

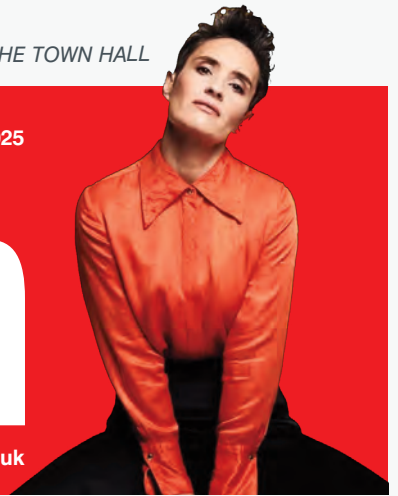
Birmingham

ISSUE 466 NOVEMBER 2025

What's On

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

birminghamwhatson.co.uk



inside:

SEASONAL SLEUTHS

Holmes and Watson solve Christmas crimes at The Rep



FESTIVE FAVOURITE

BRB's The Nutcracker returns to Birmingham Hippodrome



A TASTY CHRISTMAS

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



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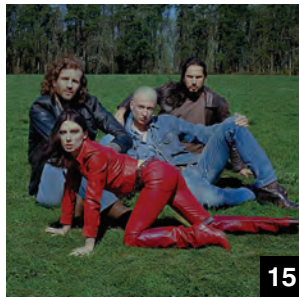
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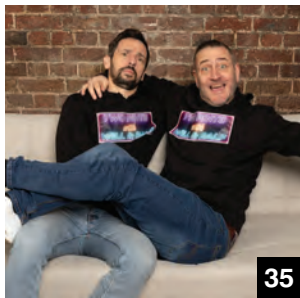
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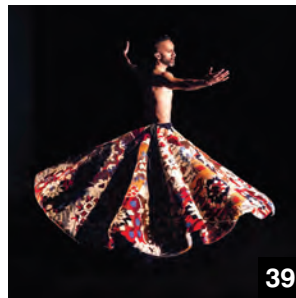
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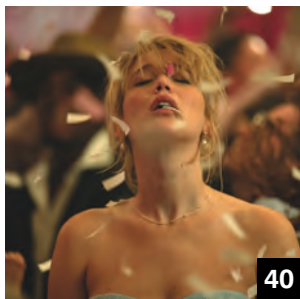
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What's On

MEDIA GROUP

Jessica Clixby jessica@whatsonlive.co.uk Subscriptions: subscriptions@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714
Contributors: Graham Bostock, Diane Parkes, Patsy Moss, Steve Adams, Sue Hull, Reggie White, Sue Jones, Chris Eldon Lee

Publisher and CEO: **Martin Monahan** Accounts Administrator: **Louise Hunter** louise@21stdc.com 01743 281717

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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 Birmingham

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



The Voice finalist Nadia at Birmingham Cathedral

Scandinavian-born classical crossover soprano Nadia Eide is visiting Birmingham Cathedral this month. Nadia is bringing her Winter Light show - 'a spectacular Christmas concert for all ages' - to the venue on Saturday 22 November. She will be joined by a special guest choir.

To purchase tickets, visit her website at nadiaeidemusic.com



Birmingham museum gets into the Christmas spirit

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is getting into the Christmas spirit on Sundays in December by hosting a selection of free-to-attend events and entertainment for visitors to enjoy. Highlights include Christmas music sung by the local Quinton Community Choir and performances by Morris Dancers celebrating the city's jewellery trade. To find out more, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk

Street-food pioneers to open Brierley Hill venue

Birmingham street-food pioneers Digbeth Dining Club will open a new canalside 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

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 gigsandtours.com

Myths reimaged in new musical showing in Brum

A new show combining 'virtuosic spoken word and soaring live music' sees two myths - Theseus And The Minotaur and Daedalus And Icarus - being reimaged on the stage of Birmingham Hippodrome's Patrick Centre this month (Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 November).

Half Man Half Bull shows as part of Rewrites, a partnership programme showcasing work-in-progress new musicals.

More information about the show is available at birminghamhippodrome.com, where you can also purchase tickets.



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

Utilita concert 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

City date for The Puppini Sisters

Close harmony vocal trio The Puppini Sisters are heading out on tour next spring and will be paying a visit to Birmingham's Glee Club on Sunday 10 May. The tour comes on the back of the 27th of March release of new album The Birthday Party. Tickets for the Glee Club gig can be purchased by visiting ThePuppiniSisters.com



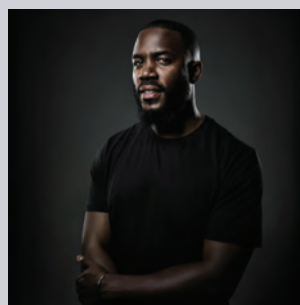
Image from previous Cats tour which visited the Midlands in 2016

Classic musical Cats to visit Birmingham in autumn 2026

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



The Mo You Know on tour...

Comedian Mo Gilligan is heading for the Midlands - twice - in 2026, as part of his 'biggest-ever world tour'. The BAFTA-winning funnyman will bring his new show, The Mo You Know, to Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Saturday 7 February and Stoke-On-Trent's Victoria Hall on Friday 6 March. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit his website at mogilligan.com

Les Miserables concert tour to stop off at Birmingham arena 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



New immersive event sees 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

A tribute-band tribute to a Fleetwood Mac star...

Fleetwood Mac tribute band Fleetwood Mad are appearing at Birmingham's King's Heath Cricket & Sports Club on Saturday 8 November.

The highly rated counterfeits will be performing in tribute to the late Christine McVie, who joined Fleetwood Mac in 1970 and played a major role in the band's long-term success. To book your place at the gig, visit the website at wegottickets.com

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

Birmingham to host two major gaming events

ESL One and DreamHack, two of the world's biggest events in gaming and esports, are coming to Birmingham in March.

ESL One takes place at bp pulse LIVE, while DreamHack is being held at the NEC.

Both events take place from Friday the 27th to Sunday the 29th.

Motor vehicle drawings reimagined as artworks

The region's manufacturing history is being celebrated in a new exhibition of classic motor vehicle drawings at Solihull's Courtyard Gallery.

The drawings have been reimagined as contemporary artworks by French artist Alan Reullier... The show is free to attend and available to view from Wednesday 5 to Saturday 22 November.



New LGBTQ+ comedians hoping to make 'em laugh

Birmingham Repertory Theatre is presenting an evening of stand-up comedy on Friday 21 November.

Titled LGBTQTeeHee, the event showcases members of the local LGBTQ+ community who have taken part in a 10-week comedy

course run by The Rep. Each comedian will be presenting five minutes of brand-new material.

Local comic Ysheel Black hosts the event. To find out more about the show, visit the theatre's website at birmingham-rep.co.uk

Kraftwerk announce new tour with Midlands date

Electro pioneers Kraftwerk have announced their first UK tour in eight years and will be visiting University of

Wolverhampton at The Civic Hall next spring, on Thursday 21 May.

For more information and to book tickets, visit thehallswolverhampton.co.uk



Gay orchestra promise glitterballs and glamour

Leading LGBTQ+ ensemble the Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra are promising an afternoon of 'glitterballs and glamour' when they perform at the city's The Church at Carrs Lane on Saturday 6 December.

Commenting on the concert, the orchestra's musical director, Neavan Lobban, said:

"We're turning up the festive fun with a concert that's full of flair and fabulous music. From tango to show tunes, and even a touch of disco, it's going to be a magical afternoon, so don't forget your dancing shoes!"

Tickets for the concert can be purchased by visiting the website at ticketsource.co.uk

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. Visit bctouring.org.uk/puppet for details.

Diversity launch the city's newest dance studio

Dance group Diversity have opened a dance studio in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter.

The new venue offers 'world-class facilities, with the space open to everyone'.

Commenting on the news, Diversity's Ashley Banjo said: "What I love about Diversity is that we've never held an audition. It's always been about the community and everyone who comes to learn and train with us. In one space you'll have a world-class production being rehearsed, and in another you have beginners who are learning their first-ever piece of choreography."

For more information about the venue, visit diversitystudio.co.uk

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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' is coming to Brum!

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

Pre-Raphaelite works back on display at BMAG

Works of art from Birmingham's world-class Pre-Raphaelite collection are back on public display at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.



Four refurbished galleries, featuring 60 paintings, sculptures and stained glass, are now available to enjoy as part of the museum's phased reopening. Commenting, Victoria Osborne - senior curator (art) at Birmingham Museums Trust - said: "We'll be developing these displays further over time, particularly through new research into the global links of Birmingham's Victorian art & design collections. There will be space for visitors to tell us what they enjoy and what they want to see in the future."



Caledonian Sleeper stopping off in Brum next year

The iconic Caledonian Sleeper has announced a historic update to its overnight train service's timetable: the inclusion of a new calling point at Birmingham International. The soon-to-be-introduced service will provide direct access to the Scottish Highlands for the city's residents.

The inaugural departure from Birmingham International is scheduled for the evening of Thursday 15 January.

The new service will connect Birmingham directly with Aberdeen, Fort William and Inverness. Tickets are available now and can be purchased by visiting sleeper.scot

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

New project celebrates Birmingham's Southside

Birmingham City University and the National Trust have launched an initiative to celebrate Southside, the area of the city which is home to the Gay Village, the Back to Backs and the Hippodrome theatre. The project will explore Southside's past and present through a range of creative outputs, culminating in a major exhibition at the Back to Backs in June next year.

City of Birmingham Choir to perform the Messiah

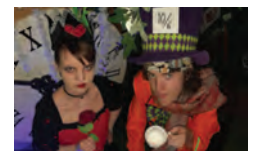
The City of Birmingham Choir will once again be performing Handel's Messiah this Christmas (Symphony Hall, Friday 5 December).

The choir and soloists will be accompanied by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under conductor Adrian Lucas, with Birmingham's city organist, Thomas Trotter, on the harpsichord.

For further information and tickets, visit the website at citychoir.org.uk

Immersive theatre comes to Solihull's Mell Square

Solihull's Mell Square is turning into Alice's topsy-turvy Wonderland on selected dates during November,



courtesy of an immersive-theatre event. The Mad Hatter's Cocktail Party will be available to enjoy from Thursdays through to Sundays throughout the month, offering ticket holders the chance to sample 'Drink Me' shots and 'Eat Me' cakes.

And there may even be a royal invitation to Her Majesty The Queen's croquet tournament... To find out more and book tickets, visit the website at gigantic.com

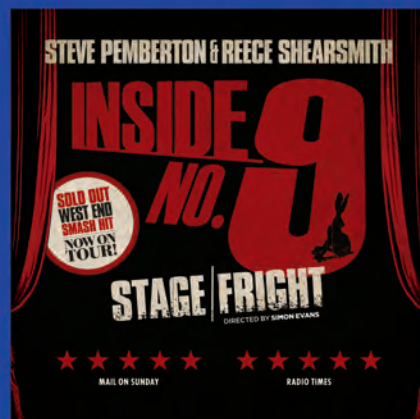
A SPARKLING SEASON AWAITS



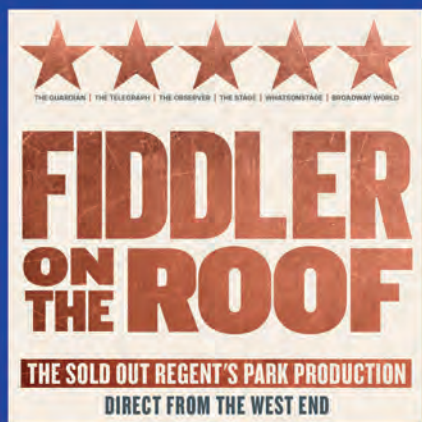
Wed 12 – Sat 15 Nov



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



Tue 2 – Sat 6 Dec



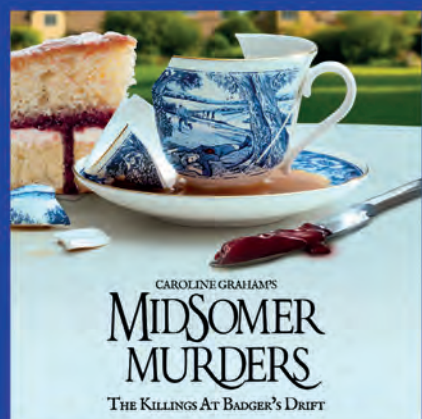
Tue 9 Dec – Sat 3 Jan
CAP Thu 18 Dec 7.30pm AD Sat 20 Dec 2.30pm



Tue 27 – Sat 31 Jan



Wed 11 – Sat 14 Feb



Tue 10 – Sat 14 Mar



Tue 17 – Sat 21 Mar



Tue 31 Mar – Sat 4 Apr

THE
ALEXANDRA
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Christmas at MAC

The Owl Who Came for Christmas

Mon 1 – Sun 28 Dec | From £16.95 | Ages 3+

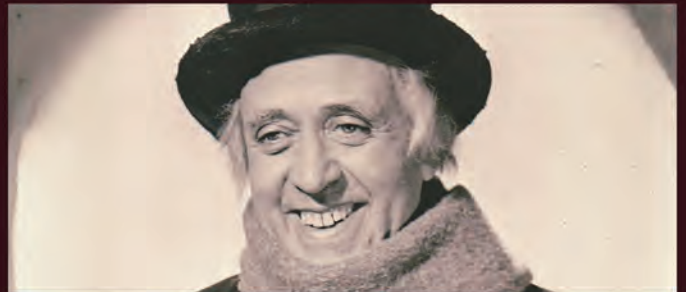
Relaxed, BSL and school performances also available.

Discover what happens when Rosie the Owl wakes up one day to find herself nestled in a family's new Christmas tree. Come and celebrates the power of love and the magic of Christmas, with toe-tapping songs, captivating puppetry and audience participation.



A Winter Union

Sat 6 Dec | 8pm | From £13.95



Scrooge Live

Sun 7 Dec | 2pm | From £13.95



Storytime with Santa

Sat 13 - Wed 24 Dec | Ages 1+



The Muppet Christmas Carol Singalong

Mon 22 and Wed 24 Dec | U

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

Now in its fifth year, Midlands Arts Centre's (MAC) Square Eyes TV Festival returns this month with a mouth-watering mix of archive rarities, classic series and recent favourites. As well as a stellar line-up of screenings and events at Birmingham's much-loved MAC Cinema, look out for more televisual treats as Mockingbird Cinema and The Crossing at Digbeth partner up to join in the fun...

Brum On The Box with Sam Nicoresti

Four years in, and Brum On The Box host Chris Beanland still hasn't run out of footage for his annual celebration of the good, the bad and the just plain rubbish of Birmingham's televisual past. Chris will be joined by stand-up comic Nathan Cassidy and this year's Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Award winner, Sam Nicoresti - who just so happens to hail from the fair city of Birmingham! This unlikely trio will be introducing clips from across the decades, including a special section devoted to the late Prince of Darkness himself: Ozzy Osbourne.

Saturday 8 November, 7.30pm
Cinema, Midlands Arts Centre

Iain Lee and Mackenzie Crook

TV presenter and comedy mainstay Iain Lee joins forces with pal and TV legend Mackenzie Crook for a celebration of their work together - and also to mark Lee's 25 years spent working in television. Enjoy a classic episode from The 11 O'Clock Show, followed by an exclusive screening of an unseen comedy pilot starring both Iain and Mackenzie - one written and directed by Bob Mortimer. There'll also be a live audience Q&A, hosted by Mark Cartwright, in which Iain and Mackenzie will be chatting about their work together.

Sunday 9 November, 3pm, with Q+A
The Mockingbird Cinema



An Audience with Peter Davison

Square Eyes welcomes Peter to this year's festival to talk about his stellar TV career, including his time as the fifth Doctor Who - not to mention appearances in The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy, Miss Marple, Gentleman Jack, and many more... The afternoon will feature an audience Q&A, before which there will be a screening of the Doctor Who adventure Black Orchid, from Peter's first series as the Doctor. There will also be clips from BBC drama A Very Peculiar Practice, which was partly filmed at locations in the University of Birmingham in the late 1980s, including the Arts Building tower and the Vale.

Sunday 9 November, 3pm, with Q+A
Theatre, Midlands Arts Centre



The Best Of Car S.O.S

Now into its 13th series, Car S.O.S is a reality TV phenomenon which has steadily built a huge fanbase. It's also a Midlands show through and through, both filmed in the region and headed up by Birmingham-born presenter Fuzz Townshend, who features in the show with fellow presenter Tim Shaw. Join Tim, Fuzz and guest host Tim Warwood as they look back on more than a decade of restoring cars. Clips of their favourite moments will be interspersed with the kind of cheeky banter that's made Car S.O.S such a success. Screened in association with Royal Television Society Midlands.

Thursday 13 November, 7.30pm, with Q+A
Cinema, Midlands Arts Centre

The Blue Description Project

On 19 September 1993, Derek Jarman screened Blue on Channel Four - an epoch-defining account of AIDS, illness and the experience of disability in a culture of repressive heteronormativity and compulsory able-bodiedness. Blue was screened in cinemas, simulcast on TV and radio, released as a CD and published as a book. Conceived by artists and writers Christopher Jones, Liza Sylvestre and Sarah Hayden, The Blue Description Project creates a new, experimental iteration of Blue. Access takes centre stage as the film offers creative captions and audio description edited into the main movie soundtrack.

Sunday 9 November, 2pm, with Q+A
Cinema, Midlands Arts Centre

A Birmingham Ghost Story

While the BBC became known in the 1970s for its popular anthology series Ghost Stories For Christmas, Birmingham's Pebble Mill had an anthology programme of its own: Centre Play. In 1975, the series featured Edgar Allan Poe's short story The Imp Of The Perverse. Adapted for the screen by Andrew Davies, the production will here be screened alongside the 2005 BBC ghost story A View From A Hill. The process of book-to-TV adaptations will be discussed by host Jon Dear and screenwriter Peter Harness, the latter having brought the likes of Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell and The War Of The Worlds to the screen.

Sunday 16 November, 2.30pm, with Q+A
Cinema, Midlands Arts Centre



The full Square Eyes Festival programme can be found at macbirmingham.co.uk/square-eyes-tv-festival

Hurd, Bennett and Finzi: Intimations of Immortality

CITY OF
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Sunday 16th November 2025 at 3pm

Bradshaw Hall,
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
200 Jennens Road,
Birmingham B4 7XR



Conductor: **Adrian Lucas** Tenor: **Ruairi Bowen**
with the *Westminster Chamber Orchestra*
and the *City of Birmingham Choir*

Programme:
Michael Hurd – This Day to Man
John Wilbye – Draw on, Sweet Night
Richard Rodney Bennett – Serenade for Small Orchestra
Gerald Finzi – Intimations of Immortality

Prices: £28
£10 - students (in full time education)
Free - under 16s

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CITY OF
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CHOIR



Handel's Messiah

CITY OF
Birmingham
CHOIR

Friday 5th December 2025 at 7pm

Symphony Hall
Broad Street
Birmingham
B1 2EA

Artists

City of Birmingham Choir
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
Adrian Lucas Conductor
Miriam Allan Soprano
Tom Lilburn Countertenor
Simon Wall Tenor
Alex Ashworth Bass
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Ex Cathedra Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Bach Christmas Oratorio

Sun 7 Dec 2025, 4pm
Town Hall, Birmingham

Christmas Music by Candlelight

Fri 5 – Mon 22 Dec 2025

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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.



Fibonacci Quartet

Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Tues 11 November

Bright young stars on the classical music scene, the Fibonacci Quartet look set to spend almost as much time polishing their richly deserved silverware as they do playing their instruments, with plenty of glittering prizes having already fallen into their incredibly talented hands... They here present a programme featuring: Haydn's String Quartet, Op33, No4; Fergus Hall's Three Hours After High Water; and Bartók's String Quartet No4.

Eugene Tzikinlealean Plays Mozart

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 16 November

Fancy a relaxing Sunday afternoon spent revelling in the magic of Mozart? If so, then this is the concert for you. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's award-winning violinist, Eugene Tzikinlealean, leads and takes the solo role in a programme of music which is kickstarted by the composer's *Adagio in E major* for violin...

Then comes Mozart's fifth violin concerto - which he wrote at the still-tender age of 19. The afternoon of musicmaking is brought to an energetic close with Jupiter, his 41st and final symphony.



Ex Cathedra: A Goodnight

All Saints Church, Kings Heath, Birmingham, Sat 8 November

Eamonn Dougan (pictured) picks up the baton to conduct Ex Cathedra in a programme of 'contemplation and comfort' for Remembrance weekend.



Featured works include Richard Rodney Bennett's *A Good-Night* - a memorial to Linda McCartney - and James MacMillan's *When You See Millions Of The Mouthless Dead*, a setting of the poetry of Charles Hamilton Sorley, a young Scottish soldier killed in World War One.

City of Birmingham Choir

Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Sun 16 November

The City of Birmingham Choir make a welcome return to the limelight, this time to present *Intimations Of Immortality*, a concert featuring choral work by Michael Hurd and Gerald Finzi, interspersed by a serenade for small orchestra by Richard Rodney Bennett. John Wilbye's *Draw On*, Sweet Night also features. Adrian Lucas conducts.



Birmingham Bach Choir: Let There Be Light

St Francis Church, Bournville, Birmingham, Sat 22 November

One of the city's oldest and most distinguished musical groups, Birmingham Bach Choir here present a programme that features two works by Sir John Rutter: his *Requiem* and the lesser-known *Hymn To The Creator Of Light*... An unusual work for choir and organ - *Laudes Organ*, by the Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly - provides a dramatically colourful contrast to the two Rutter compositions.



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Brasileira



1 Dec

Face the Music: A Tribute to
ELO's Richard Tandy



7 Nov

Shostakovich and his World



10 – 14 Nov

A Laugh Supreme: Frances
Keyton and Jacob Nussey



14 Nov

Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty &
The Nutcracker



12 Dec



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Live music from across the city...

Wolf Alice

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Sat 29 November

Although starting out as an acoustic duo, Ellie Rowsell and Joff Oddie evolved their music to include more rock elements, leading to their North London quartet, Wolf Alice, being compared to, among others, Hole and Elasticity. Recent years have seen their output receiving the recognition it deserves, with 2018's *Visions Of A Life* bagging them a Mercury Music Prize and 2022's *Blue Weekend* leading to them picking up the Brit Award for Best Group. They're visiting Birmingham this month in support of recently released fourth album *The Clearing*.



Jools Holland

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. He's joined for these Symphony Hall concerts by Imelda May, Ruby Turner, Louise Marshall and Sumudu Jayatilaka.



Babyshambles

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. Here visiting Birmingham as part of their first UK tour since 2014, the band are celebrating the 20th anniversary of critically acclaimed debut album *Down In Albion*.

Bastille

bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham, Sat 15 November

To say that indie-pop four-piece Bastille made a splash when they arrived on the scene would be an understatement. Their debut album, *Bad Blood*, released in 2013, was twice number one, certified double-platinum and named the biggest-selling digital album of the year. The band then went on to be named British Breakthrough Act at the 2014 Brit Awards... They stop off in Birmingham mid-month with their latest touring show, *Songs From The First 15 Years*. Special guests are Sofia Camara & Ruti.

They're here celebrating the 40th anniversary of their acclaimed compilation album, *Legend*. The record remains the best selling reggae album of all time.

Herbert & Momoko

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,
Thurs 27 November

With a shared passion for pushing sonic boundaries, Matthew Herbert and Momoko Gill stop off in Birmingham this month with a collaborative project that sees them producing a sound which treads nimbly between the dancefloor and the more introspective moods of the early hours. The gig comes in support of debut album *Clay*.



The Wailers

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Wed 26 November

Originally curated in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1969 by Bob Marley, Bunny Wailer and Peter Tosh, The Wailers had one ambition and one ambition only - to reach an international audience. In doing so, the band took their inspiration from the Rastafari movement and introduced the sound of reggae to the world. Together with Marley, The Wailers have sold in excess of 250 million albums worldwide, playing at venues across the globe in the process.



ANIMAL ANTICS

**My First Musical returns to the Hippodrome with a brand new
adventure, No Such Thing As Wolves**

A fun-filled family musical, created by Horrible Histories' Gerard Foster and Richie Webb, debuts at Birmingham Hippodrome next month. No Such Thing As Wolves is the second of the venue's My First Musical commissions, following on from the success of last year's offering, The Jingleclaw. This year's production, directed by Emily Ling Williams, follows Hettie the Hedgehog as she opts to throw a party instead of settling down into hibernation. What's On chatted to Gerard, Richie and Emily to find out more...

Birmingham Hippodrome's My First Musical initiative returns this December with a brand-new adventure for children aged three and older.

Following the success of last year's production, The Jingleclaw, this year's offering features a wintery woodland party and two naughty wolves...

For fun-filled stories for children, you don't need to look much further than the creators of the BBC's hit TV show, Horrible Histories. One of the series' writers, Gerard Foster (Gez), and principal composer Richie Webb have joined forces again to write No Such Thing As Wolves, directed by Emily Ling Williams.

Gez and Richie are certainly no strangers to writing for a younger audience, even if creating a kids' musical is new territory.

"It wasn't a challenge to go 'How are we going to get into the mindset of that audience' because we're just hard-wired into that already," Gez explains. "We're in this strange position - we are newbies to theatre writing, but we're totally wizened old hacks at the TV game."

"It's like starting a new career, but with the knowledge we've got," adds Richie. "It feels really lucky, at this stage in our careers, to do something that feels genuinely new and exciting. We are new to this world, but we are bringing quite a lot of experience, so we feel quite confident that things are working."

The duo have found that the biggest difference between collaborating to make TV, and creating a musical from scratch, is that working on No Such Thing As Wolves has been a much more sociable experience.

"When you're writing episodes of stuff for TV, you're just in your room," says Gez. "You might be talking to a script editor or producer, but you never get to meet the cast, you never get to talk about the set and the costumes."

"We've spent time with the actors, the director, with the musical supervisor - it's been great," says Richie. "That sense of a wider collaboration has been brilliant. It's such a great team."

While the pair share space in the credits of many well-known TV shows, it's a long time since they've worked together, face-to-face.

"Even though we've both worked a huge amount in kids' TV over the last 25-plus years, we haven't actually worked together

for a long time," says Gez. "We met at university and were in a sketch team together - that was where our career journey began. Then we did a couple of years of kids' TV - Live & Kicking, Saturday morning TV - but we haven't properly worked together on anything since then... We said 'We really must write a musical together' every time we met during the last 20 years, and it's finally happened!"

Now, the (snow)ball is rolling, and No Such Thing As Wolves has a home for the winter at the Hippodrome. The production's director, Emily Ling Williams, gives a whistle-stop tour of the story.

"The show is about Hettie the hedgehog. Her dad loves her very much but is also very protective, so he tells her that 'There's no such thing as wolves.' He's always very careful about trying to keep her reined in, and making sure that she hibernates through winter. Then, one day, Hettie meets Sydney the squirrel, a backpacking, very free-spirited creature, who befriends her and says 'Instead of hibernating, why don't we throw a party tomorrow?' So they decide to throw a party. Two wolves, Wiffy and Woofy, receive an invite and decide that this would be the perfect place to carry out their dastardly plan: to chop down all the trees and turn them into flat-pack furniture. So we have a real crisis on our hands!"

With all the fun and silliness of a classic animal caper, the story also hides some important messages beneath its lighthearted exterior.

"It's about growing up, and it's about friendship," Gez explains. "It's that real classic fairytale thing of stepping out into the world, away from your safe environment - facing up to those fears and learning that you can do it. We really wanted to create something that felt instantly classic, and which has that real fairytale feel to it."

The show's planned design is fitting for a fairytale setting, and Emily hopes they will be able to transform the space into a wintery woodland wonderland: "There's a really important tree in the story - Hettie's tree, that she grows up in - so we really wanted to lean into the magic, giving people the feeling that they really are going into the woods and the forest. It's a wintery forest, and they throw a party, so we wanted to get a magical party feeling as well, with lights and snow."

One of the challenges of staging a production featuring live musicians is ensuring that they

are visible - and, more importantly, audible - when there is limited space on the stage. In No Such Thing As Wolves, the team have found a solution: a treehouse for the band.

"We have a nice combination of permanent musicians in the band, and some of the actors, when they're not on stage, appear in the treehouse as musical birds," explains Richie. "Our birds provide the instrumentation and backing vocals. Then, when they come down, they're in different costumes. It's quite a nice mix. It's not like the band are hidden away and the music's just happening; the children will be able to see the band playing."

The production is shaping up to be the perfect choice for the festive season - and in the Hippodrome's smaller space, the Patrick Studio, the smaller members of the audience should feel perfectly at home...

"It's a lovely intimate space, although there are plenty of seats in there," says Richie. "Wherever the children are sat, it's a great view. I think they'll really feel a part of it."

"I think it's such a feelgood show," says Emily. "There's such a sense of how important friendship is, family, and also appreciating the natural world. I think it's really uplifting - there are definitely lots of jokes. I think people of all ages will find it very funny."

"We want them to be singing along and laughing along," says Gez, "It's really playful, really warm, sweet and charming."

When it comes to the music, there are plenty of catchy tunes which the company can't wait to hear come to life on stage. Emily is most excited to hear the very first song: "Seasons Of The Forest - we go through all of the seasons, on loop. So that's going to be a really big opening number that I'm excited to see."

And for Richie, the proof that the show has been a hit with the audience will come at the very end: "I'll be standing at the exit door, hoping that as they come out, they're humming the last, intensely catchy Let's Have A Party song!"

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No Such Thing As Wolves shows at Birmingham Hippodrome's Patrick Studio from Sat 6 December until Sun 4 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

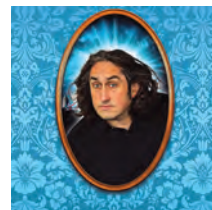
Nick Helm has described his comedy shows as 'a call to arms to anyone who feels hard done by and short-changed by this ugly new world.'

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



BIG DRAG ENERGY

Good things come in threes, as Daisy Doris May's
Big Night Out visits Birmingham's Glee Club

Drag king, comedian, actor & writer Daisy Doris May offers three acts for the price of one in Big Night Out, showing at Birmingham's Glee Club on Wednesday 5 November. After causing a stir on TikTok and Instagram, Daisy is now on the road with three hit characters in tow - wannabe ladies' man Steve Porters, PVC-clad Techno kid HÄNS OFF and yogi The Divine Karen Moonstone. What's On caught up with Daisy to find out more...

Big Night Out brings three characters together on stage for the first time. For those who don't know, can you give us a mini introduction to Steve Porters, HÄNS OFF and The Divine Karen Moonstone?

iPod DJ Steve Porters is your Guildfordian ladies' man, who still lives with his mum, Rozza. He's convinced he's the next big feminist icon, but is still figuring out what that actually means... A walking red flag with a heart of gold.

HÄNS OFF is ze kookiest Berlin KlubKid around [born in ze Berghain cloakroom queue...] on every guest list that ever existed. HÄNS invented FASHUN bish... and will be hosting ze after after party: TechNO. Tech-YES.

And lastly, The Divine Karen Moonstone is that white woman you meet on a plane home from Bali who tells you she's 'impacted the yoga world'. This self-appointed guru most certainly needs anger management. Each one is a total nightmare in their own special way... and I adore them.

What are the challenges when performing a show where you have to swap between characters?

From goatee stamps, to tear-away costumes, to filling the stage with drama when I'm on it - I've been experimenting with it all. Sometimes I'll come off stage and realise I painted my beard on so wonky, it looks UNHINGED! But what can you do when you're drawing it in under 10 seconds!

How quick are the costume changes? Have you honed your quick-change skills?

Both changes are around one-and-a-half minutes. Sometimes I think the scene changes off-stage are the real show, especially as I have to speak in character off-stage while I'm getting changed...

Big Night Out has had a stint at the Edinburgh Fringe - did the show change or develop throughout the run?

The joy of Edinburgh is that you go with one show, and then you leave with an entirely different beast! It's epic for that reason. Relentless - but epic.

Was there a specific act or performance that inspired you to get involved in drag?

I stumbled into a drag king show at She Soho on my own one evening, and it blew my little pea brain. I met my drag uncle, Frankie Sinatra, and after that became a total nerd researching the history of Kings. As a character comedian, I was hugely inspired by Smack The Pony. It taught me that embracing your weirdness was cool.

Who was the first drag king persona you brought to the stage?

My first five minutes was at the iconic venue of the Royal Vauxhall Tavern. Steve Porters came to life - I was terrified! That year, I wrote his TED Talk parody - How To Flirt: The TED XXX Talk - and started HÄUS OF DONS to platform drag kings and put us in the spotlight.

Do you create all of your costumes yourself, or do you collaborate with other people to find the perfect look?

Sadly for me, I ain't making my own looks. Ryan Munroe - whose brand is ByMarlon - creates a lot of HÄNS looks. He up-cycles everything, and what he pulls together is genius.

Bow Face is one of my favourite make-up artists out there. We will often brainstorm over getting my hair done. Bow actually created the famous goatee stamp I speak of!

Why have you explored performing as multiple characters, rather than creating a single identity?

Ummm... Are you my therapist? It's a great question. Essentially, I have an obsession with accents, voices, different physicalities, different styles of dance and movement. Why would I just be one when I can keep creating new alter egos on a daily?! Warning: I've got a lot of personalities in the tank. Watch this space...

And if you had to pick just one of your characters, who would you choose?

Me. I asked someone last year what their favourite character was, and they were kind enough to say me... It's the most fun one.

Ironically I get way more nervous in gigs where I have to be just me!

Sometimes HÄNS' PVC or Steve's LYNX Africa give me an extra layer of confidence - I would never leave the house in what HÄNS wears, but somehow I feel invincible as him! But I've been challenging myself to show snippets of me on stage. After the show you can tell me where you saw moments of me!

How do drag king performances give us an insight into our society?

Drag kings can hold up a mirror to masculinity in the funniest, most joyful way. We exaggerate it, tease it, twist it. You start to see how absurd gender performance really is...

But more than anything, it's freedom. Drag gives people permission to question the rules and laugh as we do it.

What would you like people to take away with them after Big Night Out?

The audience are often the stars of the night, so I want everyone to feel that we made that mayhem together. No show is ever the same. I want people to feel that magic walking away.

Are plans brewing for future shows?

Well, this year I've done the Australian circuit, London shows, Edinburgh Fringe, and a UK tour - and next month I'm doing comedy in South Africa...

So next year I'm excited to get stuck into more writing projects that I've been cooking up. The next show, I might have to squeeze a few more characters in there - what do you reckon?

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Daisy Doris May's Big Night Out visits Birmingham's Glee Club on Wednesday 5 November. Tickets are available from DAISYDORISMAY.COM



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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

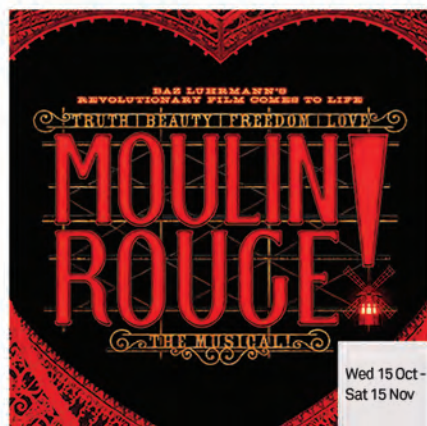
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 3 - Sat 8 November

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.





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 theatre-land... 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...

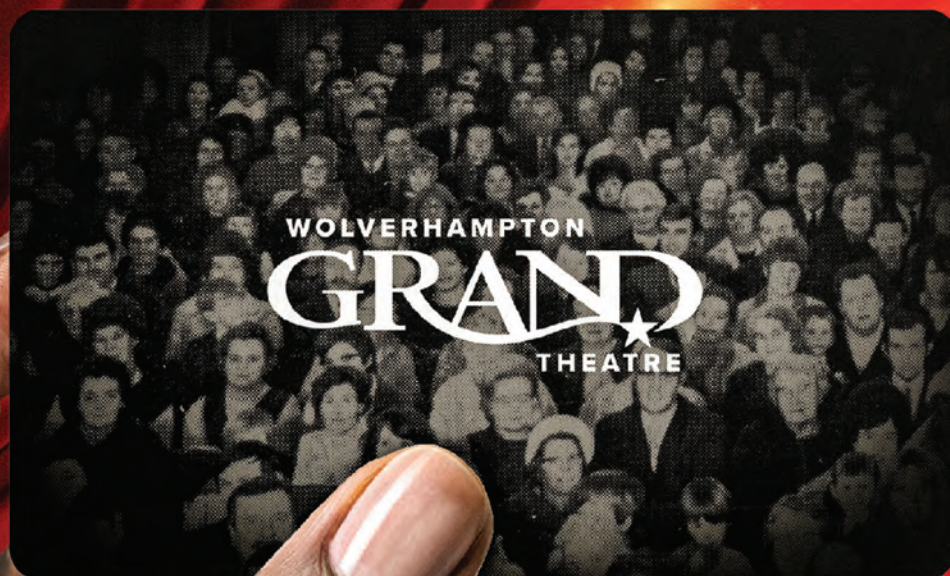
Secondly, it's presented by a critically acclaimed company - Degrees Of Error - who are past masters of the improv genre...

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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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."





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Sat 29 Nov – Sun 28 Dec

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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.

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

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



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.

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.



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

The Nutcracker

21 November – 13 December

“Still the best *Nutcracker*
on offer in the UK”

The Guardian

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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

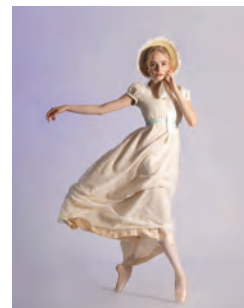
Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 22 November

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.

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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

helped 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 tbc (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.

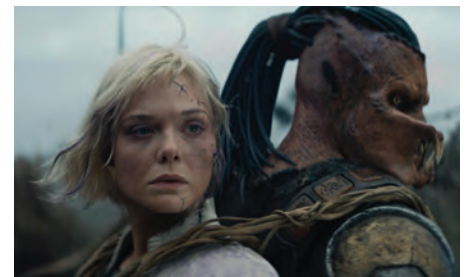
Released Fri 14 November



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

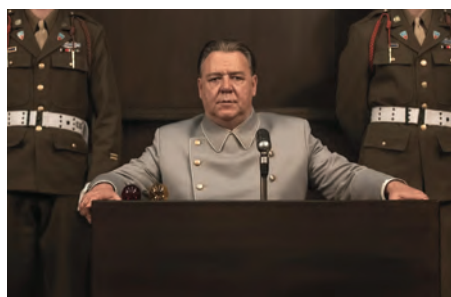
Nuremberg CERT 15 (148 mins)

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



The New Art Gallery Walsall



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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



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'.

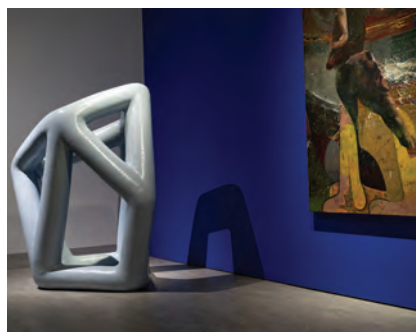


Image credit: Gary Jones Photography

@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 Todiwala 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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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



BRB's The Nutcracker at Birmingham Hippodrome - Fri 21 November - Sat 13 December

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

What's On

Sat 1 - Sun 9 November



Cirque: The Greatest Show -
Reimagined - The Alexandra

Thurs 6 November

Mon 10 - Sun 16 November



George Lewis -
Birmingham Town Hall

Sat 15 November

Mon 17 - Sun 23 November



Lorde - Utilita Arena
Birmingham

Thurs 20 November

Mon 24 - Sun 30 November



Say She She -
O2 Institute, Digbeth

Tues 25 November

VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

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

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

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

MODERN MASTERPIECES: PAINTINGS FROM THE BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS An intimate display of six exceptional paintings by major modern artists, including Vincent van Gogh, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edouard Vuillard and Pierre Bonnard, Wed 12 Nov - Sun 6 Sept 2026

The Exchange, Centenary Square, Birmingham

SUNSETS, FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP Exhibition of young people's photography focused on the importance of culture, heritage and identity in shaping a sense of self and belonging, Wed 26 Nov - Sun 22 Feb

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

DONALD LOCKE: RESISTANT FORMS An exploration of the Guyanese-British artist's work across five decades, including early ceramics, mixed media sculptures and large-scale paintings, until Sun 22 Feb

WAITING 'TIL NEXT YEAR FOR ANOTHER YEAR A sharing of work by three artists working in three prisons, Fri 7 - Sun 16 Nov

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

TAKURO KUWATA: TEA BOWL PUNK The first UK solo exhibition of the internationally celebrated Japanese ceramic artist, fusing traditional Japanese pottery techniques with bold and experimental sculptural processes, until Sun 15 Mar

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

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM ART CIRCLE: ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2025 Showcase including printworks, paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, mixed media, photography and textiles, Tues 4 - Sat 15 Nov

RBSA ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2025 Yearly showcase of works, with a broad spectrum of practices represented, Thurs 20 Nov - Sat 3 Jan

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

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:

LEN MACKIN FOYER EXHIBITION Len uses pencil lines, slashes of colour and a fractured pictorial space to create a sense of wildness and mood, giving the viewer a new perspective, until Sat 15 Nov, The Birmingham & Midland Institute

THE HOLE IN THE WHOLE An exploration of incompleteness and the fluidity of existence, featuring works by Ashkan Sepahvand, Phoebe Collings-James & Valerie Asiimwe Amani, until Sat 6 Dec, Eastside Project, Birmingham

Gigs

BACK ON THE ROAD Sat 1 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

BRITPOP UNITED Sat 1 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

DESPERATE JOURNALIST Sat 1 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

APOLLO SOUL Sat 1 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

MIDNIGHT CITY SOUL Sat 1 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

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

PIRI & TOMMY Sat 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

CKY Sat 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ULTIMATE OZZY UK Sat 1 Nov, O2 Academy

DIZZY LIZZY Sat 1 Nov, Jo Jo Jims, Cofton Hackett

THE GREAT STONE REVIVAL Sat 1 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

XHOSA COLE Sat 1 Nov, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter

ARRAN SHANGHAVI Sat 1 Nov, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter

NOASIS Sat 1 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

LAURA LENTHALL Sat 1 Nov, B:Eats at Symphony Hall, Centenary Square

CHARTREUSE Sat 1 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BENSON BOONE Sat 1 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham



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

GILLES PETERSON & JAMZ SUPERNOVA Sun 2 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

LOVE NOR MONEY + THE

FACADE + TIAGO COSTA Sun 2 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE BLACKHEART ORCHESTRA Sun 2 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

HANABIE. Sun 2 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

CHUCKIE & TAZER Sun 2 Nov, O2 Academy

REMEMBER MONDAY + THERA Sun 2 Nov, O2 Academy

THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO Sun 2 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

MAZ MINTENKO BAND Sun 2 Nov, The Brasshouse, Broad St

MOON REAPER + 1986 Sun 2 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

SANANDA MAITREYA Sun 2 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

LOST IN MUSIC - ONE NIGHT AT THE DISCO Sun 2 Nov, The Alexandra, Suffolk Queensway

ALPHA MALE TEA PARTY + EVERY HELL + TO THE WALL + AXIOM Sun 2 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth

HONEY & THE BEAR + TOBY SHAER Mon 3 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

JUSTIN HAYWARD Mon 3 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ABC: THE LEXICON OF LOVE Mon 3 Nov, Symphony Hall, Centenary Square

UPCHUCK Tues 4 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

ACM SOUNDS Tues 4 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

THE DHARMA CHAIN Tues 4 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

AAYUSHI Tues 4 Nov, B:Eats at Symphony Hall, Centenary Square

BRETT YOUNG Tues 4 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

FIEVEL IS GLAUQUE Wed 5 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

LILO + OF IRYN Wed 5 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

WINTER MOUNTAIN Wed 5 Nov, Kitchen Garden,

Kings Heath

KOCH MARSHALL TRIO Wed 5 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr

MARUJA Wed 5 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

MAGNETIC SKIES Wed 5 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

COILGUNS Wed 5 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

BOO HEWERDINE & REG MEUROSS + DEBORAH ROSE Wed 5 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Rd

FIVE Wed 5 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

NICK WARD'S VINTAGE JAZZ SERENDER Wed 5 Nov, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

OMEGA NEBULA Thurs 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

MARGARITA WITCH CULT Thurs 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

GOOD HABITS Thurs 6 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

THE REAL THING Thurs 6 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

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

THE SUBWAYS + THE MEFFS Thurs 6 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

JAMIE WEBSTER Thurs 6 Nov, O2 Academy

THE RED CLAY STRAYS Thurs 6 Nov, O2 Academy

CONOR MCLAIN Thurs 6 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

THE BALLOONIST + SWLLWS + HIDDEN BRITAIN Thurs 6 Nov, Centrala, Fazeley Street

EAD WOOD Thurs 6 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

PAUL DUNMALL INVITES STEVE SWELL Thurs 6 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CLIFFORDS Thurs 6 Nov, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

THE LAST VINCI + BLANK ATLAS Thurs 6 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth

BIG BRAVE + OUTLANDER

Fri 7 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
DECIUS Fri 7 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
TOM ROBINSON WITH ADAM PHILLIPS Fri 7 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath
MACKENZY MACKAY + BENJAMIN STEER + TOM COOPER Fri 7 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway
CHARLOTTE YOUNG Fri 7 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill
REEF + KERBDOG Fri 7 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth
SPORTS TEAM Fri 7 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth
ABSOLUTE BOWIE Fri 7 Nov, O2 Academy
THE PLOT IN YOU + CURRENTS + SAOSIN + CANE HILL Fri 7 Nov, O2 Academy
JIM RATTIGAN QUINTET Fri 7 Nov, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter
MOVING PICTURES Fri 7 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath
BEAR GHOST + REDWOOD Fri 7 Nov, The Asylum, Hampton Street
HEALEES + THE LEAKING MACHINE Fri 7 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright St
MAREN MORRIS Fri 7 Nov, Symphony Hall, Centenary Square
A TRIBUTE TO ELO'S RICHARD TANDY Fri 7 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
TOM ROBINSON WITH ADAM PHILLIPS Fri 7 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Canon Hill Park
STEVIE AND LUTHER SHOW Fri 7 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove
BONNY LOU BAND Sat 8 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
BONES ATE ARFA + CIARS Sat 8 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway
JAKE HENRY Sat 8 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill
THE WEDNESDAY INCIDENT + HEADWIRED + NINE DART FINISH + MORE Sat 8 Nov, The Dark Horse, Moseley

THE STRANGE DOORS Sat 8 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth
AARON ROWE + TALIA RAE Sat 8 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth
JAH LIL Sat 8 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth
MAC DEMARCO + TEX CRICK Sat 8 Nov, O2 Academy
MORGAN WALLEN TRIBUTE UK Sat 8 Nov, O2 Academy
CHANTEL MCGREGOR Sat 8 Nov, Jo Jo Jims, Cofton Hackett
THE MANDELBROT SHAKES + THE BOO TIKIS + XTRO GHOST Sat 8 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton
NASHVILLE COUNTRY MUSIC EXPERIENCE Sat 8 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath
DANNY WRIGHT Sat 8 Nov, The Asylum, Hampton Street
QUEEN OF THE NIGHT - A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON Sat 8 Nov, The Halls, Wolverhampton
MYSPEACE OR YOURS? Sat 8 Nov, The Flapper, Kingston Row
THE OVERTONES CHRISTMAS PARTY Sat 8 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall
THE STYLISTICS Sat 8 Nov, Symphony Hall
JAH WOBBLE Sun 9 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
SUSY WALL + MATT SAYERS Sun 9 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath
PALAYE ROYALE + THE HUNNA + THE MOLOTOVS Sun 9 Nov, O2 Academy
GWENNO Sun 9 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

DAVE PEGG + AJ CLARKE + CHURCHFITTERS Sun 9 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Classical Music

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
CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA
 Programme comprises Shostakovich's Leningrad Symphony, Sun 2 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
PIOTR MAZIARZ ORGAN RECITAL
 Sun 2 Nov, Wyldre Green United Reform Church, Birmingham
LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER
 Programme includes works by JS Bach, P Whitlock, Dupré, Wagner & Rossini, Mon 3 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall
RBC LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Ella Mitchell & Jiayue Wang (flute), Joanne Sealey & Yujun Liu (piano) & Junyu Zhou (saxophone). Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Peterson & Desenclos, Mon 3 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
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
STEVEN ISSERLIS (CELLO) & CONNIE SHIH (PIANO) IN CONCERT
 Programme includes works by Beethoven, Farrenc, Moscheles & Schumann, Wed 5 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, The Barber, University of Birmingham
PAUL CARR ORGAN RECITAL
 Programme includes works by Herbert Murrill, Sir William Harris, Louis Vierne & Camille Saint-Saëns, Thurs 6 Nov, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
LUNCHTIME CONCERT: THE PURCELL SCHOOL Programme includes works by Debussy & Ravel, Fri 7 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham
CATHEDRAL CHOIR CONCERT: A FORETASTE OF CHRISTMAS
 Featuring the Cathedral's choir of boys, girls and lower voices alongside Ashley Wagner on organ. David Hardie conducts, Fri 7 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: A GOODNIGHT - MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE Featuring Eamonn Dougan (conductor). Programme includes works by JL Bach, Bennet, Brahms, Briggs, Byrd, Charpentier, McDowell, Macmillan & Pärt, Sat 8 Nov, All Saints, Kings Heath, Birmingham
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
JAMES LISNEY PIANO CONCERT
 Programme includes works by Chopin, Beethoven, Shostakovich & JS Bach, Sun 9 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
HAVASI GOLDEN THREAD PIANO TOUR Sun 9 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

CLINTON BAPTISTE, DAVID EAGLE, JOE SUTHERLAND & JON PEARSON Sat 1 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham
HARRIET DYER, MARC JENNINGS, THOR STENHAUG & BEN NORRIS Sat 1 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
MATT GREEN Sat 1 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
KYLA COBBLER Sat 1 Nov, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham
GRACE PETRIE Sat 1 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

ARDAL O'HANLON Sat 1 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
JOANNE MCNALLY Sat 1 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
TOMMY SANDHU, PREET SINGH, RAJ POOJARA & SHALAKA KURUP Sun 2 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JOSH WIDDICOMBE Sun 2 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
DAISY DORIS MAY Wed 5 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
CHRIS WASHINGTON & COMICS TBC Wed 5 Nov, Herbert's Yard, Birmingham
DARA O'BRIAIN Wed 5 - Thurs 6 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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
JOSH JAMES Thurs 6 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
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
HAL CRUTTENDEN, PIERRE HOLLINS, HARRY PETTITT & LOUISE YOUNG Fri 7 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull
CHRIS MCCAUSLAND Fri 7 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
ROGER MONKHOUSE, DAVID HOARE, KATE MARTIN & DEAN COUGHLIN Sat 8 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham
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
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

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE Smash-hit production based on CS Lewis'

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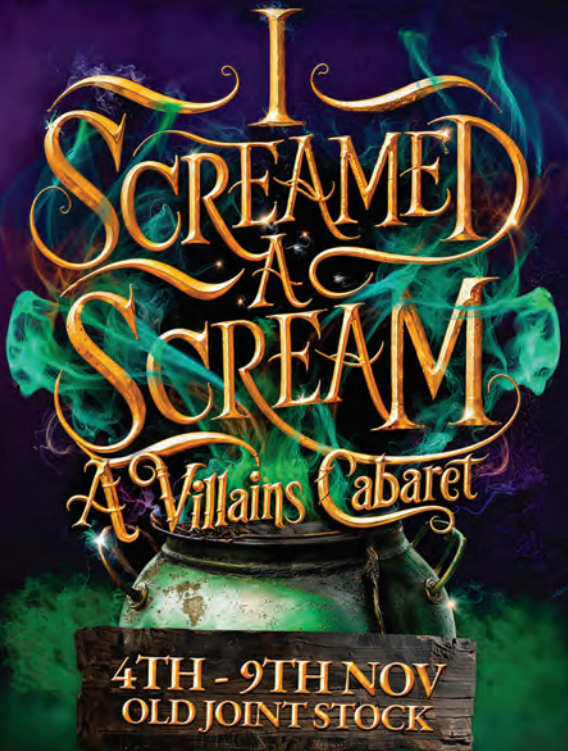


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PRESENTS

★★★★★
REVIEWS HUB

**I SCREAMED
A SCREAM**
A Villains Cabaret



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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

Birmingham Town Hall

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER

1.45pm | 6pm

carrotproductions.com



2025 TOUR

The Snowman™
WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA

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, Skylight) 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

COME FROM AWAY Creators Theatre Company stage a production of the hit Broadway show, telling the real-life story of 7,000 air passengers who were grounded in Canada in the wake of 9/11, and the small Newfoundland community that invited them into their lives, Fri 31 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE DEVIL'S GAME Spinechilling theatrical experience from the creators of The Wicked Lady, The Orphanage and The Witching Hour, Fri 31 Oct - Sat 15 Nov, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

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

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

ORDINARY DECENT CRIMINAL Comedian Mark Thomas stars in a new play that tells a tale of freedom, revolution and messy love, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Nov, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

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



ANYTHING FOR LOVE Steve Steinman's brand-new production, featuring over 25 of Meat Loaf and Jim Steinman's greatest hits, Wed 5 Nov, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE: THE LADY WITH THE HAMMER Oddsocks bring their trademark humour to the bloody story of Britain's most famous nurse... Sat 8 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MACBETH Amateur version of Shakespeare's timeless tale of greed, murder, deception and superstition, Sat 8 - Sat 22 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Theatre

STORIES IN DUST Live music and puppetry combine in a 'funny, heartfelt and hopeful eco fable to take audiences to another world', Sun 2 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

RED RIDING HOOD AND THE THREE LITTLE PIGS Family fairytale fun which mashes up two classic stories with songs, slapstick comedy - and a little audience participation, Thurs 6 Nov, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield

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

Dance

BALLET BLACK: SHADOWS Double-bill featuring a darkly comic adaptation of My Sister, The Serial Killer by Oyinkan Braithwaite, presented alongside a British choreographic debut from Brooklyn-born Chanel DaSilva. The latter's work explores the intense practice of shadow work 'and how it can reveal our true selves', Tues 4 Nov, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

DEPARTURE A music & dance performance by movement artist Masumi Saito and composer/musician An-Ting, exploring themes of death, ritual and the spirit, Tues 4 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

WE CALL IT BALLET: SLEEPING BEAUTY DANCE & LIGHT SHOW Six local, talented dancers light up the stage wearing glow-in-the-dark costumes in a fusion of traditional art and modern technology, Thurs 6 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

EXPRESS YOURSELF LIVE TOUR Featuring competitive performances, live challenges and more..., Sun 9 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham



Cirque: The Greatest Show - Reimagined - The Alexandra, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

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

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 RECEIPTS PODCAST An evening of 'dilemmas, special guests and undiluted chat'..., Sat 1 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE MUSIC OF FLEETWOOD MAC BY CANDELIGHT Sat 1 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

TUJHE DEKHA: COME FALL IN LOVE AGAIN An evening 'showcasing the enduring spirit of Bollywood', Sun 2 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

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

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

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

RAT PACK - SWINGIN' AT THE SANDS Fully choreographed production featuring stars of West End show The Rat Pack, Live From Las Vegas, Sat 8 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SECKOU KEITA: ATAYA SONATA Combining classical music languages with African rhythms in a three-movement work for string quartet, percussion & kora, Sat 8 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

CANDELIGHT TRIBUTE TO LINKIN PARK Sat 8 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

SOLVE-ALONG-A MURDER-SHE-WROTE Featuring a screening of the classic Murder, She Wrote episode The Sins Of Castle Cove, as well as a sing-along to the theme tune, quizzes, prizes and camp trivia. Tim Benzie hosts, Sat 8 Nov, The Crossing, Birmingham

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

Heroes 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?

November 1st to 8th

OldburyREP oldburyrep.org
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This amateur production of "Heroes" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd, concordtheatricals.co.uk

Spires Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus
Conductor: Benjamin Hamilton
Leader: Alistair Kennedy

AUTUMN CONCERT

Schubert Symphony N° 8 "Unfinished"
Bruckner Mass N° 1

Soloists:
Audrey Mullender (*Soprano*), Penny Turnbull (*Alto*)
Ed Harrison (*Tenor*), Matthew Pandya (*Bass*)

Saturday, 22nd Nov. 2025
2:30pm - 5:00pm

SQUARE one Coventry University Hub
Priory St, Coventry CV1 5FB
(to right of Herbert Art Gallery)

Tickets: £15 (Students £5)

To book:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/spiresmusic
and on the door, if available.

Spires Music Coventry CIO (England & Wales charity N° 1214842),
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www.spiremusic.org

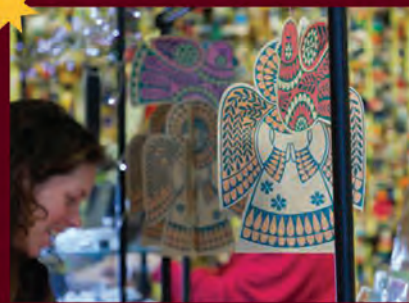
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Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham
GARETH MALONE - SING-A-LONG-A-GARETH: 50 YEARS OF SONG Join 'the man who got the nation singing' as he leads the audience through a setlist of iconic songs from the 1960s to the present day, Sun 9 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Talks & Spoken Word

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

JOHN SIMPSON: THE LEADERS AND LUNATICS TOUR A 'bold, unflinching' look at leadership: why some inspire, while others descend into tyranny, Sun 2 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

MINA SMALLMAN: A BETTER TOMORROW, LIFE LESSONS IN HOPE AND STRENGTH An in-conversation event in which activist Mina talks to Doreen Foster about stepping up collectively and working together for a better future, Tues 4 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

GARY YOUNGE: PIGEONHOLED A 'powerful reflection' on race, racism and writing, presented by the Orwell Prize-winning journalist and honorary graduate of the University of Warwick, Thurs 6 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

OCTOBER HALF-TERM TRAIL Solve the mystery of the missing pumpkins, until Sun 2 Nov, Packwood House, Lapworth, Warwickshire

THE SPIDER'S TANGLE TRAIL Uncover the secrets of a variety of the UK's web types through interactive facts, playful poetry and glowing discoveries, until Sun 2 Nov, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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, B'ham

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

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

BIRDLAND TRAIL A trail of ceramic birds inspired by those found in Cannon Hill Park, until Sun 22 Feb, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

HALLOWEEN SILENT DISCO Three DJs battle it out in this special silent disco, Sat 1 Nov, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

ALIEN HEAD JUNK MODELLING WITH TAT VISION Create your own wearable alien head, Sat 1 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

SPOOKY CINEMA: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND Cinema under the stars in the 360-degree dome, Sat 1 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

COLOUR BOX: WOLF CHILDREN Drop-in workshop followed by a film screening, Sat 1 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) Birmingham

SPOOKY CINEMA: TROOPERS Cinema under the stars in the 360-degree dome, Sat 1 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

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, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

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

BIRMINGHAM'S FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET The largest authentic German Christmas market outside of Germany or Austria, Sat 1 Nov - Wed 24 Dec, Birmingham City Centre

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



Farshore Funny Fest: Beano The World's Funniest Story - Midlands Arts Centre

FARSHORE FUNNY FEST: BEANO THE WORLD'S FUNNIEST STORY Creative craft show during which 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, Sun 2 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

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

WILD: THE DRONE LIGHT SHOW Brand-new immersive animal-themed drone light show, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Nov, Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham

THE TEXTILE FAIR Browse a range of stalls showcasing independent artists & makers who use textiles and textile processes in their art, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Nov, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

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

SPECTRAL NIGHTS AT SUDELEY Join the Spectral Nights team to experience an evening of paranormal investigation, Sat 8 Nov, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

HEALING SCENTS Drop in and create a healing remedy rooted in history, Sat 8 Nov, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

TREE MYTHS AND FOLKLORE TOUR Learn about fascinating tree myths and folklore from around the world on this free walking tour, Sat 8 Nov, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR Brand-new line-up of short films featuring extreme journeys and intriguing characters, Sat 8 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

VIBES: A HISTORY OF URBAN MUSIC Join the listening sessions to help transcribe the City Sound Archive, Sat 8 - Sat 15 Nov, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

SPECIAL EVENT: SEE FABERGÉ 'THE PEAR BLOSSOM' As seen and valued on the BBC's Antiques Road Show programme, Sun 9 Nov, The Commandery, Worcester

CARDBOARD CLUES: MURDER IN THE MUSEUM Become a detective and unravel a series of curious, whimsical mysteries in the museum, Sun 9 Nov, Lapworth Museum, Aston Webb Building, University of Birmingham





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29 NOVEMBER 2025

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Joy Crookes - O2 Academy

Gigs

DEEP SEA DIVER + LEMONSUCKR Mon 10 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE SUMMER SET + SENSES Mon 10 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

G FLIP Mon 10 Nov, O2 Academy

NIGHTBUS Tues 11 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

DYLAN FLYNN AND THE DEAD POETS Tues 11 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE SOUNDS OF SIMON Tues 11 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT Tues 11 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

LACK OF AFRO Tues 11 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

LEONIAN DREAM + PRETTY BLEED Tues 11 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

GARETH DUNLOP Wed 12 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SONS OF TOWN HALL Wed 12 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

SECRET NIGHT GANG Wed 12 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

CIEL Wed 12 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

JAMES MARRIOTT Wed 12 Nov, O2 Academy

MIRANDA SYKES +

JOHN NAPIER Wed 12 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Rd

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

VOLBEAT Wed 12 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

WASHINGTON WHIRLIGIG Wed 12 Nov, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

FOCUS Thurs 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SONS Thurs 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

RILEY BAUGUS Thurs 13 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

AN EVENING OF DIANA ROSS Thurs 13 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

JEREMY JOHNSON + MC BEAKY Thurs 13 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

CAST Thurs 13 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BRAND NEW + GEORGE TAYLOR Thurs 13 Nov, O2 Academy

AMBLE Thurs 13 Nov, O2 Academy

DETROITWICH FUNK MACHINE Thurs 13 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

BLEACH LAB Thurs 13 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

AS EVERYTHING UNFOLDS Thurs 13 Nov, The Asylum, Hampton Street

JOELY JUNE Thurs 13 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

CLASSICAL KATE BUSH Thurs 13 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

LEAVE YOUR BODY BEHIND Thurs 13 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth

RANAGRI Thurs 13 Nov, Bromsgrove Folk Club

THE STORY OF JOHNNY CASH AND JUNE CARTER Thurs 13 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SAXON Fri 14 Nov, The Halls, Wolverhampton

HOTLINE TNT + JADE HAIRPINS Fri 14 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

NEMO + PUNCHBAG Fri 14 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

JOY CROOKES Fri 14 Nov, O2 Academy

MIRADOR Fri 14 Nov, O2 Academy

APRIL REIGNS Fri 14 Nov, Jo Jo Jims, Cofton Hackett

VINCENT FLATTS Fri 14 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

STARS & SAND Fri 14 Nov, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter

THE KING BLUES Fri 14 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

NEON DREAMS Fri 14 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

STERLING PRESS Fri 14 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS:

SING AND SWING Fri 14 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

BONFIRE RADICALS Fri 14 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

BANDA BRASILEIRA Fri 14 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

PANJABI HIT SQUAD Fri 14 Nov, XOYO, Digbeth

LAURA JURD Fri 14 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Cannon Hill Park

PENTIRE Fri 14 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth

ONE NIGHT OF BILLY JOEL - THE PIANO MAN Fri 14 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THE AMY WINEHOUSE BAND Performing with the CBSO, Fri 14 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HUGH CORNWELL + THE COURETTES Fri 14 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BARB JUNGR: DYLAN AND COHEN Fri 14 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

JAMES OLIVER Sat 15 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

TRANSMISSION - THE SOUND OF JOY DIVISION Sat 15 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SKASTUDS Sat 15 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

SUNDAY (1994) Sat 15 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

LUCY SPRAGGAN Sat 15 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

SWIM SCHOOL + BASHT. Sat 15 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

GARY NUMAN Sat 15 Nov, O2 Academy

BEDROCK BULLETS Sat 15 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

THE 900 Sat 15 Nov, The Asylum,

Hampton Street
TEMPLETON PEK + 4FT FINGERS Sat 15 Nov, The Flapper, Kingston Row

ADAM ANT Sat 15 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

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

GENESIS CONNECTED Sat 15 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

STEVIE & LUTHER SHOW Sat 15 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

GENEVIEVE MILES Sat 15 - Sun 16 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

THE SKINNER BROTHERS Sun 16 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SCALER Sun 16 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

GWENIFER RAYMOND Sun 16 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

ASHLEY SINGH + NATALIE 2V Sun 16 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

TAXI FOR JESUS Sun 16 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

STRANDZ Sun 16 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BLACK STAR Sun 16 Nov, O2 Academy

ALEXANDER STEWART Sun 16 Nov, O2 Academy

[SPUNGE] Sun 16 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

MARTIN HARLEY Sun 16 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

HOWARD JONES Sun 16 Nov, Symphony Hall

CHAMELEONS + THE VELDT Sun 16 Nov, XOYO, Digbeth

THIS IS CELINE UK Sun 16 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LEVEL 42 Sun 16 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Classical Music

SHOSTAKOVICH AND HIS WORLD

A week-long exploration of the chamber music of Dmitri Shostakovich and other composers who were influenced by his music, performed by RBC students and staff, Mon 10 - Fri 14 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

SIR SIMON RATTLE & THE BAVARIAN RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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

FIBONACCI QUARTET Featuring Kryštof Kohout & Luna de Mol (violins), Elliot Kempton (viola) & Findlay Spence (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, Fergus Hall & Bartók, Tues 11 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: ALL THE BASSOONS Experience music from your favourite composers as never heard before..., Wed 12 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

MIMI RALEIGH PIANO RECITAL Thurs 13 Nov, St Paul's Church, B'ham

CLASSICAL KATE BUSH Thurs 13 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

BARBER LUNCHTIME CONCERT

Featuring Mebrakh Haughton-Johnson (clarinet) & Kumi Matsuo (piano). Programme includes works by Widor, Horowitz, Jessie Montgomery & Brahms, Fri 14 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

DAVID HARDIE ORGAN RECITAL Fri 14 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY Featuring David Wynne (conductor) & Kevin Gill (organist). Programme includes Durufle's Requiem & Vierne's Messe Solennelle, Sat 15 Nov, St George's Church, Birmingham

LONDON CONCERTANTE: VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS & VAUGHAN WILLIAMS' THE LARK ASCENDING

Programme also includes Mozart's Marriage of Figaro Overture, Sat 15 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, B'ham

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

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

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



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Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Tickets start from £4
(excluding booking fee)

wolverhamptonart.org.uk

A promotional banner for the Good Food Show Winter 2025. The banner features a collage of images: a roasted chicken, a man and a woman looking at a book, a chef, a man and a woman smiling, a roasted potato, and a group of people. The text 'goodFOOD SHOW WINTER' is prominently displayed, along with 'Sponsored by LEXUS', the dates '27-30 November 2025', and the location 'NEC, BIRMINGHAM'. A large yellow star graphic is also present. At the bottom, there is a blue banner with the text 'Save 15%* off' and 'USE CODE WHATSON FOR 15% OFF* TICKETS', accompanied by a QR code.

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Sponsored by LEXUS

27-30 November 2025
NEC, BIRMINGHAM

Save 15%* off

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*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 is subject to change. Details correct at time of print.

Comedy

JOE LYCETT Mon 10 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW HAMILTON Wed 12 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, JIN HAO LI & SOL BERNSTEIN Thurs 13 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham

ED BYRNE, DAN TIERNAN, JO ENRIGHT & JON PEARSON Thurs 13 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

HELEN BAUER Thurs 13 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

GRIFF RHYS JONES Thurs 13 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JOSH JAMES & LOUIE MCLEAN Fri 14 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ALEX MILNER, FRANCES KEYTON & JACOB NUSSEY Fri 14 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

SMASHBENGALI Fri 14 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

THE COMEDY LOUNGE Fri 14 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SARA PASCOE Fri 14 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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



PAUL F TAYLOR, TAL DAVIES, SIMON WOZNAK & JACK CAMPBELL Sat 15 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

BELLY LAUGHS Sat 15 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BABATUNDE ALÉSHÉ Sat 15 Nov, The Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

DESI CENTRAL COMEDY SHOW Sat 15 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SUZI RUFFELL Sat 15 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

HORATIO GOULD Sun 16 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NICK HELM Sun 16 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

BAD LADS Graeae Theatre Company present a story of oppression and resilience, Tues 11 - Wed 12 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE FULL MONTY St Augustine's present an amateur version of the hit musical, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

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

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

MOHIT MATHUR: DIAL 1 FOR UK Poignant one-man show about high hopes and reality, Thurs 13 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

FROZEN LIGHT THEATRE: THE ANCIENT OAK OF BALDOR A multi-sensory experience telling a folk tale of love, loss and the interconnectedness of all things, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

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

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

DARKNESS & LIGHT: GHOST STORIES An intimate solo show featuring 'one lamp-lit storyteller, two ghostly tales and nothing else but the infinite horrors of the surrounding darkness', Mon 10 - Tues 11 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BOX OF FROGS The Birmingham-based ensemble present an evening of high-octane, improvised comedy nonsense, based on audience suggestions, Wed 12 Nov, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Qtr, Birmingham



Michael Auger: Here We Go Again - The Old Joint Stock Theatre

SAMANTHA BARKS: THE CATHEDRAL

TOUR The West End star hosts an evening of music and storytelling, Wed 12 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

THE JURY EXPERIENCE Live theatre show where the audience is the jury and have the power to deliver justice..., Thurs 13 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, 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 comedy show, Thurs 13 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



THE HORNE SECTION'S HIT SHOW

Expect comedy, songs and enthusiastic dancing from this six-headed comedy band featuring five musicians and one stand-up, Thurs 13 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SHELL SUIT CHER: BELIEVE IN BINGO

Tracey Collins (Tina Turner Tea Lady) brings her latest weird and wonderful character to the stage in a singalong show packed with 'fun, laughter and life-changing prizes', Fri 14 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BOX OF FROGS The Birmingham-based ensemble present an evening of high-octane, improvised comedy nonsense, based on audience suggestions, Fri 14 Nov, Highbury Theatre, Sutton Coldfield

FEVER CANDLELIGHT: QUEEN VS ABBA

Live multi-sensory musical experience, Fri 14 Nov, St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, B'ham

THE BEST OF BOLLYWOOD ON STRINGS

Live multi-sensory experience by candlelight, Fri 14 Nov, St Paul's

Church, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

THE MUSIC OF COLDPLAY BY CANDLELIGHT Fri 14 & Sat 15 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

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

TUJHE DEKHA: COME FALL IN LOVE AGAIN An evening 'showcasing the enduring spirit of Bollywood', Sun 16 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Events

TO THE MOON EXPO Featuring esports tournaments, voice actors, new games and more, Wed 12 - Thurs 13 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

FESTIVE GIFT FAIR Featuring live music, festive characters and 300-plus stalls, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

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

PRIDE IN STEM DAY A full day of activities celebrating International Day of LGBTQIA+ People in STEM, Sat 15 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

BIRDLAND CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Make a bird-inspired festive decoration to take home or hang on MAC's tree, Sat 15 Nov, Midland Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

MCL IN ASSOCIATION WITH BIKESURE INSURANCE Annual celebration of all things motorcycle, Sat 15 - Sun 23 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

RAGLEY ASIAN WEDDING SHOWCASE Event bringing together a host of expert suppliers, Sun 16 Nov, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

Gigs

JIM E. BROWN Mon 17 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

NAMESBLISS Mon 17 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

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

JIM GHEDI Mon 17 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

GRAYSCALE Mon 17 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

TINIE TEMPAH Mon 17 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ARTHUR HILL + BENJAMIN STEER Mon 17 Nov, O2 Academy

NOUVELLE VAGUE Mon 17 Nov, XOYO, Digbeth

MATTHEW AND THE ATLAS Tues 18 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

DECLAN J DONOVAN Tues 18 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

BAD NERVES Tues 18 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

DODIE Tues 18 Nov, O2 Academy

MODEL/ACTRIZ Tues 18 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

STEADY HABITS Tues 18 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

TOM MORGAN Tues 18 Nov, B:Eats at Symphony Hall

FERGUS MCCREADIE Tues 18 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

THE IRISH HOUSE PARTY Tues 18 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

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

PILE Wed 19 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

WESTSIDE COWBOY Wed 19 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

HEAVEN 17 Wed 19 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

SLUM VILLAGE Wed 19 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

LIL TRACY + COLD HART Wed 19 Nov, O2 Academy

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

PENGSHUI Wed 19 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

THE PUBLICS Wed 19 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

ROB PETERS AND THE SLAPDASH COWBOYS + KATHERINE ABBOTT Wed 19 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Road

CABARET VOLTAIRE + VANISHING Wed 19 Nov, XOYO, Digbeth

MARK CHALLINOR'S WABASH JAZZ BAND Wed 19 Nov, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT - A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON Wed 19 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MARSEILLE Thurs 20 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

TUNNG Thurs 20 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SHY FACE TROUBADOUR Thurs 20 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

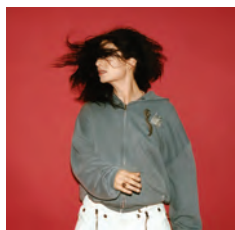
FLETCHER FLETCHER Thurs 20 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

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

BIMM Thurs 20 Nov, B:Eats at Symphony Hall

THE DUBLINERS ENCORE Thurs 20 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

LORDE Thurs 20 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham



IZUMI KIMURA + GERRY HEMINGWAY Thurs 20 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Cannon Hill Park

NELL MESCAL Thurs 20 Nov, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Thurs 20 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

LOYLE CARNER + REJJIE SNOW Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Nov, O2 Academy

BARRY STEELE'S ROY ORBISON Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SMOOVE AND TURRELL Fri 21 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

CONFESSIONS OF A TRAITOR + VANITAS + MEET YOUR MAKER Fri 21 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

CARL SINCLAIR Fri 21 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

JULIA + FLOODGATE + NAUSY + THE HOLOSCENES + CHERRYAID Fri 21 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

VOWER + GIANT WALKER Fri 21 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

MATT MALTESE + KATIE GREGSON-MACLEOD Fri 21 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ALCHEMY RELIVED Fri 21 Nov, Jo Jo Jims, Cofton Hackett

THE BLACK FRIDAYS Fri 21 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

THREEWAY Fri 21 Nov, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter

THE CHRIS STAPLETON EXPERIENCE Fri 21 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

HIGH REGARD Fri 21 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

NIK KERSHAW Fri 21 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

BETH MCCARTHY + CATTY Fri 21 Nov, XOYO, Digbeth

RANAGRI Fri 21 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

JLS Fri 21 - Sat 22 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

MAZ MITRENKO Sat 22 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

UTAH SAINTS Sat 22 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE DENABYS + THE VIZ + HEADWIRED Sat 22 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

UNDER THE COVERS Sat 22 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

THE MAJOR TOMS Sat 22 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

STRAY FROM THE PATH + ALPHA WOLF + GRAPHIC NATURE + CALVA LOUISE Sat 22 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

JERUB + PERSIA HOLDER Sat 22 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE GERRY CINNA-MAN

EXPERIENCE + SAM OFFENDER Sat 22 Nov, O2 Academy

RIZZLE KICKS + MONSTER FLORENCE + DAME Sat 22 Nov, O2 Academy

MELVIN HANCOX BAND Sat 22 Nov, Jo Jo Jims, Cofton Hackett

MIDNIGHT CITY Sat 22 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

BTR Sat 22 Nov, The Asylum, Hampton Street

XGENERATIONX Sat 22 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

LAMBRINI GIRLS Sat 22 Nov, XOYO, Digbeth

FLOOK Sat 22 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MARTIN MCALOON Sat 22 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

MIKKI EVANS Sun 23 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE SCRIBES + TRUEMENDOUS + SANITY Sun 23 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

JAYWALKERS Sun 23 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

KD AND THE DOGS Sun 23 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

TURIN BRAKES Sun 23 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THECITYISOURS + MALLAVORA Sun 23 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

DIZZEE RASCAL Sun 23 Nov, O2 Academy

L.A.M.F Sun 23 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

NEGATIVE FRAME Sun 23 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

HALESTORM Sun 23 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

THE GUEST LIST Sun 23 Nov, Mama Roux's, Digbeth



PETER KNIGHT & JOHN SPIERS Sun 23 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

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

CANDLELIGHT - FROM MOZART TO CHOPIN Works by Beethoven also feature, Thurs 20 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM GAME MUSIC ENSEMBLE Featuring Tommaso Nista (conductor). Programme includes works by Tommaso Nista, James Sharif, Rosie Bland, Anna Middleton & Vinicius Motta, Thurs 20 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

KLEIO QUARTET Featuring Juliette Roos & Katherine Yoon (violins), Yume Fujise (viola) & Eliza Millett (cello). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Turnage & Webern, Fri 21 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

THALLEIN ENSEMBLE Featuring Daniele Rosina. Programme includes works by Richard Ayres alongside new works by student composers Max Knight, Wiktor Wysocki & Kat Farn, Fri 21 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: LET THERE BE LIGHT Featuring Paul Spicer (conductor), Martyn Rawles (organist), Ciara Preston Myakicheff (soprano), Joseph Roberts (cello) & Tommy Hill (oboe). Programme includes works by Rutter & Kodaly, Sat 22 Nov, St Francis Church, Bournville, Birmingham

WINTER LIGHT: NADIA EIDE IN CONCERT Programme includes festive favourites and classic songs, Sat 22 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, B'ham

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS: GLORIA! Featuring works by Bruckner, Handel, Parry, Rutter & Vaughan Williams, Sat 22 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

SPIRES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & CHORUS: AUTUMN CONCERT Featuring Benjamin Hamilton (conductor) & Alistair Kennedy (orchestra leader). Programme includes works by Bruckner & Schubert, Sat 22 Nov, The Hub, Coventry

MIDLAND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: THE EARLY ROMANTICS Programme includes works by Schubert, Mendelssohn & R Schumann, Sun 23 Nov, St Mary's Church, Moseley, Birmingham

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

ANDREW WHITE Wed 19 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CLOSEUP COMEDY Wed 19 Nov, Herbert's Yard, Birmingham

CLOSEUP COMEDY - 100TH SHOW PARTY Wed 19 Nov, Hockley Social Club, Birmingham

MIKE RICE Thurs 20 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH NINA GILLIGAN, JOE KENT-WALTERS & MATTHEW ALI Thurs 20 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROB BECKETT Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

JENNY ECLAIR Fri 21 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

QUINCY, JOSH ELTON, KATE LUCAS & COMIC TBC Sat 22 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, 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

THE NATURE OF FORGETTING 'An explosive, powerful and joyous piece about what's left when memory is gone', Tues 18 - Wed 19 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MISS SAIGON Spectacular new production of Boubllil & Schönberg's legendary musical, set during the last days of the Vietnam War, Tues 18 - Sat 29 Nov, The Alexandra, B'ham

SLEEPING BEAUTY Iain Lauchlan's dreamy tale for the festive season. Featuring Andy Hockley (Grumbleweed), Craig Hollingsworth (Muddles), Wendi Harriot (Carabosse) and Mia King-Harmes as Princess Belle/Queen Hyacinth, Wed 19 Nov - Sat 3 Jan, The Belgrade

Theatre, Coventry

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

OPERA SCENES RBC musicians present a varied evening featuring a wide range of operas - 'from jewels of the baroque through to the daringly contemporary', Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE SNOW QUEEN PANTOMIME The Arcadians Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytale, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE LEGENDS OF THEM 'A breath-taking, roof-raising chronicle of reggae pioneer Sutura Gayle's singular, extraordinary life - and the legends that have guided her'..., Fri 21 - Sat 22 Nov, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

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

CINDERELLA Festive family show packed with romance, comedy, magic and plenty of audience participation, Fri 21 Nov - Sun 7 Dec, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

CINDERELLA BOA Group bring the timeless festive tale to life with 'breath-taking sets, jaw-dropping special effects, and unforgettable musical numbers', Sat 22 Nov - Wed 31 Dec, The Old Rep, Birmingham

Dance

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

I'LL BE BACK 'An action-packed 60-minute show of apocalyptic devastation, robotic transformation, emotional reunion, and how a plan

which was formed in the Brierley Hill Blockbusters can save the world', Thurs 20 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CANDLELIGHT TRIBUTE TO ADELE Thurs 20 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

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

FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT: QUEEN'S A NIGHT AT THE OPERA AT 50 - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN Featuring Creatine Price (tenor), Nikola Printz (mezzo soprano), Ann Toomey (soprano), Rachael Wooding, Jon Boydon, Pete Eldridge & Jenna Lee-James, Fri 21 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FEVER CANDLELIGHT: TRIBUTE TO ABBA Sat 22 Nov, St Paul's Church, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

A CELTIC CHRISTMAS 'Bewitching harmonies, powerful melodies, Christmas folk music and more'..., Sat 22 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

FEVER CANDLELIGHT: TRIBUTE TO ARIJIT SINGH Sat 22 Nov, St Paul's Church, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

THE BIG SING PRESENTS: CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS Christmas carols presented with a groundbreaking, modern twist, Sun 23 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: THE STORY OF MAYA A musical grand tour of Bangladesh's provinces and musical traditions as told through the eyes of an imagined female protagonist, Sun 23 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

DAVID OLUSOGA AND KWAME KWEI-ARMAH Event exploring Black British history, looking back at the 60 years which have passed since the UK's first Race Relations Act, Mon 17 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AN EVENING WITH JIMMY TARBUCK Featuring anecdotes and video clips highlighting 60 years in showbusiness, Wed 19 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

AN EVENING WITH PAUL MERSON Join the former Aston Villa star as he discusses his life, both on and off the pitch, Thurs 20 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

RICHARD AYOADE - AFTERTHOUGHTS The BAFTA-winning actor, comedian, director & writer shares insights from his latest book, Thurs 20 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BANGLA MONTH 2025: POETRY AFTER CHAI + Q&A Immersive celebration of

poetry and storytelling, exploring pressing political, social and cultural themes, Sat 22 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

SUSIE DENT: WORD PERFECT 'Britain's best-loved wordsmith' takes a look at the joys of the English language, Sat 22 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

CHRISTMAS TREE BOOK FOLDING WORKSHOP Turn the pages of an old book into a folded Christmas tree in this hands-on festive workshop, Tues 18 - Wed 19 Nov, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

AUTUMN EXHIBITIONS: LAUNCH PARTY Celebrating the opening of Hardeep Pandhal: Saag And Fish Fingers and Hospital Rooms: Balancing Acts, Fri 21 Nov, MAC, Birmingham

SPECTACLE OF LIGHT 2025 Discover the Court of King Arthur and the Magic of Merlin as you embark on an illuminated adventure around the grounds, Fri 21 Nov - Tues 30 Dec, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

RICKY VINTAGE - VIDEO SCREENING AND PANEL TALK Ricky showcases a new 15-minute music video in the Pixel Studio, blending live-band energy and local inspiration, Sat 22 Nov, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

SANTA SAFARI Combining a four-mile winter safari with a visit to Santa, Sat 22 Nov - Wed 24 Dec, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

GREAT BRITISH LAND ROVER SHOW Featuring everything from parts and accessories to bespoke vehicle builds and incredible restorations, Sun 23 Nov, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

LOVE LIFE AGAIN: GROWTH, HEALING & CONNECTION EVENT Featuring local healers, spiritual guides, holistic health and more, Sun 23 Nov, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Hall



Say She She - O2 Institute, Digbeth

Gigs

AMIE BLU Mon 24 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

NOISY Mon 24 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth

UNFLIRT Tues 25 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HUMANE THE MOON Tues 25 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

SAY SHE SHE Tues 25 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

AMARIA BB Tues 25 Nov, O2 Academy

HUMOUR Tues 25 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

CONAN Tues 25 Nov, The Asylum, Hampton Street

AHSOKA Tues 25 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

CONYA DOSS & ANTHONY DAVID Wed 26 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Digbeth

SCUSTIN Wed 26 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Digbeth

THE FINN COLLINSON BAND Wed 26 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

THE WAILERS Wed 26 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BABYSHAMBLES Wed 26 Nov, O2 Academy

JUNIOR BROTHER Wed 26 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

THE DROLLZ + SUE STEVENS Wed 26 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Road

THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY Wed 26 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JOOLS & THE JAZZAHOLICS Wed 26 Nov, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

HERBERT & MOMOKO Thurs 27 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

WEIRD ON PURPOSE Thurs 27 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE KAHUNAS Thurs 27 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

SOUTH ARCADE Thurs 27 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ZACH TEMPLAR Thurs 27 Nov, O2 Academy

KNEECAP + MISS KANINNA Thurs 27 Nov, O2 Academy

GOOD HEALTH GOOD WEALTH Thurs 27 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

BUG TEETH Thurs 27 Nov, The Victoria,

John Bright Street

A CELEBRATION OF THE LAST WALTZ Thurs 27 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ZACH TEMPLAR Thurs 27 Nov, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

COBALT TALES Thurs 27 Nov, Bromsgrove Folk Club

THE STYLISTICS Thurs 27 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ORPHY ROBINSON Thurs 27 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

SHRIMP EYES Fri 28 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

SEAN REEVES Fri 28 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

SADIE JEAN Fri 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

DREADZONE + THE ORB Fri 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE WHITE LAKES + THIS WON'T WORK + ALEX HOPKINS Fri 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ALESSI ROSE + DÉYESS Fri 28 Nov, O2 Academy

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Fri 28 Nov, O2 Academy

SKABUCKS Fri 28 Nov, Jo Jo Jims, Kings Norton

SISTERS OF MURPHY Fri 28 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

CHOP SUEY + SLIP-NOT + THE VIOLENTINZIDENT Fri 28 Nov, The Asylum, Hampton Street

PINTGLASS Fri 28 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

BELTANE MOON Fri 28 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

NIKHIL D'SOUZA Fri 28 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

FIVE Fri 28 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

JEAN GENIE - THE BOWIE SHOW Fri 28 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MIKE DAVIDS BAND Sat 29 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

MAD DOG MCREA Sat 29 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

KEYSIDE Sat 29 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

HEELS Sat 29 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

THE ATLANTIC PLAYERS Sat 29 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

NOTHING, NOWHERE. + SACE6 Sat 29 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

WHEATUS + THOMAS NICHOLAS BAND Sat 29 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

TORS Sat 29 Nov, O2 Academy

LOVE THE BEATLES Sat 29 Nov, Jo Jo Jims, Cofton Hackett

CERI JUSTICE & THE JURY Sat 29 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

BROGEAL Sat 29 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

ALL SHALL PERISH + PEELING FLESH + VULVODYNIA + ACRIANUS Sat 29 Nov, The Asylum, Hampton Street

FANGSGIVING 2025 Sat 29 Nov, The

Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

NATIONAL YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA Sat 29 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

ROCK CHOIR LIVE - SPECIAL GUESTS EMELI SANDE + SAM RYDER + RUSSELL WATSON Sat 29 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

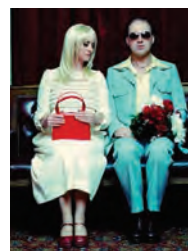
WOLF ALICE Sat 29 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS Sat 29 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Symphony Hall

REELIN' IN THE DAN Sun 30 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Sun 30 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath



BACK ON THE ROAD Sun 30 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

KINGFISHR Sun 30 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BRIGANDAGE + YEAR ZERO Sun 30 Nov, Tower of Song, Kings Norton

MODERN LITERATURE + SWEETPOOL + EARL TEMPLE FOUNDATION + SPINCYCLE + SLUGMAN Sun 30 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

JESSE COOK Sun 30 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JOSH BAILEY TRIO Sun 30 Nov, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Ed Mellor (trombone) & Joanne Sealey (piano), Mon 24 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: BAROQUE ENSEMBLE: 1725 MUSIC IN NAPLES Mon 24 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

HENRY FAIRS: CELEBRITY ORGAN CONCERT Programme tbc, Tues 25 Nov, Organ Studio, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

DAME SARAH CONNOLLY (MEZZO SOPRANO) & JOSEPH MIDDLETON (PIANO) IN CONCERT Programme includes works by Brahms, Mahler, Debussy, Errollyn Wallen & Weill, Wed 26 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of B'ham

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

BINCHOIS CONSORT Featuring Andrew Kirkman (director) & His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornetts, Fri 28 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

SUMMERLEAZE QUARTET IN CONCERT Fri 28 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

WIND QUARTET RECITAL Featuring Chloe Phipps (clarinet), Mate Bagi (flute), Luke Cutler (oboe) & Rowan Tidball (bass clarinet), Fri 28 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

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

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
JULIAN DEANE, HASAN AL-HABIB, JOEY PAGE & DAVE LONGLEY Sat 29 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham
TEO, VIO & COSTEL Sun 30 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ROUGH WORKS: NEW MATERIAL NIGHT Sun 30 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham
HARE OF THE DOG COMEDY Sun 30 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Theatre

CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL BMOS present an amateur version of Gary Barlow & Tim Firth's hit musical, Tues 25 - Sat 29 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

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

THE GOOD LANDLORD Dark comedy written and performed by working-class renters, Wed 26 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

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

INTO THE WOODS JNR Script Youth Musical Theatre Company bring Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine's 'cockeyed' fairytale to life, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

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

Kids Theatre

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA Join the tea-guzzling tiger in a delightful family show packed with oodles of magic, singalong songs and clumsy chaos, Sat 29 Nov - Sun 28 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

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

CHRISTMAS LECTURES Join Ally Caldecote and favourite scientists from the University of Warwick as they leave their labs 'to entertain, inspire and amaze audiences', Wed 26 Nov - Wed 10 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE CROONERS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Featuring iconic festive favourites, laughter and more..., Thurs 27 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THE RAT PACK - CHRISTMAS IN VEGAS! David Alacey (Lovejoy & Inspector Alceyn) stars as Frank Sinatra alongside West End favourite Tim Harwood as Dean Martin and former Coronation Street and Hollyoaks star Ashley Campbell as Sammy Davis Jnr, Thurs 27 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET The creme de la creme of the cabaret world take to the stage 'to surprise and delight'..., Sat 29 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

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

NEEL & FRIENDS - LIVE AT BANGLA MONTH An evening of contemporary Bengali music, where rich folk traditions meet modern indie soundscapes, Sat 29 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

MC GRAMMAR LIVE - BOOKS, BEATS AND BARZ 'The ultimate family party', complete with 'book bangers, epic rhymes and non-stop vibes', Sun 30 Nov, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THE CHRISTMAS ORCHESTRA Experience uplifting nostalgia with compositions from your favourite Christmas films, as well as popular sing-along classics to ignite your festive spirit. Performed live by a 16-piece chamber orchestra supported with full sound production and lighting show, Sun 30 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Dance

FABRIC - TARANTO ALEATORIO Choreographer & dancer La Chachi (María del Mar Suárez) and singer



Breakfast with Santa - Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

FRED DINENAGE - RONNIE REGGIE & ME A definitive insight into the real lives of Britain's most notorious gangsters, courtesy of their trusted official biographer. Hosted by Alex Dyke, Tues 25 Nov, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

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

Events

GOOD FOOD SHOW WINTER Featuring 'more festive flavour and foodie fun than ever', Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

CLASSIC ANTIQUE FAIRS Featuring between 60 and 80 specialist dealers offering a wide variety of high-quality pieces, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

MCM COMIC CON Three-day event featuring all things anime, film, TV and gaming, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

LUMINATE - WINTER LIGHT TRAIL Journey through installations, projections, and glowing tunnels of light, Fri 28 Nov - Thurs 1 Jan, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BOWDLEY LIGHTS SPECIAL TRAIN Travel in style to see the Christmas lights switch-on event in Bowdley, Sat 29 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bowdley, nr Kidderminster

BACKSTAGE TOUR Explore the hidden secrets of The Rep, Sat 29 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

THE MURDER OF SIR EDMUND BELTON Victorian-inspired murder-mystery night, Sat 29 Nov, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA Join Santa for breakfast in the tearoom, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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 ARTS MARKET A festive selection of work by designer-makers from Birmingham and beyond, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, MAC, Birmingham

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, nr Kidderminster

THE ELF EXPRESS An interactive experience for all ages, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

WINTER TATTOO FESTIVAL Featuring more than 200 award-winning tattoo artists, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Nov, Coventry Building Society Arena, Coventry

VISIT SANTA: VINTAGE SLEIGH RIDE EXPERIENCE Wander through a magical winter wonderland, then take a ride on a vintage sleigh pulled by two trusty reindeer, Sat 29 Nov - Tues 23 Dec, Coventry Transport Museum

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

Competitions

WIN! with What's On...

Enter now at whatsonlive.co.uk to be in with a chance of bagging one of these fabulous prizes!



Win! 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 pair of tickets to A Laugh Supreme

A Laugh Supreme Comedy Night returns to Birmingham

Conservatoire's Eastside Jazz Club mid-month, on this occasion featuring stand-up comedy from Alex Milner, Frances Keyton and Jacob Nussey. Live music is provided by The Aidan Pope Quartet...

We are offering one lucky reader the chance to win two tickets to the show on Friday 14 November.

Competition closes Monday 10 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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A FESTIVE NEW COMEDY

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AND THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



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HUMPHREY KER & DAVID REED

WITH ORIGINAL SONGS BY

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