

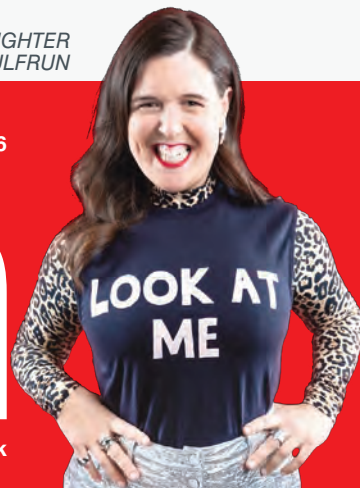
Wolverhampton & Black Country

ISSUE 473 JUNE 2026

# What's On

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

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## inside:

### MEET THE PLASTICS

Mean Girls musical visits the  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



### SERIOUSLY SNAPPY

Roadl Dahl's The Enormous  
Crocodile takes to the stage



### LOOK TO THE SKY...

The Royal Air Force Museum  
Cosford Air Show is back!



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Best Festival in  
the West Midlands  
2024, 2025, 2026



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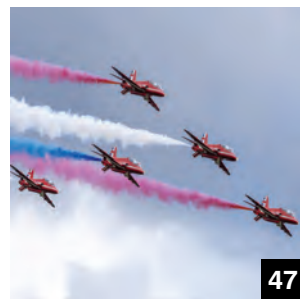
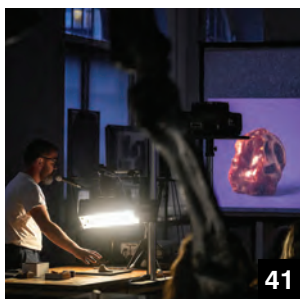
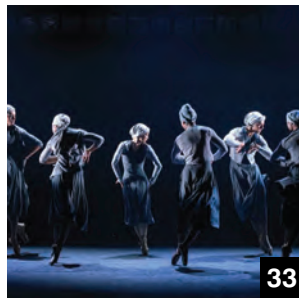
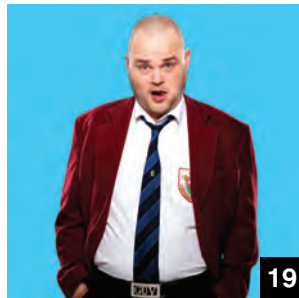
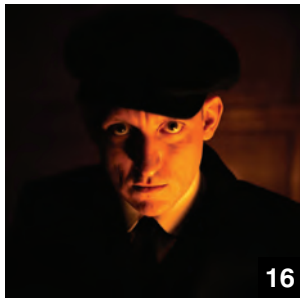
27 & 28 JUNE 2026

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[shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk](https://shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk)



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### What's On

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## Award-winning food festival back this month

Shrewsbury Food Festival returns at the end of the month.

Taking place in the town's Quarry Park on Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 June, the event will feature top chefs leading demonstrations, 180-plus food, drink and home stalls, bars run by local drink producers, and a wide selection of street food.

The event has been named Festival of the Year at the West Midlands Tourism Awards for three consecutive years.

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website: [shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk](http://shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk)

## Social enterprise on the lookout for creatives...

2Funky Arts, a social enterprise dedicated to advancing and celebrating arts & music of Black origin, is looking for artists of Black, African and Caribbean heritage to take part in its annual And Still I Rise Midlands tour. Produced for Black History Month, the tour will showcase 'powerful new work' by 10 outstanding creatives, with each artist needing to develop an original performance exploring themes of identity, heritage and liberation.

Selected artists will receive £500 to develop and rehearse their work, plus £200 for each performance. Interested parties have until Friday 26 June to apply.

To find out more, visit [2funkyarts.co.uk](http://2funkyarts.co.uk)

## Pop and rock gig to raise funds for Acorns Hospice

Stourbridge arts organisation Gig Caritas is teaming up with the In Sound Company community choir to present a Dudley Town Hall concert of pop and rock hits, to raise funds for Acorns Children's Hospice. Gig Caritas Rocks! takes place at the venue on Saturday 27 June, with further information and tickets available via [boroughhalls.co.uk](http://boroughhalls.co.uk)

## In a pickle: NEC to host indoor Open tournament

Birmingham's NEC will host the UK's largest indoor pickleball tournament later in the summer.

Pickleball is one of the world's fastest-growing sports, combining elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. Running at the NEC from Tuesday 11 to Sunday 16 August, the event provides the opportunity to watch some of the game's top

players in action. To find out more and purchase your tickets, visit [thenec.co.uk](http://thenec.co.uk)

## Steve Backshall to tour with Deadly Live! show

Deadly Live! with Steve Backshall will return to Birmingham in the autumn. Marketed as an action-packed, edge-of-your-seat thrilling experience, the show visits Birmingham Utilita Arena during the half-term holiday, on Monday 26 October. For more information and to book tickets, visit [deadlylivetour.com](http://deadlylivetour.com)



## Symphony Hall date for comedian Simon Brodtkin

Controversial comedian Simon Brodtkin - who memorably handed Prime Minister Theresa May her P45 at the Conservative Party Conference in 2017 - will kickstart a brand-new tour at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Friday 11 September. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit [bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk)

## TV's A League Of Their Own heading out on tour

Hit television show A League Of Their Own is heading out on tour in the autumn and will be paying a visit to Birmingham, stopping off at the city's bp pulse LIVE venue on Monday 14 September. Series veteran Jamie Redknapp will be hosting proceedings, with team captains Jill Scott and Tony Bellew also involved. For more information and to book your tickets, visit [livenation.co.uk](http://livenation.co.uk)

## Grammy Award winner at Shrewsbury Folk Festival

Blues & roots artist Fantastic Negrito is to perform at this summer's Shrewsbury Folk Festival.

The three-time Grammy Award winner will appear at the event on Sunday 30 August, following the withdrawal of Americana star Lucinda Williams, who last month cancelled all her UK and EU shows.

Commenting on the announcement, Festival Director Sandra Surtees said: "This is a rare UK festival performance for Fantastic Negrito and an exciting addition to this year's programme. He is known for his fearless originality and deeply personal songwriting, as well as for his electrifying live performances, so we can't wait for our audience to see him live."

Shrewsbury Folk Festival takes place at the West Mid Showground from Friday 28 to Monday 31 August.

For more information and to book tickets, visit [shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk)



## A winter date for The Damned

British punk icons The Damned have announced a celebratory 50th anniversary UK tour and will be paying a visit to Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday 5 December. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit [aegp.uk/the-damned](http://aegp.uk/the-damned)



## The Manics & Suede at Utilita

Two pioneering bands, Manic Street Preachers and Suede, will visit Birmingham Utilita Arena in the autumn (Saturday 7 November) as part of a co-headline tour.

For more information and to book tickets, visit the website [utilitaarenabham.co.uk](http://utilitaarenabham.co.uk)

## Himley hauntings

Halloween is coming early at Dudley's Himley Hall this year, courtesy of a guided daytime tour revealing the spooky legends which have long been associated with the popular visitor attraction. Cold Light Of Day: The Haunting Of Himley Hall - taking place at the venue on Saturday 27 June - is a prebooked-only event, with tickets available to purchase at [ticketsource.com](http://ticketsource.com)



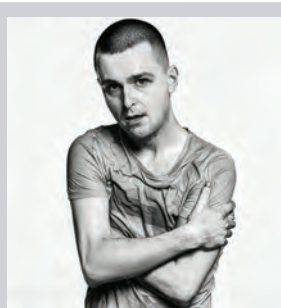
## Pretty Woman musical to show at two Midlands venues

The stage musical version of Pretty Woman will head back to the Midlands next year.

The hit production, based on the same-named 1990 film starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, will show at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra from Tuesday 4 to Saturday 15 May

2027. It will then return to the region two months later for a run at the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent (Tuesday 20 - Saturday 24 July).

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website of the relevant venue.



## Summer Steam Saturdays at SVR...

The Severn Valley Railway is bringing an extra touch of steam-era nostalgia to Bridgnorth this summer, with steam-hauled services operating on the first train of the day from the town every Saturday during June, July and August... The services will see one of the railway's smaller steam locomotives paired with a set of historic Great Western Railway carriages.

## John Partridge to star in The Silence Of The Lambs in Wolverhampton

Former EastEnders actor John Partridge will star as Hannibal Lecter when the stage adaptation of Oscar-winning movie The Silence Of The Lambs visits the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton next spring... The show stops off at the venue from Monday 26 April to Saturday 1 May 2027. For more information and to book tickets, visit the website at [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk)



## Trainspotting in the Midlands

The stage-musical version of Trainspotting is heading out on its first major UK tour.

Based on the cult 1996 film of the same name, the show will visit Birmingham venue The Alexandra from Monday 30 November to Saturday 5 December and Stoke's Regent Theatre, from Tuesday 5 to Saturday 9 January, 2027. Visit [atgtickets.com](http://atgtickets.com) to purchase tickets.

## Big names coming to Shrewsbury venue

Pop-rock band The Feeling, ambient electronic music pioneers The Orb (pictured), indie favourites The Wedding Present, and psychedelic rock band Ozric Tentacles are among the autumn visitors to Shrewsbury venue The Buttermarket. To check out the complete programme of live music and events, visit the website at [thebuttermarket.co.uk](http://thebuttermarket.co.uk)



## The return of Lichfield Cathedral's Tower Tour

Lichfield Cathedral's Tower Tour is making a return.

The tour takes visitors to the top of the cathedral's Central Tower, from where they can enjoy stunning views of the city and the surrounding areas.

For more information and to book tickets, visit [lichfield-cathedral.org](http://lichfield-cathedral.org)

## Jill Halfpenny to star in Little Voice at the Grand

Familiar television face Jill Halfpenny will star in a brand-new National Theatre production of *The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice* when it tours to the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre early next year (Tuesday 9 - Saturday 13 March). Waterloo Road and *EastEnders* star Jill will be joined in the cast by Francesca Mills (*Silent Witness*) and the BAFTA Award-winning Paul Chuckle (*The Madame Blanc Mysteries*).

For more information and to book tickets, visit the venue's website: [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk)



## Starlight Express to skate into the Midlands in 2027

A touring version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express* will skate into Birmingham Hippodrome next summer as part of a world tour.

The hit musical, which has been seen by more than 30 million people across the globe

since debuting over 40 years ago, visits the second city from Wednesday 11 August to Saturday 11 September 2027. For more information and to book tickets, visit [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

## Midlands ballet school launches summer retreat

Birmingham's Elmhurst Ballet School is inviting adult dancers to step into 'a unique and uplifting experience' next month, courtesy of its Silver Swans Summer Retreat - 'a carefully curated programme blending dance, wellbeing and community in a welcoming and supportive environment'. Running from Monday 13 to Thursday 16 July, the experience includes daily ballet technique classes, repertoire sessions, and workshops in jazz and Bollywood dance. To find out more, check out the website at [elmhurstballetschool.org](http://elmhurstballetschool.org)

## Weston Park set to host culinary demonstrations

Shropshire's Weston Park is hosting a brand-new programme of culinary demonstrations.

The initiative follows the stately home's appointment of Tom Bacon as its Chef de Partie. Tom has joined the kitchen team following a successful two-year tenure with the Rick Stein group in Padstow, Cornwall. The first demonstration takes place on Friday 12 June. For more information and to book your place, visit the website at [weston-park.com](http://weston-park.com)



## CBSO unveils its 2026/27 season programme

Major symphonic journeys - including Beethoven and Mahler cycles - and the CBSO Chorus' 1,000th performance are among the highlights of the City of Birmingham



Symphony Orchestra's 2026/27 season. The CBSO will also be returning to Coventry Cathedral for Britten's *War Requiem*, as well as presenting a wide-ranging programme that embraces film, popular music and cross-genre collaborations.

To check out the full line-up of concerts, visit [cbsoco.uk/season-26-27](http://cbsoco.uk/season-26-27)

## The Changeling next up for Oldbury Rep Players

Oldbury Rep Players will once again be treading the boards in the middle of next month when they present the world premiere of Paul Steventon-Marks' *The Changeling*.

A reimagining of the Dracula myth, the production runs at the Oldbury Rep Theatre from Saturday 11 to Saturday 18 July.

To find out more about the show, visit the website at [oldburyrep.org](http://oldburyrep.org)

# B:Music

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09 June | Symphony Hall

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**Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit**  
10 June | Symphony Hall



**80s Classical with Nik Kershaw,  
Johnny Hates Jazz & Jaki Graham**  
11 June | Symphony Hall



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**Steak Frites**  
**B:Eats at Symphony Hall:**  
11am-4pm Mon-Sat & pre-show



**Arooj Aftab with London Contemporary  
Orchestra conducted by Robert Ames**  
16 June | Symphony Hall



**Fireman Sam**  
20 June | Town Hall



**Sir Karl Jenkins  
conducts The Armed Man**  
21 June | Symphony Hall



**Sounds of the 60s Live:  
Hosted by Tony Blackburn OBE**  
22 June | Symphony Hall



**Ashley Allen & Friends: A  
Celebration of Gospel Icons**  
24 June | Symphony Hall

[bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk)

## A summer return for the Dudley Comedy Allstars

The Comedy Allstars show returns to Dudley Town Hall next month with another line-up of top comedians. Taking place on Saturday 25 July, the show will feature sets by Milton Jones, Babatunde Aléshé, Nick Helm and Aurie Styla (pictured). Tickets are available by visiting the website at [boroughhalls.co.uk](http://boroughhalls.co.uk)



## City to host UK's biggest competitive gaming event

Birmingham's NEC will host one of the UK's biggest competitive gaming events, the Yu-Gi-Oh! National Championships, in the middle of next month. Yu-Gi-Oh! is a Trading Card Game in which players use cards they collect from booster packs to build decks and face off against opponents in a game of strategy, luck and skill. The event takes place at the NEC from Sunday 12 to Tuesday 14 July. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit [yugioh-card.com](http://yugioh-card.com)

## Finalists for Midlands Choir of the Year revealed

The search for the Midlands Choir of the Year 2026 is one step nearer completion with the announcement of the competition's six finalists. The competing choirs will battle it out for the coveted title at Lichfield Cathedral, as part of Lichfield Festival, on Sunday 12 July. The finalists are: Cantare (Derby), Friday Voices (Anslow, Burton-on-Trent), Inspire Choir (Lichfield), RWT Singers (Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Staff Choir, Wolverhampton), Six Town Sound (Stoke-on-Trent) and Staffordshire Show Choir (Staffordshire). As well as a trophy, the winners will receive a cash prize of £1,000 and an invitation to sing at the following year's Lichfield Festival. An additional £500 prize is awarded by the audience to the choir of their choice.



## Charlie and Joe to take top billing in hit stage play

Former EastEnders' star Charlie Brooks - she played Janine Butcher in the long-running TV soap - will take top billing when the brand-new Birmingham Rep and Melting Pot production of *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time* hits the road in the autumn.

The show will kickstart its tour with a run at The Rep, playing the venue from Saturday 5 to Saturday 19 September... Charlie is joined in the cast by former *Strictly Come Dancing* winner Joe McFadden. For more information and to book tickets, visit the website at [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk)

## National Trust reopens Ironbridge venues

The National Trust has now reopened Ironbridge's Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, the Furnace Kitchen and Blists Hill Victorian Town. Commenting on the news, the Trust issued a statement saying: "Over the coming months, we'll be reintroducing popular activities and demonstrations, while also introducing new ones shaped by [visitors'] feedback. "Bookings can be made via the Ironbridge Gorge website, where you can find out more and plan your visit."

## Tracy to take Tudors on tour across the Midlands

Bestselling author, historian & broadcaster Professor Tracy Borman is taking the drama of the Tudor court out on the road this autumn with a major new theatre show. *Tudors On Tour* will be visiting a number of Midlands venues. According to its publicity, the show will 'bring to life the personalities of the Tudor dynasty in a fast-paced theatrical experience packed with intrigue, power struggles, forbidden love and, of course, more than a few beheadings!'

To find out where and when *Tudors On Tour* is visiting the Midlands, check out Tracy's website at [tracybormanlive.co.uk](http://tracybormanlive.co.uk)

## Rhino lodges set to open

West Midlands Safari Park is this month opening its new Rhino Safari Lodges. Situated alongside a herd of white rhinos, the four two-storey lodges sleep up to six guests. To reserve your overnight stay, visit [safari-lodges.co.uk/rhino-lodge](http://safari-lodges.co.uk/rhino-lodge)

## BMAG to host exhibition of art by comic Joe Lycett

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) is to host a first major solo exhibition of art by Brummie comedian Joe Lycett. Exploring the theme of 'things that are no longer with us', and inspired by objects from the city of Birmingham's collection, Joe's *Every Thing Must Go* will cover subjects including deceased celebrities, discontinued chocolate bars, extinct animals and destroyed buildings, all presented in the popular funnyman's usual tongue-in-cheek style. Joe's stated desire with the exhibition, which opens on Wednesday 29 July, is to "overwhelm and delight with a neon graveyard".

# WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT

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Sat 13 Jun



The perfect recipe  
for a musical

**Waitress**

Mon 6 – Sat 11 Jul



A world of pure imagination...

**Stage Productions  
presents Charlie and  
the Chocolate Factory**

Tue 23 – Sat 27 Jun

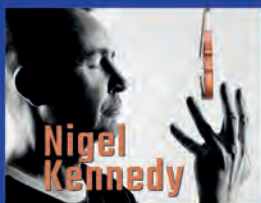


Celebrating 30 years  
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**Lord of The Dance:  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

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## Victoria Hall



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**Nigel Kennedy**

Thu 11 Jun



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country songs

**A Country Night  
In Nashville**

Sat 8 Aug



A Super Trouper tribute show

**Thank You For  
The Music**

Fri 31 Jul



Fusing the fire of Irish dance  
with the grit of urban tap

**Emerald Storm**

Sat 5 Sep

# ALL THE CLASSICS

**Nik Kershaw's hits get the orchestral treatment when 80s Classical comes to Symphony Hall this month...**



## Step back to the decade of big hits and big hair when 80s Classical comes to Birmingham's Symphony Hall this month. Featuring original 80s artists performing much-loved anthems live with the backing of a full symphony orchestra, the show sees Nik Kershaw sharing the limelight with Johnny Hates Jazz and Jaki Graham. Nik here explains how performing symphonic versions of his hits has given him a new perspective...

### **Nik Kershaw, 80s Classical reimagines your music with a full orchestra - how did this symphonic treatment of your work first come about?**

I was first approached about this around five or six years ago, when we started doing 80s Classical at Millennium Square in Leeds, and it quickly became a regular event. I already knew Cliff Masterson, who runs and orchestrates the whole thing, and when he told me about the concept, it just felt like a great opportunity - not to reinvent the songs, but to approach them from a completely different angle.

### **What do orchestral arrangements bring to 80s pop songs that you can't achieve in a standard live band?**

There's something truly magnificent about performing with an orchestra. I've loved classical music since I was a kid - I used to listen to it a lot and go to the Proms with my parents, so to now find myself on stage with a full orchestra is a very special experience. It's quite humbling, really. You realise you're just one small part of something much bigger. I imagine some people coming to this concert might never have seen a full orchestra before. They may be fans of mine or the other artists on the bill, and this could be their first experience of hearing that kind of sound live. You never quite know what's brought people into the auditorium.

And Birmingham Symphony Hall is a pretty special place to experience that for the first time. I've played there several times over the years, including when I was touring with Go West, and it's just a fantastic venue. The acoustics are incredible - it really is a beautiful space to perform in.

### **Looking back, what do you think defined the sound and spirit of 80s pop music?**

What stands out to me is just how varied the charts were. You could have someone like Matt Bianco alongside folk, American rock, straight-up pop - pretty much every genre you could think of, all sitting in the top-10 at the same time. It felt incredibly diverse, and I don't think you see that in quite the same way now.

There was also a deeper connection between audiences and music back then. People really bought records, collected vinyl, and invested themselves in artists. It felt like a more

immersive experience. Interestingly, vinyl is making a comeback now, which is great to see - and definitely a positive thing for artists.

### **You'll be sharing the stage with Johnny Hates Jazz and Jaki Graham - what's the dynamic on tour with other iconic 80s artists?**

Well, none of us get on... Only joking! No, it's great; I get on with everyone. Jaki Graham and the Johnny Hates Jazz guys are all just lovely. What's interesting is that, over the years - especially since the retro festivals really took off in the mid-2000s - I've actually become friends with people I didn't even meet back in the day, which is quite extraordinary.

### **Does working with an orchestra change your approach to stage performance?**

There are a couple of arrangements that I've worked on with Cliff Masterson where the orchestration is a bit more subtle or more interpretive, and in those cases, I do have to be more conscious of what's happening around me.

You end up listening and responding to the orchestra in a different way - it becomes more of a conversation. You feed off what the orchestra is doing as well as your own part, and that's actually a really enjoyable way to perform.

### **Do you notice a difference between how your original fans and younger listeners connect with your music?**

Yes, I think they do connect with it in a different way. Younger audiences are often just discovering the songs as songs - they're listening to them as pieces of music in their own right... My older fans tend to come with a lot of memory attached. For them, it's about where they were when they first heard those songs, who they were with and what was going on in their lives at the time. It becomes very nostalgic - it takes them right back.

### **The decade of the 80s is often remembered for big hair and big anthems - what's one cliché from back then that you'd be happy to reclaim?**

I don't know - I've got a sense of humour about all of it really. There was definitely a period where I was quite embarrassed by a lot of the 80s stuff - videos, fashion, all of

those so-called faux pas. But if I had to pick one thing, I'd say shoulder pads. I think they should make a comeback - if they haven't already and I've just missed it!

They're actually brilliant. They do a lot for you, especially if you're not particularly tall like me. They give you a bit of presence - you end up with broader shoulders and a smaller-looking head, which is always a bonus!

### **What's the most surprising thing you've learned about your own songs through orchestral arrangements?**

Mostly positive things, really. You get so used to your older songs that you almost stop hearing them - you just think of them as 'my old tunes' and move on. But when you hear them with an orchestra, you suddenly think, actually... that's a pretty good song. You start noticing all these harmonics and layers of harmony that were always there, but they're brought out in a completely different way by the orchestration. And you realise, those are still my chords, that's still my melody - it just gets revealed in a new light.

With a band, when we play live, it's more of a joyful racket, really! It's about energy and groove and power. But with the orchestra, it shifts the focus - it brings out the melody and the harmony much more clearly, I think.

### **Do you have any memories or standout moments from past performances in Birmingham?**

I've got really fond memories of playing in Birmingham over the years. I played the Birmingham Odeon back in the day, and those were fantastic gigs - really great crowds.

More recently I've played Birmingham Town Hall, doing some solo acoustic shows, which is a brilliant venue as well. I just remember Birmingham audiences always being really warm and enthusiastic.

And, of course, Birmingham Symphony Hall is just outstanding. The last time I was there was probably about 10 years ago with Go West, so it's been a while. I'm really looking forward to coming back.

.....  
**80s Classical shows at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Thursday 11 June**

Plus 14 dance bands and shows

- ★ Workshops ★ Craft fair
- ★ Morris & dance teams
- ★ Singarounds & sessions
- ★ Food village
- ★ Camping & glamping
- ★ Real ale, wine & cocktail bars

**SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL**  
28-29-30-31 AUG 2026

★ **Talisk x Gardiner Brothers:**  
Unleashed ✿ Fantastic Negrito

★ **Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders**

★ **Ferocious Dog ft. The Celtic Folk Orchestra**

★ **Cara Dillon ✿ The Seeger Sessions Revival**

★ **Slambovian Circus of Dreams ✿ Cut Capers**

★ **Steve Knightley and The Winter Yards Band**

★ **Dustbowl Revival ✿ Goitse ✿ Chris Wood**

★ **Steve Knightley with Daniel Salvatore**

★ **Katherine Priddy ✿ Natu Camara ✿ The Hunch**

★ **Man The Lifeboats ✿ Kerr Fagan ✿ Malin Lewis**

★ **Blowzabella ✿ Edith WeUtonga ✿ Sawol**

★ **Adriano Adewale and Friends: Rooted and Rising**

★ **Thunder and Rain ✿ Cable Street Collective**

★ **Rum Ragged ✿ Kellie Loder ✿ Taff Rapids**

★ **Sam Carter sings Nic Jones**

★ **The Lost Notes ✿ Daisy Chute**

★ **Holly Clarke ✿ Jess Silk**

★ **The Zydeco Diamonds**

★ **Pressgang Mutiny**

★ **Greg Russell & more!**

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Children's Festival

Day & Weekend Tickets

[shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk)

**Warwick FOLK FESTIVAL** 23 - 26 July 2026

**Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy**   **Eidi Reader**   **Fishermans Friends**   **Spiers & Boden**

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The Wilderness Yet • Rory McLeod • The Rheingans Sisters  
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Festivals taking place across the region this summer...

## House On The Hill

Hilltop Farm, Hunningham, Fri 5 & Sat 6 June

Featuring a line-up of top DJ talent fresh from the White Isle itself, epic non-stop dance party House On The Hill will be taking over Hilltop Farm in Warwickshire next month... Visitors have the chance to stay at Hilltop Hideaways - a glampsite boasting bell tents, cabins and shepherds' huts.

**2026 line-up includes:** Ted Nilsson, Charlie Price (pictured), Kirsty Leahy, Darren James, Jay Reefer, Chae-Lou, Matt Robins, Mark Gozdecki, Andy Rowley, Spencer Taffs



## Penkridge Open Air

Penkridge Sports & Recreation Centre, Pinfold Lane, Fri 28 - Sun 30 August

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

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

**2026 line-up includes:** ABC (pictured), The Drifters, 2 Unlimited, Basshunter, Heaven 17, The Trammys, DJ Sammy, The Fizz, Bay City Rollers, Let Loose, Ultrabeat



## Shrewsbury Folk Festival

DMOS People West Mid Showground, Fri 28 - Mon 31 August

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

the festival's mash-up of modern, medieval, and everything in between, where grassroots cultures collide in dynamic fusion styles.

**2026 line-up includes:** Fantastic Negrito, Talisk x Gardiner Brothers: Unleashed, Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders, Ferocious Dog ft The Celtic Folk Orchestra, Cable Street Collective (pictured), Katherine Priddy



## Download Festival

Donington Park, Castle Donington, Wed 10 - Sun 14 June

With top billing consistently taken by some of the biggest names in rock and metal, it's not hard to see why Download is one of the most popular and well-attended festivals in the UK. Conceived as a follow-up to the Monsters Of Rock Festival, the event partly owes its name to the pioneering way in which it uses technology to connect with audiences and build a community.

**2026 line-up includes:** Limp Bizkit, Linkin Park (pictured), Guns 'N Roses, Mastodon, Pendulum, Bad Omens, Cypress Hill, Architects, Trivium, Electric Callboy

## Cheltenham Music Festival

Various locations in and around Cheltenham, Fri 3 - Sat 11 July

Cheltenham Music Festival's 80th anniversary, in 2025, provided a landmark season of celebration. This year's edition looks to the future - championing world-class performers and bold new voices in some of the town's most beautiful spaces.

**2026 line-up includes:** Aurora Orchestra and Benjamin Grosvenor, Idrisi Ensemble, Hana Chang, The Unthanks (pictured), Angela Hewitt, Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason, Pavel Kolesnikov and the Jess Gillam Trio, The Last Night... with Sinfonia of London and John Wilson



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Live music from across the region...

## Forest Live

Cannock Chase Forest, Wed 24 - Sun 28 June

This month's festival of live music in the nation's forests sees Cannock Chase hosting five nights of top-quality entertainment...

Billy Ocean is joined by special guest Marti Pellow on Wednesday the 24th, with Fatboy Slim setting out his woodland stall the following evening.

The weekend then begins with Becky Hill (pictured) headlining a Friday concert. UB40 featuring Ali Campbell take to the stage on the Saturday, while pop-rock favourites McFly round off proceedings on Sunday the 28th.



## Inspiral Carpets

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Sat 27 June;  
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 28 June

A seriously important element of the infamous 'Madchester' movement of the early 1990s - they were one-third of the scene's 'holy triumvirate', alongside Stone Roses and Happy Mondays - 1960s-inspired garage punk-pop favourites Inspiral Carpets have a back catalogue awash with hit singles - This Is How It Feels, Dragging Me Down, Two Worlds, Joe, Collide, She Comes In The Fall and Saturn 5, to name but a few.

Making a comeback in 2023, after a seven-year hiatus following the tragic death of drummer Craig Gill, the band are supported for this month's Midlands gigs by Trampolene. Their performance at The Buttermarket will be followed by the England-Panama World Cup match, televised live on the venue's giant screen.



## Beverley Knight

The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton, Tues 30 June

Wolverhampton-born Beverley Knight MBE returns to her geographical roots this month with latest touring show Born To Perform. Beverley's been labelled the UK Queen of Soul - and with her influences including the likes of Sam Cooke and Aretha Franklin, it's easy to see why.

"I'm excited to get back on the road, but with a different kind of show [to the sort] folks are used to with me," says Beverley,

who three years ago bagged the 'best supporting actress' Olivier Award for her performance in the hit musical *Sylvia*. "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."

## Circa Waves

KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton,  
Thurs 25 June

Distinctively infectious post-punk anthems are the name of the game for Liverpoolian four-piece Circa Waves, who first made their mark more than a decade ago with singles including *Get Away* and *Stuck In My Teeth*. Their nervy, melodic indie rock has seen them favourably likened to, among others, The Strokes, Arctic Monkeys and The Vaccines. Fourteen-track debut record *Young Chasers*, released in 2015, has since been followed by six other studio albums, including last year's *Death & Love*, parts one and two.

## The Proclaimers

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 4 June

There's no need to walk 500 miles to see The Proclaimers - Charlie and Craig Reid will be making an early-month stop-off in the Potteries as part of an extensive UK tour. It's certainly a busy time for the twin brothers from Auchtermuchty in Fife, having only recently finished recording their 13th album. Expect all the hits when they visit the Victoria Hall, including, of course, *I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)*, *Letter From America* and *Sunshine On Leith*.

## Eddi Reader and John Douglas

The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock,  
South Shropshire, Fri 12 & Sat 13 June

With an MBE sitting behind her name and numerous Brit Awards decorating the mantelpiece, Scottish singer-songwriter Eddi Reader is well remembered for her association with Fairground Attraction, with whom she scored a UK number one, *Perfect*, in 1988... Eddi is visiting Shropshire mid-month in the company of her husband, John Douglas - songwriter & guitarist with Scottish indie rock band Trashcan Sinatras. The couple will be interweaving songs from their debut album with some sure-to-be-fascinating stories.

A good night (or two, if you really, really love them!) should be had by all.



# TAKE NOTES

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra  
knows exactly who it's playing for...



## The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) has announced details of its 2026/27 season. Beginning in the autumn, the programme includes symphonic cycles, new compositions, innovative musical fusions, and the chance to relive a historic performance of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem. The CBSO has also reaffirmed its commitment to presenting concerts for the people of Birmingham and the Midlands, as the orchestra's chief executive, Emma Stenning, explains...

As well as celebrating new music and favourite composers, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's (CBSO) 2026/27 programme aims to bring the orchestra to both the people of Birmingham and the global stage.

The programme includes, on Wednesday 11 November, a commemoration of Benjamin Britten, half a century after the composer's death. And Emma Stenning, the CBSO's chief executive, is suitably excited about the concert: "There was really only ever one piece that could mark this orchestra's connection to one of our country's most celebrated composers in the year that marks 50 years since his death: his War Requiem. [The work was] written for the consecration of the newly rebuilt Coventry Cathedral and premiered there by the CBSO in 1962, when the memories of war were still frighteningly real.

"The Requiem is music that remains in the DNA of the orchestra, and on November the 11th - Remembrance Day - the CBSO will perform it once again at Coventry Cathedral. "It's not a comfortable piece, but a timeless, intensely moving meditation on man's inhumanity to man. As resonant today as the day it was written, the immense work is both a reflection on war and a cry for peace. Performing it again, in the place where it was first heard, is in no way an act of nostalgia; it is music that still needs to be heard, as the world grows ever more troubled by conflict. "The scale is extraordinary, calling on the full forces of the CBSO's orchestra and chorus, along with a number of guest soloists. After Coventry, we visit Lucerne, Brussels and Luxembourg, with over 200 artists 'on the road'. It's Birmingham's orchestra, creating an epic event here in the Midlands, before taking it to some of Europe's finest concert halls."

The tour has far-reaching implications, says Emma, both for the orchestra and the city it represents.

"It's a reminder of something that we sometimes forget to say clearly enough: that big artistic statements do not only happen in London. This concert, at Coventry Cathedral on the 11th of November, is for and about the Midlands, its history and its people. A

cultural moment with worldwide resonance, rooted entirely in place.

"That sense of rootedness runs through everything we are doing in our new 2026/27 season."

The programme features many tantalising offerings, including beloved classics, ambitious projects, and a look to the future.

"We are in our third year with Kazuki Yamada as music director, and the relationship between him and the orchestra has become something very special indeed. Concert after concert, the connection deepens. To mark that, we are committing to two symphony cycles running in parallel - a full Beethoven cycle through 2027, and the next chapter of our ongoing Mahler series, with his symphonies opening and closing the season. It's ambitious, and it also feels exactly right for us, right now. You discover a narrative by sitting with the complete work of a single composer - an evolution, a maturation - and Kazuki and this orchestra are ready for that kind of commitment.

"We are also celebrating contemporary music with the same energy. This season, we mark the 90th birthday of Steve Reich. And we have appointed a composer-in-residence, Anna Clyne, whose new work we will premiere. The CBSO performs the music being written today as naturally as it does the scores of Britten, Beethoven and Bach - and our players, who are extraordinary, thrive in the space to perform the full breadth of such repertoire."

Part of the CBSO's mission - in performing music to the people of Birmingham - is to reach audiences who otherwise might not have access to orchestral performances.

"Access is not an afterthought for us," says Emma. "It is, in many ways, the point. CBSO In The City returns for its third year across the August Bank Holiday weekend - free music in parks, gardens, pubs, cafes and some more surprising locations across Birmingham, including reaching into communities with whom we have not yet connected. Our one-pound ticket offer continues: pick up a flyer at any CBSO In The City event and you can get into anything in the new season for a pound. We mean it when we say this music is for everyone.

"And so does our Community Board, which brings together faith leaders and community leaders from across the city. [The board] helps us understand Birmingham's extraordinary cultural complexity and hold us accountable to it. The result is programming that celebrates the city as it actually is. Our enduring partnership with the Orchestral Qawwali Project, led by Associate Artist Rushil Ranjan, draws on Sufi poetry and fills Symphony Hall with some of the most diverse audiences I have seen anywhere. We celebrate Bollywood music as a core part of who we are as a city. We use our rehearsal home on Berkley Street as a small performance venue for evenings curated by the Community Board - sitar players, tabla players, Sikh sacred music, Bangladeshi New Year.

"And for children who have never been near a live orchestra, there are Notelets concerts, with chamber music, storytelling and instruments to try, created and led by our own players. One of my favourite moments from last season was a chamber ensemble performing S Club 7 to a roomful of dancing school kids. This orchestra commits as much to this work as it does to Mahler, Beethoven and Britten, and that's why I love it so much."

Emma is confident that the new programme includes plenty of events for the orchestra's local audiences to discover: "When I look at this season, I see an orchestra that knows who and what it's for. It's not for a particular kind of audience, or a particular kind of music. It's for Birmingham and the Midlands, and it's in demand across the world. It's for the die-hard orchestral fans, but also for anyone who's never been and thinks it's not for them. It's for the people who have been coming for decades, and for the six-year-old who picks up a triangle at the end of a Notelets concert and cannot put it down. "In short, it's for you - and we hope to see you at a concert soon!"

.....  
**Visit [cbso.co.uk](http://cbso.co.uk) for more information about the orchestra's 2026-27 season**

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Image credit: Mitch Jenkins

**CBSO: Puccini's Tosca** Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 27 June

Giacomo Puccini's grand Italian melodrama is set in 1800 and finds the city of Rome threatened by Napoleon's French army. The story focuses on painter Cavaradossi and his lover, the celebrated singer Floria Tosca, as their lives are endangered by Cavaradossi's decision to help Cesare Angelotti, an escaped political prisoner.

With corrupt chief of police Baron Scarpia vying for Angelotti's blood, there follows an intriguing game of cat-and-mouse... The CBSO's music director, Kazuki Yamada, here leads the orchestra and an impressive roster of soloists, including Anna Patalong, Sir Bryn Terfel (pictured) and Gwyn Hughes Jones.



**Ex Cathedra: The Grand Tour - Burney 300**

St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, Fri 5 June

"We are delighted to return to Shrewsbury to celebrate the 300th birthday of Dr Charles Burney," says Ex Cathedra's founder & conductor Jeffrey Skidmore (pictured), in talking about this early-month Shropshire Music Trust concert. "Burney was born in Shrewsbury in 1726 and attended Shrewsbury School. His brother James was organist at St Mary's in the town, where the young Charles received much of his early musical training. In the 1770s, he undertook two lengthy tours of

France, Germany and Italy. He met Mozart twice and was a close friend of Joseph Haydn. His writings provide some of the clearest portraits of life in 18th-century England and Europe, and he remained at the heart of cultural life until his death in 1814. "Excerpts from his writings and the music he encountered will transport you into his world. The programme will include the Allegri Miserere, which he published in London in 1771, adding to the legend of this iconic piece."

**Jarualda Quartet**

The Gateway, Shrewsbury, Thurs 4 June

"Our name is a fusion of all our names," explains the Jarualda Quartet, "because our interdependence is at the core of our ethos. We are all equally important, and a good quartet is always about more than the sum of its parts."

Comprising violinists Alex Postlethwaite and David Joyce, viola player Jane Park and cellist Ruth Henley, Jarualda boasts a wealth of experience, with all four of its members being much in demand as soloists, chamber musicians and section principals.

The quartet's Shrewsbury concert features works by Haydn, Laks and Debussy.

**CBSO: An Evening With Davóne Tines**

Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 10 June

Renowned for blending opera, spirituals, and contemporary music - and hailed by the New Yorker as a man who is 'changing what it means to be a classical singer' - the trailblazing Davóne Tines has won plenty of awards over the last few years, including Musical America's 'vocalist of the year' gong and a prestigious Chanel Next Prize, presented to artists who are redefining their discipline.

Davóne's Town Hall appearance sees him performing in Mass Reorchestrated - a work which weaves music by Bach 'into a multi-voiced exploration of musical America as it is and as it might be'.

The programme also includes Joseph Haydn's Symphony No44 (Mourning) and Carlos Simon's Amen.

**Nigel Kennedy**

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 11 June; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 29 June

No doubt buoyed up by the Unai Emery-inspired change in fortunes of his beloved Aston Villa, Nigel Kennedy



returns to the region to perform a concert as part of his first UK tour in more than 10 years.

The world's biggest-selling violinist, Nigel is joined for the mid-month gig by long-time collaborators Alec Dankworth (son of the late John Dankworth and Cleo Laine), on double bass, and cellist Peter Adams.



# SUMMER OF CONTENT

**Matthew Duckett talks about playing Richard III in this year's Stafford Shakespeare production...**

## Netflix star Matthew Duckett will return to the stage and a role he knows well - despite never having performed it all the way through - when he takes the lead in the Stafford Shakespeare production of Richard III this month. It's a chance to realise a long-held ambition as well as put his own stamp on the character, he tells What's On...

This year's Stafford Shakespeare production will be Richard III, the dramatic - and occasionally violent - power struggle set during the 'winter of our discontent' and involving one of England's most notorious kings.

The play is effectively the finale of the Bard's War of the Roses historical tetralogy, following Henry VI Parts One to Three. Actor Matthew Duckett, who's playing Richard, is quick to acknowledge how a recap of earlier events - similar to the start of a new episode of a TV show - might come in handy for cast and audience alike: "We're not staging the Henrys, so there's a little bit of mixed storytelling that has to happen to bring the audience up to speed with who everyone is and why everyone's so angry with each other. "We could [go the recap route] or just throw everyone in at the deep end for five minutes and then go back and fill in the gaps. It's been fun finding out what we want to do with it, and how we want to tell the story."

Richard III is a play which the friendly actor knows especially well, so when he says he's excited to be playing the lead role ("one I've been wanting to tackle fully for a very long time"), it's not just the typical spiel of a performer bigging up his latest project.

Matthew might be best known for starring in the 2022 Netflix film version of Lady Chatterley's Lover, but theatre is very much his first love, and he worked on scenes from Richard III while studying drama at Aberystwyth University.

He also understudied the role at the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) in Stratford in 2022.

"Theatre has always been what it's all about for me - that sort of immediate storytelling, having the audience there, and conveying emotion or intention in the moment. I love the immediacy of theatre and the connection that you feel."

In the case of Richard III, Matthew not only has a connection to the role but also to Richard Cheshire, who will direct the Stafford Shakespeare production at the Gatehouse Theatre.

"My first go at getting Richard III on his feet was under Richard's direction, so it's a bit

full circle really. I was also fortunate to understudy Arthur Hughes, who became the first disabled actor to play Richard in an RSC production a few years ago. As understudy, you're always waiting for your chance [but] as luck would have it, Arthur was the healthiest he'd ever been during the run, so I never got to step up."

That particular version was helmed by former RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran, working on his first production after the death of partner Anthony Sher, the actor whose award-winning portrayal of Richard is widely regarded as the greatest of all. Sher even wrote a book, Year Of The King: An Actor's Diary And Sketchbook, to give an insight into the creation of his performance. The book has gone on to become a bible for many actors.

"Anthony's Richard was a presence in our rehearsal room, not just for his relationship with Greg but for it being such a zeitgeist iconic role. The Year Of The King is the first book any actor turns to when they're taking on Richard, and I think that's been the case ever since he wrote it - it's certainly well-leafed on my bookcase."

But as much as he'll take inspiration from the book, as well as the experience of working with Arthur Hughes, Matthew - who has a mild form of cerebral palsy - is especially excited to bring his own ideas to the iconic role of the 'deformed' king.

"To watch and understand Arthur's process was very enlightening, but to be able to look at it afresh from my own perspective, and put my own stamp on the part, is possibly what I'm looking forward to most. And stamp I shall!"

Whether that will be in the literal sense remains to be seen, but it's perfectly feasible, as Richard III is one of Shakespeare's most interesting, dynamic and physical characters - gentle, charismatic and charming but with quite a nasty edge too...

"He's incredibly charismatic but very Machiavellian, very sort of manipulative in his plotting and scheming. He wins people round with personality and wit, but equally there's a very dark side to him.

"He's such a great character to play. He's very theatrical, very performative - until he isn't.

But by then you can be so swept up [by him] that you don't quite fully understand how you got here."

That's a familiar pattern with a certain type of dictator, where power develops almost incrementally until one day there's a monster in charge doing things that would have been unbelievable months, let alone years ago. The parallels with Donald Trump's America are inevitable - Shakespeare's work finding contemporary resonance yet again. The human condition is evidently a permanent, or at least cyclical one.

"Four hundred years on and we're still going through the same trials and tribulations."

The Stafford Shakespeare version of the play is set three rather than four centuries after the original, and is inspired by the 1920s gangland world of TV's Peaky Blinders, with much of the action set around a post-world-war pub.

"There's this world where the men are returning from great conflict, [but] how do you translate that idea for a modern audience?"

"We thought post-World War One would be a good foothold for conveying the extent of brutality and man-on-man violence that goes on in the latter parts of the Henrys and through Richard. And the narrative of wanting to climb through an almost Mafia-esque family is quite a neat mirror to hold up to the royal ascendancy that Richard tries to fight his way up."

As for 'man-on-man violence' - can audiences expect much in the way of Peaky Blinders-style action?

"I can't say too much, and I don't want to say 'violent', but I think the audience might worry for us in a couple of places! It's certainly not a PG piece, but not so grotesque as to make anyone leave.

"We have high hopes for some of the fight scenes and - no spoilers - some of the deaths!"

**Richard III shows at Stafford Gatehouse from Tuesday 23 June to Saturday 4 July**

# The Edge Arts Centre

Little Rumba  
Fri 5 June 7.30pm  
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Eddi Reader & John Douglas  
Fri 12 & Sat 13 June 7.30pm  
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Kiki Dee & Carmelo Luggeri  
Sat 26 June 7.30pm  
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Sarah McQuaid  
Fri 3 July 7.30pm  
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The Travelling Riverside  
Blues Show  
Fri 10 July 7.30pm £15



Craven Arms Big Band  
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Sat 11 July 7.30pm £15



The Snake Davis Band  
Fri 17 July 7.30pm  
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Rea-Loaded  
A Tribute to Chris Rea  
Fri 24 July 7.30pm £15



Alistair McGowan  
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**Craig Revel Horwood**  
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**The Bon Jovi Experience**  
Sat 27 June 7.30pm £29.00



## September

**Frankie! The Concert**  
Fri 11 Sept 7.30pm £29.50



**Divas of the Decades**  
Fri 18 Sept 7.30pm £22-25



**The Ultimate Eagles**  
Sat 19 Sept 7.30pm £29.50



## October

**Let Me Entertain You!**  
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## Al Murray

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 7 June;  
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,  
Thurs 1 October

"I love being a pub landlord," explains Al Murray. "It's a truly great calling. You're there to soothe troubled souls, pour balm on troubled waters, make people's important moments in their lives extra special, and provide a range of snacks. What's not to like?"

Al is on tour this year with brand-new show All You Need Is Guv.



## Alfie Moore

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 12 June;  
Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent,  
Fri 3 July; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington  
Spa, Sat 26 September

Staunch Sheffield socialist Alfie Moore is a master raconteur and a very funny man. He also used to be a police officer...

Indeed, back in the days when he was both a comedian *and* a cop, his website advised that if you wanted to see Alfie in the flesh, you had two options: either catch him at one of his comedy gigs, or drive to Scunthorpe and park on a double yellow line!

With his gag-bag including "I'm in a same-sex marriage... the sex is always the same," he stops off in Shrewsbury this month with latest show *Acopalypse Now*.



## Jonny Cole

Brierley Hill Civic, Sun 7 & Sat 13 June;  
Lichfield Garrick, Fri 26 June; Dudley Town  
Hall, Thurs 9 & Fri 10 July; The Civic at The  
Halls Wolverhampton, Sat 11 July; The  
Anstice, Telford, Thurs 17 & Fri 18  
September; Lichfield Garrick, Fri 9 & Sat 10  
October; Utilita Arena Birmingham, Tues 3  
November

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

## Danny Bhoj

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 20 June

There can surely be no greater pressure for a Scottish comedian than to be considered one of the country's brightest prospects since Billy Connolly...

Such is the cross which Danny Bhoj had to bear in the early years of his career. Blending ironic wit, observational humour and an appealingly laid-back style, Danny is visiting the Midlands this month with *Dear World*, the show he toured to various festivals last year to great acclaim.

"It's the sequel to my 2014 show, *Dear Epsom* - my favourite ever show," explains the 51-year-old funnyman. "It's a hybrid of standup and theatre, but really that just means I get to sit down for bits of it."



## Bring The Laughter

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 13 June

Tez Ilyas' live standup has been likened to candyfloss with a razorblade hidden inside, while his television work has brought him to the attention of a whole new audience.

The fact that he's been able to hit the right notes with so many people doesn't come as any surprise to Tez... "It doesn't matter what walk of life we're from, I think we're all united by the British sense of humour," says the Blackburn-born comedian. "Whatever creed, colour, sexual orientation or gender type we are, we have a connection based around a mutual appreciation of that sort of comedy."

Tez (pictured) is joined for this Bring The Laughter gig by fellow comics Stephen Bailey, Nabil Abdulrashid, Josh Pugh and Lindsey Santoro.



## Howling With Laughter!

The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton,  
Sun 7 June

This special Wolverhampton Pride edition of *Howling With Laughter!* is being promoted as 'a riotous night of comedy, celebrating the very best in LGBTQ+ talent'.

The show sees headline act Rosie Jones (pictured) being joined by fellow talented peddlers of mirth Felicity Ward, Josh Jones, Fab Goualin and Tal Davies.



## Gaurav Kapoor

Glee Club, Birmingham, Sat 20 June

One-time corporate retailer Gaurav Kapoor began chiselling out a space for himself in the high-pressure world of comedy more than a decade ago.

Now well established on the circuit, the Delhi-based performer has no regrets about leaving behind his previous, relatively secure career in favour of chasing laughs. "You can make good money in comedy," says Gaurav, "but the key is to diversify and keep reinventing yourself."

Gaurav visits Birmingham this month with a show he'll be performing in Hindi.

## ISMO: Perseverance Tour

Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 17 June

Finnish comedians who cause a stir on the UK comedy circuit are hardly ten-a-penny, so ISMO's mid-month

Birmingham gig offers a perfect opportunity to bag yourself a novel experience. Combining clever wordplay and sharp observational humour with a refreshingly unique perspective on the trials and tribulations of everyday life, the 47-year-old funnyman - full name Ismo Mikael Leikola - shot to stardom in the United States more than a decade ago, emerging victorious from comedy club Laugh Factory's inaugural 'funniest person in the world' competition. ISMO is touring the UK this month having recently recovered from a broken back.





## Miss Saigon

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 23 - Sat 27 June

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 Miserables*.

Another of their shows, less lauded than *Les Mis* but still widely admired, is *this* epic tale, which premiered in the West End some 37

years ago... Set against the backdrop of the 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*.

## Frankie Goes To Bollywood

The Rep, Birmingham, Wed 10 - Sat 13 June

Frankie never wanted to be a star; she just wanted a family. But after a chance encounter with an up-and-coming director, she finds herself transported to Bollywood, 'where dreams are mass-produced, identities are reshaped, and women are expected to smile and play by the script that's written for them'...

Boasting 'show-stopping choreography, lavish costumes, and a cast of unforgettable characters', *Frankie Goes To Bollywood* has been inspired by real stories of British women who've been caught in the spotlight of the biggest film industry in the world.... The show is a Rifco Theatre Company production.



## Mean Girls

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 23 - Sat 27 June;  
The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 14 December - Sat 2 January

*Mean Girls* proved to be a defining movie for a whole generation when it was released more than 20 years ago, so it's no surprise that the story has since had theatrical life breathed into it.

The plotline follows the adventures of student Cady Heron as she engages with an elite group of popular high-school girls called The Plastics, whose queen bee, Regina George, is ably assisted in her conniving ways by her minions, Gretchen and Karen...

Steps star Faye Tozer takes top billing when the show visits Wolverhampton this month, playing three characters: Ms Heron, Ms Norbury and Mrs George.



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## Waitress

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 1 - Sat 6 June; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 6 - Sat 11 July

This smash-hit Broadway and West End musical is based on the 2007 movie of the same name and visits the Midlands with West End favourite Carrie Hope Fletcher heading the cast.

Expert pie maker Jenna is trapped in a loveless marriage to a controlling and abusive man. She dreams of a better future. When a baking contest - and the town's new doctor - provide her with the hope of something better, she has to decide whether she can find the courage to rebuild her life... Billed as a musical celebration of friendship, motherhood, and the magic of a well-made pie, Waitress co-stars Les Dennis as Old Joe, with Evelyn Hoskins and Sandra Marvin also featuring.

## Annie

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 2 - Sat 6 June; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 13 - Sun 18 October; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 16 - Sun 21 February 2027

Cabaret star La Voix takes on the coveted role of the tyrannical Miss Hannigan when Annie visits Birmingham this month.

Telling the heart-warming rags-to-riches story of a little girl who finds herself transported from a New York orphanage to the luxurious world of a millionaire, the oft-touring Broadway musical features plenty of memorable songs, including It's A Hard Knock Life, I Don't Need Anything But You, Easy Street, and of course the legendary Tomorrow.

The show's Stoke and Wolverhampton dates will see familiar television face and musical theatre favourite Claire Sweeney taking over from La Voix in the role of Miss Hannigan.



## Cured

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 June

Wheelchair-using scally Connor Fisher has his eye on a sharp-tongued woman named Rose. After meeting her in the queue for a

benefits reassessment, he then decides to pursue her on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. Driven by determination to get his leg over, it's fair to say the prayer, contemplation and quiet self-reflection usually associated with pilgrimage are a million miles from Connor's thoughts. And it isn't long before his antics rub off on his fellow pilgrims as well... This brand-new play by comedian Laurence Clark has been produced by Liverpool's Royal Court in partnership with Birds Of Paradise.

## Abigail's Party

Malvern Theatres, Tues 16 - Sat 20 June

Making its television debut as a BBC Play For Today on 1 November 1977, Mike Leigh's Abigail's Party became an instant hit. A fascinating study of the pretensions of 1970s suburbia, the play focuses on the interplay between five ill-matched people during an evening characterised by alcohol, cigarettes, Demis Roussos records and cheesy nibbles. Tamzin Outhwaite stars.

## The Importance Of Being Oscar

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 4 - Fri 5 June; Malvern Theatres, Wed 1 - Fri 3 July

Eccentric socialite. Imprisoned outcast. Brilliant playwright. The many sides of Oscar Wilde are laid bare in the late Micheál Mac Liammóir's critically acclaimed offering, originally performed way back in 1960. Alastair Whatley is the star of a one-man production which is directed by Michael Fentiman, whose theatrical version of The

Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe proved to be a major Christmas hit at the Birmingham Rep back in 2023.

The show is produced by the Olivier Award-nominated Original Theatre, the company behind the stage adaptation of author Sebastian Faulks' Birdsong, another show which has toured to the region in recent times.



## Done To Death, By Jove!

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 12 June

Fun-loving duo Gavin Robertson and Nicholas Collett here blend humour, variety, theatre and dance in a show that pays



spoof homage to 'the great British detective'. The production is based around the idea that its cast of six has become a cast of two due to an M6 breakdown of the van carrying the props, the set and four of the performers. The intrepid remaining cast members, Messers Robertson and Collett, are therefore left to present the show on their own - an endeavour which, not surprisingly, leads to all manner of mix-ups and mayhem.

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## The Spy Who Came In From The Cold

The Alexandra, Birmingham,  
Tues 30 June - Sat 4 July

The recently screened second-series television adaptation of *The Night Manager* once again brought to the fore the name of the original novel's author: John le Carré. Thirty years before he wrote *The Night Manager*, le Carré penned *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*. His third book, it became an international bestseller and established his former MI5 and MI6 employee as a major name in the spy-novel genre. Not only written but also set during the Cold War era, its story focuses on the character of Alec Leamas, a British intelligence officer who is persuaded to undertake one final, dangerous, deceptive and deeply personal mission...

This acclaimed stage production is out on tour following a sold-out run at Chichester Festival Theatre. Ralf Little takes the title role.

## Romeo And Juliet

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 8 - Wed 10 June; Bowring Park, Telford, Sun 21 June; Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Sat 11 July; Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Sun 12 July

Zany funsters Oddsocks make a welcome return to the region, this time with their sure-to-be-entertaining take on Shakespeare's famous story of star-crossed lovers.



"Our inclusive approach means that varied communities across the UK are able to engage with theatre," say the company's founders and husband & wife team, Andy Barrow and Elli Mackenzie. "We aim to tell good stories in a fun, informative way, gently challenging people's perceptions and the way in which they react to theatre."

## Around The World In 80 Days

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, until Sat 20 June

It's easy to forget that travelling across the globe used to be a very difficult and long-winded undertaking. Jules Verne's classic adventure story, *Around The World In 80 Days* - here helmed by New Vic Artistic Director Theresa Heskins - offers a fun-filled reminder of a time when exotic climes really were 'a world away'. Making a welcome return to the Newcastle-

under-Lyme theatre's stage, this much-loved and family-friendly production recounts the story of English gentleman Phileas Fogg's attempt to circumnavigate the globe in the aforementioned 80 days, and on a wager of £20,000. He is aided and abetted in his endeavour by his trusty valet, Passepartout... Eight actors take on 109 characters, with six trains, five boats, two dances, one storm, a circus act and an elephant also featuring.

## Meet Fred

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 2 - Wed 3 June; Lichfield Garrick, Fri 5 June

A darkly satirical comedy about a cloth puppet's attempts to navigate society and its support systems in order to live an ordinary life, *Meet Fred* is returning to the Midlands having toured to more than 20 countries during the last decade.

Presented by inclusive theatre company Hijinx and featuring black, farcical and even X-rated humour, the production takes a poignant look at disability rights, the absurdity of bureaucratic red tape, and ultimately what it means to be human... The show features a cast of performers with and without learning disabilities and/or autism, 'whose lived experiences bring depth and authenticity to Fred's struggle'.

## Patel's Millions 2

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 14 June

Described as a rags-to-riches adventure, *Patel's Millions* blended 'foot-tapping

Bollywood songs with dazzling dances and laugh-out-loud comedy' to tell the story of a struggling shopkeeper with big dreams... Now, taking its inspiration from that old adage 'if it's not broken, don't fix it', comes this sequel offering, one that finds Mr Patel in deep trouble, having lost all of his money overnight. Back in his corner shop, he's trying to keep up appearances, with his family having no idea that they're broke. And to make matters even trickier, his daughter's wedding looms on the horizon, and Mrs Patel is in no mood to keep an eye on the budget...

## Allegra

Malvern Theatres, Mon 1 - Sat 6 June

Maureen Lipman's Malvern stop-off, coming as part of her first UK tour in 20 years, finds her taking on the role of title character Allegra - a woman whose irrepressible spirit sees her bursting into song in all manner of situations, and by no means always appropriately...

"To find a comedy which can turn our current face of gloom into an upturned grin of happiness, is rare," says Maureen. "Allegra is about a woman who is relentlessly upbeat - in more ways than one. Ibsen it isn't."

A new comedy from the Olivier and Tony Award-nominated Peter Quilter, the show features a selection of much-loved musical numbers, including *Singin' In The Rain*, *Ain't No Sunshine* and *Dream A Little Dream Of Me*.



## Planet Omar

The Rep, Birmingham,  
Thurs 18 - Sun 21 June

Presented in association with Birmingham Rep and children's theatre company Unicorn, this Leeds Playhouse production is based on the critically acclaimed books by Zanib Mian. The show's focus is the Omar of the title, an eight-year-old British-Pakistani Muslim boy who moves with his family to a new neighbourhood and finds himself faced with a host of challenges. Not least among these is an unfriendly neighbour and a bully who makes Omar's life feel like a never-ending battle. But all is not lost, thanks not only to the young lad's nearest and dearest but also to his not-so-average imagination, his best friend Charlie and a very friendly dragon... The production is suitable for children aged seven-plus and comes complete with 'delightful' puppets, walking food and a giant piece of cheese...

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## The Enormous Crocodile

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 June

Roald Dahl's enormous crocodile will be snapping at the heels of audiences across the Midlands this month, when the stage adaptation of the ever-popular children's book - first published in 1978 - visits three local theatres.

"Roald Dahl's stories are full of drama, jeopardy and peril," says writer Suhayla El-Bushra, who created the production's book and lyrics. "That's why they're so popular. The Enormous Crocodile is the ultimate peril for its audience because it's about a very big crocodile who wants to eat a child - and the whole audience is full of children!"

## Fireman Sam Live

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 20 June; Brierley Hill Civic, Thurs 27 August; Malvern Festival Theatre, Sun 6 September

Soon to be celebrating 40 years spent putting out blazes in Pontypandy - and lighting up children's eyes with delight - Fireman Sam here finds himself yet again saving the day. This time, he's called into action when perpetual troublemaker Norman Price discovers clues to a pirate treasure and goes exploring deep into the caves...



## The Dinosaur That Pooped

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 6 June; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 22 July; Lichfield Garrick, Sat 12 September; Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 8 November

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

Based on Tom and Dougie's bestselling children's books, The Dinosaur That Pooped follows Danny and Dino as they try to get hold of the last two tickets to their favourite rock band's final concert. But with a villainous band manager lurking, nothing goes according to plan...

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



## Peppa Pig's Big Family Day Out

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 16 & Wed 17 June; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 7 - Sat 8 August

There's a new arrival on the way, and Peppa Pig, Mummy Pig, Daddy Pig and George all need the audience's help to make sure everything's ready for the arrival of baby Evie...

If you've taken your little ones to any of the previous Peppa Pig stage shows - and enjoyed the experience of watching them having a fantastic time - you'll already know that this currently touring production is well worth catching.



## The Cat In The Hat

Stourbridge Town Hall, Sat 6 - Sun 7 June; Worcester Swan Theatre, Fri 26 June

Based on the much-loved book by Dr Seuss, this latest theatrical version of The Cat In The Hat has been designed to engage and (hopefully) delight youngsters aged three and older.

The Cat In The Hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat that Sally and her brother have ever met - and what's more, he's got a fantastic talent for turning the rainiest of afternoons into the most amazing of adventures...



## Into The Wild And Over The Waves

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 29 & Tues 30 June

Bold and imaginative storytelling, brought to life by brilliant young performers, is the promise being made by the producers of this family-friendly offering. The teams behind the show are Birmingham Hippodrome SEN and Drama Youth Theatres, who've teamed up to present 'two hours of pure theatrical magic', from exploring underwater worlds filled with pirates and hidden treasures, to reviving classic bedtime stories...

# KID STUFF

The Karate Kid musical brings the legendary film to life on stage



## A dynamic new musical adaptation of classic 1980s movie *The Karate Kid* comes to the Midlands next month. Its stars, Gino Ochello and Adrian Pang, tell What's On why music adds to the story and explain how the relationship they've developed working on the show mirrors that of their characters.

Readers of a certain age will almost certainly be aware of smash-hit martial arts movie *The Karate Kid*, one of the highest-grossing films of 1984. The global hit, starring Ralph Macchio and Pat Morita, saw bullied teenager Daniel LaRusso turn his fate around by learning martial art - as well as life - skills from older mentor Mr Miyagi, with the latter gaining new perspective and purpose in the process.

Younger readers are likely to have come across the tale too, such is the extent of the franchise built up in the wake of the original's success. Spin-offs include four movie sequels, an animated television show, a long-running live-action TV series (*Cobra Kai*) and five video games.

The latest iteration sees the story move to the stage, as well as take things back to where they started. *The Karate Kid - The Musical* is an adaptation of the original movie, and has been written by Robert Mark Kamen, creator of the 1984 film, with music & lyrics by Drew Gasparini.

The show premiered in the US in 2022 and has now landed in the UK, with Gibraltar-born newcomer Gino Ochello playing Daniel and Singapore-raised veteran Adrian Pang leading the company as Mr Miyagi. The pair's relevant experience - the show is 18-year-old Gino's professional stage debut, Adrian has been acting for over 30 years - mirrors that of their characters, and judging by how relaxed they are in each other's company, they're developing a similarly firm bond too.

"Absolutely," says the effervescent Gino. "This is my first job and I was quite scared, I'm not gonna lie. Entering the rehearsal room for the first time with this cast, who are very experienced in the industry - people like Adrian and Sharon Sexton [who plays Daniel's mother, Lucille] - was very intimidating. But I've learned so much. Adrian and Sharon feel like my mother and father figures - I moved away at 16 so don't have them with me and I miss that relationship. I know if I ever need anything, I can come to Adrian and Sharon for advice."

That ought to include skincare, given the lack of wrinkles on 60-year-old Adrian's face ("I've been up since half past seven doing this," he laughs), but the older half of the duo points out that he's still learning too. "Every job I do, honestly, and this is not being humble, always seems like the very first job because it's always a little daunting

stepping into a room full of strangers, and there's always a weird kind of pressure.

"Oddly enough, this production is happening at a time - and I think Gino knows this - when I'm trying to reinvent myself into a new version of me. Somebody asked me my favourite line from the show, and it's not a Mr Miyagi line. It's from the very first song in the show: 'this is the year I'm ready to rewrite my story.'

"I love the idea of having the chance to write a new chapter of your story, and that's what, at my time of life, I'm trying to do. Rather than be complacent and go, yeah, I've seen it all, done it all, I want every experience to keep feeding me and teaching me. I'm learning a lot from Gino and the whole team. The cast is phenomenal - I watch in awe and admiration at what they do on stage."

The show blends original songs, choreographed fight sequences and uplifting drama, all of which seem to be attracting a wider-ranging audience demographic than they were expecting.

"It's much more of a family show than we thought it was going to be," says Gino, whose revelation that his father was aged one when the original movie came out horrifies Adrian ("I could be your dad's dad?!").

"We thought [the show] would be aimed at older generations, but we've seen a lot of kids in the audiences," continues Gino. "At one point in one of our shows, when Daniel does a crane kick [the character's signature karate move], one of the kids got up and did the crane kick back!"

Adrian thinks the franchise's "multiple instalments of the continuing story" and universal message has helped extend its potential audience too.

"The legacy has lived on through the last four and a half decades, so across generations the story continues to resonate with people in all sorts of different ways. Paying tribute to the original in a musical fashion is yet another iteration. And I dare say this version is going to make people relate to the story and the heart of it even more."

Gino dives in to agree.

"The songs mean we're able to see further into the inner thoughts of Miyagi and Daniel, and even characters we don't really hear from in the movie. In the musical we actually get to hear their emotions and feelings."

The coming-of-age element is also something all people will relate to, according to Adrian,

who sees both of the main characters reflected in his own life.

"I've got two grown-up boys who are older than this child," he says, pointing at Gino. "I've seen them through their adolescent and teen years going through their own troubles, all the while trying my best as a dad to be their Mr Miyagi."

"Youths going through periods of isolation, loneliness and feeling like an outcast is something that's universal and timeless. Even speaking as a 60-year-old man, I go through periods where I cannot deal with the world and feel like a misfit. So, no matter what period it is, and especially at the time we live in, with people going through mental health issues and feeling alienated in communities, I think this story will continue to be relevant for a long time."

And as much as karate is in the title, the message is more about friendship and connection than learning to punch and kick.

"The story is not about karate per se - it's about human connection," says Adrian.

"These two fish-out-of-water misfits, living in their own bubbles, find a way to connect [despite] generational and cultural differences. Two different worlds collide and they form this bond and friendship."

That being said, Gino claims fans of martial arts won't be disappointed by the fight sequences, training for which has left him covered in bruises. He had no prior experience ("which kind of worked in my favour because Daniel doesn't either"), so was surprised to learn that karate is not actually about fighting.

"One of Miyagi's famous lines is that karate is not in your fists, it's here (points to his head) and here (points to his heart) - and that is so contrary to everything I thought it was. It's really for self-defence - you try to avoid fighting as much as possible."

Not that he, or his character, are able to do that in the show.

"No, there's a lot of fighting. I'm on the floor for most of Act One... and most of Act Two actually!"

.....  
**The Karate Kid - The Musical shows at The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 July**

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01952 382382, telfordtheatre.com

Victoria Gardens, Tewkesbury  
Thu 25 June, 6.30pm  
01684 295074, rosestheatre.org

Compton Verney  
Warwickshire  
Sat 11 July, 7pm  
oddsocks.co.uk/box-office

Avoncroft Museum  
Bromsgrove  
Sun 12 July, 6.30pm  
oddsocks.co.uk/box-office



Light entertainment from around the region



**The Archers: Live At 75**

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 8 June; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 9 September; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 25 November; Wolverhampton Civic Hall, Thurs 26 November

Almost 21,000 episodes of BBC Radio Four soap opera The Archers have been aired since the programme was first broadcast nationally on New Year's Day 1951. With 75 successful years behind it, it's no surprise that the 'everyday story of country folk' - as it was initially billed - is the world's longest-running drama, both in terms of number of episodes and duration.

The organisers of this Live At 75 touring show are urging fans to don their best hat, dust off their prize-winning jam recipe, and make a beeline for the Regent Theatre, where comedian and superfan Angela Barnes will be hosting all manner of entertaining activities, from Bull Pub quizzes to theme-tune singalongs.

Subject to availability, Angela will be joined for the occasion by cast members Charles Collingwood (who plays Brian Aldridge), Ryan Kelly (Jazzer McCreary), Susie Riddell (Tracy Horrobin) and Sunny Ormonde (Lilian Bellamy). Q&As, on-the-spot sound effects, behind-the-scenes revelations, and 'unforgettable moments' from the BBC archives also feature. The show returns to the Midlands region in the autumn.

**Dropout Improv**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 5 June  
Since its launch eight years ago, Dropout (formerly CollegeHumor) has become one of the world's most popular subscription comedy platforms, presenting independent,

ad-free and uncensored content... Although the cast is subject to change, the line-up of talent for the Birmingham date currently features Vic Michaelis, Jacob Wysocki, Kurt Maloney, Kimia Behpoornia, Jeremy Culhane and Jiavani.

**Jay & Joss**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 23 June  
Fresh from Britain's Got Talent and Penn & Teller's Fool Us, award-winning illusionists Jay & Joss (that's Jamie Docherty and Lewis Joss) are here inviting their audience into a world where nothing is quite as it seems. Expect 'jaw-dropping' stunts, 'breath-taking' visuals and 'mindbending' magic.



**Tim Lucas**

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sat 13 June  
"I've always loved entertaining people," says triple-threat performer Tim Lucas, "making them laugh, sing along and forget about everything for a couple of hours. This show is me putting everything I love into one place, and I can't wait to share it with even more people." Taking the title We're Having A Party, Tim's new production is being described as a high-octane night of live music, stand-up comedy and pure feelgood entertainment. The show comes complete with a live band, dancers and guest vocalists.



**Jukebox Idols**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 16 June; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sat 20 June; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 1 July; Malvern Theatres, Sun 5 July

This popular touring show offers a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a nostalgia-drenched journey down memory lane. Platinum-selling vocal harmony group The Overtones team up with Strictly stars Nadiya Bychkova and Louis Smith to present a tribute to a host of legendary 20th-century artists, including Elvis, The Beatles, Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons and The Beach Boys. And with Nadiya and Louis on board, it goes without saying that the music will be accompanied by some show-stopping dance routines...

**Derren Brown**

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 2 - Sat 13 June; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 30 June - Sat 4 July

Illusionist, mentalist, hypnotist and sceptic, Derren Brown is best known not only for his mindreading act but also for the fact that he claims its success has nothing whatsoever to do with psychic or paranormal practices. Instead, he credits a combination of "magic, suggestion, psychology, misdirection and showmanship". Derren stops off in the Midlands this month with brand-new show Only Human, details about which he's been asking audience members to keep tightly under wraps...



**Eric & Ern**

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 6 June; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sun 27 September; The Civic, Brierley Hill, Thurs 5 November; The Core, Solihull, Tues 17 November

This homage to Morecambe & Wise - without doubt the best-loved UK comedy double act of all time - features some of the duo's most famous sketches. It visits the Garrick three weeks after what would have been Eric's 100th birthday (Ernie would have become a centenarian last November). So if you're of a certain vintage and would like to be reminded of nostalgic 1970s' family Christmases spent gathered around the television set while Morecambe & Wise made you laugh, this is definitely the show for you.





# ONLY HUMAN

**Derren Brown brings his new show to the Midlands**

**Award-winning showman Derren Brown brings his latest offering, Only Human, to the Midlands this month, promising a mind-blowing and thought-provoking experience that combines mind-reading, psychological illusion and 'breathtaking' storytelling. After making his name on TV with the series Mind Control, his stage performances continue to amaze audiences, even if live productions bring their fair share of surprises - as Derren here explains...**

It is pretty extraordinary that in the social-media age, where it's virtually impossible to keep any information under wraps, Derren Brown's stage shows remain entirely unspoiled. The great illusionist, who is currently touring the UK with new offering Only Human, has an insight into why...

"People are incredibly good at keeping the secrets. In the first show I ever did, I asked people to keep it quiet, and I was amazed and touched that they did. That was pre-social media, but audiences still respect the secrecy - I think it's part of the fun."

It's also testament to the thoughtfully crafted shows which have made Derren such a popular figure. This isn't just well-performed magic; it's a deep-dive into human behaviour, and even a source of salient life lessons - albeit with plenty of entertaining showmanship and some jaw-dropping stunts thrown in.

Derren was always interested in this added dimension, even in the early stages of his career. Born in Croydon, he was studying law and German at Bristol University when he saw a hypnotist, Martin Taylor, doing a show. "I was utterly captivated. I wasn't much interested in law, so I devoted all my time to learning close-up magic - it was easier to get work doing that than as a hypnotist. But the psychology aspect, and the relationship between the performer and the audience, really fascinated me."

Derren notes that there weren't many people doing mentalism at that stage, but he was inspired by performers like Polish mentalist Chan Canasta.

"He was a very charming, masterful, magnetic character - I remember thinking how much weight his act carried. I wanted to create shows that might affect people beyond just making something disappear or getting a card to appear on top of the deck."

Derren became a household name at the beginning of the millennium thanks to the Channel Four series Mind Control and follow-ups shows Trick Of The Mind and Derren Brown: The Events. He's also a prolific stage performer, having presented shows including Evening Of Wonders, Enigma, Infamous, Miracle and Showman. But even now, he hesitates to pin down what exactly it is that he does: "It's quite nice not having a label. It

gives you permission to do so many things. I opened a ghost-train ride at Thorpe Park the same year I published a book [Happy: Why More Or Less Everything Is Absolutely Fine] drawing on Ancient Greek philosophy."

In his live shows, there's an element of surprise for Derren as well as his audience - they often revolve around bringing a member of the general public out on stage. Although live theatre is, by its nature, always changing, that phenomenon is amplified in a production like this. Doesn't Derren find it nerve-wracking?

"Not really - it keeps it feeling fresh every night. Having different people coming up keeps me in the moment. There are always parts where there isn't a script, so I'm essentially having to improvise, and it's just lovely. It makes the show so varied: it can become more funny, or serious, or spooky." Meanwhile, for the audience, just seeing one of their number up there changes how they engage with the show.

"Everyone has a vicarious relationship with the person on stage, thinking 'That could be me!' Sometimes, the person will talk in a way that's very vulnerable and open, and it creates this warm, connective feeling in the audience - we're all naturally empathetic. It's different to more traditional magic acts, where the volunteer is basically a prop."

Derren selects his volunteers carefully, using a few tried-and-tested methods.

"There are things I can do in the show to see who is more responsive, and filter out people who aren't. I do choose some people at random too, by throwing out frisbees. But I should make it clear that you absolutely don't have to come on stage - you can always hand the frisbee to the person next to you."

"It's actually helpful if I get someone, at random, who's more sceptical, more antagonistic and trying to catch me out, because it makes them more predictable. For example, if I ask someone to think of a letter of the alphabet, and they're trying to throw me, they'll probably go for either Q or Z."

Derren explains he doesn't worry about going off track, since it makes the live shows more interesting and authentic. "The whole show is basically going to be a series of little things going wrong. I once struggled to get a lid off a marker pen, but oddly that made it feel more

human and added to the jeopardy - it's like a juggler dropping a ball.

"In one show, I had a running gag about pretending to be a bad psychic and trying to get someone's phone number. The big climax involved people shouting out long numbers, and then I'm multiplying them, and magically I get it right. Well, one night it went completely wrong - and worse, we had pyrotechnics and a confetti cannon going off! I felt terrible, but people still had a good time. I've learnt that when stuff goes wrong, you just park it, find a solution and carry on. It's something I try to apply in the rest of my life, too."

Only Human differs from Derren's previous live endeavours in terms of both its aesthetics and a number of key production elements.

"It looks more modern, instead of having that faded grandeur vintage feel. We've got a fantastic video & lighting team doing amazing things. I hope it's moving and surprising, and takes people to places they're not expecting. Audiences so far have been fantastic. I feel like every night I'm going on a ride with them."

The Only Human tour continues around the country until August, stopping off in the Midlands this very month.

"I love touring. It's great discovering how the audience in each place thinks, and how they express themselves."

Derren also gets to know these different locations through their coffee shops: "One of the big appeals of touring is this gift of spending my days doing what I like - so I often head to a coffee shop and write. Then, each night, I get to be on stage."

"[With] Only Human, we want to give you something unique that you can't get from a magic show or another sort of show. It should give you an emotional ride, food for thought, and a real sense of wonder."

.....

**Derren Brown: Only Human runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 2 to Saturday 13 June. The production then returns to the region at the end of the month, showing at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Tuesday 30 June to Saturday 4 July**

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Monrako Hirata - Johan Persson.  
Illustration © Beth Ingleton.

Director Carlos Acosta

## 20th-Century Masterpieces

Three ballets from three choreographic giants

19 & 20 June

Frederick Ashton  
**Birthday Offering**

Kurt Jooss

**The Green Table**

George Balanchine

**Theme and Variations**

*20th-Century Masterpieces* is supported by donors to the Caroline Miller Fund. *The Green Table* is supported by Stuart Sweeney and Fern & Clive Potter. *Birthday Offering* is supported by The Frederick Ashton Foundation and The Rick Mather David Scrase Foundation.

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ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

Dance showing in the region



**Balletboyz: Still Pointless**

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 9 June; The Rep, Birmingham, Tues 16 June; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 19 June

Comprising an all-male company of 10 remarkable dancers, the irreverent, inventive and always boundary-busting Balletboyz return to the Midlands with a show to celebrate their 25th anniversary. The production features an excerpt from Russell Maliphant’s seminal work Critical Mass and showcases the world premiere of a

commission by Seirian Griffiths. Also included is a selection of Balletboyz highlights from across the years, incorporating work by such leading lights as choreographers Christopher Wheeldon, Maxine Doyle and Javier de Frutos, and composers Cassie Kinoshi, Ben Fosskett, Keaton Henson and Max Richter.

**Amy & Carlos: Reborn**

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Fri 19 June

Show-stopping routines abound as Amy Dowden and Carlos Gu reunite to present ‘an intimate portrait of their lives and journeys’. The Strictly Come Dancing favourites - joined for the occasion by ‘a dazzling cast of world-class dancers and amazing live vocalists’ - will be strutting their stuff to a soundtrack of iconic anthems from across the decades.



visiting Wolverhampton this month with a double bill to mark their special birthday. The featured works are the Olivier Award-winning Ingoma (2019) - bringing the rarely told stories of Black miners and their communities to the stage - and a new offering from Hope Boykin, created especially for Ballet Black’s anniversary and paying ‘vibrant tribute’ to the company’s journey.



**Ballet Black At 25**

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 9 June

BalletBoyz (see top of the page) aren’t the only dance ensemble this year celebrating their quarter-century anniversary... Ballet Black have also notched up 25 glorious years of performance, taking to stages across the world under the guidance of their highly rated artistic director, Cassa Pancho. Comprising British and international dancers of black and Asian descent, the company are

present a production exploring the subject of ‘the future’. Choreographed by Tamsin Fitzgerald, the show features a newly commissioned score by Ivor Novello-nominated composer Thomas Haines.

**Ballet Cymru: Sleeping Beauty**

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Mon 8 June; Lichfield Cathedral, Mon 13 July

Visiting an impressive number of venues throughout the country on an annual basis, Ballet Cymru have garnered a well-deserved reputation as an innovative ensemble dedicated to performing classical ballet in an original and unpretentious way.



Their New Vic stop-off sees them celebrating their 40th anniversary with a production of Tchaikovsky’s The Sleeping Beauty.

**2 Faced Dance: Tomorrow**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 23 June

As part of the journey towards their stated aim of becoming ‘a worldwide leader in the production of breathtaking, physical and inspirational dance’, the Herefordshire-based and all-male 2Faced Dance Company here



# DANCING LEGEND

**Birmingham Royal Ballet are this month celebrating  
Sir Peter Wright's centenary year...**

Photo credit: Michael Somes

## Birmingham Royal Ballet's Sir Peter Wright marks a milestone birthday this year, turning 100 in November, and the Company will be celebrating the occasion in style - as Director Carlos Acosta recently explained to What's On...

Ballet superstar Carlos Acosta has danced with internationally renowned companies across the world, and this month he is looking forward to a special performance in Birmingham when he will dance in honour of Sir Peter Wright.

Birmingham Royal Ballet director Carlos will take the role of Death in the seminal work *The Green Table* as part of the company's celebrations to mark the 100th birthday of Sir Peter - the man who brought BRB to the Midlands.

As director of Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet from 1977, Sir Peter spearheaded the company's move to Birmingham Hippodrome and its relaunch as Birmingham Royal Ballet in 1990. He continued at its helm until 1995 and remains closely linked to the company, both as founding director laureate and as the choreographer of some of BRB's most popular works, including *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia* and *Giselle*.

Carlos says that the centenary celebration at Birmingham Hippodrome on 18 June is a way for the company to pay tribute to Sir Peter's great achievements with BRB and beyond.

"He is our founding father and a very important and greatly loved figure in the world of ballet. He has had an extraordinary life and career, and has given the world his choreography.

"In my, and many others' opinion, his *Nutcracker* is the greatest *Nutcracker* in the world, and it is a regular in our repertoire. It has proved to be popular for more than 30 years, and this year we broke ticket sales records with our most successful *Nutcracker* ever, with sold-out shows and over 44,000 tickets sold.

"Sir Peter was instrumental in our move from Sadler's Wells Theatre into Birmingham - he planted the seed for everything that followed, and I am very honoured to direct the company that he created."

The gala event features excerpts from many of Sir Peter's hit ballets, and he was also keen for the programme to include Kurt Jooss' 1932 creation, *The Green Table*. The work has a special resonance for Sir Peter: he trained with Ballet Jooss in the 1940s and made his stage debut as a soldier in *The Green Table*. German dancer and choreographer Jooss created the ballet at a time when his country was witnessing the rise of Nazism. Exploring the horror and futility of war, it satirises

leaders who have the power to make peace and yet choose conflict by portraying a group of diplomats attempting to negotiate around a green table. Their failure to reach an agreement leads the work into a series of scenes presenting the consequences of war in ordinary lives, where the only victor is Death. *The Sir Peter Wright Centenary* will be the first time Carlos has performed the role of Death - which he will do for one special night only.

"I've never had the possibility to perform in *The Green Table* before, and now I'm training for it. My dancing the part is going to be a one-off, just for the Centenary, and a way to pay homage to the founding father of our company. I'm looking forward to it. I think this is something that I will always remember, and it will probably mark one of the highlights of my directorship because not only will I represent the company as director, I will also be contributing as a dancer.

"Sir Peter has wanted us to present this work for a long time and has said that it's his favourite ballet, as well as it marking the beginning of him performing. And it's not just him; I have had other people who remember the piece very well saying every so often that it would be wonderful for us to present it. As we were approaching Sir Peter's centenary, it felt like this was the right occasion for it."

*The Green Table* was last performed by BRB in the early 1990s. Its return this month is timely, says Carlos: "Despite its age, it is revolutionary. It has a very strong anti-war message, it's very theatrical and poignant; a timeless masterpiece. With all the wars that are going on, and the division and the polarisation of the world - the fact that we are waking up to different realities all the time and new wars are breaking out - it works so well now.

"We are in a world where we cannot allow ourselves to think ahead to what is going to happen next year, as we don't even know what is going to happen next month. And I think that is when art works at its best; when it reflects the world. And that is what this will do."

*The Green Table* also forms part of the programme for Birmingham Royal Ballet's 20th-Century Masterpieces triple bill, which will be performed at the Hippodrome on the 19th & 20th of June.

Jooss' classic will be danced alongside Frederick Ashton's *Birthday Offering*, which

is set to music by Alexander Glazunov, and George Balanchine's *Theme And Variations*, performed to the fourth movement of Tchaikovsky's *Orchestral Suite No.3*.

Carlos, who will not be dancing at these performances, says the triple bill aims to showcase the expertise of BRB's dancers.

"The level of the company has risen a lot, and this programme gives audiences a chance to see the talent we currently have. It will be the first time we have performed *Birthday Offering* in more than 30 years. And then we have *Theme And Variations*, which is one of those powerhouse ballets within our repertoire and shows how versatile our company is.

"*Theme And Variations* was choreographed by Balanchine for Alicia Alonso, the lead Cuban ballerina who created the Cuban National Ballet School and National Ballet of Cuba, the school and the company where I came from in Havana. So I think that particular work resonates a lot on a personal level."

For Carlos, the productions help showcase the company and its aims.

"These programmes are celebrating our founder and our heritage. Our mission is to preserve our dance heritage while at the same time touring and creating new ballets.

"These performances culminate a season which has been very well balanced. We had *Black Sabbath - The Ballet* at the beginning of the season, which sold out just about everywhere. We had *The Nutcracker* at Christmas, *Don Quixote* has been on tour, and then we have these heritage ballets.

"This means audiences can see new works, classics and heritage ballets - these are all part of who we are."

20th-Century Masterpieces is supported by donors to the Caroline Miller Fund. *The Green Table* is supported by Stuart Sweeney and Fern & Clive Potter. *Birthday Offering* is supported by The Frederick Ashton Foundation and The Rick Mather David Scrase Foundation.

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**BRB present the Sir Peter Wright Centenary on Thursday 18 June, ahead of 20th-Century Masterpieces on Friday 19 & Saturday 20 June. All performances take place at Birmingham Hippodrome**

## Film highlights in June...



### Disclosure Day CERT 12a (145 mins)

Starring **Emily Blunt, Josh O'Connor, Eve Hewson, Colman Domingo, Wyatt Russell, Colin Firth** Directed by **Steven Spielberg**

"When I was just a little kid," explains Steven Spielberg in a featurette for Disclosure Day, "I remember developing a real curiosity about the sky at night and what's happening up there. And also, not the possibility, but the guarantee that there is life off this planet."

Spielberg has certainly monetised his fascination with outer space and the mysteries of the cosmos, having previously helmed box-office hits Close Encounters Of The Third Kind, E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial and War Of The Worlds. Now he's back in the director's chair for Disclosure Day, the plot of which has been kept pretty much under wraps, but with speculation rife that it's actually a stealth sequel to 1978's Close Encounters Of The Third Kind...

Universal, the studio making the movie, released the following synopsis: "If you found out we weren't alone, if someone showed you, proved it to you, would that frighten you? This summer, the truth belongs to seven billion people. We are coming close to... 'Disclosure Day.'"

Based on an original story by Spielberg, the film's script has been penned by his longtime collaborator, David Koepp (Jurassic Park: The Lost World and War Of The Worlds). **Released Wed 10 June**



### Erupcja CERT 12a (71 mins)

Starring **Charli XCX, Lena Góra, Will Madden, Jeremy O Harris, Agata Trzebuchowska, Maja Michnacka** Directed by **Peter Ohs**

Prolific pop star Charli XCX has been busily reinventing herself of late, transferring some of her workaholic energy from musicmaking to film acting. Erupcja, which is Polish for Eruption, is one of several recent forays into movieland and is both a slight and slightly curious piece.

Coming in at a magnificently modest 71 minutes - something of a refreshing change, given the current tendency to make films with running times well in excess of two hours - it tells the story of a friendship between Bethany (Charli XCX) and her teenage friend Nel - one which never fails to be thrillingly explosive whenever the two of them come together.

Premiered at the Toronto Film Festival last year, Erupcja has garnered mainly positive reviews, with Charli XCX's performance fairing reasonably well with the critics.

**Released Fri 5 June**

### Madfabulous

CERT 12a (108 mins)

Starring **Rupert Everett, Callum Scott Howells, Siobhán McSweeney, Greta Jones, Ruby Stokes, Louis Hynes** Directed by **Celyn Jones**

Described as a riotous, uncompromising celebration of otherness, Madfabulous is inspired by the true story of Henry Cyril Paget. An unlikely British aristocrat - arriving in North Wales at the end of the 19th century to assume his rightful title of Fifth Marquess of Anglesey - he smashed society's notions of class, gender and decorum. In the process, his hedonistic lifestyle saw him squander a vast fortune in a short space of time - he died aged just 29 following a long battle with consumption.

"It's a crowd pleaser," explains director Celyn Jones in talking about Madfabulous, his solo feature debut. "But at the same time, [there are] deep thoughts and feelings and messages in there. It's for as many people as possible." **Released Fri 5 June**



### Savage House CERT 15 (114 mins)

Starring **Richard E Grant, Claire Foy, Sebastian Armesto, Roger Ashton-Griffiths, Robert Bathurst, Erin Battle** Directed by **Peter Glanz**

Duels, decadence and bloodshed are the name of the game for Sir Chauncey and Lady Savage, a dastardly, power-hungry couple who are ruthlessly pursuing a higher social standing in 18th-century England - albeit against a backdrop of plague and political unrest...

"[As a director] you never want to be prescriptive or academic," says Peter Glanz, of his sophomore feature. "That's why I love period films. They allow us to be a step removed, to look in the mirror and see ourselves - and hopefully laugh at ourselves - without the preconceived baggage of modern life. In 1715, we had a deadly epidemic, a disputed king, extreme inequity - far worse than today - and a polarised society taking to the streets in protest and riots. It felt fitting as a backdrop for biting satire and a cautionary tale of greed and social climbing."

**Released Fri 5 June**

## Toy Story 5 CERT U (90 mins)

Voices of **Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Keanu Reeves, Annie Potts, Wallace Shawn**  
 Directed by **McKenna Harris and Andrew Stanton**

Toy Story is very much the franchise that just keeps on giving. Breaking through - back in the 1990s - in a way that most other animated movies fail to manage, the terrific tale of talking toys and its three sequels have all enjoyed huge box office success, with the return for this fifth installment of cowboy Woody, astronaut Buzz Lightyear and cowgirl Jessie being eagerly anticipated by diehard fans. As one would expect, the storyline of this latest chapter chimes with developments in the modern age, and in particular the anxiety surrounding the inexorable march of technology. Can Woody and the gang somehow sidestep the existential threat of electronic toys and devices, and specifically a frog-like tablet named Lilypad? Tom Hanks, Tim Allen and Joan Cusack all make a welcome return to once again lend their voices to the characters of Woody, Buzz and Jessie respectively. **Released Fri 19 June**



## Scary Movie CERT tbc (95 mins)

Starring **Anna Faris, Lochlyn Munro, Damon Wayans Jr, Regina Hall, Marlon Wayans, Chris Elliott** Directed by **Michael Tidde**

It's taken a good while - 13 years, to be accurate - for the sixth Scary Movie film to see the light of day, but no doubt much to the delight of the franchise's legion of fans, it's finally landing this month.

For those not in the know, the first film was released way back in the year 2000, scoring a massive box-office hit on the back of its clever spoofing of the slasher-pic genre.

Subsequent entries have continued in the same vein, parodying haunted-house tropes and all manner of movies, from *The Ring*, *The Haunting* and *The Exorcist* to films as diverse as *Fifty Shades Of Grey*, *Planet Of The Apes* and *Brokeback Mountain*.

This latest entry features a reunion of the original characters and a further encounter with the masked serial killer Ghostface.

**Released Fri 5 June**



## A Private Life CERT 15 (107 mins)

Starring **Jodie Foster, Daniel Auteuil, Virginie Efira, Mathieu Amalric, Vincent Lacoste, Luàna Bajrami** Directed by **Rebecca Zlotowski**

Lilian Steiner is a renowned psychiatrist. When she learns of the death of a patient, she becomes convinced it was murder. Disturbed, she decides to conduct her own investigation, assisted in the endeavour by her ex-husband...

Reviews of award-winning director Rebecca Zlotowski's *A Private Life*, which premiered in Cannes last year, have been generally positive. *The Hollywood Reporter* certainly enjoyed the movie: 'Under Zlotowski's guidance, [the film] caroms from sexy romantic comedy to Hitchcockian mystery to zany amateur-sleuth caper, with Freudian psychology always lurking beneath.' Jodie Foster - speaking French throughout - has been picking up plenty of plaudits for her performance as psychiatrist Lillian.

**Released Fri 26 June**

## Supergirl CERT tbc (110 mins)

Starring **Milly Alcock, Eve Ridley, Matthias Schoenaerts, Jason Momoa, David Corenswet, David Krumholtz** Directed by **Craig Gillespie**

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the latest attempt to relaunch the DC Cinematic Universe. With plenty of duds to its name over the past several years, DC Studios is now turning to one of its longest-established but secondary characters in an attempt to reboot its output: Kara Zor-El - better known to any and every comic-book enthusiast as Supergirl. The studio is confident that its next wave of films will turn its reputation on its head, with co-CEO Peter Safran adamant that recent box-office flops in the genre have had nothing to do with superhero fatigue and everything to do with execrable movies. "You gotta try something new," he told the *Associated Press* last month. "You have to change the game a little bit. The essential story on which Supergirl is based is something cool and original and which we haven't seen before." **Released Fri 26 June**





# TAKE A SEAT

Artist Michael Pinsky turns auctioneer with latest show  
The Final Bid - opening at MAC next month...

**Making its UK premiere at Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), The Final Bid is an interactive exhibition which offers a new outlook on familiar objects. From late July, the venue’s first-floor gallery will exhibit a selection of chairs donated by members of the general public who have also shared the stories behind those donations. Visitors can place bids to buy whichever chair takes their fancy. Michael Pinsky, the artist behind the exhibition, is using the show to reframe the way we value the everyday items around us, and to interrupt the expected consumer process - as he told What’s On...**

There are few items more ‘everyday’ than the humble chair. Whether the wheely office variety, a comfy armchair, or sturdy dining furniture, few people spend their days without interacting with a seat of some kind. This summer, courtesy of artist Michael Pinsky, a selection of chairs will find their moment in the spotlight, in a major exhibition at Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), titled The Final Bid.

The chairs, which have been given to the installation by members of the public, will be available to purchase by way of auction listings. In the months that the exhibition is on display, and as the value of each chair increases according to visitors’ bids, the chairs themselves will physically rise in the gallery - connected to the ceiling by electronic winches.

“The chairs will get nearer and nearer the ceiling,” Michael explains. “The gallery actually has quite a high ceiling, which is one of the attractions of doing the show here. At the end of the show, the people who have made the successful bids will receive the chairs. We drop them back down to the ground again, and we’ll have an event where people can receive the chairs.”

It’s not just a question of aesthetics - when placing bids, visitors can read about each chair’s history. At The Final Bid’s only previous showing, the personal anecdotes behind the chairs proved to be a big hit - and the concept comes with a story of its own... “This kind of comes from my (now dead) uncle in the States, who lived in LA,” Michael explains. “He used to do garage sales, then went into the very early days of eBay. And he would make up stories about the objects, like, ‘I found this in my grandmother’s attic...’ He found that things sold much better when they were attached to a story - even though he completely lied about the stories. That’s the way he was - a cheeky uncle.

“In Germany, where we showed it before, some people bought the chairs just because they really liked the chairs, but other people bought them because of the associations and the stories as well - so the narrative was as important as the object.”

Michael’s work is often created with the intention of reaching audiences who are not generally immersed in the world of art and curation. The bold messages behind his installations can be communicated in a couple of sentences. This was true with

Plunge, for instance - which indicated on national monuments the predicted sea levels of the year 3012 - and also with L’eau Qui Dort, which made an artistic display of items dredged from the canals of Paris.

“Simplicity is actually very difficult to achieve. Making concepts ambiguous, obscured and complex is easy. Making something that really grips people and is simple, both in its visual manifestation and its thematics or concepts - that’s actually really challenging. It’s something I try and work on a lot. I come up with a lot of complicated ideas, and then I really have to strip them down.”

Environmental commentary has been a recurring theme in Michael’s work, and while The Final Bid perhaps has a more nuanced ecological message, it explores the nature of consumption, and questions whether buying new is necessary.

“I became interested in the difference between recycling and reuse. Recycling has become this kind of environmental excuse, let’s call it - everyone feels quite pleased with themselves because they put their things in the recycling bin... A lot of that stuff ends up on ships travelling around the world where no one wants it.

“Another side is the amount of energy that you need to recycle. Reuse has very low energy input - very, very sustainable - but it also questions the notion of buying things in the first place. So much of what we’re buying, in terms of our clothes, or the fashion of the house in this case, we just don’t need it. I can’t imagine anyone *needing* to buy a new chair.”

Admitting how easy it can be to buy new, mass-produced furniture, Michael highlights that such furniture is not made to be repaired and sustained. Instead, these often non-recyclable items are thrown away when they reach the end of their useful life.

“If you get a nice wooden table, and it’s just made of wood, nothing else, you can repair that forever; it will last forever. You can sand it down, you can re-coat it. You could get another bit of wood, you can repair it. That will last forever.”

The Final Bid aims to encourage its viewers to see the value in reuse and repair, interrupting the mass-production pipeline. Another of Michael’s works called attention to the production process in a similar way; in Making A Stand, raw wooden planks became

an art installation during a year of outdoor seasoning and weathering which, at the same time, increased the wood’s value.

“I made that year of seasoning into an artwork and then put [the wood] back in the supply chain. I feel like the same principle is at play with The Final Bid - I’m actually not making anything, I’m just taking these chairs and announcing them as a kind of kinetic artwork. It’s there for a period of time, and then the chairs go into a new place. I’m not offering a product, I’m offering a service... The principle is that there’s nothing left. It’s not just the messaging, but actually the methodology that follows those principles - some of my early artworks, they’re announcing something, but I’m not following those principles in the same artwork.”

It’s not the first time Michael has exhibited work at MAC. In 2023, he displayed his immersive Pollution Pods, which replicate air pollution levels from different cities around the world. The show took place after the Arts Centre had caught his attention as a hive of creative activity.

“I didn’t know about MAC before. They invited me out to look at the site. It was a Tuesday - I cycled out there, through this park, and I expected to arrive somewhere really quiet. It was full of people! They were eating there, doing this and that... I thought, wow, this is an amazing place.”

With The Final Bid aiming to spark a conversation about the value - whether financial or sentimental - which we place on ordinary items, Michael believes that MAC’s creative melting pot is the perfect place to exhibit.

“[Visitors] might be interested in doing a pottery workshop, they might be interested in catching a film, they’ll catch a show. That general cultural interest is so important. It’s places like MAC that are so important - and so rare nowadays - for fostering that general cultural excitement and interest. It’s a seven-year-old going in there, seeing something [and thinking] ‘Oh actually, this is something I’m interested in.’ If you don’t get a chance to see it, you’re never going to be interested in it.”



**The Final Bid shows at Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) from Saturday 25 July to Sunday 4 October**



## Daiga Grantina: Lilacs

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Sun 28 June

Warwick Arts Centre's Mead Gallery is here hosting the first UK solo exhibition by Latvian artist Daiga Grantina. Drawing inspiration from bodies and landscapes, Daiga creates sculptures which explore how materials meet and react to each other in ways that make the viewer look again at their size, form and meaning.

For her Mead Gallery exhibition, Daiga has responded to the venue's architecture and natural light with new and existing works, to expand on ideas explored in *What Eats Around Itself*, her critically acclaimed solo exhibition at the New Museum in New York.

"I am excited to be working with the Mead Gallery team," says Daiga, "and to [create] a dialogue with the gallery's generous volumes. I hope my exhibition will offer audiences a sense of light relief during darker times."

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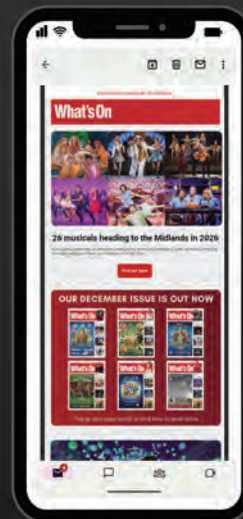
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Andy Warhol (1928-1987) Campbell's Soup (1968) Courtesy Wolverhampton Art Gallery © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / DACS, London, 2026. Trademarks Licensed by Campbell Soup Company. All Rights Reserved.

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## Genevieve Robertson: Under The Orange Sticks Of The Sun

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, until Sun 5 July

Working at the intersection of visual art and environmental studies, Canadian artist Genevieve Robertson produces work which is powerfully informed by a personal and intergenerational history of forestry labour in remote locations across British Columbia. Genevieve's practice is grounded in drawing and painting but also extends to video, installation and various forms of collective work and collaboration.

Her Birmingham exhibition explores the interconnection between natural and industrial histories, vegetal intelligence and ecological trauma.

The display examines two forested sites separated by 310 million years and 7,000 kilometres: the ancient swamps of the Black Country and a slope in British Columbia which has recently been affected by fire and logging.



## The Countryside Through Mid-Century Art

Netherwood Estate, Herefordshire, Fri 5 - Sun 14 June

The Countryside Through Mid-Century Art coincides with a rare opportunity to visit the three-acre Netherwood Manor Gardens, which are open for just a handful of weekends this year as part of the National Garden Scheme. Growing out of a previously displayed collection of landscape paintings by World War Two war artist John Piper, the exhibition includes work by a number of

his contemporaries, offering a compelling exploration of how the British landscape was represented across multiple media in the mid-20th century.

As well as original works by Piper - including a feature collection of fabrics - the show also includes artwork by, among others, Katharine Church, Elisabeth Frink, Rowland Suddaby and Robert Tavener. The exhibition is curated by Fifties Art & Design - specialists in affordable mid-century art, and stockists of a range of original pictures, prints and posters from the period.

## Stuart Whipps: The Formation Of The Universe

New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 5 July

Award-winning Birmingham artist Stuart Whipps' latest project sees him focusing on the Black Country's geology, which spans 428 million years and is well known for its exceptional fossils and varied landscapes.

Stuart has visited geosites across the Walsall Borough in order to accumulate material to take back to the studio. His fieldwork has included researching the history of fossil collecting in the area, and gathering together anecdotal material from the communities who use the sites today. The resulting analogue and digital photographic and film work serves to connect stories, places and materials in the Black Country.



## Andy Warhol: Art Star

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sun 4 October

Wolverhampton Art Gallery's tribute to Andy Warhol is an Artist Rooms exhibition created in partnership with Tate and National Galleries of Scotland.

The display includes both iconic and lesser-known drawings, screenprints, paintings and photographs from the 1950s to the 1980s. Warhol's famous Campbell's soup tin features in the show, taking its place alongside images of The Beatles, Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor.



Andy Warhol (no title) 1967 Tate © 2005 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by DACS, London Photo: Tate

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Events previews from around the region



**Tutankhamun Immersive Exhibition** NEC Campus, Birmingham, Fri 19 June - Sun 13 September

In November 1922, in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, archaeologist Howard Carter made a breathtaking discovery. “At first I could see nothing, the hot air escaping from the chamber causing my candle flame to flicker,” recalled Carter. “But presently, as my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist; strange animals, statues and gold - everywhere the glint of gold.”

After years of painstaking but fruitless searching in the Valley of the Kings, Carter had unearthed the tomb of a little-known Pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty: Tutankhamun.

In so doing, he had made one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time.

Now, more than a century later, the incredible find is being celebrated with Tutankhamun: The Immersive Exhibition, an award-winning touring show which is spending the summer at Birmingham’s NEC.

Offering Midlanders the chance to take a ‘breathtaking journey’ into ancient Egypt, its highlights include a Howard Carter-narrated movie featuring 360-degree projections, a seated virtual-reality journey through the mystical Egyptian afterlife, and an interactive digital Metaverse walk-through of the Valley of the Kings.

Two ‘exceptionally curated’ treasure rooms also feature, showcasing authentic replicas and a selection of original artefacts dating back to 4000BC. These include a funerary shabti from the 20th Dynasty - part of Howard Carter’s private collection - and statuettes and vases from the reign of Tutankhamun.

The exhibition, which has been viewed by millions of people in cities around the world, is showing in Birmingham for a strictly limited 12-week period. Organisers are advising that visitors should set aside 90 minutes to properly experience the show.



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**BBC Gardeners' World Live** NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 June

BBC Gardeners' World Live is packed full of home-growing inspiration, expert advice and show-stopping garden displays, making it the ideal place to visit if you're a green-fingered enthusiast.

The show's headline feature, Adam Frost's Tasting Table, is back, blending the worlds of gastronomy and gardening. Adam will be joined by special guests including Si King, Lisa Faulkner and James Martin. Also making a return, and celebrating its

10th anniversary, is the inspiring APL Avenue, presenting three stylish new outdoor spaces. A celebration of plants and expertise, the ever-popular Floral Marquee is 'the ultimate shopping destination' for gardeners and plant lovers alike. Visitors can also check out the all-new Book Shop - with live book signings - and access hands-on advice from leading experts on the Let's Talk Plants Stage.



**Good Food Show Summer** NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 June

The Good Food Show Summer makes a welcome return this month, promising to offer the ultimate foodie day out. New for 2026, the Big Kitchen's Celebrity Bites attraction will see well-known guests join top chefs to chat about food, make recipes and create cocktails. Also debuting this year is the brand-new Greek Kitchen, where visitors can experience a true taste of Greece, while for cocktail

connoisseurs there's the Princess Cruises Cocktail Club, presenting interactive sessions teaching professional techniques and introducing cocktails inspired by Princess Cruises' signature menus. As always, visitors will have the opportunity to taste food & drink in Katy Truss' Fabulous Food Finds Tasting Theatre, and to shop for new products in the Producers Village and Food Champions zone.

**Weston Park Model Air Show**

Weston Park, Shropshire, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June

Now in its 29th year, Weston Park's Model Air Show combines aerial displays with family-friendly entertainment, attracting pilots and visitors from around the world.

Spectators can expect everything from high-speed jets and scale aircraft to helicopters, boats, cars and live demonstrations.

A major highlight is the Saturday evening Aerial Pyro Spectacular, where aerobatics, fireworks and music combine to create an 'unforgettable' night-time experience.

And new for 2026, Richard Browning will be making a special appearance with his gravity jet suit!

**Cheltenham Science Festival**

various venues across Cheltenham, Tues 2 - Sun 7 June

Cheltenham Science Festival returns with a bold and inspiring programme exploring 'the ideas shaping our future'. Comprising more than 100 events, the festival brings together world-leading scientists, thinkers and innovators to discuss AI, climate change, wellbeing, technology, crime, politics and the environment... Visitors can enjoy talks, workshops, live demonstrations and family activities, presented alongside free interactive zones including The Arcade, MakerShack and the Discover Zone... Jimmy Wales, Alice Roberts, Deborah Meaden and Richard Susskind are among the well-known names contributing to this year's festival.

**Step Back To The 1940s**

Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster, Sat 27 & Sun 28 June and Sat 4 & Sun 5 July

The Severn Valley Railway's much-loved Step Back To The 1940s event returns across two weekends this summer, transforming the heritage railway into a living celebration of wartime Britain.

Visitors can board steam trains and travel along the line, stopping at stations to check out vintage vehicles, live music, dance performances, military displays and immersive reenactments. From Winston Churchill speeches and Home Guard patrols, to wartime marketplaces and classic entertainment, the event recreates the sights and sounds of the British home front. Evening big band shows add to the atmosphere, making this a nostalgic and entertaining family experience for people of all ages.

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Events previews from around the region



**Royal Three Counties Show**

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Fri 12 - Sun 14 June

The Royal Three Counties Show returns mid-month with its annual celebration of British farming, food and countryside living. One of the UK's largest agricultural events, the show promises a packed programme of livestock displays, equine competitions, family entertainment and hands-on rural experiences. Across the weekend, visitors

will be able to enjoy local artisan food & drink, countryside shopping, machinery showcases and live demonstrations. Expert talks, arena attractions, and special guests from the worlds of farming and television - including Countryfile's Adam Henson and Clarkson's Farm's Kaleb Cooper - further add to the event's appeal.



**Drivers Automotive Show** West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury, Sun 21 June

The organisers of Drivers Automotive Show are this year promising a bigger and louder celebration of car culture than ever before. Showcasing everything from modified builds and retro classics to supercars, 4x4s and modern performance vehicles, the event

brings together enthusiasts from across the UK for a packed day of automotive fun. Alongside its huge vehicle display areas, the show also features live DJs, trader stands and food & drink vendors, with competitions and awards held throughout the day.

**The RAF Cosford Air Show 2026**

RAF Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, Sun 14 June

Expected to attract over 50,000 visitors, The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford Air Show is one of the UK's premier aviation events.



The show features flying displays, historic military aircraft, modern jets, aerobatic teams and interactive ground exhibitions. Families and aviation enthusiasts can explore static aircraft displays, STEM activities, food stalls and live demonstrations throughout the day. Tickets include access to the full showground, with children under the age of 16 attending free alongside paying adults.

**Potfest By The Lake**

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June

Potfest By The Lake at Compton Verney is one of the UK's leading ceramics festivals, bringing together more than 90 talented ceramic artists from across Britain and beyond. Set within the beautiful Capability Brown parkland surrounding the historic house, the event features handmade pottery, sculpture and contemporary ceramic art displayed in large open-sided marquees beside the lake. Visitors can meet makers, purchase unique pieces and check out demonstrations, food stalls and scenic walks around the grounds.



**History Weekend**

Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham, Fri 26 - Sun 28 June

This special Sudeley Castle event celebrates over 1,000 years of history with three days of talks, tours and interactive experiences. The event explores Tudor, Civil War, Georgian and Victorian stories connected to the estate and its famous residents, including Queen Katherine Parr. Visitors can enjoy expert-led sessions, storytelling, archive displays, themed tours and special evening talks from renowned historians, with many activities being included in the general admission price. The weekend concludes with a traditional Evensong service in the castle chapel.



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# thelist

Your week-  
by-week  
listings guide  
June 2026



Miss Saigon - Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 23 - Sat 27 June

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

## What's On

Mon 1 - Sun 7 June



Macy Gray - Warwick Arts Centre,  
Coventry

**Tues 2 June**

Mon 8 - Sun 14 June



Nikita Kuzmin: Supernova -  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**Tues 9 - Wed 10 June**

Mon 15 - Sun 21 June



Pauline Eyre: Anyone For Tennis -  
Lichfield Garrick

**Thurs 18 June**

Mon 22 - Tues 30 June



Royel Otis - O2 Academy,  
Birmingham

**Wed 24 June**

## VISUAL ARTS ACROSS THE MIDLANDS

### Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**OZZY OSBOURNE: WORKING CLASS HERO** A celebration of the solo achievements and global awards of rock icon Ozzy Osbourne, and the album art of the original Black Sabbath line-up, created to coincide with their historic homecoming concert, until Sun 27 September

**BIRMINGHAM MEDIA ARCHIVE PROJECT: THE FIRST DECADE 1982-1992** Explore the city's overlooked media heritage through the work of pioneering organisations, until Sun 28 June

### Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**BRUEGEL TO REMBRANDT: DRAWING LIFE, SKETCHING WONDER** Explore the wonders of Dutch and Flemish drawing with over 60 works from the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, many never before seen in the UK, until Sun 28 June

**TROUBLEMAKERS AND PROPHETS: ELIZABETH ALLEN AND OTHER VISIONARY ARTISTS** A bold, immersive exhibition exploring art, isolation and extraordinary vision, through Allen's creations - absurd, darkly funny, and strikingly prophetic, until Mon 31 August

**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, until Sun 6 September

### Coventry Music Museum

**BEING HAZEL** Exhibition celebrating Coventry-born legend Hazel O'Connor's life and career through memorabilia, displays and clips.

### The Exchange, Centenary Square, Birmingham

**HELIOS BY LUKE JERRAM** A stunning illuminated sculpture by acclaimed British artist Luke Jerram. An immersive and rare opportunity to gaze at our closest star, until Sun 1 Nov

**SEEING THE SUN** Inspired by artist Luke Jerram's illuminated sculpture, Helios, The Exchange presents a new exhibition - discover the Sun like never before through the lens of University of Birmingham

research, until Sun 1 November

### Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

**UNEARTH THE PALAEOVERSE: DIG INTO THE DAWN OF TIME** An immersive Jurassic exhibition - hunt for fossils in virtual reality, board a Jurassic submarine, draw a dinosaur and watch it animate across the wall, and strike the perfect prehistoric pose in the dressing-up zone..., until Mon 31 August

### Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**ANGELA DE LA CRUZ: UPRIGHT** Major exhibition of rarely seen works by the acclaimed contemporary artist, presented alongside a new commission developed in collaboration with Birmingham Royal Ballet, until Sun 6 September

### Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

**UNRULY DESIRES: REFRAMING THE PAST** Featuring Sunil Gupta's New Pre-Raphaelites series and Charan Singh's The Promise Of Beauty series, both artists explore and disrupt ideas relating to western art, queerness, the gaze, love and intimacy, until Sun 6 September

### Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham

**MADE AT MAC: CREATIVE FAMILY SHOWCASE** Mixed-media exhibition showcasing the work created by children, young people and families on MAC's creative courses, until Sun 28 June

**CLARE HEWITT: EVERYTHING IN THE FOREST IS THE FOREST** New work, produced from a studio within a circle of twelve oak trees, which celebrates trees and their remarkable ability to nurture and communicate, until Mon 31 August

**MAC CREATIVES** Featuring work by 33 staff at MAC, this mixed-media exhibition showcases the huge variety of talent and artistry to be found within the venue, until Sun 13 September

### New Art Gallery, Walsall

**STUART WHIPPS: THE FORMATION OF THE UNIVERSE** The Birmingham-based artist's work explores wide-ranging subjects through photography, films and installations, until Sun 5 July

**TEN.8 AFTERIMAGE** Photography exhibition exploring the legacy and enduring impact of Ten.8, a photography journal that

emerged from the Midlands' radical cultural and political landscape, until Sun 13 September

### Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

**THE MONOCHROME EXPERIENCE** East Midlands Monochrome Photographic Group showcase the variety of imagery possible when photography is restricted to a monochrome palette, until Sat 27 June

### RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**RBSA SUMMER SHOW 2026** The Society's biggest open call of the year, attracting submissions from artists based all around the globe, Thurs 18 June - Sat 1 August

### Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR** The world's most prestigious wildlife photography exhibition, now in its 61st year, until Sat 20 June

### Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**HANDLE WITH CARE** Exhibition exploring the city's art collection, from its beginnings in 1887 to the present day, until Sun 16 August

**BETSY SMITH: MEMORY IN COLOUR** Exhibition of work by the local painter, celebrated for bold, colourful semi-abstract land and seascapes, Sat 6 June - Mon 31 August

### Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**DAVID COX: THE ART OF WATERCOLOUR** Celebrating Worcester's collection of watercolours by one of the West Midlands' greatest painters, Sat 6 June - Sun 1 November

## Elsewhere:

**BROKEN PROMISES** Intimate body of work by Birmingham-based photographer Maria Reaney, exploring the intersection of the cost of living crisis through a series of personal narratives, until Sat 25 July, Library of Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF ART: BETWEEN THESE WALLS** Featuring work by final-year students from BA Fine Art and BA Art & Design with creative technologies courses, Mon 1 - Sat 27 Jun, Birmingham School of Art

## Gigs

**THE FLEETWOOD MAC EXPERIENCE** Mon 1 June, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**ANT & SEB** Tues 2 June, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**ACM SOUNDS** Tues 2 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**FAKEMINK** Tues 2 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

**RAY LAMONTAGNE** Tues 2 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**MACY GRAY** Tues 2 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



**MARINA + MIKAYLA GEIER** Wed 3 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**CRYPTIC SHIFT** Wed 3 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

**DBA!** Wed 3 June, The Victoria, Birmingham

**DEMI MARRINER BAND** Wed 3 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**ORLEANS HOT SHOT** Wed 3 June, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

**TRUE FOXES** Wed 3 June, West Malvern Social Club

**DAVID FORD, SCARLET RIVERA AND ROB STONER - 50 YEARS OF DESIRE** Thurs 4 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**GILMORE & ROBERTS** Thurs 4 June, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**OMAR** Thurs 4 June, The Jam House, B'ham

**VIEIRA AND THE SILVERS + FUZZ COUNCIL** Thurs 4 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**GREY FLX** Thurs 4 June, The Flapper, B'ham

**MAGNETIC SKIES** Thurs 4 June, The Victoria, Birmingham

**DERMOT KENNEDY + JENSEN MCRAE** Thurs 4 June, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**CALLAGHAN** Thurs 4 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**KHARMA + FREE SPIRIT + MASSASAUGA + WHAT ABOUT ERIC?** Thurs 4 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

**BEVIS FROND + PETE BASSMAN** Thurs 4 June, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**CARA DILLON** Thurs 4 June, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU - A TRIBUTE TO ROBBIE WILLIAMS** Thurs 4 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**FRANCK CARDUCCI** Thurs 4 June, The Robin, Bilston

**A HEAD FULL OF COLDPLAY** Thurs 4 June, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

**BOB SUMNER** Thurs 4 June, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**NICK DEWHURST BAND FEAT. LYDIA RAE** Thurs 4 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**DESPERADOS** Thurs 4 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**THE PROCLAIMERS** Thurs 4 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent



**TAKE THAT** Thurs 4 - Sat 6 June, Coventry Building Society Arena

**SAFEGUARD + THE LOSING SCORE** Fri 5 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**TARA CHINN** Fri 5 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**PRINCE TRIBUTE NIGHT** Fri 5 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**RAINBOW KITTEN SURPRISE + CIGARETTES @ SUNSET** Fri 5 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

**UNDER THE COVERS** Fri 5 June, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

# Monday 1 - Sunday 7 June

**STEVE AJAO AND THE BLUES GIANTS** Fri 5 June, The Troubadour Club, Birmingham

**RAINY DAY BLUES BAND** Fri 5 June, The Station, Kings Heath, B'ham

**THEO TRAVIS** Fri 5 June, 1000 Trades, B'ham

**LUKE COMBS TRIBUTE BAND + CHRIS STAPLETON TRIBUTE** Fri 5 June, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**FINN FORSTER** Fri 5 June, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**SONS OF NIRVANA** Fri 5 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

**THE BIRMINGHAM BEATLES** Fri 5 June, The Victoria, Birmingham

**HANS KOLLER SEXTET** Fri 5 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

**OVERPASS** Fri 5 June, Mama Roux's, B'ham

**THE FOUNDATIONS** Fri 5 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**THE CARPENTERS EXPERIENCE** Fri 5 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**DOWNTOWN HOEDOWN** Fri 5 June, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**HANNAH WHITE** Fri 5 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**MONKEY BUSINESS** Fri 5 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**DEATHSEX BLOODBATH + BATSCH + LITTLE GIRL SCREAMING + STEGOSAURUS SEX PARTY** Fri 5 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**MATTY COLES BAND + DANIEL BARRY JOSEPH DAVIS BAND + FRANKI & ADE** Fri 5 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

**GROOVING IN GREEN + CRYOGENICA + PLAY/DEAD** Fri 5 June, Arches Venue, Coventry

**JIVE TALKIN' - BEE GEES TRIBUTE** Fri 5 June, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**ACSCIA** Fri 5 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**ABBA SENSATION** Fri 5 June, Regal, Tenbury

Wells

**PHIL BATES** Fri 5 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**MELVIN HANCOX** Fri 5 June, The Red Lion, Evesham

**WHITE TYGÉR** Fri 5 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**FAT LIP - A TRIBUTE TO POP PUNK** Fri 5 June, The Robin, Bilston

**SKA TRAIN** Fri 5 June, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**STOURJAM FESTIVAL** Fri 5 June, The Civic, Stourport

**DINO BAPTISTE AND TASH BUXTON** Fri 5 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**NIRVANA UK + BRAIN OF J FRI** Fri 5 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**SQUARE WILD + BAD EARTH + FINAL OATH** Fri 5 June, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**BEN HOLDER QUARTET** Fri 5 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**LITTLE RUMBA** Fri 5 June, Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**THE DRIFTERS** Fri 5 June, Aston Hall, Wrexham

**DETROIT SOUL COLLECTIVE** Fri 5 - Sat 6 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

**AC/DC WEEKENDER** Fri 5 - Sat 6 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**BARS ATTACKS ANNUAL INVASION FESTIVAL** Fri 5 - Sun 7 June, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**JAMES OLIVER BAND** Sat 6 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**MASCA** Sat 6 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**SKASTUDS** Sat 6 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**LUKE BROHAM** Sat 6 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**VIVIENNE + CHEAPSIDE + STUCK ON VIOLET + LIGHT / DARK + THE JULIA SET** Sat 6 June, The Dark Horse, B'ham

**PORCELAIN MODS** Sat 6 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**JASSI SIDHU** Sat 6 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

**THE STREETS** Sat 6 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**REA-LOADED** Sat 6 June, Jo Jo Jims, B'ham

**SOUNDS OF SEATTLE** Sat 6 June, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**THE UNTITLED** Sat 6 June, The Asylum, Birmingham

**ROBINSWOOD FOLK BAND** Sat 6 June, Library of Birmingham

**THE HOUSE OF LOVE + MICHAEL HEAD & THE RED ELASTIC BAND + INDEPENDENT COUNTRY**

**+ JOHNSON & FINNEMORE + OLLIE COOK & THE HOGWASH** Sat 6 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**BOOGIE RIDE** Sat 6 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**RIOT RAVE** Sat 6 June, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**JIMMY CARPENTER BAND** Sat 6 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**FRANKIE LEE AND THE CASUALS** Sat 6 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**THE QUAD ROX** Sat 6 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**SATSANGI + RESURRECTION MEN + STRIP SEARCH TRAMP + THE CULT OF FREE LOVE** Sat 6 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**9 CARAT PURPLE** Sat 6 June, Arches Venue, Coventry

**SHOWADDYWADDY** Sat 6 June, Bedworth Civic Hall

**DARK GRIN** Sat 6 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**FRACXURA + ELECTRIC BLACK + WALKER** Sat 6 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**THE CLASS OF '55** Sat 6 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**GROUND ZERO** Sat 6



The Streets - O2 Academy, Birmingham

June, The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

**THE UK ROCK SHOW** Sat 6 June, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

**TOO MUCH TOO YOUNG - THE MUSIC OF 2TONE & BEYOND** Sat 6 June, Dudley Town Hall

**ELECTROMANTICS** Sat 6 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**MAETLIVE** Sat 6 June, The Robin, Bilston

**THE CIRCLES** Sat 6 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**PETE ROTH TRIO FEAT. BILL BRUFORD** Sat 6 June, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

**REWIND: THE JOURNEY OF SOUL, R&B AND UK GARAGE** Sat 6 June, Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

**HISSY FIST + THE CAROLINE BOMB + SOAPER + HEY ALAMO + WAX FUTURES** Sat 6 June, Dive, Wolverhampton

**TALON** Sat 6 June, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**THE SMITHS LTD** Sat 6 June, The Station, Cannock

**THE GAZ HUGHES TRIO** Sat 6 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**THE JAZZ FUNK MACHINE** Sat 6 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**THE JOHN EVANS JAZZ**

**EXPERIENCE FT. SUZANNE FONSECA** Sat 6 June, Minster Hall, Lichfield

**ANTONIO FORCIONE TRIO** Sat 6 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**AIN'T NO DISCO** Sat 6 June, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**LIVE/WIRE: THE AC/DC SHOW** Sat 6 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**SPECIAL KINDA MADNESS** Sat 6 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**MARK MORRISS** Sun 7 June, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO** Sun 7 June, Tower of Song, Birmingham

**PEACE OF MIND + OVERPOWER + EXCIDIE + HOLLOW SUNS** Sun 7 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

**JOE WEBB TRIO** Sun 7 June, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**EMILY PORTMAN** Sun 7 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**BOB SUMNER + THE DRONE RANGERS + PAUL GIBSON** Sun 7 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**GEORGE SANSOME AND SOPHIE CRAWFORD** Sun 7 June, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**XL** Sun 7 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**BEAUTIFUL TRAUMA : THE ULTIMATE LIVE PINK EXPERIENCE** Sun 7 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**D'ARTAGNAN** Sun 7 June, The Red Lion, Evesham

**MOSTLY AUTUMN** Sun 7 June, The Robin, Bilston

**BEAT - PERFORMING THE MUSIC OF 80S KING CRIMSON** Sun 7 June, Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

**WICKED SMILE + RATTLESNAKES** Sun 7 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE WEST COAST EAGLES** Sun 7 June, The Station, Cannock

**JAMES OLIVER BAND** Sun 7 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**THE TOM MORGAN QUARTET FT. SIR LOUIS** Sun 7 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**SOPHIE GILBERT + ARRAN SHANGHAVI + RJ GILBERT** Sun 7 June, Minster Hall, Lichfield

**JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET** Sun 7 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**THE BLUES ROCK ROADSHOW - FT REMI HARRIS & DAVE SMALL** Sun 7 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

## Classical Music

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER: BELLS AND WHISTLES** Programme includes works by JS Bach, Byrd, Mills & more..., Mon 1 June, Birmingham Town Hall  
**LUKE FITZGERALD ORGAN RECITAL** Mon 1 June, Coventry Cathedral

**BELLE WONG PIANO CONCERT** Tues 2 June, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**CBSO: STRAVINSKY'S RITE OF SPRING** Featuring Ilan Volkov (conductor). Programme also includes works by Frescobaldi, Purcell, Debussy & more..., Wed 3 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**THE JARUALDA QUARTET** Featuring David Joyce & Alex Postlethwaite (violins), Jane Park (viola) & Ruth Henley (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, Szyman & Debussy, Thurs 4 June, The Gateway, Shrewsbury

**CBSO CENTRE STAGE: DVOŘÁK'S AMERICAN QUARTET** Featuring Colette Overdijk & Georgia Hannant (violins), Jessica Tickle (viola) & Arthur Boutillier (cello). Programme also includes works by J Adams & J Montgomery, Fri 5 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**SPACE STATION EARTH** A concert by composer Ilan Eshkeri - performed live on synthesisers with orchestra and choir - exploring how seeing Earth from space reshapes human perspective, Fri 5 June, Birmingham Town Hall

**RBC OUT AND ABOUT: ANDREY FJELDSTAD (SAXOPHONE) & BIANCA VANCEA (PIANO)** Fri 5 June, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**EX CATHEDRA: THE GRAND TOUR - BURNEY 300** Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor). Inspired by the time and travels of Shrewsbury-born Dr Charles Burney, the programme includes works by Mozart, Haydn and Allegri, Fri 5 June, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

**PAUL CARR ORGAN RECITAL** Programme includes works by Handel, JS Bach, Meyerbeer & more..., Fri 5 June, Friends Meeting House, Bournville, Birmingham

**MARK SWINTON ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 5 June, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**NICHOLAS FREESTONE ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 5 June, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR: A BLAZE OF GLORY** Featuring Adrian Lucas (conductor) & Andrew Lumsden (organ). Programme includes works by Elgar, Severas, Jongen & more..., Sat 6 June, Tewkesbury Abbey

**JED HUGHES ORGAN RECITAL** Programme includes works by Parry, Distler, Elgar & more..., Sat 6 June, St

Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**STAFFORD SINFONIA: SUMMERTIME CLASSICS** Featuring Jack Lovell-Huckle (musical director) & Alan Thomas (trumpet). Programme includes works by Mozart, Haydn & Beethoven, Sat 6 June, Rising Brook Community Church, Stafford

**CBSO FAMILY CONCERT: DANCE ACROSS THE AMERICAS** Featuring Karen Ní Bhroin (conductor) & Lucy Hollins (presenter). Programme includes works by Piazzola, Copland, Sondheim & more..., Sun 7 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**ELLA CORDON VIEITO PIANO RECITAL** Sun 7 June, Wylde Green United Reform Church, Birmingham

**ELGAR INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF BRASS** Featuring Frank Renton (conductor) & David Childs (brass), Sun 7 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**ALLY DUNAVANT (SOPRANO) & JONTY WATT (PIANO)** Programme includes works by Puccini, Mozart & more..., Sun 7 June, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

## Comedy

**STUART GOLDSMITH, ANDREW BIRD, ED ACZEL & AIMEE BETH PETTIT** Mon 1 June, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

**DALISO CHAPONDA** Tues 2 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



**JONNY COLE** Tues 2 - Wed 3 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**PAUL SINHA, MATT BRAGG, GBEMI OLADIPO & FREDDY QUINNE** Wed 3 June, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

**ERIC RUSHTON & TOM TOWELLING** Thurs 4 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**SIMON MUNNERY** Thurs 4 June, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

**HARRIET DYER, MIKE CARTER, ROGER SWIFT & DAVE TWENTYMAN** Thurs 4 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**DEREK MITCHELL** Fri 5 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**SIMON BRODKIN** Fri 5 June, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**JOE KENT-WALTERS (AKA FRANKIE MONROE), JONATHAN ELSTON, MATT RICHARDSON, MARK SILCOX** Fri 5 - Sat 6 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**PAUL F TAYLOR, BENNY SHAKES, PAUL PIRIE & DAVID ALFIE WARD** Sat 6 June, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

**MANFORD'S COMEDY CLUB** Sat 6 June, Lichfield Garrick

**SHAPPI KHORSANDI, JOSH PUGH & COMICS TBC** Sat 6 June, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**AFRICA VS THE CARIBBEAN COMEDY SHOWDOWN** Sun 7 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**TARANG HARDIKAR** Sun 7 June, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**JONNY COLE** Sun 7 June, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**AL MURRAY** Sun 7 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**ROSIE JONES, FELICITY WARD, JOSH JONES & FAB GOULIN** Sun 7 June, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

## Theatre

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** The Jules Verne classic gets the New Vic treatment as eight actors take on 109 characters, until Sat 20 June, The New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**THE TEMPEST** Kenneth Branagh stars as Prospero in Shakespeare's final play, until Sat 20 June, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**WAITRESS** Carrie Hope Fletcher, Les Dennis, Sandra Marvin and Evelyn Hoskins star in a warm-hearted tale of love and friendship, Mon 1 - Sat 6 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**ALLEGRA** Maureen Lipman stars in a new comedy by Peter Quilter, Mon 1 - Sat 6 June, Malvern Theatres

**MEET FRED** Hijinx Theatre's critically acclaimed production follows Fred, a cloth puppet trying to live an ordinary life, get a job, find love and be part of society, Tues 2 - Wed 3 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ANNIE** La Voix stars as Miss Hannigan in a revival of the much-loved rags-to-riches story, Tues 2 - Sat 6 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**SHREK THE MUSICAL** Amateur version presented by Bournville Musical

Theatre Company, Tues 2 - Sat 6 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**A SIMPLY BEASTLY MURDER** Featuring voice work from Alistair McGowan, Rachel E Thorn's British film noir is 'full of gangsters, intrigue, and lashings of tinned pineapple', Thurs 4 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE INVISIBLE MAN** A 'fast-paced and riotous' stage adaptation of HG Wells' classic story, Thurs 4 June, The Henrican, Evesham

**PRIDE & PREJUDICE... BUT FUNNY** Take a romp through all the Bennets, Bingleys, bachelors and balls in a 'hilarious' retelling of Jane Austen's most-loved story, Thurs 4 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**OUR PUBLIC HOUSE** Barney Norris' 'funny and big-hearted' show about change - set in a pub where anything can happen..., Thurs 4 - Sat 6 June, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**FOOTLOOSE** Amateur version presented by Five Star Theatre, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 June, The Benn Hall, Rugby

**WE WILL ROCK YOU** Coventry Musical Theatre Society present an amateur version of Ben Elton's smash-hit musical, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 June, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN** Amateur version of Philippa Pearce's beloved classic, Thurs 4 - Sat 7 June, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR** The rise and fall, glory and devastation of the literary icon is brought to life through his own words in a one-man show performed by Alistair Whitley, Fri 5 June, Lichfield Garrick

**WHISKY TANGO FOXTROT** Jack Bryan's 'hilarious, moving and gritty' tales of policing from the late 1970s onwards, Fri 5 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**PLAYING BURTON** A soulful exploration of fame, ambition and identity, told from the perspective of a megastar looking back on a life of extremes, Fri 5 June, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

**MEET FRED** Hijinx Theatre's critically acclaimed production follows Fred, a cloth puppet trying to live an ordinary life, get a job, find love and be part of



Pride & Prejudice... But Funny - Swan Theatre, Worcester

society, Fri 5 June, Lichfield Garrick  
**THE LADY IN THE VAN** Amateur version of Alan Bennett's witty exploration of the relationship between a playwright and a homeless woman who lives in a van on his drive, Fri 5 - Sat 13 June, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Amateur version presented by Breakout Performing Arts, Sat 6 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham

**ERIC & ERN** Nostalgic show paying homage to two of comedy's finest. Expect renditions of famous sketches and routines, as well as a musical guest..., Sat 6 June, Lichfield Garrick

**BOILER ROOM SIX: A TITANIC STORY** The true survival story of stoker Frederick Barrett and his devastating account of the last few hours of the Titanic, Sat 6 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

## Kids Theatre

**BIN RAT** A 'fun, feral family comedy' using live music, physical comedy, puppetry and visual storytelling to contemplate 'the important issues of our times', Fri 5 June, Leintwardine Community Centre, Shropshire

**THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED: A ROCK SHOW** New stage show for younger audiences, based on Tom Fletcher & Dougie Poynter's bestselling children's books, Sat 6 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**BOXED IN** Daryl & Co and Half Moon present an adventure-packed family show featuring 'silly surprises, laugh-out-loud moments and chaos', Sun 7 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**THE CAT IN THE HAT** A 'first theatre experience' based on Dr Seuss' bestselling book, Sat 6 & Sun 7 June, Stourbridge Town Hall

## Dance

**EMERGENCE 2026: TRIPLE BILL** Featuring Jason Mabana's Our Guests and Faye Stoesser's Rapture alongside Euphoria from Joss Arnott & Lisa Marie Robinson, Thurs 4 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

## Light Entertainment

**THE GOLDEN OLDIES** A heartwarming celebration of the golden age of musical theatre, performed by a West End cast, Tues 2 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**DERREN BROWN: ONLY HUMAN LIVE** Brand-new show from the master of mind control and psychological

illusion, Tues 2 - Sat 13 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

**AN EVENING WITH ALISON JACKSON: FAKING FAMOUS** An award-winning, immersive and ever-changing performance that fakes fame, live on stage, Wed 3 June, Lichfield Garrick

**THE ENCHANTED FOREST** Evening of performances from professional pole-dance artists, Thurs 4 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**INDIANA JONES AND THE RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK LIVE IN CONCERT** Experience John Williams' Grammy Award-winning score performed live to the first film of the iconic adventure franchise, Thurs 4 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**ANYONE FOR TENNIS?** Join comedian Pauline Eyre for an evening of 'smashing stories, ace anecdotes and a 40-love letter to the game', Thurs 4 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THE MUSIC OF JAMES BOND** Featuring the Great British Film Orchestra performing Diamonds Are Forever, Goldfinger, Skyfall, Licence To Kill and many more..., Fri 5 June, Coventry Cathedral

**TWIST & SHOUT** Fun-packed musical journey through the Swinging 60s, Fri 5 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**SHOWSTOPPER! THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL** West End favourite where a brand-new musical comedy is created from scratch each night, Fri 5 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**MEAT LOAF BY CANDLELIGHT** Fri 5 June, Worcester Cathedral

**RABBITS OUT OF THE HAT** Vaudevilian duo Norvil & Josephine present 'a magical extravaganza for all ages', Fri 5 June, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon



**BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET** Expect 'sultry striptease, witty wisecracks and saucy songs', Sat 6 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**TOO MUCH TOO YOUNG - THE MUSIC OF 2TONE & BEYOND** Smash-hit show taking audiences on a musical journey from the birth of Ska in Jamaica through to its British revival in the late 1970s, Sat 6 June, Dudley Town Hall

**BAFTA GAMES IN CONCERT** Featuring Adrian Ronda Sampayo (conductor), BBC Philharmonic Orchestra &



*The Tempest - Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon*

London Voices. Program includes nominated and award-winning music from 20 years of the BAFTA Games Awards, Sat 6 Jun, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**BOOGIE RIDE** Join the Boogaloo Babes for a musical journey through the decades, Sat 6 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS** Featuring the 10-piece CN Live Orchestra and a programme of West End musical hits - including The Phantom Of The Opera, Mary Poppins, Jesus Christ Superstar, Wicked, Mamma Mia! and more, Sat 6 June, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**THE MUSIC OF FLEETWOOD MAC BY CANDLELIGHT** Sat 6 June, Worcester Cathedral

**KERRY KATONA'S SUPER TROUPERS** Kerry Katona stars in 'the ultimate non-stop party tribute to Mamma Mia! The Musical', Sat 6 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**LIPSTICK ON YOUR COLLAR** Nostalgic evening featuring back-to-back hits from the 1950s and 60s, Sun 7 June, Lichfield Garrick

## Talks & Spoken Word

**PROFESSOR KATE WILLIAMS: THE TRUTH ABOUT ROYAL WOMEN** From Cleopatra to Grace Kelly, Kate Williams' history of royal women shatters the myths which have been built around them and explores a life behind closed doors..., Mon 1 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**BRIAN BILSTON: HOW TO LAY AN EGG WITH A HORSE INSIDE** An alternative guide to writing and enjoying poetry, Wed 3 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**PROFESSOR KATE WILLIAMS: THE TRUTH ABOUT ROYAL WOMEN** From Cleopatra to Grace Kelly, Kate Williams' history of royal women shatters the myths which have been built around them

and explores a life behind closed doors..., Wed 3 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**MURDER: STAGED** Serial killer & psychopathy expert Cheish Merryweather introduces a true-crime talk that takes a deep-dive into the embedded lies at crime scenes, Thurs 4 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE MAKINGS OF A MURDERER: THE UNDERCOVER DETECTIVE** Join Peter Blesley - a founding member of Scotland Yard's undercover unit - as he lifts the lid on the most hidden aspects of murder investigations, Fri 5 June, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

## Events

**QUILTER CHEVIOT BRITISH OPEN SQUASH 2026** One of the most prestigious and historic tournaments in professional squash, until Sun 7 June, The Rep, Birmingham

**THE GREAT TURTLE ODYSSEY** Find out about the life of a sea turtle, until Thurs 11 June, National SEA LIFE Centre Birmingham

**UNEARTH THE PALAEOVERSE: DIG INTO THE DAWN OF TIME** An immersive jurassic exhibition, until Mon 31 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**GLADIATORS EXPERIENCE** Put your speed, strength and skills to the ultimate test, until Mon 31 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

**BIRDSONG IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP** Learn how to identify different common birds, from blackbirds to blackcaps, Thurs 4 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**THREE COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW** Held across four days, with over 6,500 dogs competing for the ultimate title of Best in Show, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 June, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**BRUM RADICALS** Networking event for Birmingham's creative community, Fri 5 June, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

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### A WALK IN THE PARK: SUMMER STROLL

Join landscape manager Fiona Tansey for a walk through the meadows, discovering the native flora and fauna, Fri 5 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**THE FESTIVAL OF CHANGE** Programme of conservation-focused activities, Fri 5 - Sat 6 June, Dudley Zoo

**HERITAGE TOURS AT THE EXCHANGE** Discover the rich history and fascinating stories behind the walls of The Exchange, Sat 6 June, University of Birmingham

**MOTOWN & SOUL DAY PARTY** Headlined by Shropshire soul & Motown DJ Clive Jones, Sat 6 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**BARTON MARINA DINING CLUB** A feast of award-winning street food and live entertainment, Sat 6 June, Barton Marina, Burton-on-Trent

**WOLVERHAMPTON PRIDE** The community celebration returns at a brand-new venue, Sat 6 June, West Park, Wolverhampton

**STUART CRYSTAL SITE WALKING TOUR** Explore the former site of the Stuart Crystal factory, and learn about its significance within the local glass industry, Sat 6 June, Stourbridge

Glass Museum

### MOTHERS' UNION FAMILY FUN DAY

Mother's Union celebrate their 150th anniversary with a free family fun day, Sat 6 June, Coventry Cathedral

**LIGHT AND COLOUR: STAINED GLASS-INSPIRED WORKSHOP WITH CHRISTOPHER SAMUEL** A 10-minute tour followed by a hands-on stained glass-inspired workshop, Sat 6 June, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

**PAINT & PROSECCO** Spend a relaxing afternoon creating your own artwork whilst sipping prosecco, Sat 6 June, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**FAMILY THEATRE TOUR** Step behind the scenes of the 125-year-old theatre and find out what it takes to put on a show, Sat 6 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**STEAMING DOWN THE VALLEY** A scenic 5km and 10km trail race through the heart of the Severn Valley, Sat 6 June, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

**TAMWORTH PRIDE** Celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, Sat 6 June, Tamworth Castle Grounds

**KENILWORTH SHOW** Annual celebration of agriculture, rural life and community, Sat 6 June, NAEC

Stoneleigh, Kenilworth

### SHREWSBURY FLEA AND ANTIQUES FAIR

With a mixture of antiques and collectables, Sat 6 June, West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury

**GOODS TRAIN EXPERIENCE** Take a trip along the railway in a GWR 'Toad' brake van, BR 993898 'Shark' or SR 55577 'Pillbox', Sat 6 June, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

**RIVER FESTIVAL COVENTRY** Weekend of celebration centred around Coventry's hidden River Sherbourne, Sat 6 - Sun 7 June, FarGo Village, Coventry

**SUMMER SPECTACLE OF STEAM** See locomotives on two different gauges of railway, explore fierce gradients, tight corners and more, Sat 6 - Sun 7 June, Stafford Country Park, Tamworth

**JURASSIC JUNE** Discover the fascinating world of dinosaurs, Sat 6 - Sun 7 June, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

**BELLE VUE ARTS FESTIVAL 2026** Enjoy fantasy-themed events, workshops, open gardens and family fun, Sat 6 - Sun 21 June, Shrewsbury, Shropshire

**BANBURY RUN** Celebrate 76 years of

the iconic Banbury Run, as the museum plays host to over 900 veteran and vintage motorbikes for their ride out to Banbury and back, Sun 7 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

**COLOUR BOX: PANDA! GO PANDA!** Drop-in workshop followed by a relaxed screening, Sun 7 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**NARROW GAUGE GALA** Three locomotives will be out in service across the 2ft gauge railway, Sun 7 June, Telford Steam Railway

**ROVER CARS GALORE** Featuring vehicles from across the years, Sun 7 June, Telford Steam Railway

**WALK FOR A CURE WORCESTERSHIRE** Raising money for dementia research, Sun 7 June, Arrow Valley Country Park, Redditch

**PRIMROSE MEMORY WALK** Raising vital funds for Primrose Hospice & Family Support Centre, Sun 7 June, Hanbury Hall, Worcester

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOTORSPORT SHOW** For car enthusiasts and adrenaline junkies alike, Sun 7 June, Uttoxeter Racecourse



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## Gigs

**STEVE TILSTON** Mon 8 June, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**BLUE** Mon 8 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**KARL LOXLEY** Mon 8 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**ALDOUS HARDING** Tues 9 June, Birmingham Town Hall

**FANNA-FI-ALLAH** Tues 9 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ALYSSA BONAGURA + JACKIE LEE** Wed 10 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**DAVE BRISTOW QUINTET** Wed 10 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

**AUSTEL + FERN + LUCA SIMIAN** Wed 10 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**COUNTING CROWS + WILL VARLEY** Wed 10 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**JASON ISBELL AND THE 400 UNIT** Wed 10 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**LAURA LOOTENS** Wed 10 June, Old Rep, B'ham

**CHARLIE DORE** Wed 10 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**THE SWAPS + FERBRACHE AND FRY** Wed 10 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**SARAH SPENCER'S TRANSATLANTIC BAND** Wed 10 June, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

**ALBERT LEE** Wed 10 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

**NICK COSTLEY-WHITE TRIO** Wed 10 June, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

**DECEIVERS** Wed 10 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**TOM WATERS BAND FEAT. GEOFF ACHISON** Wed 10 June, The Robin, Bilston

**MONEY FOR NOTHING - DIRE STRAITS TRIBUTE** Wed 10 June, Lichfield Garrick

**MARGARITA WITCH CULT**

**+ THE BIG HELL + WULFGANG** Thurs 11 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SWEETPOOL + DEVIANT AMPS** Thurs 11 June, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**RORY MCLEOD** Thurs 11 June, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**LOOSE ENDS** Thurs 11 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

**THE SLOW DEATH** Thurs 11 June, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

**80S CLASSICAL: WITH NIK KERSHAW, JOHNNY HATES JAZZ & JAKI GRAHAM** Thurs 11 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**CHRIS QUINN** Thurs 11 June, Catshill Social Club, Bromsgrove

**THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MICHAEL HURLEY** Thurs 11 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**NIGHT OF ROCK #1** Thurs 11 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**SLUMP + TELLEMAHOOKAH + SUPERWAVE** Thurs 11 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

**MARK CHADWICK + MATTS HIS NAME** Thurs 11 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**V6 ORGAN TRIO** Thurs 11 June, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**LEGEND - THE MUSIC OF BOB MARLEY** Thurs 11 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**THE HISTORY OF SOUL** Thurs 11 June, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**THE FALLEN WOMEN** Thurs 11 June, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**CLASSIC BLUES SHOW** Thurs 11 June, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**JOE BROUGHTON'S CONSERVATOIRE FOLK ENSEMBLE** Thurs 11 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**JOE CARNALL JNR - CELEBRATING 20 YRS OF MILBURN'S WELL WELL** Fri 12 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**ATTICUS CHIMPS + NUNS OF THE TUNDRA + LOAB**

Fri 12 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**DINO BAPTISTE** Fri 12 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**THE REMI HARRIS BLUES ROCK ROADSHOW** Fri 12 June, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**MATT RIDLEY** Fri 12 June, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

**DEFINITE PHYSICAL CHANGE** Fri 12 June, The Flapper, B'ham

**BATTLE OF THE BANDS** Fri 12 June, The Victoria, Birmingham

**ANDERSEN LUFT SOMMER** Fri 12 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**BONFIRE RADICALS** Fri 12 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**DAVE LARGIE** Fri 12 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**JULIAN MARLEY & THE UPRISING** Fri 12 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

**JOHNNY SEVEN** Fri 12 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**DISCIPLES OF SOUL** Fri 12 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**MOSH TALGIA** Fri 12 June, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**CONSERVATOIRE FOLK ENSEMBLE** Fri 12 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**LOST IN MUSIC - NIGHT AT THE DISCO** Fri 12 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**THE BOOGIE BROTHERS** Fri 12 June, The Red Lion, Evesham

**THE 80S SHOW** Fri 12 June, Dudley Town Hall

**OASIS - DEFINITELY MIGHT BE V THE STONE ROSES - ADORED** Fri 12 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**CHRIS STAPLETON UK** Fri 12 June, The Robin, Bilston

**BON GIOVI** Fri 12 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**ANT-TROUBLE** Fri 12 June, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**KING STREET + BITTER PILL + NERVE AGENT + TORMENT + HEAD DENT** Fri 12 June, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

**SAM SWEENEY TRIO** Fri 12 June, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**VICKI SWAN & JONNY DYER** Fri 12 June, Fenton Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**ELO AGAIN** Fri 12 June, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**THE JOURNEYMEN - ERIC CLAPTON TRIBUTE** Fri 12 June, Lichfield Guildhall

**ROCK FOR HEROES** Fri 12 June, Lichfield Garrick

**PEASHOOTER** Fri 12 June, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**PINK SHOW LIVE - STARRING VICKY JACKSON** Fri 12 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**RED LEMONS** Fri 12 - Sat 13 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

**EDDI READER & JOHN DOUGLAS** Fri 12 - Sat 13 June, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**CAT DAVIS TRIO** Sat 13 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SYNTH** Sat 13 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE LOST** Sat 13 June, The Dark Horse, B'ham

**FROM THE JAM** Sat 13 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**LOLA YOUNG** Sat 13 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**KILLERSTREAM** Sat 13 June, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**MYLES BULLEN & RAIN MCMEY** Sat 13 June, Tower of Song, B'ham

**SAME** Sat 13 June, Dead Wax, B'ham

**ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS WITH CHARLIE SEXTON** Sat 13 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**FANNA-FI-ALLAH** Sat 13 June, Birmingham Town Hall

**THE SWAMP STOMP STRING BAND** Sat 13

June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**RALPH MCTELL** Sat 13 June, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**ICONIC 80S V 90S** Sat 13 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**UZAK** Sat 13 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**THE SHAKIN' STEVENS STORY** Sat 13 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA** Sat 13 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**RADHIKA + STONE ANTHEM** Sat 13 June, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**STRANGERS** Sat 13 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**ULTIMATE RNB** Sat 13 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**THANK ABBA FOR THE MUSIC** Sat 13 June, The Benn Hall, Rugby

**THESE SMITHS** Sat 13 June, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**ATLANTIC CROSSING** Sat 13 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** Sat 13 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**NORTHERN SOUL - LIVE!** Sat 13 June, Kidderminster Town Hall

**MADDY PRIOR** Sat 13 June, Malvern Cube

**SMOOTH ROCK SHOW** Sat 13 June, Dudley Town Hall

**BORN IN THE 80S VS BORN IN THE 90S** Sat 13 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**ZIGGY POP** Sat 13 June, The Robin, Bilston

**STARVING RASCALS** Sat 13 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**STEREOTONICS** Sat 13 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**TOM ROBINSON** Sat 13 June, The Rigger, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

**TAYLOR SWIFT TRIBUTE** Sat 13 June, Top Of The World, Stafford

**THE WESTLIFE EXPERIENCE** Sat 13 June, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**TOTALLY TINA** Sat 13 June, Lichfield Garrick

**BEN PORTSMOUTH - THIS IS ELVIS** Sat 13 June, Lichfield Cathedral

**LIVE 'N' LET ROCK** Sat 13 June, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**GAZ HUGHES QUARTET** Sat 13 June, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**BLUE SKY MOON** Sat 13 June, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

**TALON** Sat 13 - Sun 14 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**CHRIS HELME** Sun 14 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**GREAT STONE REVIVAL** Sun 14 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**EASY 3** Sun 14 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**KAZ HAWKINS** Sun 14 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**PINK BREATH OF HEAVEN + PUNCHLOVE** Sun 14 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**GOBLIN BAND** Sun 14 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**SOS ROCK AND BLUES** Sun 14 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**BEAUTIFUL CRAZY - THE LUKE COMBS COLLECTION** Sun 14 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**CLARE PORTMAN** Sun 14 June, The Red Lion, Evesham

**THE BOOTLEG SHADOWS** Sun 14 June, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

**KILLER QUEEN** Sun 14 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**MOMENTS OF PLEASURE** Sun 14 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**BACK TO THE 80S** Sun 14 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**GUTTERSNIPE** Sun 14 June, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

## Classical Music

**ALASTAIR STONE ORGAN RECITAL** Mon 8 June, Coventry Cathedral

**RBC PIANO QUINTET** Featuring Yuwen Fan & Tehya Dawson (violins), Sheng Zhang (viola), Ian Zhao Hongze (cello), Joachim Lim (piano). Programme comprises Dvořák's Piano Quintet in A major, Tues 9 June, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

**ADELE BRACEGIRDLE (FLUTE) & BEN ATTFIELD (PIANO)** Tues 9 June, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**CBSO: AN EVENING WITH BARITONE DAVÓNE TINES** Featuring Christian Reif (conductor). Programme includes works by Haydn, C Simon & Caroline Shaw/Davóne Tines, Wed 10 June, Birmingham Town Hall

**RBC OUT AND ABOUT: NIKIFOROS SGOURADITIS (TENOR) & TYLER DAVIES (PIANO)** Wed 10 June, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

**ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: BURNING SWAN** A new music project composed by RBC student composers. David Le Page (violin) & David Gordon (piano) feature, Wed 10 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**ENGLISH HAYDN FESTIVAL** Featuring lunchtime & evening 'period instrument' concerts. Programmes include works by Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart & more..., Wed 10 - Sat 13 June, St Mary's Church, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**CBSO LIVE AT THE CENTRE: AN EVENING WITH NATUREBOY** Featuring Davóne Tines (singer) & John Bitoy (piano). Programme includes works by Purcell, Nat King Cole, Nina Simone & more..., Thurs 11 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**SIMONE DAMIANI PIANO CONCERT** Thurs 11 June, St Paul's Church, B'ham

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT: FOUR HANDS** Featuring Lynn Arnold & Charles Matthews (piano duet), Thurs 11 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**MIDLAND SINFONIA 30TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL: THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC** Programme includes popular works by Bach, Elgar, ABBA & more..., Thurs 11 June, Alvechurch Village Hall, Bromsgrove

**NIGEL KENNEDY: VIRTUOSO** Featuring Alec Dankworth (double bass) & Peter Adams (cello). A unique evening of classical, jazz, and contemporary repertoire, Thurs 11 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**DAVID T SHINGLER & GEORGE MOLONEY ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 12 June, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

**MIDLAND SINFONIA 30TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL: FIREWORKS FINALE** Programme includes works by Bach, Copland, Handel & more..., Fri 12

June, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch, Bromsgrove

**TIMARA EASTER ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 12 June, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**MIDLAND SINFONIA 30TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL: TMS IN THE COMMUNITY** Two concerts with collaborations between the Midland Sinfonia and community groups, Sat 13 June, Rowney Green Village Hall, Bromsgrove

**WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring Jonathan Barritt (soloist) & Roger Coull (conductor). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Holst, Bruch & Rachmaninov, Sat 13 June, All Saints Church, Leamington Spa

**WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Featuring Dan Watson (conductor), Graham Longfils (leader) & George Blakesley (clarinet). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Mozart & Weber, Sat 13 June, Pershore Abbey

**THE PHOENIX SINGERS: COME AND SING** Featuring Sierra Farquhar-Wulff (music director). Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Bernstein & Finzi, Sat 13 June, Holy Trinity Church, Shrewsbury

**THE BEST OF JOHN WILLIAMS** Featuring Anthony Inglis (conductor) & the London Concert Orchestra, Sun 14 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: MAHLER 2, THE RESURRECTION** Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor), Alison Roddy (soprano) & Emma Roberts (mezzo-soprano), Sun 14 June, Birmingham Town Hall

**NIGEL KENNEDY (VIOLIN): VIRTUOSO** Featuring Alec Dankworth (double bass) & Peter Adams (cello). A unique evening of classical, jazz, and contemporary repertoire, Sun 14 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**SYMPHONIC SUNDAY GALA CONCERT** Sun 14 June, Shrewsbury School

**STAFFORD SINFONIA: ECCLESHALL SUMMERTIME CLASSICS** Featuring Jack Lovell-Huckle (musical director) & Colin Moody (trumpet). Programme includes works by Mozart, Haydn & Beethoven, Sun 14 June, Holy Trinity Church, Eccleshall, Stafford

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL PIANO FESTIVAL** Featuring piano recitals and masterclasses from Sir Stephen Hough, Klaus Sticken, Andreas Frölich & more..., Sun 14 - Thurs 18 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

## Comedy

**SAM AVERY, NINA GILLIGAN, FINLAY CHRISTIE & EMMANUEL SONUBI** Tues 9 June, Aston Hall, Wrexham

**JOSH PUGH, WAYNE BEESE & COMICS**

**TBC** Tues 9 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**JULIETTE BURTON** Thurs 11 June, The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham

**RUFUS RICE** Thurs 11 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham



**JONNY COLE** Thurs 11 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**JIM JUDGES** Thurs 11 June, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

**CARL HUTCHINSON, BARRY DODDS, MARK NELSON & ALEXIS ROY** Fri 12 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**LAKATOS LÁSZLÓ** Fri 12 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ALFIE MOORE** Fri 12 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**MARK THOMAS** Fri 12 June, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**RUBY WAX** Fri 12 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**CARL HUTCHINSON, BARRY DODDS, MARK NELSON & COMIC TBC** Sat 13 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JONNY COLE** Sat 13 June, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**RUBY WAX** Sat 13 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**STEPHEN BAILEY, NABIL ABDULRASHID, JOSH PUGH, LINDSEY SANTORO & TEZ ILYAS** Sat 13 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**RAHUL SUBRAMANIAN** Sun 14 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ROUGH WORKS: NEW MATERIAL NIGHT** Sun 14 June, The Glee Club, B'ham

**RICH HALL** Sun 14 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

## Theatre

**ROMEO & JULIET** Oddssocks present a new take on Shakespeare's tragic love story, Mon 8 - Wed 10 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**KISS ME, KATE** Amateur version presented by Pershore Operatic and Dramatic Society (PODS), Mon 8 - Sat 13 June, Number 8, Pershore

**WILD ABOUT OSCAR** Jonathan Goodwin presents a one-man show, Tues 9 June, Middleport Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent

**FOOTLOOSE** Shrewsbury College present an amateur stage version of the iconic 1984 film, Tues 9 - Thurs 11 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**WE WILL ROCK YOU** BMOS present an

amateur version of the Ben Elton rock musical featuring the hits of Queen, Tues 9 - Sat 13 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL** Amateur version of the Dolly Parton musical, presented by Queensbridge Musical Theatre Society, Tues 9 - Sat 13 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**SHEILA'S ISLAND** Stoke Rep Players present an amateur version of Tim Firth's adventure, set during an annual outward-bound team-building weekend, Tues 9 - Sat 13 June, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**SINGLE WHITE FEMALE** Kym Marsh and Lisa Faulkner star in the stage version of the hit 1992 movie, Tues 9 - Sat 13 June, Malvern Theatres



**REFRESH** A showcase of new writing and emerging performers, Tues 9 - Sun 14 June, Oldbury Rep

**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME** The Highbury Players present an amateur version of Mark Haddon's acclaimed story..., Tues 9 - Sat 20 June, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield

**FRANKIE GOES TO BOLLYWOOD** Musical comedy drama that tells an uplifting story about ambition, transformation and the power of telling your own story, Wed 10 - Sat 13 June, The Rep, Birmingham

**OUT OF ORDER** Stone Revellers Musical Theatre present an amateur version of Ray Cooney's fast-paced comedy, Wed 10 - Sat 13 June, The Crown Wharf Theatre, Stone

**SUMMER & SMOKE** Amateur version of Tennessee Williams' rarely performed play, Wed 10 - Sat 20 June, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

**KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIL** The Three Inch Fools present an outdoor Arthurian adventure with plenty of medieval mayhem, Thurs 11 June, Coventry Cathedral

**FROM DEEPER IN THE FOREST** Darker tales and fairy stories for grownups, Thurs 11 June, The Crown, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**ANGELS & DEMONS** Masque Theatre Company present a show in which Lucifer the Devil's advocate and Michaela, an angel, make a wager to see who can influence a certain subject to be good or bad, Thurs 11 - Fri 12 June, Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent

**INTO THE WOODS** Featuring Tony Kraus (conductor) & Andy Yau (director). Stephen Sondheim's spellbinding musical feast where fairy tales collide and wishes have consequences, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 Jun, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**CURED** Laurence Clark's 'laugh-out-loud' and 'foul-mouthed' comedy focuses on four young pilgrims as they take on nonsense rules, embarrassing exes, new and hidden fancies, and the big question nobody ever asks: do disabled people actually want to be fixed..., Thurs 11 - Sat 13 June, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**DECKCHAIRS** Swan Theatre Amateur Company present Jane McConnell's twist-in-the-tale playlets for two women, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 June, Malvern Theatres

**A BUNCH OF AMATEURS** Amateur version of the Nick Newman & Ian Hislop play about superstar tantrums, jealousies and misunderstandings, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 June, Dudley Little Theatre

**DONE TO DEATH, BY JOVE** Holmes and Watson meet Poirot and Miss Marple (alongside shady servants, muddled motives and plenty of red herrings) in a spoof homage that attempts to find out who murdered Lady Fanshawe..., Fri 12 June, Lichfield Garrick

**DIVORCED, BEHEADED, DIED: AN AUDIENCE WITH KING HENRY VIII** A one-man, two-act show in which the notorious monarch recounts the events of his life and long reign, Sat 13 June, The Civic, Stourport

**TUESDAY** Pentabus Youth Theatre present an amateur version of Alison Carr's playful drama focusing on themes of friendship, sibling love, identity, grief, bullying and loneliness, Sat 13 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**OTHELLO** The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's famous tragedy, Sat 13 June, Croome Park, Worcestershire

**THAT NIGHT IN MANCHESTER** A theatrical journey through the heart and soul of the indie scene, told through the eyes of a father sharing his story with his son, Sat 13 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**JERUSALEM** The Crescent Theatre Company present an amateur version of Jez Butterworth's comic and contemporary vision of life in England's green and pleasant land, Sat 13 - Sat 20 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**BONNIE & CLYDE: THE MUSICAL** Amateur version of the hit show about America's most notorious outlaw couple, Sat 13 - Sat 20 June, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**PATEL'S MILLIONS 2** Comedy featuring 'foot-tapping Bollywood songs and dazzling dances', Sun 14 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**THE (ALMOST) COMPLETE HISTORY OF BRITAIN** The Pantoons present a breathless race through the centuries, telling the entire story of Britain in under two hours, Sun 14 June, Lenches Amphitheatre, Church Lench, Worcestershire

## Kids Theatre

**THE ENORMOUS CROCODILE: THE MUSICAL** A mischievous musical adventure for younger audiences, based on Roald Dahl's snappy book, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 June, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

## Dance

**BALLET CYMRU: THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** A reimagining of the classic fairytale, set to Tchaikovsky's iconic score, Mon 8 June, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**BALLETBOYZ: STILL POINTLESS** Ten 'world-class' dancers take audiences on a journey through some of BalletBoyz's best moments. The programme includes an excerpt from Russell Maliphant's Critical Mass as well as the world premiere of a brand-new commission by Seirian Griffiths, Tues 9 June, Lichfield Garrick

**BALLET BLACK AT 25** Double bill featuring the company's signature blend of powerful storytelling, striking choreography and rich global influences, Tues 9 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**NIKITA KUZMIN: SUPERNOVA** New dance spectacular fuelled by the firepower of 'world-class' performers and creatives from around the world, Tues 9 - Wed 10 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



## Light Entertainment

**THE ARCHERS: LIVE AT 75** Landmark event hosted by comedian & superfan Angela Barnes, with contributions from Archers actors Charles Collingwood, Ryan Kelly, Susie Riddell and Sunny Ormonde. Sound effects from Vanessa Nuttall

also feature, Mon 8 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Rock & roll, pop and comedy combine in this 40th-anniversary production, featuring hits from the 1950s through to the 80s, Tues 9 June, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**BOX OF FROGS** Birmingham's premiere improv group present an evening of comedy nonsense, based entirely on audience suggestions, Wed 10 June, 1000 Trades, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham



**K-POP ALL STARS** Celebration of the music, artists and culture 'that's taking the world by storm', Wed 10 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**JULIETTE BURTON: VILLAIN ERA** Join the dark side in this comedy quest for grown-up geeks and justice-hungry joy seekers who are ready to battle the 'real' dragons: inequality and bad sex lives, Thurs 11 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE WEST END SEASONS** Celebrating Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, Thurs 11 June, Halesowen Town Hall Garrick

**LES MISERABLES: THE ARENA CONCERT SPECTACULAR** Large-scale production featuring an internationally acclaimed company and orchestra, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 June, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**THANK YOU FOR THE MUESLI** Join Flabba for big harmonies, bold costumes and pun-delicious comedy in an interactive celebration of pop, Fri 12 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**JESS ROBINSON: ELTON JOHN REIMAGINED** An evening with the award-winning comedian & singer, renowned for her pitch-perfect impressions, Fri 12 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**A NIGHT AT THE OPERA BY CANDLELIGHT** Featuring a 'sparkling' mix of duets and trios from operatic classics, Fri 12 June, Worcester Cathedral

**THE 80S SHOW** Featuring the biggest hits of the decade, presented alongside a video, light & laser show, Fri 12 June, Dudley Town Hall

**KEITH AND MARJ: US, POTS AND A WELSH CHAPEL** Join Keith Brymer and Marj Hogarth as they share stories of clay, craft, and their most ambitious project to date, Fri 12 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**FLAMENCO FROM SPAIN** Evening of dance, music and singing featuring

Flamenco dancer Rebeca Ortega and guitarist Ramón Ruiz, Fri 12 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**MURDER ON THE LAWN** Foghorn Unscripted present a comedic homage to quintessentially British whodunits, Fri 12 - Sat 13 June, Winterbourne Gardens, Birmingham

**THIS IS YOUR TRIAL - THE FULLY IMPROVISED COMEDY COURTROOM** Live comedy show during which you can accuse friends of 'crimes' and see them put on trial. Everybody else in the audience is the jury, deciding who is guilty or innocent, Sat 13 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE MUSIC OF JAMES BOND** Featuring the Great British Film Orchestra performing Diamonds Are Forever, Goldfinger, Skyfall, Licence To Kill and many more..., Sat 13 June, Worcester Cathedral

**RICHARD JONES: THE SOUND OF MAGIC** Expect 'inexplicable feats and unbelievable illusions' from the first magician to win Britain's Got Talent, Sat 13 June, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**KEITH AND MARJ: US, POTS AND A WELSH CHAPEL** Join Keith Brymer and Marj Hogarth as they share stories of clay, craft, and their most ambitious project to date, Sat 13 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent



**BBC BIG BAND: THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK** Celebration of the music of George Gershwin and Cole Porter. Featuring guest vocalists Matt Ford and Emer McParland, Sun 14 June, The Rep, Birmingham

**RAVE ON** 'The ultimate 50s and 60s rock & roll experience', Sun 14 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ENCHANTED - THE ULTIMATE PRINCESS CONCERT** Songs of fairytales are brought to life in a candlelit setting, Sun 14 June, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

## Talks & Spoken Word

**THE MAKINGS OF A MURDERER: THE UNDERCOVER DETECTIVE** Join Peter Bleksley - a founding member of Scotland Yard's undercover unit - as he lifts the lid on the most hidden aspects of murder investigations, Thurs 11 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

# Monday 8 - Sunday 14 June

**MAGGIE O'FARRELL - LAND** A special Stratford Literary Festival event in which the bestselling author of Hamnet introduces her new book, Fri 12 June, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

**WATCH US LEAD: IN CONVERSATION WITH CHRISTOPHER SAMUEL** Revealing the hidden experiences of Black and disabled people whose lives have gone unrecorded and successes uncelebrated, both historically and now, Sat 13 June, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**STEP INTO THE WILD!** A talk with local professional wildlife photographer Terry Moore, who will take you behind the lens and deep into the natural world, Sat 13 June, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

## Events

**THE BIG BANG FAIR 2026** Schools from across the UK are invited to attend and inspire the next generation with hands-on activities, experiments and workshops, Tues 9 - Thurs 11 June, NEC, Birmingham

**A WALK IN THE PARK: SUMMER STROLL** Join landscape manager Fiona

Tansey for a walk through the meadows, discovering the native flora and fauna, Wed 10 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE OPEN DAY** Take part in talks, tour the building, and meet academics and students, Thurs 11 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**ANIMECON** The UK's largest anime and manga convention, Fri 12 - Sun 14 June, NEC, Birmingham



**ROYAL THREE COUNTIES SHOW** Event celebrating rural life, agriculture and the community, Fri 12 - Sun 14 June, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**THE WORLD OF PARK AND LEISURE**

**HOME** Explore a huge variety of homes, Fri 12 - Sun 14 June, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

**HERITAGE GLASS AND CHURCH WALKING TOUR** A journey through the history of glass, exploring the churches, canals, factories and people that made the Stourbridge glass industry what it is today, Sat 13 June, Stourbridge Glass Museum

**WALSALL DINING CLUB** A feast of award-winning street food and live entertainment, Sat 13 June, 139 Broadway North, Walsall

**BONGO'S BINGO** The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 13 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**FESTIVAL OF VEHICLES** Displaying vehicles manufactured in the West Midlands, Sat 13 - Sun 14 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**JURASSIC JUNE** Discover the fascinating world of dinosaurs, Sat 13 - Sun 14 June, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

**TAMWORTH DINE 'N' DEVOUR** Family-friendly food & artisan festival, Sat 13 - Sun 14 June, Tamworth Castle Grounds

**AVONCROFT DOG SHOW** Featuring

show classes, agility classes, demonstrations, talks, trade stands and more, Sun 14 June, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**ARTISAN FOOD AND CRAFT FAIR** Outdoor market featuring craft and food stalls, Sun 14 June, Himley Hall, Dudley

**RAF COSFORD AIR SHOW** Featuring aircraft from across the globe, technology showcases and hands-on activities, Sun 14 June, RAF Cosford Museum, Shifnal

**CREATION STATION** Enjoy a day of train rides and crafting, Sun 14 June, Telford Steam Railway

**BRAKE VAN RIDES** Experience what it's like to be a guard travelling in an authentic brake van, Sun 14 June, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

## Festivals

**DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Limp Bizkit, Linkin Park, Guns 'N Roses, Wed 10 - Sun 14 June, Donington Park, Derby

**LEGENDS BY THE LAKE** Family-friendly tribute festival, Sat 13 June, Himley Hall, Dudley

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Lady Maisery + Jimmy & Sid - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## Gigs

### THIS WILL DESTROY YOU

Mon 15 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**STACY ANTONEL** Mon 15 June, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**AGATE MAX + TOUT BLEU** Tues 16 June, Centrala, Birmingham

**AROJ AFTAB WITH LONDON CONTEMPORARY ORCHESTRA** Tues 16 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**BARRY MANILOW** Tues 16 June, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

**KATIE SPENCER** Wed 17 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**GNOSS** Wed 17 June, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC** Wed 17 - Thurs 18 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**CONRAD KELLY - MEMORIAL CONCERT** Thurs 18 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**HOME COUNTIES** Thurs 18 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE HEART OF NEW ORLEANS** Thurs 18 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

**ONE LEG ONE EYE** Thurs 18 June, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**COULD BE GHOSTS + SUNDAY BEST + MONROE + EQUINOX + MISTING** Thurs 18 June, Centrala, Birmingham

**CULTURE WARS** Thurs 18

June, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**MASTER CHARGER + BOREHEAD + TELLEMAHOOKAH** Thurs 18 June, Subside Bar, Birmingham

**JACK GOODALL** Thurs 18 June, The Victoria, Birmingham

**LADY MAISERY + JIMMY & SID** Thurs 18 June, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**ENDLESS LOVE THE SHOW** Thurs 18 June, The Alexandra, B'ham

**THE TOM CAMPBELL TRIO** Thurs 18 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**NIGHT OF ROCK #2** Thurs 18 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**THE SOUL REVIVAL + FRACXURA + BLACK STAR BULLET** Thurs 18 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

**OMAR** Thurs 18 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**CALLING PLANET EARTH** Thurs 18 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE HISTORY OF SOUL** Thurs 18 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**THE BOHEMIANS** Thurs 18 - Fri 19 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**TWINNINETSIX** Fri 19 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**THE NICKELBACK EXPERIENCE** Fri 19 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**ALL THEM WITCHES + STEAK** Fri 19 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**HARD GRAFT** Fri 19 June, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**MARTIN PYNE'S SMALL BLUE** Fri 19 June, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

**ANGELS OF DARKNESS** Fri 19 June, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**ELKPATH + SECRETS OF MARIANA + DEAD HAPPY + CYPHON** Fri 19 June, The Flapper, B'ham

**THE MUSIC OF STRANGER THINGS: PERFORMED BY KYLE DIXON & MICHAEL STEIN** Fri 19 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**PALERMO + SONDER FMP + FLAUNTING AS ENEMIES + ANKHORA + AWAKENING** Fri 19 June, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

**AUR** Fri 19 June, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

**THE BEE GEES SONGBOOK** Fri 19 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**HOMETOWN GLORY - ADELE TRIBUTE** Fri 19 June, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**ALASTAIR GREENE BAND** Fri 19 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**FRONT ROW** Fri 19 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**ELO ENCOUNTER** Fri 19 June, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**PEATBOG FAERIES** Fri 19 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**A FUEGO** Fri 19 June,

Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**THE 4 ROSSIS** Fri 19 June, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**THE O.B. BAND** Fri 19 June, The Red Lion, Evesham

**ION MAIDEN** Fri 19 June, The Robin, Bilston

**THE SPACEHOPPERS** Fri 19 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**THE BEACH BOYS** Fri 19 June, Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

**PINK WITH VICKY JACKSON** Fri 19 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**CHERISHED - CHER TRIBUTE** Fri 19 June, The Station, Cannock

**SIGHT 'N' SOUND** Fri 19 June, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**THE PITMEN POETS** Fri 19 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**MOTÖRHEADACHE UK** Fri 19 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**NIGEL CLARK + BEN MCKELVEY** Fri 19 June, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**SWING FROM PARIS** Fri 19 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**THE LEGEND OF BARRY WHITE** Fri 19 June, Aston Hall, Wrexham

**LINK IN PARK** Fri 19 - Sat 20 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**ELLE-J WALTERS BAND** Fri 19 - Sat 20 June, The Jam House, B'ham

**ELLIE JONES & THE GIANTS** Sat 20 June, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE DENABYS + JACK FLETCHER + STEP OUT** Sat 20 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**DRONGOS FOR EUROPE + THE MISTAKES** Sat 20 June, Tower of Song, Birmingham

**AGRICULTURE** Sat 20 June, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**MARIMARI** Sat 20 June, Dead Wax, Birmingham

**ULTRA:FOXX** Sat 20 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

### NATIONAL YOUTH JAZZ

**ORCHESTRA** Sat 20 June, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**UB40 + MAXI PRIEST + ASWAD** Sat 20 June, bp pulse LIVE, B'ham

**KAYTRANADA + UNCLE WAFFLES** Sat 20 June, Utilita Arena B'ham

**PEARL SCAM** Sat 20 June, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**THE DUSK BROTHERS** Sat 20 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**PRETTY GREEN** Sat 20 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**THE DEVOUT** Sat 20 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

**THE WOMEN IN ROCK** Sat 20 June, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**ROCK FOR HEROES** Sat 20 June, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

**JULIE JULY BAND** Sat 20 June, Number 8, Pershore

**MYSTERIOUS BLUES** Sat 20 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**THE ROVING CROWS** Sat 20 June, The Market Theatre, Ledbury

**THE TOM PETTY LEGACY** Sat 20 June, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**THE ALTER EAGLES** Sat 20 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**MARQUEE SQUARE HEROES** Sat 20 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**RORY MCLEOD** Sat 20 June, West Malvern Social Club

**FRACTURE** Sat 20 June, The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

**A VISION OF ELVIS** Sat 20 June, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**NOUGHTY NINETIES** Sat 20 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**LIMEHOUSE LIZZY** Sat 20 June, The Robin, Bilston

**BADGERFEST** Sat 20 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**THE NINETYTEN** Sat 20 June, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**GAVIN FAIRHALL LEVER** Sat 20 June, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

**POIZON + SHEF LEPPARD** Sat 20 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**VIVA MORRISSEY** Sat 20 June, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE CLASSIC BLUES SHOW** Sat 20 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**GAMBLER** Sat 20 June, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU - ROBBIE WILLIAMS TRIBUTE** Sat 20 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**WILD CANDY** Sat 20 June, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**SOUND AND VISION - BOWIE TRIBUTE** Sat 20 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**VINCENT FLATTS** Sun 21 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**FORTYEIGHTERS** Sun 21 June, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

**AND THEN THERE WAS... PHIL** Sun 21 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**FLASHBACK** Sun 21 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**ROCK FOR HEROES** Sun 21 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE ILLEGAL EAGLES** Sun 21 June, Malvern Theatres

**THE JONETTES & JUST DUST** Sun 21 June, The Red Lion, Evesham

**TRAVELING WILBURY'S EXPERIENCE** Sun 21 June, The Robin, Bilston

**ROD AND THE FACEZ** Sun 21 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**ANNA HOWIE + SNEZ** Sun 21 June, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY** Sun 21 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## Classical Music

### LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER: SUMMER MUSIC

Programme includes works by Coates, Ireland, Mendelssohn & more..., Mon 15 June, Birmingham Town Hall

**CBSO: CUPPA CONCERT** Short, relaxed concert featuring a range of familiar music to be enjoyed in a friendly and supportive atmosphere by those living with dementia and their carers, Mon 15 June, CBSO Centre, B'ham

**THE MIKE GIBBS PRIZE 2026** RBC students go head to head in this composition and arranging prize, Mon 15 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**MATTHEW BREEN ORGAN RECITAL** Mon 15 June, Coventry Cathedral

**RBC CHAMBER CHOIR** Featuring Julian Wilkins (conductor) & George Moloney (organ/piano). Programme includes works by JS Bach, Britten, Byrd & more..., Tues 16 June, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

**CODA FESTIVAL 2026** RBC's renowned contemporary music and performance festival, Tues 16 - Wed 17 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**CBSO: TCHAIKOVSKY'S VIOLIN CONCERTO** Featuring Dima Slobodeniouk (conductor) & Inmo Yang (violin). Programme includes works by Martinu, Tchaikovsky & Prokofiev, Thurs 18 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**ARMONICO CONSORT: HENRY PURCELL'S KING ARTHUR** Featuring Christopher Monks (director), Oz Clarke (narrator), Hannah Frazer Mackenzie, Laura Moretto, William Towers, William Searle & Alex Jones (cast), Thurs 18 June, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**CBSO CENTRE STAGE: BRAHMS' PIANO QUARTET NO.1** Featuring Eugene Tzikindelean (violin), David BaMaung (viola), Arthur Boutillier (cello) & Salome Chitaia (piano), Fri 19 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**ALPESH CHAUHAN CONDUCTS SIBELIUS 2** Featuring Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra. Programme also includes works by Vinicius Motta & Kodály, Fri 19 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**LIVE AT THE MUSICALS WITH THE BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA** Featuring Pete Harrison (conductor). Programme includes orchestral favourites from musicals, Fri 19 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**DAVID BENDIX NIELSEN ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 19 June, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**DI XIAO PIANO RECITAL** Programme includes works by Sibelius, Tchaikovsky, Grieg & more..., Fri 19 June, Newcastle Community Centre,

Newcastle-on-Clun

**INSPIRE CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT** Fri 19 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**CBSO: CELEBRATING BERNSTEIN** Featuring Carlos Miguel Prieto (conductor), Scarlett Strallen & Julian Ovenden (vocalists), Sat 20 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CHELtenham BACH CHOIR: A NIGHT AT THE OPERA** Featuring Harriet Burns (soprano), Marta Fontanals-Simmons (mezzo soprano) & Waiyan Lee (accompanist), Sat 20 June, Great Malvern Priory

**CHELtenham SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: GALLERY OF THE IMAGINATION** Featuring James Lancelot (organ). Programme includes works by Berlioz, Poulenc & Mussorgsky, Sat 20 June, Pershore Abbey

**ROSSINI'S PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE** Featuring Gemma King (soprano), Bethan Langford (alto), Richard Robbins (tenor), Andrew Wickens (bass), Catrina Lapage & John Bowen (accompanists), Sat 20 June, United Reformed Church, Shrewsbury

**LUDLOW CHORAL SOCIETY: SUMPTUOUS MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING** Featuring Laura Toomey (alto), Cathy Lamb (piano), Nicola Starkie (director) & Ludlow Camerata led by Anne Tupling. Programme includes works by Chilcott, Dunachie, Boulanger & more..., Sat 20 June, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**DARIUS BATTIWALLA ORGAN PROMS** Sat 20 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**SIR KARL JENKINS CONDUCTS THE ARMED MAN** Featuring the London Concert Orchestra, Canzonetta Choir, Kathryn Rudge (mezzo-soprano), Zands Duggan (hand percussion) & Osama Kiwan (muezzin), Sun 21 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: STILL LIFE** Featuring Ted Moore (video & sound designer) & Clement Power (conductor). Programme include works by C Bray, E Carter, G Lewis & K Balch, Sun 21 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

## Comedy

**GASLIGHT COMEDY** Tues 16 June, The Dovehouse, Solihull

**ISMO** Wed 17 June, Birmingham Town Hall

**ANIA MAGLIANO** Thurs 18 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**LARRY DEAN** Thurs 18 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**AALEX MANDEL-DALLAL + LAUREN SOLEY** Thurs 18 June, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

**TYLER FISCHER** Fri 19 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**CRYSTAL MARIE** Fri 19 June, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**SOL BERNSTEIN, DAVID EAGLE, SCOTTISH FALSETTO SOCK PUPPET THEATRE & PETE TECKMAN** Fri 19 June, Bedworth Civic Hall

**RICH HALL** Fri 19 June, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**MIKE COX, ROBERT WHITE, ANNIE BOYLE & COMIC TBC** Fri 19 - Sat 20 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**GAURAV KAPOOR** Sat 20 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**DANNY BHOY** Sat 20 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**TOM STADE** Sun 21 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

## Theatre

**TONS OF MONEY** The Nonentities present an amateur version of Will Evans & Arthur Valentine's farce, Mon 15 - Sat 20 June, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**THE 39 STEPS** Scarlet Theatre present an amateur version of Patrick Barlow's award-winning stage version of John Buchan's famous novel, Mon 15, Thurs 18 & Sat 20 June, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**BOG WITCH** Bryony Kimmings' critically acclaimed show tells how she uprooted herself and her son to live in a tumbledown cottage in the wilderness, Tues 16 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**MONA LISA SMILE** Scarlet Theatre present an amateur stage version of the film of the same name, Tues 16, Fri 19 & Sat 20 June, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**ABIGAIL'S PARTY** Tamzin Outhwaite stars as Beverley in a new version of Mike Leigh's dark suburban comedy, Tues 16 - Sat 20 June, Malvern Theatres

**SHAKERS** Scarlet Theatre present an amateur version of John Godber's fast-paced comedy, Wed 17 June, Stoke Rep Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**BONNIE & CLYDE: THE MUSICAL** The Norbury Players present an amateur version of the hit show about America's most notorious outlaw couple, Wed 17 - Sat 27 June, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

**AS YOU LIKE IT** Amateur version of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Thurs 18 June, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**AN EVENING WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN** Jacob Truax stars in a one-man show in which President Lincoln relates his life story, Thurs 18 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIL** The Three Inch Fools present an outdoor Arthurian adventure with plenty of

medieval mayhem, Thurs 18 June, Spetchley Park Gardens, Worcester

**P\*SSSED UP PANTO: CINDERELLA** Featuring strong language and adult themes. Age restriction is 16-plus, Thurs 18 - Fri 19 June, Lichfield Garrick

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** Amateur version presented by Aldridge Musical Comedy Society, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 June, The Rugeley Rose Theatre

**THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF - THE MUSICAL** Amateur version of the stage show based on the hit television series of the same name, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 June, The Little Theatre, Donnington, Shropshire

**SHREK THE MUSICAL JR** Amateur version presented by Walsall Youth Theatre, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 June, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

**COSI FAN TUTTE** Merry Opera Theatre Company present Mozart's comedy of love, lies and life lessons, Fri 19 June, Lichfield Garrick

**OTHELLO** The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's famous tragedy, Fri 19 June, Packwood House, Solihull

**TWO SISTERS, SHAKESPEARE'S DAUGHTERS** The remarkable story of two young women in Tudor England, Fri 19 June, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES** Jonathan Goodwin plays Sherlock Holmes and a host of other characters in a stage show based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic stories, Fri 19 June, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Retelling of Shakespeare's classic comedy for everyone aged seven and above. A co-production between the RSC and Unicorn Theatre, Fri 19 June - Sun 30 Aug, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**ORFEO - MIDSUMMER NIGHT** Immersive dusk-till-dawn odyssey inspired by the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice, Sat 20 June, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

**WE WILL ROCK YOU** Amateur version of Ben Elton's smash-hit musical, Sat 20 - Sat 27 June, Rugby Theatre

**WITHOUT BY NEIL REIDMAN** Acclaimed show chronicling one man's life, from the Windrush era through to modern times, Sun 21 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**I'M FRANK MORGAN REWIRED** 'The story of a hard man in a dirty old town'. Part of the Paradise Heights series from award-winning writer & director Joe O'Byrne, Sun 21 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ROMEO & JULIET** Oddsocks present a new take on Shakespeare's tragic love story, Sun 21 June, Bowring Park, Telford

**THE TWITS** Amateur version of Roald Dahl's classic story, Sun 21 June, Rugeley Rose Theatre

## Kids Theatre

**PEPPA PIG'S BIG FAMILY SHOW** Brand-new live stage show for little ones, Tues 16 - Wed 17 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**PLANET OMAR** World premiere telling of the story of an eight-year-old British-Pakistani Muslim boy with a wild imagination, a big heart, and a knack for getting into trouble, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 June, The Rep, Birmingham

**THE ENORMOUS CROCODILE: THE MUSICAL** A mischievous musical adventure for younger audiences, based on Roald Dahl's snappy book, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**BRAINIAC LIVE** Education and fun collide in an all-action family show that promises to take audiences on 'a breathless ride through the wild world of the weird and wonderful', Sat 20 June, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

## Dance

**BALLETBOYZ: STILL POINTLESS** Ten 'world-class' dancers take audiences on a journey through some of BalletBoyz' best moments. The programme includes an excerpt from Russell Maliphant's Critical Mass as well as the world premiere of a brand-new commission by Seirian Griffiths, Tues 16 June, The Rep, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: SIR PETER WRIGHT CENTENARY** Celebratory show in which Carlos Acosta makes his debut as Death in a performance of The Green Table, Thurs 18 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

**AMY DOWDEN & CARLOS GU: REBORN** Featuring a dazzling cast of 'world-class' dancers and 'amazing' live vocalists, performing to a soundtrack of iconic anthems from across the decades, Fri 19 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**BALLETBOYZ: STILL POINTLESS** Ten 'world-class' dancers take audiences on a journey through some of BalletBoyz' best moments. The programme includes an excerpt from Russell Maliphant's Critical Mass as well as the world premiere of a brand-new commission by Seirian Griffiths, Fri 19 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**FLAMENCO EXPRESS** A floating festival featuring La Joaquina and Chris Clavo, with vocals from Antonio El Pola, Fri 19 June, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: 20TH**

**CENTURY MASTERPIECES** Featuring works by three choreographic giants - Frederick Ashton (Birthday Offering), Kurt Jooss (The Green Table) and George Balanchine (Theme And Variations), Fri 19 - Sat 20 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

**JAIVANT PATEL COMPANY: SAMARPAN MAHOTSAV** Showcase of Indian classical dance, in celebration of Jaivant Patel Company's 20th anniversary, Sat 20 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

## Light Entertainment

**KEITH AND MARJ: US, POTS AND A WELSH CHAPEL** Join Keith Brymer and Marj Hogarth as they share stories of clay, craft, and their most ambitious project to date, Mon 15 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**K-POP ALL STARS** Celebration of the music, artists and culture 'that's taking the world by storm', Tues 16 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**SEAN COLLYNS** An evening with the medium and bestselling author, Tues 16 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JUKEBOX IDOLS** Whirlwind trip through the greatest hits of the 1950s and 60s, featuring The Overtones and Strictly's Nadia Bychkova and Louis Smith, Tues 16 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**A SPOOKY SOIREE** Regal Community Theatre present an evening of mystery, suspense and the supernatural, Tues 16 - Thurs 18 June, The Regal, Tenbury

**STRANGE, BUT TRUE CRIME** Join former forensics lecturer & police recruit trainer Jennifer Rees to explore the world's most shocking and hard-to-believe crimes, Wed 17 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**KERRY KATONA'S SUPER TROUPERS** Kerry Katona stars in 'the ultimate non-stop party tribute to Mamma Mia! The Musical', Wed 17 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** The UK's longest-running musical theatre concert tour, featuring numbers from The Phantom Of The Opera, Jesus Christ Superstar, West Side Story, Blood Brothers and more..., Wed 17 June, Lichfield Garrick

**ENDLESS LOVE: THE SHOW** Celebration of the music of Diana Ross and Lionel Richie, Thurs 18 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** The UK's longest-running musical theatre concert tour, featuring numbers from The Phantom Of The Opera, Jesus Christ Superstar, West Side Story, Blood Brothers and more..., Thurs 18 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**ANYONE FOR TENNIS?** Join comedian Pauline Eyre for an evening of 'smashing stories, ace anecdotes and a 40-love letter to the game', Thurs 18 June, Lichfield Garrick



**PRINCESS SPARKLES** Step into the not-so-glittery world of Princess Sparkles, a professional princess-for-hire who's very available, a teeny bit unstable, and just that little bit too much..., Thurs 18 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**CIRCUS OF PUBLIC OPINION** Improvised courtroom comedy, Fri 19 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE PITMAN POETS** An evening of songs and stories laced with North East humour and humanity, Fri 19 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**KERRY KATONA'S SUPER TROUPERS** Kerry Katona stars in 'the ultimate non-stop party tribute to Mamma Mia! The Musical', Fri 19 June, Dudley Town Hall

**ANITA HARRIS & FRIENDS** Midday variety show featuring comedian Micky Zany, piano maestro Pete Gill, singer Kate Ashby and musician Andy Eastwood, Fri 19 June, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**ANYONE FOR TENNIS?** Join comedian Pauline Eyre for an evening of 'smashing stories, ace anecdotes and a 40-love letter to the game', Fri 19 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**THE D-DAY DARLINGS: SONGS THAT WON THE WAR** Nostalgic show featuring memorable songs from 1940s wartime Britain, Fri 19 June, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**QUEEN BY CANDLELIGHT** Fri 19 June, Worcester Cathedral

**LIGHT THE LIGHTS** Abbey Players present an evening of song, dance and comedy, Fri 19 - Sat 20 June, The Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

**JUKEBOX IDOLS** Whirlwind trip through the greatest hits of the 1950s and 60s, featuring The Overtones and Strictly's Nadia Bychkova and Louis Smith, Sat 20 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**DANIEL SINCLAIR - HYPNOTIST & MIND READER LIVE** Direct from London's West End, Sat 20 June, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**KERRY KATONA'S SUPER TROUPERS**

Kerry Katona stars in 'the ultimate non-stop party tribute to Mamma Mia! The Musical', Sat 20 June, Lichfield Garrick

**BINGO AT TIFFANY'S WITH AUDREY HEARTBURN** Tracey Collins' hosts an evening of 'musical comedy, bingo and pure chaos', Sat 20 June, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**THE MUSIC OF BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN BY CANDLELIGHT** Sat 20 June, Worcester Cathedral

**REVELATIONS - SONGS BOYS DON'T SING** Featuring dancing, tales and songs from Strictly Come Dancing's longest-serving judge, Craig Revel Horwood, Sat 20 June, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

**BOWIE BY CANDLELIGHT** Sat 20 June, Coventry Cathedral

**A NORTHERN TR\*NNY HOOTENANNY** Award-winning queer parody in which Disney meets Dolly Parton by way of Manchester's gay village, Sat 20 - Sun 21 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**FLOWERS & FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS** 'The ultimate pop concert tribute', Sun 21 June, Lichfield Garrick

## Talks & Spoken Word

**SUKH KAUR OJLA: BREAKING FREE** The comedian & writer will be joined by special guests in an 'entertaining and emotional deep-dive into what it means to live life without a blueprint', Wed 17 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**EVERYTHING IN THE FOREST IS THE FOREST: PHOTOGRAPHY, CONNECTION AND ECOLOGY** Symposium featuring speakers concerned with creativity, connection and ecology, Fri 19 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**ADRIANA BROWNLEE: LIFE IN THE DEATH ZONE** Join the British mountaineer & adventure athlete as she shares stories from some of the most hostile environments in the world, Sat 20 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## Events

**MORGAN CAR CLUB DISPLAY** Featuring cars from the Morgan Car Club, Wed 17 June, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich Spa

**BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE** The ultimate gardener's day out, featuring experts, shopping and displays, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 June, NEC, B'ham

**GOOD FOOD SHOW SUMMER** Featuring cooking inspiration with top chefs and live stages, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 June, NEC, Birmingham

**WESTON PARK MODEL AIR SHOW** Featuring a line-up of the best pilots

# Monday 15 - Sunday 21 June

and model craft, and trade line-up, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June, Weston Park, Shropshire

## ART FEST WOLVERHAMPTON 2026

Featuring 18 artist stands, each showcasing a unique selection of paintings, prints, sculpture, ceramics, textiles and more, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

**POTFEST BY THE LAKE** Showcasing the work of over 90 of the UK's finest ceramics makers, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**TUTANKHAMUN: THE IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION** Featuring immersive video projections, VR and metaverse experiences, artefacts and more, Fri 19 June - Sun 13 Sept, NEC, B'ham

**TUNNEL TOURS** Explore the tunnels that lie beneath the museum and learn about their history, Sat 20 June, Stourbridge Glass Museum

**SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION** A night of music, connection, food and celebration, Sat 20 June, Fordhall Organic Farm, Market Drayton

**THE LEGO MOVIE** A Fathers' Day planetarium screening, Sat 20 June, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**STOKE ON TRENT PRIDE** Featuring

street performers, dancers, singers and local artists, Sat 20 June, Hanley Park, Stoke-on-Trent

## UTTOXETER ARMED FORCES DAY

Celebrating Armed Forces members, Sat 20 June, Market Place, Uttoxeter

## OVER 30S CLUB DAYTIME OPEN AIR FESTIVAL

Nostalgia-packed evening covering bangers from the 80s, 90s and Noughties, Sat 20 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**WINDRUSH STORIES DAY** Celebrating the real people, voices and experiences that helped shape the Black Country and the UK, Sat 20 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**FATHERS' DAY LEGO WEEKEND** Fun and inspiration await visitors of all ages across four floors of the museum, Sat 20 - Sun 21 June, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**JURASSIC JUNE** Discover the fascinating world of dinosaurs, Sat 20 - Sun 21 June, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

**FIRING UP FOR FATHERS DAY WEEKEND** Featuring stationary engines, vintage tractors, classic vehicles and more, Sat 20 - Sun 21 June, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

## SUMMER FAMILY FUN WEEKEND

Featuring a selection of activities in the castle courtyard, Sat 20 - Sun 21 June, Dudley Zoo

**WWE EUROPEAN SUMMER TOUR** See all your favourite WWE superstars, Sun 21 June, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**VEGAN MARKET CO** Featuring an array of food and vegan-product vendors, Sun 21 June, Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens

**BEARWOOD DINING CLUB** Featuring award-winning street food and live entertainment, Sun 21 June, Lightwoods Park and House, Bearwood

**BIRMINGHAM BRICK FESTIVAL** Lego-themed fun for families, collectors, adult builders and every kind of Lego fan, Sun 21 June, ICC Birmingham

**MADE IN SHROPSHIRE ARTISAN FAIR** Featuring 30 art, craft and food stalls, Sun 21 June, Dudmaston Estate, nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**CLASSIC CAR & MOTOR SHOW** Featuring displays of up to 1,000 vintage, classic and modern-classic cars and motorcycles, Sun 21 June, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

**FATHER'S DAY FLYER** Experience the thrill of riding on the footplate of a

steam locomotive, Sun 21 June, Telford Steam Railway

## DRIVERS AUTOMOTIVE SHOW

Showcasing everything from Modified to OEM, Retro to Modern, Supercars to 4x4s and much more, Sun 21 June, West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury

## Festivals

**BEARDY FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Roving Crows, Peatbog Faeries, Ian Prowse & Amsterdam, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 June, Hopton Court, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

**SONIC ROCK SOLSTICE** Line-up includes The Lene Lovich Band, Punishment of Luxury, The March Violets & more..., Thurs 18 - Mon 22 June, Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club, Bromsgrove

**PARKLANDS FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Phil Tangent, Jeremy Healy, DJ Luck and MC Neat, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

**DARESBURY FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Annie Mac, Roger Sanchez, 808 State & more..., Sat 20 June, Walton Hall & Gardens, Cheshire

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## Gigs

**LINDSEY WEBSTER** Mon 22 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SEEKING SEROTONIN** Mon 22 June, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**SWIM DEEP** Mon 22 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**ETHEL CAIN** Tues 23 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**BEN HOLDER'S HOT CLUB** Tues 23 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**JOHN MCKAY'S REACTOR + MIKI BERENYI TRIO** Wed 24 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**ROYEL OTIS** Wed 24 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham



**FEBUARY + FUNERAL + LETTERS NEVER SENT + MESA VERDE** Wed 24 June, Centrala, B'ham

**ASHLEY ALLEN & FRIENDS** Wed 24 June, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**CONNOR SELBY TRIO (FT STEVIE WATTS)** Wed 24 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**LOUISIANA NIGHTS** Wed 24 June, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

**FASTLOVE: THE GEORGE MICHAEL TRIBUTE** Wed 24 June, Lichfield Garrick

**MUNTU VALDO** Wed 24 June, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**THE CARPENTERS STORY** Wed 24 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**REBECCA DOWNES** Thurs 25 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SUPERCHUNK** Thurs 25 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**BILMURI + THORNHILL** Thurs 25 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**DETROITWICH FUNK MACHINE** Thurs 25 June, Tower of Song, Birmingham

**GASOLINE & MATCHES** Thurs 25 June, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**LLOYD AND ANDERSON** Thurs 25 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**KENNY SPIERS** Thurs 25 June, Catshill Social Club, Bromsgrove

**JESSIE REID** Thurs 25 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**SLACKRR + ARMY OF SKANK + WAVE OF SHEEP** Thurs 25 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

**ALEX HITCHCOCK QUARTET** Thurs 25 June, Marris Bar, Worcester

**CELEBRATING CELINE** Thurs 25 June, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**CIRCA WAVES** Thurs 25 June, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**SIMON BOSWELL** Fri 26 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**ALTERED** Fri 26 June, The Dark Horse, B'ham

**LAST RESORT** Fri 26 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THE CORE BAND** Fri 26 June, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**TOMORROW'S NEW QUARTET** Fri 26 June, 1000 Trades, B'ham

**THE CREATURE APPEAL** Fri 26 June, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

**EXORCISM** Fri 26 June, The Flapper, B'ham

**DYGL** Fri 26 June, The Victoria, Birmingham

**LILY ALLEN** Fri 26 June, bp pulse LIVE, B'ham

**I'M EVERY WHITNEY** Fri 26 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**LEAMINGTON BLUES MAFIA** Fri 26 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**A TRIBUTE TO THE CARPENTERS** Fri 26 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**LUTHER LIVE AND VELVET VOICES** Fri 26 June, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**THE 80S SHOW** Fri 26 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**TARA CLERKIN TRIO** Fri 26 June, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**GREENMATTHEWS** Fri 26 June, Number 8, Pershore

**THE MUDSHARKS - LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE** Fri 26 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**PHIL BATES** Fri 26 June, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**ELEVENTH HOUR + MACHINE HEED + FORJIRA + TRIBIUM** Fri 26 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**REMI'S BLUES ROCK ROADSHOW** Fri 26 June, Marris Bar, Worcester

**GO YOUR OWN WAY - THE FLEETWOOD MAC LEGACY** Fri 26 June, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**BRUCE FOXTON** Fri 26 June, Kidderminster Town Hall



**ELIZA MARSHALL + DAN WHITEHOUSE** Fri 26 June, Malvern Cube

**DREW NEIRIN** Fri 26 June, The Red Lion, Evesham

**GENESIS CONNECTED** Fri 26 June, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

**SKA FACE** Fri 26 June, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**PINK - BEAUTIFUL TRAUMA** Fri 26 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**AC/DC UK** Fri 26 June, The Robin, Bilston

**IAN HENLEYS** Fri 26 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**GAMBLING WITH DOGS + MY RUSHMORE + SATIVA + KIMURA** Fri 26 June, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**GLAM 45 + SWEET 45** Fri 26 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**FISH NIGHT +**

**SOFTBLEACH** Fri 26 June, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE CELINE EXPERIENCE** Fri 26 June, King's Hall, Stoke-On-Trent

**THE BLACK CHARADE** Fri 26 June, The Station, Cannock

**RIP IT UP** Fri 26 June, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**KIKI DEE & CARMELO LUGGERI** Fri 26 June, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**RANT** Fri 26 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shrops

**MIKE DAVIDS BAND** Sat 27 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**ORAL HABIT** Sat 27 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**LUNA WAVES** Sat 27 June, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**MARTIN TROTMAN** Sat 27 June, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**THE PRINCE EXPERIENCE: ENDORPHINMACHINE** Sat 27 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THE LUKE COMBS EXPERIENCE** Sat 27 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**SPLIT SECOND** Sat 27 June, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**THE DIRTY NIL** Sat 27 June, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham



**THE BLUETONES** Sat 27 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**BOOTLEG ABBA** Sat 27 June, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**THE RAT PACK LIVE** Sat 27 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**VOKA GENTLE** Sat 27 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**SUNS OF REST + YOUR IMAGINARY FRIENDS +**

**BEEBEE BASSEY + RIESS PINDER** Sat 27 June, hmv Empire, Coventry

**TV PINS + DAN SEALEY** Sat 27 June, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE KINGCRAWLERS** Sat 27 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**BLONDISH** Sat 27 June, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**HIGH ON ADAMS** Sat 27 June, Marris Bar, Worcester

**LLOYD AND ANDERSON** Sat 27 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**WOMEN IN ROCK** Sat 27 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**MARTIN STEPHENSON & THE DAINTIES** Sat 27 June, West Malvern Social Club

**THE LIZZARDS** Sat 27 June, The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** Sat 27 June, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

**ROB LAMBERTI PRESENTS PERFECTLY GEORGE** Sat 27 June, The Robin, Bilston

**THE CLASSIC BLUES SHOW** Sat 27 June, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire

**COMMUNITY 2026** Sat 27 June, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

**THE FREDDIE & QUEEN EXPERIENCE** Sat 27 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**KING KURT** Sat 27 June, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

**GORDON HENDRICKS - THE KINGS VOICE** Sat 27 June, King's Hall, Stoke-On-Trent

**UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE** Sat 27 June, Lichfield Garrick

**UNFORGIVEN** Sat 27 June, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**ELO EXPERIENCE** Sat 27 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**HAT'S OFF TO LED ZEPPELIN** Sat 27 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**INSPIRAL CARPETS** Sat 27 June, The

Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**CALLUM & THE POOKIES** Sat 27 June, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**LIFE** Sun 28 June, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**DAN WHITEHOUSE + DAVID O'BRIEN** Sun 28 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**THE SWAPS + TIM EDEY AND MORE** Sun 28 June, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**ALISON COTTON** Sun 28 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**JAMES SLATER & MANSFIELD SMITH** Sun 28 June, The Red Lion, Evesham

**AUDIORAGE - AUDIOSLAVE + RATM TRIBUTE** Sun 28 June, The Robin, Bilston

**THE LEGEND OF BARRY WHITE** Sun 28 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**INSPIRAL CARPETS + TRAMPOLINE** Sun 28 June, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**TYLAS THE DOGS D'AMOUR** Sun 28 June, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**PIRE HILL** Sun 28 June, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**LLOYD & ANDERSON** Sun 28 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**GORDON HENDRICKS IS ELVIS** Sun 28 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**THE FUGITIVES** Sun 28 June, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**THE SPOOKY MEN'S CHORALE** Mon 29 June, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS** Mon 29 June, Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

**RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC** Tues 30 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**THE SCHIZOPHONICS** Tues 30 June, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**BEVERLEY KNIGHT** Tues 30 June, Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

## Classical Music

**PHILIP CROZIER ORGAN RECITAL** Mon 22 June, Coventry Cathedral

**ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT** Featuring David Le Page (artistic director). Programme includes works by Bach, Vivaldi, Grieg & more..., Tues 23 June, Warwick Hall

**CALLUM BISSON PIANO RECITAL** Tues 23 June, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**VICTORIA ULRIKSEN ORGAN RECITAL** Tues 23 June, Lichfield Cathedral

**ARMONICO CONSORT: HENRY PURCELL'S KING ARTHUR** Featuring Christopher Monks (director), Oz Clarke (narrator), Hannah Frazer Mackenzie, Laura Moretto, William Towers, William Searle & Alex Jones (cast), Wed 24 June, Festival Theatre, Malvern

**SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: SUMMER CONCERT** Featuring John Moore (conductor) & Alex Postlethwaite (leader). Programme includes works by Fanny Mendelssohn, Shostakovich & Rimsky Korsakov, Wed 24 June, Christ Church, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury

**ARMONICO CONSORT: HENRY PURCELL'S KING ARTHUR** Featuring Christopher Monks (director), Oz Clarke (narrator), Hannah Frazer Mackenzie, Laura Moretto, William Towers, William Searle & Alex Jones (cast), Thurs 25 June, Wyke Manor, Pershore

**AMI VOCAL QUARTET** Featuring Isabel Clarke (soprano), Alexandra Georgiadis (alto), Matt Friend (tenor) & Matthew Pandya (bass), Fri 26 June, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK CHAMBER CHOIR: SUMMER SERENADE** Fri 26 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**MILKICA RADOVANOVIC ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 26 June, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**CBSO: PUCCINI'S TOSCA** Featuring Kazuki Yamada (conductor), Anna Patalong (soprano), Gwyn Hughes Jones (tenor), Ross Ramgobin (baritone), Sir Bryn Terfel (bass-baritone), CBSO Youth Chorus & CBSO Children's Chorus, Sat 27 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM CHORAL UNION: A SUMMER SERENADE** Featuring Colin Baines (conductor) & Darren Hogg (piano & keyboards). Programme includes works by Chilcott, Vaughan Williams, Meador & more..., Sat 27 June, Selly Oak Methodist Church, Birmingham

**THE CHOIR OF ST MARY'S SUMMER CONCERT** Featuring Oliver Hancock (director) & Imogen Whitehead (trumpet). Programme includes

works by Walton, Tippett, Handel & more..., Sat 27 June, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring Peter Morris (conductor) & Ros Rayner (leader). Programme includes works by Shostakovich, Coates & Walton, Sat 27 June, Wolverhampton Grammar School

**SHREWSBURY CHORAL: RUTTER'S MAGNIFICAT & MOZART'S REQUIEM** Featuring Hilary Cronin (soprano), Bethan Langford (alto), Andrew Henley (tenor), Toby Hall (bass), Richard Robbins (conductor) & Anne Tupling (leader), Sat 27 June, Shrewsbury Abbey

**JONATHAN SCOTT ORGAN RECITAL** Programme includes works by Verdi, Handel, Saint-Saëns & Vivaldi, Sat 27 June, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**THE BREWOOD SINGERS: SUMMER SERENADE** Featuring The Jackfield Brass Band, Sat 27 June, Jubilee Hall, Brewood, Staffordshire

**NORTH STAFFS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: SUMMER FILM CONCERT** Featuring Juan Ortuño (conductor). Programme includes works by Williams, Barry, Borodin & Gershwin, Sat 27 June, St John Fisher Catholic College, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**MARCHES CHOIR: FAURÉ'S REQUIEM** Programme also includes Karl Jenkins' The Peacemakers, Sat 27 June, St John's Church, Bishops Castle, South Shropshire

**LEAMINGTON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** Featuring Richard Laing (conductor) & Victoria Brawn (oboe). Programme includes works by Wagner, Strauss & Brahms, Sun 28 June, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS: SUMMER SYMPHONIC SPECTACULAR** Programme includes works by Price, Gershwin & Puccini, Sun 28 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER: SUMMER REQUESTS** Mon 29 June, Birmingham Town Hall

**RICHARD LEA ORGAN RECITAL** Mon 29 June, Coventry Cathedral

**CBSO CENTRE STAGE: AMERICAN BRASS** Featuring Elspeth Dutch (horn), Richard Watkin (trombone) & Daniel Trodden (tuba). Programme includes works by Bernstein, Price, C McMichael & Kamen, Tues 30 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**JOAO CORREIA SAXOPHONE CONCERT** Tues 30 June, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

## Comedy

**JOE LYCETT & FRIENDS** Tues 23 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JONNY COLE** Tues 23 June, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**SCOTT BENNETT** Tues 23 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, ERIC RUSHTON & STEVE GRIBBIN** Thurs 25 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**SCOTT BENNETT** Thurs 25 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**FERN BRADY, FIN TAYLOR, HASAN AL-HABIB & LAURA SMYTH** Thurs 25 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**JONNY COLE** Fri 26 June, Lichfield Garrick

**JOEL DOMMETT** Fri 26 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



**STEPHEN BAILEY, JOEY PAGE, ALEX MITCHELL & RYAN MOLD** Fri 26 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**AMY MATTHEWS, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN, ERIC RUSHTON & STEVE GRIBBIN** Fri 26 - Sat 27 June, The Glee Club, B'ham

## Theatre

**ROCK OF AGES** Amateur version of the jukebox musical comedy, Mon 22 - Sat 27 June, Talisman Theatre & Arts Centre, Kenilworth

**MISS SAIGON** Boubil & Schönberg's iconic musical, set during the last days of the Vietnam War, Tues 23 - Sat 27 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

**MEAN GIRLS** Award-winning musical comedy starring Steps' Faye Tozer, Tues 23 - Sat 27 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY** Amateur production based on Roald Dahl's much-loved classic, Tues 23 - Sat 27 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**RICHARD III** Matthew Duckett stars in a version of Shakespeare's famous history play which takes its inspiration from the gangland world of Peaky Blinders. Richard Cheshire directs, Tues 23 June - Sat 4 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**A DALES WAY** The story of three couples who embark on an 80-mile walk from Ilkley in Yorkshire to Bowness on the shores of Lake Windermere, Wed 24 - Fri 26 June,

Wolverhampton Arts Centre

**SLEUTH** All & Sundry present Anthony Shaffer's famous play, in which two men engage in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse, Wed 24 - Sat 27 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**ROMEO & JULIET** Oddsocks present a new take on Shakespeare's romantic tragedy, Thurs 25 June, Victoria Gardens, Tewkesbury

**THE WIZARD OF OZ** Youth edition presented by students of ToriArts Studios, Thurs 25 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THE PRIDE** Alexi Kaye Campbell's play exploring the changing attitudes to sexuality over a 50-year period, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 June, The Lab, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**GREASE** Kidderminster Operatic & Dramatic Youth section present an amateur version of the high-school musical, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 June, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Amateur version of Kenneth Grahame's riverside tale, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 June, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY** Youth theatre performance of the iconic kooky musical, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 June, The Benn Hall, Rugby

**LIFE LEARNINGS OF A NONSENSICAL HUMAN** Spoken-word work of theatre exploring the joys and complexities of friendship, queerness and raving, Fri 26 June, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**POPCORN** Amateur version based on Ben Elton's darkly comic thriller, Sat 27 June - Sat 4 July, The Criterion Theatre, Coventry

**ROMEO & JULIET** The Duke's Theatre present 'a bold reimagining of the greatest love story ever told', Sun 28 June, Powis Castle, Welshpool, Powys

**THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD** Ralf Little stars in a stage version of John le Carré's story of Cold War espionage, deception and moral compromise, Tues 30 June - Sat 4 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

## Kids Theatre

**ZOG** Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's feelgood story for younger audiences, Mon 22 - Wed 24 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE CAT IN THE HAT** A 'first theatre experience' based on Dr Seuss' bestselling book, Fri 26 June, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE PRINCESS PROMS** A show paying tribute to songs from animated films, including Frozen, Wicked, Moana, The Wizard of Oz, The Lion King and more..., Sun 28 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

### INTO THE WILD AND OVER THE WAVES

Family-friendly adventure presented by Birmingham Hippodrome's SEN and Drama Youth Theatre, Mon 29 - Tues 30 June, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

## Dance

**2FACED DANCE : TOMORROW** Tamsin Fitzgerald's all-male company explore the future in their trademark no-holds-barred style, Tues 23 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**KAI WIDDRINGTON: EVOLUTION 2026** High-energy show featuring a cast of professional ballroom and Latin dancers, Thurs 25 June, Lichfield Garrick

## Light Entertainment

**G4: PHANTOMS OF THE POPERA** Join Jonathan Ansell, Michael Conway, Mike Christie and Duncan Sandilands for a rollercoaster ride through some of musical theatre's greatest hits, Mon 22 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**JAY & JOSS** An evening with the award-winning illusionists who stunned the judges on Britain's Got Talent, Tues 23 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**FROM BOND WITH LOVE** Actor Tom Roberts hosts 'an evening of movie magic', complete with a live band and behind-the-scenes stories, Thurs 25 June, Lichfield Garrick

**THE MATRILAUUGHY: GIGGLES FOR THE GIRLS, GAYS, AND THEYS** A 'fun, feminist and queer' night of stand-up comedy, featuring a women-focused line-up, Fri 26 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE MAGIC ROOM STAGE SHOW** An evening of parlour magic and entertainment, hosted by magicians Ed Sumner and Damon Conlan. Live music from Sean Jeffrey also features, Sat 27 June, Fairfield Village Hall, Fairfield, Worcestershire

**EARTH WIND & CHOIR** Sat 27 June, Halesowen Town Hall

**THE RAT PACK LIVE** Concert experience celebrating the big band sounds of Sammy Davis Jr, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, Sat 27 June, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**TEA WITH JOYCE GRENFELL** Featuring a selection of Joyce's comedy songs and monologues, Sun 28 June, Lichfield Garrick

**DERREN BROWN: ONLY HUMAN LIVE** Brand-new show from the master of mind control and psychological illusion, Tues 30 June - Sat 4 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

## Talks & Spoken Word

**ELLA AL-SHAMAH** - BECOMING HUMAN The host of BBC landmark show Human talks about 'our remarkable origin story', Thurs 25 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**ADRIANA BROWNLEE: LIFE IN THE DEATH ZONE** Join the British mountaineer & adventure athlete as she shares stories from some of the most hostile environments in the world, Fri 26 June, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**ELLA AL-SHAMAH** - BECOMING HUMAN The host of BBC landmark show Human talks about 'our remarkable origin story', Fri 26 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**EMMA KENNY'S KILLER COUPLES** The psychologist & broadcaster presents a new show exploring the complex psychology of couples who commit the unthinkable, Sun 28 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**AN EVENING WITH NIGEL MANSELL CBE** An insight into the life and career of the Formula One racing star, Mon 29 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY** John Osbourne presents a poetry show with a difference, Tues 30 June, The Old Town Hall Vaults, St Mary's Street, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

## Events

**UNDER 5'S FAMILY FUN DAY** This year's theme is Pirates & Princesses, Wed 24 - Thurs 25 June, Dudley Zoo

**MANOR HALL MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL** Evening of music, dance and art from pupils across the Manor Hall Trust, Thurs 25 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**ADVENTURE BIKE RIDER FESTIVAL** Three action-packed days of biking action and festival entertainment, Thurs 25 - Sun 28 June, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

**GUIDED TOUR OF WEOLEY CASTLE** Explore the ruins' architecture, construction and layout, Fri 26 June, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

**COVLITFEST: BEYOND WORDS** Featuring local writers and groups, drop-in writing activities for adults and related activities for children, Fri 26 June, Coventry Cathedral

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECRETS TOUR: COMPTON MURDAK, OUR HIDDEN VILLAGE** Tour focusing on the Medieval period and the now-deserted village of Compton Murdak, Fri 26 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**UNDER 5S DAY** Featuring entertainment specifically designed for children under five years of age, Fri 26 June, Himley Hall, Dudley

**THE SEASON'S DARKEST SCANDAL - A REGENCY MURDER MYSTERY** Fri 26 - Sat 27 June, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

**BIRMINGHAM HOSPICE'S DRAGON BOAT RACE** Fun event for all the family to help raise funds for Birmingham Hospice, Fri 26 - Sat 27 June, Brindleyplace Canal, Birmingham

**HISTORY WEEKEND** Three days of talks, drop-in interactive sessions, bespoke tours and special events presented by knowledgeable experts, Fri 26 - Sun 28 June, Sudeley Castle & Gardens, Cheltenham

**HUG - MOORLANDS GREEN ARTS FESTIVAL** This year's festival celebrates water - rivers and streams, springs, ponds and lakes, Sat 27 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek

**CRYSTAL MILE WALKING TOUR** Explore the history of the iconic glassmaking factories that were once known as the Crystal mile, Sat 27 June, Stourbridge Glass Museum

**BURTON PRIDE** Featuring live performances by local artists, Sat 27 June, Shobnall Leisure Complex, Burton on Trent

**ARMED FORCES DAY** Featuring the Royal British Legion, Tamworth Branch, Sat 27 June, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

**YOUR WORCESTER: GALLERY TOUR** Find out about the city, its astonishing history and changing traditions, Sat 27 June, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**BELGIAN BEER BASH WITH TRIPLEB** Expect drinks, music and food for a summer pub atmosphere, Sat 27 June, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

**SUTTON COLDFIELD DINING CLUB** Featuring award-winning street food and live entertainment, Sat 27 June, Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club

**ACCESS TOURS** Facilitated by a qualified British Sign Language interpreter for Deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors, Sat 27 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**CINEMA UNDER THE STARS** Featuring showings of Walking With Dinosaurs and Jurassic Park - The Lost World, Sat 27 June, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**BMAP: THE MATERIALITIES MONTAGE MIXER WITH GARY STEWART** Event connecting lived experiences, community memories and visual materials to the Birmingham Media Archive, Sat 27 June, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

**WATCH US LEAD - BSL TOUR** Experience Watch Us Lead through a Deaf perspective in this guided tour led by Chisato Minamimura, Sat 27 June, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

**THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY: THE HAUNTING OF HIMLEY HALL** Guided daytime tour featuring chilling tales and stories of

strange histories, Sat 27 June, Himley Hall, Dudley

**BIRMINGHAM RUM FESTIVAL** Featuring a specially curated cocktail menu and the opportunity to sample blends from a host of rum brands, Sat 27 June, The Cuban Embassy, Moseley, Birmingham

**COVENTRY PRIDE** Annual event attracting thousands of LGBTQ+ people and allies to the city centre, Sat 27 - Sun 28 June, Coventry

**MIDLANDS FIRE & RESCUE SHOW** Featuring live demonstrations of rescues in various scenarios, Sat 27 - Sun 28 June, Statfold Country Park, Tamworth

**SHREWSBURY FOOD FESTIVAL 2026** Featuring hundreds of top-notch food & drinks producers, live music and fun activities for all the family, Sat 27 - Sun 28 June, Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

**STEP BACK TO THE 1940S** The British home-front experience, brought to life across the line, Sat 27 - Sun 28 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

**ARMED FORCES WEEKEND** Featuring a range of fun interactive family activities, Sat 27 - Sun 28 June, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

**JURASSIC JUNE** Discover the fascinating world of dinosaurs, Sat 27 - Sun 28 June, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

**FORD NATIONALS** Featuring displays of modern, classic and commercial vehicles, Sun 28 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

**ARMED FORCES DAY** Fun for all the family, including a paintball gallery and a vintage military vehicle display, Sun 28 June, Himley Hall, Dudley

**DUCK TREASURE HUNT** Travel between the three historic stations to find all the mischievous ducks, Sun 28 June, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

**STOWE VALLEY ARTS FESTIVAL** Celebration of the artistic talent of young people from across Warwickshire, Tues 30 June - Wed 1 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

## Festivals

**TAMWORTH TRIBUTE FESTIVAL 2026** Featuring live performances from 14 of the UK's top tribute artists, Fri 26 - Sat 27 June, Tamworth Castle Grounds

**UPTON JAZZ FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Dixie Mix, Harlem Jazz Orchestra, Bruce Adams & more..., Fri 26 - Sun 28 June, various venues in Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire

**BLENHEIM PALACE FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Katy Perry, Teddy Swims, Pete Tong Ibiza Classics, Sat 27 June - Sat 4 July

## WIN! with What's On...

Enter now at [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk) to be in with a chance of bagging one of these fabulous prizes!



### Win! A pair of tickets to see Richard III in Stafford

Starring Netflix's Matthew Duckett and inspired by the gangland world of Peaky Blinders, Stafford Shakespeare's new production of Richard III shows at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre from Tuesday 23 June to Saturday 4 July. What's On is offering two lucky readers the chance to win two tickets to see the show...

Competition closes Wednesday 17 June



### Win! A family ticket to Step Back To The 1940s at Severn Valley Railway

Severn Valley Railway's Step Back To The 1940s weekends are back this summer, with the British home front experience being brought to life across the line.

What's On is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a family ticket (2 adults and up to 4 children) to the event on Saturday 4 July.

Competition closes Monday 22 June




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