

Staffordshire

ISSUE 477 OCTOBER 2026

What's On

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

staffordshirewhatson.co.uk



THE BOYS ARE BACK! MON 26 - SAT 31 OCT

REGENT THEATRE
STOKE-ON-TRENT

AN ATO ENTERTAINMENT VENUE



ATGtickets.com/Stoke

inside:

THE BROWN SUITE

funk-fuelled dance-theatre production visits the Regent



IGNACIO LOPEZ

brings sarcasm, silliness and laughter to Stafford Gatehouse



THE SPOOKY SEASON

holiday Halloween happenings across the West Midlands





CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF GROWING PUMPKINS ON OUR STAFFORDSHIRE FARM!

- PYO pumpkin straight from the patch
- Pick farm fresh veggies
- Wholesome pumpkin fun & games
- Capture autumnal memories
- NEW Indoor carving barn & pumpkin village
- Enjoy treats from the Pumpkin Café

TICKETS FROM
**JUST
£6PP**



Sat 26th & Sun 27th Sept • Sat 3rd & Sun 4th; Sat 10th & Sun 11th Oct
Daily 17th - 31st Oct • PLUS Special evening dates

SAVE £1 PER TICKET - USE CODE WOS

Book online:

www.lowerdraytonfarm.co.uk/pumpkins

Lower Drayton Farm, Lower Drayton Lane, Penkridge, Staffordshire ST19 5RE

Spooks, shocks and things that go 'choo' in the night.

STOKE
Rep Players

ARNOLD RIDLEY

THE GHOST TRAIN

Tue 29 Sep ~ Sat 3 Oct 2026

StokeRep.co.uk

Stoke Rep Theatre | Stoke-on-Trent | ST4 2TR

This amateur production of The Ghost Train is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Explore over 1,000 years of
Staffordshire history

Fascinating exhibitions

Family-friendly activities

Lots to see and explore

Visit us in Stafford
Open Tue to Sat
10am-4pm

FREE TO VISIT



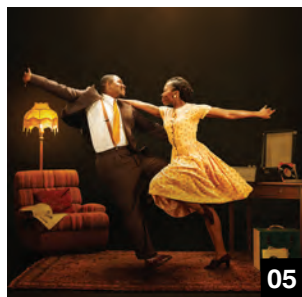
Staffordshire
History Centre



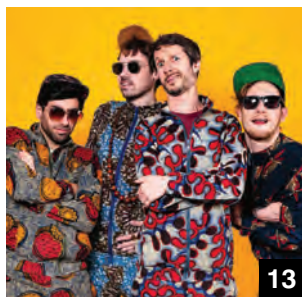
Staffordshire
County Council



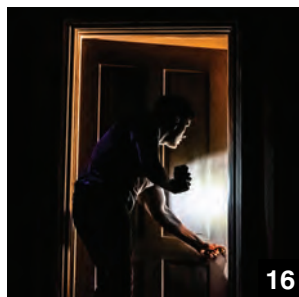
Plan your visit at staffordshirehistory.org.uk



05



13



16



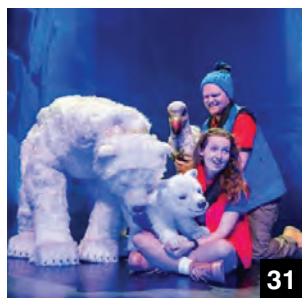
19



22



24



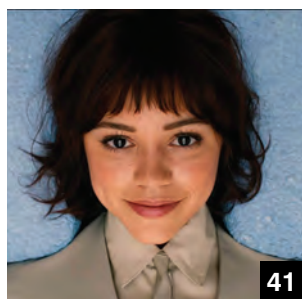
31



32



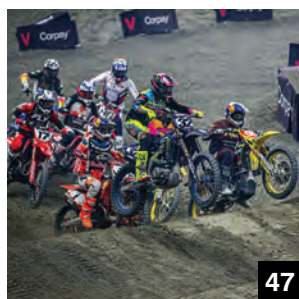
39



41



42



47

INSIDE:

First Word

4

Gigs

13

Comedy

19

Theatre

24

Dance

37

Film

40

Visual Arts

44

Events

47

Follow us at:



whatsonshropshire
staffordshirewhatson
whatsonwolverhampton



@whatsonshropshire
@whatsonstaffs
@whatsonwolves

What's On

MEDIA GROUP

Jessica Clixby jessica@whatsonlive.co.uk Subscriptions: subscriptions@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714
Contributors: Graham Bostock, Diane Parkes, Patsy Moss, Steve Adams, Sue Hull, Reggie White, Sue Jones, Chris Eldon Lee, Rachel Smith
Publisher and CEO: **Martin Monahan** Accounts Administrator: **Louise Hunter** louise@21stcd.com 01743 281717

This publication is printed on paper from a sustainable source and is produced without the use of elemental chlorine. We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

All works appearing in this publication are copyright. It is to be assumed that the copyright for material rests with the magazine unless otherwise stated. No part of this publication may be reproduced, or stored in an electronic system, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recording or otherwise, without the prior knowledge and consent of the publishers.





Two Midlands dates for Operation Mincemeat

Olivier Award-winning musical Operation Mincemeat will make two return visits to the West Midlands region next year.

The hit show tells the true story of a Second World War initiative, during which British intelligence made use of a corpse carrying false documents to mislead Nazi Germany about the Allied invasion of Sicily.

The show's touring production stops off at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra from Tuesday 24 to Saturday 28 August, and then visits the Coventry Belgrade from Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16 October 2027.

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

There's a new dame in the house at Lichfield Garrick!

Lichfield Garrick Theatre will present its first in-house-produced panto in more than a decade next month.

Robin Hood will run at the venue from Friday 20 November to Sunday 10 January, with new dame in the house, Ben Stock, promising laughs aplenty. Local favourite Ben Thornton takes the title role.

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the theatre's website at lichfieldgarrick.com



Presented by Thunder Road Theatre Company, The Void stops off at West Midlands venues including Warwick's Bridge House Theatre, Lichfield Garrick and the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. For further details and to purchase tickets, visit thunderroadtheatre.org



Monster Truck magic to make a Midlands return

Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live will return to Birmingham next spring with brand-new show Colour Bash (Utilita Arena, Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 April).

Commenting on the news, Ken Hudgens, the CEO of the company behind the event, Family Entertainment Live, said: "Colour Bash is the most vibrant Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live experience we've ever created. We took everything fans love about the show - the massive trucks, the jaw-dropping stunts, the can't-look-away energy - and supercharged it with colour. It's a brand-new way to experience the action live, and we can't wait to bring it to families in 2027."

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at livenation.co.uk

Good Food Show's festive edition returns next month

The Festive Good Food Show returns to Birmingham next month, with organisers promising an event 'bursting with chef tips, tastings, workshops, dining experiences and the very best foodie finds'.

Running at the NEC from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 November, the ever-popular get-

together will feature contributions from a host of celebrity chefs, including John Torode, Lisa Faulkner, James Martin and the Midlands' very own Glynn Purnell. For more information and to book tickets, visit goodfoodshow.com



A spooky half term at Shrewsbury Museum

When it comes to keeping your youngsters entertained during the October half-term school holiday, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery has got it covered.

The town-centre venue is hosting a special Myths, Legends & Magic Trail, where youngsters can follow clues around the museum to uncover fascinating objects and discover 'magical stories and legendary characters'. Drop-in activities are also available, including magic-potion mixing, writing spooky spells and seasonal crafts. For older visitors, Museum Ghost Tours (Friday 30 & Saturday 31 October) offer a chance to discover the venue's darker side, including cellars and former prison cells not usually open to the public.

For further information on all upcoming events, visit shropshiremuseums.org.uk



A Neverland Christmas at Birmingham museum

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's Gas Hall will be transformed into Peter Pan's Neverland towards the end of the month.

Visitors to the venue from Friday 23 October to Sunday 3 January will journey through rooms 'adorned with twinkling fairy lights, pirate ships and whimsical forests, along the way encountering beloved characters like Peter, Wendy, Captain Hook and Tinker Bell'.

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at birminghammuseums.org.uk



New sci-fi horror show to make Midlands stop-offs

A 'chilling sci-fi horror with a creeping sense of dread' is touring to the region this month.

The Wonder Stuff back in the region

The Wonder Stuff have added a Birmingham O2 Institute date to their 40th anniversary tour. The Black Country alt-rock stars will perform at the venue on Wednesday 9 December. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit thewonderstuff.co.uk

Bonfire at Weston

One of the region's biggest bonfire nights returns at Weston Park next month. The popular event, taking place on Sunday 8 November, features two firework displays across the evening, a giant bonfire and a traditional funfair. For more information and to purchase your tickets, visit weston-park.com

Lederhosen at the ready, beer fans!

The county's biggest beer festival returns to Shrewsbury's Quarry Park this month. Taking place on Friday 2 & Saturday 3 October, Shropshire Oktoberfest will feature local brewers, cidermakers, street food, comedy and live music. The event takes place under the cover of huge beer tents and tipis, with highlights including a comedy lounge - featuring comics Christian Reilly, James Dowdeswell and Tony Vino - a disco tent and carpool karaoke. For further information and to purchase tickets, head to shropshireoktoberfest.co.uk



The L*ove* Book heads to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre will next spring play host to a Sadler's Wells production of acclaimed choreographer Jade Hackett's *The L*ove* Book*.

Featuring music from soul singer Omar Lyefook (better known as Omar) and told through hip-

hop and lyrical dance, the show focuses on a Windrush love story spanning four decades and visits the Grand on Friday 5 & Saturday 6 March. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the venue's website at grandtheatre.co.uk



Love Actually in concert

Richard Curtis' 2003 star-studded festive film *Love Actually* will be screened - alongside a live orchestra playing its score in synchronisation - at Birmingham's Symphony Hall venue on Monday 14 December. To find out more about the event and book tickets, visit the website at loveactuallyinconcert.com

Family fun at Staffordshire History Centre this October half-term holiday

Families are being invited to step back through more than 1,000 years of local history with a visit to Staffordshire History Centre this October half term.

With admission free, the Stafford-located venue has plenty to explore for people of all ages, including fascinating artefacts, interactive displays, family trails and sensory explorer backpacks. Children can get creative with slime-making workshops and creepy crafts, while older visitors can explore a darker side of the county's past, courtesy of an evening ghost walk. To find out more about what's happening at the venue throughout the month, visit the website at staffordshirehistory.org.uk



Midlands venues taking part in this year's national Art History Festival

The Ikon Gallery, the University of Birmingham, Midlands Arts Centre, the Birmingham & Midland Institute and Wolverhampton Art Gallery are among the venues taking part in this year's national Art History Festival.

Bringing together hands-on workshops, behind-the-scenes demonstrations, curator-led tours and a variety of creative experiences, the event runs from Monday 5 to Sunday 11 October. To find out what's happening where and when, visit festival.forthistory.org.uk

Cannock theatre set for a major refurbishment

Cannock's Prince of Wales Theatre is set for a multi-million pound refurbishment, having previously been earmarked for demolition. The turnaround in the venue's fortunes follows a campaign by residents and town-centre shop owners to keep the theatre open.

It's all Greek for Le Navet Bete in the Potteries

Acclaimed theatre company Le Navet Bete are visiting the New Vic Theatre this month with their touring show Oh Zeus!. The production, which is described by its publicity as 'a riotous, all-out-hilarious ride through Greek mythology', shows at the Newcastle-under-Lyme venue from Thursday 15 to Saturday 17 October. To find out more and book tickets, visit the website at newvictheatre.org.uk



Halloween happenings on land and in the water...

Midlanders are being invited to get into the Halloween spirit a couple of weeks early in Shrewsbury this month, courtesy of a ghost cruise on the River Severn (Mondays the 12th & 19th) and a ghost walk through the town's historic streets (Tuesdays the 13th, 20th & 27th plus Saturday the 31st).



For more information and to purchase your tickets, pay a visit to sabrinoat.co.uk

New play about migrant carers tours the region

A new play about migrant carers and the choices they must make during a global crisis is visiting four Midlands venues this month.

Lumenis Theatre's thought-provoking production, which takes the title Lightstreams, visits MAC Birmingham on Friday the 9th, Rother Street Arts House, Stratford-upon-Avon (Tuesday the 20th), Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre (Friday the 23rd) and The Albany in Coventry (Saturday the 24th). For more information and to book tickets, visit lumenistheatre.co.uk



NEC to host four creative shows across one weekend

The Creative Craft Show, Sewing For Pleasure Winter, Simply Christmas and Cake & Bake International return to Birmingham's NEC early next month.

Bringing together hundreds of exhibitors, workshops, demonstrations, celebrities and hands-on creative experiences across a wide range of crafts, the shows offer exceptional value for money, with visitors able to attend all four events for the price of one ticket.

What's more, an additional 30% can be saved off ticket prices by using the code BIRMSAVE30. The offer applies to standard full-price tickets only.

The event runs at the venue for four days, from Thursday 5 to Sunday 8 November. For further information about all four shows and to purchase your tickets, head for the website at creativecraftshow.co.uk

Romeo & Juliet in concert

Fans of Baz Luhrmann's multi-award-winning William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet can watch the film at Birmingham's Symphony Hall next autumn (Friday 22 October 2027), with its score and music being performed live and in-sync with the screening. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit romeoandjulietinconcert.com

RAF display explores stories of displacement

The human cost of war is explored in a recently opened community-led display at the RAF Museum Midlands in Cosford.

The Displaced Display features the personal experiences of civilians who endured the Second World War Blitz in West Bromwich and the wider Black Country. These are presented alongside the stories of journeys made to the Midlands by people displaced from Ukraine following the 2014 and 2022 Russian invasions. For more information, visit rafmuseum.org/midlands



Fusion dance celebrated at Wolverhampton venue

The transformative power of fusion dance will be celebrated when Infusion Emporium returns for its 14th year this month. The production takes place at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Saturday 17 October.

For more information and to book tickets, head to the website at wlv.ticketsolve.com

'Classical' comedy from funnyman Rainer Hersch

Pianist, conductor and stand-up comedian Rainer Hersch returns to the region this month with a live version of his BBC Radio Four series All Classical Music Explained. Aiming

to answer such questions as 'why is organ music so boring?', 'what did Mozart steal from ABBA?' and 'what do conductors actually do?', the show stops off at Dudley Town Hall on Friday 23 October.

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at boroughhalls.co.uk



IMPROV | LAUGHTER | CELEBRITY GUESTS



Kiell Smith Bynoe's Kool Story Bro
07.10 | Town Hall

WORLD | RHYTHM | JOY



African Soul Rebels ft Les Amazones d'Afrique, Gasper Nali & N'famady Kouyaté 08.10 | Town Hall

CONVERSATION | STAR GUESTS | SIGNINGS



Between the Covers Live: Celebrating Agatha Christie
12.10 | 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!

CLASSICAL | ORCHESTRA | KIDS GO FREE*



NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover: Beethoven & Brahms 13.10 | Symphony Hall * SEE WEBSITE

FILM | LIVE MUSIC | FAMILY FUN



How to Train Your Dragon 2 in Concert
24.10 | Symphony Hall



Pop in & try!

Smashed Avocado & Garlic Mushrooms on Toast | B:Eats at Symphony Hall:
11am-4pm Mon-Sat & pre-show

BALLET | BRUNCH | INTIMATE



Ballet & Brunch with Birmingham Royal Ballet
24.10 | JBPS at Symphony Hall

WORKSHOPS | PERFORMANCE | 4-11YO



Swan Lake Family Fun with Birmingham Royal Ballet
24.10 | JBPS at Symphony Hall

THRILLING | SMASH HITS | COSTUME COMP



Halloween The Concert
30.10 | Town Hall

FILM | LIVE ORCHESTRA | CBSO



Casino Royale in Concert
30.10 | Symphony Hall

FOLK | FAN FAVES | NEW ALBUM



Folk Rock Pioneers Steeley Span In Concert
31.10 | Town Hall

BOOKINGS & FULL LISTINGS:

Facebook @bmusicltd Instagram @bmusic_ltd Phone 0121 7803333

bmusic.co.uk

Kickstart your creative career behind the scenes

BOA Stage & Screen Production Academy is holding an open day for prospective students on Saturday 17 October. The Birmingham City Centre-located academy offers free full-time courses for local 16- to 19-year-olds who are passionate about working in film, TV, live events and theatre production. To find out more, head to the website at trainbackstage.co.uk



Beauty & The Beast gets the pantomime treatment

The much-loved fairytale of Beauty & The Beast is being given the pantomime treatment at Walsall Arena this Christmas. Running from Saturday 5 to Sunday 20 December, the production will feature all the traditional ingredients of a family panto, including 'laugh-out-loud comedy, familiar songs, energetic dance routines and plenty of audience participation'. For more information and to book tickets, visit the website at walsallarena.com

Shrewsbury makers fair in pre-Christmas return

Popular makers fair DRAWN makes a return at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery next month, offering shoppers a not-to-be-missed opportunity to bag a few early Christmas gifts. Taking place on Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 November, the popular event showcases high-quality contemporary art, craft and design. Visitors to the show can meet the contributing artists and find out more about the processes behind their work. Visit drawn.live for further information



08 whatsonlive.co.uk



A Christmas catastrophe for Scrooge at the Grand!

The award-winning Mischief, the company behind hit stage shows *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* and *The Comedy About Spies*, are heading to the Wolverhampton Grand next month (Tuesday

10 - Saturday 14 November) with their hit festive show *Christmas Carol Goes Wrong*. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the venue's website at grandtheatre.co.uk

Early-90s play with music receives a 2026 update

Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn is this month hosting an updated version of a musical play first performed 35 years ago.

Arthur's Plough 2026 - showing at the venue from Thursday 22 to Saturday 24 October - takes a fresh look at the story of Fordhall organic farm in Market Drayton, which is currently celebrating 20 years in community ownership.

To find out more about the play - which will be performed under professional direction and management by a dozen community actors - and to book tickets, visit the venue's website at theatresevern.co.uk

The Elephant Man comes to Oldbury Rep Theatre

Oldbury Rep Players' next production is *The Elephant Man*, Bernard Pomerance's famous play telling the story of the severely disfigured Joseph Merrick, who lived in London during the late 19th century. The Players will perform the show at the Oldbury Rep Theatre from Saturday 7 to Saturday 14 November... To find out more and purchase tickets, visit oldburyrep.org

Last chance to see major Andy Warhol exhibition

If you haven't yet checked out Wolverhampton Art Gallery's Andy Warhol

exhibition, you have only a handful of October days in which to do so, with the show closing on Sunday the 4th. 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.

Landmark dance show set for Midlands debut

Midlands-based dance-development organisation Fabric has announced four new performances as part of an international season of dance coming to Birmingham. Forming part of the THIS IS DANCE initiative - a partnership between Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Rep, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Fierce Festival, Midlands Arts Centre and Sampad - the autumn programme will include a UK premiere presented alongside performances by a line-up of international companies and artists. Faye Driscoll's *Weathering* - a co-presentation with Fierce Festival, making its debut at Midlands Arts Centre from Wednesday 14 to Friday 16 October - is a landmark show featuring 10 performers who create a slowly evolving live scene on a moving platform. For further information visit fabric.dance/project/this-is-dance

WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT

ATG
TICKETS

Regent Theatre



See the Status Quo star
live for one night only

Francis Rossi

Fri 9 Oct



Family favourite musical
starring Claire Sweeney

Annie

Tue 13 – Sun 18 Oct



Don't miss his acclaimed show

**Richard Ayoade –
Afterthoughts**

Mon 19 Oct



The world's foremost
ELO tribute returns

**The ELO Experience –
Electric Light Orchestra**

Thu 22 Oct



All new jokes and utterly
splendid filth

**Gary Delaney:
Gary On Laughing**

Fri 23 Oct



Where legendary music
meets world class dancers

The Brown Suite

Sat 24 Oct

Victoria Hall



Born in Stoke-on-Trent,
see his stand-up live on stage

Phil Wang: UH OH

Thu 15 Oct



A night of punk poetry

Dr John Cooper Clarke

Fri 23 Oct



Jonathan Pie

The End of the World
According to Jonathan Pie

Thu 22 Oct



A spellbinding tribute to
an iconic band

**Go Your Own Way – The
Fleetwood Mac Legacy**

Sat 24 Oct

DRAWN



CONTEMPORARY

**Shrewsbury
Museum & Art Gallery**

**SAT NOV 21 10-4
SUN NOV 22 11-4**

Come curious. Leave inspired.

SMTC Shrewsbury Musical Theatre Co.

theatresevern SHREWSBURY

7000 STRANDED PASSENGERS. ONE SMALL TOWN. A REMARKABLE TRUE STORY.

'A POWERFUL REMINDER THAT EVEN IN THE DARKEST TIMES, WE ARE NEVER TRULY LOST'

COME FROM AWAY

**A FOOT-STOMPING CELTIC SCORE, MEETS A WORLD-CHANGING STORY.
EXPERIENCE THE REMARKABLE AFTERMATH OF 9/11, WHEN A TINY NEWFOUNDLAND
COMMUNITY OPENED ITS HEART TO 7,000 STRANDED PASSENGERS.**



OCTOBER 15TH TO 17TH

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk



**Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council**

**Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough**



HALLOWEEN

AT

TELFORD ICE RINK

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

6.15PM-9.15PM

**SPECIAL
FAMILY TICKET
OFFER £30
£9 ADULTS
£8 JUNIORS**

SPOOKTACULAR DJ ✶ FANCY DRESS ✶ MEET HALLOWEEN CHARACTERS AT THE RINK
for more information visit www.telfordicerink.co.uk/halloween

POP MASTER

By Steve Adams



Musician, songwriter & producer Trevor Horn has often been credited with creating the sound of the 1980s, having worked with an array of stars who dominated the pop charts throughout the decade. His upcoming live shows recreate some of those best-known hits and take him back to where he began (as “a bass player who sang a bit”) - as he explains to What’s On...

Dubbed ‘the man who invented the 80s’, songwriter and super-producer Trevor Horn has had his finger in an awful lot of musical pies. And it’s a finger which most certainly has a magic touch when it comes to creating chart hits. His first band, Buggles, went to number one with their first single, 1979’s *Video Killed The Radio Star*, and the artists and songs he subsequently worked with made him a constant presence in the pop charts for many a year afterwards.

The list of acts for whom he created hits is effectively a roll-call of some of pop music’s biggest stars: ABC, Frankie Goes To Hollywood, Grace Jones, Pet Shop Boys, Robbie Williams, Tina Turner, Lisa Stansfield, Malcolm McLaren, Seal, Cher, t.A.T.u., Dollar and Boyzone...

...And that’s not to mention Marc Almond, Rick Astley, Rumer, All Saints, Tori Amos, Simple Minds, Lol Creme of 10cc and Steve Hogarth of Marillion, who have all appeared on his albums of cover versions in recent years.

At the tender age of 77, he’s now touring and playing some of those iconic songs again, and doing so with an evolving band that includes Creme as well as guest singers such as Seal and Hogarth. The only constant is that every tune they perform was a chart topper and has a Horn connection - whether he wrote, produced or played on the original, or released a cover version of his own.

“All the songs we play were number-one records, so that gives us a pretty formidable repertoire,” he says. “These songs mean a lot to people, and we play them with precision and authenticity.”

Playing with precision is key for notorious perfectionist Trevor. It’s also one of the reasons his backing band extends to “seven, eight musicians”, he says.

“I’ve never really made much money because I have too many people!” he laughs. “I have an old-fashioned view of things - I like to play the tracks... really play them. And to play pop records properly, you need two keyboard players, two guitar players and so on.

“There are very few pop records that don’t have overdubs on them - even The Beatles records that we all loved had keyboard overdubs.”

But if recreating the sound of songs like

Relax, *Slave To The Rhythm*, *All The Things She Said* or *Kiss From A Rose* seems like a relatively serious undertaking, the effect is the opposite, with audiences enjoying the chance to relive their youth - or hear the tunes for the first time - while having a dance.

It’s all part of the joy of performing live, says Trevor: “It’s fun, and there’s something real about it - you get to see people and you’re out there. In the studio, you’re on your own, sat on your backside.”

The tour is also something of a full-circle moment for Trevor, as he spent much of his 20s as a gigging musician. He started out playing double bass as a child, the same instrument as his father.

“The problem was no one ever gave me any lessons, and to be any good at double bass, you really have to have lessons,” he says, adding that he followed his dad by switching to bass guitar “because it’s a bit easier and a lot easier to carry around”.

Having turned pro at the age of 18, he “made quite a good living” playing bass guitar until he was 30, largely because he could sight-read music. But everything changed the first time he set foot in a recording studio.

“The minute I went in I knew that was what I was really interested in,” he says.

It wasn’t long before production became his primary focus. The first major breakthrough came when he formed Buggles with keyboardist Geoff Downes. The two had met while playing in the backing band for Horn’s then girlfriend Tina Charles, best known for *I Love To Love*, yet another UK chart topper.

Video Killed The Radio Star’s instant success made Horn and Downes hot property, and saw them recruited into prog rock band Yes. Despite a well-received album (*Drama*), the move was hardly a successful one and the pair left after only a year. Horn almost instantly transitioned to production work - a move he credits to his manager, Jill Sinclair, who also happened to be his wife.

“She was a terrific manager because she understood what I was good at, and she chose all the things I did. I’d been producing demos and various things for about four years, so by the time I got some success, I knew what I was doing.”

That success kicked off with pop duo Dollar,

Trevor producing their third album as well as co-writing a number of hit singles. Those “first techno pop records” effectively became his calling card and led to him producing ABC’s debut album, *The Lexicon Of Love*, (its hits included *Poison Arrow* and *The Look Of Love*), effectively kicking Trevor’s career into overdrive. He went on to work with Malcolm McLaren (*Buffalo Gals*) and the Art Of Noise before returning to the reformed Yes, but this time purely as producer (“what I should have done in the first place”).

“When I heard *Owner Of A Lonely Heart*, I thought, you know what, we might be able to get them a hit single.”

He was right - the tune went to number one in America and the album 90125 became the band’s biggest-selling LP. When pushed, he’ll admit the song is probably the finest he’s worked on (“the best technical record I ever made”), but his favourite artist to work alongside is Seal, who he made six albums with (“we got on and worked together really well”).

Things were a little more awkward with Frankie Goes To Hollywood, the first band to sign to ZTT, the label Trevor co-founded with journalist Paul Morley. The band’s first three singles all topped the charts, but making the records was far from plain sailing for the purist producer.

“The Frankies were really interesting people, but they’d only ever done five shows in their life. They learned fast, and after a year they were pretty good - [but] to be honest, if they hadn’t been signed to my record label, I would probably have walked away because it looked like it was going to be too difficult.”

Performing their songs live is rather easier; Trevor loves playing the pumping bass lines of *Relax* and *Two Tribes* on his five-string guitar - and the producer says he’s revelling in the chance to be a musician again.

“It’s how I started out - I was a bass player and I sang a bit. I just ended up spending 40-odd years in the recording studio. It’s nice to get back out on the road and play to people again.”

Trevor Horn & His Band play The Assembly, Leamington Spa, on Thursday 3 December and O2 Academy, Birmingham, on Wednesday 16 December



**AN EVENING WITH
ASTON VILLA LEGENDS**
Thursday 1 October



**TRACY BORMAN OBE
TUDORS ON TOUR**
Saturday 3 October



**THE ROZZERS - A TRIBUTE
TO STING & THE POLICE**
Saturday 3 October



**LAUREL & HARDY MAKE
MUSIC - CINEMA SCREENINGS**
Sunday 11 October



**MOONLIGHT SINATRA
GIG CARITAS BIG BAND**
Sunday 11 October



**THE PHANTOMS
STARRING LEE MEAD**
Friday 16 October



SUPREME QUEEN
Saturday 17 October



**THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC
A MAMMA MIA PARTY**
Thursday 22 October



**RAINER HERSCH: ALL CLASSICAL
MUSIC EXPLAINED - LIVE!**
Friday 23 October



**BOYBAND IN THE BUFF
STARRING GARETH GATES**
Saturday 24 October



ILLUSION: IMPOSSIBLE
Tuesday 27 October



**THERE'S A MONSTER
IN YOUR SHOW**
Saturday 31 October - Sunday 1 November

01384 812812
boroughhalls.co.uk

@BoroughHalls Dudley Borough Halls

Dudley Town Hall - Stourbridge Town Hall - Halesowen Town Hall

**Walsall Arena
and Arts Centre**



October

Henning Wehn 16+
Fri 9 Oct 7.30pm £29.50



November

**Best of Buble - Home
For Christmas**
Thurs 12 Nov 7.30pm £31.50



Supreme Queen
Fri 13 Nov 7.30pm £32.00

**Barry White: Let The
Music Play**
Sat 14 Nov 7.30pm £32.00



Massaoke: Christmas Live
Sat 21 Nov 7.30pm £29.00

December

**Beauty & The Beast -
Christmas Pantomime!**
5 - 20 December
various times £15-18



January

**Luther Live &
The Velvet Voices**
Fri 15 Jan 7.30pm £29.00



March

UK Pink Floyd Experience
Fri 19 March 7.30pm £30.50



Box Office: **0300 555 2898**



walsallarena.com



Walsall Council

Live music from across the region...

Elles Bailey

Lichfield Guildhall, Sat 10 October;
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 18 October

Seventeen childhood days spent battling pneumonia with a life-saving tube down her throat left Elles Bailey with a voice so husky you'd imagine she smoked 60 a day. Elles' output sees her bringing a contemporary edge to rootsy blues, country, and soulful rock, and doing so to a standard which has seen her bagging numerous prestigious awards...

Support for Elles' Lichfield gig comes from Nashville-based singer-songwriter Jackie Bristow, and for her Shrewsbury show from Americana and country artist Demi Marriner.



The Undercover Hippy

LOOP, Shrewsbury, Fri 16 October

If Steel Pulse, Kate Tempest and The Sleaford Mods were to have a love child, muses Tom Robinson, it would surely turn out to be drum & bass MC turned singer-songwriter Billy Rowan, aka The Undercover Hippy. Billy produces music that combines powerful, political and humorous messages with infectious reggae rhythms and intelligent lyrics.



The Orb

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Sat 3 October

One of electronic music's most influential acts, The Orb created a psychedelic sound which sat well with clubbers who were 'coming down' from drug-induced highs. Now heading towards their 40th anniversary and having survived plenty of personnel changes - Alex Paterson has been the only

permanent member - the boys are here making a rare live appearance to present what promises to be a memorable evening of ambient, dub, and deep electronic sound. Expect all the hits, from the iconic Little Fluffy Clouds to the chart-busting Toxygene.

Amon Amarth

The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton,
Sun 11 October

This month 'unleashing the wrath of Odin' in the form of their 13th studio album, The Allfather Awakens, Sweden's Viking-metal titans Amon Amarth are getting behind the new release with a UK tour that includes this West Midlands stop-off. The boys are joined for the evening by fellow Swedish melodic death metal bands Orbit Culture and Soilwork.

Creedence Clearwater Review

Walsall Arena, Thurs 22 October

For anyone not in the know, during the 1960s and early 70s, Creedence Clearwater Revival were widely considered to be one of America's greatest rock bands. But although they headlined the legendary Woodstock Festival in 1969, they didn't feature in either the movie or on the album which followed. Band member John Fogerty felt that their performance on the day hadn't cut the mustard so didn't want it preserved for posterity.

Their music, however, has most definitely stood the test of time, and is here brilliantly recreated by these hugely talented tribute stars... Expect all the greatest hits, including Proud Mary, Have You Ever Seen The Rain and Bad Moon Rising.

Aziz Ibrahim

The Artisan Tap, Stoke-On-Trent,
Thurs 15 October

Virtuoso guitarist, session musician and one-time Stone Roses member Aziz Ibrahim is finally releasing his long-lost debut album, some 25 years after it was first recorded. Lahore To Longsight - named to reflect his father's journey from Pakistan to the Manchester suburb of Aziz's birth - is a musical melting pot he describes as 'Asian blues'. Now restored and remastered, the album, which features star contributors including the Roses' Reni and Mani, Paul Weller, Talvin Singh, and Andy Rourke and Mike Joyce of The Smiths, will get its first public airing at a limited number of showcase dates, making this gig in Stoke-on-Trent something of a must-see.



The Affordable Mid-Century Show

23rd- 25th October and 30th October - 1 November
11am - 5pm Elmslie House, 8 Avenue Road, Great Malvern, WR14 3AG



A free exhibition offering original paintings and prints at bargain prices and a collection of mid-century fabrics, ceramics and glassware from across Europe
Café open throughout - free glass of wine on Saturdays - cream teas on Sundays



For more information, please contact Richard Turkington
at richard@fiftiesart.com or on 07714 106386
Visit our website at fiftiesart.com @fiftiesart



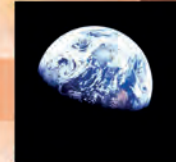
Ex Cathedra

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

In 40 Parts: Spem in alium

Town Hall, Birmingham
Sunday 18 October, 4pm

Soaring, uplifting, remarkable, and truly monumental, Tallis' *Spem in alium* is perhaps the most iconic piece of choral music ever written. This unmissable concert also features the world premiere of Roderick Williams' *The Wilderness*.



Book now at: www.excathedra.co.uk



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

SM&AG

SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

HALLOWEEN AND HALF-TERM FUN

OCTOBER AND HALF-TERM EVENTS

Myths Legends and Magic Trail 17-31 OCT

Halloween Activities at the Museum 30-31 OCT

Town and Museum Ghost Tours throughout OCT
(Advance tickets required)

Book now at www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/events

FREE ENTRY!
Just pay for tours, trails and activities

Classical music from across the region...



Radiophilharmonic Hannover

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 13 October

NDR Radiophilharmonic Hannover last year celebrated their 75th anniversary and are performing in Birmingham for the first time in almost a decade. They are using the occasion to pay tribute to Ludwig van Beethoven, just a matter of months shy of the 200th anniversary of his death. As usual, the Hannover musicians will be guided through this mid-month concert by

their charismatic chief conductor, Stanislav Kochanovsky (pictured).

The programme features two works by Beethoven - the Egmont Overture and Fourth Piano Concerto - and Brahms' Second Symphony, a composition well known for its impressively boisterous finale. The orchestra are joined for the concert by celebrated Argentinian pianist Ingrid Fliter.

Red Priest: A Baroque Extravaganza

Maidment Building, Shrewsbury School, Fri 23 October

With the promise of a 30th-anniversary year to look forward to in 2027, baroque quartet Red Priest boast a truly unique style, bringing together high-energy performance with boundary-crossing arrangements and an endearing theatricality. Given that the group take their name from red-haired Italian priest and legendary Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi, it's no surprise to find that they're turning to his best-known work, The Four Seasons, for this Shropshire Music Trust concert. Compositions by Bach, Handel and Georg Philipp Telemann are also included in the evening's programme.



CBSO: Northern Lights & German Soul

Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 16 October

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra head north mid-month to take on the challenge of Sibelius' Fifth - a work which the composer laboured over for many a year, twice withdrawing it despite public approval of the composition.

"In a deep dell again," Sibelius wrote in 1914. "But I already begin to see dimly the mountain that I shall certainly ascend... God opens his door for a moment and His orchestra plays the Fifth Symphony." It would be five more years before the Finnish composer was finally satisfied with the work...

Alongside Sibelius' Fifth, the concert programme features Brahms' First Piano Concerto, a thunderous and passionate piece here performed by acclaimed pianist Benjamin Grosvenor. The conductor for the evening is Thomas Dausgaard (pictured).



Leon McCawley Piano Recital

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre, Thurs 29 October

Stoke-on-Trent Classics' Piano Masters returns with an imaginative new season of concerts.

October's contribution to the series is a performance by renowned British pianist Leon McCawley. A first-prize winner many a moon ago in the ninth International Beethoven Piano Competition, Leon is using his late-month Potteries recital to trace the evolution of the piano, from Mozart's classical clarity to the rich Romanticism of Chopin and Grieg. Works by Beethoven, Fanny Mendelssohn and Faure also feature on the bill.



Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir 100 Voices

St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, Sat 3 October

Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir and Shifnal Male Voice Choir join forces early this month - alongside Llanelli's Cor Y Sgarlets - to present an evening of choral music. The concert will feature a broad range of compositions, from choir classics to modern crowd-pleasers. All profits from the event will be donated to Hope House Children's Hospices.



SCARE-RAISING

Paranormal Activity haunts the Alex this Halloween...



A stage show based on Paranormal Activity, one of the world's most successful horror film franchises, brings spooks aplenty to Birmingham theatre The Alexandra this month - with the final performance taking place on Halloween itself! A major hit in the West End - and featuring a new story set in the world of the films - the production stars ex-EastEnders James Bye, who here explains what horror-loving theatre-goers can expect...

Get into the Halloween spirit, in more ways than one, as Paranormal Activity hits the stage at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra. Featuring a new story - one set in the same world as the popular horror film franchise - the theatrical production is now providing chills and thrills at venues around the UK, having previously found success in both the US and the London West End.

James Bye - best known for his decade spent playing Martin Fowler in EastEnders - stars in the production as his namesake, James. He's joined on stage by just three other cast members: Hannah Sinclair Robinson, Jo Castleton and Caroline Faber.

"It's a fresh story about a recently married couple from Chicago, who've only been together a couple of years," James told What's On. "They move to London for a fresh start. As we move through the play, we suddenly start to realise that they're trying to escape something... As much as it's a horror, it's also kind of a love story. It's about a new couple and the trials and tribulations that everyone goes through."

The Paranormal Activity franchise includes seven edge-of-the-seat feature films - and the play promises a similarly spooky experience. "It sneaks up on you," says James. "There are moments where it's relentless, and there are moments where we sit in it. Every night is different. Some audiences are super vocal, some are silent. For us, it's a new show every night. There's four of us in the cast, and the audience is like the fifth character."

"I appreciate the genre. I get why people are obsessed with it, and why there are mega fans. Personally, I'm a scaredy cat! I can't watch [horror] without losing sleep for a week or so. I think the last thing I watched was The Blair Witch Project! It's weird because I love it - I just know that it's gonna hit me that night. It's a bit like when you eat junk food, but you know it's gonna give you indigestion or heartburn."

While James is keen to reassure audiences that any occult action won't stray past the

footlights, the films' 'found footage' style is represented on stage by clever and ambitious design.

"The writer, Levi Holloway, and director, Felix Barrett, are really specific with the way they want the show to look. The set is just amazing. The way I describe it, it looks like a doll's house. There's an upstairs to it; it's an actual house. At any one time, you can see into every room of this couple's home, so even though they might be upstairs in their bedroom chatting away, there might be other things happening elsewhere... We really want to lean into that feeling that the audience are in the house with us. It's not immersive - I think a lot of people are put off by these shows because they think people are going to be grabbing them. There's none of that. You're very, very safe. We want you to have a great time, but at the same time, we want you to feel that tension throughout."

Paranormal Activity is the latest in a tradition of on-stage horror shows which has been steadily growing in popularity. James puts this down to the excitement of a communal live experience: "Maybe it's something to do with the fact that when you normally watch horror, it'd be at home, on your own, or with your partner or your friends. It's a solitary thing. With these successful productions that have happened in the genre, it's like a community - you're all getting scared together."

"I think horror is just a perfect genre to take people on that journey. They're not just watching actors on stage. The way that Paranormal Activity is - with all the illusions and the jump scares and the sounds and the music - it's a real experience. People are really starting to understand that, and they're getting themselves into the theatres, which is amazing."

The stage show might rely on illusions to bring about ghostly occurrences, but James keeps an open mind when it comes to real-life paranormal activity.

"I haven't had any significant ghost

encounters, other than what I've probably now put down to my imagination as a kid. I don't *not* believe, but the thing is, I don't *know*, so in that sense, I guess I do? I know people who are adamant - 'No way, it's nonsense' - but I'm not like that. Take from that what you will."

While he's no stranger to touring stage shows, James hasn't ever performed in Birmingham, so he can't wait to bring Paranormal Activity to the city and the region.

"Every actor I know who's done a play in or around Birmingham has had the best time. Super excited to bring it to the Midlands! It's done so well on Broadway and in the West End. For it to be on tour less than a year after it opened in [London], I feel privileged to bring this to the [rest of the country]. It's such a good play."

Paranormal Activity opens at The Alexandra on Tuesday the 27th of October, with the final performance taking place on Halloween itself. James is thrilled to be bringing the production to Birmingham at the spookiest time of the year: "Arguably, they're going to be the best shows of the whole tour! If you've got no plans for Halloween, I promise you now, you will not get a better experience. If you want to lean into that world, this is the show to come and see..."

"The rest of the cast in the show, they are the best of the best. They're so, so talented. It's a real joy - audiences in the West Midlands are in for a treat."

.....
Paranormal Activity shows at The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 27 to Saturday 31 October.

The production returns to the region in 2027, visiting the Wolverhampton Grand from Tuesday 9 to Saturday 13 February, and Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn from Monday 15 to Saturday 20 March

LICHFIELD GARRICK THEATRE PRESENTS

20 NOV 2026
to
10 JAN 2027

ROSIE NAPPER
ASHLEY CAVENDER
ANNA SODEN
BEN THORNTON
ELIZA WATERS
BEN STOCK
JOE FEENEY

Robin Hood

THE MAGICAL PANTOMIME ADVENTURE

LICHFIELD GARRICK
THEATRE & STUDIO

lichfieldgarrick.com
box office 01543 412121

f i y d

SHODDY THEATRE AND THE PRODUCTION GARDEN
PRESENT

BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS, AMATEUR EXECUTION!

A SHODDY NATIVITY

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

THU 4 DEC - SUN 3 JAN

BOX OFFICE: 01543412121 | WWW.LICHFIELDGARRICK.COM

LICHFIELD GARRICK
THEATRE & STUDIO

Comedy previews from across the region...

Jonathan Pie

The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton, Sat 10 October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Wed 21 October; Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 22 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 27 November

The media's decision to pounce on Jeremy Corbyn in the wake of his first Labour leadership victory lit the torchpaper for actor Tom Walker to create the larger-than-life character of Jonathan Pie.

YouTube sensation Pie is supposedly a British political correspondent - but one who likes to rant at the camera.

With the climate collapsing, AI about to rule and ruin people's lives, and World War Three feeling distinctly possible, Tom's latest outing as the UK's angriest news reporter sees him providing a helpful guide to surviving the impending apocalypse.



Harry Enfield And No Chums

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 28 October; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 13 November

Think Harry Enfield and it's almost impossible not to follow up with a thought about Paul Whitehouse, a fellow laughter merchant with whom Harry has a long and impressive comedy history. Having first teamed up in the late 1980s, the pair went on to create such memorable characters as the Old Gits, the Self-Righteous Brothers and the Radio One DJ-parodying Smashie & Nicey.

But while Paul has, in more recent times, Gone Fishing with another much-loved purveyor of mirth, Bob Mortimer, Harry is going it alone with this brand-new live-on-stage endeavour. A lighthearted reflection on 40 years spent making people laugh, the show revisits much-loved characters like Thatcherite visionary Loadsamoney and Kevin the Teenager. A Q&A session also features, so get your questions ready...



Nish Kumar

Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 15 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 21 November

"Once you get established as a comedian," says Nish Kumar, "you have to start taking comedy seriously, which is obviously an oxymoron. When you're a nobody, you can just go up to the Edinburgh Fringe to get drunk and have fun."

Nish's days of anonymity - inebriated or otherwise - are a long way behind him. The

London-born comedian has hit the big time, and done so simply by being his usual affable self. "For years, I thought comedians had to be confrontational or awkward," he told the Guardian. "But then I realised, if people basically like you and think you're an okay guy, they'll listen to you talk about absolutely anything."

Richard Ayoade

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 19 October

Richard Ayoade's latest stand-up offering sees him sharing more than 500 'humorous observations and colossal notions' from his bestselling book *Afterthoughts*, Or Some Pistachios Won't Open: Wisdom For The Unreflective.

Richard's new tour comes on the back of plenty of film and television credits, but the Cambridge-educated Londoner probably remains best known for playing the socially awkward Maurice Moss in Channel Four's long-running sitcom *The IT Crowd*.



reaching the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent - she's been making significant headway on the Australian circuit for quite some time now. Indeed, her previous stand-up offering, *Sista Flo 2.0*, won the Best Comedy Award at the Adelaide Fringe.

A versatile and dynamic performer, Georgie is visiting the West Midlands this month with her latest show, *Infectious*.



Ivo Graham

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 23 October

Seriously posh and admirably self-deprecating, Ivo Graham won plenty of new fans in 2019 when one of his gags was nominated for the coveted 'best joke of the Edinburgh Fringe' award... "I've got an Eton-themed advent calendar," explained Ivo, "where all the doors are opened for me by my dad's contacts." The Tokyo-born Oxford alumnus visits the Midlands with latest show *Orange Crush*.





LAUGHTER LINES

Tamworth's Jules O'Brian talks to What's On about her transition from English teacher to stand-up comedian...

From opening for such established acts as Luisa Omelian and Hal Cruttenden, to playing Bearded Theory and Altitude Comedy Festival in Austria, Tamworth comic Jules O'Brian has been making steady progress since swapping teaching for stand-up. This month sees Jules return to Birmingham Comedy Festival with *Avoid Excessive Cleavage (And Other Advice To Ignore)* - a show she first performed at the festival in 2022.

Moving into stand-up, do you think teaching was a good career to come from? Did it provide you with transferable skills?

Oh, absolutely. I taught secondary English for 16 years, so standing in front of a roomful of people who may or may not want to listen to me was already very familiar territory.

The main difference is that in comedy, if somebody talks while I'm talking, I'm allowed to answer back without having to log it on a behaviour system afterwards, or face questions about what I was doing that made them react that way!

Teaching definitely gave me confidence in front of a room, and you learn very quickly how to read one. And you become pretty good at thinking on your feet because, like drunk adults, teenagers are spectacularly unpredictable. All of that transfers brilliantly to stand-up.

How did your solo show, *Avoid Excessive Cleavage (And Other Advice To Ignore)*, come about?

I turned 40 and suddenly started being bombarded with advice I'd never asked for about how I should be ageing. Mostly, it seemed to boil down to 'do not age, but if you absolutely must, could you at least have the decency to pop a paper bag over your head?' The title came from a genuine article aimed at women over 40, which advised us to 'avoid excessive cleavage; just wear a nice blouse'. So patronising! And once I started noticing this stuff, I saw it everywhere: laughter lines need hiding (God forbid anyone knows you've been enjoying yourself), banish your knees (what?!), tape up your face (seriously, that's a thing - I've tried it, and I talk about the disastrous consequences in the show). Basically I was being harassed with 'Everything's sagging, and absolutely all of it can be solved if you're prepared to spend enough money.' Ugh! The annoying thing is, for all my strong principles about how ridiculous the anti-ageing industry is, I buy into it. I'm not standing on stage claiming I've risen above any of it. I absolutely haven't. So the show really came from that contradiction - being furious that we're made

to feel bad about something completely inevitable, while simultaneously Googling whatever miracle potion I've just seen advertised. I decided the best way to deal with the whole absurd mess was to write about it and laugh at it.

What's been the response to the show from audiences? Are you getting other women sharing their experiences?

Oh God, yes. And sometimes considerably more of their experiences than I was expecting! I've had women hitch up their skirts after shows to demonstrate the industrial-strength tape they're using to hold up their 'droopy knee skin'. I don't think there are many boundaries left at this point, but I love that. There's often this lovely moment of recognition where somebody goes: "Oh thank God, it's not just me." I've even had a couple of women become quite emotional because they'd never really felt they could say some of these things out loud before.

That was never something I consciously set out to achieve. I wrote a comedy show; I wasn't trying to start a support group! But I love that people laugh, then come and tell me their own ridiculous, funny, infuriating experiences afterwards.

Any plans for a follow-up yet?

Yes, absolutely. I accidentally tried one [new idea] out in July. I'd been on a particularly diabolical date which has almost tipped the balance on whether I can actually be bothered dating anymore. These aren't your standard bad-date stories. There are things in there you genuinely couldn't make up. I mean... you just wouldn't.

It does still connect with ageing, though, because dating as you get older is a completely different proposition. By this point, we've all accumulated children, marriages, exes, decades of life experience and, shall we say, some interesting backstories. There are complications that simply haven't had time to exist when you're 25.

Any advice for people who might fancy trying their hand at stand-up later in their life?

Do it. I genuinely think coming to comedy later in life can be an advantage because you've got so much more to talk about. You've had jobs, relationships, children, break-ups, disasters, triumphs. So you've accumulated a lot of life and therefore a lot of material.

I think one of the hardest things is accepting that you're a beginner again. I'd been a teacher for 16 years. I knew what I was doing. Then, suddenly, I was walking into tiny rooms above pubs, putting my name down for five-minute comedy spots and knowing absolutely nothing. That can be, shall we say, humbling, but it's also incredibly exciting. All my kids are in their 20s now, and I actually think it's a fantastic time to be young because there isn't the same expectation that you make one big decision about what you're going to do with your life and then stick to it for the next 40 years. God knows the world we live in has plenty of flaws, but one of the great things about it is that you can have three or four, or more, completely different careers over the course of your life. I'm trying very hard to apply that philosophy to myself too.

But you do have to work at it. There isn't a short cut. You have to gig, write, watch other comedians, try things, fail, change them, drive ridiculous distances to perform for seven minutes and occasionally wonder what on earth you're doing. But I started in my late 40s, and I now earn my living doing something I absolutely love. So, to use exactly the sort of inspirational quote I claim to hate in my show: you're never too old, and it's never too late.

.....

Catch Jules O'Brian at Craft & Culture, Birmingham, on Saturday 3 October. For further information about this year's Birmingham Comedy Festival, visit its website at bhamcomfest.co.uk

FULL OSCAR-WINNING FILM

HUGE HIGH-DEFINITION SCREEN

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

In Concert



**HOWARD SHORE'S ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING SCORE
PERFORMED LIVE TO THE EPIC MOTION PICTURE**
EVENING & MATINEE SHOWS IN ALL CITIES

SAT 19 DECEMBER 2026

BP PULSE LIVE BIRMINGHAM

CONDUCTOR:

SHIH-HUNG YOUNG

**THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (CBSO)
TRINITY BOYS CHOIR**

BPPULSELIVE.CO.UK | AXS.COM

SEAT UNIQUE VIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE VIA SEATUNIQUE.COM

A FLYING MUSIC PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH REGULAR MUSIC AND SINGULAR ARTISTS

Comedy previews from across the region...

Lenny Henry

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 19 October

Lenny Henry's career has taken many a twist and turn since he shot to stardom half a century ago, winning the television talent contest New Faces with a set that included impersonations of, among others, Frank Spencer and Stevie Wonder.

From taking custard pies in the face on legendary Saturday-morning kids' show Tiswas, to garnering critical acclaim on stage as Othello, the Dudley born & bred funnyman has constantly sought new projects with which to challenge himself. His visit to his native West Midlands this month sees him taking a look back at his stellar career, returning to the experiences that shaped him while also exploring the ideas and creative sparks that continue to keep him inspired and motivated.

Paul Foot

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 10 October

Not so much a teller of gags, Paul Foot's routines involve him sharing with his audience the seemingly random and intriguingly surreal thoughts that make their way through his ever-busy mind. "I'd like to do a TV show," he told comedy.co.uk, by way of example, "in which I enter an unsuspecting family's house at dinner time, violently upturn tables, hurl all the crockery and food at the walls and scream 'Oh how the tables have turned!'"

On the subject of television shows, Paul admits he doesn't appear on anywhere near as many as some other comedians. "People know when a TV show needs me and the phone will ring. Quite often I'm in the bath, though, or smashing specially purchased greenhouses with a golf club in the garden."

Henning Wehn

Walsall Arena, Fri 9 October

Presenting a style of humour that's been described as 'Teutonic jolliness at its best', self-appointed German comedy ambassador Henning Wehn tours to the Midlands this month with new show Acid Wehn. Samples of his comedy include: "With stand-up in Britain, what you have to do is bloody swearing. In Germany, we don't have to swear. Reason being, things work." And also: "World War Two was a painful time for my family. My grandfather died in a concentration camp. He got drunk one night and fell out of his guard tower..."



Chris Ramsey

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 30 October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Fri 27 November

As well as being a highly rated stand-up, Geordie boy Chris Ramsey has developed an impressive telly career, appearing on shows including 8 Out Of 10 Cats and Strictly Come Dancing (reaching the semi-finals in 2019). He's scored a big hit in the podcast world, too, with Sh*ggged. Married. Annoyed, which he co-hosts with his wife, singer & actress Rosie Winter.

He's visiting the Midlands with Here, Man!, a show he toured in the spring to great critical acclaim - so much so, in fact, that he decided to add these autumn dates.

Chris' gags include: "My venue for the Edinburgh Festival is a portacabin; it's literally a portacabin! I'm a Geordie, in a portacabin. I was going to call the show Auf Wiedersehen Pet Live."

Hannah East

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 3 October; Glee Club, Birmingham, Thurs 15 October; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Fri 16 October; Kings Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 15 November

Brand-new skits, more wigs, celebrity send-ups and laugh-out-loud moments are promised by Hannah East when she visits the

Midlands this month with her latest comedy offering, in which she takes a deep-dive into the highs and lows of parenting. Hannah splits her professional life between stand-up and presenting. "After graduating, I competed on the TV show Gladiators," she explains. "During the semi-final stage, I was waiting for a scene to be filmed with [ex-footballer] Ian Wright when he told me to read Caroline Flack's autocue. After doing this, he gave me some advice - I should go into presenting. The rest, as they say, is history!"



could finish his act before his time ran out. "Telling more than 3,000 people to shut up was a definite career high!" says Ignacio.

He's visiting the West Midlands region this month with Nada, a show described by its publicity as 'an intricate story of mystery and suspense packed with sarcasm, silliness and huge laughs'.



Michael Akadiri

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 30 October; Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 27 November

A contemplation of the difference between perception and reality lies at the heart of this new show from resident doctor and award-winning comedian Michael Akadiri.

Although still working in the NHS, Michael is nowadays more a comedian who heals folks than a doctor who tells jokes... His stop-offs in the region this month and next provide Midlanders with the perfect opportunity to find out why he's widely considered to be one of the UK's fastest-rising comedy stars.



Ignacio Lopez

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 11 October; Stafford Gatehouse, Sat 17 October; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 21 October

Cardiff-based Spanish/Welsh comedian Ignacio Lopez is a man with a rapidly growing fanbase. Not only have his videos been watched by well in excess of 20 million people, he's even had to tell a Live At The Apollo audience to quit laughing so that he

WELCOME TO BURLESQUE!

**Faye Brookes is the boss of a club like no other
when Burlesque The Musical comes to Birmingham...**



Packed with sultry dance routines, positively glittering with showbiz glamour, and fresh from making its West End debut last year, *Burlesque The Musical* has now embarked on its first-ever UK tour. The hit stage show is based on the 2010 film of the same name starring Christina Aguilera and Cher, the latter of whom played the part of Tess, the owner of a struggling burlesque club. Musical theatre aficionado and one-time Corrie actress Faye Brookes has stepped into Tess' bedazzled heels for the touring show and is really relishing the challenge of playing such a formidable character - as she explains to What's On...

Based on the hit 2010 movie starring Cher and Christina Aguilera, and set in the dazzlingly sequined confines of a glamorous New York nightclub, *Burlesque* has now found its natural home on stage.

For Faye Brookes, who plays nightclub owner Tess in the production's first UK tour, the film represented a new way to appreciate the magic of musical theatre.

"When the film came out, it was ahead of its time - I felt like it was already a cult classic," Faye told *What's On*. "As a musical theatre girl, I was just mesmerised by these characters - I fell in love with musical theatre all over again when I watched *Burlesque*."

The hit show follows small-town singer Ali Rose as she searches for her biological mother and makes a splash on stage at the *Burlesque Lounge*, a financially struggling nightclub owned by Tess.

"Tess has a real emotional arc, and I go on a rollercoaster throughout the entire musical," says Faye. "There's something in Tess that's in all of us. Whether that's trying to make a business work, whether that's trying to survive being a human - trying to do well at her job, and trying to make sure that everybody around her is good. That's basically what a mother does, putting everyone else's needs before her own. Also, knowing that she has this legacy on her shoulders - that this was her mother's club, this was her grandmother's club, this was her great grandmother's club... That pressure on Tess is definitely a burden but also a blessing, and you start to see the cracks throughout the show."

"I'm embracing Tess in a way that I've never done with a character before. She's older, she's wiser, she's a boss - she walks into a room and owns it! There's no messing with her. I'm really enjoying that element of the character, because in my previous roles, I've probably played the likes of Ali, where I'm a doe-eyed, princess-like [character] who's discovering myself. Tess isn't that. So for the first time ever, I'm really stepping into a new era - really embracing the stronger female role."

Faye has also found that the on-stage family spirit of *Burlesque* has transferred to the rehearsal room - as has the protective and supportive nature of her character.

"Hands down, I've never worked with such a beautiful company before. I was really proud, from the moment that I met them, to see their talent, to watch their confidence grow and blossom as individuals, and then to take on whatever we have faced, keep rising, and to keep showing up for one another. We've finally got to a place where our show is being praised - five-star reviews. Everybody's come together daily, to be this family and to look at one another and to truly love and respect one another. There's no cattiness, there's no divide. We are one, and I think it's so beautiful. I'm getting emotional just talking about it. I'm just really proud of them. I'm in a different place in my life, where I'm not only taking on the role of 'mother hen', I'm [actually] being mother hen to them."

The production has now embarked on a national tour, which continues until next May. It stops off at Birmingham theatre The Alexandra this month, then returns to the Midlands in 2027 with a visit to the Wolverhampton Grand. Faye has a well-practised routine as she travels between cities - although she's pleased to be accompanied by a furry friend...

"It helps that I've got my dog touring with me. Even though I have four dogs, Bao has been my shadow from day one. He toured with me in Chicago, and my other dogs are happy to be at home with my husband. So Bao is like a bit of an emotional support for me. He gets me up as well - wherever we're staying, he gets me out. That routine is good, because then I get fresh air and I get to exercise other than dancing and working out in a gym. I have my little routine of supplements and skincare, and whatever I use on tour, that's usually what I use at home - I swear by it. I'm just sat in my LED mask with my dog and a matcha - if I can do all the things that I love to do, then I show up a happier human at the theatre, and then I can

just be Tess, the baddest bitch ever!"

Faye has long been a fan of musical theatre, but she still has one role which she would love to add to her CV - and her love of the part goes right back to her theatrical roots.

"I would love to be Audrey in *Little Shop Of Horrors*. It's been a dream role of mine since I was at high school and one of the backing dancers. My best friend played the dentist, and we both sat there like, 'God, it would be amazing to do this professionally.' We were 14... I'm trying not to put too much pressure on myself to play that role, because with a dream comes pressure, and then it becomes unreachable. If I get to play the part, it will be a chapter of my life that will be pure joy, because it's one of my favourite musicals. I'm just going to put that out to the universe and see what happens!"

Back to *Burlesque*. The soundtrack boasts hits written by the likes of Christina Aguilera, Sia, and Todrick Hall, but even with a selection of audio treats throughout the show, Faye can't help but choose Tess' big number, *You Haven't Seen The Last Of Me*, as her favourite musical moment in the production.

"Diane Warren, thank you so much for that ballad!" she says. "There are too many good songs in this show. Too many. *I Got It All From You*, which Ali sings, is another beautiful ballad. And I love when the boys sing *Natalie* - I feel like I'm back to being a teenage girl, and I've got *NSYNC posters on my wall! I get transported to that era. There's something for everybody."

.....

Burlesque shows at The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 6 to Saturday 17 October. It then returns to the region in 2027, showing at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 6 to Saturday 10 April



Cats Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 27 October - Sat 7 November

A spectacular and captivating adaptation of TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats, this Andrew Lloyd Webber extravaganza premiered 45 years ago. The show is widely considered to be the production that redefined the modern musical, paving the way for a seemingly relentless stream of blockbuster hits and giving starring roles to Elaine Page and Sarah Brightman in the process.

Even an execrable film version a handful of years back failed to make a dent in the stage production's longstanding global popularity, a fact supported by this brand-new and extensive tour.

Featured songs include Old Deuteronomy, Macavity: The Mystery Cat, Jellicle Ball - and, of course, the show's famous anthem, Memory.

Burlesque The Musical

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 6 - Sat 17 October

Christina Aguilera not only provides powerhouse songs for this acclaimed and relatively new musical but also executive-produces it. The story focuses on the character of small-town dreamer Ali Rose, whose New York-located search for her biological mother sees her stumbling into the surprisingly cut-throat world of burlesque. Based on the hit 2010 movie of the same name, which co-starred Aguilera and Cher, the show has made a significant splash in the West End and stops off in Birmingham as part of its first UK tour.



Mamma Mia!

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 27 October - Sat 7 November

This legendary show is of course a nicely contrived vehicle for the chart-topping music of 1970s super troupers Abba.

Set in a Greek-island paradise, Mamma Mia! tells the story of single mum Donna and her 20-year-old daughter, Sophie, who's soon to get married. Formerly the lead singer of a girl group, Donna led a crazy, carefree existence when she was younger. As a result, Sophie's never known who her father is... and if truth be told, Donna's not entirely sure either! After stealing a sly glimpse at her mum's old diary, sneaky Sophie identifies three possible candidates. Masquerading as Donna, she then sends messages inviting each of the men to attend her wedding. Hijinks, chaos and confusion inevitably ensue, all of which are best experienced to a pulsating Abba soundtrack, of course...





Tue 6 -
Sat 10 Oct



Tue 13 -
Sat 17 Oct



Sun 18 Oct



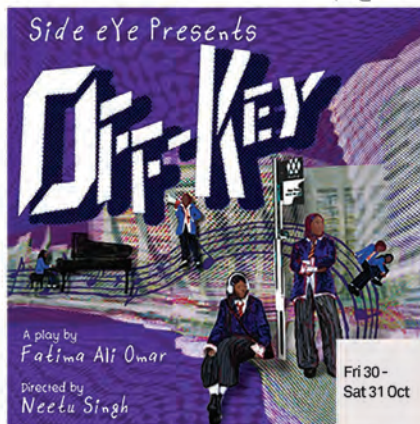
Tue 20 -
Sat 24 Oct



Wed 21 -
Sat 24 Oct



Tue 27 Oct -
Sat 7 Nov



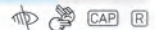
Fri 30 -
Sat 31 Oct



Fri 20 Nov -
Sat 12 Dec



Sat 5 Dec -
Sun 3 Jan



Sat 19 Dec -
Sun 31 Jan



Fri 5 &
Sat 6 Feb



Tue 9 -
Sat 13 Feb





Sylvia

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Tues 6 - Sat 10 October

A musical bursting with dance, soul and hip-hop, Sylvia retells an essential slice of British history: the fight for universal suffrage. The play revolves around the Suffragettes in the Pankhurst family, particularly hard-line matriarch Emmeline and her daughter Sylvia. "The cruelty of what happens to these women and how they are ridiculed - we see the echoes of that today," says Beverley Knight, who's playing Emmeline. "A lot of the arguments and the problems that the women came up against almost 100 years ago are things that we are seeing repeating today. The right to protest - who has that right, what protest is acceptable, when does it cross the line? What is the role of women in today's society - has it changed? The more things change, the more they stay the same."

Blood Brothers

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 20 - Sat 24 October; Malvern Theatres, Tues 17 - Sat 21 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 18 - Sat 22 May

Although it's effectively a class-driven 'scouse melodrama', to describe Blood Brothers as such is to greatly underestimate the emotional response it produces within its audience. The show features adult actors playing children, a narrator who wanders through the scenes with warnings of impending doom, a good helping of sharp social awareness to counteract the sticky sentimentality, and a raft of much-loved musical numbers, including Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotionally charged Tell Me It's Not True.



Legally Blonde The Musical

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 13 - Sat 17 October; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 17 - Sat 21 November

Based on the hit movie starring Reese Witherspoon, this critically acclaimed musical follows the story of college sweetheart and homecoming queen Elle Woods, a girl who just doesn't take no for an answer. So when her boyfriend, Warner, announces that he's dumping her for



someone more serious, Elle puts down the credit card, hits the books and heads for Harvard Law School... One-time Strictly Come Dancing finalist Amber Davies top-bills as Elle.

Jersey Boys

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 26 - Sat 31 October; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 2 - Sat 21 November; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 15 - Sat 27 March

Rockin' and rollin' New Jersey boys Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons scored some truly massive hits during the mid-1960s - and this award-winning jukebox musical tells their story. Presented in a documentary-style format, the show is structured as four 'seasons', each being narrated by a different member of the band. Featured hits include Walk Like A Man, Bye Bye Baby, Big Girls Don't Cry, Sherry, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Working My Way Back To You and December 1963 (Oh, What A Night).



Romeo & Juliet

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, until Sat 10 October

Widely considered to be Shakespeare's fifth tragedy, Romeo & Juliet tells a tale of forbidden and secret love. This brand-new adaptation of the story comes with a twist and a surprise. The twist is that the star-crossed lovers are both in their 40s when they meet. The surprise is

that the part of Romeo is being played by stand-up comedian Russell Kane... Expect an interesting evening.



Middlemarch Parts 1 & 2

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 1 October - Sat 16 January

George Eliot's classic 1871 novel - a study of provincial life set in her Warwickshire homeland - is here condensed into one play presented in two parts. "Middlemarch is an entertaining story full of great humanity, wisdom and wit," says the play's director, Jeremy Herrin. "I can't wait to explore its many pertinent themes: family, marriage, love, purpose, religion, morality and more. Theatre is a great form for a story that luxuriates in how we are all essentially connected."

Made You Look

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Sat 17 October; The Rep, Birmingham, Wed 21 - Thurs 22 October

Ty'rone Haughton's one-man production fuses performance poetry, movement and visual art. With a running time of 40 minutes - and an optional 20-minute discussion afterwards - the show not only interrogates the subject of masculinity but also explores what it means to be an immigrant in a country 'growing increasingly hostile towards minorities and women'.



YOU ALREADY
KNOW YOU'RE
GONNA LOVE IT!

BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVAEUS'

MAMMA MIA!

THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL
BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA

WOLVERHAMPTON
GRAND
THEATRE

TUE 27 OCT - SAT 7 NOV 2026
01902 42 92 12 | grandtheatre.co.uk



NEW VIC
4TH



THE Borrowers
BY MARY NORTON
ADAPTED BY
THERESA HESKINS

*A heartwarming tale of friendship, family and
bravery, perfect for the festive season!*

Fri 13 Nov - Sat 23 Jan
newvictheatre.org.uk

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND
STAFFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
STAFFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
STAFFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
Image by musecreativecomms.co.uk



**COMEDY AT THE
HA HA HALLS**

Who will you be laughing at?
Full lineup: **bmusic.co.uk**

B:Music
Town Hall & Symphony Hall

Theatre previews from around the region



Annie

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 13 - Sun 18 October; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 16 - Sun 21 February

Claire Sweeney is the latest high-profile performer to take on the coveted role of Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, the oft-touring Broadway musical that's once again visiting the region this month.

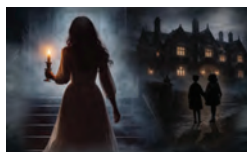
A heart-warming rags-to-riches story of a little girl who finds herself transported from a New York orphanage to the luxurious world of a millionaire, the show features plenty of memorable songs, including *It's A Hard Knock Life*, *I Don't Need Anything But You*, *Easy Street*, and of course, the legendary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

The Turn Of The Screw

The Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 October

Blackeyed Theatre and Arcola Theatre combine their impressive talents to crank up the atmosphere in this new stage adaptation of Henry James' gothic classic.

A young governess, hired to care for two children at a remote country estate, starts to believe that there are malevolent spirits wandering around the property. Before too long, she becomes convinced that the youngsters in her charge are aware of the ghostly apparitions too...



As You Like It

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 7 November

Royal Shakespeare Company Co-Artistic Director Daniel Evans takes the helm for this brand-new, *all-male* version of the bard's hugely likable comedy.

The story revolves around the character of Rosalind, banished by her usurping uncle to the Forest of Arden, where her exiled father is already living. Revelling in the naturalness of the surroundings, Rosalind and her devoted cousin, Celia, find a happiness they hadn't known existed...

Tony and Grammy Award-winning American actor Jonathan Groff (pictured) makes his RSC debut in the role of Rosalind, while veteran musical theatre star Gary Wilmot plays both Duke Frederick and Duke Senior.



Punk Days

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Fri 2 & Sat 3 October

Dervish Productions' *Punk Days* takes its audience on a journey back to 1970s London and into the life of a mixed race, working-class kid who, plagued by racism, finds hope in the power of punk rock. The show is written & performed by Dervish's artistic director, Hassan Mahamdallie. The Friday performance is followed by a DJ set celebrating the best of punk, ska and two tone.



The Little Shop Of Horrors

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 27 - Sat 31 October

One of the longest-running off-Broadway shows of all time, *The Little Shop Of Horrors* is an affectionate spoof of 1950s sci-fi movies. Despite various productions turning up at theatres across the country over the last few decades, it remains best known from its 1986 film version, which featured a hilarious turn from Steve Martin as the splendidly sadistic dentist.

The Trial Of Romeo Oscar

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Wed 21 - Sat 31 October

Mention Alan Ayckbourn and a long list of brilliant observational comedies springs readily to mind, the most famous among which date back to the 1960s and 70s. Now 87 years of age, the prolific Ayckbourn continues to delight his audiences with brand-new plays. The latest of these - his

92nd - is this future-located courtroom drama that sees a military-issue android going on trial for murder...

Ayckbourn himself takes the directorial reins.



Another Goodbye

Wolverhampton Arts Centre, Tues 13 October

An exploration of love, loss and the difficult conversations surrounding the end of life lies at the heart of *Another Goodbye*.

The 55-minute show contemplates its thought-provoking subject matter by taking a look at one particular family's experience. The performance is followed by a conversation facilitated by local palliative & bereavement-support charity Compton Care.

The Nag's Head

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 14 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 27 October; Belmont Hall, Wellington, Shropshire, Wed 28 October; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 30 October

After inheriting a failing pub from their father, three estranged siblings discover an unnerving painting which he'd kept hidden from them - and not without good reason...

A play set in the county's spookiest pub, comedy-horror offering *The Nag's Head* is described by its performers, the London-based Make It Beautiful theatre company, as 'an ode to the great British pub culture, to things that go bump in the night, and to Shropshire...'

The play features original music from folk band Good Habits and 'real paranormal accounts'.



OH WHAT A NIGHT

The Jersey Boys return with special anniversary tour

Charting the rise to fame of The Four Seasons and their frontman, Frankie Valli, Jersey Boys proved a major hit when it premiered on Broadway in 2005 - and 21 years later, the jukebox musical is still going strong. A special anniversary tour visits the Midlands this autumn, with Luke Baker taking the role of Frankie. Carlo Boumouglbay, Lewis Kennedy and Toby Miles round out the Seasons' quartet. Luke, Carlo, Lewis and Toby here talk about bringing this rags-to-riches story to the stage...

With the awards-laden Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons musical Jersey Boys reaching 21 years of age in 2026, the show is returning to the West Midlands with a tour that reunites the original creative team of director Des McNuff, choreographer Sergio Trujillo and musical supervisor Ron Melrose.

"They're the dream team - and this is my dream role," beams Luke Baker, who heads the cast as Frankie. "It's been on my wish list for longer than I can remember. When the show was on at the Prince Edward Theatre in London, I worked front-of-house, so I saw it maybe 100 times. Now I finally get to play Frankie, and it's my biggest, most challenging role to date.

"It's such a fast-paced show. When we first did a run-through of act one, it was like the first time you drive on the motorway; you put your foot down and go 'God, this is fast!' Then you settle into it. For me, being in this show is everything I hoped it would be and more."

When it premiered on Broadway in 2005, Jersey Boys was praised for its clever use of the Four Seasons' music to tell their rags-to-riches story. As dramatised by book writers Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, the musical charts the group's incredible journey, from the days when the four of them were just hanging out on the streets of New Jersey, to their inauguration into the Rock & Rock Hall of Fame. Along the way, they enjoyed spectacular chart-storming success with 1960s and 70s hits including Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like A Man, December, 1963 (Oh, What A Night) and Frankie's solo smash Can't Take My Eyes Off You.

"The music is incredible, and they were one of the few groups to have falsetto vocals as the lead parts," Luke says. "They had such a unique sound, and Frankie could sing anything from R&B and doo-wop to jazz and disco. His vocal ability is crazy. Nailing his famous falsetto takes a lot of work, but once you get there, it becomes like second nature - as do the band's very specific dance moves.

"There are so many layers to [Valli]. He's loyal and determined, and he faces adversity head-on. Like the rest of the band, Frankie

suffers setbacks and tragedy - the show is just as full of drama as it is of fun and fantastic songs. As jukebox musicals go, it's the gold standard."

Too right. Since its US premiere, Jersey Boys has been seen by more than 30 million people worldwide and won 65 major awards. These include the Helpmann Award for Best Musical in the Australian homeland of Carlo Boumouglbay. Having moved to the UK a year ago, the actor is currently playing Tommy DeVito in the show.

"Tommy's got a lot of courage and he doesn't mind getting his hands dirty," says Carlo. "He's maybe not the nicest of guys at times and he rattles a few cages, but he's full of passion."

The biggest challenge Carlo has faced is learning to play an electric guitar: "We have incredible musicians doing the real playing, so the finger-picking needs to look realistic. Then there's the accent. I have to sound like I'm from New Jersey, not Queensland - but again, we have an incredible dialect coach." Carlo is looking forward to taking the show on tour. "It's going to be a voyage of discovery for me because we're going to places I've never been to before. I've seen some of the towns and cities on TV and in films back in Australia, but now I get to experience them for real."

Newcastle-born Lewis Kennedy, meanwhile, landed the part of bassist & arranger Nick Massi after auditioning for various Jersey Boys roles over the years.

"Nick is the quietest of the bunch, but he's often described as being really smart and with a genius for harmonies," says Lewis. "Jersey Boys is the best of all the so-called jukebox musicals because the script is so strong and it takes audiences, as well as we actors, on a big journey. It's full of emotion - having each character narrate different bits of the story gives it a unique twist.

"Getting to be in the anniversary tour is a real honour, especially as we're working with the original team. I think the show has lasted this long because the book and the story are as strong as the songs. It takes us on a

rollercoaster ride that mirrors what the band went through to achieve success."

Completing the core cast is Toby Miles as the baby of the Four Seasons bunch, Bob Gaudio. "Bob is the musical brains of the group," Toby explains. "He writes a lot of the music, and he's very clued-up, articulate and business-oriented. He's an interesting character because, unlike the others, he's not largely driven by emotion.

"I've always loved the music, and the show has a lot of heart. It appeals to all demographics, I think, and there's so much happening in terms of the relationships between the characters. It's deep and charged and quite brilliant in its storytelling."

The Newcastle-born actor has piano-playing in his skill set, so the musical numbers are in his wheelhouse: "I'm lucky in that respect because it's an instrument that I'm comfortable with. But the show is challenging in other ways because the script is packed full of dialogue and it moves at an incredibly fast pace. Each of us gets to narrate a 'season' in the story, and that means directly addressing the audience, which is fun."

Toby also has a theory to suggest why the musical has had a staying power to match that of Frankie and the band themselves.

"People grew up with this music, either the first time around or because their parents continue to play it or because they've heard it on the radio. Songs like Oh, What A Night and Beggin' have had second lives - and on top of that, there's this riveting story."

Jersey Boys shows at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Monday 26 to Saturday 31 October, and The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Monday 2 to Saturday 21 November.

The production then returns to the region in 2027, showing at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday 15 to Saturday 27 March.

OCTOBER HALF TERM AT MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE

Enjoy an eerie-sistible line up of activities to lift your spirits



Live Shows

Including The Bubble Show, Dance in the Dark, So Unfair and WiFi Wars.



Creative Courses

Make a surreal shadow puppet, Halloween mosaic or your own horror film.



Woodland Petting Zoo

Sat 24 Oct
11am - 2pm | Free, drop-in
Outdoor Terrace



Surreal Creatures Trail

From Sat 26 Sep
Free | Throughout MAC

Midlands Arts Centre, B12 9QH

macbirmingham.co.uk/october-half-term | 0121 446 3232

mac
Midlands Arts Centre

MAC
MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE

Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**POSTCODE
LOTTERY**

Produced by Feld Entertainment

Disney ON ICE
DISCOVER THE MAGIC!

**bp pulse
LIVE**

**28th Oct –
8th Nov 2026**

bppsivelive.co.uk

DisneyOnIce.co.uk

© Disney, Disney/Pixar

Theatre for younger audiences



Disney On Ice: Discover The Magic

bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham, Wed 28 October - Sun 8 November

Disney On Ice makes a welcome return with another fast-paced family-friendly adventure. Cutting-edge figure-skating, eye-catching costumes, impressive set designs, innovative lighting, attention-grabbing special effects and high-flying jumps all feature in Discover The Magic, a show which brings together a cast of beloved Mouse House characters. Families are invited to explore the colourful spirit realm of Coco with Miguel, brave the ocean with Moana, marvel at Belle's enchanted chandelier, and sing along with Elsa. Memorable moments from Aladdin, Toy Story and The Little Mermaid also feature.

Ice Age Adventure Live

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 24 October

Ice Age Adventure Live is being advertised by its producers not only as the, er, 'coolest' show on Earth but also one which will more than likely 'knock your snow boots off'.

The production invites little explorers to join in with a mission to save the woolly mammoth, an endeavour that will see them coming face-to-face with 'dodos, silly cavemen, and sabre-toothed surprises'. A post-show chance to meet & greet a polar bear also features.



Toto The Ninja Cat And The Great Snake Escape

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 31 October & Sun 1 November

Little Angel Theatre return to the region with a stage show based on Dermot O'Leary's bestselling children's book about an almost completely blind cat who has incredible ninja skills. Accompanied by her cheeky brother, Silver, Toto needs to use every ounce of her courage and cunning to save the day when a deadly King Cobra escapes onto the streets of London...



There's A Monster In Your Show

Festival Drayton, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Fri 23 October; Halesowen Town Hall, Sat 31 October - Sunday 1 November; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 12 November

Children's author Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures leap from page to stage, as his critically acclaimed Who's In Your Book? series heads for the region in the form of a well-received stage musical.

The show sees Little Monster being joined by friends Dragon, Alien and Unicorn for 50 minutes of comedy, chaos and high-energy fun, during which the pals will be learning all about the joy of friendship and books.



Dance In The Dark

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 24 & Sun 25 October; Albany Theatre, Coventry, Tues 2 & Wed 3 March

Dreamy, multi-sensory, and providing youngsters (and their grown-ups) with the chance to pull on their PJs for a slumber party in a giant sleepover den, this brand-new show features contemporary dance, live music, audience interaction, and immersive scents and sounds. The production is presented by Kenilworth-located company Sonrisa Arts and is ideal for children aged three and older.



Dinosaurs Live!

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 11 October

Dinosaurs are once again roaming the county of Warwickshire this autumn, thanks to this lively interactive show for all the family to enjoy.

Presented by the Natural History Museum, in association with Mark Thompson Productions, Dinosaurs Live! provides youngsters with the chance to meet a host of prehistoric creatures from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. The one-hour show is suitable for children aged three-plus.



Spot's Birthday Party

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 24 October; Brierley Civic Hall, Mon 26 & Tues 27 October

Steve the Monkey, Tom the Crocodile and Helen the Hippo are poised to party with birthday boy Spot the Dog in this theatrical adaptation of Eric Hill's classic book, Happy Birthday Spot. Coming complete with singing, dancing and lots of interactive party games, the show is suitable for children aged two-plus.



SNOW BUSINESS

**A sparkling new production of festive favourite
The Snowman launches at Birmingham Rep...**



Illustration by Raymond Briggs © Snowman Enterprises Limited 2026. THE SNOWMAN™ Snowman Enterprises Limited

First a picture book by Raymond Briggs, and a beloved TV film, *The Snowman* was then brought to life on stage at Birmingham Repertory Theatre in 1993. Now, more than three decades later, a refreshed version of the adaptation is this month taking flight at The Rep, with Will Tuckett both directing and choreographing it. The production might be polished and updated in places, but it still features Howard Blake's iconic score - and, of course, a certain floppy-hatted Snowman, who will be 'walking in the air'! Will chatted to What's On about the show's eagerly anticipated return...

The timeless story of a young boy whose Snowman comes to life on Christmas Eve has been a hit since 1978, when Raymond Briggs' wordless picture book was first published. In 1982, the charming story was adapted into an animated television film, then found new life in 1993 as a theatrical adaptation. The show has been a firm family favourite ever since.

This year sees the Birmingham Repertory Theatre producing a brand-new version of the play, directed and choreographed by Will Tuckett. The production will be updated in places but honour the legacy of the previous stage show, retaining Howard Blake's iconic music and taking inspiration from Raymond Briggs' original illustrations.

"Howard's music is built into the DNA of the country," Will told What's On. "It's international, and part of our heritage. Growing up, the Raymond Briggs book was given to me for Christmas. It was in my stocking when I was little, when it had just come out. I then remember us all gathering around the telly to watch Channel Four when it was first screened - it was a real event."

"I was lucky to be able to go into Random House with the team and look at the original artwork - it's heartbreakingly beautiful. The structure of the show is pretty much exactly the same. I've made a couple of little changes in act two, but they're small. There was a Jack Frost character - who was added in quite late, actually - and I've turned that into a pair of little naughty siblings. I've put a little bit more flying into that second act - because you've got to! If you've got the chance, you've got to get people up in the air."

The new production is of course a team effort. Designer Anna Fleischle has been exploring those original illustrations, to bring the play's design as close as possible to Briggs' drawings. The Snowman costume, meanwhile, will be made by Tahra Zahar, who recently designed the bears in hit *West End Paddington: The Musical*.

"Theatre has changed hugely in 33 years," says Will. "It's a very different landscape in terms of audience expectations now, so we've also got a lot of projection in the show. I'm very excited about that. Nina Dunn is the projection designer, and we've been looking particularly at the *Walking In The Air*

sequence - we're actually able to make a three-dimensionally projected world. When I say that, it means that if perspectives are shifting, it's all happening in a three-dimensional way, so whilst the projection itself isn't 3D, it gives you a sense of depth and movement. You couldn't really use projection [like this] 30-odd years ago, and that's a very exciting thing. Nina has been working with her brilliant animator, Simran, who's from Birmingham. They've been really breaking down how we make that sequence work."

While elements of the design are being updated - thanks to decades of technical advancement since the first staging - Snowman fans will be pleased to hear the return of Howard Blake's lyrical music, which underscored both the animated film and the previous play.

"The music isn't going to change, but there were a lot of samples that were used last time. Thirty years ago, if you had a little Casio organ, you were feeling quite chuffed... My big hope is that it will sound even more like what Howard had in his head when he wrote it."

The plan to stage a refreshed version of *The Snowman* was in discussion for a while, but it's only now that Will feels it's the right time for The Rep to present a new production at such a scale.

"I don't think it will *look* complicated, but if you check under the bonnet of the show, it's actually *really* complicated! With Joe [Murphy] being the new artistic director - he's just had such a huge hit with *Sweeney Todd* - it feels like it's a different foot forward for The Rep."

It's not the first time that Will has choreographed work for The Rep's expansive stage - he previously created a piece for Birmingham Royal Ballet, which was the first show to open at the theatre after the Covid lockdowns.

"The greatest thing about The Rep is that there's no seat with a bad view; everybody gets a perfect view of the stage. You know when you put a piece of clothing on, and it doesn't look big on you, but it doesn't feel restricting? I think the stage feels like that. You've got room to move, but it really holds

you, and it holds a production, and that's lovely."

The stage is spacious enough to make room for the spectacular flying sequences which have endured in the memories of audiences of all ages for decades. In aiming to retain those magic moments, Will is keen to create a production which is not solely aimed at young children.

"The version that I want to make is determinately a family show. You could go as an adult and have just as good a time if you haven't got kids with you. You can hit that cross-generational bracket - there's a collective feeling which the show really captures... There's a belief that [a play] has to be bright and fast in order to get kids' attention, but I don't entirely subscribe to that. If you can suspend disbelief and create emotional situations which have honesty in them, I think young people will go with you. "You do need to try and make things funny, though. When you're younger, nostalgia doesn't mean anything, because you're living it all for the first time. You have to be really open and really honest - and really brutal. So if something's not working, you cut it!"

With the excitement of a new Snowman on the horizon, Will has not lost sight of the main aim of the production: to bring to life Raymond Briggs' beloved characters, and to maintain a theatrical tradition which has brought Christmas cheer to audiences for over 30 years.

"I've got a specific task to do. I've got to tell this story, and it has to be emotional, funny and engaging. It has to work if I'm six, and it has to work if I'm 76, and all the way through. I want it to be something that people feel they could go back and see again, because of how it made them feel. There's lots to see; you never get bored of a scene - it's an advent calendar of a show. You're opening little doors and going 'Ooh, look what I've got now!'"

.....

The Snowman runs at Birmingham Rep from Tuesday 20 October to Sunday 1 November

ORCHESTRA OF
The Swan

Romantic Horizons

**Thursday 15 October 2026,
7:30pm, WARWICK HALL**

Pianist Viv McLean joins Orchestra of the Swan for Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 2*

Strauss *Die Fledermaus Overture**

Chopin *Piano Concerto No. 2*

Sibelius *Symphony No. 5*

*Side-by-side with Warwick Schools Foundation musicians.



Book tickets:

[Warwickschoolsfoundation.co.uk/swan](https://warwickschoolsfoundation.co.uk/swan)

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN IN RESIDENCE AT WARWICK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Warwick
Schools
Foundation



Enabling transformation through the power of education

©A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

DEVIL PSYCHO IN CONCERT

Experience Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller with
Bernard Hermann's chilling soundtrack played live
by **Welsh National Opera Orchestra**,
Conducted by George Morton

Thu 29 Oct, 7.30pm
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Age: 15 / Book by phone: 024 7649 6000
Book online: warwickartcentre.co.uk

Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7FD

Presented by **esk.**

**WARWICK
ARTS
CENTRE**

Light entertainment from around the region...



Buffy Revamped

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Thurs 15 October

Calling to mind the quickfire work of ensembles such as the Reduced Shakespeare Company, *Buffy Revamped* is a fast-paced production that wings its way through all 144 episodes of hit 1990s television series *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* - and does so in an admirably concise 70 minutes.

The one-man production is presented by Brendan Murphy, whose central character of Spike is a fella who, as you might imagine, knows a thing or several about the now-cult US TV show...

Buffy Revamped scored a big hit in Edinburgh (and on its previous visits to the Midlands), so if you're a fan of the series, a fun evening out is pretty much a guarantee.

Queenz: Battle Of The Divas!

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 20 October; Malvern Festival Theatre, Sun 1 November; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 5 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 6 November; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 29 & Sat 30 January; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 7 February; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 3 March

Loved and adored by celebrities including Gary Barlow and Dawn French, *Queenz* is described as 'a trailblazing, life-affirming drag extravaganza that's currently taking the UK by storm'. The show sees death-dropping divas slaying the biggest hits of all time - and there won't be a lip-sync in sight!

Get ready to sing along to reimagined classics from The Spice Girls, Lady Gaga, Britney, Whitney and everything in between...



Robert White

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham,
Fri 23 October

Songs, stories, stand-up comedy, props, improvisation and interaction. There are many elements of a Robert White show that ensure a couple of hours in his company is time well spent. A 2018 contestant on Britain's Got Talent - he finished second - Robert describes himself as "the only autistic, gay, dyslexic, cross-lateral, quarter-Welsh, webbed-toed, hyper-sensitive, gluten-intolerant, pseudo-genius, musical



comedian that there is... probably!" He's visiting Birmingham with his brand-new touring show, memorably entitled *That Gay Autistic Keyboard Tanktop Comedy Guy*.

The Legends Of Vegas: After Hours

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 18 October

Viva Las Vegas! Think bright lights, swanky casinos, wild parties and sexy showgirls as *Strictly* legends Brendan Cole, James Jordan, Pasha Kovalev, Vincent Simone and Ian Waite head on down to Sin City.

This high-energy dance extravaganza comes complete with a soundtrack of songs from some of Vegas' most famous entertainers.



My Life With Kenneth Williams

Walsall Arena, Fri 30 October

Thirty years after its Fringe First-winning debut at the Edinburgh Festival in 1996, David Benson is now touring this new version of his one-man homage to the hugely talented but highly complex Kenneth Williams. A great piece of theatre - whether you're a fan of the legendary Carry On star or not - the show is being resurrected to mark what would have been Williams' 100th birthday.



Illusion Impossible

Stourbridge Town Hall, Tues 27 October

Award-winning illusionist Kayden Black here joins forces with magician Michael Carr and escapologist Andy Storm to present a family-friendly show. The trio are promising a production that will be positively awash with 'grand-scale stage illusions, mind-reading miracles, death-defying escapes and big musical numbers'.



Gorilla Circus: RPM

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Thurs 29 October

If you're an enthusiastic theatre-goer in search of a novelty show, what about this one - a production that's being presented on a giant treadmill!

Gorilla Circus' RPM (Revolutions Per Minute) brings together historic news clips, street dance, acrobatics and circus to explore the question of whether the UK 'has ever seriously confronted its colonial past'.



BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

A ballerina in a white tutu is holding a large nutcracker figure. She is standing next to a Christmas tree decorated with lights and ornaments. The background is a festive, snowy landscape with a blue sky and falling snow. The overall theme is Christmas and the Nutcracker ballet.

Rosanna Elyanage © Marvix Ltd.

Director Carlos Acosta

Sir Peter Wright's

The Nutcracker

20 November – 12 December

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

The Guardian



BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

birminghamhippodrome.com



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Dance showing in the region...



Matthew Bourne's The Car Man

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 13 - Sat 17 October

Having scored a hit with an all-male version of *Swan Lake* more than three decades ago - and in so doing earning a reputation as one of the modern dance era's most innovative choreographers - Sir Matthew Bourne has since produced a variety of other highly acclaimed and innovative work, not least among which is *The Car Man*.

Loosely based on Bizet's popular opera *Carmen*, the show sees the familiar 19th-century Spanish cigarette factory of the original being transformed into a greasy garage-diner in 1950s America, where the dreams and passions of a small town are shattered by the arrival of a handsome and enigmatic stranger...

Ballet Black

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 7 October

Ballet Black have notched up 25 glorious years of performance, taking to stages across the world under the guidance of their highly rated artistic director, Cassa Pancho. Comprising British and international dancers of Black and Asian descent, the company are visiting Coventry this month with a double bill to mark their special birthday. The featured works are the Olivier Award-winning *Ingoma* (2019) - bringing the rarely told stories of Black miners and their communities to the stage - and a new offering from Hope Boykin, created especially for Ballet Black's anniversary and paying 'vibrant tribute' to the company's journey.



Kathakali

Lichfield Garrick, Sun 25 October

A traditional classical dance-drama from Kerala in India, Kathakali blends vibrant makeup, elaborate costumes and expressive storytelling. And there are surely no finer exponents of the artform than the Kala Chethana Kathakali Company, the only Kathakali specialists in the country and veterans of more than 5,000 shows and 3,000 workshops.

The ensemble's late-month visit to Lichfield includes not only a two-hour performance but also an informal pre-show make-up demonstration and short film, for anybody wishing to find out more about Kathakali.

BRB: Swan Lake

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sat 3 October

Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) return to the Birmingham Hippodrome stage this month with one of their most popular works: Sir Peter Wright's *Swan Lake*.

"It's a classic which has stood the test of time," says BRB principal Céline Gittens, who is playing Odette/Odile. "I think what makes it stand out is the fact that it's so technically demanding; it has every classical step, all thrown into one ballet. And then there's the music. Tchaikovsky's score elevates *Swan Lake* to another level entirely."



An international season of dance in Birmingham
Featuring performances that inspire curiosity & challenge expectations

THIS IS DANCE

Midlands Arts Centre

Co-presentation by Fabric & Fierce Festival

Weathering

by Faye Driscoll

Patrick Studio

Co-presentation by Fabric & Birmingham Hippodrome

The Dirty Work

by Jo Bannon

Graces

by Silvia Gribaudi

Anatomy of Survival

by Franzman & Requardt

Autumn 2026 Highlights

www.fabric.dance



fabric

THIS IS DANCE is presented in partnership with Fabric, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Fierce Festival, Midlands Arts Centre and Sampad Arts

Fabric is funded by



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

FESTIVE
goodFOOD
SHOW

Sponsored by
PRINCESS

Find Your Ultimate
Christmas

26-29 November 2026

NEC, BIRMINGHAM

Book now

Look out for a
FREE
32-page recipe
collection at
the show*



FREE cookbook



Book tickets now! Adults just £25 incl. booking fee
Plus, get your FREE cookbook* too (RRP £39.95)

WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

PRINCESS

Headline sponsor



HEXCLAD

Big Kitchen sponsor



Product sponsor



Product sponsor

*Limited number available for visitors each day
*First 9,500 bookings, one per booking, collect at Show subject to availability, no postal option.
£1.75 booking fee per ticket. Details correct at time of print.

Dance showing in the region...



The Brown Suite

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 5 - Wed 7 October; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 24 October

Brand-new dance-theatre work *The Brown Suite* brings together ballet, contemporary, jazz and Horton technique to tell the tale of seven characters whose lives intertwine across the course of a single

night in 1970s New York. The show boasts a soul and funk-fuelled soundtrack spanning the 1960s and 70s and features the music of James Brown, Sam Cooke and Etta James.

English Youth Ballet: Swan Lake

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Fri 9 & Sat 10 October

Founded in 1998, the award-winning English Youth Ballet offers young people interested in dance the opportunity to perform classical ballet alongside professional dancers... This month sees the company returning to the region to present their acclaimed version of *Swan Lake*, a production that features 100 local young performers, all of whom have been carefully selected for their skill and potential.



through galaxies and encountering aliens.

The 45-minute show, which will be followed by a 15-minute stay & play session, has been designed for children aged three to seven. The production is also suitable for SEND young people with learning disabilities, aged nine to 13.



question: when all seems lost, what hope can we still hold on to?

Letlalo, meanwhile, draws from African, Indigenous and contemporary dance languages to explore the deep connection between humanity and the earth.

The Nutcracker

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 8 October;
Malvern Theatres, Sun 22 November

The Nutcracker tells the story of a young girl named Clara as she's swept up in a fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery, before finally being transformed into a beautiful ballerina. The production is presented by Imperial Classical Ballet, who are this year celebrating two decades of touring in the UK.



Ascension Dance: Amaris & Rae

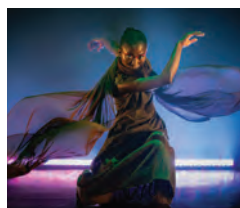
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Sun 11 October

Blending movement, light, storytelling and a participatory element, Ascension Dance's latest production follows a brother and sister on an adventure that sees them travelling

Ace Dance: Twawsi

Walsall Arena, Tues 6 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 17 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 2 March

Committed to the presentation of contemporary dance inspired by the African Diaspora, ACE Dance & Music here present a double bill of work which they describe as 'powerful contrasting visions of our world today'. *Echoes Of Dust* - taking place against the backdrop of war, disaster and the invisible collapse of human connection - asks the





**“The funniest
act to come out
of the Black
Country since
Frank Skinner”
Jasper Carrott**

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3RD
UTILITA ARENA BIRMINGHAM
www.funnybeeseness.co.uk/jonnycole**



THE SUITE SPOT

A new dance show is this month set to transport Wolverhampton Grand Theatre audiences back in time to 1970s New York. Featuring a soul-infused soundtrack, The Brown Suite has been created by choreographers Darius Drooh, from San Francisco, and Nahum McLean, originally from Manchester, who met in New York in 2013. Here, Darius and Nahum explain the way in which their experiences in The Big Apple have helped inform their creative process...

Darius and Nahum, how did your partnership begin?

Darius: Me and Nahum started working together in 2013. We met at [New York's] The Ailey School, as friends, and we started creating at The Ailey School, too. We've always dreamed of putting on shows together.

Nahum: We formed BlacBrik in 2023. It started from a duet that we choreographed that year, and we started to tour that. It premiered in London, and we then toured it to various places around the UK. Then, in 2025, we pitched The Brown Suite to Fundamentally Dance when we first did their flagship show, Ballet Nights. BlacBrik is the company that we formed to house our work. We really love dance-theatre. We love creating stories on stage and creating worlds that people can dive into.

What was the spark of inspiration that led to the creation of The Brown Suite?

Nahum: James Brown was kind of the catalyst. In Death Of The Bachelors - the first work that we made together as BlacBrik - we had three James Brown songs and one Sam Cooke song. And that piece was the catalyst for The Brown Suite - it's a suite of James Brown music.

Darius: Death Of The Bachelors is about two men who have realised their bachelor days are coming to an end. You're out partying, and then - 'Whoa, I don't have any children, I don't have a wife, I don't have a partner, I'm getting older. Where is that gonna lead me?'

The Brown Suite takes place in New York in the 1970s - who are the characters we're following during the piece?

Nahum: It's about six lives and how they intersect during a night out in New York. Some of them are friends, some of them are in relationships, some people are new to the group. We go on a very human journey, looking at romance, friendships, conflicts, entanglements - all those things that happen in everyday life, for anyone, wherever you are, whatever era it is.

With such iconic music framing The Brown Suite, do you have a favourite moment where the music, dance and narrative really inspire you?

Darius: I think it would have to be I Feel Good. There's something about that bass and the drum that's bringing all the communities together. Music does something to people's souls and sometimes they don't even realise why that is. My dad is a pastor, so growing up with that soul music - and people getting filled with the Holy Ghost and things like that - some of those basslines are in those James Brown songs. And people who don't go to church feel it, but they don't know there's history behind it - there's something spiritual behind all of it.

Nahum: For me, probably At Last, by Etta James. In the show, that's our dream ballet, and I think it's a very dreamy song... From the very first chord, it's so dreamy.

As a duo, what does collaboration in your working relationship look like?

Nahum: We bounce off each other a lot. So even if one of us has an idea, we'll go to the other, and that might then grow into something else or it might completely go. I don't think there's any such thing as a bad idea, because it will always spark something, or at least take you closer to where you need to be, which is kind of how we work.

Darius: ...and sometimes we'll come back to an idea that we both hated. Sometimes, it takes me a hundred years to do one eight-count, and then [Nahum will] see it, and we take it and we morph it into something. I guess that's one of the best things about it being two of us - you kind of feed off each other and you pick each other up.

When creating The Brown Suite, were you drawing on your own experiences living in New York City?

Nahum: Definitely. We're speaking about living in New York City or living in London; any big city. People are struggling, but they're all singing and dancing on the subway. We lean into that. Sometimes you're having a great day and sometimes you're 'Down And Out In New York City' - that's a song we're using.

Darius: I think about the times when we were kids in New York. Sometimes all we could afford as students was dollar pizza, but we'd be twirling in the subway.

Nahum: The Brown Suite also represents those social spaces where we don't have phones. Like in the theatre, we don't have phones and all these other distractions. We have human connection and human interaction. So I think we're also letting people know that you can go out and have a good time.

.....

The Brown Suite shows at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 October





Digger CERT 15 (128 mins)

Starring **Tom Cruise, Riz Ahmed, John Goodman, Sandra Hüller, Michael Stuhlbarg, Jesse Plemons**
Directed by **Alejandro G Iñárritu**

Best known, of course, for his action movies - think the Mission: Impossible and Top Gun franchises - superstar Tom Cruise here turns his attention to dark satire, taking on the role of the titular character, Digger Rockwell.

When the billionaire oil tycoon's deep-drilling and fracking operations trigger an explosion on his rig, a massive environmental disaster ensues, leading to Digger being tasked by the US president with a high-stakes mission: to undo the damage he's caused and show himself to be humanity's saviour rather than the reason for its doom...

Mexican filmmaker Alejandro G Iñárritu is the man at the helm of this eagerly awaited and overtly comedic movie. "We both knew that throughout our journeys we had never done anything even close to this," he says of himself and Cruise... "Digger is charming. He's funny. He's impossible not to watch. [And] like all the most dangerous people, he makes you want to agree with him." **Released Fri 2 October**



Verity CERT 15 (114 mins)

Starring **Anne Hathaway, Dakota Johnson, Josh Hartnett, Ismael Cruz Cordova, Brady Wagner, Asel Swango**
Directed by **Michael Showalter**

A writer in need of a job, Lowen Ashleigh (Dakota Johnson) is approached by Jeremy Crawford (Josh Hartnett), the husband of bestselling but incapacitated author Verity (Anne Hathaway), who needs somebody to complete the remaining volumes of her successful book series.

Relocating to the remote Crawford estate to sort through Verity's notes and get to work, Lowen discovers an unpublished autobiographical manuscript - written by Verity - which reveals deeply disturbing and violent secrets about the novelist's marriage and family, as well as dark events preceding her near-fatal accident.

As Lowen investigates further, she finds herself increasingly unable to separate fiction from reality - and increasingly drawn towards Verity's husband...

Released Fri 2 October

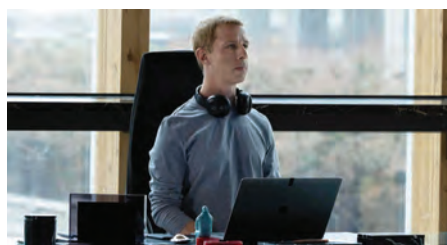
The Social Reckoning

CERT tbc (112 mins)

Starring **Billy Magnussen, Mikey Madison, Betty Gilpin, Jeremy Allen White, Jeremy Strong, Patrick Fischler**
Directed by **Aaron Sorkin**

A companion piece to 2010 movie The Social Network, The Social Reckoning explores the story of The Facebook Files. An investigative series of sensational whistle-blowing articles published in the Wall Street Journal in 2021, the Files lifted the lid on the world's largest social network, exposing not only its inner workings but also claiming that the platform was choosing growth and profit over the need to protect the wellbeing of its users. The film is one of four soon-to-be-released movies which take as their subject matter the goings-on in Silicon Valley. Two of the films - documentaries about Elon Musk and currently imprisoned Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes - are eagerly awaited; the other two - The Social Reckoning and Luca Guadagnino's Artificial - not so much.

Released Fri 9 October



The Uprising CERT 15 (127 mins)

Starring **Andrew Garfield, Jamie Bell, Stephen Dillane, Tom Hollander, Woody Norman, Cosmo Jarvis, Katherine Waterston, Mark Redhead** Directed by **Paul Greengrass**

If you've always wanted to know more - or maybe even know just *something* - about the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, then The Uprising is the film you've been waiting for.

Sitting at the heart of its story is the fictional character of Ploughman, played by one-time Spider-Man star Andrew Garfield.

A farmer facing poverty, he heads for London for a high-stakes encounter with the young King Richard II and his corrupt councillors, the latter of whom have imposed oppressive poll taxes and strict wage controls in the wake of the Black Death.

Ploughman is accompanied on his journey by an army of impoverished people driven to the very brink of starvation...

Meeting with mixed reviews, The Uprising was briefly marketed in the US as a Robin Hood adventure. The strategy was inspired by the film's epilogue, in which Ploughman appears in green attire as the leader of a band of outlaws living in a forest...

Released Fri 9 October

Wicker CERT tbc (105 mins)

Starring **Alexander Skarsgård, Olivia Colman, Elizabeth Debicki, Peter Dinklage, Ella Bruccoleri, Richard E Grant** Directed by **Alex Huston Fischer** and **Eleanor Wilson**

Academy Award-winning Olivia Colman stars as a lonely fisherwoman in this highly engaging romantic fantasy fable. Ridiculed for her spinster status and ostracised from the conservative medieval farming village in which she lives (the fact that she constantly smells of fish does little for her social standing), she decides to show a feisty middle finger to the villagers by commissioning a local basket maker to fashion her a husband made out of wicker. But when her new spouse comes to life and the fisherwoman finds herself unexpectedly falling in love, the unconventional romance causes some serious sparks to fly among the closed-minded villagers...

Released Fri 30 October



Other Mommy CERT 15 (93 mins)

Starring **Jessica Chastain, Jay Duplass, Arabella Olivia Clark, Dichen Lachman, Arian Moayed, Karen Allen** Directed by **Rob Savage**

With movies including *Saw*, *Insidious* and *The Conjuring* featuring on his CV, it's fair to say that Malaysian-Australian filmmaker James Wan knows a thing or two about the modern-horror genre. So having him serve as producer on *Other Mommy* should give filmgoers real confidence that a memorable cinematic experience awaits them.

To make matters better still, the movie's Shropshire-born director, Rob Savage, also has some impressive form when it comes to supernatural spintenglers, having helmed the widely acclaimed *Host* (2020), *Dashcam* (2021) and *The Boogeyman* (2023)... Based on the Josh Malerman novel *Incidents Around The House*, *Other Mommy* focuses on an eight-year-old girl named Bela, who is targeted by a malicious paranormal entity resembling her mother. Both the entity and Mommy are played by Jessica Chastain.

Released Fri 9 October



Klara And The Sun

CERT 12a (116 mins)

Starring **Jenna Ortega, Amy Adams, Mia Tharia, Aran Murphy, Steve Buscemi, Natasha Lyonne** Directed by **Taika Waititi**

With a struggling family to heal and a sick teenager to save, obsolete solar-powered android companion Klara certainly has her work cut out...

Based on Kazuo Ishiguro's 2021 novel of the same name, *Klara And The Sun* is set in a dystopian future in which technological advances in genetic engineering have divided humans into strict, isolated social classes. The story sees Amy Adams, as worried mother Chrissie, purchase Klara to be a companion for her daughter Josie, an isolated teenager who has been struck down by a mysterious illness. But Klara's arrival on the scene prompts tough questions about artificial intelligence, sacrifice, and what it means to truly love someone...

Released Fri 23 October

Primetime CERT 15 (110 mins)

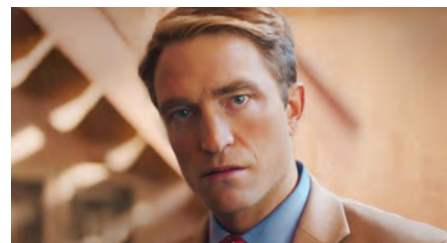
Starring **Robert Pattinson, Merritt Wever, Anna Faris, Skyler Gisondo, Bokeem Woodbine, Matthew Maher** Directed by **Lance Oppenheim**

Lance Oppenheim's narrative-feature-film debut sees Robert Pattinson playing a fictionalised and fame-hungry version of Chris Hansen, the host of real-life US TV news segment *To Catch A Predator*.

Set in 2006 and described as a psychological crime thriller, the film tracks the chaotic behind-the-scenes world of the hit television show. Pattinson's Hansen works alongside ruthless TV producer Andie Bender to coordinate sting operations in which adult men who are intent on having sex with minors get caught and publicly shamed. But with Hansen and Bender's primary goal being to secure high ratings, it soon becomes apparent that the predators they ensnare aren't the only ones whose moral compasses have gone seriously awry...

The film debuted at the Venice International Film Festival, garnering widespread acclaim.

Released Fri 30 October





DREAD NAUGHT

Leading sculptor Permindar Kaur is showcasing her biggest-ever exhibition of new work at Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Image credit: Richard Davies

Visitors to Wolverhampton Art Gallery have the opportunity to see a new exhibition by leading British sculptor & installation artist Perminder Kaur this month.

Taking the title *Dread Naught*, the show provides a first chance to check out Perminder's new commissions while also reflecting on some of the pieces she's created during a career spanning more than 30 years.

"Visitors can expect to see a lot of new work that has been made in the last year," says Perminder. "For me, it's a new form and a new way, and when my work moves forward a step, it's quite exciting.

"I'm also showing some work from before, which I don't normally show; some very early works from the early 1990s. I think something that is interesting about my work is that when you see an older work, you wouldn't know it was an older work; you can't tell the age.

"It's interesting to show them because it helps the dialogue with the newer work, and it gives another level of what the work is about. You see the same themes but being approached in different ways. I'm not showing the works chronologically; it's mixed in."

Born in Nottingham to Sikh parents, Perminder has exhibited across the UK and abroad, including at Birmingham's Ikon Gallery, Coventry's Mead Gallery, The New Art Gallery in Walsall and Compton Verney in Warwickshire. Her work was recently included in the major Arts Council Collection touring exhibition *Breaking The Mould: Sculpture By Women Since 1945*, which opened at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Using a blend of metals and materials, Perminder often takes familiar shapes and re-interprets them through her sculpture and installation.

"Throughout my works, I've looked at different ways of defence and protection. So in some of my early works, I used chainmail and knives, which are quite symbolic to Sikhism, and swords and boots and helmets. So basic armour to represent personal defence.

"Then, later on, that moved to more animal hybrid protection - so antlers, claws and beaks. So my figures became hybrid creations of animals and humans. When I look back through my career, I can see that defence and protection is a theme that is consistent, although it might go in different directions."

Perminder often infuses her art with ambiguity. An example of this is *Copper Giants*. Exhibited for the first time in Wolverhampton, it features outline figures

wearing only boots, thereby blending the familiar and the strange.

"The figures are made out of copper rod and are quite skeletal and quite big. Originally, they were dressed. They were the inside structures of some of my fabric figures, but now the fabric has come off and the only clothing they have is their metal black boots. So they are more naked, and it's just revealing the skeletal, what's left after a life.

"The figures are quite strange, because they have broad shoulders and small heads, so they look like monsters in some ways. But they are also quite comical. And so people are left thinking, are they threatening or are they humorous? People will have very different responses to them."

Dread Naught is Perminder's largest exhibition of new work to date and is also her first at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. She is suitably excited by the opportunities the building provides: "Wolverhampton is such a fascinating space because it has a triangular gallery. I've never worked with a triangular gallery before, and as a sculptor, I like to respond to the space if I can. I wanted the four figures of *Copper Giants* in the centre, so it's like a square inside the triangle. And when you enter the space, you see all the walls, so it's a different feeling."

Also in the exhibition, Perminder has returned to one of her first works - *Innocence* - which features a child's dress and a kirpan, the Sikh ceremonial knife. The original work is in the Arts Council Collection.

"I asked the Arts Council, who own the work, but because they have been moving their collection and this is the critical stage, they're not loaning out at the moment. But I wanted *Innocence* in the exhibition. It's a key work that I made in 1993 which has lots of levels and layers [illustrating] what my work is about. It has Sikh reference, it has childhood, it has defence, it has the female aspect. It talks about so much, and it would help as a start work into the show, which is then in dialogue with it.

"So I re-made it, which is something I don't tend to do. It's a new version: *Innocence II*, for 2026. It's very similar in lots of ways, but the materials are slightly different.

"It's raised lots of questions in my mind, even making it. I thought I would make a different version of it, but I kept going back to the original because I liked the original. So I realised that all those decisions I made all those years ago, I didn't want to change them, as it works as it is."

The final room of the exhibition features *Market Stall*, bringing together pieces by

three local artists: Kanj Nicholas, India Birtwistle and Roo Dhissou. The artists have been working with Wolverhampton community groups the Sikh & Punjabi Women's Group, Wolverhampton Girl Guides and Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary.

Perminder has been in frequent contact with all of the artists and groups.

"The theme is about market stalls and the way we connect, so in the final gallery there will be four market stalls - my market stall and the three from the local artists and different communities.

"I think it's important to work with younger artists, to have this dialogue and to open up the exhibition. I'm a very studio-based artist. I'm on my own, and it's good to have these dialogues, to talk to people and learn about what they do. I loved hearing the stories of the artists working with the communities."

Within this final space, Perminder has created *Teddy Bear Wallpaper*, featuring outline teddies which visitors are invited to colour in.

"This final gallery is going to be more of an interactive, fun and joyful space. It will be quite an experience going through my show and then going to the market stalls and coming to something completely different.

"If someone colours it in, then they are a part of it. I'm really excited to see what they do with the teddies and how they colour them in or write words. That engagement is interesting because the wallpaper is the outline of these black teddies that I make, and it's seeing how people see these forms and respond to them."

Visitor reaction is an important element of Perminder's practice.

"I always want people to have some sort of emotional response to my work. I use such basic and generic forms, and because I do that, it's quite open for people to have a response to, or for them to imagine what they think the figures are and what they represent.

"I don't want the work to be closed off and didactic and say it's about this or that. But also the work has complexity, so it can be read in different ways. I'm always trying to create this balance in my work, where you don't know how to feel. There are boundaries and you don't know which side to be on."

.....

Perminder Kaur *Dread Naught* shows at Wolverhampton Art Gallery from Saturday 24 October to Sunday 11 April 2027



Credit: Emmy Bridgwater, Brave Morning, c.1942, oil on canvas, The Jeffrey Sherwin & Family Collection

Emmy Bridgwater And Birmingham Surrealists

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham,
Sat 24 October - Sun 10 January

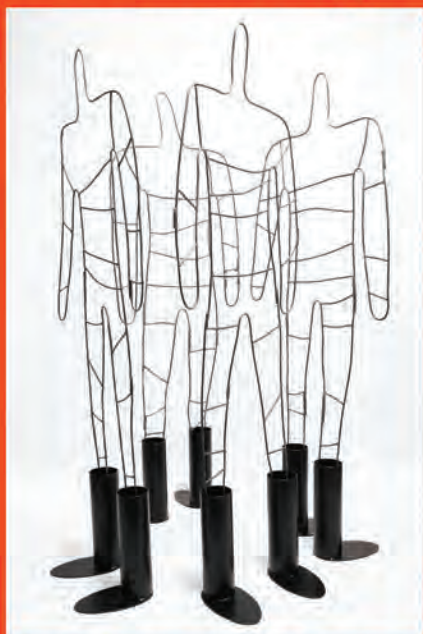
“Emmy Bridgwater brought a new purity of outlook to British Surrealism,” said French writer & poet André Breton, a principal theorist and co-founder of surrealism, “returning to the early days of the movement, to its ‘automatic’ beginnings in France. The swirling lines, plant forms and vaguely suggestive forms seem to have been exorcised from the deep recesses of the mind.”

Breton made his assessment in the 1940s, and he was by no means a lone voice in the wilderness when it came to enthusing about Emmy Bridgwater’s talent and influence. Born in Birmingham - and living her final years in Solihull - she was a pivotal figure in both the British Surrealism movement and the Birmingham Surrealist Group...

This brand-new exhibition brings together paintings, drawings, collages and poetry spanning more than six decades of her life, with her artworks being presented alongside work by contemporary creatives Laura Footes and Paloma Proudfoot. Their inclusion in the show offers fresh perspectives on Emmy’s pioneering legacy and the distinct role of women’s voices within surrealist expression.

Perminder Kaur

Dread Naught



Wolverhampton Art Gallery
24 October 2026 - 11 April 2027
Free entry

WOLVERHAMPTON
ART GALLERY

WOLVERHAMPTON
ART GALLERY

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum



Reflections

12th September - 3rd January

Monet • Boudin • Corot

For information on opening times, admission
prices and to book tickets please visit

www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

Image: Bateaux en Hollande pres de Zaandam, Claude Monet, 1871.
courtesy of Swansea Council: Glynn Vivian Art Gallery

MUSEUMS
WORCESTERSHIRE

Threads Through The Cross - Jacqui Parkinson

Lichfield Cathedral,
Sat 10 October - Mon 23 November

Acclaimed artist Jacqui Parkinson here uses textile art to tell the story of Jesus's life, death, resurrection and ascension. The exhibition comprises 18 monumental panels, each nearly three metres in height and combining powerful imagery with exceptional craftsmanship.

Reflections

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum,
until Sun 3 January

Immerse yourself in the fluid beauty and immense power of water...

That's the suggestion being made by Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum in its publicity for this thought-provoking exhibition.

Featuring works from Worcester City's own collection - presented alongside high-profile loans from national collections and numerous pieces by contemporary artists - Reflections aims to inspire the viewer's imagination. It also serves as a vital reminder of the human responsibility to protect seas, rivers, streams and waterways, all of which are so important for the future.



Credit: The Entrance to Trowville Harbour, Eugene Boudlin, 1888 © The National Gallery, London, presented by the Art Fund, 1996

Charmaine Watkiss: The Things We Hold Sacred

New Art Gallery, Walsall,
Sat 3 October - Sun 11 April

Charmaine Watkiss uses her artwork to investigate the botanical legacy of the Caribbean, tracing the lineage to Africa through the transatlantic slave trade. This brand-new exhibition of her work features major loans from private and museum collections, as well as newly commissioned sculptures. The display includes Charmaine's most significant sculptural installation to date.



Alex Margo Alden, Accounts, 2005 © the artist. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre London

British Art Show 10: A Chorus Of Strangers

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry & Coventry University, Fri 2 October - Sun 10 January

Painting, sculpture, photography, film and installation all feature in British Art Show 10, a Southbank Centre Hayward Gallery touring exhibition comprising works by more than 30 artists and launching across three Coventry venues at the start of this month.

Providing an overview of the most exciting art produced in the UK across the past five years, the landmark exhibition explores ways in which people relate to one another - and to the planet - during a period of 'profound social, cultural and environmental change'.



Nancy Cadogan: The Lost Trees

Compton Verney, Warwickshire,
Fri 2 October - Sun 22 November

The emotional and environmental significance of trees is the subject matter of this new exhibition by Nancy Cadogan, whose poetic and precise landscape paintings have been described as both serene and deeply stirring. Bringing together personal and shared stories, the exhibition celebrates trees not only as enduring links between people and the natural world, but also as witnesses to history and anchors of community.

Shroud Of Turin Exhibition

St Leonard's Church, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire, Mon 26 October - Thurs 12 November

This full-size linen replica of the Shroud of Turin - the original is believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ - is available to view at St Leonard's Church on a daily basis, from 11am to 4pm.

The Shroud is accompanied by a series of information panels which draw on historical, forensic and theological research to explore what's known, what remains uncertain, and why the image continues to hold such enormous significance for so many people.



MOTOR RUNNING

Sir Matthew Bourne's The Car Man gets hot under the bonnet



Sir Matthew Bourne's acclaimed dance company, New Adventures, returns to Birmingham Hippodrome this month with *The Car Man* - a sizzling reimagining of Bizet's *Carmen*, transplanted from a 17th-century tobacco factory to a 1950s garage in small-town America. The award-winning production doesn't fight shy of sex and violence, ingeniously blending Bizet's familiar music with lust, longing, and denim-clad mechanics. What's On spoke to two of the New Adventures company, Ashley Shaw and Serena McCall, to find out more...

New Adventures' popular production *The Car Man* returns to Birmingham Hippodrome this month. Steamy and evocative, it tells the story of a beguiling drifter, Luca, whose arrival in a small town causes discord among the residents. As the town's young men work in the garage and pursue the local women in the diner, Luca makes an impression - particularly on the lives of garage-owner Dino's wife Lana, outcast Angelo and lovelorn Rita.

"The *Car Man* is based on *The Postman Always Rings Twice*," explains Ashley Shaw, who plays Lana in the production. "Of course, with all Matthew Bourne productions, he takes it in his own direction, adds some twists and turns. But essentially, it's about a small town where there's a diner and a garage and not much else going on. A drifter comes into the town, changes all the relationships and causes chaos."

As well as taking inspiration from classic noir thriller *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *The Car Man* is also loosely based on Bizet's opera *Carmen*. In contrast with the grungy realities of life in 1950s small-town America, the musical score is adapted from *The Carmen Suite*, a ballet by Alberto Alonso (after Bizet), with further rearrangements by Terry Davis.

"There's some really well-known bits, which are just fun to dance to," says Ashley. "For me, it makes so much sense with the music. I know some people come who are big fans of the opera, and it's all in different order, and a little bit jarring... It just informs the story so much, and people love it. It's one of the best scores - it's so powerful."

"The music really helps push the narrative," says Serena McCall, who plays multiple ensemble characters in the show. "Dancing to it feels amazing every night. Really powerful - lots of great musicality moments, and especially funny storytelling moments that just work with the music. Matt [Matthew Bourne] has done an amazing job."

"We add in a lot of stamps and slaps and vocals - we're not silent!" Ashley adds.

The story transports audiences to Harmony, a fictional small town in the American Midwest, manifested in the show in Sir Matthew Bourne's signature cinematic and sumptuous style. The setting and costumes, designed by New Adventures Associate Artist Lez Brotherston, help to conjure up the claustrophobic and sizzling atmosphere of the town.

"Lez really nailed it," says Serena. "Watching it for the first time at the Albert Hall and then wearing the same costumes now, he's really nailed the design of what it was like back in the 1950s. Especially the women - the pointy bras and the cinched waist and the layers of the skirts and the materials and all the floral patterns. The costumes are great and the set is incredible - the way it can transport you into different places. We're in the diner, then we're in the garage, then we're in a cabaret bar... You really feel like you're in those places."

Ashley and Serena are looking forward to returning to Birmingham; both started their dance training in the city - at the prestigious Elmhurst Ballet School.

"I actually moved from Australia to Birmingham," says Ashley. "It was the first city I lived in away from home, to go to Elmhurst, which has such an amazing reputation and has produced such amazing dancers. We went on a lot of trips to the Hippodrome; they took us once a week. So we really saw everything: musicals, contemporary, ballet, a lot of Birmingham Royal Ballet obviously. It was amazing because they really gave us a taste of what was out there. Some things I liked, some things I didn't - and then, when I saw Matthew's work, I was like, 'Oh, that's incredible. I want to do that!' It really was [Elmhurst] taking us to the Hippodrome that laid out the rest of my life."

"I'm originally from Scotland," says Serena. "My Royal Associate teacher was like 'You should try out for Elmhurst.' I gave it a go, got in, and moved there when I was 14. So whenever I think of Birmingham, I always associate it with my time at Elmhurst with my friends, my training and my teachers. It really was so surreal, because we didn't really have anything like that back home in Falkirk. Going to the Hippodrome - and being introduced to so many different productions, and seeing what was achievable and what we could look forward to being a part of - was really amazing."

Ashley has been performing with New Adventures since 2009. Her character in *The Car Man* - Lana - is a femme fatale.

"She's originally based on Cora from *The Postman Always Rings Twice*," explains Ashley. "She's a bored housewife who dreams of a lot more. She's very flirtatious and seductive - she's a sexy woman - and when this drifter comes into town, he

instantly takes her fancy. But as things unfold, you realise that she will do anything to keep him. Morals go out the window, you know? It's a really nice character to delve into, because you get both sides - she's fun and playful, and then she's really quite dark and manipulative..."

Serena, meanwhile, has made her professional debut with New Adventures this year, taking on several characters in the integral ensemble cast.

"I'm very lucky in the show," she says. "I play Mercedes, Dolores, and I actually just went on for the track called Monica the other day, which is wild. Being a part of the community that is Harmony, my different characters interact with different guys. Mercedes gets married during the show, so there's a whole engagement party. It's really fun being a part of the community and the ensemble. Lana, Luca, Rita, Angelo and Dino have their whole storyline going on - and then we're going along with our own thing in the background, but also still involved in bringing that story to life. It's really fun."

Ashley shares the role of Lana with Cordelia Braithwaite [alternate performances]. Similarly, the other lead characters - who each feature in intense and complex scenes - are played by different dancers across different performances.

"Most roles have two, sometimes three people playing them," says Ashley. "The Lucas are Harrison Dowzell and Will Bozier, and they're both incredible partners who I've done many shows with in the past. We're really comfortable, which - if you've seen the show - you kind of need to be. It's very intimate with very complicated lifts, and you've got to seem really together. You can't be fighting each other. They *both* are really, really incredible, which is rare - sometimes you can have a favourite, or you're better with one than the other. Everyone in the principal cast in particular are so professional that no matter who we dance with, it feels amazing. From my perspective anyway - hopefully they agree!"

.....

The Car Man shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 13 to Saturday 17 October



Birmingham
Museums



Magical Half Term

at Thinktank
Birmingham Science Museum

- Meet The Science Magician
- Wizard Bubble Shields
- Spooky Cinema

Plus lots
more

birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank

Funded by:



Birmingham
City Council



HERITAGE
FUND



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Events previews from around the region



GET TWO FREE
TICKETS when
using code
WOL26 at
checkout

Grand Designs Live NEC, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Sun 4 October

Grand Designs Live returns to Birmingham's NEC early this month, bringing together industry experts, more than 150 brands, and the latest innovations in home renovation, self-build and sustainable living.

With renewables now the event's fastest-growing sector, this year's get-together features the biggest sustainability showcase yet, with Daikin joining as headline sponsor for the first time.

Visitors can explore everything from renewable energy technology and smart

home solutions to interiors, kitchens and garden design.

Popular features including the Grand House, Build & Renovation Hub and Home & Garden Hub all return, while a new Kitchen & Bedroom Hub makes its Birmingham debut. The event also features live talks from well-known experts - including Grand Designs' very own presenter, Kevin McCloud - alongside practical advice, demonstrations, and exclusive show offers for homeowners and renovators alike.

Miniatura

NAEC Stoneleigh, Coventry,
Sat 10 & Sun 11 October

A world of tiny treasures takes centre stage at NAEC Stoneleigh mid-month, thanks to the welcome return of Miniatura.

One of the UK's leading miniature modelling and dolls' house exhibitions, the event brings together more than 100 exhibitors and thousands of enthusiasts.

Visitors can browse handcrafted displays, meet talented makers, and discover everything from intricate room settings to finely detailed accessories.

Workshops, demonstrations and special exhibits also feature across the weekend.

Harvest Hoedown

Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire,
Sat 10 & Sun 11 October

Weston Park is embracing the colours, flavours and traditions of autumn with the launch of this brand-new event.

The Hoedown will bring a harvest-festival atmosphere to the historic estate, complete with artisan makers, independent food producers, street food and live bluegrass music.

Visitors can also enjoy line-dancing demonstrations, seasonal treats, and Apple Days activities in the heritage orchards, while Weston's chefs will be showcasing produce harvested from the estate's walled kitchen garden.

The FIM World Supercross British GP Birmingham

Alexander Stadium, Birmingham,
Sat 10 October

The FIM World Supercross Championship returns to the UK this month, with Birmingham's Alexander Stadium being transformed into a spectacular supercross arena for one night only.

Thousands of tonnes of dirt will be used to create a purpose-built track packed with huge jumps, rhythm sections and technical obstacles, all designed to seriously challenge some of the world's best riders as they battle it out under the lights.



Bridges Of Light Worcester City Centre, Wed 28 & Thurs 29 October

Bridges Of Light makes an end-of-month return in Worcester, complete with a brand-new programme of spectacular light installations, interactive artworks and immersive experiences celebrating the city's culture, communities and creativity. Presented by Severn Arts, the two-day festival will once again transform the city centre after dark.

In the lead-up to the event, professional

artists have collaborated with local people and community groups to create original works for the festival. Among them are returning artists Matt and Rob Vale of Illuminos, who have engaged local singers to help create a one-day choral soundscape... The soundscape will form part of a major new light projection on Worcester's bridge, giving residents the chance to play a direct role in this year's celebrations.



GET READY FOR THE
FRIGHT OF YOUR LIFE!

GHOST TRAINS

29,30 and 31 October 2026



SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

Buy tickets at SVR.CO.UK

Netball Aid
CELEBRITY NETBALL 2026



SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2026
12PM-5PM
UTILITA ARENA BIRMINGHAM

Plenty Celebs to come

24 CELEBS **1 BIG MATCH**

Raising money this year for **SHELTER**

AN INVICTUS NETBALL GAME
Incredible athletes, inspiring stories.

A CELEBRITY NETBALL MATCH
Cheer on your favourite stars on court.

BATTLE OF THE BALLS
England Men's Netball VS Bham Basketball Rockets

Starting from £15
BUY TICKETS NOW!



Group bookings via ukgroups@asn.com
@netballaid

"Changing Lives, One pass at a time"

4 Incredible shows for the price of 1!

— THE —
CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW

Sewing for Pleasure
WINTER EDITION

Cake & Bake International

Simply Christmas
THE CRAFTY CHRISTMAS SHOW

The UK's Biggest Creative Day Out

Four fantastic shows. One ticket.
NEC BIRMINGHAM, 5 – 8 November 2026

Get 30% off with code **BIRMSAVE30**






Find out more and book online at ichfevents.co.uk

Offer applies to standard full price tickets only, does not include VIP or early bird tickets.
(Cake and Bake open from 6th November) with just one ticket.

Events previews from around the region



Half-term at Thinktank

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum, Sat 24 October - Sun 1 November

Thinktank has packed its October half-term programme with a mix of science, creativity and spooky family fun.

Young visitors can explore the world of technology at the Lego Coding & AI Workshop, enjoy hands-on activities including Wizard Bubble Shields and camera-less photography sessions with artist Tom Godwin, and meet the Science Magician for a magical blend of tricks and scientific

discovery.

The museum's Magic Mayhem Science Show also returns, featuring Halloween-themed demonstrations, interactive experiments, and plenty of audience participation. For film fans, Thinktank's popular Spooky Cinema season includes screenings of favourites such as Hocus Pocus and E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, alongside sci-fi classics Blade Runner: The Final Cut and Alien.



Ghosts, Pumpkins & Tudor Tales

Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Mon 26 October - Sun 1 November

History and Halloween combine in this family-friendly autumn adventure at Sudeley Castle. Visitors can follow a pumpkin trail through the castle grounds and historic rooms while searching for hidden ghost statues inspired by the castle's spooky legends. Those who spot every ghost will be rewarded with a sweet treat.

The event also features ghostly talks exploring Sudeley's mysterious past, while

special Tudor-themed encounters bring historic characters and folklore to life. Families can meet Tudor ghosts, hear tales from a Wise Woman and discover strange remedies and superstitions from bygone centuries. Additional owl experiences are also available, offering the chance to get up close to these magnificent birds in the atmospheric surroundings of the Castle Coach House.

Ghost & Scream Trains

Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 October

Halloween returns to Severn Valley Railway with two spine-tingling experiences to delight visitors looking for thrills on the tracks. Families can climb aboard the popular Ghost Train, where haunted stations, spooky characters and jump scares await on an atmospheric journey through the night. Young passengers will also receive a Halloween goodie bag as part of the experience.

For those seeking something more terrifying, the adults-only Scream Train promises an even darker adventure. Brave souls aged 18 and over should brace themselves for immersive scares and frightening encounters. And just to get visitors in the mood for the journeys ahead, there's some eerie entertainment to experience at Kidderminster Station prior to departure.

Halloween Nights

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 24 & Thurs 29 - Sat 31 October

Black Country Living Museum is promising a frightfully fun October as its popular Halloween Nights return across four evenings. The after-dark events will see the museum's historic streets transformed with spooky entertainment, trick-or-treating and ghostly encounters for families to enjoy. Visitors can meet mischievous characters, explore haunted corners of the site, and soak up the atmospheric after-hours setting. New attractions include supernatural-themed experiences inspired by the museum's 1940s to 1960s high street, and eerie tales from the region's industrial past.

Halloween at Lunt Roman Fort

Lunt Roman Fort, Baginton, Warwickshire, Mon 26 - Wed 28 October

Lunt Roman Fort this month plays host to two Halloween events exploring the darker side of Roman Britain.

Younger visitors can join the Roman Ghost Adventure, a family-friendly experience featuring ghostly legends, interactive storytelling and hands-on activities inspired by life in Roman times.

Meanwhile, older children, teenagers and adults can check out Ghosts, Blood & Battle, a twilight tour combining tales of reported hauntings, Roman history and a guided walk through historic Baginton, including a visit to Baginton Castle.

COVENTRY

THE HERBERT ART
GALLERY & MUSEUM
COVENTRY UNIVERSITY
MEAD GALLERY

02.10.26
10.01.27

A CHORUS
OF STRANGERS
**BRITISH
ART SHOW**
10



A SOUTHBANK CENTRE
HAYWARD GALLERY TOURING
EXHIBITION

**SOUTHBANK
CENTRE**

**HAYWARD
GALLERY**
TOURING



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Herbert
Art Gallery & Museum



Art Fund

**Coventry
University**



Image: Nengi Omuku, *Pillars By Night*, 2026

*Your week-
by-week
listings guide*
October 2026

thelist



The Brown Suite showing at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 5 - Wed 7 October & Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 24 October

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

What's On

Thurs 1 - Sun 11 October



Sh!tfaced Shakespeare -
Lichfield Garrick

Wed 7 October

Mon 12 - Sun 18 October



Christopher Hall: Pizazz -
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Fri 16 October

Mon 19 - Sun 25 October



The Music of Tim Burton...
Dudley Town Hall

Wed 21 October

Mon 26 - Sat 31 October



An Evening With John Lydon -
The Wulfrun, Wolverhampton

Fri 30 October

EXHIBITIONS ACROSS THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

CHRISTOPHER SAMUEL: WATCH US LEAD Through 9 newly recorded interviews, Watch Us Lead highlights the experiences of disabled people of colour in Birmingham, combining these stories with stained glass and drawings by the artist.

EVERY THING MUST GO BY JOE LYCETT First major solo art exhibition by Birmingham 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, until Sun 21 Feb

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

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 1 Nov

THE PATTERN OF LIFE: ENID MARX AND MODERN BRITISH DESIGN Step into a world of pattern, creativity and modern British design, in the first exhibition to explore the influential patterns of Enid Marx and her community, until Sun 3 Jan

RAQIB SHAW: NIGHT SONNETS The artist's first UK exhibition of new work since 2015, bringing together a cycle of nocturnal paintings and tapestry informed by Raqib's lifelong interest in moonlight and the conditions of the night, until Sun 21 Feb

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, Birmingham

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

SEEING THE SUN Discover the Sun like never before through the lens of University of Birmingham research/Exhibition inspired by artist Luke Jerram's illuminated sculpture, Helios, until Sun 1 Nov

EXHIBITION: UNLOCKING THE VAULTS Set within the former safe deposit facility beneath The Exchange, this free exhibition explores how the Birmingham Municipal Bank shaped everyday life in the city, until Sat 7 Nov

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

BRITISH ART SHOW 10: A CHORUS OF STRANGERS Featuring the work of more than 30 contemporary artists - displayed in spaces around Coventry - the landmark 10th edition of British Art Show explores human connection and the figure of 'the other' during divided times, Fri 2 Oct - Sun 10 Jan

WARWICKSHIRE'S JURASSIC SEA Discover the amazing creatures that lived in Coventry and Warwickshire during the time of the dinosaurs, until Sun 21 Feb

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BRITISH ART SHOW 10: A CHORUS OF STRANGERS Featuring the work of more than 30 contemporary artists - displayed in spaces around Coventry - the landmark 10th edition of British Art Show explores human connection and the figure of 'the other' during divided times, Fri 2 Oct - Sun 10 Jan

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

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, until Sun 7 Feb

RESISTANCE, RE-IMAGINE An international dialogue and exchange on the themes of resistance and reimagining, and an exploration of the climate emergency. Featuring works by Mushfiq

Mahbub Turjo and Zillah Bowes, until Sun 29 Nov

SURREAL CREATURES TRAIL Curious creatures have crept, crawled, swooped and slithered their way into the building, and they're waiting to be discovered! Children aged three-plus and their families are invited to explore a menagerie of extraordinary animals, until Sun 21 Feb

New Art Gallery, Walsall

WHAT GROWS IN BETWEEN A group exhibition of newly commissioned work made during the third iteration of Assembly, a development programme for local artists Dan Booth, Abraham Babajide Cole and Hannah Rollason, until Sun 11 Oct

FACE VALUE 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, until Sun 23 May

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

OUR FAVOURITE THINGS Show bringing together items handpicked by the museum and archives teams, who also share the reasons why they chose the objects, until Sun 20 Dec

BETHESDA GARDENS: PAST TIMES Outdoor exhibition bringing together a variety of paintings from the museum's art collection that explore the rhythms of daily life across generations, until Sun 31 Jan

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

ROOTED IN RECOVERY EXHIBITION Created through artistic exploration and reflection in woodland settings, these artworks reflect personal journeys of healing, resilience and reconnection following experiences of psychosis and trauma, until Mon 9 Nov

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

ANDY WARHOL: ART STAR Major exhibition of both iconic and lesser-known drawings, screenprints, paintings and photographs. The included works highlight Warhol's fascination with

fame, celebrity and commercial culture, until Sun 4 Oct

MARIE CRAIG: BEFORE IT WAS NOW Installation featuring photographic negatives capturing a room-sized camera obscura at Wolverhampton School of Art, presented alongside a live feed from a cardboard-box camera obscura capturing the same view, Wed 28 Oct - Sun 17 Jan

RACHEL MAGDEBURG: PALINGENESIS Solo exhibition by the Wolverhampton-based artist, exploring the unexpected connections between non-human life, everyday objects and the materials of painting itself, Sat 10 Oct - Sun 21 Feb



PERMINDAR KAUR: DREAD NAUGHT Exhibition of newly commissioned sculptures and important historic works by one of Britain's most innovative sculptors, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 11 Apr

Elsewhere:

WE ARE STAFFORDSHIRE: STITCHED FOR STAFFORDSHIRE YOUTH PROJECT Further-education students across the county have contributed squares to a communal quilt, until Sun 4 Oct, Lichfield Cathedral

THE LIE OF THE LAND Exhibition of painting, drawing, printmaking, collage and sculpture by five artists from across Shropshire, until Mon 12 Oct, Gateway Gallery, Shrewsbury

REMIX EXHIBITION: ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES Exhibition of paint, print, photography, 3D and textiles, capturing the emotions, journeys, and transitions that define

moments of coming and going, until Sat 24 Oct, Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North 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, until Tues 27 Oct, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

A HOMAGE TO MICK'S MEDIA Local artist Maggie McKean explores the inspiring approach to creating art demonstrated by local pastel artist - and Maggie's teacher - the late Mick Gilmore, until November, The Hive, Shrewsbury

ENDANGERED CRAFTS Major group exhibition exploring glassmaking skills that are endangered, critically endangered or extinct in the UK, until Sat 7 November, Stourbridge Glass Museum

25 YEARS OF... CELEBRATING WOMEN New anniversary exhibition exploring the history of the Arboretum, from its humble beginnings to a now-thriving landscape, told through the stories of 25 remarkable women who played an important role in its development, until Sun 15 Nov, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

GILLY HEMMER: SHAPING COLOUR Selection of still-life pieces which take inspiration from the pattern, shape and texture of ceramics, Fri 16 Oct - Sat 28 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

LUDLOW: THE PAGEANT Exhibition of costumes, ephemera and footage documenting a historic theatrical event and parade which took place over 4 days in the summer of 1934, until Fri 18 Dec, Shropshire Museums Collection Centre, Ludlow, South Shropshire

THE OTHER GLASS: THE ART OF RECYCLED GLASS 10 artists from seven countries contribute glass art made from Recycled, Repurposed, Second-Life, and Geo-Specific glass, until Sat 27 Feb, Stourbridge Glass Museum

Gigs

CORY HANSON Thurs 1 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JO CARLEY & THE OLD DRY SKULLS Thurs 1 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ANDY IRVINE WITH QUILTY Thurs 1 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

HANNAH WICKLUND Thurs 1 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

KHAN + SKIN THIEF + SEVENTH SYNDICATE Thurs 1 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

WINTER GARDENS + OPAL MAG Thurs 1 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

KARAN AUJLA Thurs 1 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham



WARRIOR SOUL + GYPSY PISTOLEROS Thurs 1 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolves

GAIA PACIFICA Thurs 1 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

JIVE TALKIN' - BEE GEES TRIBUTE Thurs 1 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DECLAN WELSH & THE DECADENT WEST Fri 2 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ESORE ALLE Fri 2 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

NATEWANTSTOBATTLE + CAM STEADY + GENWUNNER Fri 2 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DODGY + THE ICICLE WORKS Fri 2 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE AMY WINEHOUSE EXPERIENCE Fri 2 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

WREX Fri 2 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

JIVE TALKIN' - BEE GEES TRIBUTE Fri 2 Oct, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

GO YOUR OWN WAY - THE FLEETWOOD MAC LEGACY Fri 2 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

PETE KENT Fri 2 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre



HIGHWAY Fri 2 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

DEFINITELY GREEN DAY + BLINK THIS Fri 2 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

THE HAUNTED SOULS WITH SARAH WARREN Fri 2 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

EUROPE Fri 2 Oct, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton

HOLYSTONE + MEHIGA + COWER, HOUNDS! + MERCIAN LIBERATION FRONT Fri 2 Oct, Dive, Wolverhampton

CROOKED HEAD + NAKED SUNDAY + GRIMLORD Fri 2 Oct, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

GENGUS PENGUS + DIRTY VERTEBRAE + GLASS ATLAS Fri 2 Oct, Riff Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

FLEETWOOD MAC SONGBOOK Fri 2 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

STRAIGHTEN OUT - STRANGLERS TRIBUTE Fri 2 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

BEN OTTEWELL Fri 2 Oct, The Rigger, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

RIDING THE LOW Fri 2 Oct, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

WEST COAST EAGLES Fri 2 Oct, Rugeley Rose Theatre

MOUNTAIN SONG Fri 2 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

PETER HOWARTH Fri 2 Oct, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

BON GIOVI Fri 2 Oct,

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MAD DOG MCREA Fri 2 Oct, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

LE VENT DU NORD Fri 2 Oct, LOOP, Shrewsbury

BIG FEAR Sat 3 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE STRANGE DOORS Sat 3 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

ANTARCTIC MONKEYS + LITTLE JUKE Sat 3 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SPACE Sat 3 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

ZION TRAIN + TRANSGLOBAL UNDERGROUND Sat 3 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU - ROBBIE WILLIAMS TRIBUTE Sat 3 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

THE ROZZERS - A TRIBUTE TO STING & THE POLICE Sat 3 Oct, Halesowen Town Hall

JAH WOBBLE Sat 3 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge



MAGNUM + GRAND SLAM Sat 3 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolves

BRIDGE 55 Sat 3 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

TAKEDA + KASKADE + DEVOTED Sat 3 Oct, Riff Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

PARAMORED Sat 3 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE ALTER EAGLES Sat 3 Oct, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

QUILL Sat 3 Oct, Rugeley Rose Theatre

BEAUTIFUL CRAZY - LUKE COMBS TRIBUTE Sat 3 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DAR WILLIAMS + HEATHER MALONEY Sat 3 Oct, The Hive, Shrewsbury



THE ORB Sat 3 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

KING PRAWN Sat 3 Oct, LOOP, Shrewsbury

VOODOO ROOM Sat 3 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

TOM JONES TRIBUTE Sat 3 Oct, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

BOLLYWOOD BRASS BAND Sat 3 Oct, Whitchurch Civic Centre, North Shropshire

PSYCHEDELIC BLUES FESTIVAL Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

TIRED + HEY ALAMO + DEAD ELVIS Sun 4 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CHRISTIE REEVES Sun 4 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

THE HEELS Sun 4 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

OTIS KANE Sun 4 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

ALIVE AND KICKING + U2+1 Sun 4 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

HED PE + COLD + MÜ Sun 4 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

V6 ORGAN TRIO Sun 4 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

ADELE TRIBUTE Sun 4 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

JUNI HABEL + NICK JONAH DAVIS Sun 4 Oct, Shrewsbury Library

DUANE FORREST - THE LIFE & TIMES OF NAT KING COLE Sun 4 Oct, The Talbot Theatre, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

Classical

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL:

CHAMBER MUSIC WEEKEND

Eight concerts over a long weekend with music for piano, string quartet, piano trio, trumpet, guitar, accordion, voice & viol all featuring, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's Lichfield

NOVA SAXOPHONE QUARTET Fri 2 Oct, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

LIVE AT THE CBSO CENTRE: STEVE REICH AT 90

Featuring Toby Kearney (director). Programme includes works by Eastman, Reich & Takada, Sat 3 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

GARETH PRICE ORGAN RECITAL

Programme includes works by JS Bach, Mendelssohn, Howells & more..., Sat 3 Oct, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: JACK LOVELL-HUCKLE'S INAUGURAL CONCERT

Featuring Rozalia Barbara Bryla (violin). Programme includes works by Wagner, Mendelssohn & Elgar, Sun 4 Oct, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

BARRY FROM WATFORD & CLINTON BAPTISTE Thurs 1 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

STEPHEN CARLIN, DAWN BAILEY & DAN SMITH Thurs 1 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall

RICHARD BLACKWOOD, SHAZIA MIRZA, MICHAEL AKADIRI, KYRA GRAY & SHABBA KARIEM Thurs 1 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR Thurs 1 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, STUART MCPHERSON & SPENCER JONES Thurs 1 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

AMY MATTHEWS Thurs 1 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

NISH KUMAR Fri 2 Oct, Aston Hall, Wrexham

LAURA SMYTH Fri 2 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

JASON BYRNE Fri 2 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL BREAKING TALENT AWARD Fri 2 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SISTER CONSTANTINE: SHAME! Fri 2 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

LOUISE ATKINSON, JOE SUTHERLAND, STUART MCPHERSON & SPENCER JONES Fri 2 - Sat 3 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

DARIUS DAVIES, FAB GOUALIN, RUSSELL ARATHOON & FAIZAN SHAH Sat 3 Oct, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

ELAINE ROBERTSON Sat 3 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

OLGA KOCH Sat 3 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RAHUL BATRA Sat 3 Oct, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

PHIL KIMBERLEY Sat 3 Oct, The Wellington, B'ham

HASAN AL-HABIB Sat 3 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

RACHEL BAKER Sat 3 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

LOVDEV BARPAGA Sat 3 Oct, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

DANNY STRACHAN Sat 3 Oct, The Wellington, Birmingham

2 MUSLIM 2 FURIOUS 3: SHARIA? I HARDLY KNOW HER! Sat 3 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

CHLOE REYNOLDS Sat 3 Oct, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

CAITRIONA DOWDEN Sat 3 Oct, Cherry Reds, B'ham

SHAM ZAMAN Sat 3 Oct, The Wellington, B'ham

NATE KITCH Sat 3 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

MICHAEL SPICER Sat 3 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



JULES O'BRIAN Sat 3 Oct, Craft & Culture, B'ham

ZAIN IQBAL Sat 3 Oct, The Wellington, Birmingham

GIFTED & TALENTED: THE MADELEINE JIMP EXPERIENCE Sat 3 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

SUSIE GRUMBALL AND JAMES JARVIS Sat 3 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

DESI CENTRAL COMEDY SHOW Sun 4 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL FREE HALF-DAYER FT JAMES COOK, ROB KEMP, ANDY BUCKS & TAL DAVIES Sun 4 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL FREE HALF-DAYER FT TIM BIGLOWE, DANNY CLIVES, SALLYANN FELLOWES & JACKIE AND NAPH Sun 4 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

GARETH WILLIAMS Sun 4 Oct, Spoilers, Birmingham

LUCY PORTER Sun 4 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Theatre

WE WILL ROCK YOU Bilston Operatic present an amateur version of the Ben Elton musical, set to Queen's greatest hits, until Sat 3 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MADE IN DAGENHAM Walsall Operatic Society present an amateur version of the uplifting musical comedy about courage, community and standing up for what's right, until Sat 3 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE GHOST TRAIN Stoke Rep Players present an amateur version of Arnold Ridley's classic comedy thriller, until Sat 3 Oct, The Stoke Rep, Stoke-on-Trent

DEAR EVAN HANSEN WBOS present an amateur version of the hit musical, telling the story of an anxious high-school kid who wants nothing more than to fit in, until Sat 3 Oct, Dormston Mill Theatre, Sedgley, Dudley

AS YOU LIKE IT Jonathan Groff makes his RSC debut as Rosalind in an all-male version of Shakespeare's comedy, until Sat 7 Nov, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

ROMEO + JULIET Russell Kane plays a fortysomething Romeo in a new production of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, until Sat 10 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

MIDDLEMARCH PART 1 New stage adaptation of George Eliot's 'study of provincial life' in a fictional 19th-

century Midlands town on the verge of change. The play is presented in two parts, with part two showing from 10 October, Thurs 1 Oct - Sat 16 Jan, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

TERMINAL 2 Life-affirming comedy drama about love, life, death and true friendship, Fri 2 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

BLACKOUT Immersive theatre experience that pulls audiences into a world where fear and imagination collide, Fri 2 Oct, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

THE (ALMOST) COMPLETE HISTORY OF BRITAIN The Pantoons Theatre Company present an innovative show telling the entire story of Britain in under two hours, Fri 2 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

PUNK DAYS Dervish Productions present the true story of a mixed race, working-class kid, growing up in 1970s London, who finds hope and liberation in the power of punk and the fight against fascism, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Dance

LORD OF THE DANCE: 30TH ANNIVERSARY UK tour of Michael Flatley's global phenomenon, until Sun 4 Oct, The Alexandra, B'ham

Light Entertainment

PAULUS THE CABARET GEEK: WHAT WOULD VICTORIA WOOD DO? Featuring a fresh batch of tunes from the Victoria Wood songbook, Thurs 1 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE MUSIC OF LUTHER VANDROSS BY CANDLELIGHT Thurs 1 Oct, Lichfield Cathedral

ATTENTION ALL SHIPPING: A CELEBRATION OF THE SHIPPING FORECAST Charlie Connelly's informative show, bringing the 'quirky' broadcast vividly to life, Fri 2 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

Talks & Spoken Word

AN EVENING WITH ASTON VILLA LEGENDS Featuring John Gregory, Ian Taylor and Lee Hendrie, Thurs 1 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall

TRACY BORMAN: THE TUDORS ON TOUR The acclaimed historian hosts a show packed with drama, scandal and stories, using visuals, props and film, Sat 3 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall

Events

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

AUTUMN CLASSIC CAR & VINTAGE VEHICLE RALLY Check out huge numbers of classic cars and vintage vehicles across the site, Thurs 1 Oct, Foxfield Railway, Stoke-on-Trent

GHOST TOURS OF SHREWSBURY TOWN Learn about the history of the town and the ghosts that haunt it, Thurs 1 Oct, from Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

AUTUMN DIESEL BASH A four-day diesel festival featuring locomotives operating a busy timetable between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

A FESTIVAL OF FLORA AND FAUNA Display of design and technical skills in handweaving, hand spinning and hand dyeing from guild members across the UK, Thurs 1 - Thurs 29 Oct, Weston Park, Shropshire

DISCOS FOR GROWN UPS Dance all night to 70s soul and disco, 80s pop and 90s dancefloor classics, Fri 2 Oct, The Wulfun at The Halls Wolverhampton

SHROPSHIRE OKTOBERFEST Featuring beer, music, comedy and food, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Oct, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury



SCAREFEST Immerse yourself in a fright-filled world of spine-tingling Halloween attractions and live entertainment, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

GRAND DESIGNS LIVE Event bringing together the latest innovations in home designing, self-building, renovation, interiors and garden designing, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

PUMPKINFEST Featuring Halloween-related attractions and activities, including Pumpkin Alley, the Little Scare House and a spooky trail, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

ENLIGHTEN AT LICHFIELD Lichfield

Cathedral transforms into a vibrant hub of intellectual exploration and meaningful conversation, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct, Lichfield Cathedral

PUMPKIN PICKING With over 50 varieties to choose from. Free entry and no booking needed, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct, Arscott Farm, Pontesford, Nr Shrewsbury



RIDE TO THE WALL Featuring thousands of motorcyclists from around the UK, coming together to remember the names engraved on the walls of the Armed Forces Memorial, Sat 3 Oct, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

NEWPORT FOOD FRENZY Featuring 40-plus food & drink stalls, Sat 3 Oct, Newport High Street, Shropshire

THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY BIG RIDE OUT A rare opportunity to enjoy scenic routes through one of the UK's most beautiful private estates, Sat 3 Oct, Weston Park, Shropshire

MATCHROOM BOXING - WHITTAKER VS WALLACE Two of Britain's top light heavyweights go head-to-head on a huge night of boxing, Sat 3 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

SANDON LITERATURE FESTIVAL Featuring 'stimulating conversations with authors', Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, Sandon Hall, Staffordshire

PUMPKINS @ LOWER DRAYTON FARM Pull on your wellies, grab a wheelbarrow and pick your perfect pumpkin straight from the field where it grew, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge

THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW Featuring hundreds of top wedding suppliers, live runway shows, and expert-led planning advice sessions, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

HOME OF INDUSTRY Steam, sparks and the stories of the Black Country come to life at Black Country Living Museum as it celebrates the region's rich industrial heritage, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

PUMPKIN VILLAGE Explore the pumpkin field, enjoy live entertainment and meet roaming characters, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton-upon-Trent

CHIDDLE LANTERN PARADE The finale to the Arts Festival Programme, Sun 4 Oct, The Guild Hall, Tape Street, Cheshire



Amon Amarth - The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

Gigs

OTUSBLISS Mon 5 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham
JUSTIN HAYWARD Mon 5 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
OWL LIGHT TRIO Mon 5 Oct, Bill's Kitchen, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
ELANOR MOSS Tues 6 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham
CHRIS WHILE AND JULIE MATTHEWS Tues 6 Oct, Kitchen Garden, B'ham
PARTY101 Tues 6 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
NAILS + ROTTEN SOUND + INVUNCHE Tues 6 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham
GARY CROSBY AND DENYS BAPTISTE PRESENT JOHN COLTRANE'S 'A LOVE SUPREME' Tues 6 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
FAIRPORT CONVENTION Tues 6 Oct, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent
PIXIE MCCANN Wed 7 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
WE ARE SCIENTISTS Wed 7 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham
DON BROCO + UNPEOPLE + ANDO SAN Wed 7 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
A CERTAIN RATIO Wed 7 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham
SAUCE CITY JAZZ BAND Wed 7 Oct, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield
JUSTIN SULLIVAN + DEAN WHITE Wed 7 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
OSLO TWINS Thurs 8 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham
HANNAH SCOTT Thurs 8 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham
SAM TOMPKINS Thurs 8 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE HU + SKALD Thurs 8 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW: THE BURT BACHARACH SONGBOOK Thurs 8 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AFRICAN SOUL REBELS Thurs 8 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ALICE ARMSTRONG + CHLOE MOGG Thurs 8 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

ROBERT VINCENT Thurs 8 Oct, Bilston Town Hall

HEAVEN 17 Thurs 8 Oct, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

CHRIS HELME Thurs 8 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

REINHARDT BUHR Thurs 8 Oct, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

ONE NIGHT OF TOM JONES Thurs 8 Oct, The Anstice, Telford, Shropshire

CHRISTINA ALDEN AND ALEX PATTERSON Mon 5 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

LDYLIKE Fri 9 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

DAVID STEVENSON Fri 9 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

BEN ELLIS Fri 9 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MIDNIGHT TIL MORNING + RYAN MACK Fri 9 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ARIES SPEARS Fri 9 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE LAST PIONEERS Fri 9 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

JARED BENJAMIN Fri 9 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

IVO NEAME Fri 9 Oct, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

HUMANITY'S LAST BREATH Fri 9 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

FRONT ROW Fri 9 Oct, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

BEN PORTSMOUTH - THIS IS

ELVIS Fri 9 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

DESPERADO Fri 9 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall

LUKE AND LAINEY Fri 9 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

MORETALLICA Fri 9 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

DIRT ROAD BAND Fri 9 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

JEZ LOWE Fri 9 Oct, Fenton Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

ISEN MUND + DXRK WINTER + SPACE WITCH + TYRANT DEATH Fri 9 Oct, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

THE CAVERN BEATLES Fri 9 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE + ADORED Fri 9 Oct, The Station, Cannock

THE ANT HILL MOB Fri 9 Oct, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

FLASH: A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN Fri 9 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE GERRY CINNA-MAN EXPERIENCE Fri 9 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE ROSIE HOOD BAND Fri 9 Oct, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

TOM MCRAE Fri 9 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

IAN PROWSE Sat 10 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

DAMIAN LEWIS Sat 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE LEMONHEADS Sat 10 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

ULTIMATE RNB EXPERIENCE Sat 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE CLONE ROSES + DEFINITELY MIGHTBE + THE JAMES EXPERIENCE Sat 10 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

ULTIMATE OZZY UK Sat 10 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

CASHTASTIC VS CASH Sat 10 Oct, Dead Wax, B'ham

CABARET VOLTAIRE + GAZELLE TWIN Sat 10 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

UB40 - LABOUR OF LOVE Sat 10 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

JOHN OTWAY AND WILD WILLY BARRETT Sat 10 Oct, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire

ALL FOR METAL + MYRATH

+ MASTERPLAN + BATTLE BORN Sat 10 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

JON ALLEN & THE LUNA KINGS Sat 10 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

TRANSMISSION - THE SOUND OF JOY DIVISION Sat 10 Oct, Riff Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

ROBBIE WILLIAMS BY DAN BUDD Sat 10 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

TINIE TEMPAH Sat 10 Oct, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent

ULTIMATE LEPPARD Sat 10 Oct, The Station, Cannock

ELLES BAILEY Sat 10 Oct, Lichfield Guildhall

LUNA WAVES Sat 10 Oct, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

TOM THORP & ILUMETRIS Sat 10 Oct, The Hive, Shrewsbury

MICROBABY + REVOLUTION + RAPTURE + AUDIOTHIEVES Sat 10 Oct, LOOP, Shrewsbury

BATTLE OF THE BANDS: HEAT TWO Sat 10 Oct, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

NOTT THE HOOPLE + PROUD AS PUNCH Sat 10 Oct, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shrops

MIDNIGHT CITY SOUL Sun 11 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

PJ MORTON Sun 11 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DAMIEN SKORA Sun 11 Oct, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

LEO SAYER Sun 11 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

DS:UK - TRIBUTE TO DIRE STRAITS Sun 11 Oct, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

AMON AMARTH Sun 11 Oct, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE JOURNEYMEN - ERIC CLAPTON TRIBUTE Sun 11 Oct, The Station, Cannock

CHET: THE TOBY BRAZIER QUARTET Sun 11 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

THE NEIL DIAMOND STORY Sun 11 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

GOOD HABITS Sun 11 Oct, The Hive, Shrewsbury

THE DIRTY ROCKIN' SCOUNDRELS Sun 11 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

JOANNA SACHRYN CELLO RECITAL Featuring Charles Matthews (piano). Programme includes works by Boulanger, Hindemith, Beethoven & more..., Tues 6 Oct, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

MADELINE BROWN PIANO RECITAL Tues 6 Oct, St Alkmunds Church, Shrewsbury

CONCERTS IN THE ROUND Featuring Julia Hartmann (piano), Fri 9 Oct, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

AVATAR THE LAST AIRBENDER IN CONCERT: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR Live orchestral performance taking audiences on a two-hour visual journey through fan-favourite moments from the animated series, Sat 10 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

ECHO RISING STARS: CAMILA MANDILLO (SOPRANO) Also featuring João Casimiro Almeida (piano). Programme includes works by Monteverdi, Rossini, Berio & more..., Sun 11 Oct, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EROICA ORCHESTRA: UNFINISHED BUSINESS Featuring Peter Marks (conductor), Claire Burnell, Claire Poole, Helen Rudeforth, Sarah Gee (horns). Programme includes works by Schubert, R Schumann & Brahms, Sat 11 Oct, St Nicolas Church, Kings Norton, Birmingham

Comedy

MILO EDWARDS Tues 6 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

EDEN VOSS Tues 6 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

THE GLITTER SISTERS COMEDY AND MUSIC SHOW Tues 6 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

JOSH PUGH Tues 6 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE ALTER COMEDY CLUB Tues 6 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

HENNING WEHN Tues 6 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

LOU CHAWNER Tues 6 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

KIELL SMITH Wed 7 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

SERENA TERRY Wed 7 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

STEVIE MARTIN Wed 7 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham



DARREN HARRIOTT, TOM TAYLOR, MATT KIRSHEN & FREDDY QUINN Wed 7 Oct, Herberts Yard, Birmingham

ERIC RUSHTON Wed 7 Oct, One Colmore Square, Birmingham

CHICKIE, GARETH WILLIAMS, DYNAMO DAN, GRACE MILLER, VICTORIA FROST & SABBI BENTLEY Wed 7 Oct, Old Joint Stock, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, IAN SMITH & BLANK PENG Thurs 8 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

SHAZIA MIRZA Thurs 8 Oct, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

LINDSEY SANTORO, RYAN S LEWIS, HANNAH WEETMAN & COMICS TBC Thurs 8 Oct, Attic Brew Co, B'ham

MATT RICHARDSON & HARRY JENKINS Thurs 8 Oct, Stir Brum, Birmingham

STEPHEN CATLING Thurs 8 Oct, Stir Brum, Birmingham

THE LATE NIGHT SWEET SHOP Thurs 8 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

ELOISE DALE, JEANIE VOWLES, CHRISTINA G, MOLLY KINSEY & ANDY BOVEY Thurs 8 Oct, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

DANIEL SLOSS Fri 9 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SHREEJA CHATURVEDI Fri 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RAY BRADSHAW, JAVIER JARQUIN, IAN SMITH, BLANK PENG & JAMES BARR Fri 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ARIES SPEARS Fri 9 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

WANTED IMMIGRANTS Fri 9 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

NIK COPPIN Fri 9 Oct, Craft & Culture, Birmingham

JONNY COLE Fri 9 - Sat 10 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

DHARMANDER SINGH Fri 9 Oct, Craft & Culture, Birmingham

REGINALD D HUNTER, ALFIE DUNDAS, AARON SIMMONDS & KAREN BAYLEY Sat 10 Oct, Rosies Nightclub, B'ham

RAY BRADSHAW, JAVIER JARQUIN, IAN SMITH & BLANK PENG Sat 10 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JONATHAN PIE Sat 10 Oct, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

DAVE DURKAN Sat 10 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL FOOT Sat 10 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

HANNAH WEETMAN, EMMA DAVIES, AISHA AMANDURI & ERIC RUSHTON Sat 10 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

JACK HARRIS & JIM MCAULIFFE Sat 10 Oct, 1000 Trades, Birmingham

RICHARD DADD Sat 10 Oct, The Good Intent, Birmingham

BEN COLEMAN Sat 10 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

DAVE FLYNN, CALEB JAMES, KATIE SLATER AND RACHEL PAGE Sat 10 Oct,

1000 Trades, Birmingham

JIM JUDGES, MARY FLANIGAN & DAMON CONLAN Sat 10 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

COBO: COMEDY SHUTDOWN | BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL Sun 11 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CELYA AB Sun 11 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JAMIE DOUGLAS, NINA SEMPLE, HEATHER FOX & CRAIG DEELEY Sun 11 Oct, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

IGNACIO LOPEZ Sun 11 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MARK THOMAS Mon 12 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Theatre

A BRIEF CASE OF CRAZY Physical comedy inspired by the genius of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. Told via choreography, mime, clowning and puppetry, Tues 6 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre



SYLVIA Beverley Knight and Naomi Katiyo star in a hip-hop, funk and soul musical that tells the untold story of the rebellious middle child of Emmeline Pankhurst, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

BURLESQUE THE MUSICAL Faye Brookes and Ryan Carter star, with songs by Christina Aguilera, Sia, and Diane Warren, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

BECAUSE OF SATURDAY Ciaran Edwards' new play charts a young man's journey through anger, confusion and grief, Wed 7 Oct, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

SHITFACED SHAKESPEARE - ROMEO & JULIET Unconventional, no-holds-barred version of Shakespeare's famous play, featuring a 'rat-arsed Romeo, a juiced-up Juliet, a trollied Tybalt and a mashed-up Mercutio', not to mention 'enough booze to sterilise a brewery floor', Wed 7 Oct, Lichfield Garrick



HASBIAN Play offering a unique insight into growing up queer in the 1990s, Thurs 8 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

WINDRUSH SECRET / BLACK DANCER V HITLER Double-bill of works, Fri 9 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

LIGHTSTREAMS: A NEW PLAY ABOUT MIGRANT CARERS Passionate play about a family and their choices during a global crisis. Inspired by real-life testimonies, Fri 9 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

BRIGHT PLACES Rae Mainwaring's funny and deeply honest account of growing up in the shadow of chronic illness, Sat 10 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

MIDDLEMARCH PART 2 New stage adaptation of George Eliot's 'study of provincial life' in a fictional 19th-century Midlands town on the verge of change. The play is presented in two parts, with part one already showing, Sat 10 Oct - Sat 16 Jan, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MAKEBETH (CARDBOARD ADVENTURES) A brand-new, interactive, craft-a-long retelling of Shakespeare's Macbeth, suitable for children aged seven-plus, Sun 11 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

Dance

THE BROWN SUITE Funk-fuelled production, set in 1970s New York, in which a cast of seven untamable characters collide - from playful flirtation and intoxicating romance to heartbreak, conflict and redemption, Mon 5 - Wed 7 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



ACE DANCE & MUSIC - TWASI Double-bill featuring Vincent Mantsoe's Leftlalo and Serge Aimé Coulibaly's Echoes Of Dust, Tues 6 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

ENGLISH YOUTH BALLET: SWAN LAKE Set to Tchaikovsky's exquisite score and featuring international principal dancers and a cast of 100 local young performers, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Light Entertainment

DREAMCOAT STARS Star-studded musical concert featuring brand-new songs and arrangements, Thurs 8

Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE MYSTERY OF LICHFIELD GARRICK Award-winning board-game-style theatre show, during which the audience is needed to solve a murder-mystery, Sat 10 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE GREATEST MUSICALS SING-A-LONG Belt out the biggest musical hits, Sat 10 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Talks & Spoken Word

TRACY BORMAN: THE TUDORS ON TOUR The acclaimed historian hosts a show packed with drama, scandal and stories, using visuals, props and film, Mon 5 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF A SERIAL KILLER Join true-crime speaker Jennifer Rees as she explores some of psychology's most troubling topics, Wed 7 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

AN EVENING WITH DANNY MCNAMARA FROM EMBRACE A must-attend event for fans of one of Britain's 'best-loved bands'. Meet & greet also available, Thurs 8 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

CAN YOU CATCH A SERIAL KILLER? Step inside real-life cases via dramatised crime-scene mock-ups, criminal profiling, investigative techniques, forensic evidence and simulated autopsies. Hosted by serial-killer expert Cheish Merryweather, Fri 9 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

TRACY BORMAN: THE TUDORS ON TOUR The acclaimed historian hosts a show packed with drama, scandal and stories, using visuals, props and film, Fri 9 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Events

CELEBRATE SANDWELL Event bringing communities together for a day of workshops and entertainment, Tues 6 Oct, West Bromwich Town Hall

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW 2026 Five-day annual event featuring 'thrilling competitions, family favourites and unmissable displays', Wed 7 - Sun 11 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

GHOST TOURS OF SHREWSBURY TOWN Learn about the history of the town and the ghosts that haunt it, Thurs 8 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

A LEGACY FORGED - AUTHOR'S TALK AND Q&A WITH SARA FOX Join the author for an insight into blending real family history with rich, imaginative storytelling, Fri 9 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

ART HISTORY FESTIVAL STORES TOUR

Explore items from the collection with the Collections Officer in this behind-the-scenes tour, Fri 9 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

SCAREFEST Immerse yourself in a fright-filled world of spine-tingling Halloween attractions and live entertainment, Fri 9 - Sun 11 Oct, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

PUMPKIN PICKING With over 50 varieties to choose from. Free entry and no booking needed, Fri 9 - Sun 11 Oct, Arscott Farm, Pontesford, Shrewsbury

PUMPKINFEST Featuring Halloween-related attractions and activities, including Pumpkin Alley, the Little Scare House and a spooky trail, Fri 9 - Sun 11 Oct, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

SATURDAY EXPLORE THE MUSEUM COLLECTION CENTRE Explore the Museum Collection Centre, a 1.5-hectare site that holds 80% of Birmingham Museums' stored collections, Sat 10 Oct, Museum Collection Centre, Birmingham

HYBRID NW A true fitness test, mixing strength training and cardio, Sat 10 Oct, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH DAY: A FESTIVAL OF RHYTHM, UNITY AND REVOLUTION

Featuring local poets Casey Bailey and Zakariye, and welcoming new voices to the stage through a 'vibrant' open-mic session, Sat 10 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

COCO'S ART HISTORY COMEDY GALLERY TOUR Join award-winning Coco the Time-Travelling Tart for a deliciously mischievous romp through Birmingham's collection, Sat 10 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

WORLD SUPERCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP BRITISH GP An evening of supercross racing action, Sat 10 Oct, Alexander Stadium, Birmingham

HARVEST HOEDOWN The estate comes alive with delicious food, artisan crafts, harvest celebrations and a touch of Americana, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Oct, Weston Park, Shropshire

BLAZING HALLOWEEN Fun family event packed with spooky surprises, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Oct, Drayton Manor Resort, Tamworth

THE CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE MECHANICS SHOW Featuring hundreds of trade stands, autojumble plots, club displays, private entries, the Classic Racer GP Paddock and more, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Oct, Staffordshire County



World Supercross Championship British GP - Alexander Stadium, Birmingham

Showground, Stafford

PUMPKINS @ LOWER DRAYTON FARM

Pull on your wellies, grab a wheelbarrow and pick your perfect pumpkin straight from the field where it grew, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Oct, Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge

PUMPKIN VILLAGE Explore the pumpkin field, enjoy live entertainment and meet roaming characters, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Oct, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton-upon-Trent

MONSTER MASHUP Featuring a mix of

'thrilling adventures, spooky shows, and monstrously good fun for the whole family', Sat 10 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

ANTIQUES FAIR Featuring dozens of traders, Sun 11 Oct, Bantock House, Wolverhampton

MADE IN SHROPSHIRE ARTISAN FAIR Comprising local stalls selling everything from Shropshire honey to handmade glass, silver, ceramics, and crafted wood, Sun 11 Oct, Dudmaston, nr Bridgnorth, South Shropshire



24 - 25 OCTOBER 2026

TELFORD INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Info & tickets:
www.GR8UltimateStance.co.uk

Gigs

THEATRE Mon 12 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SPARTA + HAMMOK Mon 12 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

KATHERINE JENKINS Mon 12 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

KEEP FLYING Mon 12 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

BIITA HOUEI Tues 13 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

LEMONCELLO Tues 13 Oct, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

JUDE YORK Tues 13 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CHRIS WILLIAMSON Tues 13 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KHEMMIS Tues 13 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

HUBRIS. + SOLARS Tues 13 Oct, The Rainbow, B'ham

WALTER TROUT + LEONI JANE KENNEDY Tues 13 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

VONDA SHEPARD Tues 13 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MT JONES Wed 14 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

TWENTY ONE CHILDREN Wed 14 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AN AUDIENCE WITHOUT JAKE THACKRAY Wed 14 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

JAMIE MCINTYRE Wed 14 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MATILDA MANN Wed 14 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE SKINTS + CARSIK Wed 14 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

STEVE HACKETT Wed 14 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SAN JANTACITA Wed 14 Oct, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

JOHN 5 + DAN BYRNE Wed 14 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

THE BOOTLEG BEATLES Wed 14 Oct, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

YING Mon 12 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

BILLY BIBBY Wed 14 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

Trent

QUIET HOUSES Thurs 15 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHED SEVEN Thurs 15 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE HOOSIERS + HUNNY BUZZ Thurs 15 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LSO AND THE SEARCH FOR GOD Thurs 15 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

AVICIDE + AZALEAS + BORN HOSTILE Thurs 15 Oct, The Victoria, B'ham

NASHVILLE SOUNDS IN THE ROUND Thurs 15 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

BILLY BIBBY Thurs 15 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

KRIS BARRAS BAND + 10 YEARS Thurs 15 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

AZIZ IBRAHIM Thurs 15 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

HARRIET Thurs 15 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

TALON Thurs 15 - Fri 16 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

MAD DOG MCREA Fri 16 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SAINT CLAIR Fri 16 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SEAN REEVES Fri 16 Oct, Actress & Bishop, B'ham

BEN QUAD + RILEY! Fri 16 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

WARREN ZEIDERS Fri 16 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

LAID Fri 16 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

STEP OUT Fri 16 Oct, Dead Wax, Birmingham

DARLAH Fri 16 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

HUE & CRY + ROACHFORD Fri 16 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

POPPY JAM Fri 16 Oct, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

PINK BY VICKY JACKSON Fri 16 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

QUIREBOYS + THE KARMA EFFECT + SOHO DUKES Fri 16 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

THE BAR-STEWARD SONS OF VAL DOONICAN Fri 16 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

GANS Fri 16 Oct, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

GRIEF RITUAL + BURNT

BODY + CONFINED + MOURNSTATE + BLAME Fri 16 Oct, Riff Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

MADONNA WITH TASHA LEAPER Fri 16 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE TUMBLING PADDIES Fri 16 Oct, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent

FISHNIGHT + KOALA + KANGARU Fri 16 Oct, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

JUDY DUNLOP + SEB STONE Fri 16 Oct, Marston's Social Club, Burton upon Trent

B*WITCHED Fri 16 Oct, Lichfield Cathedral

A DIFFERENT THREAD Fri 16 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

PEASHOOTER Fri 16 Oct, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

THE DEVOUT - DEPECHE MODE TRIBUTE Fri 16 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE SHIRE-ISH ROVERS Fri 16 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

SPACE Fri 16 Oct, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE UNDERCOVER HIPPI Fri 16 Oct, LOOP, Shrewsbury

MUCH ADO ABOUT JAZZ Fri 16 Oct, Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

TOM HINGLEY Fri 16 Oct, The Firefly, Oakengates, Telford

MOTHER THUNDER + CHASING MALLORY + ECHOBRIDGE Fri 16 Oct, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

THE BEAT Fri 16 - Sat 17 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

WESTLIFE Fri 16 - Sun 18 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

UTAH SAINTS Sat 17 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE CADENZAS Sat 17 Oct, Actress & Bishop, B'ham

TWIN ATLANTIC + THE XCERTS Sat 17 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE UNDERTONES + THE BEAT FEAT. RANKING JNR Sat 17 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GRUBSON Sat 17 Oct, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

THE SHAMROCKS Sat 17 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

XODUS: BOB MARLEY TRIBUTE Sat 17 Oct, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

KING OF POP STARRING NAVI Sat 17 Oct, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

SUPREME QUEEN Sat 17 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

ABBA - SWEDE DREAMZ Sat 17 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

VERITY STANDEN Sat 17 Oct, Fenton Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

DUKE SPECIAL Sat 17 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

INGLORIOUS + KIRA MAC + WHITE SKIES Sat 17 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

NORRIE MACIVER Sat 17 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

ART GARFUNKEL Sat 17 Oct, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

LE BONE + A PIG CALLED EGGS + ANY GIVEN REASON + SOFT BOYS Sat 17 Oct, LOOP, Shrewsbury

BATTLE OF THE BANDS: HEAT THREE Sat 17 Oct, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

AMIT DATTANI Sat 17 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

KINSTRIFE + CHERRY B Sat 17 Oct, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

IGUANA DEATH CULT Sun 18 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ELEINE Sun 18 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BONFIRE RADICALS Sun 18 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

INXS GB Sun 18 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

BLAZE BAYLEY Sun 18 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

BRITALICA Sun 18 Oct, The Rigger, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

ATOM HEART FLOYD Sun 18 Oct, The Station, Cannock

ELLES BAILEY Sun 18 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

RED MICK - THE MUSIC OF SIMPLY RED Sun 18 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

TINGSHUO YANG ORGAN RECITAL

Featuring a performance from the IAO-RCO Organ Competition 2026 winner, Mon 12 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

NDR RADIOPHILHARMONIC HANNOVER:

BEETHOVEN & BRAHMS Featuring Stanislav Kochanovsky (conductor) & Ingrid Fliter (piano), Tues 13 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SIMEON WALKER PIANO RECITAL Tues 13 Oct, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

ANNE PAGE ORGAN RECITAL Tues 13 Oct, Lichfield Cathedral

CBSO: SIBELIUS' 5TH SYMPHONY

Featuring Thomas Dausgaard (conductor), Benjamin Grosvenor (piano). Programme also includes Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1, Thurs 15 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PAUL CARR ORGAN RECITAL Fri 16 Oct, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

CBSO - NORTHERN LIGHTS & GERMAN SOUL Fri 16 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

CERAMIC CITY CHOIR: MOZART REQUIEM Programme also includes Brahms's Schicksalslied, Sat 17 Oct, St Andrew's Church, Newcastle-under-Lyme

EX CATHEDRA: IN 40 PARTS - SPEM IN ALIUM Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor). Programme includes works by Tallis, Roth and a world premiere from Roderick Williams, Sun 18 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

SUNDAY SERENADE Featuring Bethan Conway (harp), Sun 18 Oct, St John the Baptist Church, Whittington, North Shropshire

Comedy

CHRIS WILLIAMSON Tues 13 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BBC NEW COMEDY AWARDS Wed 14 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

NISH KUMAR Thurs 15 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

HANNAH EAST Thurs 15 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, HAYLEY ELLIS & FRED COOKE Thurs 15 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

PHIL WANG Thurs 15 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

FRANK SANAZI & SOL BERNSTEIN Thurs 15 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

CHRISTOPHER HALL Fri 16 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DAN SCHREIBER Fri 16 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MICK MILLER, BETHANY BLACK, PRESIDENT OBONJO & WAYNE BEESE Fri 16 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

SAM LAKE, FRED COOKE, HAYLEY ELLIS &

ALISTAIR BARRIE Fri 16 - Sat 17 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RAJ POOJARA, NEIL MCFARLANE, QUINCY & MERYL O'ROURKE Sat 17 Oct, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

SANDRO FORD Sat 17 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUDITH JACOBS, CURTIS WALKER, RICHARD BLACKWOOD & TOJU Sat 17 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

TEJ DHUTIA, NOREEN KHAN, SHAZIA MIRZA, STELLA GRAHAM & NAPH ESA Sat 17 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

DAVE LONGLEY, DAMION LARKIN & COMICS TBC Sat 17 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

SEANN WALSH Sat 17 Oct, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

IGNACIO LOPEZ Sat 17 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

NURSE GEORGIE CARROLL Sat 17 Oct, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

NURSE GEORGIE CARROLL Sun 18 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

TOM STADE Sun 18 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HASSAN PHILLS Sun 18 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEWART LEE Sun 18 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

Theatre

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A MUSICAL Kidderminster Musical Theatre Company present a brand-new musical comedy bursting with hits from the 1980s, Mon 12 - Sat 17 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

ANOTHER GOODBYE Moving and compassionate theatre performance exploring love, loss and difficult conversations surrounding end of life, Tues 13 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL Amber Davies plays Elle Woods in the smash-hit rom-com musical, based on the award-winning film, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

WE WILL ROCK YOU Brownhills Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of the Ben Elton musical, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

THE ADDAMS FAMILY Stoke Youth present an amateur version of the kooky musical, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Tudor Musical Comedy Society present an amateur version of the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

ANNIE Claire Sweeney stars as Miss Hannigan in a new version of the much-loved rags-to-riches musical, Tues 13 - Sun 18 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

ANIMAL FARM Guy Masterson's solo adaptation of George Orwell's barnyard masterpiece, Wed 14 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE VOID Sci-fi horror combining 'powerful illusions, atmospheric projections and a creeping sense of dread', Wed 14 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

COME FROM AWAY Musical Theatre Stafford present the true story of how an isolated community in Newfoundland played host to thousands of diverted air travellers in the aftermath of 9/11. Amateur version, Wed 14 - Sat 17 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

OH ZEUS! Le Navet Bete present a 'riotous, all-out-hilarious ride through Greek mythology', Thurs 15 - Sat 17 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

A TALE OF US Brand-new play for parents and their babies, blending drama and multi-sensory playtime in a relaxed environment, Sun 18 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

Dance

MATTHEW BOURNE'S THE CAR MAN New Adventures' award-winning dance thriller, loosely based on Bizet's Carmen, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

INFUSION EMPORIUM: A CELEBRATION OF DANCE INNOVATION Production showcasing the transformative power of fusion dance, blending the timeless elegance of Raqs Sharqi (bellydance) with contemporary influences and unexpected elements, Sat 17 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Light Entertainment

THE CABINET OF DR CALIGARI Screening of the silent masterpiece, accompanied by a brand-new live score from Coventry-born musician Chris Green, Thurs 15 Oct, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

THE DRIFTERS BY CANDLELIGHT Thurs 15 Oct, Lichfield Cathedral

SOLVE-ALONG-A-MURDER-SHE-WROTE Interactive screening of the Murder She Wrote episode A Fashionable Way To Die. Also featuring games, prizes and audience participation, Fri 16 Oct, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

80S MANIA A multi-tribute show featuring a live band, dancers, and



Legally Blonde The Musical - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

some of the 1980s' greatest hits, Sat 17 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

JAMES PHELAN - THE MAN WHO WAS MAGIC New show from the award-winning magician, Sun 18 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE OPERA BOYS - THE FAREWELL TOUR STARRING PAUL POTTS Sun 18 Oct, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

RUSSELL WATSON: AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH 'THE VOICE' Expect beloved classics, spine-tingling tales and personal stories from behind the spotlight, Sun 18 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

Events

ALGORAVE - EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM Algorave returns to Birmingham for a special evening of live-coded music and visuals, Thurs 15 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

GHOST TOURS OF SHREWSBURY TOWN Learn about the history of the town and the ghosts that haunt it, Thurs 15 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

PUMPKINFEST Featuring Halloween-related attractions and activities, including Pumpkin Alley, the Little Scare House and a spooky trail, Fri 16 - Sun 18 Oct, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

PUMPKIN PICKING With over 50 varieties to choose from. Free entry and no booking needed, Fri 16 - Sun 18 Oct, Arscott Farm, Pontesford, Shrewsbury

PUMPKINS @ LOWER DRAYTON FARM Pull on your wellies, grab a wheelbarrow and pick your perfect pumpkin straight from the field where it grew, Fri 16 - Sat 31 Oct, Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge

SCAREFEST Immerse yourself in a fright-filled world of spiningling Halloween attractions and live entertainment, Fri 16 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

COMPTON CARE SUNSET STROLL Guests are invited to walk a 5km or 10km route in memory of someone

special, Sat 17 Oct, Weston Park, Shropshire

DISCO BLISS PRESENT: 70S DISCO 80S POP DAY PARTY A daytime dance party, Sat 17 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

LINOCUT PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP Be inspired by the museum's collection to create your own lino print artworks, Sat 17 Oct, Stourbridge Glass Museum

X-CON Event for fans of horror, sci fi, fantasy, the paranormal and all things fringe, Sat 17 Oct, Himley Hall, Dudley

BONGO'S BINGO The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 17 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

O GAUGE GET TOGETHER A celebration of railway modelling in 1:43.5 scale, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

PUMPKIN VILLAGE Explore the pumpkin field, enjoy live entertainment and meet roaming characters, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Oct, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton-upon-Trent

BLAZING HALLOWEEN Fun family event packed with spooky surprises, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Oct, Drayton Manor Resort, Tamworth

MYTHS, LEGENDS AND MAGIC TRAIL Follow clues around the museum to uncover fascinating objects and discover magical stories and legendary characters. Suitable for children aged 5 plus, until Sat 31 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

THE GREAT BIG HALLOWEEN HUNT TRAIL Featuring an interactive story trail and activities including pumpkin spotting, casting a spell and flying like a witch on a broomstick, Sat 17 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Shugborough Estate, Staffs

FAMILY HEALTH & WELLBEING FESTIVAL Sun 18 Oct, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

HALLOWEEN CRAFT & GIFT FAIR Sun 18 Oct, Himley Hall, Dudley

WEDDING OPEN DAY Meet the venue's dedicated team of experienced event planners, Sun 18 Oct, Weston Park, Shropshire

Gigs

JAKE VAADELAND Mon 19 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CLANN AN DRUMMA Mon 19 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

SOUL II SOUL Mon 19 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

GIRL IN THE YEAR ABOVE + RAGEFLOWER Tues 20 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

FLORENTINES Tues 20 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

FAYE Tues 20 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

GOLDFORD Tues 20 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LIME GARDEN Tues 20 Oct, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

FOY VANCE Tues 20 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

DURAN DURAN + PIGEON Tues 20 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

BOBBIE DAZZLE Tues 20 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

ALICE COOPER Tues 20 Oct, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

BRIANNA CORRIGAN Tues 20 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

ADMIRAL FALLOW Wed 21 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GRACE GACHOT Wed 21 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

FATHER OF PEACE Wed 21 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

AMIT DATTANI Wed 21 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

WABASH Wed 21 Oct, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

THEA GILMORE Wed 21 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

LOAF OF BEARD + DOG TRAIN + JIZZ MCJAZZ Wed 21 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

BEL COBAIN Thurs 22 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

MARGARET GLASPY Thurs 22 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

FAT FREDDY'S DROP + DJ NIGHTMARES ON WAX Thurs 22 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

I PROMISED THE WORLD

Thurs 22 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

BRYDE Thurs 22 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

ALISON MOYET Thurs 22 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CREDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW Thurs 22 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

TEDDY SINGS - TEDDY SWIMS TRIBUTE Thurs 22 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

THE BLUETONES Thurs 22 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

MT JONES Thurs 22 Oct, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE ELO EXPERIENCE Thurs 22 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

NOISE OF ANGELS + HOLDEN Thurs 22 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

JAZZ AND FUNK ROADSHOW Thurs 22 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

EDDI READER Thurs 22 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

GURRIERS + TRAMHAUS Fri 23 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

NOAHFINNCE Fri 23 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CATCHING CAIRO Fri 23 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AIRBAG + LESOIR Fri 23 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

BOYS Fri 23 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

LUCY MAY WALKER Fri 23 Oct, Dead Wax, B'ham

STARSAILOR Fri 23 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

GOLDIE LOOKIN CHAIN Fri 23 Oct, XOYO, B'ham

ARRIVAL - THE HITS OF ABBA Fri 23 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

SOUND & VISION - TRIBUTE TO BOWIE Fri 23 Oct, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

FLASH - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN Fri 23 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

DETROIT SOUL COLLECTIVE Fri 23 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

SWEETPOOL + THE DIRT Fri 23 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

PUNK ROCK FACTORY + CALL IT OFF Fri 23 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

MIKE LINDUP TRIO Fri 23 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

DEXYS MIDNIGHT RUNNERS Fri 23 Oct, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

A CERTAIN RATIO Fri 23 Oct, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

MONKISH + KID KLUMSY + WASTED LIFE + ZIPSTYLE Fri 23 Oct, Riff Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

WHITESNAKE UK Fri 23 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE EXPLOITED Fri 23 Oct, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

SENSATION ABBA Fri 23 Oct, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

CHER + SHANIA TWAIN TRIBUTES Fri 23 Oct, Two Gates Club, Tamworth

QUESTIONS OF ANGELS Fri 23 Oct, The Station, Cannock

FLUOXETINE Fri 23 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

GAMBLER Fri 23 Oct, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

LATIN QUARTER Fri 23 Oct, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

DIRTY/DC Fri 23 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE ENDINGS Fri 23 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

54 NORTH Fri 23 Oct, Chelmarsh Parish Hall, North Shropshire

ALL4INDIE VS BRITPOP UNITED Sat 24 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TOM ROBINSON WITH ADAM PHILLIPS Sat 24 Oct, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

MELANIE C Sat 24 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BRANDON FLOWERS Sat 24 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

CUD + SANDKINGS Sat 24 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

CANCER BATS Sat 24 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE MOUSE OUTFIT Sat 24 Oct, Mama Roux's, B'ham

ALWAYS JOVI Sat 24 Oct, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

BOOTLEG ABBA Sat 24 Oct, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

ELECTROMANTICS Sat 24 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

JOHNNY2BAD Sat 24 Oct,

The Robin, Bilston

BLACKBALLED+ AUTUMN SAINTS+ DNAR + NOT QUITE DEAD YET Sat 24 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

HAYSEED DIXIE + SWEET ELECTRIC Sat 24 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

BAUDELAIRE + VERSAINTS + BLACK TAPE Sat 24 Oct, Dive, Wolverhampton

GOLDIE LOOKIN CHAIN + JOHN MOUSE Sat 24 Oct, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

ICARTOONS CAN'T DIE + DIRE THORNS + EMPORA Sat 24 Oct, Riff Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

LOVE DISTRACTION Sat 24 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

GO YOUR OWN WAY - THE FLEETWOOD MAC LEGACY Sat 24 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

SLYDER Sat 24 Oct, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

RULE THE WORLD AND DAN BUDD - TAKE THAT + ROBBIE SHOW Sat 24 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MARK HARRISON BAND Sat 24 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

54 NORTH Sat 24 Oct, Clun Village Hall, North Shropshire

MARTHA TILSTON Sun 25 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA + NOVELISTS + 156/SILENCE + OVERSIZE Sun 25 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

J. COLE Sun 25 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

PARANOHEAD - RADIOHEAD TRIBUTE Sun 25 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

VAN ROTH Sun 25 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

TV SMITH + ZIPSTYLE Sun 25 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Sun 25 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES Sun 25 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Classical Music

WILL SMITH (TENOR) Tues 20 Oct, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

CBSO: SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE Featuring François Leleux (conductor/cor anglais). Programme includes works by Debussy, Gipsy & Berlioz, Wed 21 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MICHAL CŹIŻEWICZ (VIOLIN) & EMMA ABBATE (PIANO) Programme includes works by Dvořák, Debussy & Bartok, Wed 21 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: SERENADES WITH FRANÇOIS LELEUX Featuring François Leleux (oboe) & CBSO Woodwind Section. Programme include works by Gounod, Strauss & Dvořák, Thurs 22 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

TIM BURTON'S UNIVERSE BY MYSTERY ENSEMBLE Music from the films of Tim Burton, including Alice in Wonderland, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Edward Scissorhands & more..., Fri 23 Oct, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RED PRIEST: A BAROQUE EXTRAVAGANZA Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Bach, Handel & Telemann, Fri 23 Oct, Maidment Building, Shrewsbury School

CBSO LIVE IN CONCERT: HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 Featuring Anthony Gabriele (conductor). Experience the spectacular film sequel presented in HD, with its thrilling score by John Powell performed live by the CBSO, Sat 24 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

CBSO FAMILY CONCERT: HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR Featuring Ellie Slorach (conductor), Jane Wright (presenter) & CBSO Children's Chorus. Programme includes iconic movie themes and works by Saint-Saëns, Mussorgsky, A Clyne & more..., Sun 25 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

LENNY HENRY Mon 19 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

IGNACIO LOPEZ Wed 21 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JONATHAN PIE Wed 21 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

MORGAN REES Thurs 22 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, DAVE FULTON & DAISY EARL Thurs 22 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

RUSSELL HOWARD Thurs 22 - Sun 25 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

CHRISTOPHER HALL Fri 23 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROBERT WHITE Fri 23 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

JACK GLEADOW, JOE MCERNAN, DAVE FULTON & DAISY EARL Fri 23 - Sat 24 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LEROY BRITO, GILL GEE, ANT DEWSON & JON PEARSON Sat 24 Oct, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

RACHEL FAIRBURN Sat 24 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOE WELLS Sun 25 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JAMAICA VS NIGERIA COMEDY CLASH Sun 25 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

Theatre

REWIND: BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA Live music, puppetry and projection combine in a show exploring the life of a young man facing authoritarianism, Mon 19 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

FIRE FIRE Moving drama about people taking big risks to protest, people who love to hate them, and how some people discover they have a deeper purpose in common, Tues 20 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

LIGHTSTREAMS: A NEW PLAY ABOUT MIGRANT CARERS Passionate play about a family and their choices during a global crisis. Inspired by real-life testimonies, Tues 20 Oct, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER? A play about the memories we hope we never forget and the ones we know we should. Note that the production features strong language and adult themes of child abuse and sexual assault, Tues 20 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE HAUNTING OF WIDOW'S LEAP FARM Stand-alone sequel to the award-winning *The Haunting Of Blaine Manor*, Tues 20 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

DEAR EVAN HANSEN Newcastle Operatic Society present an amateur version of the hit musical, telling the story of an anxious high-school kid who wants nothing more than to fit in, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE CHOIR OF MAN An evening of foot-stomping entertainment set in 'the best pub in the world', where everyone is welcome... Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's award-winning musical tells the moving story of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the track, only to meet again with

fateful consequences, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

WE WILL ROCK YOU Stourbridge Operatic Society present an amateur version of the Ben Elton musical, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall

MURDER ON THE NILE Amateur version of Agatha Christie's tale of love, mystery and betrayal, Tues 20 - Sat 31 Oct, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield

MADE YOU LOOK Ty'rone Haughton's one-man poetry show, interrogating masculinity and what it means to be an immigrant 'in a Britain growing increasingly hostile towards minorities and women', Wed 21 - Thurs 22 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

JEEZUS! Catholic guilt collides with unrepentant queerness in this 'sinful, heart-pounding mix of live music, dark humour and Latin heat', Wed 21 - Sat 24 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

DRACULA Lichfield Players present an amateur version of Bram Stoker's classic horror story, Wed 21 - Sat 24 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE TRIAL OF ROMEO OSCAR Alan Ayckbourn's courtroom drama, posing the question: 'what makes us human?', Wed 21 - Sat 31 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

OF MICE AND MEN John Steinbeck's classic portrait of two migrant workers during the Great Depression, Thurs 22 Oct, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

LIGHTSTREAMS: A NEW PLAY ABOUT MIGRANT CARERS Passionate play about a family and their choices during a global crisis. Inspired by real-life testimonies, Fri 23 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

MATILDA THE MUSICAL Amateur version presented by the Pauline Quirke Academy, Sat 24 Oct, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

ANNIE MOMO Academy of Drama present an amateur version of the much-loved rags-to-riches musical, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, Rugeley Rose Theatre

Kids Theatre

THE SNOWMAN World premiere of a brand-new stage version of Raymond Briggs' much-loved children's story, Tues 20 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

ICE AGE ADVENTURE LIVE Fun-filled family adventure packed with prehistoric animals, snow-packed valleys and sabre-toothed surprises, Sat 24 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE LIBRARIANS 'Magical' story for family audiences following the misadventures of librarians Mr Page

and Miss Book, Sat 24 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

SPOT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY Interactive show for younger audiences, Sat 24 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE WITCH WHO COULDN'T SLEEP Gentle, heartwarming show for younger audiences, complete with live action, music and animation, Sun 25 Oct, Burntwood Memorial Institute, Burntwood

Dance

THE BROWN SUITE Funk-fuelled production, set in 1970s New York, in which a cast of seven untamable characters collide - from playful flirtation and intoxicating romance to heartbreak, conflict and redemption, Sat 24 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

KATHAKALI Highly visual classical dance drama exploring society's successes and failures, Sun 25 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

Light Entertainment

QUEENZ: BATTLE OF THE DIVAS! Drag and musical theatre combine in a show featuring hit songs from Whitney, Beyonce, Britney, Tina, Cher, The Spice Girls, Celine and others... Tues 20 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE MUSIC OF TIM BURTON, DANNY ELFMAN & BEYOND Featuring The Great British Film Orchestra, Wed 21 Oct, Dudley Town Hall



JIMMY NAIL - STORIES AND SONGS An intimate retrospective show that journeys through Jimmy's music, memory and life, Wed 21 Oct, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

RAT PACK LIVE A tribute show showcasing all-time favourite songs from Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr, Wed 21 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE JEREMY BAMBER WHITE HOUSE FARM MURDERS Investigative journalist & criminologist Mark Williams-Thomas presents an immersive theatre experience that delves into one of the most infamous murder cases in British criminal history, Wed 21 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

JEFF WAYNE'S MUSICAL VERSION OF

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS Live concert experience of the original double album, accompanied by on-screen animation, Thurs 22 Oct, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

RAINER HERSCH: ALL CLASSICAL MUSIC EXPLAINED - LIVE! Hit comedy show from the acclaimed pianist, conductor & stand-up comedian, Fri 23 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

TOMMY COOPER: HAVE I GOT TIME FOR MORE? 'An evening of tomfoolery, jokes, songs, laughter, magic - and failed magic'... Fri 23 Oct, Halesowen Town Hall

THAT'LL BE THE DAY! Nostalgic show packed with comedy sketches and chart-topping favourites from the 1950s through to the 1980s, Fri 23 & Sat 24 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 IN CONCERT Experience the spectacular film sequel presented in HD, with its score performed live by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sat 24 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

GARETH GATES: BOYBAND IN THE BUFF 'A high-energy celebration of pop, passion and perfectly sculpted physiques', Sat 24 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

THE D-DAY JUNIORS - BACK HOME Celebrating the wartime spirit via song, dance, music and reflection, Sun 25 Oct, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

Talks & Spoken Word

JEREMY BOWEN: TRUTH UNDER FIRE An evening with the BBC's international editor, including an audience Q&A in the second half, Mon 19 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

SHAUN RIDER: HAPPY MONDAYS & FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, & SUNDAYS Wed 21 Oct, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

AN EVENING WITH ROBIN INCE Stories and poetry from the multi-award-winning comedian, author & broadcaster, Wed 21 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

IN CONVERSATION WITH JOANNE HARRIS Event in celebration of Joanne's new book, *Sleepers*. Joseph Knox chairs the conversation, Thurs 22 Oct, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

DR JOHN COOPER CLARKE An evening with the Godfather of Punk Poetry, Fri 23 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent & Sat 24 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

PHILLIPA ASHLEY IN CONVERSATION WITH MILLY JOHNSON The bestselling author talks about her upcoming book, *Stay Another Christmas*, Sun 25 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield



THE WINTER LIGHT EXPERIENCE

A spectacular world of light, colour & winter wonder

Step into the Winter Light Experience at The Belfry Hotel and Resort and discover an illuminated trail filled with bold installations, live actors and unexpected moments.

But there's a mystery to solve... Santa has made an unexpected landing, and his presents, reindeer and Christmas magic are scattered along the trail. Will you follow the lights and help put everything back where it belongs?

What to expect:

- ◆ 60-90 minute illuminated journey, over a mile long
- ◆ 30+ brand-new light installations & interactive games
- ◆ Festive food & a fully licensed Après Bar
- ◆ Live actors throughout the experience
- ◆ Dedicated dog-friendly & sensory nights
- ◆ Free-to-access Christmas Courtyard

First 1,000 kid's tickets are free! Book early to secure your desired dates.



@winterlightexperience



Scan here to
book your
tickets!



Although hosted at The Belfry Hotel & Resort, Winter Light Experience is an independently operated event.

JAMES HASKELL - HASK UNFILTERED
Join the former rugby player for an evening of stories, laughter and no-holds-barred honesty, Sun 25 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Events

MYTHS, LEGENDS AND MAGIC TRAIL
Follow clues around the museum to uncover fascinating objects and discover magical stories and legendary characters. Suitable for children aged 5 plus, until Sat 31 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC - A MAMMA MIA PARTY Featuring all the hits you know and love, Thurs 22 Oct, Halesowen Town Hall

GHOST TOURS OF SHREWSBURY TOWN
Learn about the history of the town and the ghosts that haunt it, Thurs 22 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

GUIDED TOUR OF WEOLEY CASTLE
Explore Weoley Castle with experienced guides and check out real finds from the site, on display in the Visitor Centre, Fri 23 Oct, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

THE MURDER OF OSCAR SPENCE

Halloween-inspired murder-mystery night, Fri 23 Oct, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

PUMPKIN PICKING With over 50 varieties to choose from. Free entry and no booking needed, Fri 23 - Sun 25 Oct, Arscott Farm, Pontesford, Shrewsbury

PUMPKINFEST Featuring Halloween-related attractions and activities, including Pumpkin Alley, the Little Scare House and a spooky trail, Fri 23 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry

JACK SKELTON TAP WORKSHOP Learn dynamic choreography in this high-energy tap class, Sat 24 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HALLOWEEN NIGHTS A spooktacular night of family fun and tricks & treats, Sat 24 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

HALLOWEEN GLASS SKULLS WORKSHOP Make your own spooky glass skull with artist Terri Malcolm, Sat 24 Oct, Stourbridge Glass Museum

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS Featuring a full bar, music, catering and family entertainment, Sat 24 Oct, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire



Autumn half-term activities at Severn Valley Railway

GR8 ULTIMATE STANCE Featuring more than 350 of the best stanced show cars from the UK & Europe, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

CHRISTMAS GIFT FAYRE The ideal place in which to find an unusual gift or stocking filler, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

PUMPKIN VILLAGE Explore the pumpkin field, enjoy live entertainment and meet roaming characters, Sat 24 - Sat 31 Oct, National Forest Adventure Farm,

Burton-upon-Trent

OCTOBER HALF TERM: JET AND SPACE WEEK A week of aviation and space-themed family activities, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, RAF Museum Midlands, Cosford

OCTOBER HALF TERM FUN - MYTHS AND SUPERSTITIONS Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

AUTUMN HALF TERM Climb aboard a heritage diesel or steam-hauled train and see what you can spot as you travel along the line, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

ARSCOTT FARM PUMPKIN PATCH

PONTESFORD, SHREWSBURY, SY5 0XP

OPEN EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY IN OCTOBER

OVER 50 DIFFERENT VARIETIES TO CHOOSE FROM · FREE ENTRY · NO BOOKING NEEDED

FIND OUT MORE AT ARSCOTTFARM.CO.UK

AND FOLLOW US [ARSCOTTFARM](https://www.facebook.com/ARSCOTTFARM)

Gigs

MATTHEW C. WHITAKER Mon 26 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MADDIE MORRIS Mon 26 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

ALEXANDROS TSOUVELAS Mon 26 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

10CC'S GRAHAM GOULDMAN Mon 26 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

TIGERCUB Tues 27 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MOLLY Tues 27 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE KID LAROI + NATE SIB Tues 27 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DEARLICE Tues 27 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SJ MORTIMER + SAVANNAH GARDENER Tues 27 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

RIKAS Wed 28 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHY FACE TROUBADOUR Wed 28 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

DEAF HAVANA + THE DANGEROUS SUMMER Wed 28 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ALLIE X Wed 28 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KORN + ARCHITECTS + YOUTH CODE Wed 28 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

MAN IN THE MIRROR - A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL JACKSON Wed 28 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

ALICE HOWE + FREEBO Wed 28 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

THE LEGENDS OF AMERICAN COUNTRY Wed 28 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

MICK MCCONNELL + BLUE THUNDER Wed 28 Oct, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

CHINA CRISIS Thurs 29 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

A DIFFERENT THREAD Thurs 29 Oct, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

MAX + HARVEY Thurs 29 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

TRANSVISION VAMP + YEE LOI Thurs 29 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE MARY WALLOPERS Thurs 29 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

64 whatsonlive.co.uk

LADY LESHURR Thurs 29 Oct, XOYO, Digbeth, Birmingham

EVERY HELL + AS LIVING ARROWS + TORONTO BLESSINGS Thurs 29 Oct, The Rainbow, B'ham

THE DRIFTERS Thurs 29 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

WILL WILDE Thurs 29 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

MUDDIBROOKE Thurs 29 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

KLARA DEVLIN QUARTET + JOSH BAILEY TRIO Thurs 29 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

FOREVER JACKSON Thurs 29 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

AZIZ IBRAHIM Thurs 29 Oct, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

DEBORAH ROSE Thurs 29 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shrops

THE HANDOVER Thurs 29 Oct, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

REPUBLICA Fri 30 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

STVWI Fri 30 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SKINDRED + ALIEN ANT FARM + SPINESHANK, ORGY Fri 30 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HIGH FADE Fri 30 Oct, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

HALLOWEEN THE CONCERT Fri 30 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

SOUND OF THE LIONESS - THE MUSIC OF AMY WINEHOUSE Fri 30 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

THE SCOTT SORRY MEMORIAL BIRTHDAY SHOW Fri 30 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

THE WONDER STUFF + INSPIRAL CARPETS Fri 30 Oct, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

JOHN LYDON Fri 30 Oct, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

LIMP BISCUIT + PAPAS ROACHES Fri 30 Oct, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

TOM BROOKSBY + THE SECRET SERVICE Fri 30 Oct, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

THUNDER HAMMER Fri 30 Oct, The Underground,

Stoke-on-Trent

THE MELSONS Fri 30 Oct, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

THANK ABBA FOR THE MUSIC Fri 30 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BLIZZARD REBORN Fri 30 Oct, The Station, Cannock

LINDISFARNE Fri 30 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

TARGET Fri 30 Oct, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

BRIANA CORRIGAN Fri 30 Oct, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

THE EMINEM SHOW Fri 30 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

DON LETTS Fri 30 Oct, LOOP, Shrewsbury

THE ULTIMATE SEVENTIES SHOW Fri 30 Oct, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shrops

JASON DUFFILL Sat 31 Oct, Actress & Bishop, B'ham

RUNAWAY CLUB Sat 31 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SLAYYYTER + PEARLY DROPS Sat 31 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BLACK PARADE Sat 31 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE EXPLOITED + FACE UP! Sat 31 Oct, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

WOODEN DOG Sat 31 Oct, Mama Roux's, B'ham

BIG JIM'S ALABAMA BOOGIE BOYS Sat 31 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

SOIL + FINGER ELEVEN + ADEMA Sat 31 Oct, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

GENESIS SONGBOOK Sat 31 Oct, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

THE BIG HELL + BENZO QUEEN + WULFGANG Sat 31 Oct, Dive, Wolverhampton

PAUL WALKER + KAREN PFEIFFER Sat 31 Oct, The Horseshoe Inn, Stoke-on-Trent

ANTI-NOWHERE LEAGUE + WASTED LIFE + THE THIRTEENTH TURN Sat 31 Oct, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

HAMMERED Sat 31 Oct, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

LEFT TO REIGN Sat 31 Oct, LOOP, Shrewsbury

ENVY OF THE STATE Sat 31 Oct, The Firefly, Oakengates, Telford

Classical Music

ALISON LORAM VIOLIN RECITAL Tues 27 Oct, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: BRAHMS' CLARINET QUINTET Featuring Oliver Janes (clarinet), Charlotte Skinner & Victoria Farrell-Reed (violins), David BaMaung (viola) & Miguel Fernandes (cello), Wed 28 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

JOUBERT CENTENARY CELEBRATION Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor) & RBC Chamber Choir. Programme includes works by Joubert, Byrd, Parry & more..., Thurs 29 Oct, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

LEON MCCAWLEY PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Beethoven & more..., Thurs 29 Oct, Stoke Rep Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

CBSO LIVE IN CONCERT: CASINO ROYALE Featuring Caleb Young (conductor), Fri 30 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHILDRENS' HALOWE'EN CONCERT Featuring performances from young local musicians, Fri 30 Oct, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

RBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: FIREBIRD SUITE Featuring Michael Seal (conductor). Programme also includes Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Fri 30 Oct, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO LIVE IN CONCERT: WORLD OF WARCRAFT Immerse yourself in the epic legacy of the World of Warcraft through an unforgettable symphonic experience, Sat 31 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FROM BACH TO THE BLUES! Featuring Gerard McChrystal (saxophone) & Nigel Pursey (organ). Programme includes works by Bach, Vivaldi, Haydn & more..., Sat 31 Oct, Shrewsbury Abbey

Comedy

ALEXANDROS TSOUVELAS Mon 26 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

AKAASH SINGH Tues 27 - Wed 28 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

HARRY ENFIELD AND NO CHUMS Wed 28 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MARK THOMAS Wed 28 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW RYAN Wed 28 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CATHERINE BOHART Thurs 29 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

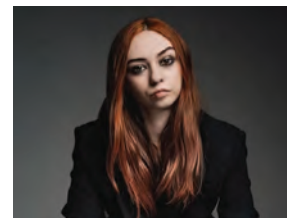


COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, BETHANY BLACK & DAVE LONGLEY Thurs 29 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PROJECT MAYHAM Thurs 29 Oct, The Wellington, Birmingham

KEVIN BLOODY WILSON Thurs 29 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

RUNI TALWAR, HANNAH PLATT (PICTURED) & DAVE CHAWNER Thurs 29 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre



CLOSEUP COMEDY Thurs 29 Oct, Dockworks Waterfront, Brierley Hill

THOR STENHAUG, TOM HOUGHTON, DAVE LONGLEY & BETHANY BLACK Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PATRICK MONAHAN, MADELEINE BRETTINGHAM, ALEX MITCHELL & DAVID WARD Sat 31 Oct, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

STANDUPOVKA Sat 31 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOMMY SANDHU Sat 31 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MANFORD'S COMEDY CLUB Sat 31 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

ROY WALKER, IAN CRAWFORD & DOM WOODWARD Sat 31 Oct, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

Theatre

THE WITCH 'Chilling' portrait of a family unravelling within their own fears and anxieties, Mon 26 Oct, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

DEADLY LIVE! HOSTED BY STEVE BACKSHALL Show promising an action-packed, edge-of-your-seat experience based on the hugely popular CBBC show, Mon 26 Oct, Utilita Arena B'ham

JERSEY BOYS Smash-hit musical that charts the rise to fame of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Box Tale Soup present a new version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale, featuring puppetry and an original score, Tues 27 Oct, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

THE NAG'S HEAD Dark comedy blending real paranormal accounts with live music - an ode to rural England, family ties and the independent pub, Tues 27 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

OF MICE AND MEN John Steinbeck's classic portrait of two migrant workers during the Great Depression, Tues 27 Oct, Lichfield Garrick



THE VOID Sci-fi horror combining 'powerful illusions, atmospheric projections and a creeping sense of dread', Tues 27 - Wed 28 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY Spine-chilling production that promises to keep you on the edge of your seat. James Bye, Hannah Sinclair, Jo Castleton & Caroline Faber star, Tues 27 - Sat 31 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

CATS New production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's award-winning musical, based on TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats, Tues 27 Oct - Sat 7 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

MAMMA MIA! Smash-hit musical telling a story of love, friendship and identity, played out against a backdrop of ABBA hits, Tues 27 Oct - Sat 7 Nov, Wolves Grand Theatre

GEORGE & THE DRAG QUEEN Pipeline Theatre present a new play featuring 'comedy, heartbreak, music and a transmogriifying set', Thurs 29 Oct, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

ANANSI & THE LOST SUN Swallow's Wings Theatre present a puppet show celebrating African and Caribbean culture, Thurs 29 Oct, ACCI, The Heritage Centre, Wolverhampton

ONE MAN POE: THE BUSINESS MAN AND THE CASE OF M VALDEMAR Double bill featuring some of the finest examples of gothic literature, Thurs 29 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

THE HAUNTED BRIDE Rumpus Theatre Company present John Goodrum's spine-chilling play, Thurs 29 Oct, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

THE TURN OF THE SCREW Blackeyed Theatre and Arcola Theatre come together to present Henry James' masterwork of psychological suspense, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, The Rep, Birmingham

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR Starcross Theatre Company present an amateur version of Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

FOLK HORROR Don't Go Into The Cellar present an eerie and unsettling anthology of tales, Fri 30 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

OFF-KEY Coming-of-age drama about Black girlhood, ambition, friendship, and what happens when the person who knows you best becomes someone you no longer recognise, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

DARKLING Titas Halder's epic story of a life ravaged by ecological disaster, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct, The Rep, B'ham

BEING FRANK Brand-new comedy-horror farce concerning a down-on-his-luck research assistant and a boss who's demanding results, Fri 30 Oct - Sat 7 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE LISTENER Algernon Blackwood's chilling tale draws on the author's own experiences of loneliness and poverty, Sat 31 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall

Kids Theatre

FLOTSAM OperaUpClose fuse music, movement and storytelling in a show for younger audiences, Mon 26 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE LIVE Entertainment and education collide in a show featuring 20ft liquid nitrogen clouds, exploding oxygen & hydrogen balloons, fire tornados, hydrogen bottle rockets and a self-built hovercraft, Mon 26 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE MACDOUGALLS: HALLOWEEN PARTY SHOW Family show packed with singalong songs and ghoulish games, Tues 27 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN Comedy and artistry combine in a show featuring square bubbles, bubbles inside bubbles, fog-filled bubbles, bubble volcanoes, tornados and more... Tues 27 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS DISCOVER THE MAGIC Fast-paced and family-friendly production that follows the search for Tinker Bell through various Disney worlds, Wed 28 - Fri 30 Oct, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

THE SPOOKY MAGIC SHOW A show for younger audiences and their families, complete with magic tricks, illusions

and puppetry, Sat 31 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THERE'S A MONSTER IN YOUR SHOW Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures for big imaginations leap from page to stage in a long-touring musical show for younger audiences, Sat 31 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall

Dance

ADAM GARCIA'S EMERALD STORM Fusion of Irish dance with urban tap. Britain's Got Talent finalist Tom Ball stars, Thurs 29 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

Light Entertainment

JOE MARLER WILL SEE YOU LIVE The England rugby player and Celebrity Traitors contestant is joined by comedian Jake Bhardwaj in a show that delivers 'something far beyond a typical interview', Mon 26 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

HALLOWEEN IN CONCERT A 'frightening good night of graveyard smash hits', Mon 26 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

WI-FI WARS HALLOWEEN SPECIAL Interactive show in which audience members compete both in teams and as individuals, with games and quizzes being beamed into their smartphones and tablets, Tues 27 Oct, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

ILLUSION: IMPOSSIBLE 'A night of magic, illusion, music, death-defying escapes and the thrill of the circus'. International illusionist Kayden Black stars, Tues 27 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall

SPINE TINGLING TALES Featuring dark tales from around the world. Note that parts of the performance will take place in the dark, Wed 28 Oct, Rugeley Rose Theatre

THE WITCHER IN CONCERT Concert celebrating 10 years of The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt which brings to life the game's timeless score with cutting-edge visuals and music, Wed 28 Oct, The Civic at The Halls, W'hampton

SCARRED FOR LIFE: A FOLK HORROR SPECIAL Fun and informative show in which Stephen Brotherstone and Bob Fischer unearth twisted artefacts from the folk-horror genre, Wed 28 Oct, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

VILLAINS UNLEASHED Hour-long show featuring spine-tingling songs, chilling choreography and devilish party dances, Thurs 29 Oct, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

PROFESSOR BRIAN COX: EMERGENCE WORLD TOUR Fri 30 Oct, Utilita Arena Birmingham

MY LIFE WITH KENNETH WILLIAMS One-man show in which Dave Benson brings the legendary Carry On star back to life, Fri 30 Oct, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

AN EVENING WITH JOHN LYDON Join the Sex Pistols frontman & lyricist as he talks about how he sees life and shares stories from his career. An audience Q&A also features, Fri 30 Oct, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton



RAINER HERSCH: ALL CLASSICAL MUSIC EXPLAINED - LIVE! Hit comedy show from the acclaimed pianist, conductor & stand-up comedian, Fri 30 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BOLLYWOOD TIME MACHINE Featuring laughter, dance and timeless melodies, Sat 31 Oct, The Wulfrun at The Halls, Wolverhampton

HALLOWEEN IN CONCERT A 'frightening good night of graveyard smash hits', Sat 31 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

Talks & SpokenWord

MICHAEL ROSEN: NICE! Brand-new live show in which the poetry legend looks back at a lifetime of stories and rhymes, Tues 27 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

AN EVENING WITH NIGEL OWENS MBE One of the world's top rugby referees recounts stories from his life and career, Fri 30 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

JOHN CRACE: WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED? The Guardian's political sketch writer tries to make sense of some of the country's 'main events', Sat 31 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Events

MYTHS, LEGENDS AND MAGIC TRAIL Follow clues around the museum to uncover fascinating objects and discover magical stories and legendary characters. Suitable for children aged 5 plus, until Sat 31 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

TAXIDERM Y IN ACTION Join a professional bird taxidermist for a unique live demonstration, Mon 26 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

BUBBLE DISPLAYS Featuring interactive outdoor soap bubble displays, Mon 26 Oct, Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent

GHOST WALK Hour-long walking tour through historic Bridgnorth, Mon 26 - Tues 27 Oct, Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

OCTOBER HALF TERM Featuring outdoor trails, arts & crafts and storytelling, Mon 26 - Fri 30 Oct, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

MAGIC MAYHEM SCIENCE SHOW Join the resident Thinktank science witches as they take you through some enchanting experiments, Mon 26 - Fri 30 Oct, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

K-POP PARTY WITH WISH UPON A PRINCESS PARTIES Sing, dance and feel like a real demon hunter, Tues 27 Oct, Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent

SURREAL SHADOW CREATURES Join professional puppeteer Lori Hopkins and make your own surreal shadow puppet creature, Tues 27 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

'THE BIG DRAW' WITH MOLLY CLEAVER IN EVERY THING MUST GO Grab a pencil

and help fill a gigantic roll of paper with bold shapes, bright colours and imaginative ideas, Tues 27 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MY FIRST MUSEUM TOUR: HALLOWEEN EDITION Relaxed and child-friendly tour of the museum, Tues 27 - Thurs 29 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

OCTOBER HALF TERM: HALLOWEEN HEADS Bring Halloween to life by creating a spooky or silly character head, Tues 27 - Sat 31 Oct, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

HYROX BIRMINGHAM Six days of elite fitness racing, Tues 27 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

WIZARD BUBBLE SHIELDS WITH YOUTH EVOLUTION Meet the team of STEM experts from Youth Evolution as they reveal the science behind things that seem like magic, Wed 28 Oct, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

ZOO LAB AT BLAKESLEY HALL: WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY! Get up close and hands-on with exotic animals, exploring some of the spooky superstitions and gruesome remedies used back in Tudor times, Wed 28 Oct, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

CALIPSO'S CIRCUS Featuring 'world-class stunts, side-splitting comedy, live vocals and your favourite cartoon characters', Wed 28 Oct, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

SCARY TALES: WITCHES ON TRIAL Take along the grown-ups to trial and discover 'the witches living amongst us', Wed 28 - Fri 30 Oct, West Midlands Police Museum, B'ham

DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS DISCOVER THE MAGIC Fast-paced, family-friendly production that follows the search for Tinker Bell through various stunning worlds, Wed 28 Oct - Sun 8 Oct, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN: SPOOKY SCAVENGER HUNT & GLOW-IN-THE-DARK CRAFT Thurs 29 Oct, Stourbridge Glass Museum

'WHERE IN THE WORLD? MILITARY MAPPING ADVENTURES' A talk by Major General (Retd) Roy Wood, reflecting on a career in global military mapping which included employing head-hunters and surviving brushes with cannibals and pirates, Thurs 29 Oct, Shrewsbury Castle, Shropshire

BOO AT THE ZOO! Nighttime fun with bird displays, maze experiences and trick-or-treating, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Wild Zoological Park, Stourbridge

HALLOWEEN NIGHTS A spooktacular night of family fun and tricks & treats, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

GHOST TOURS AT SHUGBOROUGH MANSION One-hour guided tour through some of the most haunted corners of the mansion, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire

HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM Make a spiral spook, a spider or a rat to take home with you, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings

SCREAM TRAIN Take a ride in the dark through haunted stations, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

GHOST TRAINS Spooky family-friendly train ride, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

CALL STAR SUPERSLAM WRESTLING Featuring some of the very best wrestlers from around the world, showcasing their skills in the ring, Fri 30 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

HALLOWEEN AT TELFORD ICE RINK Featuring Halloween characters, fancy dress and spectacular DJ, Fri 30 Oct, Telford Ice Rink, Telford Town Park

MEET THE SCIENCE MAGICIAN Featuring 'spectacular illusions, exciting experiments and interactive demonstrations', Fri 30 Oct, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

HALLOWEEN FAMILY DAY RAVE

Featuring feelgood tunes and 'fun for all ages', Fri 30 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

SPOOKY CINEMA Check out a series of spooky films, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

HALLOWEEN AT THE MUSEUM Drop-in activities including mixing magical potions, writing spooky spells, creating Halloween crafts and exploring creepy crawlies at the discovery table, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

PUMPKIN PICKING With over 50 varieties to choose from. Free entry and no booking needed, Fri 30 & Sat 31 Oct, Arscott Farm, Pontesford, Nr Shrewsbury

MUSEUM GHOST TOURS Take a peek at the museum's most spooky spaces, including cellars and former prison cells not usually open to the public, Fri 30 & Sat 31 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

NIGHTMARE ISLAND Make your way through the darkness as live scare actors emerge from the shadows, Fri 30 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

KINGFISHER & HERON WORKSHOP & WALKABOUT Meet the kingfisher, heron and dragonfly, and take part in headdress-making workshops in preparation for a 'joyful parade', Sat 31 Oct, Ekho Collective, Brierley Hill

BONGO'S BINGO - HALLOWEEN SPECIAL The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 31 Oct, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

DAY OF THE DEAD FAMILY CRAFT: CREATE YOUR OWN COLOURFUL MASK Hands-on craft inspired by the traditions of Día de los Muertos, Sat 31 Oct, Stourbridge Glass Museum

SURREAL COLLAGE MONSTERS Join collage artist Hazel Pitt to make your own surreal creatures, Sat 31 Oct, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION BY UNIQUE PARANORMAL Designed for everyone, from curious beginners and sceptics, to seasoned ghost hunters, Sat 31 Oct, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

MURDER MYSTERY MUSEUM GALLERY TOUR WITH TAT VISION Take a spine-tingling journey through the museum's galleries, Sat 31 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

HALLOWEEN SILENT DISCO Step inside a real haunted jail, collect your wireless headphones and dance the night away in a historic prison wing, Sat 31 Oct, Shrewsbury Prison

DIWALI Celebrate the colourful and vibrant Hindu and Sikh Festival of Lights with traditional music, dance and craft activities, Sat 31 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

IN AID OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER UK

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2026

BAGLEY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
off Ellesmere Road, Shrewsbury

CRAFT STALLS

CAKES

TOMBOLA

RAFFLE

GAMES



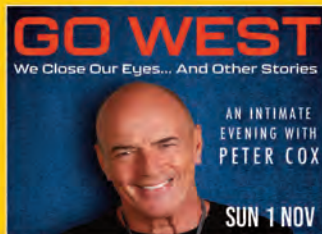
THE BUTTERMARKET

SHREWSBURY

HOWARD STREET, SHREWSBURY, SY1 2LF. TEL: 01743 281750 WWW.THEBUTTERMARKET.CO.UK

LIVE!

SHREWSBURY



CHEAP TRAINS TO LONDON FROM £9*



£5.95
WITH A RAILCARD

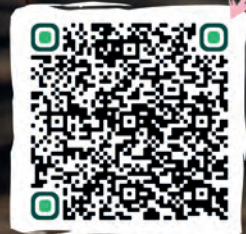


BOOK EARLY
**SAVE
MORE**



London
Northwestern
Railway

Scan and save



*Advance singles. T&Cs apply.