

Coventry & Warwickshire

ISSUE 465 OCTOBER 2025

# What's On

FILM | COMEDY | THEATRE | GIGS | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS

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**THE PURRFECT FAMILY TREAT!**

## The Tiger Who Came to Tea

LIVE ON  
STAGE!

A musical play adapted & directed by **DAVID WOOD**  
based on the book by **JUDITH KERR**

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The Times

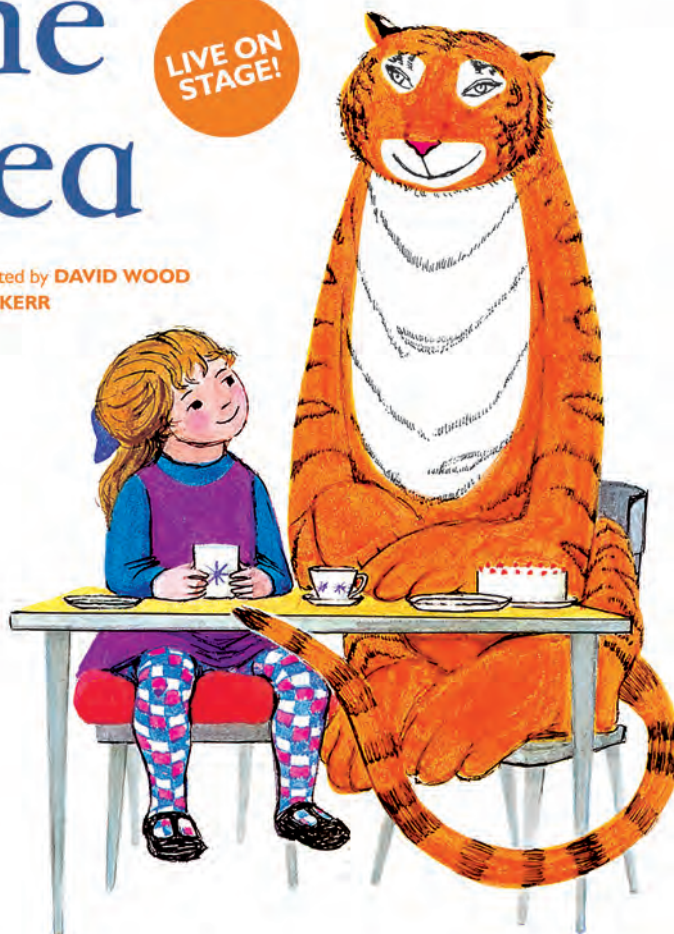
★★★★★  
Daily Telegraph

★★★★★  
Mail on Sunday

★★★★★  
Daily Express

★★★★★  
Sunday Telegraph

★★★★★  
Daily Mail



**WARWICK**  
**ARTS**  
**CENTRE**

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### inside:

#### EPIC ADVENTURE

The Lightning Thief visits  
Coventry's Belgrade Theatre



#### ROLL UP, ROLL UP...

Cirque: The Greatest Show  
comes to Warwick Arts Centre



#### GET CRAFTING!

five shows for the price of one  
at the NEC this month





# YOUR GUIDE TO...



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· ATTRACTIONS ·**

**CHEAP TRAIN TICKETS**

**TRAIN TRAVEL TIPS**



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or simply scan the QR code

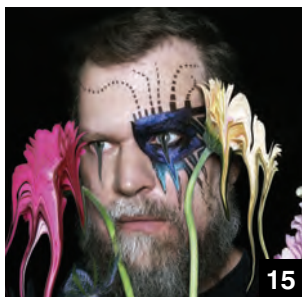
\*T&Cs Apply



**West  
Midlands  
Railway**



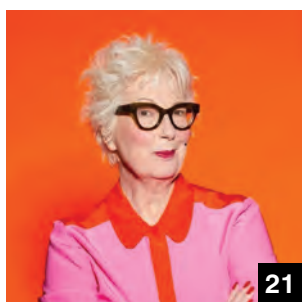
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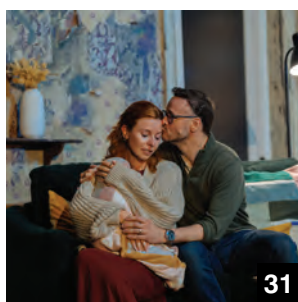
16



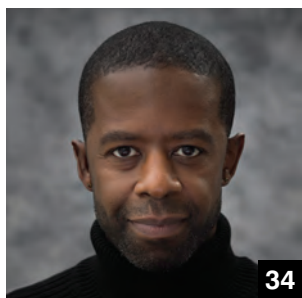
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22



31



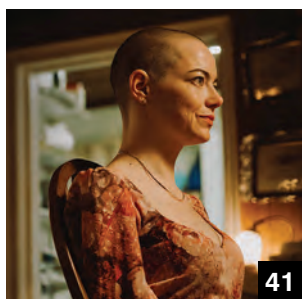
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37



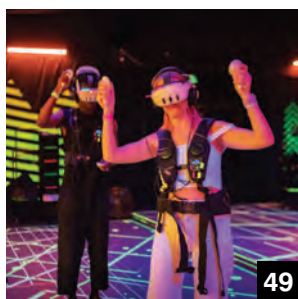
39



41



43



49

### INSIDE:

First Word

4

Gigs

15

Comedy

19

Theatre

24

Dance

39

Film

41

Visual Arts

42

Events

45

### What's On

MEDIA GROUP

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## Classic novels on stage at the Coventry Belgrade

Stage adaptations of two classic novels - Patricia Highsmith's *The Talented Mr Ripley* and HG Wells' *War Of The Worlds* - form part of Coventry Belgrade Theatre's spring 2026 season. The shows feature among the highlights of a programme that also includes worldwide smash-hit *The Choir Of Man* (pictured), an adaptation of Enid Blyton's *Malory Towers* and acclaimed West End comedy *Glorious!*.

To check out the complete line-up of shows, visit the venue's website at [belgrade.co.uk](http://belgrade.co.uk)

## Winter edition of popular food show at the NEC

James Martin, Si King, Lisa Faulkner and Michel Roux are among the celebrity chefs who will be cooking up festive feasts, seasonal treats and Christmas magic at next month's Good Food Show Winter. Taking place at the NEC Birmingham from Thursday 27 to Sunday 30 November, the ever-popular event also offers visitors the chance to taste 'seasonal delights' and shop for unique gifts. For more information and to book tickets, visit [goodfoodshow.com](http://goodfoodshow.com)



## Brass band to present John Williams film hits

Highly acclaimed brass band Cory will be turning their attention to the music of John Williams when they pay a visit to Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Sunday 26 October. The afternoon concert will feature a selection of the famous film composer's greatest compositions, including *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park*, *Harry Potter*, *Indiana Jones* and *ET*. Tickets are available by visiting the venue's website at [warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk)

## Lamp-lit tales of terror at the Albany Theatre

Coventry's Albany Theatre is marking the Halloween season by inviting one lamp-lit storyteller to share two spine-tingling tales of terror. *Darkness & Light* is presented by

'master of the macabre' Adam Z Robinson and shows at the venue on Thursday 9 October. More information can be found at [albanytheatre.co.uk](http://albanytheatre.co.uk), where you can also buy tickets to see the show.

## Pop-up exhibition paying tribute to Bob Dylan

To mark Bob Dylan's first-ever gig in Coventry next month (Coventry Building Society Arena, Thursday 13 November), the city's Music Museum is currently displaying a special pop-up exhibition dedicated to the legendary troubador. The display also celebrates the popular 1980 cover of his song *Maggie's Farm* by local band The Specials. To find out more about the exhibition - which is titled *Still Working On Maggie's Farm* and remains available to view until December - visit the Music Museum's website at [covmm.co.uk](http://covmm.co.uk)

## Anton Lesser to narrate Dickens' Christmas Carol

The Warwick-based Orchestra of the Swan will be teaming up with Midlands-born actor Anton Lesser the week before Christmas to present a candlelit one-man narration of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 15 December). Tickets for the show can be purchased by visiting the orchestra's website.



## Film favourites illuminated at Worcester Cathedral

Worcester Cathedral is hosting an immersive tribute to critically acclaimed film-score composer Hans Zimmer on Thursday 30

October. Performed by the Illuminated Orchestra, the concert's programme features a selection of much-loved movie themes and comes complete with a 'stunning' light show. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at [worcestercathedral.org.uk](http://worcestercathedral.org.uk)

## It's party time at the NEC!

Leading events organisation Vivid Experience is returning to Birmingham's NEC next month with a brand-new immersive theme: *Party On The Piste*.

The company's Christmas Party World events (Friday 28 November - Sunday 21 December) will take guests on 'a fast-flowing journey through snow-capped hills to an Alpine village high up in the mountains, where the spectacular end-of-season *Après-ski* party is in full flow!'

To find out more and make a booking, visit [birminghamchristmasparties.com](http://birminghamchristmasparties.com)

## Fifth Coventry Biennial festival gets under way

An exploration of the roles and functions of collecting - within the art sector, the community and the studio - lies at the heart of the fifth Coventry Biennial. Running at various venues across Coventry and Warwickshire, the festival takes place from Friday 3 October to Sunday 25 January. Further information is available by visiting the website at [coventrybiennial.com](http://coventrybiennial.com)





## Stars set to join Rock Choir

Rock Choir, the world's largest contemporary choir, are to perform at Birmingham's bp pulse Live arena late next month - and they will be joined for the occasion by classical crossover star Russell Watson. Also contributing to the choir's Ultimate Christmas Party show on Saturday 29 November is multi-platinum-selling singer-songwriter Emeli Sandé (pictured), smash-hit singing sensation Sam Ryder and former Spandau Ballet star Martin Kemp, who will open the concert with his 80s DJ set. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit [rockchoir.com](http://rockchoir.com)



## Not just a wild life for Michaela...

Television presenter and BAFTA award-winning wildlife enthusiast Michaela Strachan will visit the Midlands with her brand-new theatre show, Not Just A Wild Life, next spring. Described by its publicity as 'a high-energy, heartwarming evening of shared highs, lows and unexpected moments, as Michaela celebrates her remarkable and varied career', the show stops off at Malvern's Festival Theatre on Wednesday 22 April. It then visits Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre four days later, on Sunday the 26th. Tickets are available at [awildevening.co.uk/michaela](http://awildevening.co.uk/michaela)



## Sir Kenneth Branagh to make a spring return to Stratford

The Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) Spring 2026 season will see Sir Kenneth Branagh making a return to the Stratford-upon-Avon stage for the first time in more than 30 years. The season will also feature the RSC debuts of Academy Award-winning American actress Helen Hunt and double Olivier Award-winning actor Mark Gatiss.

Sir Kenneth will be taking on the role of Prospero in a production of Shakespeare's final

play, The Tempest, and also playing Lopakhin - alongside Hunt as Madame Ranyevskaya - in a new version of Anton Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard. Gatiss, meanwhile, will star as the title character in Bertolt Brecht's biting political satire on Hitler's ascent to power, The Resistible Rise Of Arturo Ui.

For further information about the company's forthcoming programme of shows, and to book tickets, visit the website at [rsc.org.uk](http://rsc.org.uk)



## Rick Astley tours to the region

Rick Astley will play Birmingham's bp pulse LIVE arena next spring as part of a major UK & Ireland tour. Rick stops off at the venue on Friday 24 April and will be joined for the show by special guest Gabrielle. For ticket information, visit [bppulselive.co.uk](http://bppulselive.co.uk)

## Brand-new tour of Annie heading for the Midlands in Summer 2026

A new touring production of smash-hit musical Annie will visit Birmingham theatre The Alexandra next summer.

Showing at the venue from Tuesday 2 to Saturday 6 June, the show tells the heart-warming rags-to-riches story of a little girl who finds herself transported from a New York orphanage to the luxurious world of a millionaire.

Hit songs include It's The Hard Knock Life, I Don't Need Anything But You, Easy Street and the legendary Tomorrow.

For further information and to purchase tickets, visit the website at [atgtickets.com](http://atgtickets.com)



## Buried festive treasure at Artrix this Christmas

Pantomime audiences can set sail in search of buried treasure at Bromsgrove's Artrix venue this Christmas, courtesy of a brand-new production of *Treasure Island*. The show runs at the venue from Friday 5 to Monday 29 December, with tickets available by visiting [artrixbromsgrove.co.uk](http://artrixbromsgrove.co.uk)

## Pathways to the past at the Chapter House

The University of Warwick is hosting an interactive evening of film, stories and discussion about local history and heritage at Coventry Cathedral's Chapter House on Saturday 11 October. The event is part of Rewind, an initiative run by the university which is dedicated to making history engaging and accessible.

## May the Force be with you at Symphony Hall...

Now here's an event that no self-respecting Star Wars fan will want to miss...  
Birmingham



Symphony Hall is this month hosting screenings, on three consecutive nights, of the first three Star Wars films: *A New Hope* (released in 1977), *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) and *Return Of The Jedi* (1983). And what's more, the legendary John Williams' score for each movie will be performed live by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The films will be screened, in order, on Friday 24, Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 October. To find out more and book tickets, visit the website at [bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk). And may the Force be with you!

## Still time to enjoy the Compton Verney Quest

The Compton Verney Quest, created exclusively for the venue by the award-winning Brothers McLeod, remains available to experience until Friday 17 October. Families are invited to immerse themselves in 'a magical adventure through the house and grounds', solving puzzles, uncovering hidden clues, and helping the brave Knight Sir Louis and clever wizard Pearlina as they battle to defeat an evil, grumpy volcano before it erupts. To find out more about the quest, visit [comptonverney.org.uk](http://comptonverney.org.uk)



## Community-focused light festival coming to Worcester

A new two-day light festival, with a focus on communities, creativity and collaboration, is coming to Worcester city centre at the end of the month. Taking place on Wednesday 29 & Thursday

30 October, Bridges Of Light features a light trail and provides visitors with the chance to take part in interactive light artworks. To find out more about the festival, visit [severnarts.org.uk/event/bridges-of-light](http://severnarts.org.uk/event/bridges-of-light)

## Journey to wholeness at Mind Body Spirit Festival

The Mind Body Spirit Festival returns to the Midlands next month for its annual three-day celebration (Birmingham NEC, Friday 14 - Sunday 16 November). This year's festival will feature more than 100 free sessions, including 'transformative talks, enlightening workshops, rejuvenating sound baths, breathwork sessions, and soul-nourishing ceremonies'. Television personalities Paul McKenna and Michele Knight will also be contributing to the event. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit [mindbodyspiritfestival.co.uk](http://mindbodyspiritfestival.co.uk)



## Exhibition by local artist at Coventry Cathedral

Coventry Cathedral is this month hosting a thought-provoking public event and exhibition inspired by testimonies of growth and recovery from trauma (Saturday 18 October). *Being Seen: In Art, Words And Dance* brings together visual art, lived experience, dance, poetry and testimony. The presentation

includes an exhibition of paintings by Coventry-based artist Andy Farr. For further information and to book tickets, visit [coventrycathedral.org.uk](http://coventrycathedral.org.uk)

## Panto Beauty to wake up at Worcester venue

Worcester Repertory Company are turning to the fairytale story of *Sleeping Beauty* for their pantomime production this Christmas. Running at the city's Swan Theatre from Friday 28 November to Sunday 4 January, the show will feature 'fantastic dance routines, incredible vocals and non-stop laughter... to wake you from your slumber'. More information is available at [worcestretheatres.co.uk](http://worcestretheatres.co.uk), where you can also purchase your tickets for the show.



## New drone light show set to illuminate the skies

A new drone light show will illuminate the skies above Birmingham's Edgbaston Stadium next month (Saturday 8 November). Taking the title *Wild*, the display will bring the animal kingdom to life in 'a dazzling fusion of artistry, music and cutting-edge technology'. For further information and to purchase tickets, visit [wilddroneshow.com](http://wilddroneshow.com)



# B:Music

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

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**Casey Bailey: The Music**  
01 Oct | JBPS at Symphony Hall



**Rick Wakeman: Return of the  
Caped Crusader Part 2**  
21 Oct | Symphony Hall



**Tunde: 30 Years Of Ocean  
Drive, Postcards From Heaven  
& More** 23 Oct | Town Hall



**Mmm-Bop! Family Silent Disco:  
Halloween Special**  
26 Oct | JBPS at Symphony Hall



**Sir Simon Rattle & the Bavarian  
Radio Symphony Orchestra**  
11 Nov | Symphony Hall



**The Overtones Christmas Party**  
08 Nov | Town Hall



**A Fairytale for Christmas**  
10 Nov | Symphony Hall

Whether you're feeling festive or enjoying the PSL Autumn vibes: there's a Great Night Out waiting at Town Hall & Symphony Hall!



**Rob Brydon & His Fabulous Band: A  
Festive Night of Songs & Laughter**  
26 Nov | Symphony Hall



**Jools Holland & His Rhythm &  
Blues Orchestra**  
29 & 30 Nov | Symphony Hall



**Cory Band presents Wallace  
and Gromit: The Wrong  
Trousers** 29 Nov | Town Hall



## Local celebration of food & drink makes a return

Taste Worcestershire, the county's annual celebration of local food & drink, will this year run from Monday 6 to Sunday 26 October.

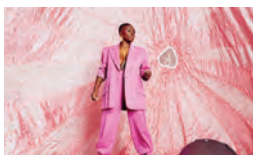
The popular event sees participating local eateries providing special menus and exclusive dining offers and discounts. All offers can be accessed through the new Taste Worcestershire Golden Ticket - a free digital pass - which is available via the Visit Worcestershire website.

## Droitwich company to stage hit musical Chess

Droitwich amateur theatre company The Norbury Players are taking to the stage this month to present a production of Chess The Musical. The show runs at The Norbury Theatre from Wednesday 22 October to Saturday 1 November. Visit the venue's website for more information and tickets.

## Laura Mvula takes centre stage at Symphony Hall

Laura Mvula is teaming up with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra this



month to present a concert of her songs. Taking place at the city's Symphony Hall on Friday 10 October, the event forms part of Black Lives In Music's Classically Black festival. The initiative celebrates Black composers and musicians, and reimagines classical music 'through the powerful lens of culture, experience, and creativity'. Tickets are available via the website at [bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk)

## Gothic masterpiece does the rounds for Halloween

Midlands-based theatre company NeuNoir is marking the Halloween season by presenting a reading of Edgar Allan Poe's iconic tale of terror The Fall Of The House Of Usher.

The show will be stopping off at The Tree House Bookshop, Kenilworth (Saturday 25 October), Birmingham's Back-To-Backs (Sunday the 26th), Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcester (Friday the 31st) and Stourbridge Town Hall (Saturday 1 November). For further information and to book tickets, visit [neunoir.wordpress.com](http://neunoir.wordpress.com)



## The stars come out for Stratford Literary Festival

The autumn edition of the Stratford Literary Festival returns later this month (Thursday 30 October - Sunday 2 November), complete with an impressive line-up of bestselling writers and household names from stage and screen.

Featuring a plethora of events, the festival's programme includes contributions from leading historians and experts, award-winning fiction writers and 'some of the most

exciting emerging authors published this year'.

Graham Norton & Joanna Page (pictured), Sir Philip Pullman, John Cleese, Lyse Doucet, Mark Radcliffe, Tony Robinson, Nicola Sturgeon, Jonathan Dimbleby and Dame Denise Lewis are just a few of the big names featuring in the festival line-up.

For further information and tickets, visit the website at [stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk](http://stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk)

## New street art mural at Redditch college

Heart of Worcestershire College has partnered with Reimagine Redditch and Arts In Redditch to commission a street art mural for the Redditch campus.

The artwork, the single largest piece of street art in Redditch, communicates an inspirational vision for the future of the town, as well as responding to themes identified through a consultation phase in 2024.



the venue's foyer. To find out more and book your seat, visit [resonatefestival.co.uk](http://resonatefestival.co.uk)

## Stage & screen academy to host open-day event

Birmingham's BOA Stage & Screen Academy is holding an open day on Saturday 18 October.

Based in the city's Jewellery Quarter, the Academy equips young people with the skills needed to become film and theatre makers. The open day will provide attendees with the chance to check out the facilities, meet teaching staff and current students, and take part in taster sessions. To register, visit [boa-stageandscreen.co.uk/open-event](http://boa-stageandscreen.co.uk/open-event)



## Join in the conversation at Warwick Arts Centre

Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre is hosting an event exploring the topic of ageing this month.

Scheduled for the evening of Thursday 23 October, An Age-Old Question: What Does It Mean To Get Older? will include a series of talks as well as an interactive exhibition in



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Tickets: [www.armonico.org.uk](http://www.armonico.org.uk) Registered Charity no. 1103159

'PURE PLEASURE' THE GUARDIAN

★★★★★ THE INDEPENDENT

★★★★★ BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE

★★★★★ THE TELEGRAPH

★★★★★ THE TIMES



## Chaconne

ARMONICO CONSORT & BAROQUE PLAYERS  
DIRECTOR | CHRISTOPHER MONKS  
SOPRANO | HANNAH FRASER-MACKENZIE  
COUNTERTENOR | WILLIAM TOWERS

The ground bass has been a fundamental rock of music composition for centuries and has not only given rise to some of the greatest and most popular works ever written such as Pachelbel's Canon in D Major, but also to rarely performed gems such as Che si puo Fare by Venetian Baroque composer - Barbara Strozzi.

This concert celebrates the extraordinary versatility of this simple but incredible musical force - taking a few artistic liberties in the process.

**18th October 2025 5.15pm,**  
Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

**21st October 2025 7.30pm,**  
The Courthouse, Warwick



## Karl Jenkins - The Armed Man

ARMONICO CONSORT & ORCHESTRA  
AC ACADEMY CHOIRS  
DIRECTOR | CHRISTOPHER MONKS

Commissioned by the Royal Armouries to mark the new millennium, Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man is dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo conflict, whose tragedy was unfolding as it was being composed. Blending genres and cultures, and embracing the full range of emotions that the war evokes, Jenkins conveys a powerful message for world peace.

We will be joined by hundreds of children from our AC Academy choirs in the region, helping recreate the performance initially intended, featuring a world premiere by British Composer Andrew Wainwright.

**12th November 2025 7pm,**  
Coventry Cathedral

**27th November 2025 7.30pm,**  
Worcester Cathedral



## Handel's Fireworks

ARMONICO CONSORT & BAROQUE ORCHESTRA  
DIRECTOR | CHRISTOPHER MONKS

Composed for the coronation of King George II, and performed at every coronation since, Zadok the Priest and The King Shall Rejoice have stamped their mark on music history as some of the most powerful and evocative works to have been composed for such an event.

Made up of 18 short movements for chorus and soloists, the Te Deum is one of Handel's most splendid works, written to celebrate King George II's triumphant return from the Battle of Dettingen in 1743. The concert also features the famous Fireworks Music, composed in 1749 to accompany the royal celebrations for the ending of the War of the Austrian succession.

**5th December 2025 7.30pm,**  
Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

**18th December 2025 7.30pm,**  
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



## Carols by Candlelight

ARMONICO CONSORT  
DIRECTOR | CHRISTOPHER MONKS

What better way to enjoy the warmth and joy of the Christmas season than in the sublime candlelit setting for a feast of carols, combining traditional favourites and newly discovered works. Programme includes O Come all ye Faithful, Bethlehem and Silent Night.

**15th December 2025 7.30pm,**  
Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick  
Generously co-sponsored by Moore & Tibbits Solicitors and Roger Medwell MBE DL

**23rd December 2025 7.30pm,**  
Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick  
Generously supported by David Phillips MBE & Phillips & Becker Accountants Ltd

## Leamington Music Autumn Season 2025



**Friday 26 September • 7.30pm**

Unitarian Chapel, Warwick

**Penelope Appleyard soprano**  
**Jonathan Delbridge square piano**

**Sense and Musicality** – in celebration of  
Jane Austen's 250th anniversary.

**Friday 10 October • 7.30pm**

Holy Trinity Church, Leamington

**Marmen String Quartet**

Haydn • Bartók • Debussy

**Tuesday 21 October • 7.30pm**

St Mary's Church, Warwick

**Stile Antico**

The Golden Renaissance



**Tuesday 4 November • 7.30pm**

St Mary's Church, Warwick

**The York Waits**

**Fortune My Foe** – music and readings  
from the time of the Gunpowder Plot

**Friday 14 November • 7.30pm**

Holy Trinity Church, Leamington

**Gildas String Quartet**

Jessie Montgomery • Alwyn • Beethoven



**Thursday 4 December • 7.30pm**

Unitarian Chapel, Warwick

**The Mellstock Band**

**The Christmas Hearth**

A seasonal mix of jovial songs,  
stirring dance music, and haunting carols

**Tuesday 16 December • 7.30pm**

St Mary's Church, Warwick

**Joglaresa**

Here We come a-Carolling!

Raising the rafters with joyous medieval  
and traditional 'carols'

For full details visit  
[www.leamingtonmusic.org](http://www.leamingtonmusic.org)  
Book online or by phone on  
01926 334418



## Classical music from across the city...

**Marmen Quartet** Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa, Fri 10 October

Weighed down by their fair share of highly coveted silverware (including the Bordeaux International String Quartet Grand Prize and first prize in the Banff International String Quartet Competition), the Marmen Quartet this month make a welcome return

to Leamington.

Their programme features: Haydn's String Quartet, Op 50 No5 in F major 'Dream'; Bartók's String Quartet No2; and Debussy's String Quartet in G minor, Op10.

**CBSO: Kazuki & The Jussen Brothers**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
Thurs 23 October

"It is like driving a pair of BMWs," declared conductor Michael Schönwandt after helming a concert featuring siblings Lucas and Arthur Jussen (pictured).



The Dutch brothers have been playing piano together since childhood, and their shared 'sound ideal' and familiarity with one another's style is greatly in evidence in their critically acclaimed performances. Here teaming up with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and its music director, Kazuki Yamada, they will play their part in a mouthwatering programme that features Poulenc's Concerto For Two Pianos, Prokofiev's First Symphony and Schubert's ninth. Turkish composer Fazıl Say's Night - a fast, funky and furious work especially written for the Jussen Brothers - also features.

**Ex Cathedra: Duruflé Requiem**

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 19 October

James Burton (pictured) is the guest conductor for this latest concert by Birmingham's long-established early music & choral ensemble Ex Cathedra. Alongside a composition of his own - in which St Cuthbert encounters two otters - James will also be guiding the choir through Britten's Rejoice In The Lamb and Vaughan Williams' A Vision Of Aeroplanes, Prayer To The Father Of Heaven. The concert is brought to a close with Duruflé's Requiem, a work which the composer himself described as "often dramatic, or filled with resignation, or hope or terror".

**Brompton String Quartet**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester,  
Sun 12 October

The award-winning Brompton String Quartet perform a wide variety of works, from Baroque-era compositions to more contemporary music. Their Worcester concert opens with a madrigal by Barbara Strozzi, followed by ground-breaking quartets from Ludwig van Beethoven and Joseph Haydn. The programme is then completed with a performance of Dmitri Shostakovich's first string quartet.

**Brno Philharmonic With Freddy Kempf**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
Wed 15 October

Internationally acclaimed pianist Freddy Kempf will be injecting plenty of pizzazz into proceedings when he shares a concert programme with the Brno Philharmonic at Symphony Hall in the middle of the month. Freddy (pictured) brings his talent to bear on two works that blur the lines between jazz and classical - Dave Brubeck's Brandenburg Gate and George Gershwin's I Got Rhythm Variations. The pieces are neatly sandwiched between works by two composers with whom the Brno Philharmonic are closely associated: Leoš Janáček's Lachian Dances provides a stirring opening to what should be a memorable evening of musicmaking, while Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No7 brings the concert to a suitably compelling conclusion.

**Armonico Consort: Chaconne**

Malvern Theatres, Sat 18 October;  
The Courthouse, Warwick, Tues 21 October

Founded 24 years ago by organist and conductor Christopher Monks, Armonico Consort use authentic period instruments and regularly perform with some of the best solo musicians in the world. These latest concerts see the ensemble celebrating the 'ground bass' musical form of the chaconne.

The programme features works by Johann Pachelbel, Barbara Strozzi, Henry Purcell, Claudio Monteverdi, Jean Baptiste Lully and Johann Sebastian Bach.



# POWER PLAY

The first ever British Black History musical makes its debut  
in the Midlands this month...



## A new musical about a group of Black British activists who were targeted by the state comes to the region this month. Black Power Desk shines light on a little-known period of British history but also has ramifications for the present day, as the show's rapperturg, Gerel Falconer, explains to What's On...

Inspired by Black British activists who were tried for inciting a riot during a protest against police brutality, new musical Black Power Desk takes a fascinating look at a period of British history that has remained relatively, as well as surprisingly, unknown in the 50-plus years since the events took place.

Billed as the first ever British Black History musical, the show takes its title from the real-life undercover surveillance unit that operated out of New Scotland Yard in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The drama is also partly based on the Mangrove Nine, a group of Black British activists tried for inciting a riot while demonstrating against the police's targeting of a Caribbean restaurant and community hub in Notting Hill that was run by a civil rights activist.

Taking place in the year after the trial, the musical is a fictional drama revolving around two sisters and set against the backdrop of real-life events and figures from the Black British civil rights movement in early-1970s London. The show was originally envisaged as a factual recounting of the trial, but ethical concerns about having the right to tell someone else's story led playwright Urielle Klein-Mekongo and dramaturg Gail Babb to develop their own reimagining of what went on after.

Gerel Falconer, the show's rapperturg - a combination of rap lyricist and dramaturg - as well as one of its nine-strong cast, says putting the two sisters front and centre was a nod to two key female figures: Althea Jones-LeCointe, head of the Black British Power movement, and Barbara Beese, a high-profile member of British Black Panthers.

"Urielle's reasoning is that it was historically accurate," says Gerel. "She thought it was very important to make sure they are the centrepiece of our equivalent to their story. Ours is historical fiction - our play exists in the same world as the Mangrove Nine, but we are telling a separate fictional story that sits alongside what was going on at the time."

Those real-life events and the story of the British Black Power movement remain a little-known part of British history, and something that even Klein-Mekongo was initially unaware of.

"An American asked her and she didn't know," says Gerel. "She did a lot of research

into Black British history and the British Black Panthers and all these movements that were coming through at the time that's not taught in schools. Sometimes you hear about American civil rights movements, but not really the British equivalent. I had to do a lot of research too, both as a lyricist and an actor, in order to work out what was going on at the time."

What was going on was pretty dark, he says.

"It was pretty intense - Teddy Boys, racial tensions and police harassment were all very prevalent, so the community had a lot to deal with. There was also a second generation of the British black community coming up - people that were born here but whose family had travelled over from the Caribbean - who were working out who they were. They were born in England but weren't seen as English. They were told to go back home, but they only knew England, so there was a bit of an identity crisis going on."

With so many elements in the mix, how did the writers find an angle or focus for the piece, and was making it relevant to contemporary society an important part of their thinking?

"It's about activism and the idea of fighting for what you believe in - and the fight being systemic oppression, in this case that was the police force. And we wanted to see how that transcends generationally."

Is that why the play's title is primarily Power, since the other two words contain a strike-through on posters and other promotional materials?

"Yeah, it's about power and the empowerment of a community to understand the education needed to stand up for themselves. What's interesting is that, back then, there was a lot more education on the relevant rights and laws for people to fight their cause. For me, the idea of black and power is all about self-empowerment and how knowledge is power."

"It was mostly about equality, and that's a fair fight, right? Surely everyone wants an equal and just world."

Modern (populist) politics and the ongoing rise of the far right would suggest otherwise, making the play feel sadly prescient.

"Yeah, it feels like history is almost coming full circle in that sense. Back then it was the Teddy Boys. It's important for communities

to stand up against bigotry, racism and hatred - like people trying to attack immigrants. We have to make a stand against those things. I think that's why the play is relevant and powerful."

Any sort of production that has genuine heft and something important to say will always face the challenge of attracting wider audiences - so had the creators been concerned about the show coming across as 'right on' rather than entertaining?

"It's a musical for a reason - we want people to not just deal with the weight of the fight and the battle, but also understand that there's a joy in the community spirit aspect of it."

"The music at the time was phenomenal - despite being righteous and conscious, you could still dance to it. That's something we really wanted to bring across - so it's not about the weight."

The show's music is wide-ranging. It includes soulful lover's rock, RnB, reggae, dub, soca ('soul of calypso', which originated in Trinidad & Tobago in the 1970s) and even punk, plus the raps that Gerel has put together, alongside musical composer Renell Shaw, to give it all a modern twist.

"It's a fusion of period music and modern flows - rhythm of speech, however you want to describe it. The way rapperturgy works is that I'll have a scene, and I'll turn it into verse, rap the verse, and set it to music. My job is to translate the narrative beats, as well as the characters' thought processes and intentions, into lyrical storytelling and then set it to music."

And this is very much music with a message.

"Absolutely. It's a call to arms for people to empower themselves and understand that knowledge is beautiful, powerful, and can actually cause change. [The show] is not heavy; it's about how we come together and celebrate our similarities, rather than bear the weight of our differences."

**Black Power Desk shows at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, on Tuesday 14 October, and then at Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday 22 to Saturday 25 October.**

# Herbert

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Baki Dhanda, Untitled, C-type mounted on Aluminium, 2002. Photo © British Council Collection

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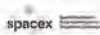
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Live music from across the region...

## Rebecca Ferguson

Worcester Cathedral, Wed 29 October

Singer-songwriter Rebecca Ferguson came to prominence in 2010 when she finished runner-up on the seventh series of *The X Factor*. She subsequently signed a record deal with Simon Cowell's label, Syco Music, and released critically acclaimed debut album *Heaven*, which peaked at number three in the UK charts. A further four solo albums have followed. Rebecca's Worcester Cathedral appearance sees her performing a brand-new stripped-back show, featuring only piano (played by Tom Seals) and her sublime vocals. The night's entertainment also includes a Q&A session.



## Dom Pipkin

Temperance, Leamington Spa, Fri 10 October

"I can't hold a candle to this guy - he's a great piano player!" exclaimed jazz star Jamie Cullum in talking about Dom Pipkin. And Jamie hasn't been alone in his admiration for the renowned New Orleans-style boogie-woogie pianist; luminaries including Paloma Faith, Eric Bibb and Paul Jones have also waxed lyrical about the former Royal Academy of Music student.



## John Grant

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 13 October

Hailed for the magnificent velvety howl of his voice, American singer-songwriter John Grant kickstarted his career in the mid-1990s by co-founding and leading alternative rock band The Czars. When the band split up in

2006, he retired for four years but then launched what has proved to be a critically acclaimed solo career, along the way collaborating with major music-industry names including Sinéad O'Connor, Elbow, David Arnold, Kylie Minogue and Robbie Williams.

He's stopping off in Coventry this month as part of a short UK tour.

## Blackheart Orchestra

The Marrs Bar, Worcester, Fri 3 October

Blackheart Orchestra is officially the smallest orchestra in the world, comprising just two members: the multi-award-winning Chrissy Mostyn and Rick Pilkington. Hailed as a modern-day Pink Floyd and creating highly emotional contemporary rock music - in the process playing up to 13 instruments - the talented twosome are widely admired within the music industry. Genesis founder Steve Hackett, for example, has called their sound "powerful and inspiring", while Motorhead's Phil Campbell has been even more effusive, describing their music as "f\*\*\*\*\* beautiful".

## The Last Dinner Party

hmv Empire, Coventry, Mon 20 October

All-female quintet The Last Dinner Party met during university freshers week and launched themselves into the musical stratosphere with *Nothing Matters*, a jangly and somewhat Abba-like number - although it's hard to imagine the Swedish super troupers ever singing the grandma-shocking

lyric 'And I will fu\*\* you, like nothing matters'. Having released their debut album last year, the quintet are here performing a special launch show for their sophomore offering, *From The Pyre*.

## Nik Kershaw

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Fri 17 October; Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 21 November

Is it really possible that Nik Kershaw has clocked up almost 70 years on Planet Earth? It seems like only yesterday that the boy from Bristol was a fresh-faced teen idol, sharing airtime and chart space with the likes of Duran Duran, Wham! and Haircut 100. A one-time funk guitarist, Nik spent a record-breaking 50 weeks in the charts in his golden year of 1984, and played his part in Live Aid the following year, too. Oh, and he also wrote the Chesney Hawkes chart-topper *The One And Only*, just for good measure.





# GOOD FOR A LAUGH

Babatunde Aléshé brings his new stand-up show  
to the Midlands





**Comedian Babatunde Aléshé has become a fixture on Celebrity Gogglebox, provided hijinks in the jungle on I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!, and hosts a parenting podcast with his wife, Leonie. His latest stand-up show, High Expectations, is touring the country this autumn, including a stop-off at The Alexandra during Birmingham Comedy Festival. What's On spoke to Babatunde to find out more...**

Comedian, actor & podcaster Babatunde Aléshé has embarked on his second major stand-up tour - titled High Expectations - and will be travelling across the nation until the end of November. His first date in the West Midlands - at The Alexandra early this month - coincides with the Birmingham Comedy Festival, which showcases some of the biggest names in stand-up, as well as the city's home-grown talent.

Well-established on the UK comedy circuit, Babatunde is a familiar face thanks to appearances on Celebrity Gogglebox, his season on Channel Four's Taskmaster, and his time in the jungle, during the 22nd series of I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!

"I am equally as nervous as I am excited about the tour; nervous because this is the second show. The first tour I did, Babahood, was off the back of I'm A Celebrity, and I don't have that now. Now it's just me, and I have to prove to people that I'm worthy of making them laugh and being a comedian they can rely on to deliver, to bring the jokes and the fun. That's why I called it High Expectations, because there's a pressure that I'm trying to live up to. But also there's the pressure of being a family man, as well as a husband; stretching myself to meet everybody's needs."

Babatunde trained as an actor, but he set his sights on a comedy career from a young age, realising that he had the necessary talent while he was still at secondary school.

"I was always distracting the other students, making them laugh, getting in trouble, obviously! That's when I realised that I was funny. It was that constant disrupting of the class... I was one of *those* children."

"Eddie Murphy is my comedy hero. When I was young, I saw Delirious. My aunty had the VHS, I watched it, and I was just like, 'That's exactly what I want to do.' I knew straight away."

Since then, he's appeared on numerous TV shows - and it's not unusual for fans to reach out: "People recognise me on the street, come up for pictures, or sometimes people just want to greet me. The town I live in, Stevenage, I'm always walking up and down the high street and going into shops, so people around there are kind of used to me. When it happens, it's always nice - I've always got time for people."

Previous tour Babahood cemented Babatunde as a significant player on the UK

stand-up scene: "I remember when we did the tour, I said to myself, 'If I sell 4,000 tickets, that's a dream come true. That would be the best thing ever.' At the beginning of the tour, it was just small, small rooms, like 90-capacity crowds and stuff like that. And then it just grew and grew and grew - and we went on to sell over 30,000 tickets. That, to me, is amazing. I don't care if there's five people in the audience or 2,000, or whatever the venue. I never, ever thought I'd do this, so I'm proud of every single venue that I play, no matter how big or small they are. For people to come out and see me, it's a blessing."

It might be a blessing, but he points out that creating a hit show comes with its fair share of hard work.

"Comedy isn't easy. It's not easy at all. Coming up with material - it's all about experience when it comes to stand-up, so you've got to experience life before you can talk about it... It takes a considerable amount of time to actually come up with a routine that hits hard, that people can relate to and laugh at."

"It takes one joke to kind of spark things off. I'll experience something major, and then it will just spark off all these different ideas, and then everything revolves around this one bit that I wrote. That's how it usually happens... I actually have to get up and speak it out. I think that comes from my acting background. I have to act out the jokes until I actually *find* the joke."

Babatunde admits that he would be tempted to return to the acting world.

"I want to go back to acting for a bit and just recite lines that somebody else wrote! Let somebody else do the writing - I'll just rehearse and act! I enjoy being a dad so much, so I want to spend some time with my kids. I did say after this tour is done, I'm going to spend some time just with the family and just really, really enjoy being a father and a husband."

When appearing on reality TV, there is no script or rehearsed routine to hide behind - as the comedian discovered on I'm A Celebrity.

"I mean, telling Matt Hancock that he was grabbing the booty... that's the moment that people remember the most. I will never, ever live that down - that always comes back to haunt me."

As well as his memorable stay in the jungle, Babatunde is frequently seen performing

with fellow comedian Mo Gilligan - they provide armchair TV commentary together for Channel Four's Celebrity Gogglebox.

"There are moments on Gogglebox that I just absolutely love, because me and Mo were friends before any fame came into the picture. We've been friends for probably 20 years now. All those moments I share on screen with him and other friends stand out. We're all coming from the British Black comedy circuit - myself, Mo Gilligan, Judy Love, just to name a few. Any moment that I get to share with them on TV is always a highlight because we've seen each other come up, and it's just beautiful to be in the spaces that we're in."

Although seeking fame can be a cutthroat business, he has a chilled-out approach to his career: "I'm not one of those competitive types of people. I shy away from that kind of stuff. What's yours is yours, what's meant for me is meant for me."

And when it comes down to what's meant for Babatunde, the sky's the limit.

"Things have just been building and building and building. I think the barrier for me personally is finding the balance between being a 'type', versus being a human... I didn't want to fall into that trap, where people know me for one type of thing. With Babahood, I think people were like, 'Okay, this guy's scared of everything.' And I can't keep delivering that in every single tour."

"I'm trying to have fun; I'm not trying to change the world. I'm not trying to be this super political comedian type. I'm not even trying to be the smartest. I'm trying to have fun - the same way I approached comedy when I was young. Come out, have a nice time, have a laugh and go home. Done! Go get some drinks afterwards, go party, do whatever you want to do. But when you're here and you're with me, we are going to have fun. That's it!"

.....

**Babatunde Aléshé performs High Expectations at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra on Saturday 4 October as part of Birmingham Comedy Festival. He then tours the show to the Royal Spa Centre in Leamington on Thursday 16 October and Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall on Saturday 15 November**



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Comedy previews from across the region...

## Andy Parsons

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Fri 10 October; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Thurs 6 November; Lichfield Garrick, Sat 21 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 26 March

With complimentary reviews including such observations as 'what he lacks in hair, he more than makes up for in originality,' Andy Parsons is a sharp and topical comedian who's well known from TV shows such as BBC's *Mock The Week* and *Live At The Apollo*.

Jokes include: "If you've been affected by any of the issues raised in tonight's episode of *EastEnders*, they must have been acting better than they usually do."

Andy's currently performing his new touring show, *Please @!\$ Off To Mars*.



## Ria Lina

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 10 October; St. George's Hall, Bewdley, Mon 13 Oct; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 19 October; The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Sat 14 February

The state of the world, the eternal battle of the sexes - and the delight of throwing life up in the air after years of following the rules - are among the subjects that

comedian and forensic scientist Ria Lina puts under her microscope in brand-new touring show *Riabellion*. Her jokes include: "I wanted to do a show about feminism, but my husband wouldn't let me."



## Marcel Lucont

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sat 11 October

French flaneur Marcel Lucont is the creation of British comedian Alexis Dubus, who has been performing as the wine-drinking, sexist philosopher for many a year now, very much wearing the character like a comfy old slipper. Marcel's *Glee Club* appearance this month sees him presenting 'a wild interactive game show, where kids get to be pests, politicians and pétomanes to be crowned the most awful child'.



## Daniel O'Reilly

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 18 October; Walsall Arena, Sat 21 March; Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 2 May; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 26 September; Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Fri 2 October

Daniel O'Reilly reckons his life has resembled a rollercoaster ride - and he's stopping off in the Midlands this month to tell his legion of fans all about it.

The London-born comic originally made his name over a decade ago as the character *Dapper Laughs*, but an ill-advised joke about rape put the brakes on what had seemed to be a promising career.

The years which followed saw him battling a

drug and alcohol addiction, and fighting hard to reestablish himself on the UK comedy scene.

Now, having been sober for more than 1,000 days, Daniel is out on the road again. He's performing his latest stand-up show, *Let's Have It*, under his own name - and joking that he hopes he gets cancelled, as he could do with a bit of a break.

## Ardal O'Hanlon

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Wed 1 October; Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Sun 12 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 17 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 1 November

"I make lots of mistakes," admits Ardal O'Hanlon, "but I guess I'm not that interested in being shocking when I do stand-up. I think the best place to start is your own life, and sometimes that will touch on taboo subjects. I think it's kind of lazy and generic to shock just for the sake of it. You've got to have some sort of take on it, but I think things become fashionable in comedy, as with everything else. If there's a massive scandal in the press, then many comedians feel compelled to do something about it just because everyone else is, even though it's not particularly funny. To me, that's lazy and a bit too obvious."



## Ed Byrne

Malvern Theatres, Fri 3 October; Lichfield Garrick, Wed 29 October; Evesham Town Hall, Sun 2 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 8 November; Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham, Thurs 13 November; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 14 November

A highly regarded master of observational comedy, Ed Byrne is bringing his latest stand-up offering to numerous Midlands venues this month and next.

So does he enjoy touring the country? "Apart from the travel involved, which no comic likes, I love it. You have people responding to something that you've written alone in your office, and the work comes alive in a roomful of people. I like the TV things I do, but nothing can beat a live comedy audience."





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## Comedy previews from across the region...

## Sara Pascoe

Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 30 October;  
Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Thurs 6 November;  
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 14 November

At a time of significant global upheaval and uncertainty, Sara Pascoe is clear about one thing - there are no off-limit subjects when it comes to comedy.

"People forgive the subject matter when they find something funny," she says, "but that doesn't mean the comedian has no responsibility to question their own material. If they're going to tell a joke about rape, they should first consider how you might feel if you've been a victim of it. If, after that, they still feel it's a joke worth telling, then they'll be doing so with complete faith in their own material, which is great."

Sarah visits the Midlands this month with her latest show, *I Am A Strange Gloop*.



## Jason Manford

Wolverhampton Civic Hall, Sat 11 October;  
Walsall Arena, Thurs 6 November; Lichfield Garrick, Tues 20 January & Fri 13 March;  
Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 14 March

Becoming successful in comedy is no walk in the park, as Jason Manford knows. And the former *One Show* presenter has some sage advice for wannabe comedians: "Don't take any of my work!... I would also say to people, compare yourself to yourself. Don't think, 'Why has that guy got that?' or 'Why is Michael McIntyre doing so well?' or 'I'm really funny, so why is so-and-so doing that gig, not me?' You know what, just don't worry about it. If you're doing better now than you were six months ago, then you're doing well."

Jason is stopping off in the Midlands with his brand-new show, *A Manford All Seasons*.



## Kae Kurd

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 18 October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 19 October

British-Kurdish stand-up Kae Kurd didn't have the easiest start in life. Even before he was one year old, he had become a refugee, as his parents fled Saddam Hussein's brutal regime and headed for the UK. In Iraq, Kae observes, 'activism' means risking death. In the UK, all you have to do to

be an activist is tweet with the right hashtag! This wry comment and plenty more in the same vein formed the basis of Kae's first-ever full-length stand-up show back in 2018. He's now out on the road again, performing another 90 minutes of brand-new material presented under the title *What's O'Kurd*.

## Georgie Carroll

Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Fri 3 October; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 8 October;  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 23 October

Although it was only a couple of years back that nurse-turned-comic Georgie Carroll fully stepped into the comedy spotlight here in the UK - debuting at the Edinburgh Fringe and reaching the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent - she's been making significant headway on the Australian circuit for quite some time now. Indeed, her previous stand-up offering, *Sista Flo 2.0*, won the Best Comedy Award at the Adelaide Fringe. A versatile and dynamic performer, Georgie is visiting Birmingham this month with her latest show, *Infectious*.



## Jenny Eclair

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Wed 8 October;  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 13 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 21 November

"I think women get dirtier as they get older," says long-in-the-tooth comedian Jenny Eclair. "The more your body lets you down, the more you have to find it funny. It produces more emissions, farts and little noises, and bibbly-bobbly bits that appear and disappear. And then there's giving birth. As soon as you do that, you have to lose all respect for your body. Maybe it's a cheap device, but it does make me laugh. I just think bumholes and fannies are hilarious. The first joke my father told me was a fart joke, and I still find it funny." Jenny's in the region this month and next with her new show, *Jokes Jokes Jokes Live!*





# LOVED IN RETURN

Take a peek behind the red curtain as  
**Moulin Rouge! The Musical** comes to Birmingham



**Fresh from the West End and Broadway, Moulin Rouge! The Musical is this month stopping off in Birmingham. The production has earned standing ovations throughout its world tour - no doubt in part thanks to its glitz, grandeur and unapologetic jukebox soundtrack. For Kurt Kansley, who plays Parisian painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec in the show, the adoration flows both ways. Kurt caught up with What's On to explain why the musical holds a special place in his heart...**

The Broadway and West End blockbuster *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* opens at Birmingham Hippodrome this month and promises to be a high-kicking song & dance extravaganza.

Based on the 2001 Baz Luhrmann film starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor, it tells the love story of dancer Satine and writer Christian, set against the heady parties of Paris' most famous nightclub.

Among the host of colourful characters who feature in the tale is Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, based on the real-life late 19th century artist and played in the show by actor Kurt Kansley.

Kurt hails from Australia and has lived in the UK for 22 years, along the way playing parts in a host of hit shows, including *The Lion King*, *Guys And Dolls*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Miss Saigon* and *Hair*. He says that *Moulin Rouge!* is a spectacle not to be missed.

"It's an incredible show. I've done some big shows before, and they often come with problems because they are big machines, but this has been a dream because it's run very well. The creative team are meticulous about keeping the show at a certain standard, and the dancers work so hard, as do all of the actors on stage.

"The show is a beautiful spectacle. The costumes are incredible; then there's the orchestrations and the band. In many ways, I loved it when I watched it, but doing the show is even more fun. As soon as I step over the threshold onto the stage, I come alive. And there's this beautiful love story and some wonderful songs. It's an amalgamation of everything."

Alongside acting, Kurt is also a musician, a teacher and a writer of musicals. In fact, he was seriously considering hanging up his acting shoes to move into other areas of the theatre world when the chance to play Toulouse-Lautrec came along.

"It has just refreshed everything; I love it. Toulouse-Lautrec is one of the few characters based on a true historic character: the artist who painted a lot of the famous images that you see when you go to Paris - and buy a fridge magnet! He painted for the *Moulin Rouge* and painted a lot of its characters.

"In the show, Toulouse-Lautrec represents the bohemians, the creatives. In the rehearsal process, I studied his background, and he was actually quite an aristocratic figure; he was a descendant of the king. It's set in 1899, which is when France was well into its Republic phase. He wanted to escape the world of money and aristocracy, so threw himself into the slums of Paris to live among the bohemians and experience the artist's life. So they kind of build on that narrative in his character in the show, and in a way he's the leader of the bohemian group.

"It's one of the best roles I've ever played. It's a lovely mixture. The show starts quite energetically, with these lovely comedy moments - but then, as we get into Act Two, there are so many heartfelt and touching scenes that he's involved in."

Alongside his research, Kurt also had to perfect his accent.

"I'm the only character that has a French accent, even though the show is set in Paris. I worked with our lovely linguistics coach, who looks after the West End as well, which was a really nice challenge for me.

"I was born in South Africa and moved to Australia as a young boy. I love accents and playing with accents; I think that's an actor's default. We like to listen and then play and mimic. I enjoy all those challenges."

The stage musical features excerpts from more than 70 songs, and Kurt gets to sing one of the show's most famous: *Nature Boy*. The song is particularly special for the actor.

"I'm a jazz pianist as well, so in between working in theatre jobs, I would play in jazz venues in Australia, and also in London. When I was working in different West End shows, afterwards I would go and play some jazz music in little jazz bars. My favourite song in the world is *Nature Boy*, and it always has been.

"There's a lot of lovely history about the song. It was written by a composer called Eden Ahbez, a hippy in the 1940s who lived under the Hollywood sign. He wrote one song, this beautiful song, and it's been covered by so many artists.

"The message and the last lyric in the song is 'The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return.' The lyrics and

the message in the song are so poignant and so important - it's such an important part of the message of *Moulin Rouge!*, and I guess of life as well."

And it's a message which Kurt has certainly taken to heart: "I got married in May, and one of the readings that me and my husband had at the wedding was *Nature Boy*, because the lyrics are so beautiful. Sometimes, when I'm singing the song, I have a little emotional moment. It's so lovely, because the show starts with this big band and these huge numbers, and then I have this one moment with just me and a guitar, and the guitarist plays so beautifully. It is very serendipitous that I get to sing that song."

The national tour of *Moulin Rouge!* began in April, and Kurt says audiences are enjoying the experience.

"I can guarantee that the Birmingham audiences are going to love this show. Every night we get a standing ovation. There's a moment at the end of the show where we are all standing still and singing to the audience. I look out into the audience and I see people wiping their eyes because they're crying - and then the roar of the crowd at the end of the show is insane. I've never worked in a show that has so much noise and so much elation at the end, with the audience on such a high.

"There are a lot of things that audiences can get out of *Moulin Rouge!*, and there's a bit of everything for everyone. There's a fantastic love story, beautiful dancers, wonderful storytelling and a lot of nostalgia.

"There are over 75 pop songs too, from Offenbach to Lady Gaga, and there's so much music that pulls at the heartstrings of any demographic of person who might have a memory of a particular song. There's a lot to be said about a jukebox musical, and what I like about *Moulin Rouge!* as a jukebox musical is that it doesn't apologise for being one. Instead, it celebrates it."

.....

**Moulin Rouge! The Musical shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday 15 October until Saturday 15 November**



## Starter For Ten The Rep, Birmingham, Wed 22 October - Sat 1 November

Based on the bestselling novel by David Nicholls, which was turned into a successful 2006 film, *Starter For Ten* follows the adventures of Bristol University student Brian Jackson, who dreams of winning the TV quiz show *University Challenge*.

But how far will Brian go to take the prize?...

The show stars Mel Giedroyc, whose long-term partnership with Sue Perkins saw the two women co-presenting *Light Lunch*, *The Great*

*British Bake Off*, and *Mel And Sue*.

"*Starter For Ten* is a show about the joy and freedom of being young and a student," explains Mel. "It's a time when anything is possible, and your world is opening up on all sides. I think the young crowd love it because it's about them, and the older crowd do too, because it makes them feel so nostalgic. It's also set in the 1980s, so what's not to love?!"

## Sunny Afternoon

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 21 - Sat 25 October; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 7 - Sat 11 April; Malvern Theatres, Tues 3 - Sat 7 March

This clever homage to Swinging '60s superstars The Kinks has been wowing audiences and critics in equal measure since opening in the West End in 2014 - so much so, that it won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Musical.

Adapted from Joe Penhall's book, with an original story by Kinks guitarist, vocalist & songwriter Ray Davies, it features plenty of the band's best-known tunes, including the iconic *You Really Got Me*, *Waterloo Sunset*, *Dedicated Follower Of Fashion*, *All Day And All Of The Night* and *Lola*.



## Friends! The Musical Parody

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 13 - Sat 18 October; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 28 October - Sat 1 November; Malvern Theatres, Tues 25 - Sat 29 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 16 - Sat 21 February

*Friends* may have finished 21 years ago, but the now-legendary TV show continues to draw an audience whenever and wherever it's repeated. So there's little wonder that somebody somewhere decided a stage version would be a good idea. Lovingly lampooning the hit sitcom, the production is a good-hearted romp through the series' most memorable moments - but with the addition of some high-energy song & dance routines just for good measure.











## The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 7 - Sat 11 October; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 14 - Sat 18 October; Malvern Theatres, Wed 4 - Sat 7 February; Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 24 Sat - 28 February

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the publication of *The Lightning Thief* - the first novel in the Percy Jackson And The Olympians series by Rick Riordan. Riordan's books have sold more than 180 million copies worldwide, and to commemorate the special anniversary, this musical adaptation of that first novel has set off on a UK tour. New York teenager Percy learns that he is the half-blood son of the Greek god Poseidon. With newly discovered powers that he can't control, a destiny he doesn't want, a whole textbook's worth of mythical monsters on his trail, and the future of the world hanging in the balance, Percy must learn what it means to be a hero, as he and his friends embark on an epic, edge-of-the-seat adventure.

## Black Is The Color Of My Voice

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 1 October; Lichfield Garrick, Mon 6 October; Macready Theatre, Rugby, Fri 10 October; The Rep, Birmingham, Wed 15 & Thurs 16 October

Inspired by the life of jazz icon Nina Simone, *Black Is The Color Of My Voice* follows a successful singer and civil rights activist seeking redemption after the death of her father. Her grief provides an opportunity to reflect on the journey that took her from a piano prodigy destined for a life in the service of the church, to a renowned jazz vocalist at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. The show features a selection of classic tunes, including *Feeling Good*, *I Put A Spell On You*, *Mississippi Goddamn*, *I Love You Porgy* and *See-Line Woman*.



## Earth Angel

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Tues 14 - Sat 25 October

Mention Alan Ayckbourn and a list of brilliant observational comedies springs readily to mind, the most famous among which were penned way back in the 1970s - think *Relatively Speaking*,

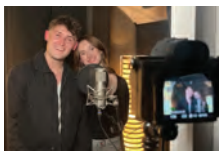


*Absurd Person Singular*, *The Norman Conquests*, *Bedroom Farce*. Now in his mid-80s, Alan continues to churn out high-quality plays like there's no tomorrow. *Earth Angel* is his latest (and 91st), a work in which he poses the question: what makes someone a good person? The production stars familiar television face Liza Goddard. And, as is often the case with his plays, Alan takes the directorial reins.

## Bonnie & Clyde - The Musical

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 1 October - Sun 2 November

Hit Broadway and West End musical *Bonnie & Clyde* here gets the Old Joint Stock Theatre treatment. Telling the Great Depression-era story of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, two small-town nobodies destined to become one of America's most notorious couples, the show features a non-traditional score combining blues, gospel and rockabilly music.



## Born In The USA

The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Tues 28 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 29 October

A contemplation of the seductive power of populist politics lies at the heart of this critically acclaimed play about a Vietnam War

veteran struggling to survive in the economic wasteland of America's rust belt. Former Ford factory car worker Jimmy Vandenburg is disillusioned, so much so that Donald Trump's call to 'Make America Great Again' strikes a real chord with him. But when he's visited by the son of a fallen comrade, Jimmy suddenly finds himself questioning his political convictions...



## After Sunday

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 10 - Sat 25 October

When a trio of patients in a secure hospital, Ty, Leroy and Daniel, sign up to a Caribbean cooking group led by occupational therapist Naomi, they find themselves embarking on a challenging journey of self-discovery - as indeed does Naomi... The Belgrade's co-artistic director, Corey Campbell, takes the helm for this debut play by Sophia Griffin. A post-show discussion about the work will take place following the performance on Thursday the 23rd.





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## Theatre previews from around the region



### The Woman In Black

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, until Sat 4 October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 27 - Sat 31 January; Malvern Theatres, Tues 31 March - Sat 4 April

Solicitor Arthur Kipp believes that his family have somehow been cursed by a mysterious woman in black. In an attempt to tell his story, and to exorcise the evil curse which he's convinced hangs over him, he hires a young actor to assist him in recounting his experiences...

Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt from the same-named Susan Hill novel, *The Woman In Black* is a classic ghost story first performed in 1989. It has since become one of the West End's most successful plays, and was memorably made into a film starring Daniel Radcliffe in 2012.

### Shock Horror: A Ghost Story

Bridge House Theatre, Warwick, Fri 17 - Sat 18 October; The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 31 October & Sat 1 November

Live performance and big-screen action are combined in this 'chilling' story about a man named Herbert who revisits the now-abandoned cinema of his youth. The Metropal was a place which, via the screening of late-night horror films, had provided Herbert not only with respite from his disturbed parents but also a much-needed window on an otherwise inaccessible world.

However, now returned and searching for answers to long-buried questions, Herbert finds that the real horror is only just beginning...

The production is presented by the award-winning Thunder Road Theatre company.



### Macbeth

The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 9 October - Sat 6 December

Having been spurred into action by the prophecies of three supernatural beings - and egged on by his conniving wife - Macbeth's desire to be king of Scotland sees him slaughtering the people who stand in his

way. As the pressure mounts and his grip on sanity weakens, he decides to commit even more atrocities - including the murder of women and children...

Sam Heughan (*Outlander*, *Love Again*) makes his RSC debut as Macbeth, with Lia Williams (*The Crown*, *Skylight*) taking the role of Lady Macbeth.



### The Haunting Of Blaine Manor

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 11 October

When Doctor Roy Earle, a renowned American parapsychologist famous for discrediting hauntings and exposing fake mediums, accepts an invitation to attend a seance at 'the most haunted building in England' - the Blaine Manor of the title - he finds himself, along with his companions for the evening, temporarily cut off from the outside world by a raging storm...

And as every lover of the ghost story/horror genre very well knows, where there's a raging storm and a haunted house, there are also, inevitably, things that go bump in the night...

An award-winning love letter to both the Golden Age of Hollywood and the era of Hammer Horror movies here in the UK, *The Haunting Of Blaine Manor* is described by its publicity as the new *Woman In Black* - only scarier...

### Inside No 9 Stage/Fright

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 7 - Sat 11 October; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 11 - Sat 15 November; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 2 - Sat 6 December

Although probably still best known for *The League Of Gentlemen*, Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith have also enjoyed huge acclaim for their BBC television series *Inside No 9*, a show in which they present self-contained stories liberally sprinkled with black comedy and perverse humour, and which always come with a plot twist.

The popularity of the TV series across its nine seasons led to the development of this stage show, which is heading to Birmingham this month as part of a first UK tour.

The tour follows on from a hugely successful run in the West End earlier this year. As well as including a performance of the episode *Bernie Clifton's Dressing Room*, the production was notable for its use of a special guest star. Celebrities who turned up during the run included David Tennant, Bob Mortimer, Lenny Henry and Ian McKellen.



A man and a woman are smiling and posing in a recording studio. The man is on the left, wearing a dark jacket over a white shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a black top and light blue jeans, leaning against a large professional microphone with a pop filter. The background is dark with some warm lighting and a striped lamp visible on the right.

# RAISING A LITTLE HELL

**Outlaws Bonnie and Clyde are brought to life on  
Birmingham's Old Joint Stock Theatre stage**



**This month, Birmingham's fringe theatre offers up an immersive production of Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical, in the studio space nestled above the Old Joint Stock pub. The show is directed by Emily Lloyd - one of the theatre's in-house team, who is well versed in making the most of the venue's intimate setting - and features talented break-out performers and a live band. What's On spoke to Emily, alongside Indialily Cooper and Samuel Murray, who play the title roles, to find out more...**

This October, Birmingham's popular pub-theatre, The Old Joint Stock, presents an immersive and ambitious production of Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical, in its intimate theatre space.

The production is being directed by Emily Lloyd, with Samuel Murray and Indialily Cooper playing the title characters.

"This is my first theatre credit," says Indialily. "I auditioned for The Mad Ones last year, so I've been here before. It felt nice to come back - and it's gone quite well!"

Samuel recently graduated from London's Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

"I'm a big fan of the show," he says. "I did it in my second year at Mountview, in a different part, so it's really fun to come back to do Clyde. Clyde's been a dream role."

After sending in self-tapes and being recalled to the Old Joint Stock, both actors had an inkling that their auditions had gone well, and headed straight off to celebrate.

"I went to Las Iguanas down the road!" Samuel says. "They were doing two-for-one cocktails. I said, 'Right, get me two! Get me tapas, nachos, quesadillas - this is well deserved!'"

Indialily opted for a glass of wine downstairs in the Old Joint Stock pub. "I said, You know what? I'm going to treat myself, *in the building* - and hope it's a good omen!"

The story of Bonnie and Clyde might be infamous, but the musical retelling has not always had an easy journey.

"It started on Broadway, but it lasted for two weeks," explains director Emily. "It closed - it didn't hit. Then it went to the West End and absolutely smashed it - but sadly the UK tour failed halfway through."

The Old Joint Stock, under Theatre Manager James Edge's direction, has a track record for seeking out high-quality musicals to reimagine on the theatre's intimate stage.

"We're always looking for the musicals that just haven't had their moment," says Emily. "When you can look an audience in the eye, it changes the storytelling... The second Bonnie & Clyde reappeared and was ready for licensing - so James pounced on it."

"[The show] is gritty and honest. It's truthful. If you like a rock sound, with a bit of 'MT', that's what you're going to get. But also it's sexy, it's fun - it's not too political and too deep. You get the balance."

Productions staged in The Old Joint Stock's intimate space have traditionally been arranged in Thrust formation - with the audience seated on three sides of the stage. On this occasion, Emily has opted for a Traverse staging, with two banks of audience seats on opposite sides of the action - with projection all around adding to the show's immersive design.

"The designer, George, he did one of Mountview's productions last year - Into The Woods - which had incredible costumes," Samuel recalls. "What we've seen so far is very exciting."

And as well as innovative design, and an ambitious - and tightly under-wraps - plan for the staging of Bonnie and Clyde's car, the production also features a live band, who are positioned upstairs in the venue's attic.

"A weird coincidence - our MD is called Ben Barrow, just like Clyde Barrow, so he's part of the Barrow gang," says Emily. "And we've got three musicians, who are all from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire."

One of Indialily's favourite numbers is You Love Who You Love, a duet that Bonnie and her friend Blanche sing together.

"That's the time when the show gets a big breath, where it feels like time stops, and it's just them singing," she explains. "They've got the same feelings about these two men. Throughout the show, it doesn't seem like they get on, but they're actually really similar as women and as people."

Samuel is looking forward to singing Clyde's powerful anthem, Raise A Little Hell: "I can't wait. I feel very lucky to be able to be doing that in front of an audience. Up to that point, we've seen a lot of the charm and the charisma of Clyde, and the cheekiness. It's such a gift to be able to portray that, as well as hitting Raise A Little Hell - the lowest he's ever been, physically and mentally."

As for the infamous characters themselves, Emily points out that this production is unusually accurate in its casting: "I think the most exciting thing about Bonnie and Clyde in our version is that they're the right ages. In versions I've seen, they're in their 30s. I thought that was their age - but they died at 23 and 25."

Spookily enough for a production that bridges Halloween, when Bonnie first appears in the show aged 21, Indialily will match her exactly: "We open on the first of October. My 21st birthday is on the 1st of

October - opening night - which is fab. What a day! And Bonnie Parker was also born on the 1st of October!"

"As a young cast and as a young director, that's who these stories should be told by," adds Emily. "They were naive young people who made decisions because they had no choice - and that shouldn't be glamorised."

The legend of the outlaws was no doubt helped along by the 1967 film based on the couple, which starred Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway in the title roles. In the musical, Indialily and Samuel are hoping to explore the complexity of the characters.

"Bonnie pushed limits, but I think her sexiness comes from within; it's not just her exterior," says Indialily. "She's so many different things - she can put men in their place, which was a big thing at that time."

"I'm just so excited to explore all the emotions," says Samuel, "and also to channel the sinister sides. I know it's weird to say I'm excited, but when else do you get the opportunity to do something like that?"

"I think Clyde is a really hard role," adds Emily, "because he's a mixture of a womaniser and a terrifying young man."

In this production, the team will be welcoming, for the first time, child performers to play young Bonnie and Clyde.

"They open the show, which is a huge job for the young people," says Emily. "They're Midlands performers, and they're from local stage schools. I'm so excited to work with them. They are cute as anything!"

Bonnie & Clyde marks the Old Joint Stock's most ambitious production to date, and visitors to Birmingham's unique, intimate, inner-city pub-theatre are in for a treat.

"I think you're going to go on an absolute rollercoaster and more," says Emily. "You cannot be a passive audience member. You feel everything, every moment. Everyone is laughing at the same time, holding their breath at the same time, crying... That's something that's so beautiful about fringe theatre - and I think Bonnie & Clyde has all of that."

.....  
**Bonnie & Clyde shows at The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, from Wednesday 1 October to Sunday 2 November**





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## Theatre previews from around the region



### 2:22 A Ghost Story

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, until Sat 4 October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 13 - Sat 18 October; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 18 - Sat 23 May

Husband & wife Jenny and Sam are divided. Jenny believes their new home is haunted; Sam isn't having any of it. But something certainly feels strange and frightening. Determined to find out the truth once and for all, they decide to stay up until 2:22 - at which time, all will be revealed. Or not... 2.22 A Ghost Story premiered in the West End back in 2021, not only becoming a major hit but also providing both Lily Allen and Cheryl with an opportunity to tread the boards. This latest touring version of the show stars real-life celebrity couple Kevin Clifton and Stacey Dooley. The cast is completed by Grant Kilburn and Shvorne Marks.

### Measure For Measure

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 25 October

The darkest of Shakespeare's comedies, Measure For Measure is usually considered a problem play, which basically means that it asks more questions than it answers. The structure is simple enough. Poor old Angelo is left in charge of an anarchic Vienna, whilst the Duke pretends that he has work overseas. Instead, he uses the opportunity to spy on his diligent though misguided deputy, waits for a mistake, then reappears to make Angelo a convenient scapegoat for Vienna's woes. A stitch-up, or just judicial authority? No wonder politicians of all parties quote Shakespeare to justify their dark deeds...

### Making A Killing

The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 October; Lichfield Garrick, Wed 29 October

Ha Hum Ah Productions' dark comedy about justice and corruption is set in Nuremburg in the year 1590 and revolves around two characters: a hangman - Franz Schmidt - and his new apprentice - Claus Kohler. Thrown together in a world in which duty, morality and power collide, their fates become dangerously entwined as the dark truths of human nature are starkly revealed...



### Florence Nightingale: The Lady With The Hammer

The Anstice, Telford, Wed 29 October; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 1 November; Conquest Theatre, Bromyard, Fri 7 November; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 8 November

Zany funsters Oddsocks return to the region this autumn with a brand-new show about Florence Nightingale.

More usually found presenting high-spirited versions of Shakespeare plays - they even ramp up his comedies! - the long-established theatre company's latest offering instead takes a look at 'the bloody background of Britain's most famous nurse'.



### 1884

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 14 & Wed 15 October

Theatre-maker Rhianna Ilube has teamed up with BAFTA-winning game-makers Coneyn to create this immersive game-theatre show. The production is inspired by the legacy of the 1884 Berlin Conference, an often-overlooked historical turning point for the African continent and the world... 1884's producers are keen to make clear that their show 'isn't a history lesson'. They advise instead that the production will take audiences 'on a fun, fast-paced and thought-provoking journey, where play and protest meet'...

### The Rape Of Lucretia

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 10 October; Malvern Theatres, Fri 31 October

Although written nearly 80 years ago in the aftermath of the Second World War, Benjamin Britten's The Rape Of Lucretia, with its chilling exploration of the abuse of power, remains as brutally relevant today as ever it was. Reflecting the suffering and uncertainty of the post-war era, it focuses on a group of bored soldiers who decide to test the loyalty of their wives - a cruel and reckless decision that leads to the most shattering of consequences... Presented by English Touring Opera.

### Shakeitup: The Improvised Shakespeare Show

Bridge House Theatre, Warwick, Fri 3 October

London-based improv troupe ShakeItUp make an early-month stop-off in Warwick to create a brand-new Shakespeare play live on stage. The critically acclaimed ensemble are promising their audience a night of 'big laughs, high drama, and plenty of Bard-based bedlam!'





# NEW VIC



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By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
Adapted for the stage by  
Steven Canny and John Nicholson

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## Theatre for younger audiences



### Disney On Ice: Find Your Hero

bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham,  
Wed 29 October - Sun 2 November

Disney On Ice makes a welcome return with a brand-new family-friendly adventure. Boasting 'cutting-edge figure-skating, eye-catching costumes, stunning set designs, innovative lighting, thrilling special effects and high-flying jumps', Find Your Hero features a cast of beloved Mouse House characters. Moana & Maui, The Little Mermaid, Rapunzel, Frozen's Anna, Elsa & Olaf, and of course Mickey himself, will all be taking to the ice.



### Pirates Love Underpants

Dudley Town Hall, Wed 15 October; Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Sat 18 - Sun 19 October  
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,  
Tues 28 & Wed 29 October

Claire Freedman certainly knows a thing or two about writing for children. And she's no slouch on the subject of underpants either, with her picture books including Aliens Love Underpants, Aliens Love Panta Claus and Aliens In Underpants Save The World... It turns out pirates are pretty keen on underpants too, as evidenced by this stage adaptation of yet another of her publications. Shrewsbury Theatre Severn's legendary pantomime Dame, Brad Fitt, has written the show, which features a winning combination of 'music, puppetry and glittering pants of gold'.



### Adventures In Science

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham,  
Sat 25 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
Wed 18 February

The fundamental principles of scientific enquiry - exploring everything from supersonic speediness to malicious misinformation - come under the microscope in this hour-long mashup of 'skills and silliness'. The production is presented by The Magical Mr West - best known as one half of magic duo Morgan & West - who is here being helped (or possibly hindered) by a brand-new on-stage partner: a wisecracking cartoon crow named Crowbert!

### The Three Little Pigs - The Musical

Stourbridge Town Hall, Tues 28 October

Sixty minutes awash with catchy songs, clever rhymes and heaps of humour is the promise being made by the producers of this 'very curly musical tail', a 'funny and heart-warming adventure' that puts a fresh spin on a classic story. The production features the incredible puppetry of Matthew Forbes, associate puppetry director for the National Theatre's War Horse.

### Stick Man

The Albany Theatre, Coventry,  
Tues 21 - Sun 26 October

"Freckle Productions send shivers down my spine," reveals Julia Donaldson, the co-creator (along with Alex Scheffler) of the hugely popular children's book on which this show is based. "They're so lively and innovative. I love their production of Stick Man, and so do the audiences." Julia's not wrong - audiences most definitely do love the show, as its frequent return to the region ably demonstrates.

The production brings together puppetry, songs, live music and 'funky moves', to tell the story of Stick Man's desperate attempts to get back to the family tree in time for Christmas.



### The Littlest Yak

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 18 October;  
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 30 October;  
Kidderminster Town Hall, Fri 27 February;  
Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 4 April

Lu Fraser & Kate Hindley's delightful story about a little yak who's desperate to grow up is here given the theatrical treatment by LAsTheatre. Their 45-minute production, which is aimed at children aged three-plus, was last year nominated for four OffWestEnd Awards.



### The Dinosaur That Pooped

Malvern Theatres, Sat 25 October; Lichfield Garrick, Wed 29 October; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 19 February; Brierley Hill Civic, Sun 24 May; Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 6 June

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

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

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

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



# NOSE JOB

**Local lad Adrian Lester talks about making his Royal Shakespeare Company debut as Cyrano de Bergerac**





**Award-winning actor Adrian Lester is finally making his Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) debut, playing the title role in a brand-new adaptation of Edmond Rostand's classic romantic comedy *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Working with the RSC has been a long time coming for the Birmingham-born star, who hopes the irony-free production will have as much of an impact on audiences as the size of his nose...**

For an actor who has become almost synonymous with Shakespeare - he's played critically acclaimed lead roles in *Henry V*, *Othello* and *Hamlet*, among others - it seems implausible that Adrian Lester has never performed at the RSC. Ironically, now that he finally is doing so, it's in *Cyrano de Bergerac* - not even one of the Bard's plays.

"I know, but it may as well be!" laughs the Birmingham-born actor, who twice visited the venue as a youngster while a member of Birmingham Youth Theatre. The trips fired his enthusiasm to make a career in the profession, and while he never considered it at the time, a subconscious seed was sown for his eventual return to Stratford.

"I've had my eye on the place for ages and wanting to do something there, so I'm so glad I get to do this," he says, admitting there have been numerous discussions during the 35 years (yes, really) he's been a professional actor.

"I've had conversations with many artistic directors at the RSC, but timings have just not been right. It's brilliant to be doing this now because the stars have aligned. And the RSC is the best place for this play, really - it's a classic, it's a new adaptation, and it's got a very strong, modern voice running through it."

The new version has been co-created by Simon Evans and Debris Stevenson, with long-term involvement from the lead actor. Adrian first discussed the idea with Evans, who is also directing the piece, after they met at a party eight years ago ("we decided there and then that we'd work together").

"My input into the writing of the piece was not to write a word but to come up with an understanding of what was missing and needed to be taken care of in terms of the big holes in the plot, and also where we go for romanticism's sake without the words being about anything.

"It all got put on the shelf due to Covid, but when the RSC asked Simon what he wanted to direct, and then separately asked me if there was anything I wanted to be in, we both said *Cyrano de Bergerac*. And that was it." The pair knew a new adaptation was needed, and Evans decided on a collaborative

approach - getting Stevenson to tackle the poetics ("the poetry of the piece and the poetry of the characters", according to Adrian) while he handled the prose.

"It's been brilliant. Debris has just been fantastic - vibrant, modern, incredibly collaborative... the three of us have said we definitely want to repeat this and work together again."

The fruit of their labour is a production designed not only to celebrate the original, but to treat it with sincerity rather than irony, according to Adrian, whose *Cyrano* writes love letters to woo Susannah Fielding's Roxane in the guise of her handsome suitor, Christian de Neuvillette (played by Levi Brown).

"We're not going to talk about love and commitment and joy and poetry with a slight wink or nod or cynical idea on it. We're going to do it in a very romantic, big-hearted way, with swords, with language, with poetry and with rhymes - it's an open-hearted, big romantic comedy."

When I suggest a comedic role has been a long time coming for the actor, it's the cue for a howl of laughter and the recollection of a somewhat unnerving series of conversations.

"There's been a few instances when I've been chatting to people socially - at a party or a restaurant - and someone has leaned across the table and taken my arm and said gently 'You know what, you're actually quite funny... some of the things you say are really quite amusing. Maybe you should think about doing something funny, because you know what? I think you could be funny.'

"Oh thanks, thanks very much," he deadpans, laughing again. "I think my public persona isn't one that lends itself to comedy, farce, slapstick... but that's all going to be in this play."

Maybe this is the role to open new doors and get him out of being pigeonholed as a serious actor?

"I hope so. I've always loved the idea of doing something unexpected and something new, so this'll be great. No one will have seen me like this in two ways - in terms of the comedy and lightness of touch, and they also won't have seen me with such a big nose."

Ah yes, we've finally got to the elephant (man) in the room. *Cyrano's* colossal conk. At the time we spoke, Adrian was still getting used to a rehearsal prosthetic proboscis, but the performance version - made from latex, created using a 3D printer and shaped to fit over his own nose - is much bigger.

"It fits my own nose beautifully. We're aiming for it to look like it is my nose, and it's absolutely massive. It's about giving *Cyrano* the insecurity to believe he's not worth loving because he's so ugly."

As well as the physical comedy of the role, Adrian claims the script is a gift for any actor ("the fun, the repartee, the fighting, the love, the stakes, the poetry, the commitment, the big-hearted passion... it's a beast of a part!"), with the combination giving him the chance to entertain and move people - factors he claims are his constant driving force as an actor.

"I really like the idea that you can go and see something about a certain subject and come away from the cinema or the theatre with a completely different opinion because your understanding and empathy has been raised or changed.

"It's the kind of thing that theatre has the power to do; to make people think, to make them lift their hearts up. We were drawn towards *Cyrano* because he's such a big-hearted, romantic character.


"It's also great to be watching a play with a main character that feels like all of us. He feels like his dreams are too big for him to attain, feels small in front of the person he loves, and always feels like there's something wrong with him. I think most of us have that feeling, that insecurity - especially in front of the people that we love or the thing that we want.

"We all have our own [big] nose, only we carry it around inside, and it's that part of this play that people will respond to. They'll recognise it in him and his story, and they'll know it's about their own life."

.....  
**Cyrano de Bergerac shows at The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Saturday 15 November**



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## Cirque: The Greatest Show - Reimagined

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Fri 10 October;  
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 31 October;  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 1 November;  
The Alexandra, Birmingham, Thurs 6 November

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

The production sees stars of the West End performing alongside 'amazing aerialists, incredible contortionists and fabulous fire jugglers' as they undertake 'thrilling feats of agility and flair'.

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

## The Horne Section's Hit Show

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 5 October;  
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 13 November

Comprising five talented musicians and one non-musical stand-up, The Horne Section are unruly,

ridiculous, and have been hailed Britain's funniest band. This latest show features the usual mix of comedy, songs, enthusiastic dancing, and no shortage of beautifully choreographed mucking about.



## Uncanny: Fear Of The Dark

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 19 October; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 4 November; Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 1 March

Danny Robins, the creative force behind spooky podcast The Battersea Poltergeist and spine-tingling stage production



2:22 - A Ghost Story, here makes a welcome return with a 'chilling' showcase of potentially paranormal mysteries. Danny is joined by experts Dr Ciarán O'Keefe and Evelyn Hollow to examine ghostly apparitions, UFO sightings, a haunted nursery, strange creatures on lonely country lanes, and bizarre poltergeist activity in seemingly normal houses...

## Listen Very Carefully: The 'Allo 'Allo Podcast - Live

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 13 October

Hit 1980s/90s television sitcom 'Allo 'Allo! has been enjoying a new lease of life in recent times, courtesy of a

hugely popular podcast. Now, three of its stars - Kim Hartman (Helga), Guy Siner (Lieutenant Gruber) and Richard Gibson (Herr Flick) - are visiting the region with a live version of their show, presenting a production featuring classic clips, behind-the-scenes revelations and an audience Q&A.



## Trigger Happy TV: Live

Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 7 October

If you fondly remember hidden camera/practical joke comedy series

Trigger Happy TV, you may want to make a beeline for Birmingham Town Hall on Tuesday the 7th. The show's presenter, Dom Joly, will be bringing his most iconic characters and sketches to the stage to celebrate the series' 25th anniversary. Audience members are being advised to stay on the lookout for pranks and unexpected events...

They may also find themselves starring in their very own Trigger Happy TV sketch!



## Wonders Of Our Universe

Dudley Town Hall, Sun 5 October;  
Swan Theatre, Worcester, Tues 14 October

Presented by astrophysicist Ian Hall and Exoplanet research scientist Charlotte Alexandra, Wonders Of Our Universe weaves together 'distinctive storytelling and breathtaking visuals' to take its audience on an emotionally charged journey into space, 'allowing imaginations to soar, and inspiring minds of all ages'.

The show's recommended age guidance is 11-plus, although its producers, The Average Scientist, reckon younger children will also find plenty to enjoy if they're particularly engaged with the topic.

## Grayson Perry: Are You Good?

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 30 October

"Are you good?" asks Grayson Perry, in talking about his new touring show. "It's a question that I think is fundamental to our humanity. In this show, I will be helping you to find out if you really are thoroughly good, or maybe quite evil, but in a fun way. "With lots of audience participation - don't worry, no one leaves unscathed - and a few silly songs, we'll have an entertaining evening and come out with our core values completely in tatters!"







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## Dance previews from across the region

Image credit: Dan Tucker

**Motionhouse: Hidden**

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 10 & Sat 11 October; Lichfield Garrick, Wed 25 February; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 20 March

An exploration of how, in an increasingly divided world, people can come together to help one another through the darkest moments they face, Motionhouse's critically acclaimed show, *Hidden*, uses innovative projection, set design, music and movement to create a beautiful and engaging experience for its audiences. "The show is an emotional response to the current state of the world," says the company's artistic director, Kevin Finnan. "You can feel the dancers' energy, and you want to feel the emotions that they are going through. We want everyone to share in the journey with us."

**Shobana Jeyasingh Dance: We Caliban**

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 21 October

Innovative choreographer Shobana Jeyasingh is widely considered to be one of the country's most brilliant creators.

She returns to the Midlands with her dance company this month to present a new work in which the events of Shakespeare's final play, *The Tempest*, are viewed through the eyes of one of its most famous characters: Caliban.

**Jasmin Vardimon Company: NOW**

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Fri 24 & Sat 25 October

Founded in 1998, Jasmin Vardimon's company combines physical theatre and quirky characterisation with innovative technologies, text and dance.

The choreographer's latest work 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'. "A lot of the time, people stay behind after our performance for the post-show discussion," explains Jasmin. "You can see that they're emotionally attached or intellectually engaged and want to speak and talk about it more. And that's exactly what I always hope to do with my art. I want to



make people think and ask questions; I don't want to give answers. At the end of the day, I see myself as a storyteller and communicator about things that are important to me."

**Sonia Sabri Company: Roshni**

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sun 12 October

"We've always tried to create something which is groundbreaking and pioneering," says Sonia Sabri. "We've been at the forefront of creating new ideas, and that's exactly what we intend to continue doing." Sonia's belief in the need to push the boundaries of dance is reflected in *Roshni*. Bringing together wordless storytelling, eclectic music, percussive dance and upbeat audience interaction, the show comprises three distinctive dance works that explore 'the highs and lows of life today'.

**The Return Of The Legends**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 5 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 6 October; Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Sat 4 October 2026; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 1 November 2026

Following their sell-out *Legends Of The Dance Floor* show last year, *Strictly Come Dancing*'s Brendan Cole, James Jordan, Pasha Kovalev, Vincent Simone and Ian Waite have hit the road again with an even bigger tour.

"Return Of The Legends promises to be the most magical evening," says Vincent, "with brand-new stories and more incredible choreography. And, don't forget, out of all the 'legends', I'm the best!"

**The Nutcracker**

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 9 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 15 October; Malvern Theatres, Sun 16 November

Christmas comes early to the Midlands this month when Imperial Classical Ballet present the festive-season tale of *The Nutcracker*. In true Christmas spirit, the story follows the young Clara as she's swept up in a fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery, before finally being transformed into a beautiful ballerina.

The production features Tchaikovsky's music performed by a live orchestra.

**Vincent Simone: Tango Passions**

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 25 October; Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sun 26 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 28 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Mon 10 November; Walsall Arena, Tues 11 November; Lichfield Garrick, Sun 15 February; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Tues 17 February; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 21 February

Vincent Simone is certainly not a man to let the grass grow under his ever-dancing feet.

The Argentine tango king and *Strictly Come Dancing* legend is visiting the Midlands with this 'sexy, steamy, passionate' show less than two weeks after the end of the *Return Of The Legends* tour 2025, in which he appears with four fellow *Strictly* stars (see preview elsewhere on this page).

Telling a tale of love and lust at the turn of the 20th century, *Tango Passions* comes complete with classic and modern Argentine tango music from the likes of Astor Piazzolla and Gotan Project.





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## Film highlights in October...



### The Smashing Machine CERT tbc (123 mins)

Starring **Dwayne Johnson, Emily Blunt, Ryan Bader, Bas Rutten, Oleksandr Usyk, Marcus Aurelio**  
Directed by **Benny Safdie**

"I've been scared to go deep and intense and raw until now," Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson recently told journalists, "until I had this opportunity [to make The Smashing Machine]."

Johnson's performance in the movie, in which he portrays Mark Kerr, a former wrestler and UFC star who struggled with substance abuse, is nuanced, thoughtful, and - given the explosive nature of the characters he usually plays - impressively subdued. So much so, in fact, that he's currently being touted for Oscar success.

"For so long, I had been a lucky guy to have had this really awesome career," Johnson continued. "I'm so grateful that I've been able to make some movies that people liked - and some not so much. But I had been waiting for something like this... and wanting to not only push myself, but really go for it and rip it open."

**Released Fri 3 October**



### Plainclothes CERT 15 (95 mins)

Starring **Tom Blyth, Russell Yovey, Maria Dizzia, Christian Cooke, Sam Asa Brownstein, Joseph Emmi Sr** Directed by **Carmen Emmi**

A Sundance Film Festival award winner earlier this year, Plainclothes follows the story of a young police officer named Lucas, who, while working undercover in a mall bathroom arresting gay men by seducing them, makes an unexpected connection with one of his targets - a man named Andrew. What begins as another setup becomes something far more electric and intimate. As their secret connection deepens and police pressure to make arrests intensifies, Lucas finds himself torn between duty and desire... Months later, while attending his mother's New Year's Eve party, he loses a letter no one was ever supposed to read. With time running out and his secret life closing in around him, the evening builds towards an explosive reckoning that will see everything he's kept buried threatening to erupt...

**Released Fri 3 October**

### Tron: Ares CERT tbc

Starring **Jared Leto, Evan Peters, Gillian Anderson, Jeff Bridges, Cameron Monaghan**  
Directed by **Joachim Rønning**

The third film in the Tron franchise is hitting cinema screens some 43 years after the first and 15 years after the second.

While both previous movies became cult classics, neither scored much of a hit at the box office - a fact which left Disney somewhat less than certain about the merit of carrying the franchise forward. So, having now taken the plunge and done so, it's fair to say that the Mouse House will have high expectations of Tron: Ares.

The movie follows a highly sophisticated program, Ares, who is sent from the digital world into the real world on a dangerous mission, marking humankind's first encounter with A.I. beings. Academy Award winner Jared Leto takes the title role.

**Released Fri 10 October**



### After The Hunt CERT tbc (139 mins)

Starring **Julia Roberts, Andrew Garfield, Ayo Edebiri, Chloë Sevigny, Michael Stuhlbarg, Thaddea Graham**  
Directed by **Luca Guadagnino**

Visionary filmmaker Luca Guadagnino has assembled an impressive cast for his latest movie, a psychological drama that finds Julia Roberts in excellent form.

Roberts plays college professor Alma, who arrives at a personal and professional crossroads when friend and colleague Hank (former Spider-Man star Andrew Garfield) is accused of assault by a promising PhD student named Maggie (Ayo Edebiri). The allegation leaves Alma conflicted. And her position is made all the more precarious by the very real prospect of a dark secret from her own past coming into the light.

**Released Fri 17 October**



# Birmingham COMEDY Festival <sup>3-12 Oct</sup> 2025



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**What's On**



## Film highlights in October...

### Bugonia CERT tbc (120 mins)

Starring **Emma Stone, Jesse Plemons, Alicia Silverstone, Stavros Halkias, Aidan Delbis, Parvinder Shergill**  
Directed by **Yorgos Lanthimos**

Yorgos Lanthimos and Emma Stone have forged an impressive professional partnership. Having worked together on three critically acclaimed films - *The Favourite*, *Poor Things* and *Kinds Of Kindness* - they have once again reunited to make *Bugonia*, a sci-fi black comedy remake of the 2003 South Korean movie *Save The Green Planet!*.

Stone plays the character of Michelle Fuller - a high-powered CEO of a major company - who is kidnapped by two conspiracy-obsessed young men who are convinced that she's an extraterrestrial being intent on destroying planet Earth.

"There's so much that's happening [in the film] that's reflective of this time in our world," says Emma, "and it's told in a way that's really fascinating and moving, funny and fuc\*ed up, and alive."

**Released Fri 31 October**



### Roofman CERT tbc (126 mins)

Starring **Channing Tatum, Kirsten Dunst, Peter Dinklage, Juno Temple, Ben Mendelsohn, Uzo Aduba** Directed by **Derek Cianfrance**

Fact is sometimes stranger than fiction, and that's definitely the case when it comes to the fascinating story of Jeffrey Manchester.

The one-time Army Ranger became known as Roofman (hence the film's title) after he started robbing premises - most particularly McDonald's restaurants - by drilling, hacking or sawing holes through their roofs.

Eventually captured and convicted, he then escaped prison and secretly lived inside a Toys 'R' Us store. He also began dating single mom Leigh Wainscott, a relationship which would eventually prove to be his undoing...

Based on Manchester's story and premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival last month, this likeable though unremarkable comedy-drama finds Channing Tatum and Kirsten Dunst in good form and should certainly hold its own at the box office.

**Released Fri 17 October**



### The Mastermind

CERT 12a (110 mins)

Starring **Josh O'Connor, Gaby Hoffman, Bill Camp, Hope Davis, John Magaro, Alana Haim**  
Directed by **Kelly Reichardt**

Set in the early 1970s against a backdrop of protests about the Vietnam War, Kelly Reichardt's engagingly downbeat, character-driven movie focuses on out-of-work father-of-two JB Mooney, a hangdog non-hero who is busily planning his first-ever heist. With the museum cased and accomplices recruited, JB is confident that his plan to steal four abstract portraits by modernist painter Arthur Dove is absolutely air-tight. His only problem, though - and as he'll soon find out - is that it isn't...

**Released Fri 24 October**

### Relay CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Riz Ahmed, Lily James, Sam Worthington, Willa Fitzgerald, Jared Abrahamson, Pun Bandhu**  
Directed by **David Mackenzie**

Paying homage to the paranoid-thriller genre most closely associated with the 1970s - think *The Conversation* (1974), *Three Days Of The Condor* (1975) and *Marathon Man* (1976) - Scottish director David Mackenzie's first feature film in six years zeroes-in on the character of Ash (Riz Ahmed), a world-class 'fixer' who specialises in brokering lucrative payoffs between corrupt corporations and the individuals who threaten to blow the whistle on them.

Ash keeps his identity a secret through meticulous planning and by always following an exacting set of rules. But when a message arrives one day from a potential client (Lily James), who needs his protection simply to stay alive, those rules quickly start to change... **Released Fri 31 October**







## Takuro Kuwata, Tea Bowl Punk

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,  
Fri 31 October - Sun 15 March

Traditional Japanese pottery techniques are fused with experimental sculptural processes in the work of Takuro Kuwata.

Inspired by the boldness of American Pop Art, the Hiroshima-born artist produces works which are not only playful and provocative but also unmistakably contemporary. Indeed, his signature use of vivid glazes, distorted silhouettes and explosive textures has effectively redefined the boundaries of contemporary ceramics... To complement what is Takuro's first solo exhibition in the UK, Warwick Arts Centre is hosting a series of workshops. The first, Patterned Plates, takes place next month, on Thursday the 20th. For details about this, and the other three workshops, check out the venue's website at [warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk)

## Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Presented on large lightboxes within dimly lit galleries, each photograph is vividly brought to life, offering visitors a striking visual encounter with biodiversity from around the world. The immersive experience is further enhanced by an atmospheric soundscape, designed to evoke the environments captured in the images.



25 October - 25 January  
Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Tickets start from £4  
(excluding booking fee)  
[wolverhamptonart.org.uk](http://wolverhamptonart.org.uk)





Image credit: Dmitry Kokh

## Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 25 October - Sun 25 January

"We are facing urgent biodiversity and climate crises, and photography is a powerful catalyst for change."

So says Dr Doug Gurr, director of the Natural History Museum, which has developed and produced this prestigious competition.

"As we celebrate 60 years of Wildlife Photographer Of The Year," adds Dr Gurr, "we also celebrate the generations of

visitors who have been inspired by the beauty and majesty of its images, and the millions of connections made with nature."

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

## Designing Terry Pratchett's Discworld

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum, until Sun 4 January

This brand-new exhibition displays the artwork of Paul Kidby - Terry Pratchett's 'artist of choice' for his Discworld books. Explaining why he selected Paul, the late author once said: "He sees things my way about 75 per cent of the time, which suggests either mind reading is happening or that my vision of my characters is really rather vague until I see his drawings."

The exhibition includes colourful paintings, 'exquisite' pencil drawings, 'and a rogue's gallery of favourite Discworld characters'.



Image credit: Paul Kidby



## Nothing Gold Can Stay: Assembly 2025

New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 9 November

A group exhibition, Nothing Gold Can Stay comprises newly commissioned work by three artists which was made during the second iteration of Assembly, a development programme for local creatives held in partnership with arts organisation Multistory. The featured artists use sculpture, moving image and photography to consider the complex tensions between time, the production of images and the ethics of viewership. In so doing, they explore how practices of slowness and deep attention 'ask us to view the world differently'.

## Donald Locke: Resistant Forms

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Wed 1 October - Sun 22 February

The first major UK exhibition of work by the late artist Donald Locke brings together a selection of his creative output.

Born and raised in Guyana, Donald moved to the UK in the 1950s as part of the Windrush Generation. The exhibition includes early ceramics inspired by natural forms and the human body, and larger scale paintings and sculptures exploring issues around history and identity.



## The Shelter Of Stories: Ways Of Telling, Ways Of Dwelling

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Sat 25 October - Sun 22 February

This groundbreaking exhibition explores the art of storytelling and has been curated by the writer Marina Warner. Bringing together historic objects

with works by leading contemporary artists, the show asks: why do we tell stories, and what do they achieve?



## GIANTS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 2 November

Entertainment and education are brought together in this popular 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.







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## Events previews from around the region



### Five creative craft shows for the price of one... NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 30 October - Sun 2 November

The Creative Craft Show, Sewing For Pleasure, Simply Christmas, Cake International and Bake International make a welcome return to the NEC this month - with visitors gaining access to all five shows for the price of just one.

The Creative Craft Show is a haven for knitting, cross stitch, paper crafting, jewellery, dressmaking and stitching enthusiasts, offering all the latest supplies as well as festive ideas and inspiration...

Sewing For Pleasure, an ideal destination for sewing, knitting, patchwork and embroidery enthusiasts, features demonstrations, workshops and all-day masterclasses... Simply Christmas showcases bespoke and handmade gifts, unique Christmas decorations and festive food & drink... World-renowned cake decorating and sugar craft event, Cake International, will feature headline-grabbing cakes, a huge lineup of suppliers, top-class sugar craft artists and

inspiring displays...

Sister show Bake International provides visitors with the chance to explore a 'baking paradise', featuring everything from breads to sweet-treat pastries.

And, as an added bonus, competitors from across the globe will be showcasing their skills in the world's biggest cake decorating and baking competition.



Get 2 free tickets with code **WOL25**

### Grand Designs Live NEC, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Sun 5 October

Self-builders and design enthusiasts will be making a beeline for the NEC early this month when Grand Designs Live makes its usual autumn visit to the venue.

Presented by Kevin McCloud - the face of the long-running Channel Four series - the show offers a mix of expert-led talks, interactive features, hands-on demonstrations and the

very latest in design, build and sustainable innovation.

For the first time ever, the show features five specialised hubs, each tailored to a key area of modern home design. The new hubs will connect visitors with real experts, flag up emerging trends and provide invaluable insider insight.

### Deadly Live!

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Thurs 30 October

Award-winning wildlife presenter Steve Backshall is bringing Deadly Live! to Birmingham this month - an action-packed experience based on the hugely popular BBC Deadly franchise.

Join Steve as he embarks on a selection of heart-pounding adventures, 'tackling daring stunts, mind-blowing experiments and cutting-edge science'.

From big cats and birds of prey to Dinomania dinosaurs, snakes and more, the show features some of the world's most formidable predators.







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## Events previews from around the region



### An out-of-this-world autumn half term at Thinktank

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum, Sat 25 October - Sun 2 November

Thinktank is hosting a variety of out-of-this-world activities with a spooky twist this October half term.

Space-themed Lego coding workshops - running daily from Saturday 25 October to Sunday 2 November - provide families with the chance to create their own alien creatures, while a drop-in craft workshop, Alien Creation Station, and a jam-packed science show, Galactic Mission: Life Beyond Earth, both run from Monday the 27th to Friday the 31st.

On Halloween, alien family The Roswells will be returning to the museum to meet other families, and movie fans can enjoy a screening of E.T. The Extra Terrestrial in the planetarium.

Another Steven Spielberg sci-fi classic, Close Encounters Of The Third Kind, shows the following day (Saturday 1 November).

The Saturday also sees Birmingham junk-modelling artist Tat Vision visiting the venue to make some alien heads.

### Halloween at Hartlebury

Hartlebury Castle, Worcester,  
Sat 25 October - Sat 1 November

Hartlebury Castle is running some spooky family activities throughout half-term week. Visitors are encouraged to arrive dressed in their favourite Halloween costume and brave the Spooky Skeleton Trail (Saturday 25 October - Saturday 1 November).

A special outdoor hunt will take place on Monday the 27th - with miniature pumpkins hidden in the castle grounds - while from Tuesday the 28th to Friday the 31st, families can busy themselves pumpkin carving.



### BCLM Festival of Light

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,  
Sat 18 October

The Black Country Living Museum will come alive with the vibrant sights, sounds and spirit of Diwali this month, as the Festival of Light returns.

Attractions include live music and dance, a 'dazzling' lantern procession, and the chance for visitors to get creative in Rangoli workshops, sample authentic South Asian cuisine, and explore interactive lessons about Diwali in St James' School. There's also a Witch & Wizard School for little ones to enjoy, presented by the castle's very own magic teacher, Professor Bumbledum.

### On The Home Front

Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove,  
Sat 4 & Sun 5 October

Sample a taste of life in Britain during the Second World War, as Avoncroft turns back the clock to the 1940s.

The event's attractions include a vintage village, live entertainment, dance classes, displays of motorcycles and other vehicles from the 1930s and 40s, VE and VJ Day commemorations, reenactors bringing the venue's prefabs to life, a 1940s fashion show and a vintage fairground.

New for 2025, the Woman's Auxiliary War Service will be sharing the stories of the women who supported the Unforgotten Army as they fought the Burma campaign.



### Severn Valley Railway Ghost & Scream Trains

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, Thurs 30, Fri 31 October & Sat 1 November

Are you brave enough to ride the Ghost Train at Severn Valley Railway this Halloween? Kickstart your fright night with tricks and treats for the whole family to enjoy at Kidderminster Station. Then, take your reserved seats and settle back to experience a ride out into the darkness.

Scary characters will join you on board, sneaking along the corridors of the train as it passes through haunted stations to Arley.

The Ghost Train experience lasts for approximately 75 minutes and comes complete with a free goodie bag for every child.

Severn Valley Railway is also hosting a similar but 'more fearsome' event for older guests. The Scream Train is aimed at visitors aged 18-plus and features 'petrifying ghouls' who will be looking to scare the life out of commuters as they make their way to Arley.



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\*Please note Cake International and Bake International run Fri 31st Oct – Sun 2nd Nov. Offer applies to standard full price tickets only, does not include VIP or early bird tickets.

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Cake International and Bake International\***

\*Please note Cake & Bake Int. runs from 31st Oct only



## Events previews from around the region



### In Pursuit Of Repetitive Beats

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Monday 13 October

Travel back in time to the heyday of the British acid-house scene via the UK's biggest virtual-reality experience.

The award-winning In Pursuit Of Repetitive Beats uses cutting-edge VR technology to create a truly collective experience, with

groups of four people being able to share the same virtual space and interact together as rave-culture pioneers.

Following the VR experience, visitors can explore a related exhibition containing archive and other audio-visual materials.



### Spooky snow and chilling ice at SnowDome

SnowDome, Tamworth, Sat 25 October - Sun 2 November

Tamworth's SnowDome is transforming into a world of spooky snow and chilling ice this autumn half term.

Attractions include a spellbinding, snow-filled Hocus Snowcus - where little ones can slide, scoot, and play in the snow - and the Witch's Winter World, where every child

leaves with a sweet treat!

Meanwhile, for adults and thrill-seeking older children, there's Fright On Ice, a 'chilling' multi-sensory experience that includes three spooky zones: Arachnid Asylum, The Shadow Shipwreck and Carnival Of Screams.

### Halloweek at Sudeley

Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham, Sat 25 October - Sun 2 November

Families visiting Sudeley this half term can check out a special trail across the castle grounds, with pumpkins being hidden in the venue's secret nooks and crannies.

Participants who complete the trail will be rewarded with a Halloween treat.

On Halloween itself, visitors will come face-to-face with the darker side of history, courtesy of Tudor All Hallows' Eve, an event during which they will encounter the castle's Tudor ghosts, who will be sharing spine-tingling tales of hauntings and horrors.



### The Supreme Cat Show

NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, Sat 18 October

The UK's most prestigious cat event returns to the region mid-month, providing the purrfect day out for moggy-loving Midlanders.

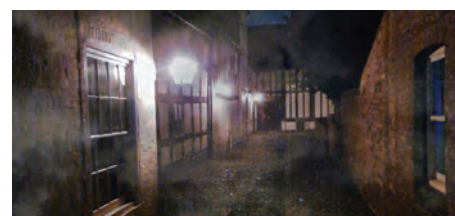
Forty pedigree cat breeds will be competing for the coveted Supreme titles, with breeders, experts and other cat lovers on hand to talk about all things feline. Visitors can also check out cat-themed stalls, shop for gifts and sample a selection of interactive experiences.

### After-Dark Tours

The Commandery, Worcester, Tues 14, Thurs 16, Tues 21, Thurs 23, Tues 28, Thurs 30 & Fri 31 October

The Commandery is one of Worcester's oldest buildings and a place that harbours lots of ghostly secrets.

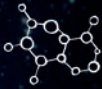
Suitable for visitors aged 14-plus, the venue's after-dark tours include tales of strange sightings and mysterious rumours, with your guide for the evening giving the history of the building a hair-raising Halloween twist.







Birmingham  
Museums



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

# thelist



Okan - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 8 October

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

## What's On

Wed 1 - Sun 5 October



The Scummy Mummies - Royal  
Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**Thurs 2 October**

Mon 6 - Sun 12 October



Cheltenham Literature Festival -  
various locations  
**Fri 10 - Sun 19 October**

Mon 13 - Sun 19 October



Emma Pollock - The Tin At The  
Coal Vaults, Coventry  
**Fri 17 October**

Mon 20 - Fri 31 October



Baskery - Temperance,  
Leamington Spa  
**Thurs 30 October**



## VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

### Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**OZZY OSBOURNE: WORKING CLASS HERO** A celebration of the solo achievements and global awards of rock icon Ozzy Osbourne, and the album art of the original Black Sabbath line-up to coincide with their historic homecoming concert, until Sun 18 Jan

### Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**YULIA MAHR: SPEAKING IN DREAMS** A striking meditation on the threshold between dreaming and waking, presented through sculpture, photography and elemental materials such as ash, charcoal and taxidermy, Thurs 9 Oct - Sun 2 Nov

### 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

**COVENTRY BIENNIAL 2025: OBSESSIONS, POSSESSIONS** Programme of exhibitions, events and activities platforming the presentation of new artworks and reimaginings of collections, rooted in society's shared obsessions and possessions, Fri 3 Oct - Sun 25 Jan

**COVENTRY BIENNIAL 2025: 879 HEROES BY HEART** A major four-screen moving-image installation, bringing together a group of ordinary Scandinavian boys asked to recite the names of football players from around the globe, Fri 3 Oct - Sun 25 Jan

**COVENTRY'S LOST LIBRARY** Explore Coventry's old school library, founded more than 450 years ago. Highlights include a medieval manuscript and the chance to discover what a Tudor schoolchild would have been reading, until Feb 2026

### 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 fifty painters, sculptors and photographers, until Sun 5 Oct

### Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

**STRICTLY MORRIS DANCING: ANKER MORRIS MEN** Find out more about the group's history and their pastime, until Sat 18 Oct

**MADE IN THE MIDDLE: FROM CRAFTSPACE** Exhibition of work by 37 artists showcasing innovative contemporary crafts made in the Midlands, until Sat 22 Nov

### Rugby Art Gallery

**FOUND IN THE FIELDS: CARRY AKROYD** Three-part exhibition exploring the English arable landscape through 'bold screenprints, vivid lithographs and expressive linocuts' inspired by the poetry of John Clare, until Sat 15 Nov

**WOVEN FROM THE FIELD: SUE KIRK & ROSALIND STODDART** Exhibition in which land, creativity and sustainable practice are celebrated through large-scale sculpture, intricate basketry and contemporary hand-woven wall pieces, until Sat 15 Nov

### 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

### Elsewhere:

**SARI STORIES** People from Birmingham and the Midlands are invited to share a photograph and the story behind their sari, reflecting a special memory or a significant life event tied, until Sun 19 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

**THE OFFBEAT SARI** A major exhibition celebrating the contemporary sari, and exploring how designers, wearers and craftspeople are reshaping how the sari is understood, designed, made and worn in contemporary urban India, until Sun 2 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**SCENTS OF CROOME** Step into a world where the senses guide your journey through history and nature, inspired by the Pages from Nature exhibition, until Sun 9 Nov, Croome, Worcester

**BEEP-BEEP, YEAH! THE SOUNDS AND SONGS OF THE MOTOR CAR** Exploring the sensory connection to the sound of a car. From the engine rumble to the rhythm of your favourite tune... until April 2026, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warks

## Gigs

**PICTURE PARLOUR** Wed 1 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SHAKATAK** Wed 1 Oct, The Jam House, B'ham

**NATHAN BELL** Wed 1 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**FRICTION FARM + ADAM COONEY** Wed 1 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

**MORGAN FISHER** Wed 1 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**TOM KITCHING** Wed 1 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**JACQUI DANKWORTH** Wed 1 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**WILL VARLEY + ELENI DRAKE** Thurs 2 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE RABBITTS** Thurs 2 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**NATHAN BELL** Thurs 2 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**THE BELLRAYS** Thurs 2 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**LIANG LAWRENCE** Thurs 2 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**FLO** Thurs 2 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**ROY HARPER** Thurs 2 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**THE JAMES BROWN EXPERIENCE** Thurs 2 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**DARIUS RUCKER** Thurs 2 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**OLD TIME SAILORS** Thurs 2 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**MIK ARTISTIK'S EGO TRIP + DAVID GOODY** Thurs 2 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**WENDY JAMES + LUNA KISS + DUKE KEATS** Thurs 2 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

**IMAGINE LENNON** Thurs 2 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE CORDS + JOSIE** Thurs 2 Oct, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS** Thurs 2 Oct, Swan Theatre,

Worcester

**LEVEL 42 + ROACHFORD** Thurs 2 Oct, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton

**THE HOLLOWAYS + CAMENS + ANTIDOTES** Fri 3 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**CORELLA + ALEX SPENCER** Fri 3 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**ROOTED + BLDSUGR + LEFT TO REIGN + JAOTAR + FISTPUMPI** Fri 3 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**LEWIS POOLE** Fri 3 Oct, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**DUNERAT** Fri 3 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

**LEVEL 42** Fri 3 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**MAXIMUM RHYTHM AND BLUES WITH THE MANFREDS** Fri 3 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**THE NOW** Fri 3 Oct, Mama Roux's, B'ham

**BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS** Fri 3 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**THE BLONDIE EXPERIENCE** Fri 3 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE DELLA GRANTS** Fri 3 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**THE MUTHAS + LE HEV HEV + LITTLE GIRL SCREAMING + LUCIFER SKY** Fri 3 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**OCEAN COVER SCENE + BLURZ** Fri 3 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

**THE ROYAL RITUAL + TANTRUM ZENTRUM + BYRONIC SEX + EXILE** Fri 3 Oct, Arches Venue, Coventry

**THE ELVIS YEARS** Fri 3 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

**DOWN FOR THE COUNT ALL-STARS** Fri 3 Oct, The Henrician, Evesham

**REZISTANCE** Fri 3 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**HOMETOWN GLORY - A TRIBUTE TO ADELE** Fri 3 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**REMI HARRIS** Fri 3 Oct, The Market Theatre, Ledbury

**BLACKHEART ORCHESTRA + FOXPALMER** Fri 3 Oct,

Marrs Bar, Worcester

**BARBARA DICKSON WITH NICK HOLLAND** Fri 3 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**THE MUSIC OF WHITNEY** Fri 3 Oct, Worcester Cathedral

**RICHARD DIGANCE** Fri 3 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**FLEETWOOD MACHINE** Fri 3 Oct, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**THE BOOTLEG BEATLES** Fri 3 Oct, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton

**THE HEELS** Sat 4 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**RETRO BRUM FEST** Sat 4 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**ANTARCTIC MONKEYS + LITTLE JUKE** Sat 4 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**THE REAL PEOPLE** Sat 4 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THE DOORS ALIVE + ECHOES OF THE BUNNYMEN** Sat 4 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**RICHARD NORRIS + LOCUST + MARK VAN HOEN + STONE ANTHEM** Sat 4 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**UZAK** Sat 4 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

**DIANA KRALL** Sat 4 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**SIMPLY RED** Sat 4 Oct, Utilita Arena B'ham

**AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS** Sat 4 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**BEE GEES GOLD** Sat 4 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE OVERTONES** Sat 4 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**BLOOD ON BLOOD** Sat 4 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**CHLOE JOSEPHINE + JONNY MOODY** Sat 4 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**ABBA SENSATION** Sat 4 Oct, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**BARRY STEELE'S ROY ORBISON STORY** Sat 4 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**THE VAN MORRISON ALUMNI BAND** Sat 4 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre,



Coventry

**PINK SHABAB + INVITATION TO LOVE** Sat 4 Oct, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**AN EVENING OF PINK FLOYD** Sat 4 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

**BRETFORTON SILVER BAND** Sat 4 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**THE FLANEURS** Sat 4 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**GAZ BROOKFIELD** Sat 4 Oct, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**DIANA AND LIONEL - ENDLESS LOVE THE SHOW** Sat 4 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**ROVING CROWS** Sat 4 Oct, Malvern Cube

**TO BE LOVED - ADELE TRIBUTE** Sat 4 Oct, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**BEN POOLE** Sun 5 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**DAVE ONIONS** Sun 5 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**WHITE NOISE + JAMES ADRIAN BROWN** Sun 5 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**PARKWAY DRIVE** Sun 5 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**THE GEORGE HARRISON STORY** Sun 5 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

**THE COUNTERFEIT SIXTIES SHOW** Sun 5 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE MANGOES** Sun 5 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**RACHEL CROFT BAND** Sun 5 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**GANAVYA** Sun 5 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**LES EGARÉS** Sun 5 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**DOMINIE HOOPER** Sun 5 Oct, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**HEATHER FERRIER TRIO** Sun 5 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**VEHICLE** Sun 5 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**ELO AGAIN** Sun 5 Oct, Malvern Theatres

## Classical Music

**CBSO: SHOSTAKOVICH'S FIFTH SYMPHONY** Featuring Gemma New (conductor) & Christian Tetzlaff (violin). Programme also includes works by Bacewicz & Sibelius, Wed 1 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**EMMA JOHNSON (CLARINET) & THE ORCHESTRA FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** Programme includes works by Elgar, Finzi, Holst & more..., Thurs 2 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**CBSO CENTRE STAGE: AMERICAN PERCUSSION** Featuring Toby Kearney, Adrian Spillett, Andrew Herbert & Matthew Hardy (percussion). Programme includes works by R Lott, A Akiho, J Montgomery & S Reich, Fri 3 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**THE GESUALDO SIX: THE ENGLISH IN EUROPE** Featuring Owain Park (director), Guy James & Alasdair Austin (countertenors), Joseph Wicks & Josh Cooter (tenors) & Simon Grant (baritone). Programme includes works by Binchois, Dunstaple, Byrd & more..., Fri 3 Oct, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

**TENEBRAE - ENGLISH GLORIES** Featuring Nigel Short (director). Programme includes works by White, Byrd, Tallis & Mundy, Fri 3 Oct, Great Malvern Priory

**LUNCHTIME RECITALS SERIES** Featuring Young Musicians from Warwick School, Fri 3 Oct, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**ONYX BRASS** Featuring Niall Keatley & Alan Thomas (trumpets), Andrew Sutton (horn), Amos Miller (trombone) & David Gordon-Shute (tuba). Programme includes works by Monteverdi, Rameau, Bach & more..., Fri 3 Oct, Macready Theatre, Rugby

**MIDLAND SINFONIA: HEART OF FIRE** Featuring Nigel Morley (conductor & soloist). Programme includes works by Bach, Handel, Haydn & Mozart, Sat 4 Oct, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

**LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS** Featuring Teresa Mahon (soprano). Programme includes works by Parry, Haydn, Tippett & more..., Sat 4 Oct, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**ECHO RISING STARS: MAAT SAXOPHONE QUARTET - BLACKBIRD** Programme includes works by von Bingen, Boulanger, Gershwin & more..., Sun 5 Oct, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**SWAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2025** Featuring Rebecca Miller (conductor). Programme includes works by F Price, A Copland & F Grofé, Sun 5 Oct, Warwick Hall

## Comedy

**ARDAL O'HANLON** Wed 1 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**REGINALD D HUNTER & COMICS TBC** Wed 1 Oct, Herberts Yard, Birmingham

**SCUMMY MUMMIES** Wed 1 Oct, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**MARK WATSON** Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**TOM STADE** Thurs 2 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ANDY ROBINSON, PHIL ELLIS & IGNACIO LOPEZ** Thurs 2 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**REGINALD D HUNTER & COMICS TBC** Thurs 2 Oct, Hockley Social Club, Birmingham

**THE SCUMMY MUMMIES** Thurs 2 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



**BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL BREAKING TALENT AWARD** Fri 3 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**DANI JOHNS, PHIL ELLIS, IGNACIO LOPEZ & ROB ROUSE** Fri 3 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**MATT PARKER** Fri 3 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**DUNCAN OAKLEY, AL STEVENSON & TADIWA MAHLUNGE** Fri 3 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**STEVIE MARTIN** Fri 3 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ED BYRNE, FIONA ALLAN & LEROY BRITO** Fri 3 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**GEOFF NORCOTT** Sat 4 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall



**FACU DÍAZ** Sat 4 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**IGNACIO LOPEZ, DANI JOHNS, PHIL ELLIS & ROB ROUSE** Sat 4 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**BABATUNDE ALÉSHÉ** Sat 4 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**CHARLIE BAKER, ANDY FOX, DAVID WARD & RYAN MOLD** Sat 4 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**ADAM KAY** Sat 4 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**THE NOISE NEXT DOOR** Sat 4 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**LOYISO GOLA, LIMAHL GERMAIN, RICHARD BLACKWOOD & DIESEL** Sat 4 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**KANE BROWN** Sun 5 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**SIKISA, KAT BOYCE, LIMAHL GERMAIN, KYRAH GRAY, GBEMI OLADIPO & ANDREW MENSAH** Sun 5 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JOHN ROBERTSON** Sun 5 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JACK DEE** Sun 5 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

## Theatre

**UNDERDOG: THE OTHER BRONTE SISTER** Amateur staging of Sarah Goodwin's irreverent retelling of the life and legend of the Brontë sisters, and the story of the sibling power dynamics that shaped their uneven rise to fame, until Sat 3 Oct, Criterion Theatre, Coventry

**EMMA** Amateur version of Jane Austen's comedy of manners, until Sat 4 Oct, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

**BEGINNING** Amateur version of David Eldridge's play - the first in a trilogy looking at love and relationships, until Sat 4 Oct, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

**EMMA** New version of Jane Austen's comedy of manners, presented in celebration of the 250th anniversary of her birth, until Sat 4 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**MEASURE FOR MEASURE** Emily Burns returns to the RSC to direct Shakespeare's razor-sharp thriller, until Sat 25 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**CYRANO DE BERGERAC** Adrian Lester makes his RSC debut in a lyrical tale of love and lies, longing and disguise, until Sat 15 Nov, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BLACK IS THE COLOR OF MY VOICE** Inspired by the life of Nina Simone, Apphia Campbell's acclaimed play follows a successful singer & civil rights activist as she seeks redemption after the untimely death of her father, Wed 1 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**BONNIE & CLYDE - THE MUSICAL** A 'thrilling and sexy' musical with a non-traditional score, combining blues, gospel and rockabilly music, various dates between Wed 1 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**HEY DEY** A Phoenix Players production of Monica Yell's 'rip-roaring, time-bending and hilarious' play, Wed 1 - Sat 4 Oct, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**METTLÉ** Production telling the true story of a man's wartime service on one of the most infamous Atlantic convoys of World War Two, Thurs 2 Oct, Number 8, Pershore

**NIGHT TERRORS** A 'spine-tingling' evening featuring three tales of the supernatural from EF Benson's collection of ghost stories, Thurs 2 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**SHON DALE JONES: STORIES FROM AN INVISIBLE TOWN** A collection of darkly



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# SLEEPING BEAUTY

*The Pantomime Of Your Dreams!*

**SWAN THEATRE**

STARRING  
WORCESTER'S FAVOURITE DAME



**IAN GOOD**  
AS DOTTIE DETTOL

**FRI 28 NOVEMBER 2025 – SUN 4 JANUARY 2026**

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comic stories from the award-winning writer, Thurs 2 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**SHERLOCK HOLMES THE LAST ACT** One-man show in which Nigel Miles-Thomas plays 14 of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous characters, Fri 3 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**SHAKEUP: THE IMPROVISED SHAKESPEARE SHOW** Expect big laughs, high drama, and plenty of Bard-based bedlam, Fri 3 Oct, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**THE LEGENDS OF THEM** Music, humour and storytelling combine as British actress & reggae pioneer Sutara Gayle, AKA Lorna Lee, chronicles an extraordinary life - and the legends that have guided her, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH** Lamphouse present a new comedy take on Jules Verne's classic novel. Expect silly jokes, catchy tunes, ridiculous costumes and lots and lots of cardboard, Sat 4 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester



**THIS TOWN** A modern-day epic narrative poem, written and performed by Rory Aaron (BBC New Creatives, Southbank Poetry Collective), Sat 4 Oct, Macready Theatre, Rugby

**POSTING LETTERS TO THE MOON** A 'romantic, funny and touching portrait' of life during the Second World War, featuring readings of letters between Oscar-nominated actress Celia Johnson (Brief Encounter) and her explorer & writer husband Peter Fleming (brother of James Bond creator Ian Fleming), Sun 5 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

## Kids Theatre

**WHEN THE WORLD TURNS** An immersive, sensory performance taking audiences into the heart of a living landscape. Surround-sound, singing, lights, shadows, scents, water, puppetry and over 300 plants feature in this collaboration between Oily Cart (UK) and Polyglot Theatre (AUS), Wed 1 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD** Lyngo Theatre present a show for younger audiences, complete with catchy songs and funny puppets, Sat 4 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**SPOT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY** Spend the

day with Spot, Steve the Monkey, Tom the Crocodile, Helen the Hippo and Sally and Sam (Spot's parents), as they prepare for the best birthday party ever! Based on Eric Hill's best-selling book, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**THE WITCH WHO COULDN'T SLEEP** Live action, music, song and animation combine in a production for younger audiences, based on Steven Lee's bestselling story How The Koala Learnt To Hug And Other Australian Fairytales, Sun 5 Oct, The Civic, Stourport

## Dance

**THE RETURN OF THE LEGENDS** Strictly favourites Brendan Cole, James Jordan, Pasha Kovalev, Vincent Simone and Ian Waite present an evening of dancing, camaraderie, music and laughter, Sun 5 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## Light Entertainment

**DREAMCOAT STARS** Evening of musical theatre favourites, 'slick' choreography and stories... Wed 1 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR** A 'unique blend' of rock & roll, pop and comedy, featuring timeless hits from the 1950s through to the 1980s, Thurs 2 & Wed 3 Oct, The Roses, Tewkesbury

**DRAGGED TO THE MUSICALS WITH DIVINA DE CAMPO** Divina top-bills an evening of sassy showstoppers. Also featuring Veronica Green, Le Fil, Mimi Chanel and Viola, Fri 3 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry



**CIRQUE ÉLOIZE: ID RELOADED** West End and international hit, fusing circus arts and urban dance music, and featuring b-boying/b-girling, breakdance, hip hop and more, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE NIGHT SKY SHOW** Astronomer & author Adrian West (aka VirtualAstro on social media) presents 'a visual and thought-provoking experience for everyone that looks up and wonders...', Sat 4 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**EARTH ANGEL - DEBORAH MORRIS** An evening with the singing medium, Sat 4 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch



*In Pursuit Of Repetitive Beats - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry*

**PAUL ZERDIN: JAW DROP** New show from the former America's Got Talent winner, Sat 4 Oct, The Regal, Tenbury

**THE HORNE SECTION'S HIT SHOW** Evening of unruly and ridiculous entertainment featuring comedy, songs, enthusiastic dancing, and a lot of mucking about, Sun 5 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

## Talks & Spoken Word

**AN EVENING WITH KATIE PRICE AND KERRY KATONA** A tell-all evening in which the celebrity duo share stories of marriage, divorce, bankruptcy, being part of I'm A Celebrity, family, the media and more..., Wed 1 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**GETTING A TASTE FOR THE BARD** An in-conversation event with Ben Crystal and Dr Varsha Panjwani. This event forms part of Rugby Literary Festival, Sat 4 Oct, Macready Theatre, Rugby

## Events

**WARWICK WORDS HISTORY FESTIVAL** Wide-ranging programme spanning 2,000 years of history, until Sun 5 Oct, venues across Warwick

**IN PURSUIT OF REPETITIVE BEATS** Travel back in time to the heart of the Acid House scene, courtesy of 'the UK's biggest VR experience', until Mon 13 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

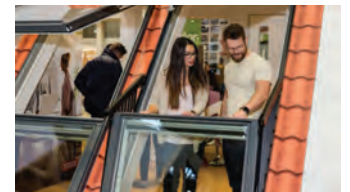
**THE COVENTRY BIENNIAL 2025 GRAND OPENING** Be among the first people to see the four Coventry Biennial exhibitions, Thurs 2 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**65 YEARS OF CLASS 37** This year's Autumn Diesel Bash celebrates 65 years of the versatile and popular Class 37, with four intensively timetabled days, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 Oct,

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

**THE NATIONAL FRANCHISE EXHIBITION** Find out how you could run your own business with the support of an established brand at the UK's flagship franchise exhibition, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

**GRAND DESIGNS LIVE** The UK's premier event for home & garden innovation, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Oct, NEC, Birmingham



**PUMPKIN PATCH** Get your pick of the patch throughout October, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Oct, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

**AUTUMN WREATH MAKING** Use natural materials from the surrounding gardens to create your wreath, Sat 4 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

**AUTUMN MAKERS' FAIR** Enjoy browsing a range of stalls offering a broad selection of unique and exquisite gifts, Sat 4 Oct, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**CRAFTFEST UK 2025** A chance to network, share ideas and discover exciting new products and suppliers, Sat 4 Oct, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

**ON THE HOME FRONT 1940S WEEKEND** Experience UK life during the Second World War as Avoncroft turns back the clock, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW** Featuring hundreds of wedding suppliers, live runway shows, and expert-led planning advice sessions, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Oct, NEC, Birmingham




**ENJOY AN ENCHANTING OCTOBER** AT HARTLEBURY CASTLE!



Witch and Wizard School  
 Spooky Skeleton Hunt  
 Pumpkin Fun, and more!

Plan your visit at [hartleburycastle.com](http://hartleburycastle.com)


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**NORBURY THEATRE | DROITWICH SPA**




BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THREE KNIGHTS LIMITED, THE SHUBERT ORGANISATION INC AND ROBERT FOX LIMITED THE NORBURY PLAYERS PRESENT AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK


**CHESS**  
 THE MUSICAL



BENNY ANDERSSON   TIM RICE   BJORN ULVAEUS


22 - 25 OCT & 29 OCT - 1 NOV 2025  
 7.30PM. TICKETS: £17/£15


 BOX OFFICE: 01905 770154   [www.norburytheatre.co.uk](http://www.norburytheatre.co.uk)



**NORBURY THEATRE | DROITWICH SPA**


THE NORBURY PLAYERS - PRESENT AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**  
 WRITTEN BY JOHN BIRCHLEY



15 - 18, 22 - 25 & 29 - 31 JANUARY 2026  
 7.30PM. SAT & SUN MAT 2.30PM  
 TICKETS £16/14


 BOX OFFICE: 01905 770154   [www.norburytheatre.co.uk](http://www.norburytheatre.co.uk)




### Gigs

**MASS OF THE FERMENTING DREGS**  
Mon 6 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**KATIE GREGSON-MACLEOD + LIZZIE REID** Mon 6 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**GOLDLINK** Mon 6 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

**ODHRAN MURPHY**  
Mon 6 Oct, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**LULU** Mon 6 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**LORENZO MICHELI**  
Mon 6 Oct, The Old Rep, Birmingham

**MORGAN FISHER** Mon 6 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**NXDIA** Tues 7 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**ETUK UBONG** Tues 7 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

**LORRAINE NASH & DAN SEALEY** Tues 7 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**ACM SOUNDS** Tues 7 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**BAD TOUCH + THE DUST CODA + WHEN WE'RE DEAD** Tues 7 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**JASON MRAZ** Tues 7 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**KANE BROWN** Tues 7 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**KATHRYN WILLIAMS + MATT DEIGHTON** Tues 7 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**THE ELVIS WORLD TOUR** Tues 7 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**MAJESTY - QUEEN TRIBUTE** Tues 8 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**CURTISY** Wed 8 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**ROSE GRAY** Wed 8 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**JOJO SIWA** Wed 8 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**TESTAMENT + OBITUARY + DESTRUCTION + NERVOSA** Wed 8 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**CANNED PINEAPPLE**  
Wed 8 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

**SMALL CHANGES + ANDY SMYTHE** Wed 8 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

**THE SWAPS + AMIT DATTANI + SUNJAY**  
Wed 8 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN** Wed 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**NEW MODEL ARMY + THE AUTUMN SAINTS**  
Thurs 9 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

**RED LEATHER** Thurs 9 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**HUGO HAMLET** Thurs 9 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**LOLA YOUNG** Thurs 9 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**RISHAB SHARMA**  
Thurs 9 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**FAIRFIELD REVISITED**  
Thurs 9 Oct, Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

**THE DRIFTERS** Thurs 9 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**TOM PETTY APPRECIATION SOCIETY** Thurs 9 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**DOWN FOR THE COUNT ALL-STARS** Thurs 9 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**FEROCIOUS DOG + VOODOO RADIO** Thurs 9 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

**MARTHA MCLORINAN AND LYNN ARNOLD**  
Thurs 9 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE CAVERN BEATLES**  
Thurs 9 Oct, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**ROBERT CASTELLI & BOOM!** Thurs 9 Oct, Marris Bar, Worcester

**DREAMS OF FM - FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE** Thurs 9 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN** Thurs 9 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE WAVE PICTURES**  
Fri 10 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE ULTIMATE STONE ROSES** Fri 10 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**WELLY + FLAT PARTY + HOLLY HEAD** Fri 10 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**CARL SINCLAIR** Fri 10 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**THE PIGEON DETECTIVES + GRAVY + MONDAY MADE** Fri 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**COLD JOE + SECRET LOVE ORCHESTRA + EL HUMMO + MAC WOOD + RED WING** Fri 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**NEW FOUND GLORY + REAL FRIENDS + KOYO**  
Fri 10 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**THE GARAGE BAND** Fri 10 Oct, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**YETII** Fri 10 Oct, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

**SICK AS THIEVES** Fri 10 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

**ALEXA NAVA** Fri 10 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**THE KOOKS** Fri 10 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**ROY G HEMMINGS** Fri 10 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**OLIVIA RODRIGO TRIBUTE SHOW** Fri 10 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**DOM PIPKIN** Fri 10 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**LIZ STRINGER + JESSIE REID + PAUL GIBSON** Fri 10 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**ECHOBELLY + BABYBIRD** Fri 10 Oct, hmv Empire,

Coventry  
**BEST OF GROHL** Fri 10 Oct, Arches Venue, Coventry

**MAET LIVE AND THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS** Fri 10 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**THE AUSTRIAN STONES** Fri 10 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**THE BIG FOUR TRIBUTE BAND (METALLICA, SLAYER, MEGADETH AND ANTHRAX)** Fri 10 Oct, Marris Bar, Worcester

**ABBAMANIA** Fri 10 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**WISHBONE ASH** Fri 10 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**SAM CARTER** Fri 10 Oct, Malvern Cube

**YE VAGABONDS** Sat 11 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**VISTAS** Sat 11 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

**FEEDER + EVERYONE SAYS HI** Sat 11 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**AC/DC UK + DIZZY LIZZY** Sat 11 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**BOOMTOWN RATS** Sat 11 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**KATY PERRY** Sat 11 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW** Sat 11 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**GUNS N YORKSHIRE ROSES** Sat 11 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE KING'S VOICE - GORDON HENDRICKS** Sat 11 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**THE LUKE COMBS EXPERIENCE** Sat 11 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**ERROL LINTON BAND** Sat 11 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**QUEEN RHAPSODY** Sat 11 Oct, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**WAYNE DILKS - THE GEORGE MICHAEL**

**LEGACY** Sat 11 Oct, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**TRIP WESTERNS + NOBODY AND THE LONELIES + LAYLA TUTT** Sat 11 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**THE SPECIALS LTD** Sat 11 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

**KING AWESOME + TOMMY STRIX BAND**  
Sat 11 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**SPLINTER** Sat 11 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**SETH LAKEMAN WITH BENJI KIRKPATRICK & ARCHIE MOSS** Sat 11 Oct, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**TOTALLY TINA** Sat 11 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**OGBERT THE NERD**  
Sun 12 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**LAUREN SPENCER SMITH + HENRY MOODIE + CONOR BURNS** Sun 12 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**PYNCH** Sun 12 Oct, Dead Wax, B'ham

**LONDON SYMPHONIC ROCK ORCHESTRA** Sun 12 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**AL STEWART** Sun 12 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**THE SHIRES** Sun 12 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**MIKE FARRIS** Sun 12 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**ROB HERON AND THE TEA PAD ORCHESTRA**  
Sun 12 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**THE BILLY JOEL SONGBOOK** Sun 12 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**14 ICED BEARS + PERENNIAL** Sun 12 Oct, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**TALON** Sun 12 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE BROMPTON QUARTET** Sun 12 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Classical Music

**THOMAS TROTTER: LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT** Programme includes works by Handel, Alain, Wirén & Bonnal, Mon 6 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CBSO: NIELSEN'S FOURTH SYMPHONY** Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) & Fenella Humphreys (violin). Programme also includes works by Adrian Sutton, Wed 8 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CLASSICALLY BLACK WITH LAURA MVULA & THE CB SO** Featuring Matthew Lynch (conductor). Programme includes an orchestral accompaniment of Mvula's songs, Fri 10 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**MARMEN QUARTET** Featuring Johannes Marmen and Laia Valentin Braun (violins), Bryony Gibson-Cornish (viola) & Sinéad O'Halloran (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, Bartók & Debussy, Fri 10 Oct, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington

**AUTUMN IN MALVERN: PIERS MAXIM ORGAN RECITAL** Programme includes works by Dubois, Saint-Saëns & Franck, Sat 11 Oct, Great Malvern Priory

**PETER HOLDER ORGAN RECITAL** Sat 11 Oct, Worcester Cathedral

**AUTUMN IN MALVERN: AN ENGLISH SONG RECITAL** Featuring Alessandro Fisher (tenor) & Ashok Gupta (piano). Programme includes works by Gurney, Quilter, Finzi & more..., Sun 12 Oct, Christ Church, Malvern

**BROMPTON QUARTET** Featuring Jack Greed & Mee-Hyun Esther Park (violins), Edward Keenan (viola) & Wallis Power (cello). Programme includes works by B Strozzi, Beethoven, Haydn & Shostakovich, Sun 12 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Comedy

**JOE LYCETT + FRIENDS** Mon 6 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**CHRIS KENT** Wed 8 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**STAN BOARDMAN** Wed 8 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**JENNY ECLAIR** Wed 8 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**EMMANUEL SONUBI** Thurs 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ANDY ROBINSON, PAUL THORNE & LILY PHILLIPS** Thurs 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**OMID DJALILI** Thurs 9 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**JASON BYRNE** Fri 10 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall





Okan - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**JOE SUTHERLAND, ALI WOODS, PAUL THORNE, LILY PHILLIPS & MONICA HSUEH** Fri 10 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ELLIOT STEEL** Fri 10 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**HENNING WEHN** Fri 10 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**RIA LINA** Fri 10 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**MARKUS BIRDMAN, JAY HANDLEY, KENT CAMERON + JAMES COOK** Fri 10 Oct, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

**HENNING WEHN** Sat 11 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**PETER RETHINASAMY, ABI CARTER-SIMPSON, PAUL PIRIE & DARIUS DAVIES** Sat 11 Oct, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

**MARCEL LUCONT** Sat 11 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JOE SUTHERLAND, ALI WOODS, PAUL THORNE & LILY PHILLIPS** Sat 11 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**THE FUNNY MUMMY** Sat 11 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

## Theatre

**THE PARTY GIRLS** Amy Rosenthal's compelling new play tells the sensational story of the infamous Mitford Sisters, Mon 6 - Sat 11 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**NEW DAWN FADES** Brian Gorman's play about Joy Division and Manchester, Tues 7 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**TIME CRITICAL** Stan's Cafe's revised production centres on how we live our lives in relation to the world around us, Tues 7 - Wed 8 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**INSIDE NO.9 STAGE/FRIGHT** Expect the unexpected as the acclaimed BBC TV series comes to life on stage, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Oct, The Alexandra, B'ham

**BACKSTAIRS BILLY** All & Sundry tell the story of William Tallon - the Queen Mother's most loyal and outrageous

servant, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Oct, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

**GREASE** Alcester Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of the iconic high-school musical, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**SHITFACED SHAKESPEARE: MACBETH** Expect a drunken stomp over 'the story of a privileged whiny lad who goes a bit bonkers and does some stabbings', Wed 8 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**DARKNESS & LIGHT: GHOST STORIES** One lamp-lit storyteller, two ghostly tales, and nothing else but the infinite horrors of the surrounding darkness, Thurs 9 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**SHOWSTOPPER! THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL** Award-winning show in which a brand-new musical is created from scratch at each performance as audience suggestions are transformed on the spot into all-singing, all dancing productions, Thurs 9 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



**MARY SHELLEY** Susannah Foy stars in a one-hander reflecting on the tempestuous life and personal relationships of the gothic novelist, Thurs 9 - Fri 10 Oct, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**MACBETH** Sam Heughan (Outlander, Love Again) makes his RSC debut in the title role. Lia Williams (The Crown, Skylight) stars as Lady Macbeth, Thurs 9 Oct - Sat 6 Dec, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**JUNKIES** Nigel Fairs and Langley Howard star in a gay age-gap romance with an edge..., Fri 10 Oct,

The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**BLACK IS THE COLOR OF MY VOICE** Inspired by the life of Nina Simone, Apphia Campbell's acclaimed play follows a successful singer & civil rights activist as she seeks redemption after the untimely death of her father, Fri 10 Oct, Macready Theatre, Rugby

**BRITTEN: THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA** English Touring Opera present Benjamin Britten's chilling exploration of the abuse of power, Fri 10 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** Starmaker Theatre Company present an amateur version of the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd-Webber musical, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Oct, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**AFTER SUNDAY** Sophia Griffin's debut play examines the intertwining lives of four characters as they embark on a journey of self-discovery, Fri 10 - Sat 25 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE ELIXIR OF LOVE** English Touring Opera present a new production of Donizetti's romantic comedy, Sat 11 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE STORY FORGE: MAKE YOUR OWN MYTH** An hour of 'high-octane family fun' during which two loopy professor doctors invent three brand-new myths live on stage, Sun 12 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## Kids Theatre

**ENSONGLOPEDIA: LIGHT FANTASTIC!** Family show where science lesson meets musical comedy. Expect fascinating onstage experiments exploring the science of light, Sat 11 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

## Dance

**THE RETURN OF THE LEGENDS** Strictly favourites Brendan Cole, James Jordan, Pasha Kovalev, Vincent Simone and Ian Waite present an evening of dancing, camaraderie, music and laughter, Mon 6 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

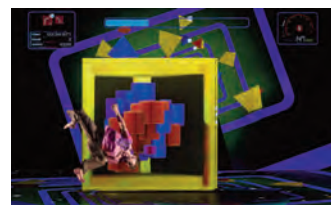
**SWAN LAKE** Presented by Imperial Classical Ballet, Wed 8 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**OKAN** The fluidity of salsa and the precision of wing chun martial arts come together in Akeim Toussaint Buck & Ella Mesma's choreography, which is inspired by themes of identity, ancestry, and unity, Wed 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE NUTCRACKER** Imperial Classical Ballet's version of the festive favourite, accompanied by a live orchestral score, Thurs 9 Oct, The

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**MOTIONHOUSE: HIDDEN** Thought-provoking and poignant production from internationally renowned dance-circus company Motionhouse, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome



**SONIA SABRI COMPANY: ROSHNI** An intimate staging of dance and live music, inspired by the stories and experiences of everyday people. Roshni comprises three distinctive and engaging dance pieces: The Call, The Light and The Wave, Sun 12 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

## Light Entertainment

**TRIGGER HAPPY TV: LIVE!** Dom Joly brings his most iconic characters and sketches to the stage, Tues 7 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**HEART, HUSSLE & HUMOUR** Sally Bee, Nicky Pattinson & Ruth Linnett share personal stories of unstoppable resilience, raw truths and life-changing realisations, Tues 7 Oct, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**ELIS & JOHN: THAT FEELS SIGNIFICANT; LIVE!** An evening with Britain's youngest and most relevant podcast-first broadcasters. Expect Made Up Games, Cymru Connections, Mad Dads and more..., Wed 8 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**SEAN ALEXANDER'S MOMENTS IN TIME A** 'magic show like no other' that's promising to leave you 'questioning the very essence of your existence', Wed 8 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THREE BEAN SALAD PODCAST** Join comedy trio Henry Paker, Benjamin Partridge and Mike Wozniak for their first-ever full-blown tour, Thurs 9 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**ROUND THE HORNE: 60TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR** Step back in time to the BBC's Paris Studios and experience this comedy classic live, Thurs 9 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**CIRQUE: THE GREATEST SHOW REIMAGINED** Family-friendly extravaganza showcasing a fusion of musical theatre and jaw-dropping circus acts, Fri 10 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**A CELEBRATION OF PIANO MUSIC - SUPPORTING HARTLEBURY CASTLE** With



award-winning pianist Peter Bradley-Fulgoni, Fri 10 Oct, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

**DRAGGED TO THE MUSICALS WITH DIVINA DE CAMPO** Divina top-bills an evening of sassy showstoppers. Also featuring Veronica Green, Le Fil, Mimi Chanel and Viola, Sat 11 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

## Talks & Spoken Word

**SANDI TOKSVIG: FRIENDS OF DOROTHY** Join the comedian, broadcaster & campaigner for an evening celebrating her love and passion for writers and books, Mon 6 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



**JANET STREET-PORTER IS OFF THE LEASH** 'The nation's favourite pissed-off pensioner' hosts an evening of comedy, tragedy and gossip in equal measure, Tues 7 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**AN EVENING WITH DR LOUISE NEWSON** Join the pioneer in menopause care as she prepares to debunk myths, educate audiences, and share expert advice on hormones, HRT and women's health, Sun 12 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**DR JOHN COOPER CLARKE** An evening with the much-loved performance poet and comedian, in which he mixes 'classic verse with new material, hilarious ponderings on modern life, good honest gags, riffs and chat', Sun 12 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## Events

**HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW 2025** Five days of competition, family favourites and displays, Wed 8 - Sun 12 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

**PUMPKIN PATCH** Get your pick of the patch throughout October, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Oct, Cotswold Farm Park,



Image credit: Still Moving Media for Cheltenham Festivals

*Cheltenham Literature Festival - various locations across Cheltenham*

Cheltenham

**CHELTEHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL** 'Packed with inspiring voices, big ideas and unmissable experiences', Fri 10 - Sun 19 Oct, various venues across Cheltenham

**THE MANUALS THAT SAVED APOLLO 13 - PLANETARIUM LATE** Dr Michael Warner

will be brought to life through state-of-the-art visuals and sound, Sat 11 Oct, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR** Seasonal activities and spooky fun, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Oct, Hatton Adventure World, Warwick



## BRIDGES OF LIGHT.

Presented by Severn Arts  
Part of the Local Voices Creative Choices programme

**Worcester City Centre**  
**Free to Attend**

**29 and 30**  
**October**  
**6pm-9pm**

Bridges of Light is a new, two-day light festival, with a focus on communities, creativity and collaboration.

Severn Arts



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Emma Pollock - *The Tin At The Coal Vaults*, Coventry

## Gigs

**TRACY HAMLIN & HOWARD JOHNSON** Mon 13 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**PROJECTOR + THE BUNNY SUIT + ROOD END** Mon 13 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**RUMER** Mon 13 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**GRAHAM NASH** Mon 13 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**HAMILTON LOOMIS** Mon 13 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa



**JOHN GRANT** Mon 13 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**DAMIEN O'KANE & RON BLOCK** Mon 13 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**JOHN MYRTLE + BLUEWALK** Tues 14 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**JOSH KUMRA** Wed 15 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**MAIDVALE** Wed 15 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**BARBARA** Wed 15 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**EADES** Wed 15 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

**GILMORE & ROBERTS + NICK EVANS** Wed 15 Oct,

Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

**THE DUNWELLS** Wed 15 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**IAIN MATTHEWS AND ANDY ROBERTS** Wed 15 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**ANDREW CUSHIN** Thurs 16 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**KIRSTEN ADAMSON AND THE TANAGERS** Thurs 16 Oct, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

**ADMT** Thurs 16 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**JADE** Thurs 16 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**NEWTON FAULKNER** Thurs 16 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**VIGILANTES** Thurs 16 Oct, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**LEGSS** Thurs 16 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

**OVERTHINK + THE ADAMSONS + JUMPSHIP** Thurs 16 Oct, The Rainbow, Birmingham

**BOW WOW WOW + MILLIE MANDERS & THE SHUTUP** Thurs 16 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**CURTIS ELLER** Thurs 16 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**HARSH NARAYAN DUO** Thurs 16 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**LISA KNAPP AND GERRY DIVER** Thurs 16 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**THE ROZZERS** Thurs 16 Oct, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**TOTALLY TINA** Thurs 16 Oct,

Palace Theatre, Redditch

**SWALLOWTAIL + OUR WORLDS COLLIDE** Fri 17 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**DINO BAPTISTE** Fri 17 Oct, Actress & Bishop, B'ham

**SOMEBODY'S CHILD** Fri 17 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

**SOFIA CAMARA** Fri 17 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY** Fri 17 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**WET WET WET** Fri 17 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**SONIQUE** Fri 17 Oct, XOYO, Birmingham

**ABBA GOLD** Fri 17 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**THE SMYTHS** Fri 17 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**THE SWAMP STOMP STRING BAND** Fri 17 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**EMMA POLLOCK** Fri 17 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**THESE SMITHS** Fri 17 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

**MORETALLICA** Fri 17 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**XL** Fri 17 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**THE TAKE THAT EXPERIENCE** Fri 17 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE GARTH BROOKS EXPERIENCE** Fri 17 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**AN EVENING OF PINK FLOYD** Fri 17 - Sat 18 Oct, Worcester Cathedral

**THE SCHEMERS** Sat 18 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE CAMDEN GRUNGE SCENE** Sat 18 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

**THE ROYSTON CLUB** Sat 18 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

**COHEED + CAMBRIA + HAKEN** Sat 18 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**UK FOO FIGHTERS** Sat 18 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**THE CLONE ROSES + DEFINITELY MIGHTBE + THE JAMES EXPERIENCE** Sat 18 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**THE LOST + THE FLANEURS + THE SPOILS + PEG LEG + MIKKI BULL** Sat 18 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**CAT RYAN** Sat 18 Oct, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**A.R. RAHMAN** Sat 18 Oct,

Utilita Arena Birmingham

**THE DUSTY SHOW** Sat 18 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**THE ROY ORBISON STORY** Sat 18 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**CREDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW** Sat 18 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**THE SONGS OF BOB DYLAN W. TOBIAS BEN JACOB** Sat 18 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**EBB & GHOST OF THE MACHINE** Sat 18 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**CLAMPDOWN UK** Sat 18 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**DIRTY DC A TRIBUTE TO AC/DC** Sat 18 Oct, The Benn Hall, Rugby

**STRAIGHTEN OUT - THE STRANGLERS TRIBUTE** Sat 18 Oct, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**NASHVILLE LIVE** Sat 18 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**VOODOO ROOM** Sat 18 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**TYSON KELLY - IMAGINE LENNON** Sat 18 Oct, Kidderminster Town Hall

**UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE** Sat 18 Oct, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton

**JESSIE MURPH** Sun 19 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**SORREL NATION + NAOMI BETH** Sun 19 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**DERVISH** Sun 19 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**BJORN AGAIN** Sun 19 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**S.O.S ROCK AND BLUES** Sun 19 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**NO JOY + TH DA FREAK** Sun 19 Oct, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**JOSIENNE CLARKE** Sun 19 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester



## Classical Music

**BRNO PHILHARMONIC WITH FREDDY KEMPF (PIANO)** Featuring Dennis Russell Davies (conductor), Pavel Zlámál (saxophone), Marek Švestka (double bass) & Radek Tomášek (drums). Programme includes works by Janáček, Gershwin, Brubeck & Dvořák, Wed 15 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**THE JENNY LIND SINGERS** Featuring Lynne Lindner (director), Tim Sidford (piano) & Anwen Mai Thomas (harp). Programme includes works by Hildegard of Bingen, C Jones, R Clarke & more..., Wed 15 Oct, Elmslie House, Great Malvern

**HEROES AND VILLAINS: MUSIC CENTRE FREE CONCERT** Heroic horns and sinister strings explore courageous and cunning music from the worlds of film, opera and pop, Wed 15 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**CBSO: REFORMATION SYMPHONY** Featuring Jörg Widmann (clarinet/director). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn & Widmann, Thurs 16 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**ALIM BEISEMBAYEV PIANO CONCERT** Programme includes works by Debussy & Chopin, Fri 17 Oct, Big School, Malvern College

**ARMONICO CONSORT - CHACONNE!** Featuring Hannah Fraser Mackenzie (soprano), William Towers (countertenor) & Christopher Monks (director & harpsichord). Programme includes works by Pachelbel, Purcell, Monteverdi & more..., Sat 18 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**THE ELGAR CHORALE** Featuring Piers Maxim (conductor), Chris Allsop (organ) & Martin Robson (baritone). Programme includes works by Elgar, Parry & Stanford, Sat 18 Oct, Great Malvern Priory

**WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AUTUMN CONCERT** Featuring Andrew O'Reilly (cello). Programme includes works by Dvořák & Vaughan Williams, Sat 18 Oct, Warwick Hall

**CBSO FAMILY CONCERT: MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES** Featuring Ellie Slorach (conductor), Amy Thomas & Toby Kearney (presenters) and the CBSO Children's & Youth Chorus. Programme includes a 'sparkling selection of film scores', Sun 19 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**EX CATHEDRA 2025/26: DURUFLÉ REQUIEM** Featuring James Burton (conductor), Martha McLorinan (mezzo soprano), Lawrence White (baritone) & Rupert Jeffcoat (organ). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Britten, Burton & Duruflé, Sun 19 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**THE GILDAS QUARTET** Featuring Tom Aldren & Gemma Sharples (violins),



Christine Anderson (viola) & Anna Menzies (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, Beethoven & Britten, Sun 19 Oct, Big School, Malvern College

## Comedy

**JOSH BAULF** Wed 15 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**BABATUNDE ALÉSHÉ** Thurs 16 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**JOHN BISHOP** Fri 17 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**JONNY COLE** Fri 17 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**MYRA DUBOIS** Fri 17 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**JACK DEE** Fri 17 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ABIGOLIAH SCHAMAUN, MICHAEL FABBRI, BRENNAN REECE & FUNMBI OMOTAYO** Fri 17 - Sat 18 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**DANIEL O'REILLY** Sat 18 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**KIERAN HODGSON** Sat 18 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**RICHARD BLACKWOOD, NABIL ABDULRAHID, DIESEL & SHABZ KARIEM** Sat 18 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**JOSH WIDDICOMBE** Sat 18 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**MATT PARKER** Sun 19 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**GLENN MOORE** Sun 19 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## Theatre

**FRIENDS! THE MUSICAL PARODY** Stage production based on the much-loved TV show, Mon 13 - Sat 18 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**ROCK OF AGES** Amateur production presented by Carpet Trades Musical Theatre Company, Mon 13 - Sat 18 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**2:22 A GHOST STORY** Kevin Clifton & Stacey Dooley star in Danny Robbins' edge-of-the-seat supernatural thriller, Mon 13 - Sat 18 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**EMMA** New version of Jane Austen's comedy of manners, presented in celebration of the 250th anniversary of her birth, Mon 13 - Sat 18 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**BLACK POWER DESK** The world premiere of an original musical, set in 1970s London, where the streets are awash with a fever of political unrest, Tues 14 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**PINOCCHIO - A NEW MUSICAL** A reimagining of Carlo Collodi's classic tale, Tues 14 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**1884** 'Fun, fast-paced and thought-

provoking journey', during which play and protest meet, Tues 14 - Wed 15 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL** A stage adaptation of Rick Riordan's bestselling novel - 'perfect for adventure gods, half-bloods and mortals', Tues 14 - Sat 18 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**BLACK IS THE COLOR OF MY VOICE** Inspired by the life of Nina Simone, Apphia Campbell's acclaimed play follows a successful singer & civil rights activist as she seeks redemption after the untimely death of her father, Wed 15 - Sat 16 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**DOCTOR FAUSTUS** Sweet Sorrow Theatre Company present an amateur version of Christopher Marlowe's 400-year-old masterpiece, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Oct, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**MOULIN ROUGE! THE MUSICAL** Tony Award-winning musical in which Bohemians and aristocrats rub shoulders in a world of excess, glitz and glamour, Wed 15 Oct - Sat 15 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

**MAKING A KILLING** Dark and razor-sharp comedy about justice, corruption and the cost of survival... Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY** Phoenix Theatre present an amateur version of Roald Dahl's classic story, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 Oct, The Henrican, Evesham

**TALKING HEADS WITH ALAN BENNETT** The Play's The Thing Theatre Company present two classic Alan Bennett monologues: A Lady Of Letters and Soldiering On, Fri 17 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**SHOCK HORROR: A GHOST STORY** A chilling journey into a haunted past, combining live performance and big-screen action, Fri 17 - Sat 18 Oct, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**COME FROM AWAY** Amateur version of the hit Broadway show that tells the real-life story of 7,000 air passengers who were grounded in Canada in the wake of 9/11, and the small Newfoundland community that invited them into their lives, Fri 17 - Sat 25 Oct, Rugby Theatre

**EDDIE IZZARD: HAMLET** Akin to the original performances of Hamlet, Eddie will perform on the blank canvas of a bare stage, letting Shakespeare's words and pure storytelling take the spotlight, Sat 18 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## Kids Theatre

**NICK COPE: I'VE LOST MY BOBBLE HAT!** Fun-filled musical hour with all your favourite Nick Cope hits... Suitable for audiences aged three-plus, Sun 19

Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**TEACH REX LIVE: T-REX SHOW** A 60-minute educational show that delves into the jaws of one of the most iconic dinosaurs ever to roam the planet. Photo opportunities are available, Sun 19 Oct, Macready Theatre, Rugby

## Dance

**THE NUTCRACKER** Crown Ballet presents its version of the festive family favourite, set to Tchaikovsky's enchanting score, Mon 13 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

## Light Entertainment

**WONDERS OF OUR UNIVERSE** Afternoon of cosmic exploration, bringing together storytelling, live demonstrations, visuals and music, Tues 14 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**PSYCHIC SALLY** Evening of mediumship, Wed 15 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**DROGGED TO THE MUSICALS WITH DIVINA DE CAMPO** Divina top-bills an evening of sassy showstoppers. Also featuring Veronica Green, Le Fil, Mimi Chamel and Viola, Thurs 16 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**PSYCHIC SALLY** Evening of mediumship, Thurs 16 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**TUJHE DEKHA - COME FALL IN LOVE...**

**AGAIN** Celebrating 30 years of Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Fri 17 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**NIK KERSHAW - MUSINGS AND LYRICS** An intimate evening of 'songs, stories and silliness' to coincide with the release of Nik's new book, Fri 17 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**HOW VERY HANNAH LIVE!** Featuring Hannah Lowthe, backstage stories, games, public challenges and chats with guests from stage & screen, Sat 18 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

**THE MAN WHO WAS MAGIC** James Phelan's new show, during which 'the impossible comes alive', Sat 18 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

## Talks & Spoken Word

**AN EVENING WITH FREDDIE FLINTOFF** Join the cricket all-rounder & TV presenter as he talks about the defining moments that shaped his life and career, Tues 14 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## Events

**RELIEF PRINTMAKING WITH ALIX ALMOND** Try your hand at linocut printmaking and create your very own limited-edition print, Tues 14 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**AFTER-DARK TOURS** Explore one of the oldest buildings in Worcester by torchlight, Tues 14 & Thurs 16 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

**THE MOTORHOME AND CARAVAN SHOW** The UK's biggest display of new motorhomes and caravans, Tues 14 - Sun 19 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

**BULLS IN THE CITY AUCTION** Watch as the bulls are auctioned off to raise money for Birmingham Hospice, Thurs 16 Oct, Millennium Point, Birmingham

**MIDLANDS MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION** Featuring over 30 clubs and societies displaying hundreds of exhibits covering a wide range of modelling skills, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 Oct, Warwickshire Event Centre, Coventry

**FLO FEST** Covering topics like hormones, PMDD, perimenopause, self-awareness and neurodiversity, Fri 17 Oct, FarGo Village, Coventry

**PUMPKIN PATCH** Get your pick of the patch throughout October, Fri 17 - Sun 19 Oct, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

**SCAREFEST** Featuring 'frantically funny and seriously spooky attractions for all ages', Fri 17 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

**1483: THE YEAR OF THREE KINGS** Take a step-by-step journey through the drama-filled year with historian Nathan Amin, Sat 18 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

**GCCF SUPREME CAT SHOW** Meet 40 pedigree cat breeds competing for the coveted Supreme titles, Sat 18 Oct, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

**O GAUGE GET TOGETHER** Enjoy a heritage train ride to Highley Station to see some of the UK's award-winning O Gauge layouts and dioramas, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

**HERBS AND HEXES: OCTOBER HALF-TERM TRAIL** Uncover the mysterious missing ingredient needed to complete the witch's potion, Sat 18 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Croome Park, Worcester

**SPOOKY SPECTACULAR** A mix of 'thrilling adventures, spooky shows, and monstrously good fun for the whole family', Sat 18 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

**AVONCROFT DOG SHOW** Show classes, agility classes, demonstrations and more, Sun 19 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove





Kathryn Williams - *Just Dropped In*, Coventry

## Gigs

**EMILY MAE WINTERS** Mon 20 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**THE CAT EMPIRE** Mon 20 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

**THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD** Mon 20 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**DISTURBED** Mon 20 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**THE BEN HOLDER NEW ORLEANS TRIO** Mon 20 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**THE LAST DINNER PARTY** Mon 20 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

**REUBEN JAMES** Tues 21 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**ERIC STECKEL** Tues 21 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**MARTHA TILSTON** Tues 21 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**BATTLE BEAST + DOMINUM + MAJESTICA** Tues 21 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**RICK WAKEMAN** Tues 21 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**KID KAPICHI** Wed 22 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**NICK HARPER** Wed 22 Oct, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

**SPANISH LOVE SONGS + THE DIRTY NIL + KALI MASI + SINCERE ENGINEER** Wed 22 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

**LARKIN POE + SON LITTLE** Wed 22 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN + SUNJAY BRAIN** Wed 22 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

**CATS IN SPACE** Wed 22 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THEON CROSS** Wed 22 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**MICHAEL STARRING BEN** Wed 22 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**ARRIVAL - THE HITS OF ABBA** Wed 22 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**WILLY MASON** Thurs 23 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**IAIN MATTHEWS AND ANDY ROBERTS** Thurs 23 Oct, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

**ROMEO'S DAUGHTER** Thurs 23 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**THE WEDDING PRESENT** Thurs 23 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**CMAT** Thurs 23 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**DETROITWICH FUNK MACHINE** Thurs 23 Oct, Tower of Song, B'ham

**ESDEEKID** Thurs 23 Oct, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

**TUNDE** Thurs 23 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**THE SHACKLETON TRIO** Thurs 23 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**KATHRYN JOSEPH** Thurs 23 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**SWING FROM PARIS** Thurs 23 Oct, Macready Theatre, Rugby

**RESOLUTION 88** Thurs 23 Oct, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**COWBOY HUNTERS** Thurs 23 Oct, Drummonds, Worcester

**SUTHERING** Thurs 23 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**STONE FOUNDATION + CARMY LOVE** Fri 24 Oct,

Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**GHOSTWOMAN** Fri 24 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**BRAS N' ROSES** Fri 24 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**LEVI WASHINGTON** Fri 24 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**BRANDY CLARK** Fri 24 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**POP WILL EAT ITSELF** Fri 24 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

**SENDER** Fri 24 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**THE VELVET HANDS** Fri 24 Oct, Dead Wax, B'ham

**RECALL THE REMAINS + NAMELESS + FOREVER IN THE MAKING + DREAD PERSOPHONE + GROVE WARDEN** Fri 24 Oct, XOYO, Birmingham

**NEWDAD** Fri 24 Oct, XOYO, Birmingham

**EIGHTY EIGHT MILES** Fri 24 Oct, Mama Roux's, B'ham

**SENSATION - ABBA TRIBUTE** Fri 24 Oct, The Dovehouse, Solihull

**DAFT FUNK** Fri 24 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**THE TERRAPLANES BLUES BAND** Fri 24 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**HELLBOUND** Fri 24 Oct, Arches Venue, Coventry

**SIMON & OSCAR THE SONGS OF OCEAN COLOUR SCENE** Fri 24 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**SABRINA CARPENTER AND OLIVIA RODRIGO TRIBUTES** Fri 24 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

**THE BLINK SHOW + WARNING + UNDERCLASS HEROES** Fri 24 Oct, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**THE UNRAVELLING WILBURYS** Fri 24 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**KINGS OF SOUL** Fri 24 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**LIARS AT THE WITCH TRIAL + DORSET CARAVAN + GILL + VERLOREN + KOSH** Sat 25 Oct, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

**BIG IMAGE** Sat 25 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**KEO + SARAH BROOKI** Sat 25 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM** Sat 25 Oct, O2 Institute,

Birmingham

**FELL OUT BOY + THE BLACK CHARADE + METEORA** Sat 25 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THE ELO SHOW** Sat 25 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**THE COMMITMENTS - A CELEBRATION** Sat 25 Oct, The Dovehouse, Solihull

**MOTHERSHIP - LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE** Sat 25 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE THOMAS HEPPLE BAND** Sat 25 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**TANGERINECAT** Sat 25 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**EMO FEST** Sat 25 Oct, hmv Empire, Coventry

**BLACK WATER FIEND** Sat 25 Oct, Arches Venue, Coventry

**KATHRYN WILLIAMS + MATT DEIGHTON** Sat 25 Oct, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY** Sat 25 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

**RAGGED BEAR** Sat 25 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**FLATWORLD** Sat 25 Oct, West Malvern Social Club

**DOCTOR & THE MEDICS** Sun 26 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**MEGSON** Sun 26 Oct, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

**WALTER SMITTY AND THE UNVIABLES** Sun 26 Oct, Actress & Bishop, B'ham

**DAN WHITLAM** Sun 26 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**OLIVER SAMUELS** Sun 26 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**INFIRM OF PURPOSE** Sun 26 Oct, Dead Wax, B'ham

**MARTI PELLOW** Sun 26 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**TAYLOR FEVER** Sun 26 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE TIERRA BUENA JAZZ BAND** Sun 26 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**THE UPSIDERS + NATURE MAKERS** Sun 26 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**THE CORY BAND PRESENTS JOHN WILLIAMS** Sun 26 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**NATHAN CARTER** Sun 26 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## Classical Music

**CBSO CENTRE STAGE: FROM FRANCE TO AMERICA** Featuring Lowri Porter & Amy Jones (violins), David BaMaung (viola), Arthur Boutillier (cello), Jeremy Watt (double bass) & Katherine Thomas (harp). Programme includes works by Debussy, Gershwin & Ravel, Mon 20 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**THOMAS TROTTER: LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT** Programme includes works by Suppé, Mozart, Heiller & more..., Mon 20 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**STILE ANTICO: THE GOLDEN RENAISSANCE** Programme includes works by Byrd, Taverner, Tallis & more..., Tues 21 Oct, St Mary's Church, Warwick



**ARMONICO CONSORT: CHACONNE!** Featuring Hannah Fraser Mackenzie (soprano), William Towers (countertenor) & Christopher Monks (director & harpsichord). Programme includes works by Pachelbel, Purcell, Monteverdi & more..., Tues 21 Oct, The Courthouse, Warwick

**CBSO: KAZUKI & THE JUSSEN BROTHERS** Featuring Kazuki Yamada (conductor), Lucas & Arthur Jussen (piano). Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Poulenc, F Say & Schubert, Thurs 23 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**STRATFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL: THE FOUR SEASONS** Featuring David Le Page (director). Programme includes works by Corelli, Pachelbel, Vivaldi & more..., Thurs 23 Oct, Stratford-Upon-Avon Town Hall

**THE CORY BAND PRESENTS JOHN WILLIAMS** Sun 26 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## Comedy

**JAMES ACASTER** Tues 21 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JOE LYCETT & FRIENDS** Wed 22 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**LEWIS SPEARS** Wed 22 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**DAISY EARL, JACK CAMPBELL, TAL DAVIES & MATT STELLINGWERF** Wed 22 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**GEORGIE CARROLL** Thurs 23 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**EMMA DORAN** Thurs 23 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, JARRED CHRISTMAS &**



**COMIC TBC** Thurs 23 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**KEVIN BLOODY WILSON** Thurs 23 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**ALISON SPITTLE, MARK MAIER, JARRED CHRISTMAS, JOHN TOTHILL & COMIC TBC** Fri 24 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

**CARL DONNELLY** Fri 24 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**CARL HUTCHINSON** Fri 24 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

## Theatre

**LOST ATOMS** Anna Jordan's timeless tale takes a wild ride through a life-changing relationship, exploring how love shapes our lives and how we remember it, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**SUNNY AFTERNOON** Award-winning musical celebrating the timeless sound of one of Britain's most iconic bands, The Kinks, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** St Alphege Musical Productions Society (STAMPS) present an amateur version of the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**GREASE** Worcester Operatic Dramatic Society (WODS) present an amateur version of the iconic high-school musical, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester



**BLACK POWER DESK** The world premiere of an original musical, set in 1970s London, where the streets are awash with a fever of political unrest, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

**GASLIGHT** Patrick Hamilton's classic Victorian thriller tells the story of a wife being persecuted by her husband, so much so that she believes she is losing her mind, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST** Second Thoughts Drama Group present an amateur version of Oscar Wilde's comedy of manners, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Oct, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**CHESSE THE MUSICAL** The Norbury Players present an amateur version of the musical collaboration between Tim Rice and ABBA's Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvaeus, Wed 22 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

## TALKING HEADS WITH ALAN BENNETT

The Play's The Thing Theatre Company present two classic Alan Bennett monologues: A Lady Of Letters and Soldiering On, Thurs 23 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**FIRST ENCOUNTERS: KING LEAR** Eighty-minute version of Shakespeare's play about family, power and betrayal, Thurs 23 - Fri 31 Oct, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE MONKEY'S PAW AND THE GHOST OF JERRY BUNDLER** The Clockwork Donkey Theatre Company present two classic tales of terror from the pen of WW Jacobs, Fri 24 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**THE HAUNTING OF BLAINE MANOR** Joe O'Byrne's story of a renowned American parapsychologist invited to attend a seance in England's most haunted building, Sat 25 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**SIX THE MUSICAL - TEEN EDITION** Five Star Theatre present an amateur version of the award-winning musical, in which the six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their tales, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, Benn Hall, Rugby

**THE REVIVAL** Amateur version of James Cawood's 'play within a play', Sat 25 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

## Kids Theatre

**STICK MAN** Lively stage adaptation of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's much-loved children's book, complete with puppetry, songs, live music and funky moves, Tues 21 - Sun 26 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED: A ROCK SHOW!** Stage show for younger audiences, adapted from the best-selling books of Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter, Sat 25 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**CLAYTIME** Indefinite Articles present a play with clay, where the audience are invited to participate. Suitable for audiences aged three to six, Sun 26 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



## Dance

**WE CALIBAN** Shobana Jeyasingh Company present an inventive and sideways look at Shakespeare's final play, The Tempest, Tues 21 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ACE DANCE: THE WORLD AS WE SEE IT**



Star Wars: In Concert with the CBSO - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

New double bill featuring 'two contrasting visions of our world today', Tues 21 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**VINCENT SIMONE: TANGO PASSIONS** New show from the 'king' of Argentine tango and star of Strictly Come Dancing, Sat 25 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa & Sun 26 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

celebrating the sounds of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr, Sun 26 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**ROUND THE HORNE: 60TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR** Step back in time to the BBC's Paris Studios and experience this comedy classic, live..., Sun 26 Oct, Malvern Theatres

## Light Entertainment

**DEAD RINGERS** The multi-award-winning topical satire show takes to the road. Jon Culshaw, Jan Ravens, Lewis MacLeod and Duncan Wisbey star, Thurs 23 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR** A 'unique blend' of rock & roll, pop and comedy, featuring timeless hits from the 1950s through to the 1980s, Thurs 23 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**FIN VS HISTORY LIVE!** Join Fin Taylor and Horatio Gould on their trademark disgusting sofa, as they present a live version of their smash-hit podcast, Fri 24 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**DREAMCOAT STARS** Evening of musical theatre favourites, 'slick' choreography and stories..., Fri 24 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**STAR WARS: IN CONCERT WITH THE CBSO** Across three days, enjoy a screening of Star Wars: A New Hope, The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi, all with live orchestra, conducted by Anthony Gabriele, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**80S ANTHEMS BY CANDLELIGHT** Serving up the biggest and best rock anthems, power ballads and pop classics of the decade, Sat 25 Oct, Worcester Cathedral

**THE RAT PACK: SWINGIN' AT THE SANDS** Fully choreographed show

## Talks & Spoken Word

**KADIATU KANNEH-MASON; TO BE YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK** Kadiatu explores her family's journey and talks about what it's like to come of age in such turbulent times, when Black artistic self-expression is so often met with online abuse..., Tues 21 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ADVENTURES IN MODERN RECORDING: AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH TREVOR HORN** Join the 'super producer' as he talks about his exploits as a bona fide legend of pop, Tues 21 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**FLY ME TO THE MOON - JEREMY TURNER: INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS LECTURE** 'Lively and interactive talk' - with a few surprises, Tues 21 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**THE A-Z OF MIRIAM MARGOLYES** Expect candour, unpredictability and unvarnished truth as Miriam dives headfirst into an eclectic, alphabetised mix of life's standout moments, Wed 22 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**KIT DE WAAL IN CONVERSATION** Join the international bestselling author as she talks about her new book, The Best Of Everything, Fri 24 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**AN EVENING WITH JIMMY ANDERSON** Join the England fast bowler for an evening of never-before-heard stories from inside the changing room, Fri 24 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



### Events

**AFTER-DARK TOURS** Explore one of the oldest buildings in Worcester by torchlight, Tues 21 & Thurs 23 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester



**THE WORCESTER BOOK LAUNCH** Launch of a new book featuring photographs from the Digibox Camera Club and guests, Wed 22 Oct, Hash, Worcester

**PUMPKIN PATCH** Get your pick of the patch throughout October, Thurs 23 - Fri 31 Oct, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

**MEADOW ARTS PRESENT: ARTIST TALK AND EXHIBITION CELEBRATION** Artist & curator Leah Gordon hosts a tour of the exhibition alongside some of the Coventry Biennial artists and curators, followed by a panel talk and Q&A, Fri 24 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**MUSEUM AFTER HOURS: DISCOWORLD, ON THE SHOULDERS OF ELEPHANTS** Enjoy music and themed cocktails, and get free entry to the autumn exhibition Designing Terry Pratchett's Discworld: 30 Years Of Paul Kidby's Illustration, Fri 24 Oct, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**HALLOWEEN HALF TERM** Follow the quest to solve creepy clues, and gather around to listen to spooky stories, Fri 24 - Fri 31 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

**THE BIERKELLER SCHUNKLERS BAVARIAN NIGHT** 'Fantastic fun night of singing, dancing and more', Sat 25 Oct, The Civic Stourport

**COVENTRY'S CRAFT & FLEA MAKERS MARKET** A gathering of talented local artisans and crafters, Sat 25 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

**MURDER IN THE BLACKOUT - MURDER MYSTERY DINNER** Miss Mapletree's Perfect Murder presents 'a hilarious, immersive entertainment experience', Sat 25 Oct, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

**CHRISTMAS GIFT FAYRE** A whole host of suppliers showcase hand-crafted items, Sat 25 - Sun 26 October, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

**CASTLE AFTER DARK** See if you have what it takes to conquer the UK's scariest castle, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, Warwick Castle

**HALLOWEEN MAKERS MARKET** Featuring a selection of 'monstrous makers and deadly designers', Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, FarGo Village, Coventry

**HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR** Featuring seasonal activities and spooky fun, Sat 25 - Fri 31 Oct, Hatton Adventure World, Warwick

**HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN CARVING** Children can choose their own pumpkin, scoop it out and carve their own spooky design, ready to be lit up at home, Sat 25 - Fri 31 Oct, Webbs, Wychbold, Worcestershire

**SPOOKY SKELETON TRAIL** Search for the Halloween visitors hiding throughout the historic house, Sat 25 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

**OCTOBER HALF-TERM TRAIL** Solve the mystery of the missing pumpkins, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Packwood House, Lapworth, Warwickshire

**LUNAR LEGO LAB: ALIEN EDITION** Space-themed family Lego coding workshop in which to create your

own Lego alien creature, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**COUGHTON COURT OCTOBER HALF-TERM BAT TRAIL** Join Roofus the Bat on a trail around Coughton Court to find his friends, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

**'VILE VEGETABLE' OCTOBER HALF-TERM TRAIL** Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Charlecote Park, Warwick

**HALLOWEEN AT THE CASTLE** Check out an epic pumpkin trail across the castle grounds, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham



**PRINCESS LIVE!** 'The ultimate hour-long princess pop party featuring your favourite fairytale royalty', Sun 26 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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Britten, Burton & Vaughan Williams

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### A Goodnight

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## Gigs

**SLOW CRUSH** Mon 27 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**CONSTANT FOLLOWER + ALI GILBERT** Mon 27 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**WITHERED HAND** Mon 27 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**ALLIE SHERLOCK** Mon 27 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**FREE THROW + PRINCE DADDY AND THE HYENA** Mon 27 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

**BIG SKY ORCHESTRA** Tues 28 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE TROOPS OF DOOM** Tues 28 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE NECKS** Tues 28 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

**INVADERS + KIMBERLITE + THE INSTINCT** Tues 28 Oct, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

**CHARLOTTE CAMPBELL + DANNY GRUFF + DAVE GILES** Tues 28 Oct, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**EVER + ROOTED AND OVERDRAMATICS** Tues 28 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

**STONE JETS** Tues 28 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

**BUSTED VS MCFLY** Tues 28 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**TODD RUNDGREN** Tues 28 Oct, The Alexandra, B'ham

**ROYA** Tues 28 Oct, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

**ALFONSO CONSPIRACY + THE TEALS + DENIED LEGACY + FAKE HASTE + OSIRIS** Tues 28 Oct, The Rainbow, B'ham

**TRUE STRAYS** Tues 28 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**DALLAHAN** Tues 28 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**JOHN ILLSLEY** Tues 28 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**TALON** Tues 28 - Wed 29 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**DAVID FORD** Wed 29 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE MAGPIES** Wed 29 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**MARC SCIBILIA** Wed 29 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**BEN ELLIS + MARTI PERRAMON + DOLDER** Wed 29 Oct, O2

Institute, B'ham

**THE LOVELY EGGS** Wed 29 Oct, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

**JON WILKS + GEOFF FROST + ROSEMARY STACEY** Wed 29 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

**WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? A TRIBUTE TO TINA TURNER** Wed 29 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**SCUMBAG SEASON + SIDETRACKED + RETROGRADE + KEANE BALDWIN** Wed 29 Oct, The Rainbow, B'ham

**DALLAHAN** Wed 29 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**REBECCA FERGUSON** Wed 29 Oct, Worcester Cathedral

**EMMA-JEAN THACKRAY** Thurs 30 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE NEVERS** Thurs 30 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**DONALD WG LINDSAY & ALASDAIR ROBERTS** Thurs 30 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**OCIE ELLIOTT** Thurs 30 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THOSE DAMN CROWS + TAKIDA + JAMES**

**BRUNER** Thurs 30 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE ENTITLED SONS** Thurs 30 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

**LES SAVY FAV** Thurs 30 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**JOEL SAKAKULA** Thurs 30 Oct, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**THE VINTAGE CARAVAN** Thurs 30 Oct, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

**BRAINROT + INDISPOSED + 40 REASONS + ILLUSIVE + STRANGWAYS** Thurs 30 Oct, The Rainbow, B'ham

**GABRIEL MORENO AND THE QUIVERING POETS** Thurs 30 Oct, Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

**BASKERY** Thurs 30 Oct, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**MARISSA NADLER** Thurs 30 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

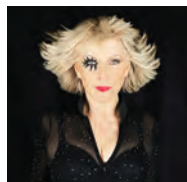
**FRIGG** Thurs 30 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**CASH, KILLER & THE KING** Thurs 30 Oct, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**PEATBOG FAERIES** Thurs 30 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**ARCH ENEMY + AMORPHIS + ELUVEITIE + GATECREEPER** Thurs 30 Oct, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton

**TOYAH** Thurs 30 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



**BRIAN LIGHTNING + CHEMTRAILS + EFFIGY** Fri 31 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**APOLLO SOUL** Fri 31 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

**LUXURY NAN SMELL +**

**BITCHFINDER GENERAL + LEASHBOY + TRAWLR** Fri 31 Oct, The Dark Horse, Moseley, B'ham

**THE AMAZONS** Fri 31 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**MENA AMERICAN** Fri 31 Oct, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**L.A.M.F** Fri 31 Oct, Tower of Song, Birmingham

**KRIS BARRAS' HOLLOW SOULS + TROY REDFERN** Fri 31 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**LAKES** Fri 31 Oct, Dead Wax, B'ham

**SOLARS** Fri 31 Oct, The Flapper, B'ham

**SUZANNE VEGA** Fri 31 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**AN EVENING OF CLASSIC REGGAE** Fri 31 Oct, The Alexandra, B'ham

**BEATLES COMPLETE** Fri 31 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**A NIGHT TO REMEMBER MOTOWN** Fri 31 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**PRAM** Fri 31 Oct, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**CHRIS CONNOR ELVIS SHOW** Fri 31 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS** Fri 31 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

**THE STRAIGHTHEADS** Fri 31 Oct, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**TINA TURNER & MICHAEL JACKSON: TRIBUTE CONCERT** Fri 31 Oct, The Benn Hall, Rugby

**THE OLIVIA RODRIGO EXPERIENCE** Fri 31 Oct, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**GUNS OR ROSES** Fri 31 Oct, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**PETER KNIGHT & JOHN SPIERS** Fri 31 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**AYNSLEY LISTE** Fri 31 Oct, Malvern Cube

## Classical Music

**MARK SWINTON ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 31 Oct, St Mary's Church, Warwick

## Comedy

**JOE LYCETT + FRIENDS** Mon 27 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**TOM HOUGHTON & TOM HENRY** Wed 29 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**MARCUS BRIGSTOCKE, NATHAN CATON, JACK SKIPPER & AIDEEN MCQUEEN** Wed 29 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**SARA PASCOE** Thurs 30 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, THOR STENHAUG & BEN NORRIS** Thurs 30 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ADAM ROWE + JOSH PUGH** Thurs 30 Oct, Rother Street Arts House, Stratford-Upon-Avon

## Theatre

**BORN IN THE USA** Richard Vergette's timely consideration of what drives populist politics, Tues 28 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE** Smash-hit production based on C.S Lewis' classic adventure story, Tues 28 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**FRIENDS! THE MUSICAL PARODY** Stage production based on the much-loved TV show, Tues 28 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Worcester Repertory Company reimagine Shakespeare's classic comedy in a modern cityscape, Wed 29 - Fri 31 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**BRITTEN: THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA** English Touring Opera present Benjamin Britten's chilling exploration of the abuse of power, Fri 31 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**SHOCK HORROR: A GHOST STORY** A chilling journey into a haunted past, combining live performance with big-screen action, Fri 31 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

**COME FROM AWAY** Creators Theatre Company stage a production of the hit Broadway show, telling the real-life story of 7,000 air passengers who were grounded in Canada in the wake of 9/11, and the small Newfoundland community that invited them into their lives, Fri 31 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull



**THE CAGE PROTECTS ME** Amateur version of Giles Allen-Bowden's ghost story, 'exploring our relationship to the horrors of the world and the horrors we inflict', Fri 31 Oct - Sat 8 Nov, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

## Kids Theatre

**DINOSAUR ADVENTURE LIVE: THE BIG JURASSIC STORM** Brand-new adventure for younger audiences, Tues 28 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**KIDZ BOP LIVE: CERTIFIED BOP TOUR** Music brand for kids, featuring today's biggest hits, 'sung by kids for kids', Tues 28 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**PIRATES LOVE UNDERPANTS** Theatre for younger audiences, featuring music, puppetry and glittering pants of gold, Tues 28 - Wed 29 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU** Scarlet Oak Theatre fuse puppetry, live music and playful characters in a performance for younger audiences that addresses animal conservation, Wed 29 Oct, Number 8, Pershore

**DISNEY ON ICE: FIND YOUR HERO** See the magical adventures of favourite Disney stars brought to life in a 'spectacular' production featuring world-class ice skating, iconic music, and stunning costumes, Wed 29 Oct - Sun 2 Nov & Fri 7 - Sun 9 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

**YOU CHOOSE!** An interactive musical show using a picture book as inspiration. Suitable for all the family, Thurs 30 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**THE LITTLEST YAK** Uplifting tale of self-acceptance told via puppetry and music. Based on Lu Fraser's award-winning children's book, Thurs 30 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**HARE & TORTOISE** A 'charming' adaptation of Aesop's fable about friendship, opposites, and growing up. Suitable for audience members aged three to eight, Fri 31 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**GRANDAD ANASI** An uplifting tale of love, courage and letting go. Suitable for audience members aged four to nine, Fri 31 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

## Light Entertainment

**THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE RUGBY: LOCK-IN LIVE** Live staging of the popular weekly podcast, featuring England legends James Haskell and Mike Tindall alongside broadcaster Alex Payne, Wed 29 Oct, Warwick

Arts Centre, Coventry & Thurs 30 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**TRIBUTE TO HANS ZIMMER & FILM FAVOURITES ILLUMINATED** An immersive tribute to Hans Zimmer and cinema's most iconic music, performed by a live chamber orchestra, Thurs 30 Oct, Worcester Cathedral

**PAUL ZERDIN: JAW DROP** New show from the former America's Got Talent winner, Thurs 30 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**EDY HURST'S WONDERFUL DISCOVERIES OF WITCHES IN THE COUNTIE OF HIMSELF** New comedy theatre show offering a humorous, heartfelt and unique insight into the world of late-stage ADHD diagnosis - whilst also exploring some of the most famous witch trials in English history, Thurs 30 Oct, Macready Theatre, Rugby

**REAL-LIFE HALLOWEEN HORROR** Join Adam Wood on Halloween night for real-life tales of terror from Coventry long ago. Halloween costume-wearing is encouraged, with a prize awarded for the best outfit, Fri 31 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**CIRQUE: THE GREATEST SHOW REIMAGINED** Family-friendly extravaganza showcasing a fusion of musical theatre and 'jaw-dropping' circus acts, Fri 31 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE ROCKY HORROR MURDER SHOW - HALLOWEEN SPECIAL** Murder-mystery and musical parody collide in a 'hilariously grisly night of camp chaos and interactive sleuthing', Fri 31 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**PAUL MERTON AND SUKI WEBSTER'S IMPROV SHOW** Featuring 'fast, fabulously funny improvised games, scenes, stories and laugh-out-loud surrealism', Fri 31 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## Dance

**BALLET THEATRE UK - A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Step into the heart of a traditional Victorian Christmas, as Charles Dickens' timeless tale comes to life, Thurs 30 Oct, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**SWAN LAKE** Crown Ballet present a version of the world-famous tale of love, betrayal and redemption, Thurs 30 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

## Talks & Spoken Word

**SANDI TOKSVIG: FRIENDS OF DOROTHY** Join the comedian, broadcaster & campaigner for an evening celebrating her love and passion for writers and books, Mon 27 Oct, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**ANNABEL CROFT - FROM TENNIS BALLS TO GLITTER BALLS** Join the former tennis pro turned broadcaster as she journeys through her extraordinary career, Wed 29 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**GRAYSON PERRY: ARE YOU GOOD?** A show in which Grayson attempts to help the audience find out if they really are thoroughly good, or maybe quite evil - but in a fun way, Thurs 30 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**DR. RICHARD SHEPHERD: UNNATURAL CAUSES - TIME OF DEATH** Step into the world of the forensic investigation as Dr Shepherd explores why an understanding of the passing of time is one of the most important factors in unravelling the secrets of a life cut short, Fri 31 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## Events

**HARTLEBURY HALLOWEEN HUNT** Scour the grounds for miniature pumpkins and exchange them for a full-sized version from the pumpkin patch, Mon 27 Oct, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

**SPETCHLEY WIZARDING SCHOOL WEEK** Grab your wands and broomsticks, put on your hats and cloaks, and get ready for a wizarding adventure, Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Spetchley Park Estate, Worcester

**GALACTIC MISSION: LIFE BEYOND EARTH** Family-friendly science show 'packed with fiery experiments and astonishing discoveries', Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**THE PRINCESS PROMS** Concert featuring themes from favourite princess movies, Tues 28 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

**AFTER-DARK TOURS** Explore one of the oldest buildings in Worcester by torchlight, Tues 28 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

**SPOOKY HOUSE FAMILY MORNINGS** Delve into the messy play tables, create a bubbling-cauldron picture and make a spooky puppet, Tues 28 - Thurs 30 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

**WITCH AND WIZARD SCHOOL** Craft your own wand, then learn your spells with the castle's very best magic teacher, Professor Bumbledum, Tues 28 - Fri 31 Oct, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

**PUMPKIN CARVING** Pick the perfect pumpkin from the patch before creating your design, Tues 28 - Fri 31 Oct, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

**HALLOWEEN SPOOKY TOUR OF BLAKESLEY HALL** Learn about Halloween traditions and listen to spiningtling stories, Wed 29 - Fri 31 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**CASTLE AFTER DARK** See if you have what it takes to conquer the UK's scariest castle, Wed 29 Oct - Sat 1

Nov, Warwick Castle

**DEADLY LIVE! HOSTED BY STEVE BACKSHALL** Featuring 'heart-pounding adventures, daring stunts, mind-blowing experiments and cutting-edge science', Thurs 30 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**AFTER-DARK TOURS** Explore one of the oldest buildings in Worcester by torchlight, Thurs 30 - Fri 31 Oct, The Commandery, Worcester

**SCREAM TRAINS** Are you brave enough to climb aboard the Scream Train? Thurs 30 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

**GHOST TRAINS** Do you dare to take a ride in the dark through the haunted stations? Thurs 30 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

**THE HAUNTED HALL: A CANDLELIT GHOST TOUR** Tour the candlelit mansion and hear about the ghosts who live there, Thurs 30 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**STRATFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL** A mixture of debate, ideas, celebrity-author events and workshops, Thurs 30 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, venues across Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

**THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW** The UK's biggest mixed craft show, Thurs 30 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

**SIMPLY CHRISTMAS** Get into the Christmas spirit with some holiday shopping, Thurs 30 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

**THE ROSWELLS HALLOWEEN VISIT** The alien family are returning to the museum for some Halloween fun, Fri 31 Oct, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**SPOOKY CINEMA: ALIEN** Cinema under the stars in the 360°dome, Fri 31 Oct, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**PHANTOMS & FIREWORKS** Brand-new nighttime celebration transforming the historic grounds into 'a spectacle of light, sound, and eerie delight', Fri 31 Oct, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

**COFFINS AND COCKTAILS: A HALLOWEEN TREAT** Atmospheric after-hours tour, Fri 31 Oct, Coffin Works, Birmingham

**FAMILY FRIENDLY TRICK OR TREAT** Knock on the spooky doors to get a trick or treat, Fri 31 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Birmingham

**THE MONSTER BALL** An evening of 'wickedly good fun' featuring live entertainment and a prize for the best dressed, Fri 31 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

**CAKE INTERNATIONAL AND BAKE INTERNATIONAL** The biggest cake decorating and baking event in the world, Fri 31 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

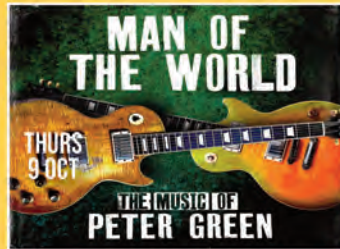




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