

Wolverhampton & Black Country

ISSUE 474 JULY 2026

# What's On

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

wolverhamptonwhatson.co.uk



*Eric*  
**MORECAMBE**  
STEVE ROYLE

*Tommy*  
**COOPER**  
DAMIAN WILLIAMS

*Bob*  
**MONKHOUSE**  
SIMON CARTWRIGHT

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Metro

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Broadway World

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ The Jewish Chronicle

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Theatre South East

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Sunday Mirror

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Sunday Express

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ What'sOnStage

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ London Theatre

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Daily Mail

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ The Stage

**THE LAST LAUGH**

A NEW PLAY BY PAUL HENDY

'COMEDY HEAVEN! IMMACULATE...GAGS GALORE!'

Daily Mail

9 SEP - 12 SEP

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WOLVERHAMPTON  
**GRAND**  
THEATRE

## inside:

### SWAMPLESQUE

burlesque homage to Shrek visits Wolverhampton's Grand



### CHERRY PICKING...

Bill Pullman makes his RSC debut in The Cherry Orchard



### DUDLEY BY THE SEA?

bucket and spade at the ready at Dudley Zoo this summer!



Plus 14 dance bands and shows

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



Talisk x Gardiner  
Brothers: Unleashed  
Andy Fairweather Low & The  
Low Riders ★ Fantastic Negrito  
Ferocious Dog ft. The Celtic Folk  
Orchestra ★ Cara Dillon

nefolkus  
Youth Festival

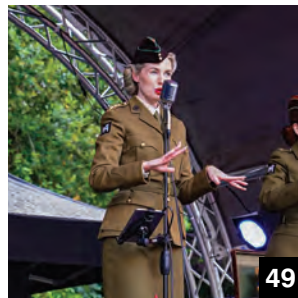
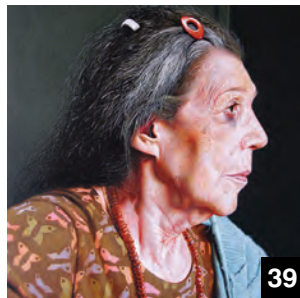
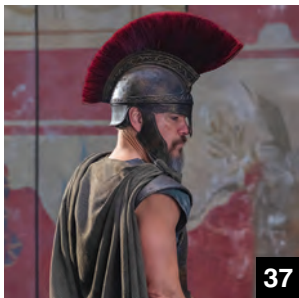
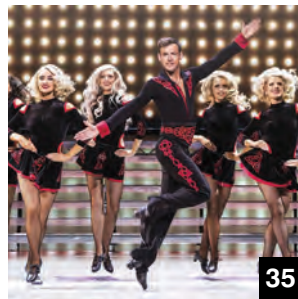
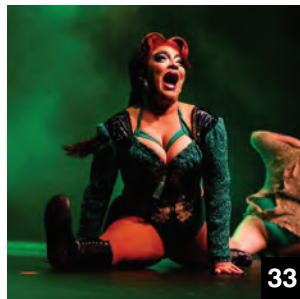
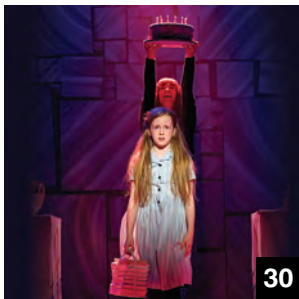
P@ndemonium!  
Children's Festival

- ✿ The Seeger Sessions Revival
- ✿ Slambovian Circus of Dreams
- ✿ Dustbowl Revival ✿ Goitse
- ✿ Steve Knightley and The Winter Yards Band
- ✿ Chris Wood ✿ Kerr Fagan ✿ Cut Capers
- ✿ Katherine Priddy ✿ Steve Knightley with Daniel Salvatore
- ✿ The Hunch ✿ Man The Lifeboats ✿ Natu Camara
- ✿ Blowzabella ✿ Malin Lewis ✿ Edith WeUtonga
- ✿ Adriano Adewale and Friends: Rooted and Rising
- ✿ Thunder and Rain ✿ Cable Street Collective
- ✿ Rum Ragged ✿ Sāwol ✿ Kellie Loder ✿ Taff Rapids
- ✿ Ballads and Songs: Sam Carter sings Nic Jones
- ✿ The Lost Notes ✿ The Zydeco Diamonds ✿ Jess Silk
- ✿ Daisy Chute ✿ Holly Clarke ✿ Pressgang Mutiny
- ✿ Greg Russell ✿ Three Idle Women ✿ The Gleaves
- ✿ The Rusty Tubs ✿ Three Rivers ✿ The Endings
- ✿ Devil in the Whiskey ✿ Shane's Singo Bingo
- ✿ Pete White's Suitcase Circus

Day & weekend tickets

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





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**What's On**  
MEDIA GROUP

Managing Director: **Davina Evans** [davina@whatsonlive.co.uk](mailto:davina@whatsonlive.co.uk) 01743 281708  
 Sales & Marketing: [hello@whatsonlive.co.uk](mailto:hello@whatsonlive.co.uk)  
 Editorial: **Lauren Foster** [lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk](mailto:lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk) 01743 281707 : **Brian O'Faolain** [brian@whatsonlive.co.uk](mailto:brian@whatsonlive.co.uk) 01743 281701 : **Abi Whitehouse** [abi@whatsonlive.co.uk](mailto:abi@whatsonlive.co.uk) :  
 Contributors: Graham Bostock, Diane Parkes, Patsy Moss, Steve Adams, Sue Hull, Reggie White, Sue Jones, Chris Eldon Lee, Rachel Smith  
 Publisher and CEO: **Martin Monahan** Accounts Administrator: **Louise Hunter** [louise@21stcd.com](mailto:louise@21stcd.com) 01743 281717

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## Hobbit festival bringing Middle Earth to the Shire

The UK's first official hobbit festival will arrive in Shropshire in the autumn, bringing JRR Tolkien's fictional 'Shire' to life. Popular visitor attraction Weston Park has confirmed that it's set to play host to the five-day Brandywine Festival from Wednesday 9 to Sunday 13 September, using its rolling estate of Capability Brown parkland to welcome hobbit fans from across the country. Commenting on the news, Rebecca Alexander, head of estate operations at Weston, said: "The event includes workshops on hobbit dancing, cooking, weaving and fibre arts, music and dance, and at the centre of it all The Four Farthing Games, a series of traditional hobbit folk games. Our 1,000 acres of rolling parkland provides the perfect backdrop for bringing the author's fictional Middle-earth and his land of the small people - The Shire - to life, and we cannot wait to welcome hobbit fans from across the county and beyond to experience something truly special here at Weston Park."

## New show set to celebrate 'Queen of Crime' Agatha

Actor Ben Miller is teaming up with bestselling crime writer Lucy Foley this autumn to present a brand-new live-on-stage celebration of Agatha Christie, 50 years after her death.

Described by its publicity as a thrilling journey through Christie's incomparable catalogue of mysteries, detectives and unforgettable characters, *Between The Covers Live!* visits Birmingham Town Hall on Monday 12 October.

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at [betweenthecoverslive.com](http://betweenthecoverslive.com)

## Songs from stage and screen in Much Wenlock

Much Wenlock's Edge Arts Centre is this month hosting an evening of songs from stage and screen in aid of Severn Hospice. Performed by stars of the West End and featuring the Key Change Choir, the show takes place on Saturday 4 July, with tickets available to purchase at [edgeartscentre.com](http://edgeartscentre.com)

## Gladstone Girls head to the New Vic Theatre

The New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme will next year present a brand-new play set in the heart of Stoke-on-Trent's pottery

industry. Taking place in 1970, *Gladstone Girls* is an 'uplifting, joyful story about one group of women and a factory tradition that they hold dear'. The play has been written by Oscar-winning Rachel Shenton, who's perhaps best known for starring as Helen Herriot in the Channel Five series *All Creatures Great And Small*. Stoke-on-Trent-born Rachel won her Academy Award in 2018 for her short film *The Silent Child...* *Gladstone Girls* shows at the New Vic from Saturday 6 to Saturday 27 February. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website [newvictheatre.org.uk](http://newvictheatre.org.uk)



## Fisherman's Friends heading inland in 2027

Shanty-singing specialists Fisherman's Friends are heading inland next year to perform in the Potteries. The much-loved ensemble will be dropping anchor in the region on Sunday 4 April 2027, when they appear at the Victoria Hall in Hanley. To find out more and book tickets, visit the website at [atgtickets.com](http://atgtickets.com)

## Murder at Badger's Drift - at the Grand Theatre!

The first-ever stage adaptation of ITV's long-running detective drama *Midsomer Murders* will return to the Midlands next summer. Subtitled *The Killings At Badger's Drift*, the production stops off at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 July 2027.

To find out more about the show and book tickets, visit the website [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk)

## Ocean Photographer of the Year at the cathedral

Over 100 award-winning photographs from the Ocean Photographer of the Year 2025 collection will go on display at Lichfield Cathedral this month, including the grand title winner, created by Yury Ivanov from Indonesia.

The exhibition shows at the cathedral from Thursday 23 July to Monday 31 August.



## Midlands stop-off for Morgan Jay

Comedian & musician Morgan Jay has announced his biggest UK tour to date, with a run of arena shows taking place across the country in 2027. Morgan will visit Utilita Arena in Birmingham on Thursday 1 April. Tickets are available via [livenation.co.uk](http://livenation.co.uk)



## Iconic Sonic in the region in 2027

Iconic video-game character Sonic The Hedgehog is heading to Birmingham early next year in a new concert experience. Bringing 'the music and moments of the beloved video games to the stage', Sonic Live In Concert visits the city's Symphony Hall on Saturday 20 February... To find out more and purchase tickets, go to [sonicliveinconcert.com](http://sonicliveinconcert.com)

## An autumn tour for Paul Heaton

Former Housemartins singer Paul Heaton is heading out on tour in the autumn to promote his new album Jenius, stopping off at Birmingham's Utilita Arena on Friday 13 November. Special guests for the tour include singer Rianne Downey and Lightning Seeds. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk)



## Hit show Hadestown heading to two local venues in 2027

Tony and Grammy award-winning musical Hadestown is heading for the Midlands in 2027. The hit show, which takes audiences on a journey to the underworld and back, will stop off at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 13

to Saturday 17 April, and then visit the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton from Tuesday 26 to Saturday 30 October. To purchase tickets for the show, visit the website of the relevant venue or head to [tour.hadestown.com](http://tour.hadestown.com)



## Taylor on tour in the Midlands

Queen songwriter, drummer & singer Roger Taylor is heading out on tour in the autumn - and paying a visit to Birmingham. Roger will be stopping off at The Alexandra with his Violence Insane In A Beautiful World tour on Thursday 24 September. For more information and to book tickets, head to the website at [atgtickets.com](http://atgtickets.com)

## Free family weekend marks Telford Town Park Amphitheatre's reopening

Telford & Wrekin Council is hosting an 'action-packed weekend of free family fun' on Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 July, to mark the reopening of Telford Town Park Amphitheatre following a period of restoration work. After the launch weekend, the amphitheatre will host an eclectic programme of outdoor shows. Amongst these will be Jeeves And Wooster in 'Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves' (Wednesday 22 July), The Wind In The Willows (Thursday 23 July), Out Of The Box (Saturday 25 July) and The Gingerbread Man (Saturday 1 August). To find out about all upcoming productions - and to book tickets - visit the website at [telfordtheatre.com](http://telfordtheatre.com)



## Amy Winehouse Band to visit Stoke

Amy Winehouse's original band will visit Victoria Hall in Stoke-on-Trent next spring to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the late singer's defining album, Back To Black. The Amy Winehouse Band stop off at the venue on Saturday 6 March. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at [atgtickets.com/stoke](http://atgtickets.com/stoke)

## SIX The Musical to make a return to the Potteries

Smash-hit musical SIX will make an autumn return to Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre next year.

The award-winning show - which follows the six wives of Henry VIII as they take to the microphone to tell their own personal stories - will stop off at the venue from Tuesday 28 September to Saturday 2 October 2027... For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the website at [atgtickets.com/stoke](http://atgtickets.com/stoke)



## Sensasian arts festival is back, bigger and better...

South Asian arts & culture festival Sensasian is this year presenting its biggest-ever programme of events, bringing film, music, dance, storytelling and shared cultural experiences to audiences across Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

To check out the festival's complete line-up, visit [appetite.org.uk/sensasian-26](http://appetite.org.uk/sensasian-26)



## Festival to mark jewellery making in Birmingham

Birmingham is to host a 'glittering' festival celebrating over 250 years of jewellery making in the city.

Taking place in May 2027, the month-long event will include exhibitions, activities and workshops featuring the output of 'world-class creatives'.

The announcement marks the one-year anniversary of Birmingham being awarded World Craft City status, an accolade designed to recognise its rich heritage, skilled artisans and innovation in jewellery and allied trades.



## Up, up and away! Telford's balloon festival returns...

One of Shropshire's most popular events makes a welcome return late next month. Organisers of Telford Balloon Fiesta are promising a packed weekend of colour, community spirit and affordable family fun at Telford Town Park over the bank holiday weekend of Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 August.

Celebrations begin on the evening of Friday the 28th with the much-loved Night Glow - a ticketed event during which visitors can enjoy the sight of illuminated balloons glowing in time to music, 'creating a truly special atmosphere and an unforgettable start to the weekend'.

## Sutton Coldfield to host first Literary Arts Festival

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall will host its inaugural Literary Arts Festival in the autumn.

Taking place on Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September, the event will bring together poets, authors, performers and creatives for a free weekend of workshops, readings, talks and live performances. To find out more, visit [suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com](http://suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com)

## New Lily Savage musical heading to the Midlands

Birmingham Hippodrome will next year play host to a new comedy inspired by the life of the late Paul O'Grady and the creation of his much-loved drag persona, Lily Savage. Written by Jonathan Harvey (Beautiful Thing), Savage will star Danny Beard and visit the Hippodrome from Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 April, prior to a West End run.

## Thirty dragons flying into Wolverhampton in 2027

A 'spectacular' art trail featuring 30 large dragon sculptures is set to bring a burst of colour to Wolverhampton next summer.

A fundraising initiative for palliative & bereavement-support specialists Compton Care, Trail Of The Dragons will be on show from Monday 5 July to Sunday 5 September 2027. A high-profile auction of the sculptures will then take place. For more information, visit the website at [trailofthedragons.co.uk](http://trailofthedragons.co.uk)



## Christmas is a-comin'!

Wolverhampton's Dunstall Park Greyhounds is now taking bookings for its Christmas 2026 party-nights experience.

The venue's festive-season package includes an evening of live greyhound racing, during which guests will be served a three-course meal. The racing will be followed by live entertainment. To find out more and book your Christmas celebration at the venue, visit [dunstallpark-greyhounds.co.uk](http://dunstallpark-greyhounds.co.uk)



# B:Music

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

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Phone 0121 7803333



**An Evening with Susie Wolff:  
Driven**  
01 July | Town Hall



**An Evening with David Sedaris**  
02 July | Symphony Hall



**Classic Albums Live: Led Zeppelin  
II plus bonus set of Zeppelin hits**  
03 July | Town Hall

## Great Nights Out start with B:Music!

Live Bands  
Top Comedians  
Family Shows  
World Class Orchestras  
Films with Live Music  
Podcasts Live  
Dance Stars  
& much, MUCH more!



**Nashville Sounds in the Round**  
04 July | Symphony Hall



**FREE Jazz Friday: Keneish Dance**  
10 July | Symphony Hall



Pop in & try!

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



**An Enchanting Evening with  
Amrita Kaur**  
11 July | Town Hall



**Lenny Pearce: Toddler Rave World  
Tour Part 2**  
17 July | Town Hall



**Midday Mantra: Sun Raga**  
18 July | Symphony Hall



**James Acaster**  
20-22 July | Symphony Hall



**For You Blue: Bootleg Beatles  
& Royal London Philharmonic  
Orchestra** 23 July | Symphony Hall

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

## Python legend takes to the stage with Holy Grail

John Cleese will visit Birmingham Town Hall in the autumn to present a show celebrating the classic 1975 film *Monty Python And The Holy Grail*, in which he starred alongside fellow Pythons Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin. The Sunday 20 September event will feature a screening of the movie followed by a 45-minute Q&A session with John. Commenting on the tour, the much-loved *Fawlty Towers* star said: "I'm delighted to be celebrating more than 50 years of *Holy Grail* with these live events around the country - mainly because I genuinely never expected either the film or myself to last this long."

## National Trust launches its Sky Garden Challenge

The National Trust has launched its annual Sky Gardening Challenge

competition, with entries welcome from Midlanders

who live in flats and apartments.

The competition has a range of categories, 'encouraging participants to enter everything from one plant pot to showcasing how their balcony is attracting wildlife and pollinators'. Competition entries will close at midnight on Sunday 16 August.

To find out more, including information about the prizes that are up for grabs, visit the website at [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)



## Behind the secret door...

Weston Park is giving visitors the chance to explore its historic library via a new series of events.

Commenting on the series - which takes the title *Behind The Secret Door: Stories From The Shelves* - Vikki Duncan, head of the stately home's collections & engagement department, said: "This is an invitation to visitors to spend a couple of hours delving into the history of Weston Park's library of more than 3,000 fantastic books, ranging from travel to nature, history to architecture. With Weston Park Foundation celebrating its 40th anniversary, we couldn't think of a better time to be showcasing the history and tales of the estate."

To find out when the sessions are taking place, check out the 'what's on' section of the venue's website at [weston-park.com](http://weston-park.com)



## Disney On Ice to return to the Midlands in the autumn

Disney On Ice will bring skating spectacular *Discover The Magic* to Birmingham in the autumn.

The production - which shows at the city's bp pulse LIVE venue from Wednesday 28

October to Sunday 8 November - features moments from, among other films, *Moana*, *Frozen*, *Encanto*, *Toy Story* and *Coco*. For more information and to book tickets, visit the official website at [disneyonice.co.uk](http://disneyonice.co.uk)

## Youth project celebrates creativity with arts trail

Wolverhampton city centre is being transformed into a colourful open-air gallery, thanks to a major youth-led arts project celebrating creativity, identity and community.

The Visual Arts Trail, led by Wolverhampton Arts Centre as part of Wolverhampton City of Youth Culture, features nine bold large-scale artworks created by young people working alongside professional artists... You can find the trail map at [visualartstrail.org.uk](http://visualartstrail.org.uk)

## Banks's Brewery heritage preserved by city archive

The history of one of the West Midlands' most important businesses is being preserved for future generations by Wolverhampton City Archives.

Banks's Brewery was a central part of Wolverhampton's industrial and social life for more than 150 years.

The archive collection features information about how the brewery operated, the pubs and properties it owned, and the people who worked there.

## Full steam ahead for local railway's autumn gala

The Severn Valley Railway's Autumn Steam Gala will take place from Thursday 17 to

Sunday 20 September.

This year's event will feature, along with other guest trains, Ivatt Class 2 tank locomotive No 41313, the first-ever locomotive from the Isle of Wight Steam Railway to visit the Severn Valley Railway.

## Return of Shrewsbury's dragon boat festival

Shrewsbury's dragon boat racing festival returns in the middle of the month.

The popular event, which will see dozens of teams take to the River Severn to fundraise for Severn Hospice, is being held across the weekend of Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 July. Riverside food stalls and entertainment also feature. For more information, head to the website at [severnospice.org.uk](http://severnospice.org.uk)

## Two Midlands stop-offs for *Before I Go To Sleep*

A stage adaptation of *Before I Go To Sleep* will visit two Midlands venues as part of its first-ever tour next spring.

Based on the bestselling novel by SJ Watson - and later adapted into a hit film starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth - the show will star Giovanna Fletcher. It stops off at The Alexandra in Birmingham from Tuesday 13 to Saturday 17 April and Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury from Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 May. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at [beforeigotosleep.com](http://beforeigotosleep.com)

# WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT

# ATG TICKETS

## Regent Theatre

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See the multi award-winning master of mind control

### Derren Brown: Only Human

Tue 30 Jun – Sat 4 Jul



The perfect recipe for a musical

### Waitress

Mon 6 – Sat 11 Jul



Celebrating 30 years of standing ovations

### Lord of The Dance: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Mon 13 – Wed 15 Jul



Everyone's favourite pig is back this summer

### Peppa Pig's Big Family Show

Fri 7 & Sat 8 Aug



You're invited to a world where sequins sparkle

### Burlesque The Musical

Tue 25 – Sat 29 Aug



See his trademark stand-up live

### Chris Ramsey

Sat 12 Sep

## Victoria Hall

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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



Hear your favourite country songs live

### A Country Night in Nashville

Sat 8 Aug



Celebrate the queens of music

### Girl Power Experience

Sat 12 Sep

# WORLD CLASS ACTS IN LICHFIELD

Featuring internationally renowned performers, family favourites, fascinating spoken-word events and plenty more besides, Lichfield Festival returns this month with an explosion of culture to suit all tastes. The festival hosts events throughout the year, but July marks the undoubted highlight of the cultural calendar - the city's 13-day multi-arts summer festival, this year running from Tuesday 7 to Sunday 19 July. Read on to check out some of this year's highlights...

## XUEFEI YANG & MARIA VEGA

Lichfield Cathedral, Thurs 16 July

Renowned guitarist Xuefei Yang and flamenco sensation Maria Vega make a triumphant return to the festival, five years after their debut performance. The duo once again present a fusion of dance and music. Their programme, titled Silk And Fire, combines traditional Spanish and South American works - by De Falla, Albeniz and Paco Peña - with Xuefei's Chinese folk-inspired compositions.

The music is, of course, accompanied by Maria's flamenco movement, in what promises to be a spellbinding evening of entertainment.



Lichfield Festival takes place at various locations across the city from Tuesday 7 to Sunday 19 July. To check out the full programme and book tickets, visit [lichfieldfestival.org](http://lichfieldfestival.org)



**RACHEL DAVIS & DARREN MCMULLEN**

**The Hub at St Mary's, Thursday 9 July**

The popular folk duo make their first appearance at Lichfield Festival, as part of a summer tour around the UK.

Rachel, who provides fiddle and vocals, and multi-instrumentalist Darren - mandolin, bouzouki, tenor banjo, whistles, guitar and bass - both hail from Canada and have toured together since 2012 as founding members of award-winning group Còig.

The gig will no doubt feature songs from their debut album, Home.

**LA SOLITUDE:**

**JESSICA WALKER & JOSEPH ATKINS**

**The Hub at St Mary's, Monday 13 July**

Blending music and theatre - and presented as part of the festival's French Icons series - La Solitude explores the life and legacy of 20th-century singer-songwriter Barbara (1930 - 1997).



Vocalist Jessica (pictured), accompanied by Joseph on the piano, brings Barbara to life, weaving together original French and new English versions of her songs - also available in the form of a newly released album.



**RUMER**

**Lichfield Cathedral, Friday 17 July**

MOJO Award winner and two-time Brit-nominee Rumer here marks the 15th anniversary of her hit debut album, Seasons Of My Soul. Rumer's Cathedral performance comes in the middle of an ensemble tour celebrating the work of Burt Bacharach, who has long been a major influence on the Pakistan-born singer-songwriter's repertoire. Expect an evening of heart-felt music that falls between realism and romance.



**KNDS FAIREY BRASS BAND:  
WALLACE AND GROMIT & MORE**

**Lichfield Cathedral, Saturday 11 July**

This fun-filled family adventure sees the Fairey Band teaming up with claymation masters Aardman for a screening of the latter's Oscar-winning 1993 movie, Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers (featuring dastardly penguin Feathers McGraw). The band will provide live accompaniment to the film - a special arrangement of Julian Nott's iconic score - after which they will perform a selection of brass-band favourites.

**SAMRAT MAJUMDER**

**Church of St Chad, Wednesday 15 July**

Rising star Samrat Majumder is a Scottish-Indian classical guitarist.



Last year tipped as 'one to watch' when he was announced as an artist for the Young Classical Artists Trust, Samrat was celebrated by Classic FM when the radio station named their 2026 list of 30 exceptional musicians under the age of 30. His performance at the festival features JS Bach's Lute Suite No2, presented alongside works by Dowland, Schubert and others...



**GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS**

**The Hub at St Mary's, Saturday 18 July**

Marvel at the miraculous feats recorded by Guinness World Records - and look out for a special guest record-breaker or two! This spoken-word event is led by Guinness World Records' editor-in-chief and longtime friend of the festival Craig Glenday, who will be sharing plenty of fascinating secrets from the legendary book. And there's even a chance for audience members to make a record of their very own!



**AURORA PERCUSSION DUO**

**The Hub at St Mary's, Sunday 12 July**

Delia Stevens and Le Yu have made it their mission to redefine the art of percussion, delivering adrenaline-fuelled performances which are both aurally and visually spectacular.

The duo's century-spanning repertoire ranges from the work of JS Bach through to Rimsky-Korsakov's Flight Of The Bumblebee, and from Gershwin to the present day - all while showcasing a host of instruments, from the marimba to the ever-so-humble egg shaker.

**GX2: THE DON SHIRLEY TRIO PROJECT**

**The Hub at St Mary's, Thursday 16 July**

Reimagining the genre-defying work of visionary pianist & composer Don Shirley, the trio is led by the festival's 2026 artist-in-residence, cellist Gabriella Swallow



(pictured), and Mercury award-nominee Joe Webb (piano)... The gig will be Gabriella's second festival appearance at The Hub at St Mary's - two days earlier, on Tuesday 14 July, she takes part in an intimate trio performance with trumpeter/singer Pete Horsfall and guitarist Honey Boulton.



**BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES**

**Lichfield Cathedral, Saturday 18 July**

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of American Independence, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales presents a programme of works by American composers. The concert opens with Charles Ives' Three Places In New England. This is followed by a violin concerto by Samuel Barber - featuring award-winning US-Russian soloist Maria Ioudenitch (pictured) - and Aaron Copland's much-loved Appalachian Spring.

# Walsall Arena and Arts Centre



## 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



**D Day Darlings**  
Sun 27 Sept 7.30pm £27.50



## October

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# ROCK ANTHEMS

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# 15 NOV

Live music from across the region...

## The Streets

Ludlow Castle, Shropshire, Thurs 23 July

Greatly admired for his stand-out lyrics and clever blending of musical styles, Midlands-raised singer-songwriter Mike Skinner - the man behind The Streets - has experienced his fair share of mental turmoil down the years. Not that being in the comfort zone of contentment suits Mike all that much either - at least artistically speaking...

"There have been times when I've struggled to have something to say in my songs," he admits. "That's what can happen when you gradually make your life easier and easier."



## Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 19 July

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

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

Jools and the gang are joined for this Wolverhampton concert by Roachford and guest vocalists Ruby Turner, Louise Marshall and Sumudu Jayatilaka.



## The Flaming Lips

The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton, Tues 21 July

Drawing heavily on the 1960s/70s psychedelic tradition, Oklahoma rock band The Flaming Lips formed 43 years ago and, according to Q Magazine, are one of the '50 bands to see before you die'.

Best known for tracks including The Yeah

Yeah Yeah Song, Do You Realize?? and Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots Part 1, the three-time Grammy Award winners visit Wolverhampton this month as part of a UK and European tour.

## Iago Banet

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 21 July

Fingerstyle. Gypsy Jazz. Blues. Rock. Tex-Mex. Country. Dixieland Swing. Pop. Folk. You name it, Iago Banet plays it. Widely admired for such versatility, the Galicia-born guitar master moved to London over a decade ago, played in various bands and eventually branched out on his own. Taking his inspiration from legends like Merle Travis, Chet Atkins and Tommy Emmanuel, Iago continues to redefine the boundaries of the acoustic guitar.

## The Christians

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Fri 17 July

Soul, gospel & acoustic pop veterans The Christians formed in Liverpool way back in the mid-1980s, with the band's original line-up consisting of brothers Garry, Russell and Roger Christian (the latter sadly passed away in 1998) and songwriter & multi-instrumentalist Henry Priestman.

A self-titled debut album, released in 1987 and spawning hit singles Forgotten Town, Ideal World and Hooverville, propelled them to stardom, with two further records being released before the group took a step back from the limelight.

Re-forming in the new millennium with a revamped line-up, they appear at The Buttermarket mid-month on the back of a sell-out show at the venue last year.

## The Selecter

Stourbridge Town Hall, Sat 25 July

Coventry-based 2 Tone ska revival band The Selecter formed back in 1979. Fronted by the iconic Pauline Black, they're best known for their political and controversial lyrics. "It's a way of being," explains Pauline, "a way of life and a way of identifying yourself. 2 Tone unified all those different groups, and we can still do that. We can go anywhere, and that's the beauty of 2 Tone. It's the hybrid nature of it that makes everything possible."



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**W**

Classical music from across the region...



## Edward Gardner: John Adams' Harmonielehre

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 17 July

"I'm thrilled to be reconnecting with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra," says Edward Gardner in talking about this concert, which sees him conducting the orchestra in a team-up with an exceptional cohort of young musicmakers. "We have a wonderful, rich, shared history.

"The young musicians [performing with the orchestra as part of the first-ever CBSO Orchestral Residency scheme] will have played many mainstream works in their colleges and youth orchestras, but to tackle this extraordinary programme together will

fill us all with a sense of ambition and pride."

The 'extraordinary programme' to which Edward is referring features three landmark pieces which have redefined orchestral mass and momentum: Edgard Varèse's boundary-pushing *Ionisation* and *Amériques*, and John Adams' *Harmonielehre*. The latter, written in 1985, was described by the composer himself as "a statement of belief in the power of tonality at a time when I was uncertain about its future".

## The Heath String Quartet

The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield, Fri 17 July

Heath String Quartet visit Lichfield with a glowing reputation and having won their fair share of prestigious prizes across the years. These include the Gramophone Chamber Award, presented to them for their lavishly praised recording of the complete string quartets of Sir Michael Tippett. This Lichfield Festival stop-off sees them performing a concert featuring works by Mozart, Locke, Lyadov, Suk and Schumann.



## Kazuki conducts Harmonium

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 4 July

Music Director Kazuki Yamada is the man with the baton as his City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra present a celebration of 'uncommon



American heroes and heroines'. The programme includes John Adams' *Harmonium* - a search for transcendence in the face of uncertainty - Copland's *Fanfare For The Common Man* - written in 1942 and urging Americans to fight for the freedom of the world - and Joan Tower's *Fanfare For The Uncommon Woman* - with each fanfare dedicated to a remarkable female musician.

## Halesowen Orchestra

Carters Lane Baptist Church, Halesowen, Sat 11 July

The Halesowen Orchestra has been described as one of the town's hidden jewels - and it's a description with which the ensemble's many supporters would no doubt wholeheartedly agree.

This year celebrating their 40th birthday, the amateur group of musicians meet once a week to practise a wide and varied repertoire of works by some of the world's greatest classical composers.

This month's concert - taking the title *Northern Light* - features City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra principal bassoonist Nikolaj Henriques playing Carl Weber's bassoon concerto. The programme also includes Felix Mendelssohn's *Fair Melusine Overture* and Asger Hamerik's *Sixth Symphony*.

## Wombourne & District Choral Society

St Benedict Biscop Church, Wombourne, Wolverhampton, Sat 11 July

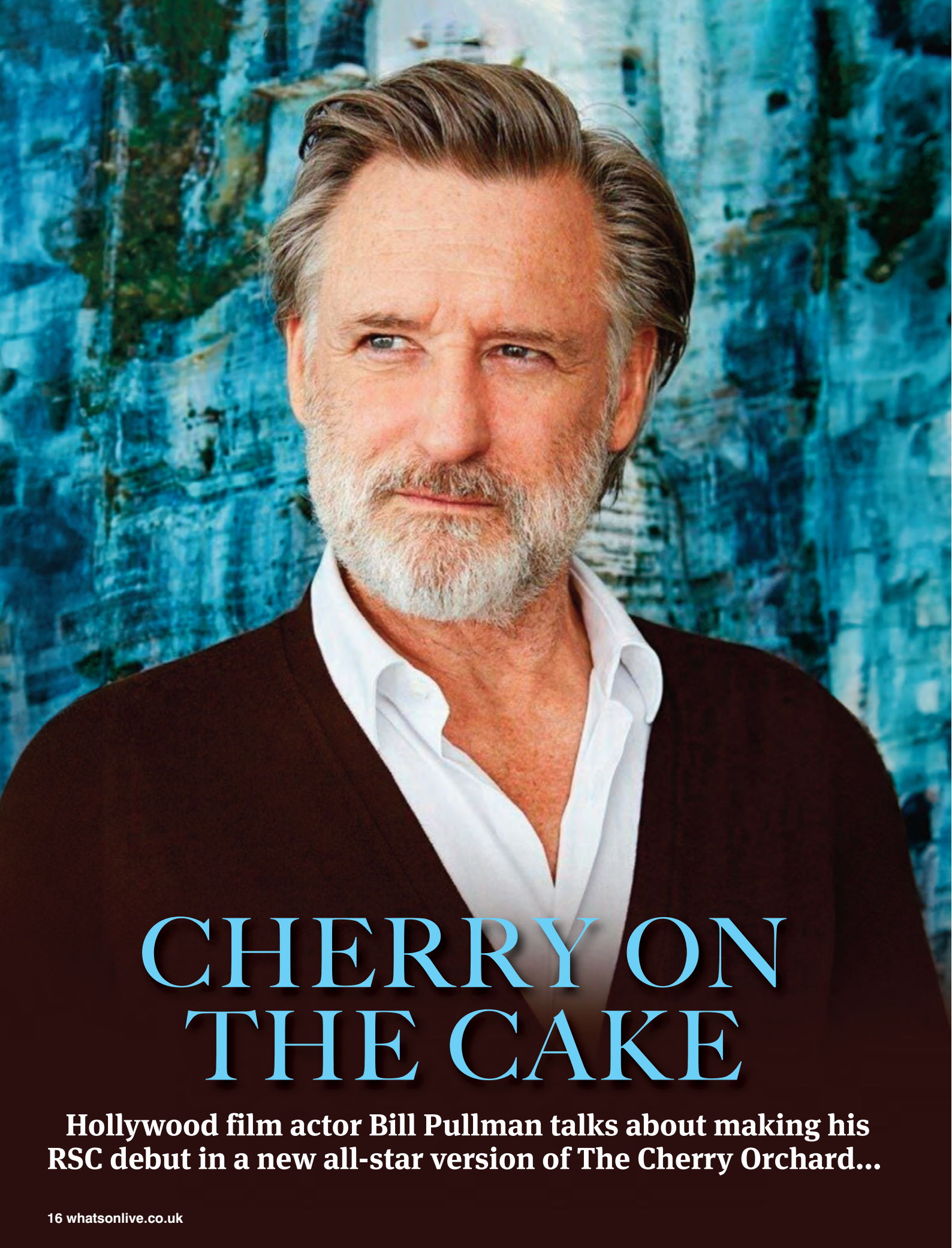
Presenting a varied repertoire of full-scale classical works, madrigals and part-songs, the well-established Wombourne & District Choral Society this month turn their attention to Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Bob Chilcott's *Little Jazz Mass*.

## Birmingham Bach Choir

St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire, Sat 4 July

One of the city's oldest and most distinguished musical groups, Birmingham Bach Choir here return to Bridgnorth's historic St Mary Magdalene Church for a one-off afternoon concert featuring a selection of songs connected to the works of William Shakespeare. The programme will be presented in the presence of 'Queen Elizabeth I', aka historian Lesley Smith in full regalia, who will provide 'narration and insight into Shakespeare's England'.





# CHERRY ON THE CAKE

**Hollywood film actor Bill Pullman talks about making his RSC debut in a new all-star version of *The Cherry Orchard*...**

## Bill Pullman is one of three movie stars - alongside Sir Kenneth Branagh and Helen Hunt - appearing in a new version of *The Cherry Orchard* at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Swan Theatre this summer. The Hollywood veteran tells *What's On* about his first visit to the RSC - back in the 1970s - his love of trees, and how his apparent 'guest star' role in the production came about...

The region's hottest theatre ticket this year is undoubtedly the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) new production of Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, which boasts three bona fide Hollywood A-listers among its cast. Tickets for the show sold out almost instantly, such was the pulling power of its initially announced stars Sir Kenneth Branagh and Helen Hunt - only for fellow movie legend Bill Pullman to be added to the 28-strong ensemble a few weeks later.

Probably best known for playing the US president in 1996 blockbuster *Independence Day*, the actor's extensive CV also includes the likes of *Spaceballs* (and its upcoming sequel), *The Accidental Tourist*, *Sleepless In Seattle* and *Lost Highway*. More recently he's taken the lead role in four seasons of Netflix's *The Sinner* and also appeared in *The Boroghs*.

Wrapping work on another project contributed to initial confusion over whether he'd officially signed up for the RSC role, but the unintentional delay also had a few upsides. Not only did it suggest he was the show's guest star - as well as a bonus for those who had already booked tickets - but he says being unveiled after the fact suits him just fine.

"I got no pressure!" laughs the amiable 72-year-old, who hails from upstate New York but now lives in Los Angeles. Given how age-defying he looks and sounds, the California lifestyle evidently agrees with him.

"Tickets were sold out. It wasn't like I was brought in to add five more people on the bus or something."

It turns out the delay was purely down to communication issues ("I thought it was a slam dunk"), since he was never going to pass up the chance to perform at a venue he'd made a pilgrimage to while a college student in the early 1970s. Was visiting the theatre a big deal for a fledgling American thespian?

"That's a good question, because there are a number of actors that probably don't have it on their radar like I did," he says, attributing his interest to "a little bit of propaganda the RSC put out in the 60s".

"I was in high school, and there was a substitute teacher who didn't know what to teach," he explains. "She'd come across a 16mm film that the UK government funded about Christopher Plummer as a young actor in Stratford-upon-Avon, riding his bike to work. It was totally out of context, but it dripped into my DNA what a beautiful thing to be an actor and riding around on a bicycle. And then to come here, it was like Mecca - it

didn't disappoint."

That initial visit afforded Bill the chance to take in a matinee performance of *Macbeth* - as well as sample one of the local delicacies...

"I got some fish & chips to eat on the coach on the way back," he recalls, whimsically. "They were about the best I ever had. I think that was the last time I had chips wrapped in newspaper."

We've moved on from doing that now, I tell him.

"That's too bad - there might have been a little flavour in the ink."

Taste is a sense the actor relies on more than most, having lost the ability to smell over 50 years ago following an accident when he fell from the shoulders of another actor during rehearsals for a play.

"I was in a coma for two and a half days, and when I came out, I didn't have a sense of smell," he says matter-of-factly. He's attempted to get it back without success, but says the condition ("it's called anosmia") has almost certainly heightened his sense of taste.

"When I first went to California, I was walking down the street with an actor friend and there was this orange tree. I'd never seen one before, so we had tree-ripened fruit there and then. I couldn't smell it, but the taste was so perfect.

"The first taste of tree-ripened fruit is a whole different experience to the ones that get shipped, so I had to have trees that I could watch and see if I could beat the squirrels to the fruit."

The fascination didn't stop there. For the last 15 years, he and wife Tamara have run *Hollywood Orchard*, a non-profit organisation that harvests, uses and donates locally grown fruit to needy families, working with food charities and hosting workshops and pop-up kitchen events.

He also co-owns a ranch in Montana with his brother where he gets to spend time outdoors and escape the day job - although he admits it can make it hard to return.

"Sometimes it's a little scary because you get your head into that world and then you come [back] into this one... you've really got to be able to compartmentalise."

His role on the farm primarily seems to involve making repairs ("we have fires that wipe out fences") and chopping down and clearing dead trees - which brings us nicely back on point, and the play we're here to talk about. It turns out he's had "a very serious engagement with orchards" virtually his entire life.

"They've had mystical levels of attraction for me. I remember taking an acting class and they asked us to bring in a book that was important to us and do prop work with it. I brought *Fruits For The Home Garden*."

The actor's affection for the genuine article seems clear, but what about Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard*?

"[It's] a play I read in college and did a scene from, but I didn't really relate to the younger characters at the time. Now I've aged a bit, it's like 'Oh my God, I get it.'"

The battle for a prized estate - and its titular fruit trees - depicted in Chekhov's final play is effectively a commentary on the class struggles that beset the Russian Empire around the time of the Russian Revolution, but the allegory has a contemporary resonance too. Bill remains fairly tight-lipped about the new version (by Olivier Award-winning playwright Laura Wade) save for a cryptic reference to a letter he received from director Tamara Harvey when she first offered him the role.

"The content of it was so interesting to me, and the way she thought about the character of Gaev. When I looked at the script, I could feel exactly what she had kind of baited me with."

There are clearly parallels to be drawn with modern society and divisive contemporary politics, as well as an environmental message ("they weren't good stewards of the land"), but Bill is just as keen to focus on the manic family dynamic and the characters' total lack of morals as they debate what to do in the face of spiralling debts.

"They don't really know how to behave, and the corruption is eating away at them. There's something really brilliant about the human mind that can live quite blissfully with denial."

He also believes the play - which he's quick to point out is as much fun as it is intellectually stimulating - provides a fascinating prism through which to view the trials and tribulations of the human condition.

"Denial is more than a river in Egypt," he jokes. "They can go from deep despair to high mayhem in an instant, just because of the need to escape the truth. It's passionate and emotional... and insane."

.....  
**The *Cherry Orchard* shows at The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, from Friday 10 July to Saturday 29 August**

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Comedy previews from across the region...

## Ayoade Bamgboye

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Thurs 23 July

Born in London, raised in Lagos, sacked in Budapest (she was working as an assistant to film director Yorgos Lanthimos on his



movie Poor Things) is how Ayoade Bamgboye describes herself. Another description would be 'Edinburgh Fringe debutant who walked away with the Best Newcomer award in 2025'. Ayoade is heading for Birmingham this month with the stand-up offering that earned her that coveted festival gong last summer.

Taking the title Swings & Roundabouts, the show is about 'going nowhere fast, being too British to stop apologising and too Nigerian to stop shouting'.

## Comedy All Stars

Dudley Town Hall, Sat 25 July

The Comedy All Stars show returns to Dudley Town Hall late this month with another line-up of top comedians... The show will feature sets



by Milton Jones, Nick Helm (pictured), Aurie Styla and Babatunde Aléshé.

## Paul Smith

The Halls Wolverhampton, Sat 4 July; Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 29 July & Wed 11 November; Dudley Town Hall, Wed 19 August; Utilita Arena Birmingham, Fri 25 September

Affable Liverpool comedian Paul Smith has waxed lyrical on all manner of topics in his time, including such peculiar subjects as who



he'd most like to be haunted by (Ghandi - Paul reckons he'd do it quite quietly) and which is the largest animal he thinks he could beat in a fight (a goose). He's also 'died' on stage in front of a Babylon 5 actress, who made matters worse for him by shaking her head in pity... Widely regarded as one of the comedy circuit's most accomplished MCs, Paul has made a real name for himself courtesy of online video clips which almost routinely go viral.

## James Acaster

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 20 - Wed 22 July

Long established as one of the UK's leading comics, James Acaster was nominated for the Edinburgh Fringe's Best Comedy Show award for five consecutive years back in the 2010s - a fact which provides irrefutable evidence of the consistently high quality of his material.

James peddles a style that initially makes his humour seem awkward and shambolic. He gets away with doing so by virtue of the fact that his writing is so solidly brilliant, blending observational comedy with a selection of more eccentric pieces. He's visiting the region this month as part of a UK tour.



## Gary Delaney

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 22 July; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 10 September; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 22 September; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 2 October; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 23 October; Dudley Town Hall, Sun 1 November

"The hardest part of running competitively in Wales must be keeping up with the Joneses," quips the ever-popular Gary Delaney. And Gary's certainly no one-joke pony: "My girlfriend's dog died, so to cheer her up, I went out and got her an identical one. She was livid and yelled 'What am I going to do with two dead dogs?'"

Suffice it to say there will be plenty more gags where those came from when the Solihull-born funnyman visits Lichfield with his latest touring show, Gary On Laughing.

## Michelle Wolf

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 2 July

American funnywoman Michelle Wolf probably remains best known for her infamous headline set at the White House Correspondents' Dinner, during which she told a series of gags that rattled Republicans and Democrats alike.

Indeed, President Trump, who'd boycotted the evening, was so appalled by her performance that he called her "a filthy 'comedian'".

She's certainly an acquired taste - her sets have included gags about otter rape, for example - but acclaimed specials on HBO and Netflix have seen her steadily build a global fanbase.

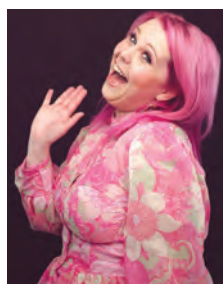
## Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival

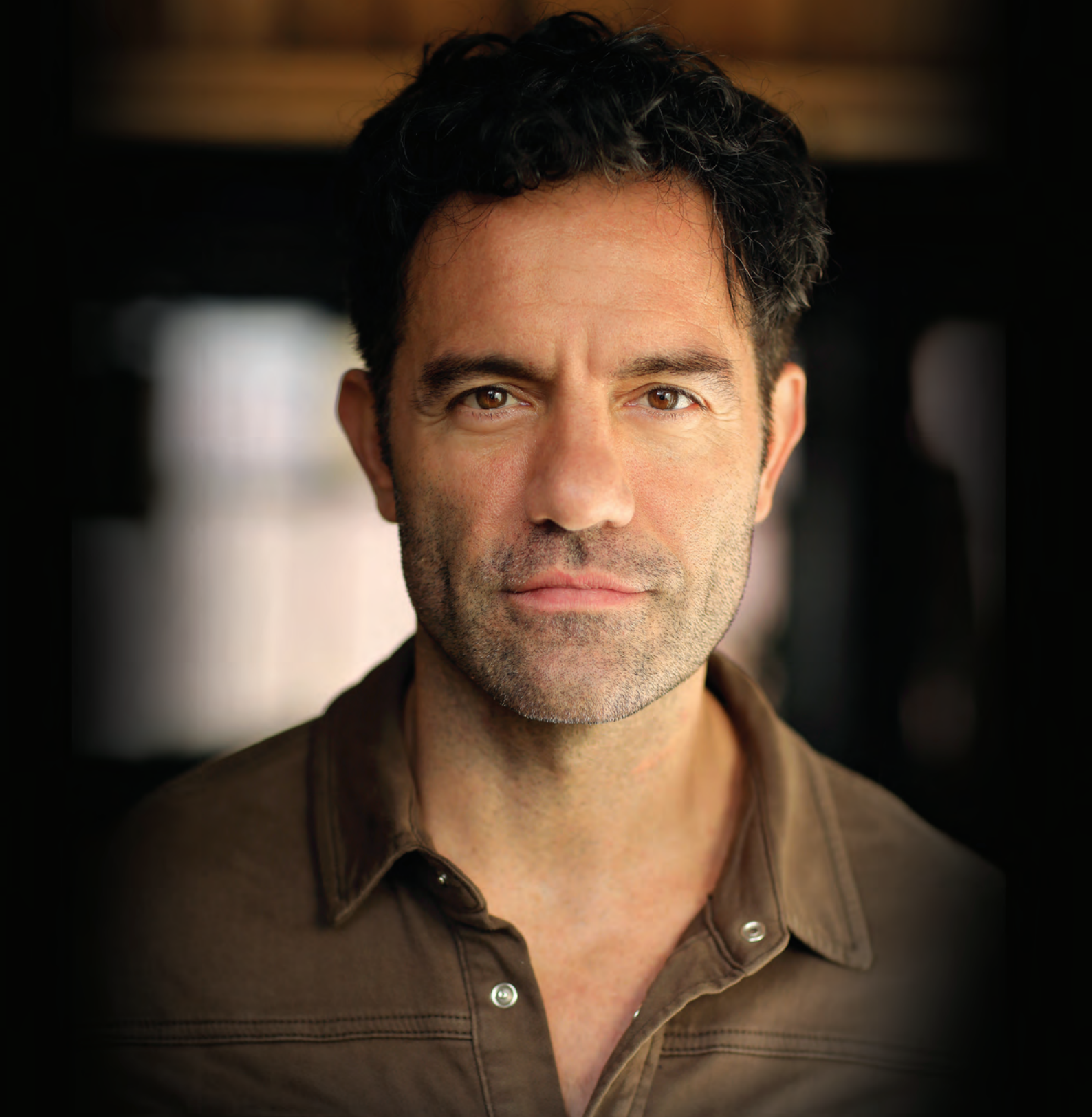
Various locations, Shrewsbury, Wed 8 - Sun 12 July

As well as being a hotbed of food, flowers and folk music, Shrewsbury in recent times has become a centre of comedy excellence, thanks to this hugely popular event.

As on previous occasions, the 2026 edition of the multi-venue laugh-in is brought to a close with a special gala event at Theatre Severn.

The finale show will feature sets by Esther Manito, Lou Sanders, Morgan Rees, Frankie Monroe, Ignacio Lopez and Scott Bennett. Other comedians contributing to the festival across its five days include Lindsey Santoro, Stuart Goldsmith, Clinton Baptiste and Tez Ilyas (all pictured below).





# CUTTING IT

**Ramin Karimloo talks about taking the title role  
in a new production of Sweeney Todd...**

## A new production of Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street opens at Birmingham Rep this month. Under the direction of Joe Murphy, this latest incarnation of the Stephen Sondheim classic sees musical theatre legend Ramin Karimloo take on the title role of Sweeney - a barber whose plans for his customers extend way beyond giving them a short back & sides...

Actor Ramin Karimloo has sung many of the most iconic roles in musical theatre, including the Phantom in *The Phantom Of The Opera* and *Love Never Dies* and Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, but despite a career which has seen him performing on Broadway and in the West End, this summer is the first time he will play Sweeney Todd.

Ramin takes up the cut-throat razor of the *Demon Barber of Fleet Street* in a new production of the hit Stephen Sondheim & Hugh Wheeler musical, produced by Birmingham Rep and directed by the theatre's artistic director, Joe Murphy.

And the Iranian-Canadian actor, singer & songwriter is looking forward to bringing the role to life.

"Sweeney is one of those rare characters who feels almost inexhaustible," Ramin explains. "On the surface, he's become this mythic figure, almost a cautionary tale, but underneath that is a man shaped by loss, injustice and a kind of emotional fracture that feels very human.

"What draws me to him isn't a desire to define him too quickly but to explore that space between the man he was and the figure he becomes.

"There's something unsettlingly relatable in that. The idea of how far someone can be pushed and what happens when grief and anger go unresolved."

Based on a Victorian Penny Dreadful, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street* tells the story of Benjamin Barker, who is wrongfully sent to a penal colony and returns to London bent on revenge. Taking the new name of Sweeney Todd and opening a barber's shop, he joins forces with the baker Mrs Lovett to launch a murderous regime in which he cuts the throats of his customers and Mrs Lovett turns them into tasty pies.

Ramin, who will be sharing the stage with Meow Meow as Mrs Lovett and David Bedella as Judge Turpin, is keen to delve into the multi-layered character of Sweeney.

"The role feels like a real gift. With Sondheim, so much of the work is already there on the page, in the language, in the rhythm, in the way the music carries thought and emotion. You're not having to impose something onto it - you're listening,

responding, and allowing it to lead you.

"Of course, there's a responsibility that comes with a role people know so well, but for me the focus is always on staying present with it rather than trying to measure up to anything outside the room.

"The richness of the writing gives you permission to explore, to sit in the contradictions, and to trust that if you honour what's there, something truthful will come through."

Premiered on Broadway in 1979, *Sweeney Todd* is often described as one of the most demanding musical theatre roles to sing, but Ramin says it's all about working with the music: "I think 'challenge' can sometimes be the wrong word - it's more about precision and trust. With Sondheim, the music and the text are so intricately connected that you can't separate the two. Every rhythm, every shift in melody is carrying thought - so the work is really about honouring that, rather than trying to push against it.

"If you stay present and let the writing lead, it actually supports you. The discipline is in listening closely enough to follow it, rather than imposing something on top of it."

Sondheim, whose other works include *Into The Woods* and *Sunday In The Park With George*, is a stalwart of 20th century musical theatre, with *Sweeney Todd* being one of his most popular shows.

"I think *Sweeney Todd* works on a few levels at once. It has the scale and thrill of something almost operatic, but at its core it's a very human story about loss, love, and what happens when those things become distorted. That combination makes it both entertaining and unsettling in equal measure.

"And then, of course, you have the writing. Stephen Sondheim created something incredibly rich. It's dark, it's funny, it's precise and it doesn't ask the audience to sit comfortably. It invites them to lean in, to question, and to recognise elements of themselves in places they might not expect. That's what gives it a kind of lasting power."

For Ramin, the attraction of the show is not just having the chance to play Sweeney but being able to do so in a new production here in Birmingham.

"What really drew me in was the opportunity

to work with Joe Murphy. From our first conversations, there was an energy and openness that felt both inspiring and supportive. It didn't feel like coming in with fixed ideas, but rather the chance to explore something together.

"That sense of collaboration is hugely important to me. The Rep has a real history of nurturing bold, actor-led work, and this felt like the right place and the right people to take on something as rich and demanding as this piece."

He is looking forward to spending time in the city.

"I wouldn't say I know Birmingham particularly well, even though I have worked here a few times over the years. But that is actually something I'm looking forward to changing. There's something nice about arriving somewhere without too many preconceptions and allowing yourself to discover it as you go.

"For me, it's often less about ticking off specific places and more about getting a feel for the city; its rhythm, its people, its character. That usually ends up feeding the work in ways you don't expect, so I'm looking forward to spending time there and letting that side of it reveal itself."

And Ramin hopes his portrayal of Sweeney will also bring new revelations to the audience: "I came to the piece without a long personal history with it, so I didn't feel tied to any one interpretation from the outset. That's been quite freeing in a way, because it allows you to approach it with fresh eyes and let the work speak to you as you go.

"I hope audiences feel engaged by it, that they lean in, that it stays with them in some way, whether that's through the music, the story or something more personal. It's a piece that doesn't sit comfortably, and I think there's something valuable in that. If it sparks a reaction or a conversation, then it's doing its job."

.....

**Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street shows at Birmingham Rep from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 15 August**



**Matilda The Musical** Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 1 July - Sun 2 August

Matilda is an extraordinary child, but her parents think she’s a nuisance. When they’re not glued to the television set, her mum practises ballroom dancing and her dad gloats about his latest dodgy business deal. Life at school isn’t much better for Matilda either. Then, one day, she discovers that she’s got very special powers and decides it’s high time

the grown-ups were taught a much-needed lesson... Adapted from one of Roald Dahl’s best-loved books, the Royal Shakespeare Company’s stage-musical version of Matilda - complete with music & lyrics by comedian Tim Minchin - has been delighting West End audiences for 15 years, during which time it’s bagged in excess of 100 international awards.

**The Karate Kid The Musical**

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 21 July - Sat 25 July

Martial arts movie The Karate Kid - one of the highest-grossing films of 1984 - saw bullied teenager Daniel LaRusso turn his fate around with the help of a mentor named Mr Miyagi... Now, the film’s story is being retold in this critically acclaimed stage-musical version, which is currently on its first-ever tour of the UK. “The story isn’t about karate per se - it’s about human connection,” says Singapore-raised veteran Adrian Pang, who stars as Mr Miyagi. “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.”



**Waitress**

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 and 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.



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**Sleeping Beauty**  
THE PANTOMIME OF YOUR DREAMS  
ANDREW RYAN

Sat 19 Dec - Sun 31 Jan



## The Choir Of Man

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 14 - Sat 18 July; Malvern Theatres, Tues 21 - Sat 25 July; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 20 - Sat 24 October

A huge success in the West End, with an Olivier Award nomination further proving its credentials, The Choir Of Man is no conventional theatre production. Set in a pub, featuring 'a wildly talented group of incredible instrumentalists, world-class wordsmiths, and sensational singers', it's brimming with hits from artists including Queen, Luther Vandross, Paul Simon, Adele and Katy Perry. There's no story to follow as such - the show maybe feels more like a gig than a play - but there's certainly plenty to enjoy across its near two-hour running time.

## The Spy Who Came In From The Cold

The Alexandra, Birmingham, until Sat 4 July

The Spy Who Came In From The Cold was John le Carré's third book and established the former MI5 and MI6 employee as a significant 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's 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.

## Richard III

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, until Sat 4 July

The murderous and machiavellian Duke of Gloucester, better known - but only once he's ascended the throne, of course - as Richard III, is perhaps the most powerful and evil of all theatre villains.



Shakespeare's brutal play follows Gloucester's blood-soaked trail as he uses all his skills as a lover, a liar, a trickster and a tyrant to seize power and become the King of England... Matthew Duckett, whose acting CV includes Netflix's film version of Lady Chatterley's Lover, takes the title role.

## Surinderella

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 July

Rifco Theatre Company have been producing live entertainment celebrating contemporary British South Asian experiences for a quarter of a century. Their latest show sees them turning their attention to the beloved theatre tradition of 'the great British pantomime' - but complete with a Bollywood-blockbuster-style twist!

Expect magic, makeovers, selfie-obsessed stepsisters, and a mould-breaking title character...



## MANBand

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 27 - Wed 29 July

A feelgood tale about four music-loving pub regulars wanting one last shot at fame and fortune, Bloomin' Good Productions' MANBand is showing at the Crescent Theatre as part of Birmingham Fest 2026.



## Blue Mist

The Rep, Birmingham, Wed 22 - Sat 25 July

Truth, trust and ambition come under the spotlight in Mohamed-Zain Dada's 'darkly funny' Olivier Award-nominated play.



When aspiring journalist Jihad wins the chance to make his own documentary, he sets out to give voice to his community and challenge the usual stereotypes that fill the airwaves. But in a media landscape that profits off fear, how far can one voice really go?... Blue Mist is being presented by Boundless Theatre in association with Tamasha, a long-established British Asian company whose plays aim to reflect the realities of life in a multicultural society.

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sunday 30 August

This fresh retelling of A Midsummer Night's Dream - made with youngsters very much in mind - sees the Royal Shakespeare Company teaming up with leading children's theatre ensemble Unicorn for the very first time.



The show has proved a big hit with adults as well as kids, courtesy of its fast-track storytelling (it runs for just 80 interval-free minutes), eye-catching design and innovative creative captioning.

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Theatre previews from around the region



**Game Of Thrones: The Mad King**

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Mon 20 July - Sat 5 September

Premiering at the Royal Shakespeare Company this month, Game Of Thrones: The Mad King is a prequel to the original books and HBO's long-running television series. Described as 'a sweeping new stage epic', the production spans the final years before the events of the original novels, which were written by George RR Martin, who is serving as executive producer on the show. "When I first wrote Game Of Thrones, I never imagined that it would be anything other than a book," says George. "For me, the RSC was the obvious choice when thinking about putting a Game Of Thrones story on the stage. Shakespeare is the greatest name in English literature, and his plays have been a constant source of inspiration to me and my writing."

**The Rocky Horror Show**

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 6 - Sat 11 July

Hook up your fishnets, tighten your corsets and prepare to 'do The Time Warp again' - The Rocky Horror Show is returning to the Midlands! Richard O'Brien's cult production tells the tale of the straight-laced Brad and the deliciously corruptible Janet, who arrive at the castle of the alien transvestite Frank N Furter and witness the birth of the monster, Rocky. Along the way, they take the audience through a selection of love-'em-or-loathe-'em musical numbers, including Damn It Janet, Sweet Transvestite, and The Time Warp. Great fun's a guarantee - particularly if you get into the spirit of things and attend the show dressed in your very best stockings & suspenders (as many patrons do)!



**The Band**

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 14 - Sat 18 July

Written by Tim Firth and featuring the music of Take That, The Band is a story about the power which music can have over people.

For five teenage girls, their favourite boyband and the music they play are everything. Twenty-five years later, the quintet attempt to rekindle their friendship with a trip to a concert by the band they loved so dearly as teenagers. But none of the ladies' lives have turned out quite the way they were expecting... Presented by Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company.

**I'm Sorry Prime Minister**

Malvern Theatres, Tues 28 July - Sat 1 August

Jonathan Lynn, who co-wrote the satirical television sitcoms Yes, Minister and Yes, Prime Minister, is the creative force behind this related stage play, which sees the return of the aforementioned series' main characters: Jim Hacker and Sir Humphrey Appleby. Former PM Hacker's desire for a quiet life as master of an Oxford college is spectacularly upended when he finds himself facing the ultimate modern crisis - being cancelled by the college committee. Enter the delightfully devious Sir Humphrey, who's lost none of his love for bureaucracy, Latin phrases, and well-timed obstruction...

**The Changeling**

Oldbury Rep, Sat 11 - Sat 18 July

Oldbury Rep Players once again tread the boards in the middle of this month, presenting the world premiere of Paul Steventon-Marks' reimagining of the Dracula myth. The Players have previously performed another of the award-winning playwright's

works: Frankenstein - A Monster In Paris.

**After Party**

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 30 July - Sat 1 August & Wed 9 - Sat 12 September

The Belgrade here joins forces with Traverse Theatre and Paines Plough to present preview performances of award-winning playwright Morna Young's latest offering. Actress and matriarch Vivienne Blackwood summons her fractured family to an 80th-birthday celebration. As old tensions surface and beliefs collide, Vivienne's real reason for gathering her relatives together soon becomes apparent... The production returns to the Belgrade in September.

**Boiler Room Six: A Titanic Story**

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 18 July

In the final hours of 14 April 1912, the RMS Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, collided with an iceberg. The 'unsinkable ship' slowly sank. It was one of the most tragic disasters of the 20th century, with 1,517 men, women and children losing their lives. One man who survived was the ship's stoker, Frederick Barrett - and it's *his* story of that fateful night that Boiler Room Six explores. The production stops off in Coventry this month as part of a UK tour.



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SATURDAY 8 AUGUST TREASURE ISLAND 2pm

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SATURDAY 22 AUGUST LOCAL BANDS 12 midday to 6pm **FREE**

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST THE RAILWAY CHILDREN 2pm + 12 midday Puppet Workshop

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Outdoor theatre previews from around the region



**Othello**

Lichfield Cathedral, Tues 7 July; Coughton Court, Warwickshire, Fri 10 July; Shrewsbury Castle, Tues 28 & Wed 29 July; Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, North Shropshire, Tues 11 August; Bantock House & Gardens, Wolverhampton, Sat 15 August

Shakespeare's tragic tale of lost handkerchiefs, ruined reputations and mistreated wives has always been one of theatre's most powerful stories. When Iago is overlooked for promotion by Othello, his Machiavellian mind turns to thoughts of vengeance. Othello's willingness to be led by the nose is all grist to Iago's mill, and fatal consequences ensue... The production is presented by the well-established and all-male Lord Chamberlain's Men, who are taking on the challenge of performing Othello for the very first time in their history.

**The Three Musketeers**

Winterbourne Gardens, Birmingham, Fri 3 July

There's plenty of swashbuckling fun to be had in Illyria's lighthearted stage version of Alexandre Dumas' classic adventure novel. Set against a sweeping backdrop of 17th-century war-torn France, the play is being advertised by Illyria as a coming together of peril, politics and passion. The long-established theatricals wish to make it clear that younger children are most welcome at the show - assuming, they say, that they're brave enough to attend...



**The Great Gatsby**

The Old Place, Deansway, Worcester, Wed 29 July

The critically acclaimed This Is My Theatre is the company behind this stage adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's literary masterpiece. Set in the American Jazz Age of the Roaring 20s, the story focuses on the quixotic passion of mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby for the beautiful former debutante Daisy Buchanan. In the process of recounting the tale - told through the eyes of Gatsby's Long Island

neighbour, Nick Carraway - Fitzgerald presents not only the story of a delightfully decadent decade but also a cautionary tale about the American Dream...

**King Arthur And The Holy Grail**

Shrewsbury Castle, Thurs 23 July

The ever-impressive Three Inch Fools return with an epic tale of Arthurian adventure and medieval mayhem. Here's the show's set-up, as described by the Fools themselves: "When Camelot is rocked to its core by a tragic - and frankly improbable - incident involving a large table of an undisclosed shape, Arthur is thrust into the quest of a lifetime. Will he bravely battle through blistering cold and scorching fire to save his beloved realm, or will he crumble as fate refuses to cooperate?"



**Romeo And Juliet**

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 adaptation of 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."

**Northanger Abbey**

The Commandery, Worcester, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 & Thurs 23 - Sun 26 July

Jane Austen's classic satire tells the story of the bookish Catherine Morland, a 17-year-old girl whose obsession with Gothic horror novels helps fuel her imagination when she visits Northanger Abbey. The one-time church and home of her suitor, Henry Tilney, is a place in which Catherine soon finds fact and fiction colliding... Presented by Worcester Repertory Company.



**Jeeves And Wooster In Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves**

The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Wed 22 July

The wonderful world of PG Wodehouse lands in Telford as the ever-affable Bertie Wooster yet again gets himself into the type of terrible tangle from which only his razor-sharp valet Jeeves can extricate him. Comical escapades abound in an outdoor show featuring live jazz music performed by an ensemble of actor-musicians.



# THE CORE OUTDOOR

Theatre shows in Brueton Park, Solihull



**The Sword in the Stone**

Sat 25 July, 5pm



**As You Like It**

Wed 12 August, 6pm



**The Tales of Peter Rabbit**

Sat 22 August, 5pm

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Theatre for younger audiences



### Bluey's Big Play

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
Thurs 23 - Sun 26 July

Blue Heeler puppy Bluey has certainly had plenty to bark about since making her television debut eight years ago. The Australian animated pre-school series in which she stars has not only developed a huge international fanbase but also picked up a prestigious Emmy award. On the back of such global success, it was only a matter of time before the popular pup's adventures made it onto the stage... This 50-minute show finds Bluey and younger sister Bingo determined to thwart their dad's plan to enjoy a quiet Sunday afternoon...

### Mr Sleepybum's Dream Machine

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 4 July; Little Theatre, Donnington, Shropshire, Sat 21 November

With accolades and glittering gongs aplenty to recommend it, Mr Sleepybum was a show well worth checking out. Now, the title character - a fella who has 'stupid, silly dreams' at night - is making a welcome return with this brand-new production.



Running for one hour and suitable for children aged between three and eight, the show sees Mr Sleepybum invent a machine that magically brings to life all manner of dreams, including ones featuring dinosaurs, robots, car chases and, er, the world's largest blanket!

### The Dinosaur That Pooped

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?...

### The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 20 - Tues 21 July; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 24 July

Everybody's favourite tea-guzzling tiger is back in town, dropping in on Sophie and her mum just as they're settling down for an afternoon cuppa...



Adapted by David Wood from the late Judith Kerr's 1968 book of the same name, this 55-minute show features singalong songs and plenty of magic - not to mention a big, stripy tiger, of course!

### Dinosaur Adventure Live

The Core Theatre, Solihull, Tues 28 July

Dinosaurs are once again roaming the Midlands this summer, thanks to this interactive show for all the family to enjoy. Youngsters get to meet a host of impressive prehistoric creatures - including, of course, every child's favourite flesh-eating giant: the Tyrannosaurus Rex.

### In The Night Garden Live

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 31 July & Sat 1 August

If your little ones are big fans of CBeebies television series In The Night Garden, they're certain to love the live version as well. And it's not only the kids who're in love with the stage show. Audience surveys and

parents' reviews reveal that, for nine out of 10 adults, the production is a five-out-of-five theatrical experience... This currently touring show is titled Igglepiggle's Busy Day.



### Out Of The Box

The Ampitheatre, Telford Town Park, Sat 25 July

A toothbrush stars in a balancing act, a string sparks a heist, and a tea party lands on someone's head. Welcome to the wonderful world of Darryl J Carrington, a performer with more than 20 years of circus and clowning experience who transforms 'everyday objects into extraordinary adventures'. The show is non-verbal and visits Telford with a host of five-star reviews to recommend it.



### The Sword In The Stone

Brueeton Park, Solihull, Sat 25 July

Cambridge Touring Productions is the company behind this family-friendly outdoor offering. The story focuses on two characters - young Wart and his friend Morgan - as they head for London. Along the way, they meet a selection of colourful characters and learn some seriously useful lessons about courage, friendship, and finding your way in the big, wide world.



# GROWN UP

**Matilda The Musical returns to Birmingham**

**Matilda has had quite a journey. The strong-willed schoolgirl first appeared in Roald Dahl's 1988 novel, then made her big-screen debut eight years later, and eventually took to the stage in Stratford-upon-Avon in 2010, in the Royal Shakespeare Company's smash-hit show Matilda The Musical. The production has since delighted audiences around the world and is now on a tour of the UK and Ireland. What's On spoke to Rob Howell, the show's award-winning designer, to find out more...**

Matilda The Musical has become a global phenomenon. First staged at the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) Courtyard Theatre 16 years ago, the production is now touring the UK and Ireland, stopping off at Birmingham Hippodrome this month.

Based on the book by Roald Dahl, Matilda tells the story of an extraordinary girl with a vivid imagination, who takes control of her own destiny...

Set & costume designer Rob Howell has been involved from the start, and has since received Olivier and Tony awards for the show's design. He told What's On that there was a long, gradual process of development before the inaugural performance.

During that time, as writer Dennis Kelly's script crystallised, and composer & lyricist Tim Minchin's songs were added into the mix, the creative team had to make a crucial decision - how would Matilda and her classmates be brought to life on stage?

"As Tim started writing the music and the script developed, it became clear that Matilda needs to be able to hold the stage," explains Rob. "Can you ask a young actor to walk out into the middle of a big stage, hold that stage on their own, and deliver the songs that Tim was writing? Or do you have to have a young adult?"

After a series of workshops to explore different possibilities - including using puppets - the production team finally settled on casting child actors in the central roles.

"It was an instant no-brainer - it was gold, straightaway," says Rob. "I enjoy puppets on stage, but it just wasn't going to be the same. It would have been a different style of production, which didn't seem right to what Tim was writing and Dennis had written."

Working on the production's costume and set, Rob dreamed up his own designs, rather than replicating the book's well-known Quentin Blake illustrations.

"Quentin Blake's amazing, but I had to be clear at the outset: were they asking me to stand up his drawings, or was I going my own way? And it was, 'No, you're going your own way...' That was liberating because it meant I could do my own thing. However, Quentin's Quentin, and it's inevitable that when you put a scruffy kid in a scruffy school uniform, it looks like a Quentin Blake scruffy drawing - but I wasn't looking at his drawings for clues."

However, an opportunity arose to have the

illustrator's work represented on stage - Quentin was invited to design a blazer badge for Matilda's school, Crunchem Hall.

"The request went to Quentin and his studio. He sent a sketch back of a kid being banged over the head with a mallet. I put my lettering over the top of it for Crunchem Hall, and that's embroidered and made by the thousands now - hand stitched on the blazers that all the kids wear, all over the world."

With so many of the cast clothed in school uniforms, the show's costume design presents some unexpected challenges.

"You'd have thought that school uniform would be quite easy to get your hands on, but it's not, because different schools have different shapes, and they sell out at the obvious times of the year when everyone's buying school uniforms. [Dahl] was writing in the 80s, but he seems to be writing [about] schools and teachers and buildings and desks in the period of time between the wars - an important place and time for Dahl that he kept going back to."

Matilda was published in 1988, a time when school uniforms were more likely to feature tracksuit trousers and polo shirts. But Dahl conjured up a very different style in the book, which Rob has explored in his design.

"We've pushed it back to be a bit more austere - wool blazers, grey shorts and pleated skirts - because that seems to be the world that he was writing about. It's hinting at a 'yesteryear' rather than 'nowadays'. It's fascinating - even today, when it's playing in different places in the world, nobody's ever said to me, 'The uniform's too old-fashioned.' We all understand that language of slightly course, wool blazers."

Towering over the schoolkids is the formidable Miss Trunchbull, Crunchem Hall's cruel headmistress. Dahl paints a clear picture of the tank-like character in the book, and Rob found out more about her creation at the author's estate.

"I try not to get too close to the original source material - I certainly don't watch films, because I'm too easily distracted by somebody else's ideas. [Miss Trunchbull] is the clearest description of any of the characters in the story... When I went to see Lucy Dahl and the estate, they told me that Roald based it on a friend of his, and they showed me a picture of this friend - it was quite an extraordinary look!

"When we got onto the idea that Miss Trunchbull might be played by male actors,

that opens up the door for a level of exaggeration, which we needed anyway to get her to be frightening and powerful... It's quite an early call for the actor playing Trunchbull to get into all of the underpinning and the makeup and the wig. It's hot, and they have to do some agile stuff with it, so it needs to be very flexible. It's a very cleverly made under-costume to give her the shape."

Designing the set, Rob used a motif of children's blocks covered in different letters of the alphabet, with the intention of creating a word-search game that is instinctively played by members of the audience, whether they're aged nine or 90...

"It doesn't matter how old you are, where you are, who you are - you're instantly playing the same game as everybody else. That's what I'm trying to do with the lettering on the set - when you look at the scenery, you might find a word the person next to you hasn't found, or maybe the eight-year-old found it before you did. That's more than just fun, that's life - kids can be quicker than us... It just levels everybody out."

The words hidden around the set also hint at events in the play - particularly a scene by writer Dennis Kelly in which Matilda invents a story for the school librarian.

"Matilda is telling the librarian her story on stage. She says, 'An acrobat and an escapologist want to get married...' The story goes on and it's delightful, but almost all of the words that are in Matilda's story are hidden in a wordsearch all over the set. You can find them if you look - you can find 'hug', you can find 'marriage'. You can also find 'burp', by the way!

"The one thing that I never get bored of is when I go to see the show and I'm there at the beginning. The audiences are going in, and you see families - kids, parents, grandparents - they've got there 10 minutes early or whatever, and the number of arms pointing up at the set... They're basically saying 'What have you found? I found *acrobat* - wait, does it say *burp*? It can't say *burp*! I never get tired of seeing that - that's a proper family experience."

.....

**Matilda The Musical shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday 1 July to Sunday 2 August**

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**Othello**

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Coughton Court - Fri 10 July

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Light entertainment from around the region



## Suzy Homemaker

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Fri 17 July

Suzy Homemaker was originally the name of a popular mid-1960s line of miniature and functional toy household appliances (including ovens, blenders, washers and irons) which allowed girls to practise becoming 'the perfect housewife'. It then started to be used as a derogatory term for any woman whose habits reflected the stereotypical domestic activities traditionally performed by women. Taking all of the above into consideration, it's hardly surprising that Erica Mulkern's acclaimed show revolves around the history and development of contemporary feminism. Blending modern dance, theatre, comedy and visual storytelling, the show focuses on the experiences of three female characters, along the way covering everything from suffragette rebellion to picture-perfect 1950s suburbia.



## Sons Of Pitches

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 25 July

Soaring solos. Impeccable harmonies. Sensational beatboxing. The publicity for Sons Of Pitches is both effusive and completely justified. The first winners of BBC Two and Gareth Malone's The Naked Choir, the dapper a

capella quintet recently celebrated 10 glorious years of performing together. They visit Shrewsbury to present a nicely balanced programme of pop covers, original numbers and improvised songs.



## Alistair McGowan

The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Sat 25 July; St George's Hall, Bewdley, Sat 10 October

Worcestershire-born Alistair McGowan followed in the footsteps of Mike Yarwood to become one of the country's most revered impressionists. He's also worked extensively in the theatre, appearing in productions including Little Shop Of Horrors, for which he received an Olivier nomination. Alistair makes a return to the Midlands this month with a show in which he combines 'classic comedy, poetry and beautiful piano music'. The latter comes courtesy of his new-found talent as a classical pianist.



## Swampesque

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Fri 17 July

If you've never heard of Swampesque, you won't be alone - but there are plenty of theatre-goers around the world who would be only too happy to testify to its quality. Taking Australia by storm and selling out at each of the last two Edinburgh Festivals, the show is a burlesque and drag-parody homage to the wonderful world of DreamWorks Animation's swamp-dwelling ogre, Shrek. Presenting its audiences with a veritable smorgasbord of performance styles, the show boasts eye-catching costumes and plenty of sassy, body-positive choreography.

## The People's Orchestra

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 18 July

The community-based non-profit People's Orchestra visits the city centre from nearby West Bromwich, accompanied by community choirs. Concert-goers will decide the final setlist for the evening, selecting from pop favourites, epic film scores, 1980s anthems and Disney showstoppers.

## 100% Badgers With Matt Hobs

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Fri 10 July; Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 24 September

Comedian Matt Hobs has turned his passion for badgers into an hour-long comedy performance, one that found an appreciative audience at last year's Edinburgh Fringe. Expect to leave the venue at the end of the show knowing far more about Matt's favourite animal than you'd ever imagined possible...

## Under The Hammer: An Immersive Art History

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 16 & Fri 17 July

A 'fine blend' of theatre, improvisation, escape room and whodunnit, Under The Hammer finds its inspiration in real-world cases of art-crime and sees its audience members become recruits of the Company of International Artists. The role will require them to put their little grey cells to good use in order to tackle puzzles, decipher codes and attempt to solve a case of art forgery before the culprit has the chance to slip away into the night... Coming dressed as a famous artist or favourite detective is encouraged but not obligatory...

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Dance previews from across the region



### Lord Of The Dance: 30th Anniversary

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 13 - Wed 15 July; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 28 September - Sun 4 October

Since catapulting traditional Irish music and folk dance into the limelight back in the mid-1990s (ably assisted in so doing by the similarly sensational Riverdance, of course), Michael Flatley’s choreographed adventure, Lord Of The Dance, has become an international phenomenon. These Midlands stop-offs form part of a nationwide tour to celebrate 30

years of the hit show, during which time Lord Of The Dance has visited 1,000-plus venues in a total of 60 countries and entertained in excess of 60 million people. If you’ve not yet been among them, then this is the perfect opportunity to catch up with one of the world’s most successful dance extravaganzas. The latest production comes complete with new choreography and features over 150,000 taps per performance.

### Autin Dance

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 25 July

Birmingham-based Autin Dance have been performing since 2013. “We draw on contemporary social issues and events to make work which is beautifully crafted, accessible and relevant,” says founder Johnny Autin. “The company has a reputation for creating powerful performances, catapulting audiences into intense dance worlds which we hope will resonate with them long after they leave the auditorium.” Latest production Zig Zag! is non-verbal, takes place outdoors, and finds two performers building a playful world from simple objects. The show has been designed for youngsters aged five and older.



### Kai Widdrington

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 6 July

“I had the most incredible time on my first-ever solo tour,” says Kai Widdrington in talking about Evolution, the show he’s bringing to Shrewsbury early this month. “It was such a fun and creatively brilliant production that we just had to bring it back again for 2026.” The critically acclaimed show sees Strictly star Kai showcasing his versatility and passion for dance by taking the audience on a journey through an array of genres.

### Nikita Kuzmin: Supernova

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 2 & Fri 3 July

International champion and Strictly Come Dancing fan favourite Nikita Kuzmin’s sophomore solo tour sees him presenting ‘an explosive new dance spectacular’, created in collaboration with Bafta Award-winning choreographer Jason Gillkison. Kyiv-born Nikita will be joined by special guest star Karen Hauer for the first of his three Belgrade shows (on Thursday the 2nd).

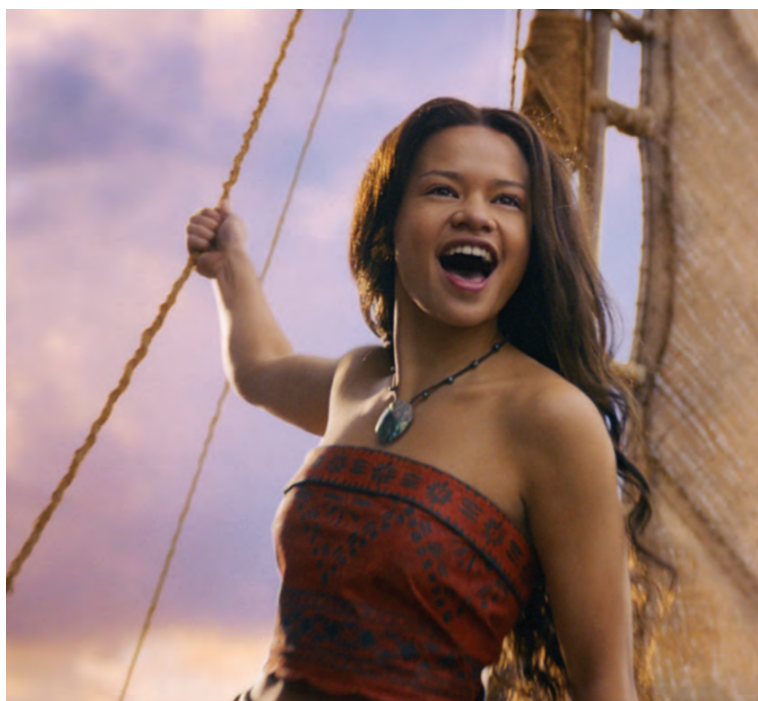
### Rhythm Of The Dance

Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Sat 18 July

Inspiring dances augmented by flutes and flailing fiddles is the name of the game when popular touring show Rhythm Of The Dance stops off in the region this month. Taking its fans on a two-hour trip through hundreds of years of Irish dance and music, the hugely popular show boasts award-winning world and Irish dance champions, talented vocalists, multiple costume changes, a state-of-the-art light & sound presentation, and a traditional Irish band of multi-instrumentalist musicians.



## Film highlights in July...



### **Moana** CERT PG (115 mins)

Starring **Catherine Laga'aia, Dwayne Johnson, John Tui, Frankie Adams, Rena Owen** Directed by **Thomas Kail**

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the first Moana movie, Disney are releasing a brand-new live-action reimagining of the much-loved and Academy Award-nominated animated adventure.

The film follows in the footsteps of, among others, The Jungle Book, The Little Mermaid, The Lion King and Aladdin, other animations which Disney have rebooted as live-action offerings. But its director, Thomas Kail, is eager to ensure the source material remains protected in the transition to real life. "How do you honour this?" Kail mused in an interview with Entertainment Weekly. "How do you say 'we love it too' and make it something that can be a companion and not try to be the same thing, but also trust what works? The opportunity to have flesh and blood, and have human beings tell the story and sing these songs and be in this world, there's something so fundamentally different about the experience of watching and feeling that." The new film finds Moana (Catherine Laga'aia) answering the call of the ocean and voyaging, for the very first time, beyond the reef of her island in an effort to restore prosperity to her people. **Released Fri 10 July**

### **Minions & Monsters** CERT PG (90 mins)

Starring **Zoey Deutch, Allison Janney, Christoph Waltz, Jeff Bridges, Jesse Eisenberg, Bobby Moynihan** Directed by **Pierre Coffin**

Starting out in life as supporting characters in 2010's Despicable Me, the Minions stole the show to such an extent that five years later they got their very own movie. Then, seven years after that, they got another. Now they're returning in a prequel story, one which is set several decades before the first film begins in the 1960s...

Located in 1920s Hollywood, Minions And Monsters follows the linguistically creative creatures as they quickly become Tinseltown sensations, throwing lavish parties in

mansions and inspiring fans to wear overalls and goggles. Their '15 minutes of fame' is abruptly cut short, however, when sound is introduced to film, and they find themselves completely unable to follow traditional scripts, speaking only their native and unscripted Minionese language.

Destitute and hopeless, they decide to make their very own creature feature, and using an old spell book, summon a whole horde of mayhem-making monsters...

**Released Wed 1 July**



### **The Invite** CERT 15 (107 mins)

Starring **Seth Rogen, Olivia Wilde, Penélope Cruz, Edward Norton, Skip Howland, Mel Powell** Directed by **Olivia Wilde**

Joe (Seth Rogen) and Angela (Olivia Wilde) are struggling. Their marriage is on the brink of collapse. Hoping to reignite a spark and break out of a rut, they invite over their charismatic and sexually liberated neighbours - Hawk (Edward Norton) and Pina (Penélope Cruz) - for what proves to be a disastrously awkward dinner party...

A remake of Spanish movie The People Upstairs, The Invite premiered back in January at the Sundance Film Festival, where it made a significant splash with the critics. Indeed, Variety was so impressed that it likened the film to the classic Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?, while our very own Guardian hailed it "a genuinely funny and uncommonly intelligent comedy for adults".

**Released Fri 3 July**

## Spider-Man: Brand New Day CERT 12a (150 mins)

Starring **Tom Holland, Zendaya, Sadie Sink, Jacob Batalon, Jon Bernthal, Trameil Tillman** Directed by **Destin Daniel Cretton**

Four years have passed since the events of Spider-Man: No Way Home, and Peter Parker is now an adult living entirely alone, having voluntarily erased himself from the lives and memories of those he loves. Crime-fighting in a New York that no longer knows his name, he's devoted himself entirely to protecting his city - as a full-time Spider-Man. But, as the demands on him intensify, the pressure sparks a surprising physical evolution that threatens his existence, even as a strange new pattern of crimes gives rise to one of the most powerful threats Spider-Man has ever had to face...

As well as this month playing the part of Matt Damon and Anne Hathaway's son in Christopher Nolan's epic cinematic adaptation of Homer's similarly epic poem The Odyssey (see bottom of the page), Tom Holland is here once again donning the red & blue spandex to star as New York's favourite web-slinging wallcrawler. This will be London-born Tom's fourth standalone film as Spidey - and there's a real buzz around Brand New Day's release, a fact which augurs well for the future of superhero movies. The genre has seemed to be in a near-fatal freefall these last few years. **Released Fri 31 July**



## Rosebush Pruning

CERT 18 (97 mins)

Starring **Elle Fanning, Jamie Bell, Riley Keough, Callum Turner, Lukas Gage, Pamela Anderson** Directed by **Karim Ainouz**

Underneath the Catalonian sun, a rich white American family lives in hedonistic isolation, seeking love and validation through pop music, their designer wardrobes, and each other. But when an outsider arrives on the scene, buried tensions surface and blood ties are severed...

Debuting at the Berlin International Film Festival in February, where it was nominated for the event's prestigious Golden Bear award for best movie, Rosebush Pruning has been likened to Saltburn - a salacious and off-kilter black comedy which satirises the world of the wealthy. The film is in part a remake of the cult 1965 Italian movie Fists In The Pocket.

**Released Fri 10 July**



## The Odyssey CERT tbc (172 mins)

Starring **Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Robert Pattinson, Lupita Nyong'o, Zendaya** Directed by **Christopher Nolan**

Christopher Nolan loves directing epic films. Length-wise, his 13th movie, The Odyssey, gives his longest film, Oppenheimer, a run for its money, but it falls just nine minutes short of becoming his most epic of epics.

Where it definitely *does* come out on top, though, is in terms of money spent - The Odyssey is Nolan's most expensive ever movie, boasting a money pot of \$250million. Based on the famous - and yes, epic - poem written by Homer nearly 3,000 years ago, the

film stars Matt Damon as the big-bearded Odysseus, the king of Ithaca, who's on his way home to his family after fighting in the Trojan War. But returning to his loved ones is no walk in the park, with a cyclops, sirens and nymphs among the mythical creatures standing in his way.

Anne Hathaway stars as Odysseus' wife, Penelope, with Tom Holland playing their son, Telemachus.

**Released Fri 17 July**



## Michael Pinsky: The Final Bid

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 25 July - Sun 4 October

Making its UK debut at MAC, *The Final Bid* is an interactive exhibition which offers a new outlook on familiar objects. The show comprises a selection of chairs donated by members of the general public, who have also shared the stories behind their 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

## Helios by Luke Jerram

The Exchange, Centenary Square, Birmingham, until Sat 7 November

Following on from his installations *Museum Of The Moon* and *Gaia*, Bristol-based artist Luke Jerram has brought *Helios* to the region.

The stunning artwork measures seven metres in diameter and features detailed imagery of the Sun's surface. The installation is a fusion of solar imagery, animated lighting and a specially created surround-sound composition by Duncan Speakman and Sarah Anderson.

"It's quite a challenge to try and capture the scale and power of the sun through a piece of music," says Duncan. "For *Helios*, we took many different approaches and collated them into one long composition. The piece moves through a series of different expressions of the sun itself, as well as its relationship with us and our planet, shifting back and forth from a human perspective to a planetary one."

## Joan Miró: Painting And Poetry

Brampton Art Gallery, Newcastle-under-Lyme, until Sun 23 August

Boasting a highly individual style that placed him at the forefront of Surrealism and Dadaism, Joan Miró was one of the 20th century's most influential and recognisable artists. Alongside his work as a painter and sculptor, Miró was also an accomplished printmaker - and it's this latter practice which is the focus of *Painting And Poetry*. The exhibition brings together lithographic prints created to illustrate the writings of the celebrated French surrealist poet Robert Desnos.

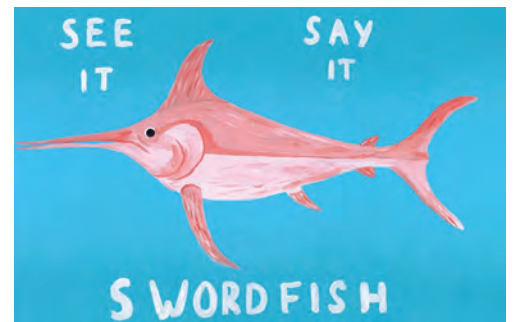
The prints are not only an excellent example of the richness and variety of Miró's print production, but also of his experimentation with vivid colours and abstract shapes.



## Everything Must Go By Joe Lycett

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Wed 29 July - Sun 21 February

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery here plays host to 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 exhibition covers 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 show is to "overwhelm and delight with a neon graveyard".



## Two Lionesses

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry, until Sat 18 July

In the midst of conflicts involving their respective homelands, Anisa Mosaiebiniya - an Iranian artist - and Maya Davis-Stokes - a British-Israeli artist - have come together in Coventry - the City of Peace and Reconciliation - to present a collaborative exhibition.



## Endangered Crafts

Stourbridge Glass Museum, Sat 11 July - Sat 7 November

What do cut crystal glass making, copper wheel glass engraving and stained glass window making all have in common?

The answer, sadly, is that they are all on a list of 'endangered glass crafts' - examples of which are on show in this new exhibition.

Using the Heritage Crafts Red List of Endangered Crafts as a guiding framework, the show features contemporary glass artists working within traditions that are at serious risk of being lost. The exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of talks and demonstrations during the opening weekend.



**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 (pictured).

**Unruly Desires: Reframing The Past**

Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, until Sun 6 September

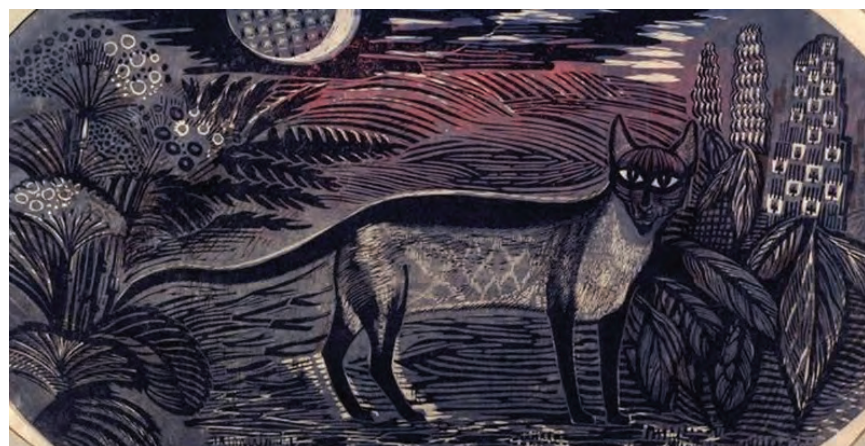
Sunil Gupta and Charan Singh use the photographic studio portrait to explore and disrupt ideas relating to the canon of western art, queerness, the gaze, love and intimacy. The exhibition also includes brand-new work - created by both artists within the Pump Rooms spaces - which find their inspiration in objects and pictures from the Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum's collection.



**Face Value: Contemporary Portraits from the Collections**

New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 23 May 2027

Inspired by the strong focus on portraits in the Garman Ryan Collection, this temporary exhibition brings together a selection of artworks from the Gallery's Permanent Collection. The artworks - which vary in scale and media - demonstrate how different themes and ideas can be conveyed and presented through portraiture.



**The Pattern Of Life: Enid Marx And Modern British Design**

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Sat 18 July - Sun 3 January

Visitors to Compton Verney can step into a world of abstract design this month, when the Warwickshire venue launches a major exhibition exploring the influential patterns of painter & designer Enid Marx.

The landmark show - featuring loans from the V&A Museum - charts Marx's life through fabric. In the process, the exhibition traces the geopolitics of British design and the lasting impact of her work.



# GO WILD!

Enjoy the summer at Dudley Zoo & Castle...



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**There's a whole host of activities in store at Dudley Zoo & Castle this school summer holiday. Whether you're a budding zookeeper, an always fascinated history buff, or you just fancy a close-up encounter with your favourite critter, the day-out destination hosts events to suit all tastes. And, for the first time ever - this month and next - a selection of lifesize sculptures of endangered animals will be joining the regular residents. But will you be able to spot them all?...**

Be sure you head to Dudley's must-visit holiday destination this summer - where you can dive into history, check out amazing examples of architecture, build a sandcastle and meet a penguin or two - all on the same day!

Dudley Zoo & Castle has plenty in store during the school holiday, from amazing animals from around the world, to a fascinating insight into the creatures that live on our very own doorsteps.

This summer, for the first time, the Zoo will be showcasing a trail of lifesize toy-brick sculptures of endangered animals, the biggest of which is an enormous elephant! Taking the title Wild Bricks and open for the duration of the school summer holiday, the trail provides visitors with an opportunity to learn not only about the animals which are represented but also the sculptures themselves, which have been meticulously built and transported to Dudley Zoo. Visitors who manage to find all of the sculptures could potentially have an extra treat in store; anyone who completes the trail can add their name into a weekly draw to win fantastic prizes - so keep your eyes peeled...

For visitors who find themselves inspired by the brick engineering skills on display, 'build packs' will be available for purchase from the Zoo's gift shop, providing budding brick builders with the chance to put their own skills to the test.

Dudley Zoo & Castle is offering an 'early bird' discount for tickets booked before Friday 17 July. Using the code BRICKS30, visitors can enjoy a 30% discount on their summer holiday tickets, allowing them to see these spectacular creations and explore the Zoo.

The popular venue, which will celebrate its 90th birthday next year, houses over 140 species, including primates, big cats, birds and reptiles, all ready to fascinate and delight animal-loving visitors, whether you're creepy crawly crazy or an orangutan fan. The resident giraffes and penguins are always a favourite, but the Zoo's sloth and axolotl habitats have proved a big hit with visitors as well - the latter residing in the Zoo's Farm Barn, along with spiders, millipedes and stick insects in neighbouring habitats. Unusual animals such as the cassowary - one of the world's biggest birds - wolverines, and

the Carpathian lynx (in a newly refurbished habitat) are also in residence.

For young 'zookeepers in the making' or adults who wish they could spend the day working with animals, the Zoo can make their dreams come true courtesy of its Animal Experience packages, which offer up-close interactions with some of the venue's most popular residents. Whether you dream of feeding a big cat or would love to meet a sloth, the experiences allow visitors to get as close to the animals as the keepers do. Taking between 20 and 30 minutes, and including the cost of admission for two people, the Animal Experiences can make a visit to Dudley Zoo even more extraordinary. Serious wildlife fans can also become a keeper for the day, an experience that allows them to discover what the job of keeping the animals happy and healthy actually entails. The Little Zoo Keeper experience (for eight to 13-year-olds) and the Adult Zoo Keeper package (14-plus) both include a hands-on experience working with the Zoo staff - and, of course, the chance to meet the animals as you take part in the daily rounds.

This isn't the only way to see the Zoo's animals up-close, however. Say hello to the lemurs in their one-acre free-roaming habitat, which Zoo visitors can enter for free, or marvel at the colourful Lorikeets in their own walk-through home - free to enter, with the option to buy nectar to offer as a sweet treat to the beautiful birds.

At the top of the hill sits Dudley Castle - with even more to see and do, including a castle-themed playground and Castle Creatures, which features an indoor walk-through and more critters to discover.

For a quick route to the Castle, visitors can ride the land train, which has wheelchair and buggy storage, or take in the view from the spectacular vintage chair lift, all for free. In fact, once visitors have been admitted to the Zoo, all activities are free of charge - apart from the seasonal face painting and funfair.

For those with an interest in architecture, the Zoo features a series of listed Tecton buildings - designed in the 1930s, when the Zoo opened - by Berthold Lubetkin. Berthold masterminded similar structures in London Zoo, but Dudley boasts the greatest surviving collection of such buildings.

If you're landlocked in the Midlands this summer, head to the beach at Ow Bin Ya Sands, which, weather permitting, provides buckets, spades, deck chairs and all the fun of the seaside!

Exploring the Zoo does involve an uphill journey, and for those who would prefer not to take the chair lift, scooters, wheelchairs and buggies are available to hire on entry. There are additional details on the website for users of wheelchairs and scooters, outlining the best routes to take and viewpoints to check out in order to see the animals. The Zoo now also features a Changing Places facility.

In addition to the Wild Bricks sculpture trail, the venue's summer programme includes a series of 'out of hours' events and activities. On Friday 7 & Saturday 8 August, the Outdoor Cinema returns to the Courtyard, screening *The Goonies* and *A Nightmare On Elm Street* on consecutive evenings, under the stars.

Take part in an after-dark Bat Walk & Talk (scheduled regularly throughout the summer) to find out more about the UK's native bat species. There are also evening (6.30pm - 8.30pm) Walk & Talk events. These provide participants with the chance to learn more about the history of Dudley Castle, find out about the conservation projects supported by the Zoo, or gain a better understanding of the 12 listed Tecton buildings and the Zoo itself.

If you dare to brave the Castle after dark, there are also regular (and very popular) Ghost Tours to sign up for. Check the website for updates and book as soon as you can - the tours tend to sell out quickly.

With a range of activities taking place throughout the holiday - and not forgetting that all-important early-bird discount! - Dudley Zoo & Castle is certainly a destination to add to your summer schedule.

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**Wild Bricks is open at Dudley Zoo & Castle from Saturday 18 July to Monday 31 August. For further information, visit the venue's website at [dudleyzoo.org.uk](http://dudleyzoo.org.uk)**

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Family-friendly exhibitions across the region



**Titanic Exhibition**

NEC Birmingham, until Sun 19 July

Towering LED walls, immersive recreations, and powerful video storytelling lie at the heart of this well-regarded exhibition. Telling the extraordinary story of the RMS Titanic - which sank in 1912 on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York after colliding with an iceberg - the show follows the ship's journey from a Belfast shipyard right through to the decades-later discovery of its wreckage more than two and a half miles beneath the surface of the Atlantic. The exhibition's highlights include genuine artefacts from the ship, including an original deckchair, a fragment of the Grand Staircase, a fireman's pocket watch and a letter written on board.



**Tutankhamun: The Immersive Exhibition**

NEC Birmingham, until Sun 13 September

In November 1922, in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, archaeologist Howard Carter unearthed the tomb of a little-known Pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty: Tutankhamun. Now, more than a century later, Carter's incredible find is being celebrated with this award-winning touring show. Offering Midlandsers 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. Organisers are advising that visitors should set aside 90 minutes to properly experience the exhibition.



**54321FAB!** Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum, Sat 4 July - Sun 6 September

For readers of a certain vintage, 54321 FAB! offers a not-to-be-missed opportunity to take a nostalgic stroll down memory lane. The subject of the exhibition is the much-loved 1960s television series of Gerry & Sylvia Anderson, numbered among which were Stingray, Captain Scarlet And The Mysterons, Joe 90, Fireball XL5 and - arguably most famously - Thunderbirds. Original puppets - including Lady Penelope and Joe 90 - and a number of models (Fireball XL5, Stingray and the Thunderbirds crafts) are all included in the display, as is original comic and production design art

and a huge collection of 1960s memorabilia. Commenting on the exhibition, Museums Worcestershire Senior Curator Deborah Fox said: "We pride ourselves on providing top family fun for the summer holidays, and this year is a true classic. Visitors can re-live their childhood through Thunderbirds and friends, and share their memories with their families. We might even inspire some new fans!" The exhibition has been made possible with the support of Fanderson, the official Gerry & Sylvia Anderson Appreciation Society.



**Unearth The Palaeoverse: Dig Into The Dawn Of Time**

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Mon 31 August

Looking for places to take the kids during the school summer holidays? If so, how about making a beeline for the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum to check out this immersive Jurassic exhibition. Highlights include the chance to 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.



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# DISCOVER DINOSAURS

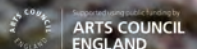
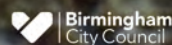
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Events previews from around the region



**The Festival Of Sport** Packington Estate, Warwickshire, Fri 24 - Mon 27 July

The Festival Of Sport returns to Packington Estate this month, bringing together children, parents and sporting legends for four days of coaching, competitions and entertainment.

Children aged four to 17 can take part in more than 20 sports, including rugby, hockey, athletics, football, rowing, boxing, archery and netball.

Sessions are led by much-admired sporting stars. Paralympic archer Jodie Grinham, Olympic hockey champions Kate and Helen

Richardson-Walsh, former athlete Derek Redmond, rugby internationals Ben Youngs and Alex Goode, and BMX champion Matti Hemmings will all be in attendance. Adults can get involved in the event via a programme of fitness classes, wellness activities, yoga, pilates and expert-led talks. Away from the sports fields, visitors can enjoy live music, DJs, an outdoor cinema, circus performers, food stalls and camping or glamping options. Friday only tickets are £35 and kids go FREE.

**Hanbury Countryside Show**

Park Hall Farm, Hanbury, Worcestershire, Sat 4 July

The Hanbury Countryside Show is promising a full day of rural entertainment, farming traditions and family activities this month. Now in its 79th year, the popular event attracts around 14,000 visitors annually and features more than 1,500 exhibitors, over 200 trade stands and hundreds of competitions. Highlights include livestock and equine classes, countryside displays, local food & drink, shopping opportunities, rural crafts, vintage vehicles and live entertainment. Sheep shearing, farriery demonstrations, heavy horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, show jumping and the Young Farmers' tug of war also feature.



**The Game Fair**

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, Fri 24 - Sun 26 July

One of the UK's biggest celebrations of countryside life, The Game Fair returns to Ragley Hall across the last weekend of the month.

Showcasing rural traditions, outdoor pursuits and country living, the event boasts a packed programme of displays, demonstrations and competitions, including shooting, fishing, falconry and gundog events.

Opportunities to try activities such as clay shooting, fly fishing and dog scurries also feature.

Hundreds of exhibitors will be in attendance, selling countryside clothing, artisan crafts, outdoor equipment and food & drink. Camping is once again available, with more than 1,300 pitches on site, and options for caravans, motorhomes, campervans and roof tents.



**The Festival Of Brilliant** Biddulph Old Hall, Staffordshire, Fri 10 & Sat 11 July

The Festival Of Brilliant returns mid-month with an impressive line-up of authors, poets, illustrators and performers as part of the National Year of Reading.

Taking place on 10 July for schools and community groups, and the following day for families, the children's book festival will celebrate the joy of reading through a packed schedule of talks, workshops and interactive experiences.

Festival contributors include Joseph Coelho - a former Children's Laureate - Bethan Woollvin, Jenny McLachlan, Chris Haughton,

Lisette Auton, Kieran Larwood and EL Norry. Young visitors can enjoy comic-making workshops with Marc Jackson, creative storytelling and drawing sessions with Matt Buckingham, and poetry activities led by Charlotte Rowley and Gabriella Gay. The festival will also bring to life a variety of stories through performances and installations. These include The Magic Lantern, Working Boys Club's interactive Noisy Noise Noise sound library, and Cat & Mouse Theatre's immersive Bookbooster Factory.

# 54321 FAB!

The Art of SUPERMARIONATION



## Thunderbirds and friends are coming to Worcester!

FREE ENTRY

Original puppets, studio models, art and memorabilia from Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet, Joe 90, Stingray and more.

4th July – 6th September

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

For information on opening times, events and activities please visit [www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)

MUSEUMS WORCESTERSHIRE

# LUNT ROMAN FORT FESTIVAL

10am - 4pm  
8 and 9 August 2026

THE ROMANS RETURN!

Join us for the Lunt's most spectacular event of the year, back bigger than ever!



BOOK TODAY  
AT [LUNTROMANFORT.ORG](http://LUNTROMANFORT.ORG)



by Life

Events previews from around the region



**Newport Show**

Chetwynd Deer Park, Newport, Shropshire, Sat 11 July

The award-winning Newport Show is back at Chetwynd Deer Park this month, offering visitors a packed day of family entertainment, agriculture and countryside attractions. Named the Best Rural or Farming Event of the Year at the Farmer Rural Awards, the show has been a staple of the region's summertime calendar for more than a century. Attractions include livestock displays, horses, cattle, sheep, vintage tractors, steam engines and a programme of main-ring entertainment, with live music, shopping opportunities and a diverse food festival also featuring. New for 2026 is the Rural Lifestyle - Bloom, Make And Bake marquee, celebrating the growing interest in crafts, gardening, baking and traditional rural skills. Families can also sample in excess of 50 free activities, including falconry displays, dog scurries, laser clay shooting and educational experiences highlighting the farm-to-food journey.

**Truckfest**

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Sat 4 & Sun 5 July

Bringing together truck enthusiasts, families and industry professionals for a weekend packed with entertainment and vehicle displays, Truckfest returns to Three Counties Showground at the start of the month. The event showcases hundreds of trucks, including customised show trucks, American rigs, vintage vehicles, emergency-service trucks and modern haulage fleets. Visitors can enjoy arena attractions such as monster truck car-crushing demonstrations, freestyle motocross displays, wrestling shows, truck-pull challenges and monster truck rides. Alongside the entertainment, truck owners can enter judged competitions across various categories, celebrating vehicle presentation, customisation and craftsmanship.



**Summer Gala** Severn Valley Railway, Worcestershire, Sat 18 & Sun 19 July

Railway enthusiasts can enjoy a weekend of steam, diesel and heritage rail action at the Severn Valley Railway's Summer Gala. The two-day event will celebrate some of the smallest locomotives in the railway's collection, alongside a number of special guest engines operating a busy timetable

between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth. Visitors will have the opportunity to ride behind a variety of locomotives, including the visiting Kerr Stuart 'Witch' class No 4388. Away from the main line, Kidderminster Station will host a live-steam Gauge 1 model railway.



**Medieval Moments**

Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, Tues 21 July - Mon 31 August

Families can enjoy a medieval adventure at Sudeley Castle & Gardens throughout the school summer holiday. Included with general admission, young visitors can check out an interactive Knight Trail set around the castle and grounds, in the process discovering what it took to become a medieval knight. Children can pick up a trail map and take part in a range of

activities, including target practice, dressing up and challenges inspired by life as a squire and knight. Costumed storytellers will also be on hand, sharing tales of chivalry and castle life. Storytelling sessions run from Wednesday 29 July to Monday 31 August, with falconry displays taking place on selected days.



# A GREAT DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY



Buy tickets at [SVR.CO.UK](http://SVR.CO.UK)

## Malvern Autumn Show

IN ASSOCIATION WITH WESTONS ESTD 1880

25, 26 & 27 September 2026

- RHS FLOWER SHOW
- CELEBRITY GUESTS
- WORLD OF ANIMALS
- GARDEN & LIFESTYLE SHOPPING
- THE GREAT MALVERN CAKE OFF
- CANNA UK NATIONAL GIANT VEGETABLES CHAMPIONSHIP

UNDER 16s go FREE!

**DOGS WELCOME ON SUNDAY**  
Ticket required, limited availability

**BOOK NOW TO SAVE**  
malvernautumn.co.uk 0344 338 5400  
Advance tickets: Adults £22\* | Under 16s free \*\* + £0.85 ticketing fee per ticket  
Three Counties Showground, Malvern WR13 6NW

@malvernshows

## THE FESTIVAL OF BRILLIANT

Biddulph Old Hall, 10-11th July 2026

A celebration of *brilliant* children's books!

Authors, illustrators & poets  
Performances & installations  
Storytelling & creative activities  
... to feed your imagination!

Friday 10th July 2026, 9.30am-2.30pm  
For schools Key Stage 2 & community groups - free

Saturday 11th July 2026, 10am-6.30pm  
For children of all ages & their families

Tickets:  
+ £12 supporter  
+ £8 standard  
+ £5 subsidised  
+ under 3s free

Scan the QR code for tickets, or visit:  
[festivalofbrilliant.org](http://festivalofbrilliant.org)

## SUDELEY CASTLE & GARDENS

A Dramatic Backdrop

The stage is set for an exciting summer of live outdoor performances

[SUDELEYCASTLE.CO.UK](http://SUDELEYCASTLE.CO.UK)



Events previews from around the region



**Medieval Day** Weoley Castle, Birmingham, Sat 18 July

Step back in time and experience life in medieval Birmingham - courtesy of this Weoley Castle Medieval Day. Taking place in and around the castle's historic ruins, the event features costumed reenactors bringing the medieval period to life through demonstrations of everyday activities, crafts and combat displays.

Visitors can enjoy guided tours that explore the history of the castle and its inhabitants, while families can take part in a range of hands-on activities suitable for all ages. The event also includes opportunities to discover archaeological finds and learn about local history from specialists involved with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.



**1940s Weekend** Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 11 & Sun 12 July

The Black Country Living Museum is once again turning back the clock for its much-loved 1940s Weekend, inviting visitors to experience the sights, sounds and spirit of wartime Britain. The weekend sees reenactors, costumed characters and period settings bringing

stories of resilience and community to life. Visitors can enjoy live 1940s music, watch street entertainment, explore historic shops and workplaces, and even try activities inspired by the wartime Home Front, from sandbag making to air-raid fire-fighting demonstrations.

**Jurassic Fun at Thinktank**

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum, throughout July

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum is bringing dinosaurs to life this month with a series of family-friendly events that combine creativity, storytelling, cinema and hands-on animal encounters.

Young visitors can unleash their imagination in the Head Workshop with Tat Vision on Wednesday 22 July, creating their own wearable dinosaur-inspired creations made from recycled materials...

Budding palaeontologists can enjoy DinoSTORY Time (Thursday 23 & 30 July), an interactive storytelling session packed with prehistoric adventures, audience participation and plenty of dinosaur roars...

For movie lovers, Cinema Under The Stars: Early Man (Saturday 25 July) offers a unique planetarium screening experience, combining comedy and prehistoric fun in an immersive setting...

Jurassic Encounters with Zoolab (Tuesday 28 July) provides an up-close introduction to numerous creatures through themed animal-handling sessions, helping families explore the links between modern animals and their ancient ancestors.



**Classic Nostalgia**

Shelsley Walsh Climb, Worcester, Sat 18 & Sun 19 July

Historic motorsport festival Classic Nostalgia is back for a two-day celebration of the golden era of motor racing, bringing together iconic Formula One cars, NASCAR machines, legendary rally cars and historic competition vehicles from across the decades.

Visitors can enjoy hill-climb action, demonstration runs, car-club displays, open paddocks and special vehicle parades, providing rare access to both the cars and their drivers.

Beyond the track, the festival offers live music, concours competitions, trade stands, food vendors and a programme of family-friendly entertainment.

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**WOLVERHAMPTON  
ART GALLERY**

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**23 MAY – 4 OCT 2026**

**ARTIST ROOMS**

**ANDY ★ ART  
WARHOL STAR**

Drawings, screenprints and paintings by one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

**Tickets £9**

Children and young people aged 20 and under **FREE**

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**Tickets from  
[wolverhamptonart.org.uk](http://wolverhamptonart.org.uk)**



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**Art Fund\_**



# thelist

Your week-  
by-week  
listings guide  
July 2026



The Karate Kid The Musical - The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 21 - Sat 25 July

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

## What's On

Wed 1 - Sun 5 July



Emilio Santoro as Elvis -  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**Sun 5 July**

Mon 6 - Sun 12 July



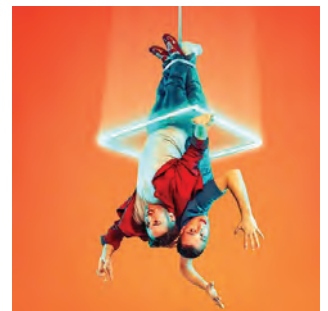
Festival Of Brilliant -  
Biddulph Old Hall, Staffordshire  
**Fri 10 - Sat 11 July**

Mon 13 - Sun 19 July



Lenny Pearce: Toddler Rave -  
Birmingham Town Hall  
**Fri 17 July**

Mon 20 - Fri 31 July



Jay & Joss: It's Not A Game -  
Lichfield Garrick  
**Tues 21 July**

## 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

**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, Édouard 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, until December

### 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 November

**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

**BENEATH THE WAVES** Dive into an immersive underwater world where children under five can explore coral reefs, playful sea creatures, swirling currents and sparkling tidal pools, Sat 11 July - Sun 30 August

### Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**AGDER KUNSTAKADEMI: TV PAIN** Installation transforming flat-screen monitors taken from prison cells - which are frequently smashed in moments of frustration - into a sculptural and contemplative work, until Sun 5 July

**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

### Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, B'ham

**GENEVIEVE ROBERTSON: UNDER THE ORANGE STICKS OF THE SUN** Showcase of work inspired by Genevieve's personal history in the Canadian forestry industry and her interest in ecological systems, until Sun 5 July

**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

**MADE AT MAC: CAPTURING THE HUMAN FORM** From life drawing to dance and sculpture to photography, artists across the full breadth of MAC's courses are constantly looking to the human form for inspiration. This mixed-media exhibition showcases work by tutors and participants inspired by our bodies, Sat 4 July - Sun 24 January

### 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

**TO MARKET! TO MARKET!** Nuneaton Market has endured for over 800 years. Learn more about its colourful history through paintings, photos and ephemera from within the museum's collection, until Sat 11 July

### 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, until Sat 1 August

### 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, until Mon 31 August

**SHAQUELLE WHYTE: SHATTERED DREAMS** The first institutional solo exhibition by the Wolverhampton-born artist. Bringing together six dynamic largescale paintings, the exhibition showcases Shaquella's bold figurative painting style, until 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, until Sun 1 November

**54321 FAB!** Nostalgic exhibition featuring original puppets, models, art and memorabilia from the much-loved 1960s TV shows of Gerry and Sylvia Anderson - including Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet, Joe 90 and Stingray, Sat 4 July - Sun 6 September

### 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

**DERWEN COLLEGE: ALL ABOUT ME** Students from Derwen College have been developing artwork as part of a recent competition, utilising

a range of adaptive technology to complete their artwork, until August, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**STUDIO GALLERY SOLIHULL** Pop-up exhibition also featuring demonstrations and workshops, until Fri 21 August, Touchwood Shopping Centre, Solihull

**MOTHERSHIP EXHIBITION 2026** Exhibition celebrating the inspiring work created by mother-artists and their children during the Mothership Residency, until Sat 5 September, Stryx, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**NATIONAL PRINT EXHIBITION OF SOCIETY OF WOOD ENGRAVERS** Prestigious touring exhibition showcasing contemporary relief prints, which highlight the continuing vitality and versatility of the medium, Fri 3 July - Sat 22 August, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**IMAGINING INDIA** Spotlight exhibition featuring historic objects from Attingham's collection, including a rare and recently conserved panoramic artwork, prints, ceramics, books, clocks, militaria and miniatures, all inspired by India, Sun 5 July - Tues 27 October, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

**THE ART OF REMEMBRANCE** Marking 25 years since the Arboretum officially opened, the exhibition invites visitors to discover why art is so important in terms of remembrance, Sat 18 July - Sun 30 August, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

**OCEAN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR** Celebrate the beauty, diversity and fragility of marine ecosystems, from tiny hidden creatures to vast and rarely seen underwater landscapes, Thurs 23 July - Mon 31 August, Lichfield Cathedral

**WHALES BY TESSA CAMPBELL FRASER** Striking installation in which three majestic sperm-whale sculptures appear to glide through the Cathedral's nave - a reminder of what can be lost if people fail to care for the planet, Thurs 23 July - Sun 6 September, Lichfield Cathedral

# Wednesday 1 - Sunday 5 July

## Gigs

### JOHN MCCUSKER TRIO

Wed 1 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

### GLITTERER + JAZZCAT

Wed 1 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

### MARK CHALLINOR'S

**WABASH JAZZ BAND** Wed 1 July, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

### ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

Wed 1 July, Kidderminster Town Hall

### SCOOTERS

Wed 1 July, The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

### A COUNTRY NIGHT IN

**NASHVILLE** Wed 1 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

### CASSIDY JANSON SINGS

**CAROLE KING** Wed 1 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

### WAVVES

Thurs 2 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

### DAMAGE

Thurs 2 July, The Jam House, B'ham

### SUNN O)))

Thurs 2 July, O2 Institute, B'ham

### ARKANSAS DAVE

Thurs 2 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

### SUMO CYCO

Thurs 2 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

### THE BLOW MONKEYS

Thurs 2 July, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

### THE GROOVE DIGGERS

Thurs 2 July, Regal, Tenbury Wells

### INSPIRAL CARPETS

Thurs 2 July, Kidderminster Town Hall

### MARQUEE SQUARE

**HEROES** Thurs 2 July, The Robin, Bilston

### ALL OR NOTHING

**EXPERIENCE** Thurs 2 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

### AS DECEMBER FALLS

Thurs 2 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

### 3HEAD

Thurs 2 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

### HERMAN'S HERMITS

Thurs 2 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**PANIC BEAR** Fri 3 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE DEVOUT** Fri 3 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE VINYL BROTHERS** Fri 3 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**THE DESERT PLAZA** Fri 3 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**CHARLOTTE YOUNG** Fri 3 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**ALKALINE TRIO + ANTHONY GREEN & THE BOOM DONE BAND** Fri 3 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**ROOD END + NEW EFFECT + CHERRYAID + THE MIDWAY + ALEX.** Fri 3 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**MIDNIGHT CITY** Fri 3 July, Tower of Song, Birmingham

**EDDIE PARKER'S AIRBORN** Fri 3 July, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

**BACK TO BLONDIE** Fri 3 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

**BLACKSABBATHMODE + BIGHEADMODE** Fri 3 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE: LED ZEPPELIN II** Fri 3 July, Birmingham Town Hall

**POST255 + CICADA + NAUSICA + CURLY SANDALS + MATLIDA EVAINE** Fri 3 July, The Rainbow, Birmingham

**RUTH BROWN + CAXXIANNE** Fri 3 July, Mama Roux's, B'ham

**DANNY ANSELL + ROSETTA FIRE + LAS VEDAS + DOGMARKET** Fri 3 July, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**MOTORHEADACHE** Fri 3 July, hmv Empire, Coventry

**VASUM + SOUNDS LIKE WINTER + THE GHOST OF LEMOR + DEAD BLOOD CELLS** Fri 3 July, Arches Venue, Coventry

**CELEBRATING NAT KING COLE** Fri 3 July, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE BAD PLUS** Fri 3 July, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**GOOD FLYING BIRDS +**

**THE CORDS** Fri 3 July, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**THE HOME GROWN** Fri 3 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**GBH + CRUX + THE DREGS + INEQUALITY STREET + THEE ACID TONGUE** Fri 3 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**RED HOT TRIBUTE PEPPERS + COLLIDER SKIES** Fri 3 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

**SEAN JEFFREY** Fri 3 July, The Red Lion, Evesham

**QUEEN OF THE NIGHT - WHITNEY HOUSTON TRIBUTE** Fri 3 July, Dudley Town Hall

**HIGHWAY** Fri 3 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**THE BIG FOUR THRASH SHOW** Fri 3 July, The Robin, Bilston

**ISN'T IT ALANIS** Fri 3 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**SHANIA & COUNTRY LEGENDS** Fri 3 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE BRACKISH** Fri 3 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**TEMPLE GUARD + ORDEAL + INVASION + BLOOD MONEY + BLIND** Fri 3 July, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE SHOW MUST GO ON** Fri 3 July, The Rigger, King's Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**PETER AND THE TEST TUBE BABIES + VOMIT + CRIPPENS** Fri 3 July, The Rigger, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

**THE EMINEM SHOW** Fri 3 July, The Station, Cannock

**BACK INTO HELL: A TRIBUTE TO MEAT LOAF AND JIM STEINMAN** Fri 3 July, Lichfield Garrick

**THE BEARDS** Fri 3 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**RAMMLIED** Fri 3 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**WATERMELON CHRONICLES** Fri 3 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**SARAH MCQUAID** Fri 3 July, The Edge Arts



Inspiral Carpets - Kidderminster Town Hall

Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**THE COLLECTIVE** Sat 4 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**UNDER THE COVERS** Sat 4 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**DOWNLOADED FESTIVAL TRIBUTE** Sat 4 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**PHANTOGRAM** Sat 4 July, O2 Academy, B'ham

**MENA AMERICAN** Sat 4 July, Jo Jo Jims, B'ham

**SLAUGHTERHOUSE FESTIVAL** Sat 4 July, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

**GASOLINE & MATCHES + RAINSFORD BROTHERS + KERRYL + SUSANNAH CLEGG + ELECTRIC BLUE YONDER** Sat 4 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**DEF LEPPARD + EXTREME** Sat 4 July, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

**SOUND & VISION - TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE** Sat 4 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**SKA TRAIN** Sat 4 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**OASIS** Sat 4 July, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

**THE STRAIGHTHEADS** Sat 4 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**KNOCK OFF + BULLITZ 2 + HOSPITAL FOOD + DEGRADACE + RESISTANCE 77** Sat 4 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**GUNS N JOVI** Sat 4 July, The Benn Hall, Rugby

**THE RADIOHEAD PROJECT** Sat 4 July, Malvern Theatres

**DEVON MAYSON** Sat 4 July, The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

**SYNTH** Sat 4 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**THE BEAT FEATURING RANKING JNR** Sat 4 July, The Robin, Bilston

**CLIMAX BLUES BAND** Sat 4 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**PLEB + TWWIFE + IO + WARP** Sat 4 July, Dive, Wolverhampton

**RANGLE SARDAR** Sat 4 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**AIRTIGHT 80S** Sat 4 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**BEATLES FOR SALE** Sat 4 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**CHINA SHOP BULL** Sat 4 July, The Rigger, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

**LINK N PARK** Sat 4 July, The Station, Cannock

**KD AND THE DOGS** Sat 4 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**THE DYSFUNCTIONAL IDIOTS + SIDELINERS** Sat 4 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**ANGELICA + FAUCET VAN GOUGH + STAR AURORA** Sun 5 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**GROOVE X2** Sun 5 July,

Jo Jo Jims, B'ham

**THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO** Sun 5 July, Tower of Song, Birmingham

**SABOTAGE + EXORCISM + HANDS OF ATTRITION + VICIOUS NATURE** Sun 5 July, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**SABBRA CADABRA** Sun 5 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

**JAMES T** Sun 5 July, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

**KEROZENE** Sun 5 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**DAVE ONIONS** Sun 5 July, The Red Lion, Evesham

**I WANNA BE SEDATED - RAMONES TRIBUTE** Sun 5 July, The Robin, Bilston

**EMILIO SANTORO AS ELVIS** Sun 5 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**CHRIS BEVINGTON ORGANISATION** Sun 5 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**BEEP BEEP YEAH** Sun 5 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**SOME MIGHT SAY - OASIS TRIBUTE** Sun 5 July, The Station, Cannock

**CHRIS BEVINGTON ORGANISATION** Sun 5 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

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**SOME MIGHT SAY - OASIS TRIBUTE** Sun 5 July, The Station, Cannock

## Classical Music

**ZOE TAN PIANO RECITAL** Fri 3 July, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

**COLIN LAPUS ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 3 July, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**SHEEP STREET SESSIONS: ON AN OVERGROWN PATH** Featuring players from Orchestra of the Swan. Programme includes works by Ravel, Brahms, Bartók & more..., Fri 3 July, Stratford Town Hall

**SHREWSBURY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL** Featuring musicians from the Royal Academy of Music. Programme includes works by Borodin, Turina, Schubert & more..., Fri 3 - Sun 5 July, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**CBSO: KAZUKI CONDUCTS HARMONIUM** Featuring Kazuki Yamada (conductor), Janai Brugger (soprano & narrator) & CBSO Chorus. Programme includes works by Copland, Tower, Price & Adams, Sat 4 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**MILLIE ROYLE (SOPRANO) & TOBY BAKER (PIANO)** Sat 4 July, Bewdley Methodist Church

**BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: A DATE WITH SHAKESPEARE** Featuring Amy Coates (double bass), Andrew Woodhead (piano) & Lesley Smith (performer & historian). Programme includes works by Shearing, Vaughan Williams, Swingle & more..., Sat 4 July, St Mary Magdalene Church, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**PHOENIX SINGERS: SUMMER CONCERT** Sat 4 July, St George's Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham

**AN EVENING OF DUETS & TRIOS** Programme includes works by Dvořák, Fauré, Widor & Rheinberger, Sat 4 July, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**COME & SING: BRAHMS' REQUIEM** Featuring Jonathan Brown (conductor) & Malvern Festival Chorus. Includes an afternoon workshop for visiting singers and a public evening concert, Sat 4 July, Great Malvern Priory

**SHAUN WARD ORGAN RECITAL** Programme includes works by J. S. Bach, Messiaen, Rameau & Franck, Sat 4 July, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**THE BREWOOD SINGERS: SUMMER SONGS** Featuring Ember Wren (folk band), Sat 4 July, Pattingham Village Hall, Wolverhampton

**NORDIC NATURE** Featuring Luba Tunnicliffe (viola) & Hannah Watson Emmrich (piano). Programme includes works by C Schumann, Adès, Janáček & more..., Sat 4 July, Newcastle Community Centre, Newcastle-on-Tyne

**KEELE BACH CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT** Featuring Alison Loram (violin).

Programme includes works by McDowall, Vaughan Williams & Todd, Sat 4 July, Keele University Chapel

**WARWICK & KENILWORTH CHORAL SOCIETY: SUMMERTIME!** Featuring Alex Silverman (conductor) & Colin Druce (piano). Programme includes works by Gershwin, Copland & Price, Sat 4 July, St Nicholas Church, Kenilworth

**BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONIC WINDS: EITHER SIDE OF THE POND** Featuring Callum Rookes (conductor). Programme includes works by Hesketh, Gershwin, Loewe & more..., Sat 4 July, Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church

**NATIONAL ORCHESTRAS FOR ALL: INCLUSIVE FAMILY CONCERT** Programme includes works by C Dews, Dvořák, García & more..., Sun 5 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: YOUNG COMPOSERS AT WINTERBOURNE** Sun 5 July, Winterbourne Gardens, Birmingham

**MIDLAND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: HAYDN, THE LATER YEARS** Sun 5 July, St Mary's Church, Birmingham

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring Dan Watson (conductor), Phil Houghton (leader) & Nicola Hands (oboe), Sun 5 July, Grieg Hall, Alcester

## Comedy

**SCOTT BENNETT** Wed 1 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**MARK THOMAS** Wed 1 July, Brehouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**MICHELLE WOLF** Thurs 2 July, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ALFIE MOORE** Fri 3 July, Brehouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**LAURA LEXX, SILKY, FELICITY WARD & PAUL SAVAGE** Fri 3 July, Crown Wharf Theatre, Stone, Staffordshire

**SCOTT BENNETT** Fri 3 July, Kidderminster Town Hall

**ANDREW BIRD, SIMON WOZNIAK, WILL HANNIGAN & MARJOLEIN ROBERTSON** Fri 3 - Sat 4 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

**ERIC RUSHTON, RICHARD STOTT, ABI CARTER-SIMPSON & RUSSELL ARATHOON** Sat 4 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

**PAUL SMITH** Sat 4 July, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

**ED BYRNE & FRIENDS** Sat 4 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**ROUGH WORKS: NEW MATERIAL NIGHT** Sun 5 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

**KRISTIN KEY** Sun 5 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**MARC SIMMONS** Sun 5 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

## Theatre

**JEKYLL & HYDE** Amateur version presented by BOA Musical Theatre, until Thurs 2 July, The Old Rep, Birmingham

**RICHARD III** Matthew Duckett stars in a new version of Shakespeare's famous history play, which takes its inspiration from the gangland world of Peaky Blinders. Richard Cheshire directs, until Sat 4 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**POPCORN** Amateur version based on Ben Elton's dark comic thriller, until Sat 4 July, Criterion Theatre, Coventry

**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, until Sat 4 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**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, until Sun 30 Aug, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**LOCOMOTIVE FOR MURDER: THE IMPROVISED WHODUNNIT** Watch as Pinch Punch create a unique whodunnit live on stage. Expect 'outrageous accents, shaky alibis, thrills, spills and good old-fashioned kills', Wed 1 July, Lichfield Garrick

**9 TO 5 JR.** Amateur version presented by Ormiston Forge Academy, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 July, Halesowen Town Hall

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR** The rise, fall, glory and devastation of Oscar Wilde is brought to life through his own words and those of his fiercest champion - the fabled Irish writer Micheál Mac Liammóir, Wed 1 - Fri 3 July, Malvern Theatres

**GUARDS! GUARDS!** Second Thoughts Drama Group present an amateur version of Terry Pratchett's play, Wed 1 - Sat 4 July, Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**STEPPING OUT** Amateur version of Richard Harris' lighthearted play about a group of women attending a weekly tap-dance class in a dingy church hall, Wed 1 - Sat 11 July, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

**REP RISING 26 FESTIVAL** Programme of theatre performed by emerging talent from the Young Rep and Rep Pathways programmes, Wed 1 - Sun 19 July, The Rep, Birmingham

**MATILDA THE MUSICAL** The RSC's award-winning production, based on Roald Dahl's much-loved story about an extraordinary little girl with an extraordinary mind, Wed 1 July - Sun 2 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

**SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER** The Crescent Theatre Company present an amateur version of Oliver

Goldsmith's satirical tale of manners, mistaken identity and courtship, Thurs 2 July, Coffin Works, B'ham

**HADESTOWN** Amateur version of the West End musical, presented by SAOS Youth Theatre, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 July, Stourbridge Town Hall

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY** Ludwig Theatre Arts present an amateur version of the kooky musical comedy, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**SHAKERS: UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT** Amateur version of John Godber's classic play, Thurs 2 - Sun 12 July, The Attic Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE THREE MUSKETEERS** Illyria theatre company present an outdoor version of Alexandre Dumas' swashbuckling tale, Fri 3 July, Winterbourne Gardens, Birmingham

**ROMEO AND JULIET** Aunty Jen Productions bring Shakespeare's tragic love story to life, Fri 3 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**DEAR EVAN HANSEN** Curtain Call Studios present an amateur version of the award-winning musical, Fri 3 - Sat 4 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**AT RAINBOW'S END** Artemis Theatre Company present a script-in-hand play addressing homophobic and transphobic abuse of older LGBTQ+ people in care, Sat 4 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER** The Crescent Theatre Company present an amateur version of Oliver Goldsmith's satirical tale of manners, mistaken identity and courtship, Sat 4 - Sun 5 July, Harvington Hall, Nr Kidderminster

**SECOND PERSON NARRATIVE** Amateur version of Jemma Kennedy's play, consisting of multiple scenes documenting a single character's life, Sat 4 - Sun 5 July, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**SWEENEY TODD THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET** Ramin Karimloo takes the lead in a new version of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical, Sat 4 July - Sat 15 Aug, The Rep, Birmingham

**THE FRIENDSHIP LAB** A Restoke Production exploring adult friendships through the eyes of 10-to 13-year-old girls who respond in agony-aunt style to dilemmas submitted by grown-ups from across the country, Sun 5 & Mon 6 July, Drop City Books, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

## Kids Theatre

**MR SLEEPYBUM'S DREAM MACHINE** Award-winning interactive show for

younger audiences, filled with sketches, slapstick and silliness, Sat 4 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**HELLO BIRDS** A sensory story show for very young children featuring puppetry, key-word signing, baby safe props and singing, Sun 5 July, Warley Woods, Smethwick

## Dance

**NIKITA KUZMIN: SUPERNOVA** New dance spectacular fuelled by the firepower of 'world-class' performers and creatives from across the globe, Thurs 2 & Fri 3 July, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

## Light Entertainment

**DERREN BROWN: ONLY HUMAN LIVE** Brand-new show from the master of mind control and psychological illusion, Tues 30 June - Sat 4 July, The Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**JUKEBOX IDOLS** A whirlwind trip through the greatest hits of the 1950s and 60s, featuring The Overtones and Strictly's Nadia Bychkova and Louis Smith, Wed 1 July, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ALL OR NOTHING EXPERIENCE** A West End cast tell the story of Mod band The Small Faces through their iconic music, Thurs 2 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**DES COLEMAN - RAT PACK REPRISE** Join Frank, Dean & Sammy for an evening of Las Vegas glitz and glamour, Thurs 2 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**FORBIDDEN NIGHTS** Celebrating over a decade of muscles, mayhem and more than 11,000 ripped shirts, Thurs 2 July, Lichfield Garrick

**CELEBRATING NAT KING COLE** Featuring the Down For The Count Swing Orchestra, Fri 3 July, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**RANGLE SARDAR** Four distinctive vocalists, backed by a full live band, present an evening of authentic Punjabi folk music, Sat 4 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**WEST END TO WENLOCK 26** An evening of songs from stage & screen, performed by stars of the West End and featuring Key Change Choir. Charity event in aid of Severn Hospice, Sat 4 July, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**LATA & ASHA: PURANE GAANE... SIDE A / SIDE B** A musical journey honouring the enduring magic and legacy of Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle, Sun 5 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**THE LOVE LETTERS OF VIRGINIA WOOLF AND VITA SACKVILLE WEST** Join Polly Wright and Terina Talbot as they read extracts from letters shared between Virginia and Vita. An informal discussion follows..., Sun 5 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

**JUKEBOX IDOLS** Whirlwind trip through the greatest hits of the 1950s and 60s, featuring The Overtones and Strictly's Nadia Bychkova and Louis Smith, Sun 5 July, Malvern Theatres

## Talks & Spoken Word

**AN EVENING WITH SUSIE WOLFF: DRIVEN** Join the former racing driver and MD of F1 Academy as she lifts the bonnet on her incredible journey to the top of motorsport, Wed 1 July, Birmingham Town Hall

**AN EVENING WITH DAVID SEDARIS** Spend time with one of America's most celebrated satirists and humour writers, Thurs 2 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## Events

**TITANIC EXHIBITION: BIRMINGHAM** Experience the extraordinary story of the Titanic, until Sun 19 July, NEC, Birmingham

**UNEARTH THE PALAEVERSE: 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

**TUTANKHAMUN: THE IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION** Bringing Ancient Egypt to life, the exhibition offers a cutting-edge 90-minute journey back in time, until Sun 13 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

**PEPPA PIG SPACE ADVENTURE** Blast off with Peppa Pig and her friends on an 'out of this world' adventure for families with young children, until Sun 8 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

**STOWE VALLEY ARTS FESTIVAL** Celebration of the artistic talent of young people from across Warwickshire, Tues 30 June - Wed 1 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**125 YEARS OF BISHOP'S CASTLE CARNIVAL CELEBRATION** An evening of film, photos and memories of the carnival over its 125 years, Thurs 2 July, SpArc Theatre, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire

**BLACK SABBATH CELEBRATION WEEK** Each day offers something unique, ranging from guided exhibition highlights to hands-on making sessions, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 July, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

**WOW! FEST 2026** Free community-driven dance and outdoor arts festival, Fri 3 - Sat 4 July, Walsall Arboretum

**COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL** Enjoy 'mouthwatering' mini dishes from local traders' latest menus, Fri 3 - Sat 4 July, Victoria Square, Birmingham

**CAMPER JAM 2026** Weekend dedicated to the VW community, celebrating everything from T1s to T6s, Fri 3 - Sun 5 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

**OH MY DAYS TJ'S 80S DAYTIME DISCO** Event raising money for Childhood Cancer Parent Alliance, Sat 4 July, RIVA, Stafford

**LIVING HISTORY FESTIVAL** Experience a day of immersive history, surrounded by reenactors, Sat 4 July, Middleport Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent

**HANBURY COUNTRYSIDE SHOW** Featuring more than 700 exhibitors, 200 trade stands and 300 competitions, Sat 4 July, Park Hall Farm, Hanbury, Worcestershire

**SOLIHULL DINING CLUB** Event bringing together some of the UK's best independent traders, Sat 4 July, Tudor Grange Park, Solihull

**HERITAGE TOURS AT THE EXCHANGE** Exchange and discover the rich history and fascinating stories behind The Exchange's walls, Sat 4 July, The Exchange, 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham

**DISCO BLISS - 70S AND 80S DAYTIME DISCO** Celebrating the very best 70s disco and 80s pop, Sat 4 July, Dudley Town Hall

**THE WRIGHT PARANORMAL** Psychic medium night and paranormal investigation, Sat 4 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**ABBA GARDEN PARTY** Non-stop Abba hits, Sat 4 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**STUART CRYSTAL SITE WALKING TOUR** Explore the former site of the Stuart Crystal factory (where Stourbridge Glass Museum now stands) and learn about its significance within the local glass industry, Sat 4 July, Stourbridge Glass Museum

**BIRMINGHAM DISABILITY FESTIVAL** Event celebrating inclusivity and diversity, Sat 4 July, Aston University, Birmingham City Centre

**BIRMINGHAM CRAFT BREW FESTIVAL** Touring craft beer festival, Sat 4 July, The Bond, Digbeth, Birmingham

**WELLINGTON ITALIAN SCOOTER FESTIVAL** Featuring scooter memorabilia and a market square filled with bikes, Sat 4 July, Wellington Town Centre, Shropshire

**CLASSIC IBIZA** Open-air celebration of White Isle-inspired house music, Sat 4 July, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

**OSWESTRY FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL** Bringing together independent

producers, street-food vendors, local distillers and brewers, Sat 4 - Sun 5 July, Oswestry Town Centre, Shropshire

**WILD WEST WEEKEND** Featuring 'authentic Wild West displays, lively reenactments and themed activities', Sat 4 - Sun 5 July, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

**THE GREAT BRITISH FOOD FESTIVAL** Featuring chef demos, street food, workshops and more, Sat 4 - Sun 5 July, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**TRAMPOLINE, TUMBLING & DMT INTER REGIONAL CHALLENGE CUP FINAL 2026** Sat 4 - Sun 5 July, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

**ROCK 'N' RUMBLE** Action-packed event featuring high-energy entertainment, big characters and country-style fun, Sat 4 - Sun 5 July, Drayton Manor, Staffordshire

**STEP BACK TO THE 1940S** The British home-front experience is brought to life across the line, Sat 4 - Sun 5 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

**54321FAB!** Exhibition celebrating the much-loved 1960s TV shows of Gerry & Sylvia Anderson, Sat 4 July - Sun 6 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

**CASTLE BROMWICH DINING CLUB** Bringing together some of the UK's best independent traders, Sun 5 July, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

**CLASSIC CAR EVENT** Featuring around 100 motor enthusiasts in vehicles old and new, Sun 5 July, Middleton Hall, Tamworth

**WORCESTER MELA FESTIVAL** Free one-day festival featuring live music, dance, food, workshops and family activities, Sun 5 July, University of Worcester City Campus, Worcester

## Festivals

**ALDERFEST** Line-up includes Jess Glynne, Professor Green & Artful Dodger, Fri 3 - Sat 4 July, Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**NAPTON MUSIC FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Bootleg Blondie, Mr Bon Jovi & Chasing Mumford, Fri 3 - Sat 4 July, Napton Village Hall Grounds, Napton On The Hill, Warwickshire

**CAMPERJAM** Line-up includes Oh My God! It's The Church, Supreme Queen & The Kinx, Fri 3 - Sun 5 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

**CHELTENHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Vision String Quartet, Hana Chang, The Unthanks, Opus13, Pavel Kolesnikov, Angela Hewitt, Violetta Suvini and Friends, Sheku and Isata Kenneh-Mason, Fri 3 - Sat 11 July, venues across Cheltenham



Joan Jet & The Blackhearts - The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

## Gigs

**DOOM GONG** Mon 6 July, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

**AGNOSTIC FRONT** Mon 6 July, The Robin, Bilston

**SAMMY HAGAR** Mon 6 July, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

**COOKIN' ON 3 BURNERS** Tues 7 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**JOSH ROUSE** Tues 7 July, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

**KING YELLOWMAN & THE UPPER CUT BAND** Tues 7 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**AMERICAN HI-FI + DON'T PANIC** Tues 7 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS** Tues 7 July, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

**ROSE'S PAWN SHOP** Tues 7 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**BONFIRE RADICALS** Wed 8 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**RACHEL DAVIS & DARREN MCMULLEN** Wed 8 July, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

**DEMONS OF TUNE** Wed 8 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**THE SWAPS + THE FOREGATE BROTHERS + TOMÁS DONCKER** Wed 8 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**PAULA JACKMAN'S JAZZ**

**MASTERS** Wed 8 July, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

**THE JOURNEMEN** Wed 8 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**COLDPLACE** Wed 8 July, Malvern Theatres

**TRAVELLING RIVERSIDE BLUES SHOW** Wed 8 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**EG LEG + GENIVA + DOGBREATH + NEBUKANEZA** Thurs 9 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**JON B** Thurs 9 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**PINKSHIFT + HEART ATTACK MAN** Thurs 9 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

**FIRMAMENT** Thurs 9 July, Subside Bar, Birmingham

**THE DRIFTERS** Thurs 9 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE** Thurs 9 July, Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

**RAY QUINN** Thurs 9 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE GENESIS SHOW** Thurs 9 July, Malvern Theatres

**JOHNNY & JUNE** Thurs 9 July, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**THE DANDELION CURSE** Thurs 9 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**RACHEL DAVIS & DARREN MCMULLEN** Thurs 9 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**ALEXANDRA LEAVING** Fri 10 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**BREAKING BENJAMIN + CHEVELLE + RETURN TO DUST** Fri 10 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**FAIR WEATHER RIDERS** Fri 10 July, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**THE JEFF BECK EXPERIENCE** Fri 10 July, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

**SABBATH BLOODY SABBATH** Fri 10 July, The Asylum, B'ham

**SOULSWITCH** Fri 10 July, The Flapper, B'ham

**BATTLE OF THE BANDS** Fri 10 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

**PATRI LINEALS + IDLE NOISE + LOUIS GLASBY** Fri 10 July, The Rainbow, Birmingham

**RHIANNON - A TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC** Fri 10 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**BLONDISH** Fri 10 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**MATTHEW BYRNE AND SHERMAN DOWNEY** Fri 10 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**XODUS: BOB MARLEY TRIBUTE** Fri 10 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**THRUM** Fri 10 July, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**SCENE IT ALL** Fri 10 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**THE FEZZ** Fri 10 July, The Market Theatre, Ledbury

**DEFINITELY MIGHTBE** Fri 10 July, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**MOVING PICTURES - RUSH TRIBUTE** Fri 10 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

**THE CAT DAVIS TRIO** Fri 10 July, The Red Lion, Evesham

**BRITPOP UNITED + ALL 4 INDIE** Fri 10 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**ELECTROMANTICS** Fri 10 July, The Robin, Bilston

**THE KILLERS COLLECTIVE** Fri 10 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**FINE LINES + JESSIE & THE REVOLVERS** Fri 10 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE SUMMER SHOWCASES PART 1** Fri 10 July, Fenton Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**PISTOL WHIPPED + BUZZKOCKS** Fri 10 July, The Rigger, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

**DEMON + THE BLUESMAKERS ALL-STARS** Fri 10 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**ION MAIDEN** Fri 10 July, The Station, Cannock

**COUNTRY SUPERSTARS** Fri 10 July, Lichfield Garrick

**WILL BARNES QUARTET** Fri 10 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**HOLLY CARTER** Fri 10 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**THE DETOURS** Fri 10 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**THE UK ROCK SHOW** Fri 10 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**THE TRAVELLING RIVERSIDE BLUES SHOW** Fri 10 July, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock. South Shrops

**NAKED SUNDAY + GUNS FOR GIRLS + CONFYDE** Fri 10 July, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**MILITARIE GUN** Sat 11 July, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**AMRITA KAUR** Sat 11 July, Birmingham Town Hall

**BAYLISS & SEAL AND AMIT DATTANI** Sat 11 July, Bromsgrove Arts @ Fairfield Village Hall, Worcestershire

**G2 DEFINITIVE GENESIS** Sat 11 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**ELECTROMANTICS** Sat 11 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**XONOR + SANGUIS MORTEM** Sat 11 July, Arches Venue, Coventry

**ACOUBA** Sat 11 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**ON THAT NOTE** Sat 11 July, The Market Theatre, Ledbury

**KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS** Sat 11 July, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**TYPE OF NEGATIVE + PANTERA AD** Sat 11 July, Marris Bar, Worcester

**ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER** Sat 11 July, West Malvern Social Club

**FLAT TONIC** Sat 11 July, The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

**ICONIC 80S V 90S** Sat 11 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**SOUL'D OUT UK** Sat 11 July, The Robin, Bilston

**THE DAYBREAKERS** Sat 11 July, Dive, Wolverhampton

**FLESH CREEP + MISGENDERED + WITHERHORDE + KNIFEPOINT + GUTTER SCUM** Sat 11 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-

Trent

**ERASURED** Sat 11 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**METAL TO THE MASSES THE FINAL** Sat 11 July, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

**BOWIE EXPERIENCE** Sat 11 July, Lichfield Garrick

**AFTER THE RAIN: LEONARD COHEN, TOM WAITS & NEIL YOUNG** Sat 11 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**JOSEPHINE DAVIES SATORI QUARTET** Sat 11 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**RUST FOR GLORY - NEIL YOUNG TRIBUTE** Sun 12 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**TOM MARTIN** Sun 12 July, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**REGGAE FEST** Sun 12 July, Tower of Song, Birmingham

**THIRSTY WORK** Sun 12 July, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

**WATTLE & RIFF** Sun 12 July, The Red Lion, Evesham

**THE KINGS OF LEON TRIBUTE** Sun 12 July, The Robin, Bilston

**BRUCE JUICE** Sun 12 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**AURORA** Sun 12 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**A NIGHT WITH JOSEPHINE** Sun 12 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**MAET LIVE & THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS** Sun 12 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury



Bonfire Radicals - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## Classical Music

**CONSTANCE FROMENT FLUTE RECITAL** Tues 7 July, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**LIBERATA COLLECTIVE: BEYOND THE MYTH OF MARIE ANTOINETTE** Staged recital including works by Gluck, Puccini, Bologne & more..., Wed 8 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: THE ALCHEMIST, THE DEVIL AND THE DREAM** Featuring David Le Page (director). Programme includes works by Tartini, Gordon, Corelli & more..., Thurs 9 July, St Nicholas Church, Warwick

**RALPH AND URSULA VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: A LOVE STORY IN WORDS & MUSIC** Featuring Katie Bray (mezzo), Kieran Rayner (baritone) & Nigel Foster (piano), Thurs 9 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**RUIMEI HUANG PIANO RECITAL** Fri 10 July, St Hilda's Parish Church, Smethwick

**EX CATHEDRA: RACHMANINOFF VESPERS** Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Martha McLorinan (mezzo soprano), James Robinson (tenor) & Simone Rebello (bells), Fri 10 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**CHINGYAN LO ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 10 July, St Mary's Church, Warwick

**GLORIES OF THE SPANISH RENAISSANCE** Featuring Bill Carslake (conductor) & International Choir of the Ludlow Summer School. Programme includes works by Rogier, de Victoria, Lobo & more..., Fri 10 July, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**STIEN DE NEEF HARP RECITAL** Sat 11 July, Shrewsbury Cathedral

**BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY: FEEL THE SPIRIT** Featuring David Wynne (conductor), Kevin Gill (piano) & Lufuno Ndou (mezzo soprano). Programme includes works by Rutter, Chilcott & Hogan, Sat 11 July, St. George's Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham

**SOUTH BIRMINGHAM SINFONIA** Featuring Sabrina Ko (conductor), James Hamilton (leader) & Katy Smith (soloist). Programme includes works by Rossini, Falla, Giménez & more..., Sat 11 July, Shirley Methodist Church

**LEAMINGTON SINFONIA SUMMER CONCERT** Programme includes works by Dvořák, Tchaikovsky & Borodin, Sat 11 July, All Saints Church, Leamington Spa

**WOMBOURNE AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY** Featuring Dr. Edward Caine (conductor), Matthew Davies (organ & piano) & Josh Dibble (countertenor). Programme includes works by Vivaldi & Chilcott, Sat 11 July, St Benedict Biscop Church, Wolverhampton

**HALESOWEN ORCHESTRA: NORTHERN LIGHT** Featuring Lee Armstrong (conductor), Claire Thompson (leader) & Nikolaj Henriques (bassoon). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Weber & Hamerik, Sat 11 July, Carter's Lane Baptist Church, Halesowen

**R SCHUMANN, SIBELIUS & GRIEG** Featuring Giacomo Schmidt (baritone) & Jong Sun Woo (piano), Sat 11 July, Newcastle Community Centre, Newcastle-on-Clun

**STAFFORD CHORAL SOCIETY: AN EVENING AT THE OPERA** Sat 11 July, The White Eagle Club, Stafford

**A SUMMER CELEBRATION OF MUSIC** Featuring the young performers of Brio Arts & Music Studio, Sun 12 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**THE FIDDLE AND THE DRUM: FOLK MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES** Featuring Harvey Brough (leader) & Kate Brook (soloist), Sun 12 July, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

**AURORA PERCUSSION DUO** Featuring Delia Stevens & Le Yu (percussion). Programme includes works by J. S. Bach, Rimsky-Korsakov, Gershwin & more..., Sun 12 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

## Comedy

**ADELE CLIFF** Mon 6 July, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

**GARY OWEN** Tues 7 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**HASAN AL-HABIB** Wed 8 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**ERIC RUSHTON** Wed 8 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**STEWART LEE** Wed 8 - Thurs 9 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**MOJO BROOKZZ** Thurs 9 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JOE LYCETT & FRIENDS** Thurs 9 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

**LINDSEY SANTORO** Thurs 9 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**SAMANTHA DAY** Thurs 9 July, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

**STUART GOLDSMITH** Thurs 9 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**SPENCER JONES** Thurs 9 July, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

**JONNY COLE** Thurs 9 - Fri 10 July, Dudley Town Hall

**CAREY MARX, MICHELLE SHAUGHNESSY, RUSSELL ARATHOON, BEN POPE & BILAL RASHID** Fri 10 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**CLINTON BAPTISTE** Fri 10 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**CHRIS O'NEILL** Fri 10 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**SPENCER JONES** Fri 10 July, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

**DOMINIC WOODWARD, MARTIN DAVIS, LOVDEV BARPAGA & PAM FORD** Fri 10 July, Bedworth Civic Hall

**CAREY MARX, MICHELLE SHAUGHNESSY, RUSSELL ARATHOON & COMIC TBC** Sat 11 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**JONNY COLE** Sat 11 July, The Halls Wolverhampton

**TEZ ILYAZ** Sat 11 July, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

**PAUL HILLEARD** Sat 11 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**WENDY WASON** Sat 11 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**DAVE CHAWNER** Sat 11 July, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

**ESTHER MANITO** Sat 11 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**IGNACIO LOPEZ** Sat 11 July, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

**ALEXANDER BENNETT** Sun 12 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL GALA FEAT. LOU SANDERS, IGNACIO LOPEZ, ESTHER MANITO, MORGAN REES & SCOTT BENNETT** Sun 12 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## Theatre

**THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW** Richard O'Brien's legendary rock'n'roll musical, featuring timeless classics including Sweet Transvestite, Dammit Janet and the iconic Time Warp, Mon 6 - Sat 11 July, The Alexandra, B'ham

**WAITRESS** Carrie Hope Fletcher, Les Dennis, Sandra Marvin and Evelyn Hoskins star in a warm-hearted tale of love and friendship, Mon 6 - Sat 11 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**WHAT WE CAN DO WHEN WE CAN'T DANCE** Brand-new show from DreamArts Rep Company, which creates original productions fusing theatre, rap and film, Tues 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

**BOILER ROOM SIX: A TITANIC STORY** The true story of stoker Frederick Barrett and his fight for survival during the last few hours of the Titanic, Tues 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

**OTHELLO** The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's story of deception and jealousy, Tues 7 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER** The Crescent Theatre Company present an amateur version of Oliver Goldsmith's satirical tale of manners, mistaken identity and courtship, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 July, Selly Manor, B'ham

**SLEEPING BEAUTY** Amateur version presented by Grand Arena Youth Theatre, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**RAW** Pentabus present a festival of theatre showcasing new plays written by rising stars from across the West

Midlands and Marches, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**THE MORALITY OF MRS DULSKA** A 'razor-sharp' comedy about respectability, reputation and keeping things 'nice', Wed 8 - Sat 11 July, Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**CRAZY FOR YOU** Talking Props Theatre Arts present an amateur version of George Gershwin's musical comedy, Wed 8 - Sat 11 July, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**IF/THEN** Amateur version of Brian Yorkey's contemporary musical, Wed 8 - Sat 11 July, Crown Wharf Theatre, Stone

**ROMEO & JULIET** The Dukes Theatre Company present an outdoor reimagining of Shakespeare's iconic love story, Fri 10 July, Hartlebury Castle, Nr Kidderminster

**OTHELLO** The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's story of deception, and jealousy, Fri 10 July, Coughton Court, Worcestershire

**MR BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY** Amateur version exploring storytelling, memory, pop culture and 'what we cling to when the world changes beyond recognition', Fri 10 & Sat 11 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE CHERRY ORCHARD** Sir Kenneth Branagh and Hollywood film stars Helen Hunt and Bill Pullman star in Laura Wade's new version of Anton Chekhov's last play, Fri 10 July - Sat 29 Aug, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE BODY SNATCHER & THE HANGED MAN'S BRIDE** An Edinburgh preview double bill featuring Robert Louis Stevenson's chilling story of greed, guilt and the macabre, and Charles Dickens' tale of passion and deceit, Sat 11 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**AS YOU LIKE IT** Pedalling theatre troupe The Handlebards present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Sat 11 July, Coventry Cathedral

**SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER** The Crescent Theatre Company present an amateur version of Oliver Goldsmith's satirical tale of manners, mistaken identity and courtship, Sat 11 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

**ROMEO & JULIET** Oddsocks present a new version of Shakespeare's romantic comedy, Sat 11 July, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**FAIRLIGHT** Show exploring why sport remains a place where many people struggle to be their authentic selves, Sat 11 July, Leamington Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Leamington Spa

**THE CHANGELING** Amateur version of

Paul Stevenon-Marks' reimagining of the Dracula myth, Sat 11 - Sat 18 July, Oldbury Rep

**ROMEO & JULIET** Oddsocks present a new version of Shakespeare's tragic love story, Sun 12 July, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**AS YOU LIKE IT** Pedalling theatre troupe The Handlebards present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Sun 12 July, The Lenches Amphitheatre, Nr Evesham

## Kids Theatre

**PETER RABBIT'S MUSICAL ADVENTURES** Waterperry Opera present a family-friendly performance that blends a retelling of Beatrix Potter's much-loved tale with classical music, Sat 11 July, Minster Hall, Lichfield

**DINOSAURS LIVE!** Natural History Museum family show in which dinosaurs 'come alive' on stage, Sun 12 July, Malvern Theatres

## Dance

**KAI WIDDRINGTON: EVOLUTION** Join the Strictly star as he showcases his versatility and passion for dance, Mon 6 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



## Light Entertainment

**BOX OF FROGS** Birmingham's premier improv group present an evening of high-octane comedy nonsense based entirely on audience suggestions, Wed 8 July, 1000 Trades, The Jewellery Quarter, B'ham

**GIANT LEAP IMPROV** Wed 8 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**G4: PHANTOMS OF THE POPERA** Join Jonathan Ansell, Michael Conway, Mike Christie and Duncan Sandilands for a rollercoaster celebration of musical theatre's greatest hits, Wed 8 July, Dudley Town Hall

**100% BADGERS WITH MATT HOBBS** Stand-up comedy show about how the worlds of humans and badgers collide, Fri 10 July, Huntingdon Hall,

Worcester

**FLAMENCO FROM SPAIN** Featuring Rebecca Ortega (dancer) & Ramon Ruiz (guitar), Fri 10 July, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**MUSIC FOR YOUTH: THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2026** Celebrate the sound of the next generation at 'one of the UK's most exciting youth music festivals', Fri 10 - Sat 11 July, CBSO Centre & Symphony Hall, B'ham

**THE BOLLYWOOD BRATPACK** Vocalist Chirag Rao fuses iconic Hindi film songs with the sound and spirit of classic swing, Sat 11 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**ECHOES OF ICONS** Star-Struck Performing Arts Academy present a fusion of musical theatre, dance and drama, Sat 11 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**A POLITICAL BRUNCH 1** Lighthearted panel show described as Have I Got News For You meets Question Time, Sat 11 & Sun 12 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

**48 GHOSTS** Evening of 'fun frights and ghoulish delights', Sun 12 July, The Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

## Events

**BEHIND THE SECRET DOOR, STORIES FROM THE SHELVES** Each session will open a door into a different corner of the library collection, Mon 6 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

**HALLS FINE ART VALUATION ADVISORY DAY** Halls Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers offer free antique and fine art valuations and advice about the latest art-world market trends and developments, Tues 7 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

**BIRMINGHAM COCKTAIL WEEKEND** Festival-goers get exclusive access to £6 signature cocktails across all participating venues, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 July, various venues across Birmingham City Centre

**DANCING GRANNIES QUIZ NIGHT** A night filled with 'fun, frolics and who knows what kind of questions', Fri 10 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**QUEEN HEAVEN** Celebration of Queen's music, combining classic videos, immersive solar-system visuals and archive footage, Fri 10 July, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**A WALK IN THE PARK SUMMER STROLL** Join landscape manager Fiona Tansley for a walk through the meadows, discovering the native flora and fauna along the way, Fri 10 July, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**BIDDULPH BEER & MUSIC FESTIVAL** Featuring a range of fine ales, ciders and a fully stocked bar, Fri 10 - Sat 11 July, Middleton Hall, Tamworth

**THE FESTIVAL OF BRILLIANT** Children's

book festival celebrating creativity and storytelling, Fri 10 - Sat 11 July, Biddulph Old Hall, Staffordshire



**CHEADLE CARNIVAL** Weekend carnival featuring live music, a parade, main ring entertainment and family fun, Fri 10 - Sun 12 July, Memorial Recreation Ground, Cheadle, Staffs

**HERITAGE GLASS AND CHURCH WALKING TOUR** Discover the history of glass, exploring the churches, canals, factories and people that made the Stourbridge glass industry what it is today, Sat 11 July, Stourbridge Glass Museum

**1940S EVENING** Nostalgic evening of entertainment, Sat 11 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**BACKSTAGE TOUR** Take a peek backstage and meet the expert technical and creative teams, Sat 11 July, Lichfield Garrick Theatre

**SUMMER SOUL PICNIC** Experience an evening of live music, Sat 11 July, Caste Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

**DISCO BLISS SUMMER TERRACE DAY** Featuring 1970s & 80s classics, Sat 11 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**THE MYTON HOSPICES - COVENTRY CATHEDRAL ABSEIL 2026** See Coventry from new heights as you walk 90 feet down the side of the city's cathedral, Sat 11 July, Coventry Cathedral

**BONGO'S BINGO** The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 11 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**1940S WEEKEND** Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of wartime Britain as you wander through period-accurate shops, homes and industrial workplaces, Sat 11 - Sun 12 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**WIMBLEDON IN WARWICK** Grab your picnic chairs, take along friends and family, and soak up the atmosphere as the Wimbledon 2026 finals are screened live, Sat 11 - Sun 12 July, Warwick Market Place

**COMIC CON MIDLANDS BIRMINGHAM** Featuring big names from movies, TV, streaming, gaming, anime and sports entertainment, Sat 11 - Sun 12 July, NEC, Birmingham

**ATTINGHAM DINING CLUB** Event bringing together some of the UK's best independent traders, Sat 11 - Sun 12 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

**ROCK 'N' RUMBLE** Action-packed event featuring 'high-energy entertainment, big characters and country-style fun', Sat 11 - Sun 12 July, Drayton Manor, Staffordshire

**WORLD MEERKAT WEEKEND** Discover fascinating facts about meerkat life in the wild, and take part in themed activities, Sat 11 - Sun 12 July, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

**ARTISAN, CRAFT AND GIFT MARKET** Featuring talented makers, creators and enterprises from across the region, Sat 11 - Sun 12 July, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

**BENEATH THE WAVES** Dive into an immersive underwater world where children under five can encounter coral reefs, playful sea creatures, swirling currents and sparkling tidal pools, Sat 11 July - Sun 30 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**SUMMER OF PLAY** Featuring multiple play zones that encourage the whole family to get stuck in, Sat 11 July - Mon 31 Aug, Croome Park, Worcestershire

**WINTERBOURNE'S RARE PLANT FAIR** Featuring specialist growers and nurseries from around the country, Sun 12 July, Winterbourne House and Garden, Edgbaston, B'ham

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR** Browse a variety of stalls, Sun 12 July, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

**CLASSIC TRANSPORT DAY** Travel onboard a historic steam train to visit the various vehicle displays across the site, Sun 12 July, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

**ARTISAN FOOD AND CRAFT FAIR** Step into a vibrant outdoor market featuring craft and food stalls, Sun 12 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**THE REUNION** Celebrating the modified-car scene, Sun 12 July, Staffordshire Showground, Stafford

**CLASSIC MOTOR DAY** Featuring vintage motors, motorbikes and commercial vehicles, Sun 12 July, Apley Farm Shop, Shifnal, Shropshire

**WREKIN EATIN' FESTIVAL** Featuring street food, family fun and live entertainment, Sun 12 July, Wellington Cricket Club, Shropshire

## Festivals

**THE MOSTLY JAZZ FUNK AND SOUL FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Fabio & Grooverider and the Outlook Orchestra, Jordan Rakei, Jalen Ngonda, Fri 10 - Sun 12 July, Moseley Park, Birmingham

**ALSO FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Afriquoi, PVA plus Porgy and Bess Reimagined for the 21st Century, Fri 10 - Sun 12 July, Park Farm, Warwickshire

# Monday 13 - Sunday 19 July

## Gigs

### A THOUSAND HORSES

Tues 14 July, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

### SWALLOW HORSFALL

**BOLTON TRIO** Tues 14 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

### THE SUGARHILL GANG

Wed 15 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

### HIGGINS + OLIVER +

**BATUTIENE + WARD** Wed 15 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

### MISSISSIPPI DREAMBOAT

Wed 15 July, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

### THE DICKIES

Wed 15 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### THE AYOUB SISTERS

Wed 15 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

### SANTÙ

Thurs 16 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

### MARTY O'REILLY

Thurs 16 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

### NEW ORLEANS BRASS

**BAND** Thurs 16 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

### ACUA

Thurs 16 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

### ZIAME STEWART +

**TREVANEE + EMELUSHKA + MILLIE STARR** Thurs 16 July, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

### THE RAGDOLLS

Thurs 16 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

### THE HOWLERS +

**ALEXANDRA LEAVING + ILLUSIVE** Thurs 16 July, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

### JOOLS HOLLAND & HIS

**RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA** Thurs 16 July, Malvern Theatres

### MARTIN STEPHENSON &

**THE DAINTIES** Thurs 16 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

### THE DON SHIRLEY TRIO

**PROJECT** Thurs 16 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

### TRAGEDY: ALL METAL

**TRIBUTE TO THE BEE GEES** Thurs 16 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

### MIDWAY STILL +

**DEALING WITH DAMAGE**

+ **MEGA FISHY 4** Fri 17 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

### RUDYWADE + GONEDARK

+ **LEGRAND + JAYBENZ** Fri 17 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

### SEAN REEVES

Fri 17 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

### THE SNAKE DAVIS BAND

Fri 17 July, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire



### THE STREETS

Fri 17 July, O2 Academy, B'ham

### THE 3 SIXTIES

Fri 17 July, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

### BAT SABBATH +

**FROGLORD** Fri 17 July, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

### THE KING BLUES

Fri 17 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

### BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Fri 17 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

### THE BLACK FEATHERS

Fri 17 July, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### MIKE SANCHEZ

Fri 17 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

### THE QUAD ROX

Fri 17 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

### MORETALLICA

Fri 17 July, Marrs Bar, Worcester

### THE GOOGANAUTS

Fri 17 July, The Red Lion, Evesham

### KAISER MONKEY KILLERS

Fri 17 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### BLURRY AND GRILLAZ

Fri 17 July, The Robin, Bilston

### ABBA TRIBUTE - MASTERS

**OF THE SCENE** Fri 17 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

### FRIENDLY CAMPAIGN +

**HAIRDYE + WALKING ALONE + CENTRIUM** Fri 17 July, The Artisan

Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

### RAISED BY OWLS + DOOMSDAY SUN + ANY

**GIVEN REASON** Fri 17 July, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

### SISTER SLEDGE + KENNY

**THOMAS + ODYSSEY** Fri 17 July, Tamworth Castle

### ULTIMATE BLINK 182

Fri 17 July, The Station, Cannock

### SONIC THREADS

Fri 17 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

### THE MIGHTY BOING

Fri 17 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

### THE CHRISTIANS

Fri 17 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

### TRAVELLING RIVERSIDE

**BLUES SHOW** Fri 17 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

### DEAD ELVIS + BRAD

**HUNTER & THE AFTERPARTY + THE STRAZE** Fri 17 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

### JOOLS HOLLAND & HIS

**RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA** Fri 17 July, Aston Hall, Wrexham

### UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE

Fri 17 - Sat 18 July, The Jam House, B'ham

### BLUES CLUB

Sat 18 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

### ROXY MAGIC

Sat 18 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

### SOLEDAD BROTHERS +

**BLACK MEKON** Sat 18 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham

### JK

Sat 18 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

### CHARLIE PUTH +

**BRADLEY SIMPSON** Sat 18 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

### STEVE LINFORTH

Sat 18 July, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

### THE NONE + FLESH

**CREEP + MACHIVELLIAN ART + MONOXIDE BROTHERS + NOT SOUP** Sat 18 July, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

### SUN RAGA

Sat 18 July, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### ARIES + HEIST +

**CHESHIRE CAT + BENNY**

**COLAB** Sat 18 July, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

### THE SUBTERRANEANS

Sat 18 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

### AC/DSHE

Sat 18 July, Arches Venue, Coventry

### OYE SANTANA

Sat 18 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### VULCAN REIGN

Sat 18 July, The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

### ULTIMATE RNB

Sat 18 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### METEORA + LIMP

**BISCUIT + EVANESCENT + PAPAS ROACHES** Sat 18 July, The Robin, Bilston

### OZZTRAVAGANZA

Sat 18 July, Dive, W'hampton

### BHAVIK HARIA

Sat 18 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

### THE FEELING + THE

**TWANG + THE ORDINARY**

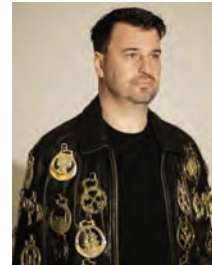
**BOYS** Sat 18 July, Tamworth Castle

### MORETALLICA

Sat 18 July, The Station, Cannock

### JIM MORAY

Sat 18 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield



### PSYCHEDELIC BLUES

**FESTIVAL** Sat 18 - Sun 19 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

### NOT SO YOUNG: HARVEST

Sun 19 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

### GRAIL GUARD +

**HEADSTONE + MASHAAL + WITHERHORDE + HOUR OF REPRISAL + MISGENDERED** Sun 19

July, Centrala, Birmingham

### THE SLEEVES

Sun 19 July, Just Dropped In, Coventry

### BUCKET & JOHN

Sun 19 July, The Red Lion, Evesham

### SIMPLY DYLAN

Sun 19 July, The Robin, Bilston

### THE IAN PARKER BAND

Sun 19 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

### JOOLS HOLLAND & HIS

**RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA** Sun 19 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

### LADY SKA-LETT & THE


**RUDE BOYS** Sun 19 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent


### THE CLARE TEAL

5 Sun 19 July, Lichfield Garrick

### MARTY WILDE & THE


**WILDCATS** Sun 19 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury





STAY IN THE LOOP!

SIGN UP TO OUR FORTNIGHTLY E-NEWSLETTER TO RECEIVE THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT NEWS FROM ACROSS THE REGION - AS WELL AS COMPETITIONS AND OFFERS FOR THEATRES, GIGS, DINING OUT AND MORE...



SIMPLY SCAN THE QR TO SIGN UP TODAY

## Classical Music

### YOUNG ARTIST SERIES: ANELISE

**GAMULESCU (PIANO)** Programme includes works by Paladi, Mozart, Debussy & more..., Mon 13 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

**LIN XU PIANO RECITAL** Tues 14 July, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Tues 14 July, Whitchurch Market Hall, North Shropshire

### PALISANDER: CRIES OF LONDON

Programme includes works by Handel, Purcell, Dowland & more..., Tues 14 July, St Michael's Church, Lichfield

**SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Wed 15 July, Shrewsbury Castle

### JAMES ORFORD ORGAN RECITAL

Programme includes works by Parker, Sowande, Sowerby & more..., Wed 15 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**RUIMEI HUANG & JOHN CHRISTIAN LEE PIANO RECITAL** Wed 15 July, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

### JAMIE COCHRANE PIANO RECITAL

Programme includes works by Schubert & Godowsky, Thurs 16 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

**PHILIP JONES INTERNATIONAL BRASS ENSEMBLE COMPETITION** Featuring young brass quintets from around the world, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

### CBSO: EDWARD GARDNER CONDUCTS JOHN ADAMS' HARMONIELEHRE

Programme also includes works by Varèse, Fri 17 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**JOSEPH JACOB ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 17 July, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

### THE HEATH STRING QUARTET

Programme includes works by Mozart, Locke, Suk & more..., Fri 17 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: BRAHMS' FIRST SYMPHONY** Featuring Neavan Lobban (conductor). Programme also includes works by Dvořák, Sat 18 July, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**HORN DUO** Featuring Jennifer Robson & Barnabas Stevens (french horn) & Isaac Boulter (piano), Sat 18 July, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**BOURNVILLE CLARINET CHOIR: 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT** Featuring Chloë Rogers (musical director) & Adam Carver (vocals), Sat 18 July, St Francis Church, Birmingham

**BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES: AMERICA250** Featuring Maria Ioudenitch (violin). Programme includes works by Ives, Barber & Copland, Sat 18 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**JUNYAN CHEN PIANO RECITAL**

Programme includes works by Rachmaninoff & Wild, Sun 19 July, Lichfield Cathedral

## Comedy

**ROSS NOBLE (PICTURED), OLIVER BOWLER & JON PEARSON** Fri 17 July, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham



**JASON BYRNE, SEANN WALSH, ANGELOS EPISTEMIOU & WAYNE BEESE** Fri 17 July, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**DINESH NATHAN, ABIGOLIAH SCHAMAUN, CHRIS FORBES & COMIC TBC** Fri 17 - Sat 18 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

## Theatre

**THAT KNAVE, RALEIGH** Dyad Productions' one-man show turns the spotlight on one of Britain's most famous historical figures, Mon 13 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**BETWEEN THE LINES BOA** Musical Theatre present a showcase of musical numbers inspired by 'beloved books and powerful poetry', Mon 13 - Tues 14 July, The Old Rep, Birmingham

**THE OTHER PALACE** Central Youth Theatre present a twisted tale inspired by the story of Coraline, Tues 14 - Wed 15 July, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

**THE CHOIR OF MAN** Smash-hit show celebrating community and friendship, set in 'the best pub in the world', Tues 14 - Sat 18 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**THE BAND** Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of Tim Firth's acclaimed musical, Tues 14 - Sat 18 July, Lichfield Garrick

**THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO** Wild Arts present Mozart's comic opera, Wed 15 July, Malvern Theatres

**HENRY V AND THE PRUSSIAN OFFICER** Edinburgh preview double bill featuring a retelling of Shakespeare's history play alongside DH Lawrence's tale of power, desire and control, Wed 15 - Fri 17 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**PRIVATE LIVES** Lichfield Players present an amateur version of Noel Coward's comedy of manners, Wed 15 - Sat 18 July, Lichfield Garrick

**BUGSY MALONE** Amateur version presented by Musical Youth Theatre Stafford, Wed 15 - Sat 18 July,

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS** Amateur version of Richard Bean's riotous farce, Wed 15 - Sat 25 July, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

**AS YOU LIKE IT** Pedalling theatre troupe The Handlebards present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Thurs 16 July, Hawkstone Park Follies, Weston-under-Redcastle, North Shropshire

**THE PICKWICK PAPERS** Rain Or Shine theatre company present an outdoor version of Charles Dickens' much-loved story, Thurs 16 July, Cotswold Lavender, Snowhill, Worcestershire

**EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE** Get Your Wigle On present an amateur version of the award-winning musical, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**SURINDERELLA** Rifco Theatre present an evening of laughter, romance and 'larger-than-life entertainment', Thurs 16 - Sun 19 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**NORTHANGER ABBEY** Worcester Repertory Company present an outdoor version of Jane Austen's lighthearted romance, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 July, The Commandery Gardens, Worcester

**IN THE AIR** Crowded Coat Productions present a poignant play exploring grief, loss and memory. Part of Birmingham Fest '26, Fri 17 - Sat 18 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**THE SPECKLED HEN & THE SIGNALMAN** Edinburgh preview double bill, featuring plays from masters of suspense Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Charles Dickens, Sat 18 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**DESTINATION: OLD HAG** Join Bridget Hardy, Penny Rossano and Samantha Houston as they chart the ups and downs of life 'with humour, heart, and some live opera singing', Sat 18 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**GHASTLY STORIES FOR GRUESOME GREMLINS** Join storyteller Gav Cross for old, new and true stories - with some bumps and jumps along the way, Sat 18 July, 1000 Trades On The Park, Lightwoods House, Bearwood

**AGGIE: THE STORY OF DAME AGNES HUNT** Adapted from her memoirs and performed by Alison Utting, Sat 18 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Folksy Theatre present an open-air version of Shakespeare's much-loved comedy, Sat 18 July, Dorothy Clive Garden, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**THE RAILWAY CHILDREN** Paperback Theatre present an outdoor version of Edith Nesbitt's classic story, Sat 18 July, Bolton Gate Arts, Staffordshire

**BOILER ROOM SIX: A TITANIC STORY** The true story of stoker Frederick Barrett

and his fight for survival during the last few hours of the Titanic, Sat 18 July, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**IOLANTHE** Charles Court Opera present a fully staged production of Gilbert & Sullivan's sharp satire, Sun 19 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

## Dance

**SLEEPING BEAUTY** Ballet Cymru present a reimagining of a classic fairytale, performed to Tchaikovsky's iconic score, Mon 13 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**LORD OF THE DANCE: 30TH ANNIVERSARY** New tour of the global phenomenon that redefined Irish dance, Mon 13 - Wed 15 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**RHYTHM OF THE DANCE** 'A completely captivating experience of pulsating rhythms with slick choreography performed at lightning speed', Sat 18 July, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

## Light Entertainment

**A CELEBRATION OF RICHARD SWERRUN** Featuring Dreamcoat Stars, Tues 14 July, Rugeley Rose Theatre

**UNDER THE HAMMER: AN IMMERSIVE ART MYSTERY** Can you crack the case? Keep an eye on the details and read between the lines in this blend of theatre and improv, escape room and 'whodunnit', inspired by real-world art-crime cases, Thurs 16 - Fri 17 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**LENNY PEARCE: TODDLER RAVE WORLD TOUR PART 2** Two shows (11am & 3.30pm) hosted by the pioneer of Toddler Techno and Baby Raves, Fri 17 July, Birmingham Town Hall



**SWAMPLESQUE** Award-winning Shrek-inspired burlesque and drag-parody show, Fri 17 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE PEOPLE'S ORCHESTRA & CHOIR: JUKEBOX LIVE** Interactive concert featuring epic film scores, pop favourites, Disney showstoppers and 80s anthems, Sat 18 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN** The 'ultimate girls' night out', featuring hits from Cher, Tina, Whitney, Dolly,

Shania, Madonna and more..., Sat 18 July, Malvern Theatres

**SONGS FROM THE MUSICALS** Presented by Whitchurch Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society, Sat 18 July, St Alkmund's Church, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**A NIGHT TO REMEMBER MOTOWN SHOW** Sat 18 July, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

**GINNY LEMON'S FRUIT LOOP** The story of Ginny's rise to fame and struggles with mental health, grief, addiction and the pressures of maintaining a public persona..., Sat 18 July, Swan Studio, Worcester

**BHAVIK HARIA** An evening of spiritual, Ghazal, Qawwali and light classical music, Sat 18 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**LOOSE CHIPPINGS: VICTORIA WOOD ON LOVE, LIFE AND LOSS** Featuring Amy J Payne (voice) & Oliver Rundell (piano), Sun 19 July, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

## Events

**FAMILY FUN: MEDIEVAL SUMMER AT THE COMMANDERY** Pick up one of the Medieval Summer activity bags and head up to the craft room to get creative, Tues 14 July - Sun 30 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

**FAMILY TRAIL: THE KNIGHT'S QUEST** Explore the building to find all of the knight's symbols and complete the mini challenges, Tues 14 July - Sun 30 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

**TODDLER THURSDAY** Relaxed planetarium experience, Thurs 16 July, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**BEYOND THE BOTTLE OVEN TOUR** Find out about the craftspeople who shaped the city, Thurs 16 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

**BRINDLEY ARTISAN MARKET** Food and gift market, showcasing the very best in locally produced artisan goods, Thurs 16 July, Brindleyplace, B'ham

**A WALK IN THE PARK SUMMER STROLL** Join landscape manager Fiona Tansey for a walk through the meadows, discovering the native flora and fauna along the way, Fri 17 July, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**ADULT NIGHT** Visit the Ultimate Indoor Lego playground completely kid-free, Fri 17 July, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

**FESTIVAL AT THE EDGE** The longest-running international storytelling festival in England, Fri 17 - Sun 19 July, Bromyard, Herefordshire

**FANTASY FOREST FESTIVAL** Festival bringing fans from all genres of fantasy together for the weekend, Fri 17 - Sun 19 July, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

**RAIL ALE TRAIL** Enjoy real ale, live music and a laid-back heritage railway festival, Fri 17 - Sun 19 July, Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire

**80S SILENT DISCO** Featuring 'some of the UK's best 80s DJs playing all your favourite tunes', Sat 18 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY: THE HAUNTING OF HIMLEY HALL** Guided tour through the Hall's most unsettling accounts, Sat 18 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**ULTRA WHITE COLLAR BOXING** Event raising money for charity, Sat 18 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**TUNNEL TOURS** Explore the tunnels that lie beneath the museum and learn about their history, Sat 18 July, Stourbridge Glass Museum

**MARKET DRAYTON CARNIVAL** A full day of family-friendly entertainment, live performances and activities, Sat 18 July, Market Drayton Town Centre, Shropshire

**NERDCON** Featuring panels, guest appearances, props, cosplayers and merchandise, Sat 18 July, Coventry Building Society Arena, Coventry

**BRINDLEY RECORDS AND MAKERS MARKET** Created in collaboration with Midlands Record Fairs and Blue Moon Markets, Sat 18 July, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

**A PREMIUM GIN TASTING & GLASS ETCHING EVENING** An immersive experience that pairs the world of fine gin with the beauty of handmade glass, Sat 18 July, Stourbridge Glass Museum

**TIME TRAVEL @ THE HALL** Travel back in time to various periods, Sat 18 July, Ford Green Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**MEDIEVAL DAY** Featuring re-enactors, battle displays, guided tours, craft activities and much more. Learn what life was like in medieval Birmingham, Sat 18 July, Weoley Castle, B'ham



**DONKEYS & FRIENDS ON THE FARM** Meet the equines and learn all about them, with special demonstrations and themed activities, Sat 18 - Sun 19 July, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

**SUMMER GALA** Featuring both guest and home-fleet locomotives operating a busy timetable between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, Sat 18 - Sun 19 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

**WORLD SNAKE WEEKEND** Learn about different snake species and the



Boiler Room Six: A Titanic Story - Albany Theatre, Coventry

important role they play in ecosystems, Sat 18 - Sun 19 July, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

**SUMMER MAKERS MARKET** A celebration of independent creativity, Sat 18 - Sun 19 July, FarGo Village, Coventry

**POETRY MACHINE** Beth Calverley will be chatting to visitors about their interests and dreams as she produces a brand-new poem, custom-made for them, Sat 18 - Sun 19 July, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire

**THE BIG CHURCHFIELDS SLEEPOVER** A 'one of a kind' family camping experience, Sat 18 - Sun 19 July, Churchfields Farm, Droitwich

**CLASSIC NOSTALGIA AT SHELSLEY WALSH** Enjoy competitive hill-climb action, 'thrilling' demonstrations and non-stop entertainment on and off the hill, Sat 18 - Sun 19 July, Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, Worcester

**GREAT BRITISH SUMMER** Enjoy fairground activities, pick up new tricks at the circus-skills station, and dive in to some puppet antics, Sat 18 July - Fri 28 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

**SUMMER OF PLAY** Featuring a variety of fun activities in celebration of imagination and creativity, Sat 18 July - Mon 31 Aug, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire; Charlecote Park, Warwickshire & Packwood House, Warwickshire

**WILD BRICKS** A trail of life-sized endangered animals, all built from thousands of toy bricks, Sat 18 July - Mon 31 Aug, Dudley Zoo & Castle

**FLOWER FIELDS** Get lost in a sea of thousands and thousands of wildflowers, choosing your favourites to take home, Sat 18 July - Mon 31 Aug, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

**FARMARAMA** Five gigantic paddling pools and over 250 tonnes of golden sand transform the farm into a beach, Sat 18 July - Tues 1 Sept, National

Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

**THE GREAT SUMMER ADVENTURE** Featuring the brand-new Around The World In 80 Maize maze, Sat 18 July - Tues 1 Sept, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

**TVR CLUB CAR SHOW** Car showcase featuring a line-up of TVRs, Sun 19 July, Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**AVONCROFT OPEN AIR ART COMPETITION** Artists get creative in 19 acres of countryside, Sun 19 July, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**THE STRATFORD GIN & RUM FESTIVAL** Event bringing together a hand-picked line-up of craft gin and rum distillers, live music, tasting experiences and food, Sun 19 July, Crowne Plaza, Stratford-upon-Avon

**PIRATES & PRINCESSES** Climb aboard a heritage train and sing along with some of your favourite princesses and pirates, Sun 19 July, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

**DRAGONS OF THE LOST LAND** Brand-new event for 2026, Sun 19 - Thurs 23 July, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

**SUMMER ADVENTURES** Featuring a whole host of fun family activities, Sun 19 July - Mon 31 Aug, Dudmaston Estate, nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

## Festivals

**UPTON BLUES FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Brave Rival, Aynsley Lister & Kyla Brox, Wed 15 - Sun 19 July, various venues around Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire

**WOODSHROP TRIBUTE FESTIVAL** Line-up includes tributes to Oasis, Queen & Robbie Williams, Fri 17 - Mon 20 July, West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury

**SOLIHULL SUMMER FEST** Line-up includes Craig David, Culture Club & Gabrielle, Sat 18 - Sun 19 July, Tudor Grange Park, Solihull

## Gigs

**THE WILDHEARTS** Mon 20 July, YOYO, Digbeth, Birmingham

**ANDRES ROOTS** Mon 20 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**TRUFFLE VALLEY BOYS** Mon 20 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE TRUFFLE VALLEY BOYS** Tues 21 July, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC** Tues 21 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**ANTHONY GOMES** Tues 21 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**IAGO BANET** Tues 21 July, Lichfield Garrick

**SHEZ RAJA FT GUTHRIE GOVAN** Wed 22 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**STEEL PANTHER + KELSY KARTER & THE HEROINES + BLACK SONIC PEARLS** Wed 22 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**CHILDREN OF THE GRAVY** Wed 22 July, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**LACHLAN BRYAN AND THE WILDES** Wed 22 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**ERIC JOHNSON** Wed 22 July, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**ROZEMARY + DEATH BLOOM** Wed 22 July, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

**AN EVENING OF... GREGORY ISAACS** Thurs 23 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**ARMANII + DJ NATE** Thurs 23 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**BOOTLEG BEATLES & ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Thurs 23 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**BEN THOMPSON - THE ULTIMATE ELVIS EXPERIENCE** Thurs 23 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**BEAUX GRIS GRIS & THE APOCALYPSE** Thurs 23 July, Temperance,

Leamington Spa  
**MIKE SANCHEZ** Thurs 23 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**TUK SMITH & THE RESTLESS HEARTS + TENDER VENETTA + BLANCO NEGRA** Thurs 23 July, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**COURTEENERS** Thurs 23 July, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE PAUL ROSE BAND** Thurs 23 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**PARKER BARROW + GEORGIA NEVADA** Thurs 23 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**ROCK FOR HEROES** Thurs 23 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**GUNS 2 ROSES + METALLICA RELOADED + FAITH NO MAN** Fri 24 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**CLOCKWORK ORANGE** Fri 24 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

**ANDY BENNETT** Fri 24 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

**DESPERADO** Fri 24 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**SLYDER** Fri 24 July, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**THE MAGIC OF THE BEATLES** Fri 24 July, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SHOWADDYWADDY** Fri 24 July, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**FAT LIP** Fri 24 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE BLUETONES + SIX TOWNS + ANDY GOWERS GUNS FOR HIRE** Fri 24 July, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE TRAVELLING RIVERSIDE BLUES SHOW** Fri 24 July, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**A VISION OF ELVIS** Fri 24 July, Lichfield Garrick

**THE ANT HILL MOB** Fri 24 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**DREAM ON - AEROSMITH TRIBUTE** Fri 24 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**REA-LOADED** Fri 24 July,

Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**SKASTUDS** Sat 25 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**SLADE UK** Sat 25 July, Jo Jo Jims, B'ham

**FAST LOVE - GEORGE MICHAEL TRIBUTE** Sat 25 July, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**THE FLEETWOOD MAC LEGACY** Sat 25 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**SMOOVE & TURREL** Sat 25 July, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE SELECTER** Sat 25 July, Stourbridge Town Hall

**A FOREIGNER'S JOURNEY** Sat 25 July, The Robin, Bilston

**BIG JIM AND THE ALABAMA BOOGIE BOYS** Sat 25 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**GREG MURRAY & THE SEVEN WONDERS** Sat 25 July, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE DRIFTERS** Sat 25 July, King's Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**BEN THOMPSON - ELVIS** Sat 25 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**RADIO RUMOURS** Sat 25 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**THE MELVIN HANCOX BAND** Sun 26 July, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**FLO** Sun 26 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE GLEN CAMPBELL STORY** Sun 26 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**PINK LIVE: FEATURING VICKY JACKSON** Sun 26 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**CHIC OUT** Sun 26 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE RYAN EVANS COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW** Sun 26 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**THRASHATOUILLE + BIOMECH + MAD SPANNER** Sun 26 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

## Classical Music

**AGOGO QUARTET** Programme includes works by F Mendelssohn, Dvořák & Bliss, Tues 21 July, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**JAKE SCICINSKI ORGAN RECITAL** Tues 21 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**KENYA CHORAL CONNECTIONS** Featuring Teddy Otieno (piano) & David Sotunde (saxophone). Programme includes works by contemporary writers alongside hymns and classical sacred music, Fri 24 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

## Comedy

**SIMON BRODKIN** Mon 20 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**JAMES ACASTER** Mon 20 - Wed 22 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**PHIL ELLIS** Wed 22 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**ROSIE JONES + JOSH PUGH** Thurs 23 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SHAZIA MIRZA** Thurs 23 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**NATE KITCH** Thurs 23 July, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

**STUART GOLDSMITH & ROB KEMP'S "BEATLESJUICE"** Fri 24 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SCOTT BENNETT, PETE SELWOOD, JESSIE NIXON + LIAM FARRELLY** Fri 24 - Sat 25 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**CHRIS GRACE** Sat 25 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**PETER KAY** Sat 25 July, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**JEAN MCDONALD, DANE BUCKLEY, ERIC RUSHTON + DEE ALLUM** Sat 25 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**MILTON JONES, ANGELA BARNES, NICK HELM + AURIE STYLA** Sat 25 July, Dudley Town Hall

**ABSOLUTE BUS STOPS OF NORTHERN EUROPE + BEYOND PLUS LINDSEY SANTORO** Sun 26 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## Theatre

**THE CARELESS CARELESS CASE** Under The Tree tell the story of young Agnes Carless, who falls headfirst into mischief when a mysterious lodger arrives, Mon 20 - Tues 21 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIL** Three Inch Fools present an outdoor show featuring 'daring quests, dashing knights and endless jousting'..., Tues 21 July, Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Folksy Theatre present an open-air version of Shakespeare's much-loved comedy, Tues 21 July, Martineau

Gardens, Birmingham

**THE KARATE KID THE MUSICAL** New musical based on the iconic 80s movie, Tues 21 - Sat 25 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**THE CHOIR OF MAN** Smash-hit show celebrating community and friendship, set in 'the best pub in the world', Tues 21 - Sat 25 July, Malvern Theatres

**THREE MIGRANT WOMEN** An intimate exploration of migration, memories and the profound cost of leaving everything behind, Wed 22 July, Lichfield Garrick

**KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIL** Three Inch Fools present an outdoor show featuring 'daring quests, dashing knights and endless jousting'..., Wed 22 July, Powis Castle & Gardens, Powys

**JEEVES AND WOOSTER IN 'STIFF UPPER LIP, JEEVES'** Join Bertie Wooster and his razor-sharp valet, Jeeves, in a show packed with misadventures, Wed 22 July, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

**THE POET OF LUFATIA** Zander Gibney's debut play - 'a farce of convoluted communication about the amount people will say to not have to say anything at all', Wed 22 - Thurs 23 July, Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

**ABIGAIL'S PARTY** Stafford Players present an amateur version of Mike Leigh's classic comedy, Wed 22 - Sat 25 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**BLUE MIST** Mohamed-Zain Dada's 'sharp and darkly funny' story about truth, trust and ambition, Wed 22 - Sat 25 July, The Rep, Birmingham

**KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIL** Three Inch Fools present an outdoor show featuring 'daring quests, dashing knights and endless jousting'..., Thurs 23 July, Shrewsbury Castle

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Paperback Theatre present an outdoor version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, Thurs 23 July, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Folksy Theatre present an open-air version of Shakespeare's much-loved comedy, Thurs 23 July, Biddulph Grange Gardens, Staffordshire

**NORTHANGER ABBEY** Worcester Repertory Company present an outdoor version of Jane Austen's lighthearted romance, Thurs 23 - Sun 26 July, The Commandery Gardens, Worcester

**KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIL** Three Inch Fools present an outdoor show featuring 'daring quests, dashing knights and endless jousting'..., Fri 24 July, Acton Scott Hall, South Shropshire

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Folksy Theatre present an open-air version of Shakespeare's much-loved comedy, Fri 24 - Sat 25 July,

Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

**TERMINAL 2** David Payne's play follows George and Lynda Sumner as they debate the meaning of life, the common bluebottle, sex tapes and the pros and cons of KFC - all whilst trapped in an airport departure lounge, Fri 24 - Sat 25 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**THE SWORD IN THE STONE** Outdoor production telling a story of friendship and courage, Sat 25 July, Brueton Park, Solihull

**AS YOU LIKE IT** Illyria theatre company present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Sat 25 July, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich Spa

**BOUNDLESS** Embedded Theatre present a devised theatre piece reflecting on the fragility of freedom, Sat 25 - Sun 26 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**A DIFFERENT KIND OF FIRST** A45 Theatre presents the story of Alex, a shy footballer who responds to an ad from a confident OnlyFans creator to lose his virginity on camera, Sat 25 - Sun 26 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**MRS KAPOOR'S DAUGHTER'S WEDDING - THE MURDER MYSTERY** Immersive murder-mystery experience. Expect 'sharp comedy, high-energy dances, live singing and laugh-out-loud chaos that only Mrs Kapoor can deliver', Sun 26 July, The Alexandra, Birmingham

**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE** Illyria Theatre Company present an outdoor version of Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera, Sun 26 July, The Lenches Amphitheatre, Nr Evesham

**TELL ME WHERE IT HURTS** TeePee Productions' comedy drama follows Chrissy, a dedicated drama teacher navigating life with premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), Sun 26 - Mon 27 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

## Kids Theatre

**THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA** Judith Kerr's charming children's story, featuring 'oodles of magic, singalong songs and clumsy chaos', Mon 20 - Tues 21 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED: A ROCK SHOW** Stage show for younger audiences based on Tom Fletcher & Dougie Poynter's bestselling children's books, Wed 22 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**THE ULTIMATE BUBBLE SHOW** Fast-paced show in which a bubbleologist creates 'incredible bubble sculptures, effects and magic displays', Thurs 23 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**BLUEY'S BIG PLAY** Stage version of the award-winning children's TV series, promising 'music, laughter and fun

for the whole family', Thurs 23 - Sat 26 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA** Judith Kerr's charming children's story, featuring 'oodles of magic, singalong songs and clumsy chaos', Fri 24 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**MY FIRST CONCERT - FT BABYSHARK, PINKFONG & THE ZOOMIES** A live musical adventure for young children, Sat 25 July, Lichfield Garrick

**OUT OF THE BOX** Award-winning family show promising an hour of 'joyful chaos, jaw-dropping skill, and irresistible fun', Sat 25 July, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

## Dance

**NATIONAL YOUTH DANCE COMPANY X ALLEYNE DANCE** Showcasing brand-new show Memory Keepers, Thurs 23 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**AUTIN DANCE THEATRE: ZIG ZAG** Outdoor performance in which a playful world is built from simple objects. There is no text or spoken word; instead, storytelling is expressed through movement and physicality. Suitable for all ages, Sat 25 July, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

## Light Entertainment

**JAY & JOSS: IT'S NOT A GAME** An evening with the award-winning illusionists who stunned the judges on Britain's Got Talent, Tues 21 July, Lichfield Garrick



**THE TRIAL 3** An immersive trial where you, the jury, decide the verdict. Watch the witnesses, view the CCTV footage and ask the judge questions you need answering, Tues 21 - Sat 25 July, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**SONS OF PITCHES** A show promising 'soaring solos, impeccable harmonies and sensational beatboxing', Sat 25 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ALISTAIR MCGOWAN 3-IN-1** An evening of classic comedy, poetry and piano

music, Sat 25 July, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shrops

## Events

**BEHIND THE SECRET DOOR, STORIES FROM THE SHELVES** Each session will open a door into a different corner of the library collection, Mon 20 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

**ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY FRIENDS** Featuring a live show from Wise Owl Theatre, Tues 21 - Thurs 23 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

**TEQUILA CIRCUS: THE MAGIC OF MEXICO IN A CIRCUS** Featuring 'world-class' stunts, Tues 21 - Sun 26 July, Webbs Wychbold, Worcestershire

**FALCONS IN FLIGHT** Immersive experience offering a rare chance to see magnificent birds of prey up close, Tues 21 July - Thurs 27 Aug, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS: MEDIEVAL MOMENTS** Pick up a trail map and look out for learning and interactive activities, Tues 21 July - Mon 31 Aug, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

**HARVINGTON HISTORY FESTIVAL** Featuring 16 top historians, broadcasters and authors, Wed 22 - Sun 26 July, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

**BACKSTAGE TOUR** Explore the hidden secrets of The Rep and take a look at spaces usually closed to the public, Thurs 23 July, The Rep, Birmingham

**GET MUCKY GET MAKING** Explore nature and enjoy the summer sunshine in the Forest School, Thurs 23 July, Compton Verney, Warks

**THE 49TH ANNUAL WOLVERHAMPTON SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BEER & CIDER** Up to 50 beers including a festival special brewed by Bilston's Newbridge Brewery, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 July, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

**BIRMINGHAM PHOENIX VS TRENT ROCKETS** The Hundred double-header, Fri 24 July, Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham

**MUSEUM AFTER HOURS: 54321! 'STANDBY FOR ACTION, WE ARE ABOUT TO LAUNCH'** Enjoy a rockin' Friday night with Jamie Hill performing classic rock and pop numbers, including hits from the 60s, Fri 24 July, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

**THE GAME FAIR** Celebration of fieldsports and country life, Fri 24 - Sun 26 July, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

**FESTIVAL OF SPORT** Event offering children aged from five to 17 the chance to try more than 20 different sports, Fri 24 - Mon 27 July, Packington Estate, Warwickshire

**CINEMA UNDER THE STARS** Cinema-style screenings in the museum's

planetarium, Sat 25 July, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**THE MYTON HOSPICES - WORLD'S LARGEST INFLATABLE 5K** Participants get to tackle 30 gigantic inflatable obstacles across a 5K course, Sat 25 July, University of Warwick, Coventry

**LEEK & DISTRICT SHOW** Local annual agricultural show, Sat 25 July, Dunwood Fields, Staffordshire

**BATTLE OF SHREWSBURY ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND 2026** Experience the sights and sounds of life leading up to this historic clash, Sat 25 - Sun 26 July, Battlefield 1403, Shrewsbury

**THE SEALED KNOT - THE FALL OF HARTLEBURY CASTLE** Step back in time for the 375th anniversary of the Battle of Worcester, as well as the 380th anniversary of the Battle of Hartlebury, Sat 25 July - Sun 26 July, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

**THREE COUNTIES FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL** Explore a selection of more than 150 stalls, Sat 25 - Sun 26 July, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**BIRMINGHAM MELA 2026** Open-air festival bringing the energy and richness of South Asian culture to the heart of Birmingham, Sun 26 July, Victoria Park, Smethwick

**MINI POP PARTY** Step into a 'magical concert experience' and sing along to your favourite Taylor Swift hits, Sun 26 July, Shrewsbury Castle

**HISTORIC VEHICLE CAR SHOW KHVC** Classic Car Show featuring unique classic cars, Sun 26 July, Ludlow Farm Shop, South Shropshire

## Festivals

**WARWICK FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Eddi Reader, Fisherman's Friends, Spiers & Boden, Thurs 23 - Sun 26 July, Castle Park, Warwick

**BEACON PARK TRIBUTE FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Aka...Noel Gallagher, Michael Jackson by David Boakes, That That Rule The World, Fri 24 - Sun 26 July, Beacon Park, Lichfield

**HIDE & SEEK - MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Josh Baker, Across Boundaries, Enzo Siragusa & Kerri Chandler, Fri 24 - Sun 26 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

**BIRMINGHAM JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL** Line-up includes B.D Lenz, Dave Green, Buddy Guy & Bruce Adams, Fri 24 July - Sun 2 Aug, multiple venues around Birmingham

**RUM & REGGAE** Line-up includes Aswad, Musical Youth, Xodus & Strictly UB40, Sat 25 July, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

**SIMMER DOWN FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Tarrus Riley, Lady Leshurr & mr Vegas, Sun 26 July, Handsworth Park, Birmingham

## Gigs

**JAY BUCHANAN** Mon 27 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**GRAHAM GOULDMAN & HEART FULL OF SONGS** Mon 27 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**CAYLEE HAMMACK** Tues 28 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**IAN SIEGAL TRIO** Tues 28 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**NEUTRALS** Tues 28 July, Just Dropped In, Coventry

**JAKE LEG JUG BAND** Wed 29 July, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

**THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY** Wed 29 July, Regal, Tenbury Wells

**THE 19TH STREET BAND** Thurs 30 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**DEL CAMINO** Thurs 30 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**HOT 8 BRASS BAND** Thurs 30 July, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**THE UPBEAT BEATLES** Thurs 30 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**CHRIS FOX** Thurs 30 July, Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

**REDSKIES + LUKASH + PHON** Thurs 30 July, Marrs Bar, Worcester

**THE ORBISON PROJECT** Thurs 30 July, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**THE GROOVE ASSEMBLY** Fri 31 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**MASTERS OF SABBATH** Fri 31 July, Actress &

Bishop, Birmingham

**MOSELEY INTERNATIONAL PUNK FEST '26** Fri 31 July, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

**KD AND THE DOGS** Fri 31 July, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

**SABOTAGE** Fri 31 July, The Victoria, B'ham

**LADY SINGS THE BLUES** Fri 31 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**PHIL ODGERS & JOHN KETTLE: THE SONGS OF PHIL OCHS** Fri 31 July, Temperance, Leamington Spa

**SLEEP TOUCAN** Fri 31 July, Arches Venue, Coventry

**VICKY JACKSON AS PINK** Fri 31 July, Bedworth Civic Hall

**THE SMITHS LTD** Fri 31 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**ROCK OF AGES EXPERIENCE** Fri 31 July, The Robin, Bilston

**KOPYCAT KILLERS + SUBARCTIC MONKEYS + OASIS 96 + KASABIAN'T + SCAM FENDER + KAISER CHEATS** Fri 31 July, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**SPUNK** Fri 31 July, Dive, Wolverhampton

**SERIOUSLY COLLINS** Fri 31 July, The Sugarmill, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC - ABBA TRIBUTE** Fri 31 July, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**MARDY BUMS** Fri 31 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**GENERATION SIXTIES** Fri 31 July, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield



Jay Buchanan - The Glee Club, Birmingham

## Classical Music

**NICOLA HOWARD (SOPRANO) RECITAL** Featuring John Bowen (piano). Programme includes works by Gershwin, Poulenc, Satie & more..., Tues 28 July, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**LIAM CONDON ORGAN RECITAL** Tues 28 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**RUOWEN HAO PIANO RECITAL** Fri 31 July, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

**SABRI SISTERS LIVE** Qawwali World presents a historic awakening as the mesmerising Sabri Sisters embark on their debut UK Tour, Fri 31 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**A CANDLELIGHT EXPERIENCE: VIVALDI & MOZART** Fri 31 July, Pershore Abbey



Sabri Sisters Live - Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

## Comedy

**JAY BUCHANAN** Mon 27 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMICS TBC** Thurs 30 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

**PROJECT MAYHEM** Thurs 30 July, The Wellington, Birmingham

**THE LATE NIGHT SWEET SHOP** Thurs 30 July, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

**KATE LUCAS, LEROY BRITO & COMICS TBC** Fri 31 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**PAUL SINHA, SEAN PERCIVAL & EL BALDINIHO** Fri 31 July, The Civic, Stourport

## Theatre

**MANBAND THE STORY** Bloomin' Good Productions present an uplifting tale of four pub regulars who decide on a final attempt at fame & fortune. Part of Birmingham Fest 2026, Mon 27 - Wed 29 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIL** Three Inch Fools present an outdoor show featuring 'daring quests, dashing knights and endless jousting'..., Tues 28 July, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

**THE PICKWICK PAPERS** Rain Or Shine theatre company present an outdoor version of Charles Dickens' much-loved story, Tues 28 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**WHEN VINCENT MET JOHN** Nick Wilkes' play imagines the

outcome if Vincent Van Gogh and John Lennon had ever met, Tues 28 - Wed 29 July, Malvern Theatres

**OTHELLO** The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's story of deception, and jealousy, Tues 28 - Wed 29 July, Shrewsbury Castle

**I'M SORRY PRIME MINISTER** Clive Francis stars as Sir Humphrey Appleby alongside Simon Rouse as Jim Hacker in Jonathan Lynn's political satire, Tues 28 July - Sat 1 Aug, Malvern Theatres

**GRINDR THE OPERA - THE UNAUTHORISED PARODY** Award-winning musical taking audiences on a 'hilarious and thought-provoking journey' through the world of gay dating. Note that this production contains adult themes, Tues 28 July - Sun 2 Aug, The Old Rep, Birmingham

**ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND** Lewis Carroll's timeless tale is brought to life in a production fusing humour, music and madness, Wed 29 July, Worcester Cathedral

**THE RAILWAY CHILDREN** Paperback Theatre present an outdoor version of Edith Nesbitt's classic story, Wed 29 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**THE GREAT GATSBY** An 'electrifying' new stage adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's timeless novel, Wed 29 July, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester

**THE SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT FLAT EARTH** Brand-new original musical comedy telling the story of a woman who believes that Earth is flat - and now wants to prove it, Wed 29 July - Sat 1 Aug, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE PICKWICK PAPERS** Rain Or Shine theatre company present an outdoor version of Charles Dickens' much-loved story, Thurs 30 July, Victoria Gardens, Tewkesbury

**THE RAILWAY CHILDREN** Paperback Theatre present an outdoor version of Edith Nesbitt's classic story, Thurs 30 July, Birmingham Settlement Nature & Wellbeing Centre

**MATILDA THE MUSICAL JR.** Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur stage adaptation of Roald Dahl's much-loved story, Thurs 30 - Fri 31 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**AFTER PARTY (PREVIEWS)** Morna Young's 'life-affirming story about a life-ending decision', Thurs 30 July - Sat 1 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**TELL TALE TWIT** Nonsense, nastiness and chaos combine as Gav Cross takes a deep-dive into 'the words we seem to know so well but never really listened to', Fri 31 July, Lichfield Garrick

**THE PICKWICK PAPERS** Rain Or Shine theatre company present an outdoor version of Charles Dickens' much-loved story, Fri 31 July, Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**WAR OF THE WORLDS** Gav Cross reimagines HG Wells' classic tale, Fri 31 July, Lichfield Garrick

## Kids Theatre

**DINOSAUR ADVENTURES LIVE: DANGER ON T-REX MOUNTAIN** Brand-new family adventure introducing 'some of the most incredible species ever to have roamed the earth', Tues 28 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE** Join Igglepiggie, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends for a fun-filled family show packed with 'magical puppetry and enchanting music'. There's even a special visit from the flying Pinky Ponk, Fri 31 July - Sat 1 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

## Light Entertainment

**JAY & JOSS: IT'S NOT A GAME** An evening with the award-winning illusionists who stunned the judges on Britain's Got Talent, Wed 29 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**THE MUSIC OF JAMES BOND** The Great British Film Orchestra present an evening of iconic Bond film scores, Wed 29 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**SECRETS OF THE SIMPSONS - AN**

**EVENING WITH MIKE REISS** Join comedy producer Mike as he shares stories and scandals from Springfield, Thurs 30 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Events

**RAF SUMMER CAMP 2026** Event giving young people aged 11 to 13 the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics in an aviation-inspired setting, Mon 27 July - Fri 7 Aug, RAF Museum Midlands, Cosford



**JURASSIC ENCOUNTERS: ZOOLAB AT THINKTANK** Find out what snakes, snails and spiders have to do with dinosaurs, Tues 28 July, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**STORYTELLING IN THE PARK** Enjoy

myths, legends and traditional folk stories, Tues 28 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

**KNIGHTS SCHOOL** Learn the code of chivalry, practise your swords skills and design your own coat of armour, Tues 28 - Wed 29 July, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

**ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY FRIENDS** Featuring a live show from Wise Owl Theatre, Tues 28 - Thurs 30 July, Severn Valley Railway, Nr Kidderminster

**KINETON RAF STEM: SUMMER ROCKET CARS** Create and learn whilst making and firing K'nex rocket cars into the sky, Wed 29 July, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**BACKSTAGE TOUR** Explore the hidden secrets of The Rep and take a look at spaces usually closed to the public, Thurs 30 July, The Rep, Birmingham

**DINOSTORY TIME** Dinosaur-themed storytelling in the Thinktank theatre, Thurs 30 July, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

**FUTURE ENGINEERS KIDS CLUB** Engineering playground for STEM-curious kids aged from seven to 14, Thurs 30 July, Coventry Transport Museum

**BEYOND THE BOTTLE OVEN TOUR** Find out about the craftspeople who shaped the city, Thurs 30 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE HOME FRONT** Family-friendly drop-in event with wartime-themed activities, Thurs 30 July - Sat 1 Aug, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

**THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS** Featuring a display of 1,200 competition quilts, Thurs 30 July - Sun 2 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

**FAMILY FUN: FAB FRIDAYS** Join a hands-on creative session inspired by the world of Thunderbirds, Fri 31 July, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

**GIANT BUBBLES** Gather round to see giant bubbles float and pop above the lawns of Compton Verney, Fri 31 July, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**GIRLS ONLY STEM CLUB** Providing girls aged seven to 14 with a welcoming and supportive space in which to explore science, technology, engineering and creativity, Fri 31 July, Coventry Transport Museum

**BONGO'S BINGO** The original bingo rave sensation, Fri 31 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**HANG OUT WITH US THIS SUMMER**

**DUDLEY ZOO & CASTLE**

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[dudleyzoo.org.uk](http://dudleyzoo.org.uk)

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**Win! A pair of tickets to see The Flaming Lips or Fun Lovin' Criminals Live**

This month we're teaming up with University of Wolverhampton at The Halls to give away tickets to two shows!

What's On is offering you the chance to win two tickets to see The Flaming Lips (pictured) on Tuesday 21 July or Fun Lovin' Criminals Live with The DiFontaine Orchestra on Friday 11 September.

**Competition closes Sunday 12 July**

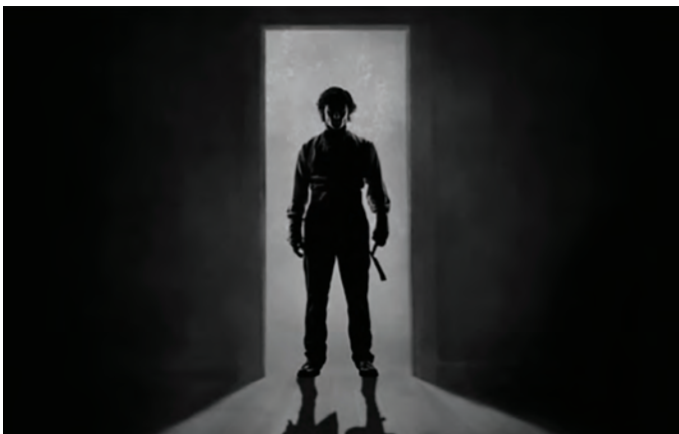


**Win! A pair of tickets to see The Karate Kid The Musical**

Bringing the legendary 1984 film to life on stage, The Karate Kid The Musical takes flight as Daniel LaRusso's journey is reimagined through movement, music and raw, energetic storytelling.

The hit show visits The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 July. What's On is offering one lucky reader the chance to win two tickets to the performance on Tuesday the 21st...

**Competition closes Tuesday 14 July**



**Win! A pair of tickets to see Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street**

A new revival of the Stephen Sondheim musical Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street opens at The Rep, Birmingham, this month, running from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 15 August.

What's On is offering one lucky reader the chance to win two tickets to the performance on Tuesday 4 August.

**Competition closes Monday 27 July**



**Win! A pair of tickets to see The Last Laugh**

The Last Laugh imagines three of Britain's all-time greatest comedy heroes - Tommy Cooper, Eric Morecambe and Bob Monkhouse - in a dressing room, discussing the secrets of life, death, comedy, and what it means to be funny... really funny!

What's On is offering one lucky reader the chance to win two tickets to see the show at Wolves Grand on Wednesday 9 September.

**Competition closes Friday 28 August**

For your chance to WIN! with What's On, visit:  
**[whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)**

# ORIGINAL ARTISTS COMING TO SHREWSBURY

THE GIG CARTEL BY ARRANGEMENT WITH NEIL O' BRIEN ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

## inspiral carpets

+SPECIAL GUESTS  
TRAMPOLINE



27 JUNE

(ENGLAND WORLD CUP MATCH TO BE SHOWN LIVE (10PM) DIRECTLY AFTER SHOW)



## HERMAN'S HERMITS

2 JULY

THE AWARD-WINNING CANADIAN  
FOLK SINGER/SONGWRITER  
IS BACK IN SHREWSBURY!

SAT 4 JULY

## OLD MAN LUEDECKE



"Tragedy rocks! They are great fun!"  
- Bruce Dickinson, Iron Maiden



16 JULY

## TRAGEDY

ALL METAL TRIBUTE TO THE BEE GEES & DETON

## THE CHRISTIANS



17 JULY

FEATURING THE HITS:  
HARVEST FOR THE WORLD \* IDEAL WORLD  
FORGOTTEN TOWN \* + MANY MORE

THE GIG CARTEL PRESENTS



6 AUG

## THE UNDERTONES

-SPECIAL GUESTS

CHAS & MACE

AN EVENING WITH

## Danny McNamara

LEAD SINGER OF

## EMBRACE

13 SEPT

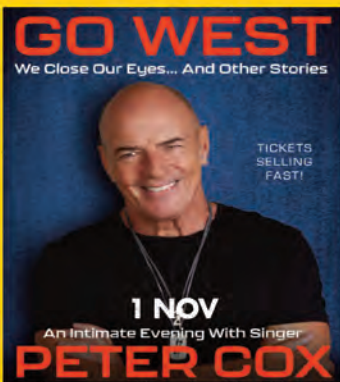
## THE ORB



3 OCT

## GO WEST

We Close Our Eyes... And Other Stories



TICKETS  
SELLING  
FAST!

1 NOV

An Intimate Evening With Singer

## PETER COX

## JOHN LYDON

UNTAMED,  
UNSCRIPTED,  
UNCENSORED



4 NOV

I COULD BE WRONG,  
I COULD BE RIGHT.

BACK BY DEMAND

## Darts

Live  
in Concert

PERFORMING THEIR  
GREATEST HITS



7 NOV

50th ANNIVERSARY TOUR

INCLUDING THESE TOP 5 HITS:  
DADDY COOL / THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT / DUKE OF EARL / IT'S RAINING  
BOY FROM NEW YORK CITY / COME BACK MY LOVE / BOB HOPEY HOPE!



## ERIC TENABLES

11 NOV

## KERRY ELLIS



15 NOV

## ROCK ANTHEMS

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20 years TWELVE STOPS AND HOME PT.2

## THE FEELING



19 NOV

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## THE WEDDING PRESENT



9 DEC

35th ANNIVERSARY OF SEAMONSTERS

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