

Shropshire

ISSUE 466 NOVEMBER 2025

What's On

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

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As Cinderella

The Hilarious **IAN SMITH**
As The Fairy Godmother

Comedy Star **CARL DUTFIELD**
As Buttons

CINDERELLA

ORLA RIDPATH &
SHELLEY ANNE RIVERS
As The Ugly Sisters

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SCAN ME!

inside:

FESTIVE FAVOURITE

brilliant ballet as BRB's The Nutcracker returns to the stage



BAH! HUMBUG!

the Dickens Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol



A TASTY CHRISTMAS

the stars come out for Good Food Show Winter at the NEC



LUDLOW'S
TRADITIONAL PANTOMIME!

ALADDIN



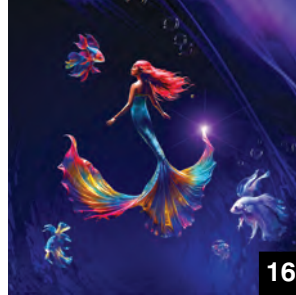
9-31 DECEMBER



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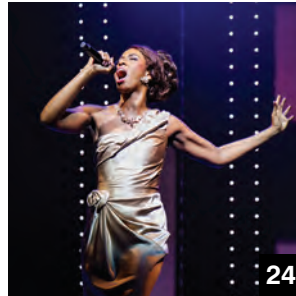
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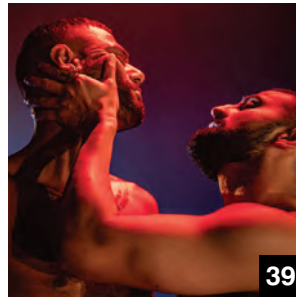
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What's On

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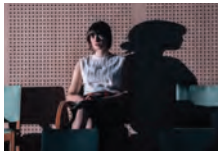
Strictly The Professionals back in the region in 2026

Tickets for next year's Strictly Come Dancing The Professionals UK tour are now available. The hugely popular annual show will stop off at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 May. Among the participants is three-time Strictly finalist Gorka Márquez, who said: "Audiences should be ready to have a fantastic time because we are going to give them our best performance. See you next year!" For more information and to purchase tickets, visit StrictlyTheProfessionals.com

John le Carré classic coming to the Midlands

The Chichester Festival Theatre production of John le Carré's *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold* will visit two West Midlands venues in 2026.

The critically acclaimed stagework stops off at Malvern Theatres from Wednesday 18 to Saturday 21 March. It then returns to the region in the summer, showing at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra from Tuesday 30 June to Saturday 4 July. Tickets to see the production at either venue can be purchased by visiting spyonstage.com



DRAWN Collective return to Flaxmill Maltings

A festive showcase of creativity, community, and meaningful gift shopping is making a welcome return in Shropshire this month.

Taking place at Flaxmill Maltings in Shrewsbury on Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 November, DRAWN Collective Winter Event offers visitors the chance to explore 'everything from prints, textiles and jewellery, to ceramics from five different designers'.

DRAWN will also be hosting a night market at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery on Friday 5 December.



Brewhouse show marks end-of-war anniversary

Burton on Trent's Brewhouse Arts Centre is this month hosting a new exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War

Two. Available to view from Wednesday 12 to Sunday 30 November, the show's highlights include: an installation celebrating the women who kept Burton's breweries running during wartime; an artwork created by local community groups, reflecting on what freedom means to them; and a specially commissioned poem by Staffordshire Poet Laureate Scarlett Ward. To find out more, visit the venue's website at brewhouse.co.uk

Grayson Perry artwork on show in Wolverhampton

Grayson Perry's acclaimed artwork *The Annunciation Of The Virgin Deal* goes on display at Wolverhampton Art Gallery this month (Saturday 1 November - Sunday 12 April).

Part of the Turner Prize-winning artist's *The Vanity Of Small Differences* series, the artwork is a four-metre-long tapestry that tells the story of Tim Rakewell, a fictional 21st-century software developer who climbs the social and economic ladder from his working-class roots.

Further information is available by visiting wolverhamptonart.org.uk

Beverley Knight heading for home next summer

Wolverhampton-born Beverley Knight will finish a huge UK tour next summer by performing in her home city.

Talking about the tour, Beverley said:

"I'm excited to get back on the road. [My new show] *Born To Perform* is me taking you on a journey through my life on both music and theatre stages, using my memories and of course my songs.

"I'm stripping back my sound so that the



audience can lean in a little closer and really hear my soul."

Beverley performs at the University of Wolverhampton at The Halls on Tuesday 30 June. To purchase your ticket for her show, visit the website gigsandtours.com

Dudley Comedy Allstars to debut at Town Hall

A new comedy night debuts at Dudley Town Hall in January.

The Dudley Comedy Allstars takes place on Saturday the 24th and features sets by Sara Pascoe

(pictured), Rhys James, Sarah Keyworth and Josh Pugh. Tickets can be purchased at boroughhalls.co.uk



Celebrating Northern Soul across the Midlands

BBC Radio 6 Music's Northern Soul Orchestrated show will make a return to the region in 2026.

Presented by broadcaster Stuart Maconie and featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra, the production is stopping off at Stoke-on-Trent's Victoria Hall on Wednesday 11 March, Wolverhampton's Civic Hall three days later, on Saturday the 14th, and Birmingham Symphony Hall the following night (Sunday the 15th).

Commenting on the new tour, Stuart Maconie said: "The Northern Soul Orchestrated shows have been nothing short of triumphant; passionate, powerful, ecstatic music that we thought we would only ever hear again on treasured vinyl, brought to life by extraordinary musicians and singers. I guarantee you the night of your life..." For tickets, visit the website at gigsandtours.com

Midlands date for Manchester band

Manchester rockers James will play Birmingham's Utilita Arena next spring (Friday 3 April) as part of a UK tour. The band will be joined for their Love Is The Answer show by special guests The Doves. For further information and to purchase tickets, visit the website utilitaarenabham.co.uk

Hit Spider-Man film live in concert

One of the most successful superhero films of all time will be presented live in concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall next spring.

Spider-Man: No Way Home will be screened at the venue on Tuesday 31 March, with the movie's score - composed by Academy Award winner Michael Giacchino - being performed 'live to picture' by a symphony orchestra. Tickets for the event can be purchased at bmusic.co.uk

Shrewsbury date for Nadia Eide

Scandinavian-born classical crossover soprano Nadia Eide is visiting Shropshire this month. Nadia is bringing her Winter Light show - 'a spectacular Christmas concert for all ages' - to Shrewsbury Abbey on Sunday 23 November. She will be joined by a special guest choir. To purchase tickets, visit her website at nadiaeidemusic.com



Have the time of your life as Dirty Dancing visits the region

Popular West End musical Dirty Dancing is returning to the Midlands as part of a new UK tour.

Based on the classic 1987 film of the same name, the stage show will visit Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre next autumn, from Tuesday 24 to

Saturday 28 November 2026.

The musical then returns to the region in 2027, playing the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 4 to Saturday 8 May.

Visit dirtydancingonstage.co.uk for further information and to purchase tickets.



New space for Digbeth Dining

Birmingham street-food pioneers Digbeth Dining Club will open a new canal-side dining & event venue in Brierley Hill next year. The two-room, 450-capacity Dockworks Waterfront will be 'a new destination for a diverse offering of food traders, live music, and events for the local community, as well as food and culture fans from across the country'. For further information and updates, visit digbethdiningclub.com

Les Miserables concert tour to make a Midlands arena stop-off in 2026

A concert celebration of Les Miserables is coming to Birmingham next summer. Stopping off at the city's Utilita Arena from Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 June, the show comes at the end of the official 40th-anniversary celebrations of the world's longest-running musical. For further information about the production and to purchase tickets, visit worldtour.lesmis.com



Snow Patrol and The Streets to play Ludlow Castle next summer

Ludlow Castle will play host to Snow Patrol and The Streets next summer.

Stopping off at the venue on Thursday 16 July, Snow Patrol will be joined by special guests Corinne Bailey Rae & The Florentinas. One week later (Thursday the 23rd), Mike Skinner and The Streets' visit will see them performing their 2004 album, A Grand Don't Come For Free, in its entirety. The castle will also host July concerts by The Human League (plus Marc Almond, Blancmange & Altered Images, Saturday the 18th) and Richard Ashcroft (Saturday the 25th). To find out more and book tickets, visit liveatludlowcastle.co.uk

Lottery funding set to empower young people

Shrewsbury charity The Hive has secured a £99,600 grant from The National Lottery Community Fund to help safeguard the services which it

provides for young people in Shropshire. The charity's inclusive programmes span music, animation, arts and wellbeing activities that are specially designed 'to meet young people where they are and help them thrive'.

Commenting on the news, The Hive's CEO, Katie Jennings, said: "This funding means so much more than keeping our doors open. It's about laying the groundwork for a future where young people's voices lead, where creativity connects us, and where no one is left behind. We are proud of what we've achieved so far, but the need for The Hive's services is growing - and now, with the help of this funding, we can meet it head-on."



Alt-rock band to headline Bearded Theory festival

Alt-rock legends Pixies (pictured) and genre-blending trailblazers Skunk Anansie will head the line-up at Bearded Theory 2026 (Catton

Park, Derbyshire, Wednesday 20 - Sunday 24 May). Other performers appearing at the popular grassroots festival include spoken-word punks Big Special, noise-rock outfit Fat Dog, folk-punk anarchists Ferocious Dog, and feminist punk favourites Panic Shack... To check out the festival's full line-up and purchase tickets, visit beardedtheory.co.uk



December date for annual West Park Santa Run

Ready, set, sleigh! The Beacon Centre's annual Santa Run will be celebrating its 10th anniversary when it returns on Sunday 7 December at West Park in Wolverhampton.

The much-loved 5K event is being held in support of people across the West Midlands who are living with sight loss. To find out more and sign up to take part in the event, visit beaconvision.org/santa-run-2025



Image from previous Cats tour which visited the Midlands in 2016

Classic musical Cats to visit the region next autumn

A brand-new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical Cats will visit Birmingham Hippodrome next autumn as part of a major UK tour.

Based on Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats by TS Eliot and debuting in 1981, the

show has been seen by more than 77 million people worldwide. The new version will be stopping off in the second city from Tuesday 27 October to Saturday 7 November 2026. For further information and to book tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Puppetry festival set to return in the new year

Smethwick Puppetry Festival makes a return early next year.

Taking place during February half term (Saturday the 14th - Sunday the 22nd) at community venues across Smethwick and Bearwood, the 2026 edition of the event is set to be the biggest yet, according to its organiser, Black Country Touring.

Highlights include interactive puppetry workshops and performances by leading professional puppetry theatre companies. For more details about the festival, visit the website at bctouring.org.uk/puppet



Ceramic Makers' Market returns to The Potteries

The Ceramic Makers' Market is returning to Gladstone Pottery Museum in Stoke-on-Trent this month (Saturday 15 November). The hugely popular event will see more than 60 ceramicists in attendance, including former contestants from Channel Four's The Great Pottery Throw Down.

Visitors will be able to browse a wide variety of stalls offering available-to-purchase bespoke works of art, all made of clay. For more information about the market, visit the website: stokemuseums.org.uk

Comedy nights launched at Shrewsbury venue

A mid-month performance by Phil Nichol (Wednesday 12 November) will launch a series of comedy nights at Shrewsbury venue Albert's Shed.

The shows are being staged by the organisers of Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival, which takes place in the town every summer. Tickets for Phil's show, Trying My Best, can be purchased by visiting the website at ticketsource.co.uk/shireevents



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11.12



Dear Santa Live
14.12

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at Christmas**
15.12



**A Christmas Carol:
Anton Lesser & Orchestra
of the Swan** 15.12



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**Christmas with
Sir Karl Jenkins**
21.12



**Home Alone
in Concert**
22.12



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**Horrible Histories:
Horrible Christmas**
23.12



**The Nightmare Before
Christmas: In Concert
Live To Film** 24.12



Brainiac Live
27-30.12

See the full festive lineup:

bmusic.co.uk/bfestive

The 'ultimate Christmas party' visits the Midlands!

Rock Choir, the world's largest contemporary choir, are to perform at Birmingham's bp pulse Live arena this month.



The Saturday 29 November event will see the choir joined by classical crossover star Russell Watson, multi-platinum-selling singer-songwriter Emeli Sandé, smash-hit singing sensation Sam Ryder and former Spandau Ballet star Martin Kemp (pictured), who will open the concert with his 80s DJ set... To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at rockchoir.com

Sir David Attenborough's Ocean film - in concert

A feature documentary about the ocean, coinciding with broadcaster & filmmaker Sir David Attenborough's 99th birthday, is to be staged at Birmingham's Symphony Hall in the spring (Sunday 1 March).

Ocean In Concert features award-winning composer Steven Price's original Ocean With David Attenborough score, performed live by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in perfect synchronisation with the film's spectacular underwater imagery. For further information and to book tickets, visit the website at oceanconcert.live



Next phase of museum's transformation to begin

Stoke-on-Trent's Potteries Museum & Art Gallery is about to enter the next stage of its multi-million-pound Arts Council England-funded transformation, with work set to begin next month.

Commenting on the news, Councillor Jane Ashworth, leader of the city council, said: "This exciting next phase will create a striking new entrance, improved spaces and facilities, and new opportunities for artists and the public to connect. It's an investment that will secure the museum's place as a cultural highlight for generations to come."



Seeing the world through the eyes of an astronaut...

A genre-defying audio-visual experience, offering the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of an astronaut, is coming to Birmingham next summer.

Space Station Earth is an immersive event which brings together music performed by a synth-pop band, an orchestra and a choir, with high-definition footage filmed by

astronauts from the International Space Station. The critically acclaimed show - a collaboration between the BAFTA and Emmy-nominated composer Ilan Eshkeri and the European Space Agency - visits the city's Town Hall on Friday 5 June.

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit comm.tix.to/spacestationearth

Best of the Best for the British Ironwork Centre

The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry has been honoured by Tripadvisor with a coveted Travellers Choice 'Best of the Best' award.

The prestigious award recognises attractions that consistently receive outstanding ratings and demonstrate an exceptional commitment to hospitality excellence. Receiving the 'Best of the Best' honour means that the venue is 'now among the top 10% of things to do worldwide'.

In a statement responding to the news, the Centre said: "The Ironworks is on the 'bucket list' of things to do across the world. We are constantly striving to expand and improve our fantastic sculpture park, with incredible new sculptures, delicious cafe goodies and unique handmade products being continuously added to our ever-growing arsenal."

Documentary film to get its first public screening

A documentary film that centres around the life of a Shropshire charity founder receives its first public screening this month. Having already been shown at multiple film festivals, Breaking Waves - The Extraordinary Ordinary Life Of Kelda Wood will be screened at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury on Monday 17 November. A Q&A

with Kelda will follow the film. Kelda is the founder of the charity Climbing Out, which combines outdoor



activity with personal-development coaching 'to empower life after trauma'. The film looks back on Kelda's experiences, from the lows of a life-changing injury to the highs of completing a solo row across the Atlantic. To book tickets for the screening, visit the website at theatresevern.co.uk

Alpine-style celebrations in Penkridge this month

There's a world of alpine-style celebration to enjoy at Lower Drayton Farm in Penkridge this Christmas.

Described by its publicity as an event at which Christmas sparkle meets après ski-inspired revelry, Yuletide Bar 'brings the magic of the mountains' to the venue on Thursday the 4th, Thursday the 11th, and Saturday the 20th of December.

The programme for each of the three evenings includes a sparkling arrival drink, a festive three-course meal and an after-dinner tippie, 'with live music to keep spirits high and the dancefloor full'.

To find out more, visit yuletidebar.co.uk

WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT

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Regent Theatre



The award-winning smash-hit musical returns

The Bodyguard

Mon 3 – Sat 8 Nov



Celebrating The Electric Light Orchestra

The ELO Experience – Electric Light Orchestra

Wed 19 Nov



A pooppy good family show

The Dinosaur That Pooped

Sun 23 Nov



A theatrical experience like no other

Inside Number 9: Stage/Fright

Tue 11 – Sat 15 Nov



An evening of thrilling exploration

Jon Ronson: Psychopath Night

Thu 20 Nov

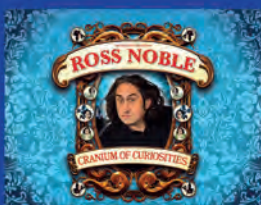


The Broadway and West End phenomenon

Kinky Boots

Wed 26 – Sun 30 Nov

Victoria Hall



The Wizard of Waffle live

Ross Noble

Thu 6 Nov



Celebrate Elvis' Vegas Years

One Night of Elvis – Lee 'Memphis' King

Sat 15 Nov



An unmissable magical festive celebration

Step Into Christmas

Fri 14 Nov



Re-live the golden age of disco

Lost In Music – One Night at the Disco

Thu 20 Nov



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to create a better borough



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6 November, 2.30pm
The D Day Darlings
Tickets: £23

20 November, 7.30pm
The Man Who Was Magic
Tickets: £26,
VIP meet & greet £36

13 November, 7.30pm
Ellie Gowers
Tickets: £14

21 November, 8pm
Brew-ha-ha House Comedy Night
Tickets: £14

14 November, 7.30pm
Attention all Shipping:
A Celebration of the Shipping Forecast with Charlie Connelly
Tickets: £18

15 - 24 December
Captain Sprout & the Christmas Pirates
Tickets: £14,
Under 16's £12.50

 Brewhouse Arts Centre

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 Brewhouse Arts

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Bach Christmas Oratorio

Sun 7 Dec 2025, 4pm
Town Hall, Birmingham

Christmas Music by Candlelight

Fri 5 – Mon 22 Dec 2025
Lichfield Cathedral
Hereford Cathedral
Coventry Cathedral
St Martin-in-the-Fields, London
St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton
St James the Greater, Leicester
St Mary's Church, Moseley
St Paul's Church, Birmingham

Book now at www.excathedra.co.uk



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Sir Simon Rattle & the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 11 November

Sir Simon Rattle makes a much-heralded and very welcome return to the second city, 27 years after he brought to a close his 18-year tenure as music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Since bidding a fond farewell to Brum, the 70-year-old conductor has brought his immense talent to bear on the output of the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, and now (since 2023), the

Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, a world-leading ensemble which last visited Birmingham some 20 years ago. The programme for this mouthwatering concert features Schumann's second symphony and the complete ballet score of Stravinsky's *The Firebird*. The latter was the composition which Sir Simon chose for the first concert in Symphony Hall way back in 1991.

Meliora Collective

United Reformed Church, Shrewsbury, Fri 14 November

Five wind and five string players combine to make up the Meliora Collective, a recently formed, highly versatile and chamber-music-loving ensemble who specialise in performing concert favourites alongside less familiar repertoire. Appearing in Shrewsbury mid-month as part of the Shropshire Music Trust season, the Collective will be presenting a programme featuring compositions by Maurice Ravel, Jean Françaix and Johannes Brahms.



Alexander Gavrylyuk Piano Concert

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre, Thurs 6 November

Ukrainian-born Australian pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk here makes his second Piano Masters Series appearance of 2025, presenting a programme comprising works by Mozart, Chopin, Liszt and Mussorgsky.

Performing concerts for more than 30 years - having made his debut at the tender age of nine - Alexander has developed an enviable international reputation for excellence, picking up numerous coveted awards in the process.



Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 7 November

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic - the UK's oldest professional symphony orchestra - has been at the heart of the city's cultural life since 1840. The orchestra's visit to the Potteries early this month sees them performing under the baton of Richard Balcombe, presenting a concert programme that includes compositions by, among others, Bizet, Ravel, Handel, Mozart, Smetana, Grieg, Tchaikovsky and Elgar.

London Chamber Ensemble Quartet

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Thurs 20 November

The well-established London Chamber Ensemble are here presenting the first of two concerts during the 2025/26 season; the second takes place next March and features a Trio.

This month's performance brings together concert-hall favourites with neglected works by British composers.

The programme features Joseph Haydn's Quartet in C major, Charles Wood's Quartet No2, Michael Berkeley's Quartet Study and Alexander Borodin's second quartet.



Wombourne & District Choral Society

St Paul's Church, Wolverhampton, Sat 22 November

Boasting a varied repertoire of full-scale classical works, madrigals and part-songs, Wombourne & District Choral Society this month turn their attention to the fast-approaching festive season, presenting a performance of Bob Chilcott's critically acclaimed Christmas Oratorio.



THE BIG PANTS PARTY

The ultimate ladies night out; an unforgettable evening of music, singing, and fun
Saturday 1 November



THE SEARCHERS EXPERIENCE

Featuring the legendary Spencer James - lead vocalist of the 60s group for 39 years
Friday 7 November



THE WEST END SEASONS

Matinee show celebrating the music of the great Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons
Thursday 13 November



THE CROONERS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Ultimate festive comedy music show; superbly original, bursting with seasonal cheer
Friday 14 November



AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE CABARET

A dazzling celebration of cabaret, burlesque, and world-class variety entertainment
Friday 21 November



THE SPECIALS LTD

A tribute to the 2-tone legends starring a 9-piece band full of passion and excitement
Saturday 22 November



MOONLIGHT SINATRA

Get into the swing with the Gig Caritas Big Band and guest vocalist Rich Hazlewood
Sunday 23 November



MARK SMITH

Delving into the origins of the Victoria Cross with Antiques Roadshow's medals expert
Tuesday 25 November



MARTIN BARRE & FRIENDS

An intimate evening of music and anecdotes with the legendary Jethro Tull guitarist
Thursday 27 November



HOLLY AT CHRISTMAS

Buddy Holly & The Crickets are back to once again herald in the Yuletide festivities
Friday 28 November



DIANE'S DELI

First in a critically acclaimed series of tales where the supernatural meets northern noir
Sunday 30 November



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An ideal introduction to theatre for children aged 1+, and the perfect festive family show
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January

**Go Your Own Way -
Fleetwood Mac Legacy**
Fri 23 Jan 2026 7.30pm £28.50



Drag Me To The 80's
Sat 31 Jan 2026 7.30pm £27.50



March

**A Tribute to Sting & The Police
starring The Rozzers**
Sat 14 Mar 2026 7.30pm £28



Box Office: 0300 555 2898

walsallarena.com



Live music across the region...

Jools Holland

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 8 November;
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Sat 29 & Sun 30 November

Jools Holland is often viewed - somewhat unfairly, it should be said - as little more than an arch-fan, albeit one with his finger firmly on the musical pulse.

His well-established BBC TV show has long been an eclectic mixture of styles and genres, encompassing music from across the world. Jools' talent on the piano is immense, his attitude towards his famed Rhythm & Blues Orchestra friendly and egalitarian. The result is a joyous celebration of music, and a sound to which you can't help but tap your feet.



Amy MacDonald

The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton,
Fri 21 November

Dunbartonshire-born singer-songwriter Amy Macdonald has released six albums, sold more than 12 million records worldwide, earned 12 Platinum certifications, performed in front of more than five million people, accumulated in excess of a billion streams, and won plenty of silverware in the 18 years since the release of her debut album, *This Is The Life*.

She visits Wolverhampton this month in support of latest studio album *Is This What You've Been Waiting For?*, released in the summer to significant critical acclaim.

Support on the night comes from Manchester-based alternative pop outfit Better Joy.



Beans On Toast

Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury, Fri 28 November

Self-confessed hippie drunkard Beans On Toast selected his name because he wanted to be called something basic and simple - to reflect his music!

"I'm not the greatest guitarist in the world," he once admitted to *Listen Up Manchester*.

"I play simple three-chord folk songs, but if

I see something that interests me, something that intrigues or angers me, I pick up my guitar and I write a song." Emerging from the London folk scene two decades ago and mainly singing about sex, drugs and politics, Beans On Toast is a surefire bet for an entertaining evening out.

Hannah Brine

Kings Bromley Jazz Club, Staffordshire,
Wed 12 November

Lush ballads and energetic jazz anthems are a guarantee whenever Hannah Brine comes to town. Taking her

inspiration from the Great American

Songbook, Hannah has a voice and songwriting style that's seen her likened to, among others, Rumer, Carole King and Norah Jones.

She visits the region this month in support of her debut album, *Blue Sky Now*.



have been talking about it for a few years. We wanted to go a bit more 'blues', but like, modern-day, with a bit of funk in there, but very much feeling blues aspects. We felt that was missing in a lot of stuff."

Babyshambles

Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 25
November; O2 Academy, Birmingham,
Wed 26 November

Pete Doherty fronts this London band, which has undergone several changes in its line-up since being formed back in 2004. Heavily influenced by Britpop and punk, Babyshambles were initially viewed as a Doherty sideline - having been formed while he was still involved with The Libertines - but regular chart success eventually saw them develop an identity all their own... This latest tour coincides with the 20th anniversary of the band's much-loved debut album, *Down In Albion*.



Orphy Robinson

Wolverhampton Arts Centre,
Thurs 27 November

Orphy Robinson is a bonafide jazz legend whose career highlights include playing with Courtney Pine in the Jazz Warriors and releasing two critically acclaimed albums: *The Vibes Describes* and *When Tomorrow Comes...* He appears in the region this month alongside Xantoné Blacq, Andy Grappy and Maurizio Ravalico.

"It'll be my own material," says Orphy, in chatting about the gig. "Xantoné and myself



MAKING A SPLASH!

A bold new staging of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale takes over the New Vic for the festive season

This year's Christmas production at Newcastle-under-Lyme's New Vic Theatre is an ambitious new version of The Little Mermaid in which half the characters have tails and 'swim' during the show... Artistic Director Theresa Heskins tells What's On she loves the challenge of 'staging the impossible'...

The New Vic Theatre's partnership with contemporary circus company Upswing is set to bear its first festive fruit this year, in the form of a bold new adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*.

And the production really is 'bold' - not least in putting mermaids, who have tails so can't walk, on a stage... and then making them swim!

For 'bold', read 'challenging', 'preposterous' or maybe even a little 'insane'!

"I do love the impossible," laughs the theatre's artistic director, Theresa Heskins, who has created the show alongside Vicki Dela Amedume, artistic director of Upswing. Although the duo previously worked together on acclaimed adaptations of *The Company Of Wolves* and *The Princess And The Pea*, this is their first collaboration for a Christmas show.

"There's such rich visual language in the story of *The Little Mermaid*," says Theresa, "and utilising circus opens up a whole host of possibilities for how we create this undersea world."

"Our audience members have been captivated by the way we combine contemporary circus and storytelling, and this is a perfect opportunity to bring these elements together into our biggest family show of the year."

But why make it so hard on themselves by choosing a story set in water?

"Ever since we did *Around The World In 80 Days* - which had to have eight billion people on stage when Phileas Fogg got to India, as well as boats and trains and an elephant and things - I've always loved the challenge of how you can stage the impossible."

It also turns out that the show came top of a wish-list from schoolchildren invited to vote for this year's production. Theresa is obviously relying on that same audience to embrace it - and "bring their imaginations to the table" - as they have done in previous years.

"At the time, I didn't realise it was an 'impossible to stage' choice, but that's always appealing. How on earth are we going to do this? Being under the water, out of the water, on the water... those were the three key things that we started with."

"The designers have solved the problem of how to be under the sea, how to be on the beach, how to swim in the sea, in such an

exciting way. What I'd written for them to do was impossible... I actually wrote it as a radio play, so I'm not the one solving problems."

One of the most glaring of those problems is that the mermaids have tails, so they can't even stand up!

"We felt that real acrobatics would be a brilliant way to do mermaids swimming under the sea. So we gathered together a brilliant team of aerialists from all over the world and had some prototype tails and tried those. It was then that we realised that about 80 per cent of what aerial acrobats do, they do with their legs and feet, so we had to explore what they could do just using upper-body strength - and my goodness, they've got a lot of it!"

No sooner had the team solved one problem than they were presented with another - how are the mermaids going to get on and off stage, as well as backstage, if they can't walk?

"The poor things! They need to go up and down stairs using just their upper body strength on the railings!"

"There were all sorts of unforeseen challenges, but I think we've found something really exciting. The mermaid costumes are absolutely magical, beyond anything I dreamt they'd be, so I think we've got a real spectacle lined up. We always do, but the problem with doing massive, spectacular shows that audiences love means that every year we set the bar higher."

One of the ways *The Little Mermaid* aims to reach new heights is via stunning kaleidoscopic coral reef sets. There's also original live music to enjoy, performed by Red Whip Coral And The Sea Urchins, a five-piece undersea band led by acclaimed clarinettist Arun Ghosh, who's composed all the music and will perform at every show.

"He's toured globally, so we're lucky to have him here. It's great to give young people such incredible quality of music - it's going to be a real gift."

Arun's involvement is yet another example of those 'raising the bar' ambitions - something amply demonstrated by Theresa and Vicki being jointly nominated for Best Director at the UK Theatre Awards (for *The Company Of Wolves*). Their desire to keep evolving is also reflected in the successful transfer of *The Princess And The Pea* to New York, where

audiences "responded in exactly the same way as British audiences, only louder", according to Theresa.

Not only is the New Vic gaining an international reputation, but just as importantly, local audiences can see genuinely world-class entertainment on their doorstep.

"We do our best to ensure we make the best work we possibly can, and it's by local people. The actors come to us from all over the country, but the people making the set, the lighting, the costumes, all the backstage teams, are all local. Knowing that the quality of work we're making is good enough to be exported all over the world is a real source of pride."

Teaming with Upswing to mix traditional theatre with circus performance is also helping to create a buzz. And while the form is cutting-edge contemporary, its history dates back to a hero of the region.

"Part of the area's unique heritage is that Philip Astley, the man considered to be the father of the modern circus, was born here in the 18th century and is, to some extent, our Shakespeare. Being able to take the populist form he invented and transcend boundaries of nations, language and age - everyone loves the circus - is great."

Theresa also hopes it means the Christmas show is far more than pantomime, and will attract an even wider audience than a traditional festive production.

"We call it a circus-theatre fusion, and there aren't many people making that in the world, which is one of the reasons it's in such demand globally. People are realising that circuses are thrilling and exciting to watch, but stories are wonderful too and can hold your attention - so to combine circus with a really gripping story means it can reach a much wider audience."

"But fundamentally it's all about making sure that those families who come for their Christmas treat go away buzzing and talking about it for decades afterwards."

.....
The Little Mermaid shows at the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, from Friday 14 November to Saturday 24 January



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Comedy previews from across the region...

Emmanuel Sonubi

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 11 November; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Thurs 13 November

Emmanuel Sonubi has been clambering up comedy's greasy pole at spectacular speed and looks set to achieve big things in the coming years.

An Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee, he's visiting the Midlands with a show in which he contemplates his life after surviving heart failure, in the process exploring the 'strange and funny ways we all find to keep going when life gets hard'.

**Andrew White**

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 19 November

Benefitting from the enthusiastic cheerleading of Birmingham's very own Joe Lycett, Andrew White stops off in the city this month with Rhinestone Comedian. The show sees him tackling a range of big topics and deep-diving into all manner of nonsense, from contemplating the politics of all-you-can-eat buffets to calling out the technological shortcomings of racists.

Brew-ha-ha-house Comedy

The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent, Fri 21 November

Making a welcome return, the Brewhouse's comedy night this month features award-winning musical comedian Kate Lucas and cultural satirist Chris Purchase. They're joined on the bill by headliner, rapidfire gag merchant and Twitter 'star' Tony Cowards.

Jim Jefferies

bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham, Sat 22 November

Boasting a brash, confrontational style that goes down a treat in all manner of far-flung destinations around the world, Australian-born Jim Jefferies is one of the most accomplished stars on the global comedy circuit, delighting and shocking his audiences in equal measure.

Jim's brand of comedy is most definitely not for the faint-hearted, and includes plenty of observations along the same lines as the following: "The Bible's too wordy. The 10 Commandments are a load of shit. You don't need all these things. The Bible should be one sheet of paper, and on that sheet of paper it should just say: 'Try not to be a c**t'." Jim stops off in Birmingham this month with his latest show, Son Of A Carpenter.

**Nick Helm**

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 15 November; Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 16 November; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 21 November

Nick Helm has described his comedy shows as 'a call to arms to anyone who feels hard done by and short-changed by this ugly new world.'

Nick, who visits the region this month with latest touring show No One Gets Out Alive, once won the Edinburgh Fringe award for best joke with the following rib-tickler: "I needed a password eight characters long, so I picked Snow White And The Seven Dwarves."



and quirky stream-of-consciousness humour, he's heading for the Midlands this month with latest touring show Cranium Of Curiosities. Examples of his comedy include

"How come Miss Universe is only won by people from Earth?" and "I had to take the batteries out of the carbon monoxide detector. It was beeping all night."

**Suzi Ruffell**

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 15 November; Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 16 December

Gay, quirky and delightfully self-deprecating, Suzi Ruffell presents an unquestionably likeable persona and imbues her act with an impressive dynamism.

Suzi's mid-month Coventry appearance sees her presenting latest touring show The Juggle, while next month's Birmingham stop-off finds her in the company of Tom Allen, performing a live-on-stage festive version of their popular podcast, Like Minded Friends.

**Ross Noble**

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 6 November; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 27 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 26 February; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 19 March

Geordie laughter merchant Ross Noble may not have hit the heights once expected of him, but he's a hugely talented comedian nonetheless. Peddling a nice line in surreal



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Reviews from Peter Pan 2024/25

Comedy previews from across the region...

Mark Steel

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 5 November;
Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 26 November

"I started doing standup in 1982, around the circuit of bizarre gigs," recalls highly regarded writer & comedian Mark Steel. "I'd go on after jugglers and escapologists and people who banged nails into their ears!"

A well-established performer on the UK comedy circuit, Mark's CV includes the BAFTA-nominated Mark Steel Lectures for BBC Two, BBC One's Have I Got News For You and Radio Four's Mark Steel's In Town. He visits the Midlands with The Leopard In My House, a show in which he chronicles his battle with throat cancer.



A Laugh Supreme

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire,
Fri 14 November

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's Laugh Supreme evening makes a welcome return mid-month. Described as 'a show bringing together the best of comedy and jazz in the incredible Eastside Jazz Club', the event's November edition features top-ranking Conservatoire jazz musicians the Aidan Pope Quartet and comedians Frances Keyton and Jacob Nussey. Alex Milner (pictured) is the host.



Bangla Month Comedy With Smashbengali

The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 14 November

BBC Asian Network presenter Hashu Mohammed, better known as Smashbengali, is the host for this Bangla Month Comedy Night, an event which turns the spotlight on some of the UK's most promising up-and-coming talent. The evening includes an open-mic session, allowing courageous audience members to take to the stage and show off their comedy talent.



Jen Brister

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 22 November & Fri 27 March; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 8 May

As she attempted to establish herself on the circuit back in the early noughties, Jen Brister received a much-needed boost from a comedy legend. The occasion was the BBC New Act semi-finals in Brighton. The legend in question, Spike Milligan, who was one of the judges. Although Jen didn't get through to the

final, she did find out from the show's producer that Spike had voted for her. "He'd also remarked that I had 'a great pair of Bristols'," she recalls. "So clearly he had great taste in comedy and, er, tits!" Jen visits Birmingham this month with latest show Reactive.

Ladies Of Laughter

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 8 November

This latest Ladies Of Laughter gig sees Noreen Khan (pictured), Kyrah Gray and Tej Dhutia being joined by Brummie comedian Shazia Mirza. Muslim Shazia is certainly not averse to treading a delicate line when it comes to her material. Her post-9/11 joke, "My name's Shazia Mirza - at least, that's what it says on my pilot's licence", marked her out as a comic who was happy to balance on the precipice of acceptable humour. Other examples of her style and content include: "My parents really want me to get married. But Muslim men don't want to marry me because... I speak", and "My dad said if I went out with a black man, he'd burn me. Which would be good, because then I'd be black too."

Not to everybody's taste, obviously, but then which comedian ever could be?



Helen Bauer

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Thurs 13 November

Helen Bauer is a real force of nature, a fact which is emphatically reflected in her high-energy comedy routines. Her latest show, Bless Her, finds the 6ft 11inch 34-year-old grappling with the issue of self-loathing - not to mention various other similarly intrusive problems, including toxic female-friendship groups and the propensity to binge-eat. Bless Her is Helen's fourth solo show and is further cementing her reputation as one of the UK's brightest and most engaging comedians.





MORE THAN A MATCH

**Hit musical Fiddler On The Roof
is spending Christmas in Birmingham**

First produced at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, the Olivier Award-winning production of Fiddler On The Roof is now out on tour and will be spending Christmas at The Alexandra in Birmingham. Ahead of its arrival in the city, What's On caught up with Matthew Woodyatt - who plays the lead, Tevye - and Jodie Jacobs - who plays his wife, Golde - to find out more...

After winning this year's Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival, director Jordan Fein's acclaimed version of Fiddler On The Roof has now embarked on a national tour, which concludes at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra across the Christmas period.

The story follows Tevye - an impoverished milkman in the tiny village of Anatevka - whose Jewish traditions are challenged and disrupted, both within his family, as his daughters choose husbands, and within his community, as the threat of displacement looms.

Matthew Woodyatt plays Tevye on tour. After understudying the role in 2017 at Chichester Festival Theatre, he then played the part at the Barbican, in the same critically acclaimed production that's now travelling the country.

"It feels like it's been in my life for a very long time," says Matthew. "They don't write many musicals anymore for voices of my type - not lead roles, anyway. It's always been on the list, and it's nice to be able to have a go!"

Tevye is the family's patriarch, who runs a gamut of emotions as three of his five daughters find love with men who, in his eyes, are increasingly inappropriate matches. Having become familiar with the iconic role over the years, Matthew is now developing his own interpretation.

"I'm less terrified of it than I was. It's ever-changing, because Tevye contains so many facets. It's a gift - everyone around me is so brilliant. It's always very alive - we're several weeks into our tour, and in a glorious way, it's never quite the same twice. It's still playful, it's still alive. New things are being discovered all the time, which is lovely."

Jodie Jacobs takes the role of Tevye's wife, Golde - and playing the part is providing her with the opportunity to celebrate her own heritage.

"I could talk about it all day and say lots of glib and silly things," she says. "For me to be able to play a role that is so closely linked to my heritage - I grew up in a very traditional Jewish family - is really lovely. I don't have to hide anything, I can be entirely myself, I don't have to explain what I'm doing - it's all there for me in the script. In some ways, I feel so familiar with it, and in other ways, I'm discovering a whole new side of myself."

The role of Golde in this production was first developed by Lara Pulver, with Jordan Fein's direction, and Jodie is glowing with praise for her predecessor.

"They've created a 'real mum'," she explains. "Someone who's not a pastiche, who's not a caricature. Someone who is caring and loving - and also harangued and put-upon, because they live in poverty. They make the utmost and the best of every moment, and every single thing they have."

Joining the company for the tour, Jodie took on the challenge of being 'rehearsed in', while the existing cast were simultaneously performing in London.

"It was just a whirlwind rehearsal process. I had to integrate with this already set-up family and township, not embarrass myself, and not take away from what Lara Pulver had created. I wanted to honour that and maintain it, and just sprinkle a little bit of Jodie on top... Matthew has been incredibly patient with me, because there were a lot of weeks where I was still finding my feet with it. And he's been very generous, allowing me to do that."

"There's nowhere to hide in this production," Matthew adds. "It's pared back. That's not saying it isn't massive and brilliant, but there's a simplicity to it which I think is revelatory. As a result, you only really have each other. Thank God, Jodie's amazing... We were playing at the Barbican, eight shows a week, and then rehearsing our new cast members pretty much in isolation. Then we had a little 'starter' tour date, which was not a full week - that was the first time we properly got our feet under the table as a family. Then it grows and it develops. The blueprint of the script and music is so strong that one can be very free within that - which isn't always the case."

After stints of one or two weeks at venues around the country, the show will stop off at The Alexandra for a longer run - and both actors are looking forward to making Birmingham their home for four weeks.

"I did a production of Privates On Parade about 20 years ago at Birmingham Rep," Matthew recalls. "I was there for about a month then as well - we had a lovely time! I'm really relieved, at the end of the tour, to

actually sit down somewhere for a month. It'll be a much-needed bit of respite. I think Christmas in Birmingham will be perfect for that."

Fiddler On The Roof features multiple love stories, but the particular kind of interaction which exists between Tevye and Golde is rarely seen in musical theatre. Their 25-year-long relationship is brought to the foreground in Do You Love Me?, a duet in which the pair's fond companionship - and hardworking partnership - is revealed.

"There are deep fundamentals that just need doing," says Matthew. "Even in a shtetl - Anatevka - which is fairly poor, they are the poorest. There's graft, and there's not a lot of time for much else."

"I watched my mum and dad be really similar to this," says Jodie of Tevye and Golde's on-stage relationship. "Lots of bickering. They're like two children. I feel like they grew up together. You never really see romance. It's a partnership more than a great, deep, 'Cathy and Heathcliff' love story... They seem to make each other laugh, and I find that important in my own life!"

It's "refreshing" for both the actors and the audience, says Matthew, to see this under-represented love story featured on stage. According to Jodie, it's been a long time coming: "You go through the beginning of your career, if you're lucky, to be an ingénue or a romantic lead. I don't know about you, Matt, but I've done a lot of comedy sidekicks..."

"Oh yeah," he agrees. "Second banana!"

"It's nice for the second banana to be Top Banana for a bit," Jodie continues. "You see kids in musicals and you're like, 'How do you know? You haven't been there yet!' But by the time you get to our age - I've been with my partner for 10 years, you've been with your partner 20 years - you know what it's like. We can 'fake it' better!"

.....

Fiddler On The Roof shows at The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 9 December until Saturday 3 January



Miss Saigon

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 18 - Sat 29 November

The musical partnership of Alan Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg has produced some impressive results down the years, most memorably the smash-hit musical *Les Misérables*. Another of their shows, less lauded than *Les Mis* but still widely admired, is *this* epic tale, which premiered in the West End some 36

years ago... Set against the backdrop of the American evacuation of Saigon in 1975, the show tells the story of an American GI and his love for a young Vietnamese woman.

Best-known numbers include *The Heat Is On*, *In Saigon*, *The Movie In My Mind*, *Last Night Of The World* and *The American Dream*.

Moulin Rouge! The Musical

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Saturday 15 November

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

"There are over 75 pop songs in the show, from Offenbach to Lady Gaga," says actor Kurt Kansley, who plays the part of the artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. "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 for a jukebox musical, and what I like about *Moulin Rouge!* is that it doesn't apologise for being one. Instead, it celebrates it."



The Bodyguard

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 3 - Sat 8 November

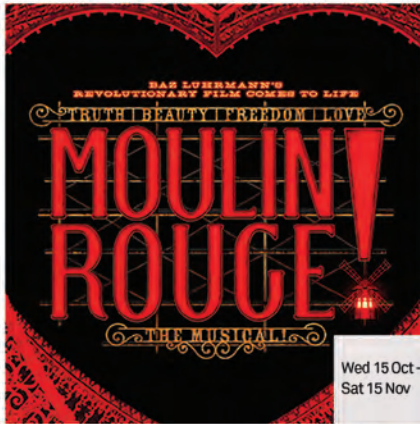
When former secret-service agent Frank Farmer is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker, sparks soon begin to fly between the pair. Each expects to hold the whip-hand in their interaction; neither expects to fall in love...

This blockbusting West End musical is of course based on the similarly blockbusting 1992 Hollywood movie starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston.

Featuring classic numbers *One Moment In Time*, *I Wanna Dance With Somebody* and the legendary *I Will Always Love You*, the stage show received mixed reviews from the critics when it opened in 2012, but has since proved to be a real hit with its audiences.

Sidonie Smith stars as Rachel, with Olivier Award nominee Adam Garcia taking on the role of Frank.





Wed 15 Oct -
Sat 15 Nov



Sat 8 Nov



Fri 21 Nov -
Sat 13 Dec



Sat 6 Dec -
Sun 4 Jan



Sat 20 Dec -
Sun 1 Feb



Fri 6 &
Sat 7 Feb



Thu 12 -
Sat 21 Feb



Wed 18 Feb



Tue 24 -
Sat 28 Feb



Tue 3 -
Sat 7 Mar



Tue 10 -
Sat 14 Mar



Tue 17 -
Sat 21 Mar





Sherlock Holmes And The Twelve Days Of Christmas

The Rep, Birmingham,
Fri 14 November - Sun 18 January

Think Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber and three musicals come to mind: Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita. Now, a new show has been added to the list of productions on which the legendary pair have collaborated: Sherlock Holmes And The Twelve Days Of Christmas. A Birmingham Rep production created in association with Rice's company, Heartaches Ltd, the brand-new comedy whodunnit - penned by and starring The Penny Dreadfuls' Humphrey Ker and David Reed - finds Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson investigating a series of murders most foul in Victorian London's theatreland... And what's more, each of the grisly crimes comes complete with an intriguing link to The Twelve Days Of Christmas... The game, as Sherlock is famous for saying, is most definitely afoot...

Ordinary Decent Criminal

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Tues 4 - Sat 8 November

Comedian Mark Thomas takes the lead role in award-winning Ed Edwards' brand-new play. Set in the years following the Strangeways Prison Riot, the story sees Mark starring as recovering addict Frankie, who finds himself entering 'the brave new world of a liberal prison experiment'. The production is helmed by Paines Plough's joint artistic director, Charlotte Bennett.



Bad Lads

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Tues 11 & Wed 12 November

Coventry-originated theatre company Graeae - the ensemble behind this brand-new play by Mike Kenny - put features such as signing, captioning and audio description at the heart of their productions.

"Every Graeae show is different," says the company's CEO & artistic director, Jenny Sealey. "We never add access on. It comes

from looking at the script, who the characters are, what we're trying to say, and then thinking about what access brings to that." Bad Lads tells the disturbing true story of the boys held at Medomsley Youth Detention Centre in County Durham in the 1980s. Although the facility was 'sold' to the public as being an institution via which a 'short, sharp shock' would be delivered to wayward youths, in reality something far darker was happening within its walls...

Mohit Mathur: Dial 1 For UK

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 4 November;
Swan Theatre, Worcester, Fri 7 November;
Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham,
Thurs 13 November; Arena Theatre,
Wolverhampton, Fri 14 November

YouTube influencer and New Delhi call-centre worker Uday Kumar loves the United Kingdom - so



much so, in fact, that he dreams of leaving India and chiselling out a life for himself in Britain. But having arrived in his 'promised land', he finds that his experience as an immigrant is very different from how he'd imagined it would be...

Written and performed by West End actor Mohit Mathur, Dial 1 For UK visits the region

having garnered plenty of praise on its travels.

Murder, She Didn't Write

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 5 November; Lichfield Garrick, Tues 3 February;
The Swan Theatre, Worcester, Tues 24 February

Improvised shows are all the rage nowadays - and this one has certainly got plenty to recommend it...

First and foremost, it was a multiple-sell-out hit at the Edinburgh Fringe...

Secondly, it's presented by a critically acclaimed company - Degrees Of Error - who are past masters of the improv genre...

Thirdly, the show is a real hoot. An Agatha Christie-inspired whodunnit, it features a classic murder-mystery which is created 'on the spot'. Audience members are then encouraged to don their deerstalkers (if they've brought them along!), grab a magnifying glass and make sure their 'finger of suspicion' is 'at the ready'...

The show runs for two hours, including an interval.



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THE WICKED WIZARD OF OZ

CIRQUE SPECTACULAR



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Theatre previews from around the region



Kinky Boots

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Wed 26 - Sun 30 November

The newly appointed manager of his late father's shoe factory, Charlie Price has got some tough decisions to make as he attempts to save the struggling business. After a chance meeting with drag queen Lola, Charlie identifies a potentially lucrative niche market - creating footwear to cater for men who dress as women... A topical story about diversity and acceptance, Kinky Boots is based on the 2005 film of the same name and features music & lyrics by 80s pop star Cyndi Lauper. Expect a feelgood evening of catchy tunes, fierce anthems and warm-hearted humour.

Elf The Musical

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Tues 11 - Sun 16 November

A flying sleigh, an interactive snowball fight with the audience, and a giant candy cane journey from the North Pole, all set against video-film backdrops on a massive LED screen. There's little wonder Elf The Musical's star, Jordan Conway, describes the production as "a really exciting show"... "It has a lot of the traditional values of pantomime," says Jordan, "but with circus-style acrobatics and lots of immersive action for the audience to get involved in."

For those not already in the know, the show's story follows the adventures of Buddy, an orphan boy who grows up in the North Pole with Santa and his elves. Buddy thinks he's an elf too, but his enormous size and inability to make toys tells an altogether different story...



A Christmas Carol

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Thurs 13 & Fri 14 November

Of all Charles Dickens' festive stories, A Christmas Carol reigns supreme. The covetous sinning of the miserly Scrooge, the eternal hope offered by Tiny Tim, the eerie

visions of redemption - visiting Ebenezer in the shape of his long-deceased partner Jacob Marley and three seasonal ghosts - all combine to give the tale a real olde worlde charm.

The critically acclaimed Dickens Theatre Company here makes a welcome return with a somewhat unusual take on the Carol... With the rest of the acting cast stuck on a train, Dickens himself, and his faithful tour manager, George Dolby, embrace the daunting challenge of performing a two-man theatrical adaptation of the story...

The Forsyte Saga

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Fri 28 November - Sat 10 January

An epic family drama, written by Nobel Prize winner John Galsworthy and here adapted for the stage by Lin Coghlan and Shaun McKenna, The Forsyte Saga arrives in Stratford-upon-Avon this month having received rave reviews during its sell-out run at London's Park Theatre last year. Presented in two parts and telling a story of love, ownership, and the end of Empire, the production is set across a time period of more than 40 years, from 1886 to 1927.

The Ancient Oak Of Baldor

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham,
Thurs 13 & Fri 14 November

"We create theatre you can touch, theatre you can smell, theatre that happens during intimate one-to-one interactions, theatre that is collective."

So state highly rated creatives Frozen Light, in explaining the kind of shows they produce and tour. This latest offering is a multi-sensory stagework developed specifically for

audiences with profound and multiple learning disabilities. The production sees the ensemble welcoming their audience into a fantasy realm for a folk tale about 'love, loss, and the interconnectedness of all things'...

Slava's Snowshow

The Alexandra, Birmingham,
Wed 12 - Sat 15 November

First staged in 1993, now an international phenomenon, and blending slapstick comedy, heart-wrenching tenderness, dramatic spectacle and moments of wonder, Slava's Snowshow focuses on the adventures and interactions of a group of yellow clowns and green clowns. The production has been seen by audiences in more than 60 countries, along the way receiving multiple awards, including an Olivier for Best Entertainment. "There are a lot of layers," explains Slava Polunin in talking about his show. "There are mundane, everyday things, right through to very cosmic, eternal things. I try to make it so that every person in the audience will find their own interest in the Snowshow. Growing up, people lose the idea of wanting to achieve their dreams. I remind them about it, and they return to what were the most important things in their lives; what they have lost as they grew up."





Indefinite Articles

Claytime

Sun 26 Oct 11am & 2pm

A play with clay

Pirates Love Underpants

Tue 28 Oct 2.30pm & Wed 29 Oct 11.30am & 2.30pm

Music, puppetry and glittering pants of gold

Stories in the Dust

Sun 2 Nov 11am & 2pm

Heartfelt and hopeful eco-fable

Wallace & Gromit:

The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

Sat 25 Oct – Sun 2 Nov

Relaxed screenings available

Bring Your Own Baby Comedy Club

Thu 6 Nov 1pm

Hilarious comedy without needing childcare

The Tiger Who Came to Tea

Sat 29 Nov – Sun 28 Dec

Olivier Award nominated smash hit show

Tales from Acorn Wood

Sat 21 & Sun 22 Feb 11am & 2pm

With toe-tapping songs, puppetry and all the friends from Acorn Wood

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Ruby's Worry

Sun 1 Feb 11.30am & 2pm

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The Gruffalo's Child

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Wed 5 & Thurs 6 November; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 7 & Sat 8 November; The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 20 - Sun 22 February; Lichfield Garrick, Mon 9 & Tues 10 March

With millions of copies having been sold in double-quick time after it was published in 1999, it's fair to say that Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's picture book *The Gruffalo* captured the hearts and minds of children everywhere. So it was no surprise when the dynamic duo then produced this sequel story five years later...

Despite her dad's warning to stay away from the deep, dark wood, the Gruffalo's child decides it's time to go and explore, caring not a jot about the legend of the Big Bad Mouse... Award-winning theatre company Tall Stories, who certainly know a thing or two about adapting Donaldson/Scheffler books for the stage, here present a production that brings together 'songs, laughs and scary fun for everyone aged three to 103'.

The World's Funniest Story

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

Beano's directors of mischief and mayhem, Mike Stirling and Craig Graham, reveal their top-secret tips for creating laugh-out-loud stories and comic strips. In the process, they'll be inviting youngsters to help them create 'The World's Funniest Story... of all-time!'

The show forms part of the Farshore Funny Fest, which also features three workshops, facepainting, scavenger hunts, and the chance to meet much-loved Beano characters Dennis and Gnasher.

Grandad Anansi

SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, Sat 1 November; Belmont Hall, Wellington, Shropshire, Sun 2 November

A work of theatre created for children aged four and older, Grandad Anansi finds Abi and her grandfather busying themselves in the latter's allotment. As well as watering fruit and vegetables, the pair spend their time telling one another folk tales. But Grandad has something else on his mind: a yearning to return to his homeland of Jamaica... Described by its publicity as a 'humorous and heartfelt inter-generational adventure', Grandad Anansi brings together 'captivating songs and joyous dancing' to tell an uplifting tale of 'love, courage and letting go'...

The Dinosaur That Pooped

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 23 November; 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 in the shadows, nothing goes according to plan...

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



Disney On Ice: Find Your Hero

bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham, Wed 29 October - Sun 2 November & Fri 7 - Sun 9 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.



The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 29 November - Sun 28 December

Everybody's favourite tea-guzzling tiger is back in town, dropping in on Sophie and her mum just as they're settling down for an afternoon cuppa... Adapted by David Wood from Judith Kerr's 1968 book of the same name, this 55-minute show features singalong songs and plenty of magic - not to mention a big, stripy tiger, of course!



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Festive-season shows opening this month...



The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



Swan Theatre, Worcester



Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Sleeping Beauty

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wednesday 19 November - Sat 3 January; Swan Theatre, Worcester, Fri 28 November - Sun 4 January; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sat 29 November - Sun 4 January

The tragic tale of a young princess who's tricked by an evil fairy and pricks her finger on a spinning wheel, causing her to fall asleep for 100 years, offers a great story around which to build a pantomime production of real quality...

And Christmas 2025 sees three of the region's most popular theatres doing exactly that!

RuPaul's Drag Race UK winner Danny Beard top-bills in Wolverhampton, where the cast also includes impressionist Debra

Stephenson and much-loved pantomime favourites Tam Ryan and Ian Adams.

Over at the Coventry Belgrade, panto veteran Iain Lauchlan is, as usual, the creative force behind the venue's festive-season offering, while at the Swan Theatre, the Worcester Repertory Company are promising a 'dazzling production' that comes complete with fairies, magic, and heaps of traditional panto fun.

Dick Whittington

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 28 November - Sun 4 January

Telling the terrific tale of a young man who heads for London in search of fame and fortune, Dick Whittington makes for a fantastic pantomime - not least because of the top adventures in which the happy-go-lucky title character finds himself involved...

If you're a dyed-in-the-wool fan of the Theatre Severn panto experience, you'll be delighted to know that this year's offering is following the usual recipe for success.

What does that mean in practice? Well, to put some meat on the bone, it means Telford-born Paul Hendy is writing it, Evolution is producing it, and Brad Fitt is both starring in it and taking the directorial reins.

"There are pantos out there that go a bit near the knuckle - but I don't think ours does," says Brad. "I would never tell a joke that was offensive or rude. Sometimes, you can use a double entendre - but then that's in your mind, that's not me. You have to blame yourself!"



The BFG

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Tues 25 November - Sat 7 February

Roald Dahl's delightful tale, written way back in 1982, is here given the Royal Shakespeare Company Christmas-show treatment.

The story follows the adventures of a little girl named Sophie, who's taken to a magical land by the Big Friendly Giant (or BFG, for short). There, he teaches her whizzpopping, shows her his secret collection of dreams, and lets her taste his extraordinary food, the snozzcumber. When it becomes apparent a tribe of man-eating giants are planning to rampage through England, Sophie and the BFG realise they must save the country from unprecedented disaster...

Cinderella

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 21 November - Sun 11 January; The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 22 November - Wed 31 December

With its comical Ugly Sisters, matchmaking fairy godmother, drop-dead-gorgeous Prince Charming, super-cute mice, and fits-one-foot-only glass slipper, Cinderella can justifiably lay claim to being the nation's favourite pantomime story...

In common with Theatre Severn's panto production of Dick Whittington (see elsewhere on this page), the Garrick's version of Cinders has been written by Paul Hendy and is produced by Evolution.

And also in common with Theatre Severn, the Garrick has a 'Dame of longstanding' taking

centre-stage in its show; namely, Sam Rabone, who has spent many a festive season in a nice frock or several at the venue.

Sam is this year returning to star as Ugly Sister Aldianna. Panto regular Ben Thornton is back too, taking on the role of Buttons... Meanwhile, over in Birmingham, the BOA Group make a welcome return with their 10th Christmas production at the Old Rep Theatre. The company are presenting a version of Cinderella that they're promising is awash with hilarious comedy, outrageous characters, dazzling costumes, and plenty of audience participation.



The Little Mermaid

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Fri 14 November - Sat 24 January

Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytale tells the much-loved story of a beautiful mermaid princess who believes a better life awaits her out of the water...

Adapted for the stage by Theresa Heskins, who co-directs with Vicki Dela Amedume, this brand-new production features the New Vic's signature blend of impressive circus skills and imaginative storytelling.

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Two Pints Podcast Live

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sat 1 November;
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Fri 7
November; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Sat 22 November

Most recently seen together on TV screens sharing their comedic adventures in *Will And Ralf Should Know Better*, Will Mellor and Ralf Little make three visits to the Midlands this month with the third live iteration of their critically acclaimed Two Pints podcast. "Me and Ralf live on stage again," says Will, who co-starred with Ralf in hit comedy series *Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps*. "What could possibly go wrong!? We absolutely love doing our live show, and we just want everyone to come along, get involved and hopefully have a great time!"

Rob Brydon & His Fabulous Band

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Wed 26 November

Inspired by the success of a sell-out West End performance last year, much-loved funnyman Rob Brydon teams up with an eight-piece band to usher in the festive season with this 'warm-hearted family show'.

I Screamed A Scream

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Tues 4 - Sun 9 November

Birmingham's Old Joint Stock Theatre is promising 'a frightful night' this Halloween season, courtesy of this special concert event paying homage to 'the best baddies of stage and screen'. According to the show's publicity, audiences should brace themselves for 'barbarous ballads and horrible hidden gems, performed by some of the most frighteningly talented performers in the musical theatre industry'. Jai McDowall, Jess Lim & James Edge, star.



show, or to inadvertently use his lines. I really need to avoid saying 'You'll like it' and then accidentally adding 'Not a lot!'"



The Horne Section's Hit Show

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



Camp As Christmas sees the one-time Torchwood star presenting an evening of festive favourites and showstopping tunes, all wrapped up with 'plenty of glitz'.

Trouble, Struggle, Bubble And Squeak

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 10
November; Stafford Gatehouse, Wed 12
November

Victoria Melody's decision to quit theatre in favour of becoming a stand-up comedian steered her down an interesting path. In an effort to become better at being funny, she took the unusual step of enlisting the assistance of speech & language specialists. It was a move which led to her discovering that she is neurodivergent...

Victoria has since discovered plenty of other things too, including the fact that the experience of joining a historical reenactment society is much more fun than it's generally cracked up to be - as she's at pains to explain in this latest stand-up offering. The show is directed by fellow comedian Mark Thomas, who is himself appearing in the region this month, starring in *Ordinary Decent Criminal* at the Coventry Belgrade.



James Phelan: The Man Who Was Magic

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 12
November; Henrican Theatre, Evesham, Sat 6
December; Brierley Hill Civic, Fri 9 January

The late Paul Daniels' nephew, James Phelan, baffles, befuddles and bemuses with feats of sorcery that seem certain to draw gasps of astonishment from awestruck audiences. "I learned by watching and emulating what Paul did on TV," says James, "but I've been really careful not to do his stuff in my own

John Barrowman: Camp As Christmas

The Albany Theatre, Coventry,
Thurs 20 November

John Barrowman has form when it comes to Christmas in the Midlands, having previously top-billed some of the region's biggest pantomimes. By comparison with those previous stop-offs, his visit this month is decidedly low-profile - but that isn't going to matter one jot to his legion of adoring fans.

A CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Birmingham Royal Ballet's iconic production of The Nutcracker celebrates 35 years in the city



Presented as a gift to the city of Birmingham way back in 1990, The Nutcracker has become a permanent fixture in the Birmingham Royal Ballet calendar. The show tells the story of Clara, who is given a mysterious nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve and then embarks on an enchanting adventure. What's On spoke to Paul James, the company's chief executive, to find out what makes the much-loved festive production such a sweet treat...

Birmingham Royal Ballet's spectacular production of The Nutcracker returns to the stage this month, celebrating its 35th anniversary at the Hippodrome.

A lavish Christmas fantasy, underscored by the beloved music of Tchaikovsky, the story follows Clara's Christmas Eve adventure with her toy Nutcracker, which has come to life.

"It's always very difficult for me to say 'this is the best Nutcracker in the world', because it's very subjective," says Paul James, chief executive of Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB). "And also, we're slightly biased! It's the scale of the storytelling, the scale of the sets, the growing tree, the snow goose, the snow, a full company of musicians - the Royal Ballet Symphonia are at the heart of everything we do - it's all just mind-blowing. Whether you're a fan of ballet, or a fan of great theatre and event theatre, it finds its story for each generation."

The production was a gift to the people of Birmingham, from Artistic Director Sir Peter Wright, when the company transferred to the city from London's Sadler's Wells Theatre in 1990. Sir Peter turns 99 during The Nutcracker's run this month.

"One of our strongest partnerships was always with Birmingham Hippodrome," says Paul. "So when we came here, it wasn't out of the blue, but out of the development and evolution of a partnership over decades of ballet touring. [The Nutcracker] premiered in our first season here, and here we are 35 years later. More than a million people have seen it. It is an icon of everybody's festive calendar."

In 2022, the scenic and costume elements were rejuvenated, overseen by the original designer, John Macfarlane, after a two-year fundraising campaign.

"This wasn't about trying to find some big organisations to come in with a large cheque - it was about individuals making smaller donations to support the redevelopment. It is a shinier and brighter show [now]. There's a new lighting rig, there are things that make it work better, that you'd never see from an audience perspective. But the thing that struck us all when the curtain went up on the first day after it was refurbished, was just how bright it was, how everything sparkled again and gleamed again."

The production has endured as a festive tradition for generations of ballet fans, both

in the audience and on stage - BRB provides a pathway into dance and ballet careers for the people of Birmingham.

"It feels 'about us' in some ways - it feels very connected to the city. You see that more recently with Black Sabbath. These are ballets for Birmingham, for the people of Birmingham. They have been built here and developed here. Yes, we take the national label, but there is also that sense of 'home'. Our dancers all live here - all of those things are very palpable."

This is the second year that The Nutcracker schedule will include a 'relaxed performance', taking place on Tuesday 2 December. While the performance is designed to be more comfortable and welcoming for people with sensory needs, Paul says that last year's show also proved popular with a wider audience.

"It's a great show, and it's great for kids. Whether you're neurodiverse or not, it's a really accessible performance in all meanings of the word - but it's also specially adapted for the neurodiverse community. We've actually had one or two older members of the audience who want to come back to the show, and it's a way to do that. It's still got all the elements of the show - it's not reduced in any way - it's just helping people understand and engage with it."

One of Paul's favourite moments in the production is a tiny exchange between two dancers, which is easy to miss but could represent the turning point of the story.

"The moment when Clara's parents swap gifts, and he clips the necklace around her neck. Every pair of dancers behaves ever so slightly differently in that moment, and to me it's almost like that's the transition. You've gone through the overture, and it clicks - here's where things start to move. It's such a little thing, but it's something I look out for every time I watch it. It's the acting, not the dancing, in this particular moment. How does that then pivot the story forward? It's such a little moment, but for me, it's really important."

It is now almost six months since Paul was named CEO of the company, having previously taken on the role in an acting capacity following the death of Caroline Miller last December.

"I can't describe how horrible it was, this time last year, to work with Carlos [Acosta,

BRB's director] and the company through that grieving process. What was amazing was the sense in which the company pulled together and supported each other. There's a great group of leaders here, and people who have dedicated their careers to BRB and to ballet. People understood that we needed to do both things - that we needed to communicate and share what was going on and how we were feeling, but also that there was a business plan that we had to submit, and an end-of-year finance system that we had to do."

The company took part in a memorial service in April to celebrate Caroline's life and legacy.

"We were able to express all of that through dance and through speech. Then the company was able to say, we need to carry on reaching as high as we can - as Carlos says, 'reaching for the stars'. That's what Caroline gave us; that energy and ambition to match Carlos' insane amount of energy - to get us to all these great places."

As well as personal tragedy, this year has also brought the challenge of running BRB with reduced funding. Now, more than ever, the company is hugely grateful for the assistance of its supporters.

"We saw the end of our Birmingham City Council funding this financial year, so after April we got nothing. The impact of the National Insurance contributions meant that we had a double hole - not only did we lose the money that we used to get, but we then also had to find almost as much again. The great news is that audiences are really strong. The audiences in Birmingham - and on tour as well - have really come back after the pandemic. This current Black Sabbath tour is packed to the rafters wherever it's going, and that is really important."

"The first thing I say to anybody if they want to support us is 'come and see us'. That's the reason we're here - it gives us joy to perform in front of an audience, so buy a ticket. It's that relationship between a performer and their audience that makes live performance, particularly ballet, so special."

.....

The Nutcracker shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Friday 21 November to Saturday 13 December

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET



Rachele Pizzillo, © Johan Persson.
Image © Manvir Rai.

Director Carlos Acosta

Sir Peter Wright's

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Dance previews from across the region



Jaivant Patel Company: Astitva

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 6 November; The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 21 & Sat 22 November

Wolverhampton based Jaivant Patel Company's latest show reflects the experiences of British Indian gay men through contemporary-dance storytelling. Along the way, the production dives into four themes: seeking, desire, acceptance and love. As Jaivant explains, one section of the piece is particularly important to him: "The one thing that I knew I definitely wanted out of this piece was a love duet. I knew that I wanted that, because I'd never seen a love duet between two brown Indian men. I wanted it to reflect representation, but I also wanted it to reflect a sense of hope."



FABRIC: Mathroo Basha

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 27 November

Heta Patel blends choreography with text and popular culture to produce work which explores the subjects of identity and freedom. In Mathroo Basha, the critically acclaimed visual artist & filmmaker uses movement and

audio interviews to explore the topic of generational change in his Brit-Gujarati family. The piece sees Heta Patel revisit rituals rooted in their working-class experience, in the process reflecting on 'what is lost and what is transformed'... Performed in English and Gujarati, the show is followed by a free talk.



Vincent Simone: Tango Passions

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. Always on the go, the Argentine tango king and Strictly Come Dancing legend is visiting the Midlands with this 'sexy, steamy, passionate' show just a matter of weeks after the end of the Return Of The Legends tour, in which he appeared with four fellow Strictly stars.

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.

Ballet Black: Shadows

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 4 November

Comprising British and international dancers of black and Asian descent, Ballet Black takes an impressively daring approach to its work.

Under the guidance of Artistic Director Cassa Pancho, the company is here making its Belgrade Theatre debut with an imaginative double-bill...

First up is a darkly comic adaptation of Oyinkan Braithwaite's bestselling novel *My Sister, The Serial Killer*. This is followed by the British choreographic debut of the Brooklyn-born Chanel DaSilva, whose piece explores the intense practice of shadow work, 'and how it can reveal our true selves'.

Rhythm Of The Dance

Malvern Theatres, Fri 14 November; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 27 November

Audiences are promised an evening of flailing fiddles and cracking choreography when popular touring show Rhythm Of The Dance visits the Midlands this month with a special Christmas-themed edition.

Featuring award-winning world and Irish dance champions and a traditional band of multi-instrumentalist musicians, the show is now in its 27th year and has been seen by more than seven million people across the world.

Ballet Theatre UK: A Christmas Carol

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 22 November

Even in his wildest dreams, it's highly unlikely that Charles Dickens ever imagined that his most famous Christmas story would one day be performed as a ballet...

But why shouldn't it be? And

particularly in an era which has seen such unusual subject matter as *Peaky Blinders* and the music of Black Sabbath being given the dance treatment.

'Festive carols, breathtaking costumes and stunning choreography' are the order of the day as the ever-imaginative Ballet Theatre UK travel back in time to a traditional Victorian Christmas.





STEP IT UP

Diversity launch a new dance studio in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter

Street Dance troupe Diversity - winners of Britain's Got Talent in 2009 - have found a home for their second national dance studio: Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. With the group's first studio being well established in their home county of Essex, Birmingham was chosen for their follow-up venture after a slew of requests from Midlanders. As well as having their name proudly displayed on the venue's outside wall, Diversity are also deeply involved in the day-to-day running of the place. What's On spoke to Diversity founder member Ashley Banjo to find out more...

Ashley, what inspired the creation of Diversity Studios?

We all came from a studio that my mum started back in the day. It was called Dancework - we used to train there and practise there. So having a studio - it was a place for us to train, but also a place for us to train the next generation of Diversity. So Diversity now - even the ones who are older, all of them pretty much - we've trained. And you can see with these studios and the next generation, they're just coming up super, super strong.

You scoured the Jewellery Quarter and settled on the Coin Foundry - which still housed old industrial equipment at the time. How did you choose the venue?

We still do everything as a family, from the very first studio, maybe 30 to 35 years ago. We've been driving around Birmingham - me, my mum, my sister, my dad - looking at different places in different areas. The moment we walked into this building, we just thought 'This is it, this is the one.' We were really excited about it - and the rest is history.

The members of Diversity are heavily involved in dance classes and running the studios. Why is that important to you?

It's community. We could do shows, we could perform and tour and do shiny stuff like that all the time, and then, when we think we've had enough, hang our shoes up. But it's way bigger, way deeper, way more important than that. I think bringing up the next gen is amazing -

the idea that members of whatever the next generation of Diversity is going to be, could come from right here in the heart of Birmingham; the idea that, in 20, 30 years, we could be here, looking at someone else sitting in this chair, talking about what Diversity is. That, for me, is a way bigger push than just the next show.

How did Birmingham end up at the top of the pile as a choice for the second venue?

We've always had a lot of love for Birmingham. We've got five nights at The Alexandra for our new Soul tour in February, which is amazing. We've always had a lot of love and support here. When we asked about the studio, right at the top of the list, hundreds and hundreds of people were just saying, 'Yes please - Birmingham!' And when I started to look around, I didn't feel like there was enough potential for creative outlet versus demand. The arts, the potential and the talent feels really high here, but the studios and the opportunity for people to come and be creative doesn't seem that abundant. It felt like a moment that we could seize.

Current Diversity Studios members showcased some of their work together at the launch. What's their story?

There are people who danced with us that started as complete beginners. Even now, some of the members of the group, who are maybe 24 or 25, started when they were six or seven. People can start to dance here and have an entire dance career here, which is something that we're also really proud of.

We offer classes for seven-plus, 12-plus, Intermediates, into Advanced... One of our most popular lessons is our adults - Adult Beginners and Adult Intermediates. I think that people think 'I'm too old to start'. Not the case. And there are loads of people who used to dance, back in the day, who just enjoy it.

What are your hopes for the future of the Birmingham studio?

My long-term dream for this venue is for it to be right at the heart of dance in Birmingham. And I hope to have this place as a hub for the Diversity community, and for people to feel welcome, safe and just enjoy being in it.

Of all the classes, events and performances happening in Diversity Studios, what are you proudest to see?

A space that people belong in. When I was younger, I was either the only Black kid or the only dancer - a bit of an outsider in so many ways. I think Diversity has always felt really close to my heart in terms of making people feel welcome. Whatever background, whatever they look like, whatever their choices are, I want people to unite in this space and do something that's bigger than any one individual.

.....

Diversity Studio Birmingham is now open at The Coin Foundry in the Jewellery Quarter. For further information, visit the website at diversitystudio.co.uk

Film highlights in November...



Die My Love CERT 15 (118 mins)

Starring **Jennifer Lawrence, Robert Pattinson, Sissy Spacek, Nick Nolte, LaKeith Stanfield, Gabrielle Rose** Directed by **Lynne Ramsay**

Adapted from the same-named 2017 novel by Ariana Harwicz, *Die, My Love* spotlights a young couple - Grace (Lawrence) and Jackson (Pattinson) - who move from New York to an inherited house in rural Montana. Grappling with their relocation to such an isolated environment, and the challenges of taking care of a new baby, aspiring writer Grace struggles to find her identity and soon begins to unravel... This isn't the first time Lynne Ramsay has directed a film about the impact of postpartum depression; she previously

helmed the critically acclaimed big-screen adaptation of Lionel Shriver's novel, *We Need To Talk About Kevin*. The Glasgow-born director's desire to avoid retreading that same ground led to her co-writing and directing *Die, My Love* as "a bonkers, crazy love story" rather than a study of postpartum disorder. The film premiered to rave reviews in Cannes earlier this year, with Jennifer Lawrence in particular earning plenty of plaudits.

Released Fri 14 November

The Running Man

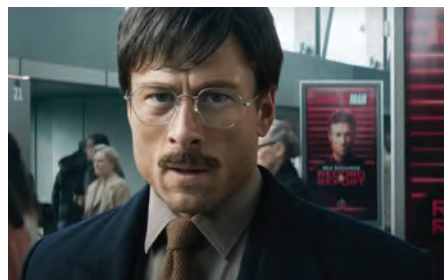
CERT **15** (120 mins)

Starring **Glen Powell, Emilia Jones, Josh Brolin, Lee Pace, Katy O'Brian, William H Macy** Directed by **Edgar Wright**

In a near-future society, *The Running Man* is the top-rated show on television - a deadly competition where contestants, known as Runners, must survive 30 days while being hunted by professional assassins, with every move broadcast to a bloodthirsty public and each day bringing a greater cash reward. Desperate to save his sick daughter, working-class Ben Richards (Glen Powell) is convinced by the show's charming but ruthless producer, Dan Killian (Josh Brolin), to enter the game as a last resort. But Ben's defiance, instincts and grit turn him into an unexpected fan favourite - and a threat to the entire system. As ratings skyrocket, so does

the danger, leaving Ben with the task of outwitting not only the Hunters, but also a nation addicted to watching him fall... Based on the 1982 novel of the same name by Stephen King (published under the pseudonym Richard Bachman), this is the second film adaptation of the story; the first, released in 1987, was a modest hit for Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Released Fri 14 November



Predator: Badlands

Starring **Elle Fanning and Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi** Directed by **Dan Trachtenberg**

Set in the future on a remote planet, *Badlands* follows the fortunes of Dek (Schuster-Koloamatangi), a young outcast Predator who, accompanied by the android Thia (Fanning), embarks on a treacherous journey to prove himself - by finding and then vanquishing a worthy adversary... *Badlands* is the latest in the long-established Predator series, which kicked off almost 40 years ago with the release of the eponymous movie starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. The franchise has struggled in more-recent times but received a welcome shot in the arm three years ago, when director Dan Trachtenberg's *Prey* proved to be a surprise hit at the box office. "[*Badlands* is a] crazy adventure against monsters and the elements," Trachtenberg told *Empire*. "We wanted Dek to be relatable, but without turning him into Luke Skywalker. He's still a Predator; we had to allow him to be a dick - but a dick you can root for." **Released Fri 7 November**



Now You See Me: Now You Don't

CERT **12a** (123 mins)

Starring **Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Dave Franco, Isla Fisher, Justice Smith, Dominic Sessa** Directed by **Ruben Fleischer**

This is the third instalment in the *Now You See Me* series, a franchise which is blossoming, albeit slowly, despite struggling to gain traction with the critics. The original film, released in 2013, was a glossy thriller which revolved around the adventures of the Four Horsemen, a team of magicians who use illusion, hypnosis and sleight-of-hand to pull off daring heists. Initially returning in *Now You See Me 2* some three years later, the team are now back yet again, this time after a near-decade-long break and accompanied by a new generation of illusionists. Their latest challenge? To steal a diamond, possessed by a powerful crime syndicate, from right under its owners' noses.

Released Fri 14 November

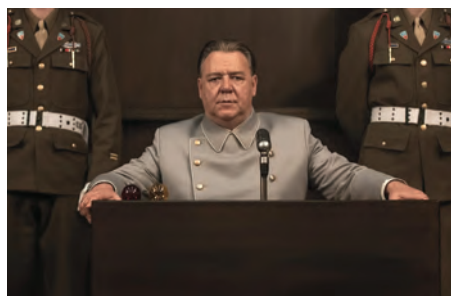
Nuremberg CERT 15 (148 mins)

Starring **Russell Crowe, Rami Malek, Douglas Kelley, Michael Shannon, Richard E Grant, Leo Woodall** Directed by **James Vanderbilt**

The year is 1945. Adolf Hitler is dead, and the Second World War is drawing to a close. Several figures within the Nazi high command have been apprehended by the Allies - among them the eerily charismatic commander-in-chief of the Luftwaffe, Hermann Göring (Russell Crowe). The Allies, led by the unyielding chief prosecutor, Robert H Jackson, have the task of ensuring the Nazi regime answers for the unveiled horrors of the Holocaust. Meanwhile, a US Army psychiatrist (Rami Malek) is locked in a dramatic psychological duel with Göring...

"I wanted it to be a thriller," Nuremberg director James Vanderbilt told The Hollywood Reporter, in talking about his latest film. "I want it to be a ride for people emotionally; I want it to be entertaining... It was really important for me, in order to give the gravity to the atrocities... [that] the entire movie [wasn't] heavy. As a viewer, the last thing I want is to feel like I'm being lectured to or beaten over the head by a film."

Released Fri 14 November



Zootropolis 2 CERT tbc

With the voices of **Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Ke Huy Quan, Fortune Feimster, Idris Elba, Bonnie Hunt** Directed by **Jared Bush and Byron Howard**

Fans of Walt Disney Animation Studios' Zootropolis have had a long wait for this sequel movie - the original landed in cinemas almost a decade ago, back in 2016. As with the first film, Zootropolis 2 focuses on the characters of Judy Hopps, a rabbit detective, and Nick Wilde, a one-time con-artist fox now turned detective.

The duo find themselves on the twisting trail of a mysterious reptile who is turning the mammal metropolis upside-down. To crack the case, Judy and Nick must go undercover in new parts of town, where their growing partnership is tested like never before...

Released Fri 28 November



Wicked: For Good CERT PG (138 mins)

Starring **Cynthia Erivo, Ariana Grande, Jonathan Bailey, Jeff Goldblum, Michelle Yeoh, Ethan Slater** Directed by **Jon M Chu**

The prequel to The Wizard Of Oz, Wicked offers a different and imaginative perspective on Frank L Baum's original and much-loved story, focusing on the unlikely friendship between the misunderstood Elphaba - the future Wicked Witch of the West - and the popular Glinda - The Good Witch of the North...

Following on from last year's first film, For Good brings the story to its conclusion, and opens with Elphaba and Glinda estranged

and living with the consequences of their choices. Elphaba, now demonised as The Wicked Witch of the West, lives in exile. Glinda, meanwhile, has become the glamorous symbol of Goodness for all of Oz, living at the palace in the Emerald City and revelling in the perks of fame and popularity. But things are set to change for both witches, not least when a farm girl from Kansas unexpectedly crashes into their lives...

Released Fri 21 November

Blue Moon CERT tbc (100 mins)

Starring **Ethan Hawke, Margaret Qualey, Bobby Cannavale, Andrew Scott, Giles Surridge, Jonah Lees** Directed by **Richard Linklater**

Before Rodgers & Hammerstein, there was Rodgers & Hart, a perhaps lesser-known but nevertheless prolific songwriting partnership that lasted for almost a quarter of a century, coming to an end with the death of legendary lyricist Lorenz Hart at the age of 48... But the partnership was not without its tensions, many of which were caused by Hart's fragile mental state and dependence on alcohol... Richard Linklater's new film, named after one of Rodgers & Hart's best-known songs, is set on the evening of 31 March 1943, the opening night of ground-breaking musical Oklahoma!, Rodgers' first collaboration with Oscar Hammerstein II. While Rodgers celebrates the occasion, former collaborator Hart confronts his shattered self-confidence in a local bar...

"He's heartbroken about Rodgers," Ethan Hawke, who plays Hart in the film, told IndieWire. "He can't deal with the real pain that's happening. He can't look at it for a second. The movie is about a man who died of heartbreak. The alcohol was part of his sadness; the pain was too great to suffer without it. Alcohol is a painkiller."

Released Fri 28 November



Image: Marc Balakjian - In the silence of passing years, 1980



Studio Prints: Celebrating The Balakjian Collection

New Art Gallery, Walsall,
Fri 7 November - Sun 12 April

The archive of London-based Studio Prints is the source of the artwork featured in this new exhibition, which includes prints by Lucian Freud and other 20th-century British greats. Studio Prints was established by the artist Dorothea Wight and her husband, Marc Balakjian, in the late 1960s, going on to produce prints for world-renowned British artists for the following 40 years. Commenting on the exhibition, the New Art Gallery's director, Stephen Snoddy, said: "It's wonderful to continue to promote the legacy of Studio Prints to new generations.

"These fantastic examples of world-class printmaking amplify our collection of modern British art, and are closely attuned to our Garman Ryan Collection."

Studio Prints: Celebrating the Balakjian Collection

Frank Auerbach, Marc Balakjian, Stephen Conroy,
Lucian Freud, Leon Kossoff, Celia Paul, Dorothea Wight

7 November 2025 – 12 April 2026



Walsall Council



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Image credit: Pluto, 1988 (etching with hand colouring in ink on Somerset Satin White wove), Freud, Lucian (1922–2011) Acquired through the Cultural Gifts Scheme, administered by Arts Council England / © The Lucian Freud Archive. All Rights Reserved 2025 / Bridgeman Images.



thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk
Gallery Square Walsall WS2 8LG

The New Art Gallery Walsall



Hardeep Pandhal: Saag And Fish Fingers

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 22 November - Sun 1 February

Saag And Fish Fingers marks Hardeep Pandhal's first solo exhibition in his hometown.

Hardeep creates mythical narratives in his artwork with the aim of investigating the complexities of contemporary culture.

Drawing on video games, comics, cultural

theory and his personal memories, the exhibition takes form across large-scale paintings, drawings and installation, along the way 'exploring the transformative forces of cultural assimilation'.

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sunday 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.



Image credit: Bidyut Kalita

Coventry Biennial 2025: Obsessions, Possessions

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 25 January

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. Artists whose work is being displayed at the city's Herbert Art Gallery & Museum include Helsinki-based Sophia Ehrnrooth, who is presenting a major four-screen moving-image installation. Also featured is a Simeon Barclay-curated group exhibition exploring 'the rich and complex history of Coventry'.

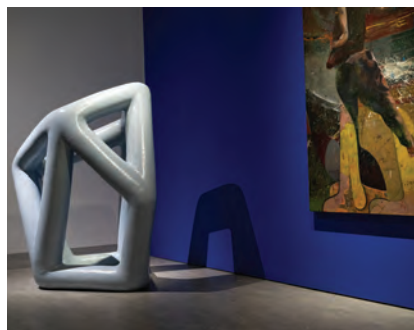


Image credit: Gary Jones Photography

@Tight Control: Human Rights In Neon Lights

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, until Sat 29 November

Disabled artist & activist

Zoe Partington is the creative force behind this brand-new and thought-provoking presentation.



The exhibition comprises nine neon artworks featuring slogans that were used by the pivotal disability rights movements of the 1980s and 90s. Via the display, Zoe invites visitors to confront the realities of discrimination, systemic barriers, and 'the ongoing fight for equality that defines the disabled community's experience'.

Designing Terry Pratchett's Discworld

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum, until Sun 4 January

This 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

Uncommon Threads: The Art Of June Burnett

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, until 23 November

Working in oils, watercolours, prints and collage, June Burnett produced art which blended rich colours and detailed figurative elements. Her output presented both real and imagined worlds and was greatly influenced by her Caribbean heritage and personal memories. The Potteries Museum exhibition showcases selected works for sale from the artist's estate.



Monday 15 December - Sunday 21 December

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Events previews from around the region



Good Food Show Winter

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 November

Taste seasonal delights, shop for unique gifts, and watch your favourite chefs and experts bring festive recipes to life on stage... Yes, the Good Food Show Winter is returning to the NEC this month!

This year's line-up of culinary legends includes James Martin, Lisa Faulkner, Michel Roux and Si King, all of whom will be taking to the stage to cook up festive feasts and seasonal treats.

Get ahead with your Christmas shopping by visiting the show's hundreds of handpicked producers - from big-name brands to small artisan creators - then check out the brand-new Gifting Village, an excellent place to purchase stocking fillers and presents. There are plenty of hands-on workshops to sample too, including The World of Magical Masalas with Cyrus Todiwalla and Andy's Christmas Cocktail Crackers.

The National Festival of Railway Modelling

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 22 & Sun 23 November

Britain's biggest model railway show is back at the end of the month.

Showcasing over 60 of the UK's finest layouts - curated by the editorial team behind British Railway Modelling - the event also features more than 100 leading manufacturers and retailers.



Get crafty at the NEC

NEC, Birmingham, until Sun 2 November

The Creative Craft Show, Sewing For Pleasure, Simply Christmas, Cake International and Bake International make a welcome return to the Midlands, 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 visitors with an interest in sewing, knitting, patchwork and embroidery, features demonstrations, workshops and all-day masterclasses. Meanwhile, Simply Christmas showcases bespoke and handmade gifts, unique decorations and festive food & drink.

Cake decorating and sugar craft event Cake International will feature headline-grabbing cakes, a huge line-up 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.



Mind Body Spirit Festival

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 14 - Sun 16 November

The Mind Body Spirit Festival returns to Birmingham this month for its 10th anniversary.

Celebrating spirituality, wellness and self-development, the show features eight 'dynamic' stages, a Wellbeing Market boasting in excess of 120 ethically sourced brands, and more than 100 free sessions, all of which are aimed at inspiring and empowering attendees.

A jam-packed schedule of transformative talks, enlightening workshops, rejuvenating sound baths, breathwork sessions and soul-nourishing ceremonies are all included in the ticket entry.

TV favourites Paul McKenna and Michele Knight, spiritual coach Karen Ruimy, and Buddhist monk Gelong Thubten are among the contributors to this year's show.



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THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride

Departing from Birmingham Moor Street Station, Sat 22 November - Tues 23 December

This winter, Vintage Trains are once again bringing THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride to Birmingham - 'an enchanting festive journey' straight from the beloved 2004 motion picture.

An immersive, family-orientated experience, the event sees the film theatrically recreated

onboard heritage carriages, behind a real steam locomotive.

Each passenger will receive a golden ticket, a hot chocolate and a cookie to enjoy, and a bell that only rings 'for those who believe', given out by Father Christmas himself.



Visit Santa: Vintage Sleigh Ride Experience

Coventry Transport Museum, Sat 29 November - Tues 23 December

Coventry Transport Museum's hugely popular Visit Santa: Vintage Sleigh Ride Experience is back!

Families will wander through snowy scenes, board a beautifully restored vintage sleigh pulled by reindeer, write a Christmas wish-

list, meet Santa in his grotto, and collect a bespoke gift from one of his North Pole elves. Tickets also include same-day museum admission, allowing visitors to explore the transport collection either before or after their sleigh ride.

Made In Telford Christmas Makers Market

Southwater Square, Telford,
Sat 29 November - Sun 7 December

The Made In Telford Christmas Market brings together an array of festive stalls showcasing the area's talented artisan makers.

The brand-new event offers visitors the chance to explore and purchase locally crafted gifts, seasonal decorations and handmade goods, all created by independent businesses from across Telford and Wrekin.



Spectacle Of Light

Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham,
Fri 21 November - Tues 30 December

Spectacle Of Light returns to the enchanting grounds of Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire for its 10th anniversary this festive season.

To mark the milestone, organisers have unveiled a brand-new theme for this year's event: King Arthur.

The trail will take guests on a journey through the myths and mysteries of Camelot.

Attractions include an iconic glowing-sword installation, an enchanted woodland, magical beasts, projections and 'lots of surprises around every corner'.

Visitors can also enjoy a selection of festive food & drink during the course of their visit.





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NEC, BIRMINGHAM • NOVEMBER 22 & 23, 2025

Events previews from around the region



Magical festive experiences at Severn Valley Railway

Severn Valley Railway, selected dates from Sat 29 November - Wed 24 December

The Severn Valley Railway is offering two festive-themed attractions to enjoy in the run-up to Christmas.

Presented in collaboration with Wise Owl Theatre Company, The Elf Express departs from Bridgnorth station, with a cast of mischievous and merry elves entertaining families onboard the steam-hauled train.

Meanwhile, Santa's Steam Special starts out from Kidderminster, whisking passengers away to Arley for The Great Christmas Train Rescue, featuring Santa, Polly the polar bear and a scheming villain called Victor Von Sneeze.

Santa's Steam Specials will operate as 'relaxed' services on selected dates.



Storytime With Santa

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum, weekends and Christmas holidays from Sat 29 November - Tues 23 December

Step into the magic of the season at Thinktank Science Museum's Santa's Grotto, where little ones are welcomed into a cosy, festive setting to meet the man himself. Children will gather around to enjoy a heartwarming Christmas story read by

Santa, before heading to his workshop for a hands-on craft activity.

While families get creative, each child will be invited to meet Santa personally and receive a special gift, with parents able to take a photo as a keepsake of the day.

Winter Tattoo Festival

Coventry Building Society Arena, Coventry, Sat 29 & Sun 30 November

More than 150 award-winning tattoo artists will be centre stage when the Winter Tattoo Festival takes place at Coventry Building Society Arena for the first time this month. The UK's only Christmas-themed tattoo festival, the show will see the best artists from the UK and beyond showcasing their talents across the two days.

Live entertainment, a wide range of stalls and family-friendly attractions further add to the weekend's appeal.

Walking With The Snowman™

Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire, Wed 12 November - Sun 11 January

A specially curated Walking With The Snowman™ art trail launches the festive season at the National Trust's Baddesley Clinton venue this month.

Twelve uniquely decorated sculptures will be displayed throughout the gardens, with each having been inspired by the song The Twelve Days Of Christmas.



Christmas Food & Gift Fayre

Weston Park, Shropshire, Sat 29 & Sun 30 November

Kickstart your Christmas-shopping mission with a visit to Weston's festive-season fayre this month. Attractions include live music, a variety of artisan food & drink, and the chance to purchase presents from a host of talented crafters.

Away from the fayre, visitors can enjoy a walk in Temple Wood, check out a fun festive trail, and take a ride on the Miniature Railway.





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

thelist



Elf The Musical at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre - Tues 11 - Sun 16 November

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

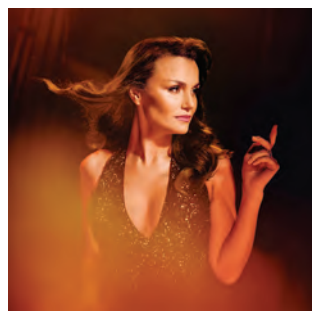
What's On

Sat 1 - Sun 9 November



Uncanny: Fear Of The Dark -
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
Tues 4 November

Mon 10 - Sun 16 November



Samantha Barks -
Lichfield Cathedral
Wed 12 November

Mon 17 - Sun 23 November



Drawn Makers Market -
Flaxmill Maltings, Shrewsbury
Sat 22 & Sun 23 November

Mon 24 - Sun 30 November



Good Habits - The Hive,
Shrewsbury
Sat 29 November

VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

OSZY 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

GIANTS Step into a world of prehistoric giant animals in this immersive, family-friendly exhibition, featuring life-sized 3D models, nearly complete fossil skeletons, hands-on activities and digital projections, until Sun 2 Nov

Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham

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

HOSPITAL ROOMS: BALANCING ACTS A special project by arts and mental health charity Hospital Rooms, exploring how artists, young people and NHS staff have worked together to re-imagine what a mental health hospital can look and feel like, until Sun 26 Apr

New Art Gallery, Walsall

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

CREATIVE UPSTARTS As part of this year's MakerFest Fringe Festival, the gallery presents a bold and dynamic showcase of emerging local creatives from the Creative Upstart (CUSP) programme, until Sun 16 Nov

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

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

UNCOMMON THREADS: THE ART OF JUNE BURNETT

Exhibition showcasing selected works - in oils, watercolours, prints and collage - which are for sale from the artist's estate, until Sun 23 Nov

100 YEARS, 60 DESIGNERS & 1 FUTURE

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

JESUS & THE POPE BY ROBBIE WILLIAMS

The Stoke native has worked with ceramic design brand 1882. Ltd at its factory in Barlaston to transform two of his 'inkling' drawings into four vibrant, abstract ceramic works of art, until Sun 7 Dec

THE NATIONAL GALLERY: ART ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Stoke-on-Trent City Council is the first partner in the National Gallery's new national touring project. Fifteen life-size, printed masterpieces are installed in an outdoor exhibition in Bethesda Gardens, opposite the Gallery, until Wed 7 Jan

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

ANTONY DRACUP: PAINTER, SCULPTOR AND VISIONARY Exhibition featuring oil paintings that highlight Dracup's skill at capturing the intricate detail of Shropshire's architecture, natural beauty and industrial heritage, until Sat 29 Nov, Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

POP ART GALLERY The largest collection of Pop Art outside of London, highlighting the gallery's iconic Pop works, until Wed 31 Dec

GRAYSON PERRY: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN DEAL A four metre-long tapestry, part of The Vanity Of Small Differences series, that tells the story of Tim Rakewell, a fictional 21st-century software developer who climbs the social and economic ladder from his working-class roots, Sat 1 Nov - Sun 12 Apr

Elsewhere:

LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE Giving a voice to wartime letters shared by BBC Radio listeners, the exhibition charts the journey from trepidation to jubilation, as six gruelling years of conflict come to an end, until Sun 16 Nov, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffs

A COMMON THREAD A textiles takeover featuring three exhibitions linked by two themes - thread and Newcastle-under-Lyme, until Sun 21 Dec, Brompton Museum & Art Gallery, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs

BEAR STEPS ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS Featuring works by Ffeisty Ffelters & Sam Sweet, Sun 9 - Sat 22 Nov, Bear Steps Art Gallery, Shrewsbury

Gigs

BACK ON THE ROAD Sat 1 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DESPERATE JOURNALIST Sat 1 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MIDNIGHT CITY SOUL Sat 1 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

JOEY VALENCE & BRAE + AG CLUB Sat 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PIRI & TOMMY Sat 1 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

CKY Sat 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ULTIMATE OZZY UK Sat 1 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BENSON BOONE Sat 1 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

SERIOUSLY COLLINS - A TRIBUTE TO PHIL COLLINS Sat 1 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

MAET LIVE Sat 1 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

GHOST UK + TYPE OF NEGATIVE Sat 1 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

GAZ BROOKFIELD Sat 1 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

BLAZE BAYLEY Sat 1 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

THE GROUPIERS Sat 1 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

STEREOTONICS Sat 1 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

SUZANNE VEGA Sat 1 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

HAPPY MONDAZE Sat 1 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

THE GERRY RAFFERTY SONGBOOK Sat 1 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

PET SHOP BOYS

ACTUALLY Sat 1 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

KNIGHT & SPIERS Sat 1 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

TIN DRAGONS Sat 1 Nov, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

TRIP Sat 1 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE WILSON FAMILY + SOFIA LEWIS + VINCENT WHYTE Sat 1 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR SWIFT Sat 1 Nov, Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shrops

MEDUSA Sat 1 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shrops

CARNIWHORE + ELKAPATH Sat 1 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

LOBSTER + FRIENDLY FIRE BAND Sat 1 - Sun 2 Nov, The Night Owl, Birmingham

THE MACC LADS Sat 1 - Sun 2 Nov, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

GILLES PETERSON & JAMZ SUPERNOVA Sun 2 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HANABIE Sun 2 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CHUCKIE & TAZER Sun 2 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

REMEMBER MONDAY + THERA Sun 2 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SANANDA MAITREYA Sun 2 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE MAGPIE ARC + SAM CARTER Sun 2 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

HEADSTICKS + CAROL HODGE Sun 2 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

KASPAR BERRY RAPKIN & LUCY PIPER Sun 2 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

JUSTIN HAYWARD Mon 3 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ABC Mon 3 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

BRETT YOUNG Tues 4 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

KATHRYN TICKELL & THE DARKENING Tues 4 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

FIEVEL IS GLAUQUE Wed 5 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MARUJA Wed 5 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

MAGNETIC SKIES Wed 5 Nov, The Victoria,

Birmingham

FIVE Wed 5 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

TALON Wed 5 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

OMEGA NEBULA Thurs 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MARGARITA WITCH CULT Thurs 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TWO DAY COMA + DEAF BALLOONS Thurs 6 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE SUBWAYS + THE MIEFFS Thurs 6 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JAMIE WEBSTER Thurs 6 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE RED CLAY STRAYS Thurs 6 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

WHEN RIVERS MEET + GEORGIA NEVADA Thurs 6 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

THE BIRTHDAY MASSACRE Thurs 6 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

THE SHERLOCKS Thurs 6 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

DECIUS Fri 7 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TOM ROBINSON WITH ADAM PHILLIPS Fri 7 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

CHARLOTTE YOUNG Fri 7 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

REEF + KERBDQG Fri 7 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SPORTS TEAM Fri 7 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

ABSOLUTE BOWIE Fri 7 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE PLOT IN YOU + CURRENTS + SAOSIN + CANE HILL Fri 7 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MOVING PICTURES Fri 7 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

MAREN MORRIS Fri 7 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TAYLORMANIA Fri 7 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

THE SEARCHERS EXP. FEATURING SPENCER JAMES Fri 7 Nov, Dudley

Saturday 1 - Sunday 9 November

Town Hall

HALF MAN HALF BISCUIT
+ **SHANGHAI TREASON**
Fri 7 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

PINK WITH VICKY JACKSON & HER BAND Fri 7 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

DAVE MCPHERSON Fri 7 Nov, The Rigger, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

THE FLEETWOOD MAC SONGBOOK Fri 7 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

HEADSTICKS + THE TWO STEP GOODBYES + MATT JOHNSON Fri 7 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

MA BESSIE AND HER PIG FOOT BAND Fri 7 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

THE BEAT - FEATURING RANKING JUNIOR Fri 7 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE SHIRE-ISH ROVERS Fri 7 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

LADY MAISERY Fri 7 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shrops

TALKING HORSES + NOTHING I'VE KNOWN Fri 7 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, Shropshire

BONNY LOU BAND Sat 8 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AARON ROWE + TALIA RAE Sat 8 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JAH LIL Sat 8 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MAC DEMARCO + TEX CRICK Sat 8 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MORGAN WALLEN TRIBUTE UK Sat 8 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE OVERTONES CHRISTMAS PARTY Sat 8 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE STYLISTICS Sat 8 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DIANA AND LIONEL - ENDLESS LOVE THE SHOW Sat 8 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

SUPERSONIC QUEEN Sat 8 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

THORNHILL + OCEAN GROVE + BLOOM Sat 8

Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

80S LIVE! Sat 8 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MOTORBEARD Sat 8 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA Sat 8 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

FLOYD IN THE FLESH Sat 8 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

TOTAL REX Sat 8 Nov, Rugeley Rose Theatre

THE TAKE THAT + ROBBIE SHOW Sat 8 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE DIRTY ROCKIN' SCOUNDRELS Sat 8 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT - A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON Sat 8 Nov, The Halls, Wolverhampton

WELLER + STRUCK/DOWN + LEAVE NO WITNESS Sat 8 Nov, The Firefly, Oakengates, Telford

BENJI KIRKPATRICK Sat 8 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shropshire

JALI BAKARY KONTEH & SARAH DEERE-JONES Sat 8 Nov, Chelmarsh Parish Hall, Shropshire

JAH WOBBLE Sun 9 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SUSY WALL + MATT SAYERS Sun 9 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

GREY GOOSE BAND Sun 9 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

PALAYE ROYALE + THE HUNNA + THE MOLOTOVS Sun 9 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GWENNO Sun 9 Nov, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

HAVASI Sun 9 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE JIM KIRKPATRICK BAND Sun 9 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE LIFE OF A SHOWGIRL - FT TAYLOR, SABRINA, OLIVIA + ARIANA LIVE TRIBUTES Sun 9 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

NORTH STAFFS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: TRIAL BY JURY Also featuring the Ceramic City Choir & Anthony Rose (conductor). A humorous joining where the NSSO and CCC come together to present Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera, Sat 1 Nov, King's Hall, Stoke

CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR Featuring the London Concert Orchestra, Marlena Devoe (soprano), Robyn Lyn Evans (tenor) & Anthony Inglis (conductor). Programme includes works by Verdi, Grieg, Mascagni, Tchaikovsky, Holst & Puccini, Sun 2 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DANIEL LEBHARDT PIANO CONCERT Programme includes works by Liszt, Beethoven & Chopin, Sun 2 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by JS Bach, P Whitlock, Dupré, Wagner & Rossini, Mon 3 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

MATTEO BOCELLI: FALLING IN LOVE WORLD TOUR Tues 4 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO WITH KAZUKI & ISATA KANNEH-MASON Programme includes works by Rachmaninoff & Walton, Wed 5 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

LUDLOW PIANO FESTIVAL: RÉVERIE - THE LIFE AND LOVES OF DEBUSSY Featuring Lucy Parham (piano) & Simon Russell Beale (narrator), Thurs 6 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

ALEXANDER GAVRYLYUK PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Mozart, Chopin, Liszt & Mussorgsky, Thurs 6 Nov, Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

DUNCAN HONEYBOURNE PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Mozart, Brahms, Henley & Schumann, Thurs 6 Nov, The Gateway, Shrewsbury

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Richard Balcombe (conductor), Miquel Ramos Salvadó (clarinet) & Tim Lihoreau (presenter). Programme includes works by Bizet, Saint-Saëms, Ravel, Handel, Mozart, Smetana, Price, Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Vaughan Williams, Elgar &

Stravinsky, Fri 7 Nov, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

CONCERTS IN THE ROUND Featuring Linda Angelis (jazz vocals) & Steve Plews (piano), Fri 7 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

CHORAL CONCERT WITH CANTIONES CHOIR Featuring Tony Coupe (conductor) & Paul Carr (organ), Sat 8 Nov, St Oswald's Church, Oswestry, North Shropshire

STAFFORD SINFONIA: FROM THE FOREST TO THE RHINE Programme includes works by Weber, Tchaikovsky & Schumann, Sat 8 Nov, Rising Brook Community Church, Burton Square, Stafford

EDWARD LLOYD PIANO RECITAL Sun 9 Nov, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

GIORGI GIGASHVILI PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Scarlatti, Chopin, Natalie Beridze, Lili Boulanger & Ravel, Sun 9 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HAVASI GOLDEN THREAD PIANO TOUR Sun 9 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

HARRIET DYER, MARC JENNINGS, THOR STENHAUG & BEN NORRIS Sat 1 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT GREEN Sat 1 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOMMY SANDHU, PREET SINGH, RAJ POOJARA & SHALAKA KURUP Sun 2 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOSH WIDDICOMBE Sun 2 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MARK WATSON Sun 2 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



JACK DEE Mon 3 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DAISY DORIS MAY Wed 5 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK STEEL Wed 5 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

SERGI POLO Thurs 6 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, DARREN HARRIOTT & DAISY EARL Thurs 6 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROSS NOBLE Thurs 6 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

DOMINIC WOODWARD, DAVE LONGLEY, JAKE STEERS, JAMIE DOUGLAS & DAVE TWENTYMAN Thurs 6 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

JOHN ROBERTSON Thurs 6 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

DANNY DEEGAN, JO COFFEY, DAN SMITH & COMIC TBC Thurs 6 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

JASON MANFORD Thurs 6 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

CALLY BEATON Thurs 6 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SARA PASCOE Thurs 6 Nov, Crewe Lyceum Theatre

JACK GLEADOW, ALASDAIR BECKETT-KING, DARREN HARRIOTT, DAISY EARL & BILLY KERR Fri 7 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK NELSON Fri 7 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KEITH FARNAN, THARUN CHELLEY, ROGER MONKHOUSE & ALEX EGAN Fri 7 Nov, Two Gates Club, Tamworth

SAM AVERY Fri 7 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

JACK GLEADOW, ALASDAIR BECKETT-KING, DARREN HARRIOTT & DAISY EARL Sat 8 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEPHEN BAILEY & KRIS DAVIES Sat 8 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NOREEN KHAN, KYRAH GRAY, TEJ DHUTIA & SHAZIA MIRZA Sat 8 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

JOHN ROBERTSON Sat 8 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

ED BYRNE, TOM WARD & ELEANOR TIERNAN Sat 8 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

KEVIN BLOODY WILSON Sun 9 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

AURIE STYLA, SHABBAZ KARIEM, KAYLEIGH LOUDMOUTH, TOJU, FUNMBI OMOTAYO, LATEEF LOVEJOY & JUNIOR BOOKER Sun 9 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham

TONY CARROLL Sun 9 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

VINCE ATTA, IAN CRAWFORD, WAYNE BEESE & COMIC TBC Sun 9 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Theatre

STARTER FOR TEN Mel Giedroyc stars in a new coming-of-age musical comedy about love and belonging. Featuring an original soundtrack inspired by the 1980s student scene, until Sat 1 Nov, The Rep, B'ham



SHROPSHIRE DRAMA COMPANY

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by Gérald Sibleyras

Translated by Tom Stoppard



"Hilarious and moving...achingly funny and piercingly sad."
- The Daily Telegraph

It's the summer of 1959 and three retired veterans are plotting their escape from their home - how far will their imaginations take them?

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MINCE PIES



THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE

WARDROBE Smash-hit production based on CS Lewis' classic adventure story, until Sat 1 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



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

MACBETH Sam Heughan (Outlander, Love Again) makes his RSC debut in the title role. Lia Williams (The Crown, Skyline) stars as Lady Macbeth, until Sat 6 Dec, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS Starcross Theatre Company present an amateur version of Richard Bean's award-winning play, Fri 31 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR. Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur version of the Disney classic, Fri 31 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE: THE LADY WITH THE HAMMER Oddsocks bring their trademark humour to the bloody story of Britain's most famous nurse..., Sat 1 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

HEROES Amateur version of Tom Stoppard's comedy, set in 1959 in a French retirement home for First World War veterans, Sat 1 - Sat 8 Nov, Oldbury Rep

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE: THE LADY WITH THE HAMMER Oddsocks bring their trademark humour to the bloody story of Britain's most famous nurse..., Sun 2 Nov, Wednesbury Library

THE BODYGUARD Sidonie Smith stars as Rachel Marron*, alongside Adam Garcia as former secret service agent Frank Farmer, in a new version of the hit musical. Sasha Monique (Nicki Marron) and Matt Milburn (Sy Spector) also star. *Mireia Mambo will play the role of Rachel Marron at certain performances, Mon 3 - Sat 8 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

MOHIT MATHUR: DIAL 1 FOR UK Poignant one-man show about high hopes and reality, Tues 4 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company

present an amateur version of Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

MURDER, SHE DIDN'T WRITE Ingenious improvised comedy in which a classic murder-mystery is devised on the spot, Wed 5 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatres

HAUNTINGS Three tales of the supernatural from two of the world's greatest ghost writers: EF Benson and MR James, Wed 5 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

I'M FRANK MORGAN REWIRED Joe O'Byrne's play about a hard man in a dirty old town..., Wed 5 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

'ALLO 'ALLO 2 - THE CAMEMBERT CAPER Stafford Players pay homage to the iconic BBC sitcom, Wed 5 - Sat 8 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

HEROES Bloomin' Good Productions present an amateur version of Tom Stoppard's comedy, set in 1959 in a French retirement home for First World War veterans, Thurs 6 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire



ANYTHING FOR LOVE Steve Steinman's brand-new production featuring over 25 of Meat Loaf and Jim Steinman's greatest hits, Thurs 6 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

A MONTAGE OF MONET Stephen Smith's one-man show about the life of French impressionist painter Clive Monet, Thurs 6 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - A RADIO PLAY LIVE ON STAGE Former Doctor Who star Colin Baker leads the cast in a new version of the Dickens festive favourite. Tom Baker (another former Doctor Who) also features - in a rare, specially recorded appearance - as Jacob Marley, Fri 7 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

HEROES Bloomin' Good Productions present an amateur version of Tom Stoppard's comedy, set in 1959 in a French retirement home for First World War veterans, Sat 8 Nov, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

WE ARE THE LIONS, MR MANAGER! Townsend Theatre productions tell the story of six workers who staged a strike at the Grunwick Film Processing Laboratory & Factory in 1976, protesting about poor working conditions and demanding to join a union, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Cirque: The Greatest Show Reimagined - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Kids Theatre

GRANDAD ANASI An uplifting tale of love, courage and letting go. Suitable for audience members aged four to nine, Sat 1 Nov, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, South Shropshire

BABY BEAR Moon On A Stick present a playful, interactive puppetry adventure suitable for audiences aged from 18 months to three years, Sun 2 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

GRANDAD ANASI An uplifting tale of love, courage and letting go. Suitable for audience members aged four to nine, Sun 2 Nov, Belmont Hall, Wellington, Shropshire



DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS FIND YOUR HERO Featuring 'magical adventures of favourite Disney stars', Fri 7 - Sun 9 Nov, bp Pulse LIVE, Birmingham



CAN'T FIND MR SHADOW Light-hearted family show where 'funny little tales unfold', Sat 8 Nov, Caldmore Community Garden, Walsall

Dance

FABRIC - DECIPHERS A compelling and intimate physical performance that examines the complexity of human communication. Created and performed by Naishi Wang (Canada/China) and Jean Abreu

(UK/Brazil), Thurs 6 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

JAIVANT PATEL COMPANY: ASTITVA Ground-breaking work exploring the realities of balancing tradition, culture and identity by bringing queer South Asian stories to the forefront, Thurs 6 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DIWALI UTSAV, SITARON KE SANG A vibrant evening of South Asian dance featuring Bollywood, kathak, bharatanatyam, bhanga and dandiya raas - in celebration of Diwali, Sat 8 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Light Entertainment

TWO PINTS PODCAST LIVE Will Mellor and Ralf Little share some 'laugh-out-loud banter', Sat 1 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

CIRQUE: THE GREATEST SHOW REIMAGINED Family-friendly extravaganza showcasing a fusion of musical theatre and circus acts, Sat 1 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

RICHARD JONES: THE SOUND OF MAGIC An evening with the military illusionist - the first and only magician to win Britain's Got Talent, Sat 1 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

IT'S A MYSTERY! Tim Benzie's one-man show is described as 'a funny and engrossing deep-dive into the appeal of murder-mysteries', Sat 1 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

THE BIG PANTS PARTY Celebration of sisterhood featuring an iconic soundtrack of fun, love and friendship, Sat 1 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER The macabre literary classic is read by actor & voice-over artist Richard Usher, Sat 1 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

THE RECEIPTS PODCAST An evening of 'dilemmas, special guests and

undiluted chat'..., Sat 1 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

UNCANNY - FEAR OF THE DARK Danny Robins is back with a new show featuring 'the most spine-tingling range of Uncanny stories yet', Tues 4 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



I SCREAMED A SCREAM - A VILLAINS CABARET A cast of musical theatre performers 'guide you through an evil art gallery of black-hearted bops', Tues 4 - Sun 9 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

AN ORCHESTRAL TRIBUTE TO TIM BURTON & DARK FANTASY BY MOONLIGHT Celebrating music from cinema's most whimsical and eerie masterpieces - from Tim Burton's gothic fantasy films to cult classics of

the dark and magical, Wed 5 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

DES COLEMAN & THE ALL STARS BIG BAND Hollywood and Swing-era sounds are presented alongside musical theatre favourites, Thurs 6 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE D-DAY DARLINGS Experience the sound and sentiment of World War Two via an evening of original songs and reimagined arrangements, Thurs 6 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

CIRQUE: THE GREATEST SHOW REIMAGINED Family-friendly extravaganza showcasing a fusion of musical theatre and 'jaw-dropping' circus acts, Thurs 6 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

JOHN ROBERTSON PLAYS WITH HIS AUDIENCE Featuring 'improv, mayhem, gaming comedy, crowd work and songs' from 'the UK's most manic comic', Thurs 6 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE WITTERING WHITEHALLS: BARELY ALIVE Michael and Hilary bring their hit podcast to the stage, Fri 7 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

WONDERFULL DISCOVERIE OF WITCHES IN THE COUNTIE OF HIMSELF Comedy,

clowning, live music and a giant cauldron all feature in 'a new mystical comedy' which gives an insight into the world of late-stage ADHD diagnosis, Fri 7 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

TWO PINTS PODCAST LIVE Will Mellor and Ralf Little share some 'laugh-out-loud banter', Fri 7 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

A FAIRYTALE FOR CHRISTMAS Talented singers, musicians and dancers perform renditions of yuletide favourites, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Nov, Lichfield Garrick



THE NIGHT SKY SHOW Journey across the cosmos courtesy of a show in which science fiction and science fact are combined and presented in an easy and entertaining way, Sun 9 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THAT'LL BE THE DAY CHRISTMAS SHOW Featuring 'all-time favourite Christmas

classics, laugh-out-loud comedy sketches and festive cheer', Sun 9 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Talks & Spoken Word

STORY BAZAAR: ILL FEELING Jan Blake joins resident storyteller Peter Chan for an Afro-Indian night of unsettling and creepy stories guaranteed to steal your sleep around Halloween, Sun 2 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

SUSIE DENT: WORD PERFECT Britain's best-loved wordsmith 'takes a look at the joys of the English language, Sun 2 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

PAUL C BRUNSON: LOVE BETTER An 'unforgettable evening' about creating the conditions for meaningful connection with others and yourself, Tues 4 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

DAVID OLUSOGA: A GUN THROUGH OUR TIME The renowned historian uncovers the story of three firearms that changed the world - and the lives of our ancestors, Tues 4 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



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Saturday 1 - Sunday 9 November

YOMI SODE IN CONVERSATION WITH KOFI STONE Brum-raised rapper & storyteller Kofi Stone, in conversation with award-winning Nigerian poet Yomi Sode, Wed 5 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH AMY DOWDEN Join the professional dancer for 'stories, sparkle and an insight into the Strictly magic', Sun 9 Nov, Kidderminster Town Hall

Events

SCREAM TRAINS Are you brave enough to climb aboard the Scream Train?, until Sat 1 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster



GHOST TRAINS Do you dare to take a ride in the dark through the haunted stations?, until Sat 1 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

THE HAUNTED HALL: A CANDLELIT GHOST TOUR Tour the candlelit mansion and hear about the ghosts who live there, until Sat 1 Nov, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE MONSTER BALL An evening of 'wickedly good fun' featuring live entertainment and a prize for the best dressed, until Sat 1 Nov, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

MONSTERS & MAGIC HALLOWEEN Drayton Manor transforms into an enchanted world, where spooky creatures and mystical wonders await, until Sun 2 Nov, Drayton Manor, Tamworth

PUMPKIN TRAIL AND GAMES Follow the pumpkin-themed trail through the castle grounds before joining in with some pumpkin-inspired games and activities, until Sun 2 Nov, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

HOCUS SNOWCUS 'A spellbinding, snow-filled Halloween experience' for little ones, until Sun 2 Nov, SnowDome, Tamworth

A FANG-TASTIC OCTOBER HALF TERM Featuring 'thrills, chills and plenty of family-friendly fun', until Sun 2 Nov, Shrewsbury Prison

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW The UK's biggest mixed-craft show, until Sun 2 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

SIMPLY CHRISTMAS Get into the Christmas spirit with some holiday shopping, until Sun 2 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

CAKE INTERNATIONAL AND BAKE INTERNATIONAL The biggest cake

decorating and baking event in the world, until Sun 2 Nov, NEC, Birmingham



LUNAR LEGO LAB: ALIEN EDITION Create your own Lego alien creature in this space-themed family Lego coding workshop, until Sun 2 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

SCAREFEST Featuring 'frantically funny and seriously spooky attractions for all ages', until Sun 2 Nov, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

GANDEYS CIRCUS HALLOWEEN SPOOKTAKULAR Gandeys Circus returns with a 'brand-new, spinechilling and action-packed spooktacular', until Sun 2 Nov, Merry Hill, Brierley Hill

PUMPKINFEST Carve in the farm's huge pumpkin shed, until Sun 2 Nov, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry

SPOOKY SPECTACULAR A mix of 'thrilling adventures, spooky shows, and monstrously good fun for the whole family', until Sun 2 Nov, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

SHREWSBURY RESTAURANT WEEK 2025 Thirty-plus local venues are expected to participate, until Sun 2 Nov, venues across Shrewsbury, Shropshire

FRIGHTS ON ICE Dare to skate through a chilling multi-sensory experience, where the rink becomes a world of frights?, until Sun 2 Nov, SnowDome, Tamworth



FLYING BAT CRAFTS Make a bat with moving wings using paper, straws and string, until Sun 2 Nov, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

BRIDGNORTH STATION MINI GALA Featuring County of Salop Steam Engine Society's miniature steam section, with a line-up of around 10 road-going steam engines, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

FIT XPO The UK's top athletes give it their all in over 14 competitions, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

FARSHORE FUNNY FEST: THE MISADVENTURES OF MINA MAHMOOD

WITH FARHANA ISLAM Enjoy free 'laugh-out-loud workshops and silly shows' at Farshore Funny Fest, Sun 2 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

NETBALL AID Stars from the worlds of sport, music and entertainment step on court to play a competitive match, Sun 2 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

QUATT THE PUPPET MUSICAL Help create a new hit musical, Sun 2 Nov, Quatt Village Hall, South Shropshire

GUIDED MUSEUM TOUR Hear fascinating stories and take a peek behind the scenes, Mon 3 Nov, Lapworth Museum, Aston Webb Building, University of Birmingham



FIRE GARDEN New display of fiery creations, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Nov, Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre

STAFFORD STAMP SHOW Fri 7 - Sat 8 Nov, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford

LANCASTER INSURANCE CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW Featuring over 3,000 classic cars, 338 car clubs, 430-plus exhibitors and 600-plus cars for sale, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

YOUR HORSE LIVE 2025 Featuring over 300 equine shopping stands, performances by the world's best riders, expert advice and demos, and exclusive stage interviews and talks, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Nov, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

HAWKER HURRICANE CELEBRATION DAY Celebrate 90 years since the first flight of the iconic Hawker Hurricane, Sat 8 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

THE LOCK UP REMEMBERS An event to commemorate the police officers of the West Midlands who fought and died during the world wars, Sat 8 Nov, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham



ARTISAN MARKET Explore a range of stands helmed by local craftspeople and producers, Sat 8 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

SCALE MODEL WORLD 2025 Sat 8 - Sun 9 Nov, Telford International Centre,

Telford Town Centre, Shropshire

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE Recreate the adventure and excitement of the much-loved Christmas movie, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Nov, Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire

BACKSTAGE TOUR Explore backstage, take a sneak peek into the dressing rooms, and meet the expert technical and creative teams, Sat 8 - Tues 11 Nov, Lichfield Garrick Theatre

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Event remembering those who have served and sacrificed, Sun 9 Nov, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

THE WICKED PRINCESS PARTY A 'spellbinding morning of musical fun, games and magic', Sun 9 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Bonfires & Fireworks

BIDDULPH MOOR FIREWORK EXTRAVAGANZA Pyromusical display celebrating the hall's 50th birthday, Sat 1 Nov, Biddulph Moor Village Hall, Staffordshire

BONFIRE AND FIREWORK SPECTACULAR Two firework displays and live music, Sat 1 Nov, West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury

BONFIRE NIGHT & FIREWORKS DISPLAY Get ready for 'a dazzling night by the lake', Sat 1 Nov, Alderford Lake, Whitchurch

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT With two firework displays across the evening, one giant roaring bonfire and a traditional funfair, Sun 2 Nov, Weston Park, Shropshire



FIREWORKS & BONFIRE PARTY Sun 2 & Sat 8 Nov, Lower Drayton Farm, Stafford

FIREWORKS & FUNFAIR EXTRAVAGANZA Featuring fireworks, a funfair, and food stalls, Sun 2 Nov, Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford

ALTON TOWERS ULTIMATE FIREWORKS A spectacle to mark the end of the theme-park season, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Nov, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

HIMLEY FIREWORKS Event taking the theme 'music through the decades', Sat 8 Nov, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

FIREWORKS ON THE FARM Featuring live music, a bonfire, and a 15-minute firework display, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Nov, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

ROCK CHOIR AND CUFFE & TAYLOR PRESENT

'THE UK'S BIGGEST CHOIR EXPERIENCE'

ROCK CHOIR LIVE

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

SAM RYDER & EMELI SANDÉ

MARTIN KEMP RUSSELL WATSON

CAROLINE REDMAN LUSHER THE ROCK CHOIR VOCAL GROUP

BP PULSE LIVE BIRMINGHAM

29 NOVEMBER 2025

MATINEE 1:15PM SOLD OUT **EVENING 7PM** SELLING FAST

CUFFEANDTAYLOR.COM | ROCKCHOIR.COM

Make this Christmas unforgettable with a magical screening of **The Snowman** film accompanied by a live orchestra!

Watch in awe as the beloved classic **The Snowman** comes to life on the big screen, with an award-winning live orchestra. As an extra bonus, performances include Prokofiev's classic symphonic fairy tale, **Peter and the Wolf**, played live by the musicians and accompanied by a brand new animated film.

With a fun, festive medley created by **CBeebies Musical Storyland** composer, Daniel Whibley, to open the show – and a special visit from the Snowman himself – this magical show is perfect for the whole family to enjoy!

"Top family things to do at Christmas"

The Guardian, The Telegraph and The Sunday Times



2025 TOUR

Birmingham Town Hall

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER

1.45pm | 6pm

carrotproductions.com



The Snowman™
WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA



Joy Crookes - O2 Academy, Birmingham.

Gigs

DEEP SEA DIVER + LEMON SUCKR Mon 10 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SUMMER SET + SENSES Mon 10 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

G FLIP Mon 10 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

NIGHTBUS Tues 11 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT Tues 11 Nov, The Jam House, Birmingham

LACK OF AFRO Tues 11 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

GARETH DUNLOP Wed 12 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

CIEL Wed 12 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JAMES MARRIOTT Wed 12 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

ROLAND GIFT PRESENTS FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR Wed 12 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

VOLBEAT Wed 12 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

ESPRIT D'AIR Wed 12 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

FOCUS Thurs 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SONS Thurs 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RILEY BAUGUS Thurs 13 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

CAST Thurs 13 Nov,

O2 Institute, B'ham

BRAND NEW + GEORGE TAYLOR Thurs 13 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

AMBLE Thurs 13 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

BLEACH LAB Thurs 13 Nov, Dead Wax, Birmingham

AS EVERYTHING UNFOLDS Thurs 13 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

CLASSICAL KATE BUSH Thurs 13 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

FLEETWOOD SHACK Thurs 13 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

LEVELLERS Thurs 13 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

ELLIE GOWERS Thurs 13 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

THE DAMN TRUTH Thurs 13 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

NEMO + PUNCHBAG Fri 14 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

JOY CROOKES Fri 14 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MIRADOR Fri 14 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

NEON DREAMS Fri 14 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth, B'ham

STERLING PRESS Fri 14 Nov, The Victoria, Birmingham

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS: SING AND SWING Fri 14 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

PENTIRE Fri 14 Nov, The Rainbow,

Birmingham

THANK ABBA FOR THE MUSIC Fri 14 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

UB40 - LABOUR OF LOVE Fri 14 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

JILTED GENERATION Fri 14 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

HEADWIRED Fri 14 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

ORBIT CULTURE + GAEREA + ATLAS Fri 14 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

TAYLOR FOREVERMORE Fri 14 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

SAXON Fri 14 Nov, The Halls, Wolverhampton

THE REVENANTS + DARK ROOT FALLS + GLASS ATLAS Fri 14 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

SPUNGE Fri 14 Nov, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

THE SKATE PUNK + REASON TO LEAVE + FEW THOUGHTS + GUINEAPIGS Fri 14 Nov, The Rigger, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

NASTEE CHAPEL Fri 14 Nov, Fenton Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

THE CLASSIC BLUES SHOW Fri 14 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

MARQUIS DRIVE Fri 14 Nov, The Station, Cannock

HEIDI TALBOT AND BOO HEWERDINE Fri 14 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

ALCHEMYLIVE - DIRE STRAITS TRIBUTE Fri 14 Nov, Rugeley Rose Theatre

DEFINITELY OASIS + THE RICHARD ASHCROFT EXPERIENCE Fri 14 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

ED SHEERAN NIGHT WITH DAVE BUSBY Fri 14 Nov, The Buttermarket,

Shrewsbury

SAMBROSO ALL STARS Fri 14 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

WILL BARNES QUARTET Fri 14 Nov, SpArC, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

OOBERFUSE + SAD VACATION + JOE HERMES Fri 14 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

JAMES OLIVER Sat 15 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SKASTUDS Sat 15 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

LUCY SPRAGGAN Sat 15 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SWIM SCHOOL + BASHT Sat 15 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

GARY NUMAN Sat 15 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE 900 Sat 15 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

TEMPLETON PEK + 4FT FINGERS Sat 15 Nov, The Flapper, Birmingham

ADAM ANT Sat 15 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

BASTILLE + SOFIA CAMARA + RUTI Sat 15 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

EDDY MORTON Sat 15 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

ANDY CUTTING AND GUDRUN WALTHER Sat 15 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

THESE WICKED RIVERS + THE VIRGINMARYS Sat 15 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE DEVOUT Sat 15 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS - LEE MEMPHIS KING Sat 15 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

PRETTY SHIVERS + KASPERIA Sat 15 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

BEATLES COMPLETE Sat 15 Nov, Brewhouse Arts

Centre, Burton upon Trent

COSMIC QUEEN Sat 15 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

THE MADCHESTER EXPERIENCE Sat 15 Nov, Top Of The World, Stafford

HAMMERED Sat 15 Nov, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

JAMES ALLSOPP GROUP Sat 15 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury

THE UNKNOWN Sat 15 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

GENEVIEVE MILES Sat 15 - Sun 16 Nov, The Night Owl, B'ham

THE SKINNER BROTHERS Sun 16 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SCALER Sun 16 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GWENIFER RAYMOND Sun 16 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

TAXI FOR JESUS Sun 16 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

STRANDZ Sun 16 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

BLACK STAR Sun 16 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ALEXANDER STEWART Sun 16 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

HOWARD JONES Sun 16 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JERSEY 4 Sun 16 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

CURVED AIR Sun 16 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

LUKE COMBS UK Sun 16 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

SMOKIN ESKIMO + THE SPIRIT WAGON Sun 16 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

ATOM HEART FLOYD Sun 16 Nov, The Station, Cannock

40 YEARS OF SIMPLY RED - STARRING RED MICK Sun 16 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

SIR SIMON RATTLE & THE BAVARIAN RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Programme includes works by Schumann & Stravinsky, Tues 11 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ALEX POSTLETHWAITE (VIOLIN) & JOHN MOORE (PIANO) IN CONCERT

Programme features music from the period of the two World Wars, Tues 11 Nov, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

CONCERTS IN THE ROUND Featuring students from Chetham's School of Music, Fri 14 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

ST CECILIA - SYMPHONIC FIRE: FROM BEETHOVEN TO BORODIN Fri 14 Nov, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School

MELIORA COLLECTIVE Consisting of five wind & five string players. Programme includes works by Ravel, Jean Françaix & Johannes Brahms, Fri 14 Nov, United Reformed Church, Shrewsbury

ST CECILIA - ANCIENT AND MODERN An evening celebrating choral music through the ages, culminating in an orchestral evensong featuring music by Howells, Stanford, Parry, and Rutter, Sat 15 Nov, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School

THE PHOENIX SINGERS: GREAT CATHEDRAL ANTHEMS Programme includes works by Parry, Stainer, Finzi, Harris, Howells, Naylor, Stanford & Wood, Sat 15 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

SHREWSBURY CHORAL SOCIETY: COME AND SING Mass workshop day conducted by Dr Martin Cook, Sat 15 Nov, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

CBSO: EUGENE TZIKINDELEAN PLAYS MOZART Programme comprises Adagio in E major for violin, Violin Concerto No.5 & Symphony No.41, Sun 16 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR Featuring Ruairi Bowen (tenor), Westminster Chamber Orchestra, Adrian Lucas (conductor). Programme includes works by Michael Hurd, John Wilbye, Richard Rodney Bennett & Gerald Finzi, Sun 16 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

JOE LYCETT Mon 10 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TONY CARROLL Tues 11 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

EMMANUEL SONUBI Tues 11 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ANDREW HAMILTON Wed 12 Nov, The

Glee Club, Birmingham

JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH Wed 12 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

JENNY ECLAIR Thurs 13 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

RACHEL GALVO, IAN SMITH, JIN HAO LI & SOL BERNSTEIN Fri 14 - Sat 15 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GEORGE LEWIS Sat 15 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

GARETH MUTCH, KARL PORTER, DAMION LARKIN & COMIC TBC Sat 15 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

NICK HELM Sat 15 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BABATUNDE ALÉSHÉ Sat 15 Nov, The Wulfrun, Wolverhampton

JOE PASQUALE, RICKY BALSHAW, EL BALDINIHO & WAYNE BEES Sat 15 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

Theatre

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - A RADIO PLAY LIVE ON STAGE Former Doctor Who star Colin Baker leads the cast in a new version of the Dickens festive favourite. Tom Baker (another former Doctor Who) also features - in a rare, specially recorded appearance - as

Jacob Marley, Mon 10 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

ANNIE CHAOS present an amateur version of the popular rags-to-riches musical, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

INSIDE NO.9 STAGE/FRIGHT Expect the unexpected as the acclaimed BBC TV series comes to life on stage, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent



SUNSHINE ON LEITH Stoke Youth Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of the acclaimed musical, set to an anthem of songs by The Proclaimers, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

ELF THE MUSICAL World's Biggest Productions present a stage version of the much-loved festive film. Jordan Conway stars in the lead role, Tues

11 - Sun 16 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THREE DEGREES EAST Andy Alsop's absorbing play explores the fallout from a split-second decision in a time of war. Based on a true story, Wed 12 - Thurs 14 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW A unique theatrical adventure 'filled with heart, humour and stunning spectacle', Wed 12 - Sat 15 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

HAUNTED SHADOWS: THE GOTHIC TALES OF EDITH NESBIT Claire Louise Amias presents a 'gripping insight' into the darker side of Edith Nesbit, author of The Railway Children, Thurs 13 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Presented by Dickens Theatre Company, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE BIRDS Aethelflaed Theatre Company present Daphne du Maurier's short story, which explores themes of isolation, fear and human fragility in the face of an unknown natural threat, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Nov, Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

ANNIE Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur version of the much-loved rags-to-riches musical, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MOHIT MATHUR: DIAL 1 FOR UK

Poignant one-man show about high hopes and reality, Fri 14 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

BOUNCERS Shropshire Drama Company present an amateur version of John Godber's comedy, set in a Yorkshire disco in the 1980s, Fri 14 Nov, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire



SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS World premiere comedy whodunnit, written by and starring Fringe favourites The Penny Dreadfuls and featuring brand-new songs from Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber, Fri 14 Nov - Sun 18 Jan, The Rep, Birmingham

goodFOOD SHOW WINTER

Sponsored by LEXUS

27-30 November 2025

NEC, BIRMINGHAM

Save 15%* off

USE CODE **WHATSON** FOR 15% OFF* TICKETS

*15% offer ends 23:59pm 16 November 2025. All offers exclude Saturday, VIP tickets, added extras, not valid with any other offer. £3.95 transaction fee per e-ticket per order, not all celebrities appear on all days and the line-up in subject to change. Details correct at time of print.

THE LITTLE MERMAID Theresa Heskins directs a new version of Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytale, Fri 14 Nov - Sat 24 Jan, The New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

REWRITES: HALF MAN HALF BULL Brand-new musical in which two myths - Theseus And The Minotaur and Daedalus And Icarus - are brought to life, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

Light Entertainment

TROUBLE, STRUGGLE, BUBBLE AND SQUEAK Storytelling and stand-up combine in a tale of high jinks from award-winning theatre maker Victoria Melody. Directed by comedian Mark Thomas, Mon 10 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

CRAIG MORRIS: AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE Tues 11 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall

SAMANTHA BARKS: THE CATHEDRAL TOUR The West End star hosts an evening of music and storytelling, Wed 12 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

THE MAN WHO WAS MAGIC James Phelan's new show, during which 'the impossible comes alive', Wed 12 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

TROUBLE, STRUGGLE, BUBBLE AND SQUEAK Storytelling and stand-up combine in a tale of high jinks from award-winning theatre maker Victoria Melody. Directed by comedian Mark Thomas, Wed 12 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

AN EVENING WITH THE FAST SHOW Simon Day, Charlie Higson, John Thomson, Paul Whitehouse, Mark Williams and Arabella Weir reunite to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the iconic TV comedy show, Thurs 13 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JAMES B PARTRIDGE - THE BIG CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY Join the singer and vocal coach as he re-lives the heartwarming magic of timeless festive tunes, complete with musical surprises and reflections on Christmases past, Thurs 13 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre



THE WEST END SEASONS Featuring the music of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, Thurs 13 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall

THE CROONERS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Featuring 'iconic festive favourites, laughter and more' ..., Fri 14 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

ATTENTION ALL SHIPPING: A CELEBRATION OF THE SHIPPING FORECAST Charlie Connelly brings the shipping forecast vividly to life, Fri 14 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

STEP INTO CHRISTMAS Feelgood festive show bringing the spirit of the season to life with 'dazzling performances, stunning festive visuals, and a sensational live band', Fri 14 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

MICHAEL AUGER: HERE WE GO AGAIN Former Collabro star Michael presents his brand-new solo show, featuring musical theatre favourites and tracks from his debut solo album, Sat 15 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



DES COLEMAN'S RAT PACK REPRISE Award-winning theatre show that faithfully recreates the music and magic of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr, Sat 15 Nov, The Anstice, Madeley, Shropshire

THE MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS Featuring musical theatre favourites including The Phantom Of The Opera and Mamma Mia!, Sat 15 Nov, Rugeley Rose Theatre

SONGS FOR A NEW DECADE Join Theatre1 as they reflect on a decade of producing musical theatre in Staffordshire, Sat 15 Nov, The Crown Wharf Theatre, Stone, Staffs

LOOK TO THE WEST END SKY Ten-year anniversary showcase in which Curtain Call Theatre Company take a trip down memory lane, performing some of their favourite numbers, Sun 16 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Talks & Spoken Word

SIR GEOFF HURST: LAST MAN STANDING An evening of football nostalgia from the last surviving member of England's 1966 World Cup winning team, Sat 15 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BRETT TIPPIE - THE RIGHT LINE Join the extreme-sports athlete as he shares stories from his rollercoaster career, Sat 15 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Samantha Barks - Lichfield Cathedral

Events

ARMISTICE DAY A service held on the Armed Forces Memorial, Tues 11 Nov, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

TRENTHAM CHRISTMAS STREET PARTY Take advantage of discounts and offers at the Shopping Village, Thurs 13 Nov, Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

MIND BODY SPIRIT FESTIVAL A transformative three-day celebration of spirituality, wellbeing and connection, Fri 14 - Sun 16 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

CERAMIC MAKERS MARKET Featuring more than 60 local and national ceramic makers, Sat 15 Nov, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL Featuring children's activities, live music and a Christmas market, Sat 15 Nov, Middleport Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent

MARKET DRAYTON FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS Full day of live music and

entertainment featuring a festive market and the Christmas lights switch-on, Sat 15 Nov, Market Drayton, Shropshire

CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR Hosted by Black Country Fairs, Sat 15 Nov, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE Recreate the adventure and excitement of the much-loved Christmas movie, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Nov, Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire

FROST FAIR Featuring a wide selection of handmade crafts and Christmas gifts created by talented Shropshire craftspeople, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Nov, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

WOLVERHAMPTON IN WW2 Featuring a programme of free family fun, Sun 16 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

MERRY MAKES WITH SANTA Enjoy a Christmas crafty clay activity, complete with a packed lunch and a visit from Father Christmas, Sun 16 Nov, Middleport Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent



Mind, Body, Spirit Festival - NEC Birmingham

Gigs

JIM E. BROWN Mon 17 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

NAMESBLISS Mon 17 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

ELIZABETH DAVIDSON-BLYTHE & DANIEL QUAYLE Mon 17 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

GRAYSCALE Mon 17 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TINIE TEMPAH Mon 17 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ARTHUR HILL + BENJAMIN STEER Mon 17 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE ALBION CHRISTMAS BAND Mon 17 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

ELIZA CARTHY & JON BODEN Mon 17 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BAD NERVES Tues 18 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DODIE Tues 18 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD Tues 18 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

MARTIN BARRE & FRIENDS Tues 18 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MAXI PRIEST Tues 18 - Thurs 20 Nov, The Jam House, Birmingham

PILE Wed 19 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WESTSIDE COWBOY Wed 19 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

HEAVEN 17 Wed 19 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SLUM VILLAGE Wed 19 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

LIL TRACY + COLD HART Wed 19 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BETTY BOO + CAT LEA Wed 19 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

THE ELO EXPERIENCE Wed 19 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE OVERTONES Wed 19 Nov, Aston Hall, Wrexham

MARSEILLE Thurs 20 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

TUNNG Thurs 20 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FLETCHER FLETCHER Thurs 20 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

HOT MILK + CASSYETTE + SILLY GOOSE Thurs 20 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE DUBLINERS ENCORE Thurs 20 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

LORDE Thurs 20 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

NELL MESCAL Thurs 20 Nov, Mama Roux's, B'ham

SUPREME QUEEN Thurs 20 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

ELVIS - 'FROM MEMPHIS TO VEGAS' Thurs 20 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

LUKE COMBS UK Thurs 20 Nov, Dudley Town Hall



SECOND CITIES + GYPSY PISTOLEROS + BLACK WATER FIEND Thurs 20 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

MARK STANWAYS KINGDOM OF MADNESS Thurs 20 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

LOST IN MUSIC - ONE NIGHT AT THE DISCO Thurs 20 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

BLAIR DUNLOP + DAVE BURN Thurs 20 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

SKERRYVORE Thurs 20 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE HISTORY OF ROCK Thurs 20 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

ŠIROM Thurs 20 Nov, SpArC, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

LOYLE CARNER + REJJIE SNOW Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

CARL SINCLAIR Fri 21 Nov, Actress & Bishop, B'ham

JULIA + FLOODGATE + NAUSY + THE HOLOSCENES + CHERRYAID Fri 21 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

VOWER + GIANT WALKER Fri 21 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MATT MALTESE + KATIE GREGSON-MACLEOD Fri 21 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE CHRIS STAPLETON EXPERIENCE Fri 21 Nov, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

NIK KERSHAW Fri 21 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

MONEY FOR NOTHING Fri 21

Nov, The Robin, Bilston

DAVID LIVE - BOWIE TRIBUTE Fri 21 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

TAYLORMANIA Fri 21 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

THE SPECIALS LTD Fri 21 Nov, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent

THE SMITHS LTD Fri 21 Nov, The Station, Cannock

RANAGRI Fri 21 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

GILMORE & ROBERTS Fri 21 Nov, Unitarian Church, Shrewsbury

R.E.M. BY STIPE Fri 21 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MAD DOG MCREA Fri 21 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

CALLUM & THE POOKIES Fri 21 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

RUB-A-DUB PUB CLUB + ALVIN AND THE ANGRY BARRELS Fri 21 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

DS:UK Fri 21 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

VERSAINTS + FAIL THE ENEMY + KARMA CARTEL Fri 21 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shrops

LETZ ZEP Fri 21 - Sat 22 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

JLS Fri 21 - Sat 22 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

MAZ MITRENKO Sat 22 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

STRAY FROM THE PATH + ALPHA WOLF + GRAPHIC NATURE + CALVA LOUISE Sat 22 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JERUB + PERSIA HOLDER Sat 22 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE GERRY CINNA-MAN EXPERIENCE + SAM OFFENDER Sat 22 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RIZZLE KICKS + MONSTER FLORENCE + DAME Sat 22 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE SPECIALS LTD Sat 22 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

JOHNNY2BAD Sat 22 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

3 DAFT MONKEYS Sat 22 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

DEMON Sat 22 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE ULTIMATE STONE ROSES Sat 22 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

THE DETOURS Sat 22 Nov, The Station, Cannock

THE KATE BUSH SONG BOOK Sat 22 Nov, Lichfield Guildhall

MARTIN MCALOON Sat 22 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

AIN'T NO DISCO Sat 22 Nov, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

WATERMELON CHRONICLES Sat 22 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

DXRK WINTER + HAEMA + MICHIGAN DOGMAN Sat 22 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shrops

MIKKI EVANS Sun 23 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE SCRIBES + TRUEMENDOUS + SANITY Sun 23 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KD AND THE DOGS Sun 23 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

TURIN BRAKES Sun 23 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THECITYISOURS + MALLAVORA Sun 23 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DIZZEE RASCAL Sun 23 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

HALESTORM Sun 23 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham



DARKSIDE, THE PINK FLOYD SHOW Sun 23 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

MOONLIGHT SINATRA Sun 23 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

SCHOOL OF ROCK TRIBUTE - TEACHER'S PET Sun 23 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

AUBREY BLAKEEDGE Sun 23 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

BUFFET Sun 23 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

JOHN OTWAY BAND + ZIPSTYLE Sun 23 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

THE CELTIC SOCIAL CLUB Sun 23 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER: BACH AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Programme includes works by JS Bach, W Bolcom, Z Gardonyi, J Michel, L Anderson, J Berveiller & I Farrington, Mon 17 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

SOPHIE ILIAIFAR (MEZZO SOPRANO) & TSUKUSHI MITSUDA (PIANO) IN CONCERT

Programme includes works by Purcell, Handel, Poulenc, Cole Porter and more..., Tues 18 Nov, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

CBSO: SHOSTAKOVICH'S LAST SYMPHONY Featuring Osmo Vänskä (conductor) & Helena Juntunen (soprano). Programme includes works by Sibelius & Shostakovich, Wed 19 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

CELONIATUS A candle lit concert featuring works by Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Eccles and the world premiere of Harriet Mackenzie's Green Spaces We Hold Dear, Wed 19 Nov, Keele University Chapel, Staffs

SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Programme includes works by Wagner & Mahler, Wed 19 Nov, Market Hall, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

LONDON CHAMBER ENSEMBLE QUARTET

Featuring Madeleine Mitchell & Gordon MacKay (violins), Bridget Carey (viola) & Joseph Spooner (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, Charles Wood, Michael Berkeley & Borodin, Thurs 20 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

CONCERTS IN THE ROUND Featuring Anne Tupling (violin), Fiona Rattray (cello) & Richard Walker (piano). Programme includes piano trios by Haydn & Malcolm Arnold, Fri 21 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

THE LUDLOW ORCHESTRA Featuring Jonathan Lyness (conductor), Graham Walker (cello) & Claire Tocknell (leader). Programme includes works by Haydn, Saint-Saens & Farrenc, Sat 22 Nov, St Laurence Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Humperdinck, Rachmaninov, Gershwin & Beethoven, Sat 22 Nov, Wolverhampton Grammar School

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS: GLORIA! Featuring works by Bruckner, Handel, Parry, Rutter & Vaughan Williams, Sat 22 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

STAFFORD CHORAL SOCIETY Featuring Sam Hayes (musical director) & Russell Medley (organist). Programme comprises Elgar's The Spirit of England & Sir John Rutter's Requiem, Sat 22 Nov, Rising Brook Community Centre, Stafford

PAUL CARR ORGAN RECITAL Sat 22 Nov, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

WINTER LIGHT: NADIA EIDE IN CONCERT Programme includes festive favourites and classic songs, Sun 23 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Wagner & Mahler, Sun 23 Nov, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School

Comedy

JOE LYCETT & FRIENDS Mon 17 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

URZILA CARLSON Wed 19 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

HAL CRUTTENDEN Wed 19 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COUNT ARTHUR STRONG Wed 19 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MIKE RICE Thurs 20 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE LONGLEY, NINA GILLIGAN, JOE KENT-WALTERS, DAVE CHAWNER & JOSEPH EMSLIE Fri 21 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LIAM WITHNAIL Fri 21 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHRIS BROOKER, JULES O'BRIAN & KATE MARTIN Fri 21 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

JEN BRISTER Sat 22 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

OLA LABIB Sat 22 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE LONGLEY, NINA GILLIGAN, JOE KENT-WALTERS & COMIC TBC Sat 22 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JIM JEFFERIES Sat 22 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

URZILA CARLSON Sun 23 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GLENN MOORE Sun 23 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MISS SAIGON Spectacular new production of Boublil & Schönberg's legendary musical, set during the last days of the Vietnam War, Tues 18 - Sat 29 Nov, The Alexandra, B'ham

BOUNCERS Shropshire Drama Company present an amateur version of John Godber's comedy, set in a Yorkshire disco in the 1980s, Wed 19 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL Five Towns Theatre present an amateur version of the all-singing, all-dancing stage show based on the popular TV series, Wed 19 - Sat 22 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

ROMEO & JULIET Shakespeare's tragic tale of love and loss, presented as part of a collaboration performance project between Shakespeare In The

Park, Lichfield Players and Different Animal Theatre, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR TFTR Productions present an amateur version of Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: THE PANTO Festive favourite presented by Rugeley Musical Theatre Company, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Nov, Rugeley Rose Theatre

BEDROOM FARCE Stourbridge Theatre Company present an amateur version of Alan Ayckbourn's oft-performed play, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

THE MONKEY'S PAW / THE GHOST OF JERRY BUNDLER The Clock Work Donkey Theatre Company present two classic tales of terror from WW Jacobs, Fri 21 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

CINDERELLA 'Festive extravaganza' in which panto favourite Sam Rabone stars as Aldianna. Also starring Matt Daines (Lidleena), Shannon Bourne (Cinderella), Ben Thornton (Buttons), Joe Feeney (Dandini), Adam Craig (Prince Charming) and Clarice Julianda (Fairy Twinklethistle), Fri 21 Nov - Sun 11 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

IS THAT A WHIP IN YOUR HAND? Gavin Robertson's one-man show is a spoof of the popular fortune-hunting movies featuring Harrison Ford. Think Indiana Jones meets National Treasure meets Romancing The Stone..., Sat 22 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

CINDERELLA BOA Group bring the timeless festive tale to life with 'breathtaking sets, jaw-dropping special effects, and unforgettable musical numbers', Sat 22 Nov - Wed 31 Dec, The Old Rep, Birmingham

Kids Theatre

THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED: A ROCK SHOW! Stage show for younger audiences, adapted from the best-selling books by Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter, Sun 23 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

FUN FOR THE LITTLE ONES - MS RACHEL A tribute to 'the biggest viral sensation to hit children's screens since Baby Shark', Sun 23 Nov, Kidderminster Town Hall

Dance

AUTUMN COMMUNITY DANCE FESTIVAL Showcasing the talents of children, young people and others from the Black Country and beyond. Presented in partnership with Black Country Dance Hub, Mon 17 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

JAIVANT PATEL COMPANY: ASTITVA

Ground-breaking work exploring the realities of balancing tradition, culture and identity by bringing queer South Asian stories to the forefront, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

THE NUTCRACKER BRB's magical festive production, complete with falling snow and a 30-foot Christmas tree, Fri 21 Nov - Sat 13 Dec, Birmingham Hippodrome

Light Entertainment

ANTON DU BEKE AT THE MUSICALS An evening of song, dance and laughter, as the Strictly star is joined by a live band, guest singers and dancers, Tues 18 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

COUNT ARTHUR STRONG: A CHRISTMAS CAROL Join the 'showbiz legend' as he takes on one of the literary greats, Charles Dickens, in a one-man interpretation of the author's famous festive offering, Wed 19 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE MAN WHO WAS MAGIC James Phelan's new show, during which 'the impossible comes alive', Thurs 20 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

FATT BUTCHER'S BIG MEATY GAME SHOW Expect big prizes, face-melting live vocals, and big belly laughs, Fri 21 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BURLESQUE CABARET An evening of glamour, laughter and feelgood fun, Fri 21 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

BUBLÉ BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Josh Hindle and his sensational live swing band, Sat 22 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

TWO PINTS PODCAST LIVE Will Mellor and Ralf Little share some 'laugh-out-loud banter', Sat 22 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

A CELTIC CHRISTMAS 'Bewitching harmonies, powerful melodies, Christmas folk music and more'..., Sat 22 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Talks & Spoken Word

JON RONSON: PSYCHOPATH NIGHT The renowned journalist, filmmaker & author journeys into the world of psychopaths, Thurs 20 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

STEVE MORGAN: AN EVENING WITH JACK THE RIPPER The award-winning producer & broadcaster explores one of the greatest unsolved mysteries, Thurs 20 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

ANT MIDDLETON: LIVE & UNSCRIPTED

Join the former Royal Marines commando as he shares lessons learned from the battlefield that have helped him overcome challenges throughout his life, Sun 23 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

Events

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE Experience 'a fun-filled theatrical adventure' as you make your way to the North Pole, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Nov, Telford Steam Railway

GEEKCON With geeky traders, cosplayers and more, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Nov, Mander Centre, Wolverhampton

THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF RAILWAY MODELLING Showcasing over 60 of the UK's finest layouts, curated by the editorial team behind British Railway Modelling, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and intrigue of this classic children's tale, Sat 22 Nov - Tues 23 Dec, Moor Street Station, B'ham

DRAWN CHRISTMAS MARKET A festive showcase of creativity, community, and meaningful gift shopping featuring over 100 artists and makers. Street food and drinks also available, Sat 22 & Sun 23 Nov, Flaxmill Maltings, Shrewsbury



SANTA SAFARI Combining a four-mile winter safari with a visit to Santa, Sat 22 Nov - Wed 24 Dec, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

MERRY MAKES WITH SANTA Enjoy a Christmas crafty clay activity, complete with a packed lunch and a visit from Father Christmas, Sun 23 Nov, Middleport Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent

FAULTY TOWERS THE DINING EXPERIENCE Highly interactive experience featuring 'a three-course meal and five-star comedy', Sun 23 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

WEDDING FAYRE Inspiration and ideas for the big day, Sun 23 Nov, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

KICKASS WESTON PARK Take part in either a 5k or a 10k trail run around the historic grounds, Sun 23 Nov, Weston Park, Shropshire



Good Habits - The Hive, Shrewsbury

Gigs

AMIE BLU Mon 24 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

NOISY Mon 24 Nov, The Rainbow, B'ham

UNFLIRT Tues 25 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HUMANE THE MOON Tues 25 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SAY SHE SHE Tues 25 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AMARIA BB Tues 25 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CONAN Tues 25 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

BABYSHAMBLES Tues 25 Nov, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent

SCUSTIN Wed 26 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE FINN COLLINSON BAND Wed 26 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

THE WAILERS Wed 26 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BABYSHAMBLES Wed 26 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE DROLLZ + SUE STEVENS Wed 26 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

ROB BRYDON & HIS FABULOUS BAND: A FESTIVE NIGHT OF SONGS & LAUGHTER Wed 26 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE BRACKISH + NOT WEIRD Wed 26 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

THE BEST OF QUEEN Wed 26 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

HERBERT & MOMOKO Thurs 27 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

WEIRD ON PURPOSE Thurs 27 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE KAHUNAS Thurs 27 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SOUTH ARCADE Thurs 27 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ZACH TEMPLAR Thurs 27 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

KNEECAP + MISS KANINNA Thurs 27 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GOOD HEALTH GOOD WEALTH Thurs 27 Nov, Dead Wax, Birmingham

BUG TEETH Thurs 27 Nov, The Victoria, Birmingham

A CELEBRATION OF THE LAST WALTZ Thurs 27 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ZACH TEMPLAR Thurs 27 Nov, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

MARTIN BARRE Thurs 27 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

GONG + HENGE Thurs 27 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

HARDLINE + SEVI + HEAVEN'S REIGN Thurs 27 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

ORPHY ROBINSON Thurs 27 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

JULIE JULY Thurs 27

Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

SHRIMP EYES Fri 28 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SEAN REEVES Fri 28 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

SADIE JEAN Fri 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DREADZONE + THE ORB Fri 28 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE WHITE LAKES + THIS WON'T WORK + ALEX HOPKINS Fri 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ALESSI ROSE + DÉYESS Fri 28 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Fri 28 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

SISTERS OF MURPHY Fri 28 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

CHOP SUEY + SLIP-NOT + THE VIOLENTINZIDENT Fri 28 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

NIKHIL D'SOUZA Fri 28 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

FIVE Fri 28 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETERS Fri 28 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall

UGLY KID JOE + SCARLET REBELS + MUDDIBROOKE Fri 28 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

OASISH Fri 28 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

HUNG LIKE HANRATTY Fri 28 Nov, The Rigger, Newcastle-

Under-Lyme

DREAMS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Fri 28 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

INXS GB Fri 28 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

DEJA VU Fri 28 Nov, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

ABBA REVIVAL Fri 28 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

PAUL PARKER & ALL THE RIGHT FRIENDS Fri 28 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

KC JOHNS Fri 28 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

MIKE DAVIDS BAND Sat 29 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

KEYSIDE Sat 29 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

HEELS Sat 29 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

THE ATLANTIC PLAYERS Sat 29 Nov, The Night Owl, Birmingham

NOTHING, NOWHERE. + SACE6 Sat 29 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

WHEATUS + THOMAS NICHOLAS BAND Sat 29 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TORS Sat 29 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

ROCK CHOIR LIVE - FEAT. SPECIAL GUESTS EMELI SANDE + SAM RYDER + RUSSELL WATSON Sat 29 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

WOLF ALICE Sat 29 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

CLIMAX BLUES BAND Sat 29 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

QUIREBOYS + SOHO DUKES Sat 29 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

POPESTARS Sat 29 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

PETER AND THE TEST TUBE BABIES + VOMIT + KID KLUMSY Sat 29

Nov, The Rigger, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

TUBEWAY DAYS Sat 29 Nov, The Station, Cannock

GORSTEY LEA Sat 29 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

THE PLAYLIST PARTY BAND Sat 29 Nov, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

GOOD HABITS Sat 29 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury

MICROBABY Sat 29 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

KRAZYLEGZ + ETERNITY ROAD + THE KILLA KANGORRILLAZ Sat 29 Nov, The Firefly, Oakengates, Telford

ANY GIVEN REASON + INFIRM OF PURPOSE + FALLEN NORTH Sat 29 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

DAISY CHAPMAN DUO Sat 29 Nov, Bitterley Village Hall, Shropshire

JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Sun 30 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

KINGFISHER Sun 30 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JARED JAMES NICHOLS + AFRODIZIAC Sun 30 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

JOSH BAILEY TRIO Sun 30 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

MIDNITE CITY + WILDSTREET Sun 30 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

BEJEWELED - THE TAYLOR SWIFT TRIBUTE Sun 30 Nov, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

LUKE COMBS UK Sun 30 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL CHAMBER ENSEMBLES Tues 25 Nov, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

CBSO: AN EVENING WITH RUSHIL RANJAN Featuring Nitin Sawhney CBE (composer/piano), Melvin Tay (conductor), Abi Sampa (vocalist), Aakash Odedra (dancer), Praveen Prathapan (Bansuri), Janan Sathiedran (tabla) & the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes works by A.R Rahman, John Williams, Mascagni, Mychael Danna, Nitin Sawhney, Sibelius & Rushil Ranjan, Thurs 27 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JILL CROSSLAND PIANO RECITAL Fri 28 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT Thought-provoking service with readings and carols to start the Advent journey, Sat 29 & Sun 30 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

LICHFIELD SINFONIA Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Glazunov & Dvorak, Sun 30 Nov, Lichfield Guildhall

Comedy

JOE LYCETT & FRIENDS Mon 24 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KIM BLYTHE Tues 25 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK STEEL Wed 26 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

NEIL DELAMERE Wed 26 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

UROOJ ASHFAQ Thurs 27 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & MATT BRAGG Thurs 27 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JAY LAFFERTY, JONNY AWSUM, GBEMI OLADIPO & MATT BRAGG Fri 28 - Sat 29 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SCOTT BENNETT, KATE SMURTHWAITE & SEAN HEYDON Sat 29 Nov, Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire

TEO, VIO & COSTEL Sun 30 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

CAROUSEL The Little Theatre Company present an amateur version of Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical. Featuring hit numbers You'll Never Walk Alone, June Is Bustin and If I Loved You, Tues 25 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

THE BFG Tom Wells' brand-new

adaptation of Roald Dahl's story concerning a gentle giant and the smallest human bean, Tues 25 Nov - Sat 7 Feb, The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MUCH ADO ABOUT FALSTAFF Giles Shenton's one-man comedy focusing on Shakespeare's 'biggest rogue', Wed 26 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

SUNSHINE ON LEITH Backstreet Theatre Company present an amateur version of the heartfelt musical, set to an anthem of songs by The Proclaimers, Wed 26 - Sat 29 Nov, Rugeley Rose Theatre

KINKY BOOTS New production of the hit musical about a man who inherits his family's failing shoe factory. Starring Dan Partridge (Grease), Courtney Brown (Six), Scott Paige (The Addams Family) and Tosh Wanogho-Maud (Bridgerton), Wed 26 - Sun 30 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

BREAKING THE RULES The Telling present Clare Norburn's acclaimed play exploring the extraordinary focus of 16th/17th-century composer-prince Carlo Gesualdo, Fri 28 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

TROUBLE IN TAHITI Mid Wales Opera present Bernstein's one-act operatic gem, followed by a cabaret concert celebrating American opera and musical theatre, Fri 28 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire



DICK WHITTINGTON Fun-filled family musical featuring Brad Pitt, Tommy J Rollason, Tim Whinnall, Cara Dudgeon, Ollie Wray and Lottie Stone, Fri 28 Nov - Sun 4 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE FORSYTE SAGA PARTS 1 & 2 Acclaimed stage adaptation of John Galsworthy's Nobel Prize-winning saga of love, ownership and the end of Empire, Fri 28 Nov - Sat 10 Jan, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE GOOD LANDLORD Dark comedy written and performed by working-class renters, Sat 29 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

SLEEPING BEAUTY 'Magical festive

fairytale' starring Danny Beard (Carabosse) and Debra Stephenson (Queen) alongside pantomime royalty Tam Ryan and Ian Adams, Sat 29 Nov - Sun 4 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DIANE'S DELI: A TALE OF PARADISE HEIGHTS Joe O'Byrne returns with his first story in the critically acclaimed series of 'supernatural meets Northern noir' tales, Sun 30 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

SNOW WHITE AND THE INDI SEVEN Inclusive pantomime starring members of local charity Project Indi and dancers from the Angela Beardsmore School of Dance, Sun 30 Nov, Mitchell Arts Centre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

Light Entertainment

JIM HENSON'S LABYRINTH: IN CONCERT Be transported to Goblin City in a fusion of film and live music, Mon 24 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH THE FAST SHOW Simon Day, Charlie Higson, John Thomson, Paul Whitehouse, Mark Williams and Arabella Weir reunite to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the iconic TV programme, Tues 25 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MARK SMITH: ANTIQUE EXPERT ON THE ROAD History is brought to life as Mark delves into the origins of the Victoria Cross, Tues 25 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

ROB BRYDON & HIS FABULOUS BAND: A FESTIVE NIGHT OF SONGS & LAUGHTER Accompanied by an eight-piece band, Rob ushers in the festive season with songs, stories, and even an impression or two, Wed 26 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETERS - HOLLY AT CHRISTMAS Described as the ultimate rock & roll experience, Fri 28 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall

THE RAT PACK - A SWINGIN' CHRISTMAS AT THE SANDS Starring Tom Russell Fox as Frank Sinatra, Glenn Macnamara as Dean Martin and Jim Whitley as Sammy Davis Jr, Fri 28 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

CORY BAND PRESENTS WALLACE AND GROMIT: THE WRONG TROUSERS Fun-filled family favourite, presented on the big screen with brass-band accompaniment, Sat 29 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

MUSIC OF FLEETWOOD MAC BY CANDLELIGHT Sat 29 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

DAVID BOLTON HYPNOSIS SHOW An evening of 'mesmeric mirth, magic and mayhem', Sat 29 Nov, Festival Drayton, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

Dance

FABRIC - TARANTO ALEATORIO Choreographer & dancer La Chachi (María del Mar Suárez) and singer Lola Dolores present their personal take on the Taranto form of Flamenco, embracing irreverent gestures and humour, Wed 26 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

FABRIC - MATHROO BASHA Acclaimed visual artist & filmmaker Hetain Patel uses movement and audio interviews to present a reflection on loss and transformation through dance, Thurs 27 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks & Spoken Word

A TUDOR CHRISTMAS WITH ALISON WEIR AND SIOBHAN CLARKE Join the historian (Weir) and lecturer (Clarke) as they discuss the festive traditions of the Tudors, Wed 26 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

TERRY CHRISTIAN RELIVE THE WORD The award-winning broadcaster, comedian & writer celebrates the legendary TV show, Thurs 27 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

Events

CHRISTMAS TREE BOOK FOLDING WORKSHOP Turn the pages of an old book into a folded Christmas tree in this hands-on festive workshop, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Nov, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

GOOD FOOD SHOW WINTER Featuring 'more festive flavour and foodie fun than ever', Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

ELLESMERE WINTER FESTIVAL Enjoy late-night shopping and the sights and sounds of the season, Fri 28 Nov, Ellesmere, Shropshire

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE Recreate the adventure and excitement of the much-loved Christmas movie, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Nov, Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE Experience 'a fun-filled theatrical adventure' as you make your way to the North Pole, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Nov, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

FRINGE ARTS WOLVES A celebration of the rich tapestry of cultural heritage in Wolverhampton, focusing on visual arts and intangible folk art, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Nov, Wolverhampton city centre

SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND Step into a winter wonderland, complete with real snow, Fri 28 Nov - Sat 3 Jan,

SnowDome, Tamworth

CHRISTMAS AT SHUGBOROUGH Featuring festive displays celebrating food, gift giving, games and family traditions, Fri 28 Nov - Sun 4 Jan, Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS AT WIGHTWICK Celebrate a traditional Victorian Christmas, Fri 28 Nov - Sun 4 Jan, Wightwick Manor, W'hampton

BEWDLEY LIGHTS SPECIAL TRAIN Travel in style to see the Christmas lights switch-on event in Bewdley, Sat 29 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

THE MURDER OF SIR EDMUND BELTON Victorian-inspired murder-mystery night, Sat 29 Nov, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

THE SANTA EXPERIENCE Meet Santa and his elves, explore the farm and enjoy the Christmas show, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Park Hall Countryside Experience, Oswestry, North Shrops

STORYTIME WITH SANTA Enjoy a heartwarming Christmas story read by Santa, then head to his workshop for a hands-on craft activity, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

CHRISTMAS FOOD & GIFT FAYRE Check out a selection of artisan stalls, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Weston Park, Shrops

THE NORTH POLE EXPRESS Step aboard for a 'magical festive journey' to the North Pole, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Foxfield Railway, Staffordshire

SANTA'S STEAM SPECIALS Travel on a steam train from Kidderminster to see Santa and friends in brand-new festive show The Great Christmas Train Rescue, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

THE ELF EXPRESS An interactive experience for all ages, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

NORTH POLE ADVENTURE Head through the magical portal to the North Pole, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

MADE IN TELFORD CHRISTMAS MAKERS MARKET Featuring a festive array of stalls, Sat 29 Nov - Sun 7 Dec, Southwater Square, Telford

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS Father Christmas will be saying a big festive hello to families in his traditional museum workshop, Sat 29 Nov - Tues 23 Dec, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

THE CHRISTMAS GROTTO Wander through a Christmas village, 'where there's a surprise around every corner', Sat 29 Nov - Wed 24 Dec, Webbs, West Hagley

DACHSHUND EXTRAVAGANZA In aid of Dedicated To Dachshunds with IVDD and Dachshund Rescue UK, Sun 30 Nov, Alderford Lake, Whitchurch

Enter now at whatsonlive.co.uk to be in with a chance of bagging one of these fabulous prizes!



Win! Four tickets to see Slava's Snowshow

Multi-award-winning global phenomenon Slava's Snowshow returns to Birmingham this month.

The production's scruffy, disarming troupe of fools will take audiences on a spellbinding adventure, unleashing full-throttle madness and mayhem that's certain to delight...

We have four tickets to give away to see Slava's Snowshow at The Alexandra, Birmingham, on Wednesday 12 November.

Competition closes Tuesday 4 November



Win! A family ticket to see The Little Mermaid

The New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme has turned to the magic of Hans Christian Andersen for its family show this Christmas. Telling a tale of hope, love and self-discovery, the theatre's brand-new production of classic fairytale The Little Mermaid features a unique blend of circus, storytelling and live music.

We have a family ticket to give away to see the production on Saturday 22 November.

Competition closes Monday 17 November



Win! Two tickets to Good Food Show Winter

Get ready to embrace the festive spirit with cosy seasonal dishes and plenty of foodie inspiration as the Good Food Show Winter returns to the NEC. The event's highlights include tastings, workshops, gift ideas galore and live demonstrations from top culinary stars...

We have two tickets to give away for the ever-popular event, which this year runs from Thursday 27 to Sunday 30 November.

Competition closes Friday 21 November



Win! A family ticket to see No Such Thing As Wolves

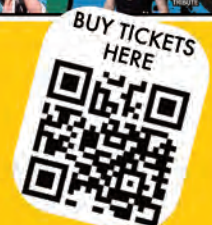
Created by Horrible Histories writers Gerard Foster and Richie Webb - and promising to have you, er, 'howling' with laughter - new family musical No Such Thing As Wolves features catchy songs and a wolfy twist in the tail - sorry, tale.

The show runs at Birmingham Hippodrome's Patrick Studio from Saturday 6 December to Sunday 4 January - and we have a family ticket to the 4.30pm performance on Friday 12 December to give away.

Competition closes Friday 21 November

For your chance to WIN! with What's On, visit:

whatsonlive.co.uk





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