, Birmingham

THAT'S SO 90S - THE ULTIMATE 90S PARTY LIVE ON STAGE Sat 30 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

CANDLELIGHT: A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES A live, multi-sensory musical experience, with the music of the Fab Four performed on strings, Sat 30 Aug, St Philip's Cathedral, B'ham

CANDLELIGHT: A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN A live, multi-sensory musical experience, with the music of Queen performed on strings, Sat 30 Aug, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

TWCSC VARIETY SHOW An afternoon of music, dance and laughter, hosted by panto star Sam Beech. All proceeds will go to the Tamworth Wellbeing Cancer Support Centre, Sun 31 Aug, Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Staffs

LIPSTICK ON YOUR COLLAR Step back in time with this nostalgic show featuring back-to-back hits from the 1950s and 60s, Sun 31 Aug, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Events

PIRATE FUN DAY Climb and slide your way through the inflatable pirate fun run, swab the deck, walk the plank, and climb the rigging on the pirate obstacle course, Mon 25 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

WWE MONDAY NIGHT RAW Featuring popular WWE superstars, including



High Tea With A Twist - Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

world heavyweight champion Gunther, Jey Uso and more, Mon 25 Aug, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

IKON TEXTILE FAIR Meet local makers and find out more about their creative practices, Mon 25 Aug, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

REMARKABLE ROMANS Try your hand at different Roman activities, Mon 25 - Fri 29 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

BOP & POP WEEK Featuring a junior disco, with games and a silent disco, Mon 25 - Sun 31 Aug, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

YOUNG EXPLORERS HOUSE TOUR Join the storyteller to step back in time and explore the house, Tues 26 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire

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CIRCUS SKILLS Join Circus Sensible for workshops and demonstrations of popular circus skills, Wed 27 Aug, Shugborough Estate, nr Stafford

PLASTICINE PAINTINGS Create your own masterpiece painting using plasticine instead of paint, Wed 27 - Thurs 28 Aug, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

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90S GET ARTY! Get creative with fun family workshops inspired by iconic 1990s children's TV shows, Thurs 28 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

FEELS LIKE THE 90S PARTY! Show off your best dance moves, make your own 1990s-inspired badge, and take part in fun 90s party games, Thurs 28 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

MY FIRST MUSEUM TOUR Relaxed and child-friendly tour of the museum, Thurs 28 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

ART MASTERCLASS: FIGURE DRAWING Draw from a life model dressed as a hero from Coventry's past, Thurs 28 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

WIZARDING SCHOOL FOUR: WIZARDING ETIQUETTE & MAGICAL CREATURES Experience the charm of diplomatic negotiations and practise your best 'magical manners', all in the formal setting of Tamworth Castle, Thurs 28 Aug, Tamworth Castle

SUMMER FAMILY SPORTS Family-friendly sports activities, Thurs 28 Aug, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

HERITAGE AND HABITAT 'Fun-filled outdoor activities', all with a focus on sustainability and the natural world, Fri 29 Aug, Sarehole Mill, B'ham

HOLIDAY CLUB - KIDS Hands-on STEM activities for children aged between seven and 10, Fri 29 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

SUMMER LATES Explore the museum after hours, Fri 29 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

BOTTLE OVEN HATS Get creative and make a hat using Gladstone Pottery Museum's bottle ovens as inspiration, Fri 29 Aug, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

SEASIDE IN THE CITY Victoria Street is



Outdoor Country Rooftop Party - The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

transformed into a sandy beach. Seaside-themed activities also feature, Fri 29 - Sat 30 Aug, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton

GOOD STUFF New family-friendly music, food and entertainment festival, Sat 30 Aug, Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club

ALL DAY 70S PARTY Daytime clubbing experience for partygoers aged 25-

plus, Sat 30 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MAKE DO AND MEND: GLASS BUNTING WORKSHOP Join glass artist Terri Malcolm for a hands-on glass fusing workshop inspired by the creativity and resourcefulness of the 'make do and mend' spirit, Sat 30 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

ANGELS OF THE NIGHT BAT WALK AND

TALK Join local 'batman' James Bisset on International Bat Night for a walk'n'talk about on-site bats, Sat 30 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

RUSTIVAL Family-friendly celebration for car, commercial, bus and bike enthusiasts, Sat 30 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

WIZARDING SCHOOL FOUR: WIZARDING ETIQUETTE & MAGICAL CREATURES Experience the charm of diplomatic negotiations and practise your best 'magical manners', all in the formal setting of Tamworth Castle, Sat 30 Aug, Tamworth Castle

YOUNG DRIVER Featuring the UK's biggest under-17 driving school, Sat 30 Aug, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

CONTINUITY ANTIQUE HOME & VINTAGE FAIR Sat 30 - Sun 31 Aug, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford

SUNDAY KITCHEN SCIENCE Try a new experiment that you can easily recreate at home, Sun 31 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

MARVELLOUS MAKERS 'Buzzing

creative space' featuring different activities every week, Sun 31 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

STOKE ON TRENT MODEL SHOW Sun 31 Aug, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford

OUTDOOR COUNTRY ROOFTOP PARTY Featuring everything from toe-tapping classics to modern chart-toppers, Sun 31 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

HERITAGE AND HABITAT 'Fun-filled outdoor activities', all with a focus on sustainability and the natural world, Sun 31 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

FAMILY FUN DAY Family fun with garden games and a zipwire on the Valley Lawn, Sun 31 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

FAMILY FESTIVAL RACEDAY Featuring jump racing and family-friendly entertainment, Sun 31 Aug, Worcester Racecourse

Festivals

MOSELEY FOLK & ARTS Line-up includes The Waterboys, Father John Misty & Peter Doherty, Fri 29 - Sun 31 Aug, Moseley Park, Birmingham

JOHN POWER
CAST, THE LA'S, AND ME

John Power the lead singer with CAST - who are currently on tour with OASIS

SUN 19 APRIL
THE BUTTERMARKET
SHREWSBURY

Travellers Tunes

An Evening with **Steve Cradock**

Playing & Singing hit songs from:
Ocean Colour Scene

SUN 12 APRIL
THE BUTTERMARKET
SHREWSBURY
2026

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Birmingham
Museums

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GIANTS

MEET THE MESMERISING CREATURES
THAT LIVED AFTER THE DINOSAURS

Gas Hall
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
birminghammuseums.org.uk

UNDER 16'S
**FREE
ENTRY**



Designed and produced by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences



Birmingham
City Council



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**