

THE MIDLANDS ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

WARWICKSHIRE

# What's On

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ISSUE 356 AUGUST 2015



**ALEXANDRA  
BURKE**

TEMPTS THE BODYGUARD  
IN BIRMINGHAM

**ROBERT POWELL**

gets regal playing  
King Charles III

interview inside...

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IMAGINEERS**

bigger and better  
in its second year

**INSIDE:**

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COMEDY  
THEATRE  
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# August 2015

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**What's On**  
MAGAZINE GROUP



Alexandra Burke takes the lead as Rachel Maron in award-winning musical *The Bodyguard*. Read more on page 21.

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## Run away to the circus... in fancy dress... in Kings Heath

CircusMASH, an innovative project to drive circus arts within the West Midlands, has announced plans for its 2015 Challenge. Last year's day of circus fun proved a real success and organisers are promising that this year's event will be 'bigger and better'. The initiative invites teams of up to four people to take part in four hours of challenges at Kings Heath Square on 9 August. Participants are requested to attend in fancy dress and will be provided with a task sheet before being invited to engage with the world of circus. Teams will be required to select and complete, in the time provided, ten circus challenges from a list of twenty. Each success must be documented with a photo. Prizes will be awarded for the best snaps while bonus points will be added for best costume.

A £20 registration fee (per team) applies. Find out more, and how to enter, by logging on to [circusmash.co.uk](http://circusmash.co.uk)



## Casting announced for stage premiere of Anita And Me

Mandeep Dhillon and Jalleh Alizadeh are to take the lead roles in the stage premiere of Anita And Me, which shows at Birmingham Repertory Theatre in October.

Adapted for the stage by Tanika Gupta and with direction from Birmingham Rep's Artistic Director Roxana Silbert, Anita And Me is a coming-of-age story based on Meera Syal's semi-autobiographical novel.

Mandeep (Some Girls, Wolf Blood) stars as rebellious British Punjabi teenager Meena, while Jalleh (Benidorm, Doctors and Hustle) plays her English neighbour and soul mate Anita. Further casting includes Ayesha Dharker and Ameet Chana as Meena's parents and Janice Connelly (aka Mrs Barbara Nice) as Mrs Worrall.

Anita And Me shows at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from 9 to 24 October.



## Exciting season of dance announced...

A double bill of 'emotive and spiritual works' from Birmingham's ACE Dance and Music is to launch DanceXchange's new season of productions at the Patrick Centre on 1 October. Directed by Gail Parmel, Mana: The Power Within comprises A Thousand Shepherds - choreographed by Jose Agudo - and Vincent Mantsoe's Mana - a piece rooted in the Sangoma tradition of 'evoking the spirit and earthy ambience of African dance and Shamanic beliefs'. Other DanceXchange season highlights include Scottish Dance Theatre's critically acclaimed YAMA (pictured above) and James Cousins Company's Without Stars/There We Have Been. The line-up also includes the world premiere performance of Gary Clarke Company's COAL - a show which takes a nostalgic look at the realities of life at the coal face. The performance ties in with the thirtieth anniversary of the miners' strike.

Arthur Pita's acclaimed production of The Little Match Girl makes a welcome return too (on 14 November), following sell-out performances last year.

For further information on upcoming productions, visit, [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)

## On yer bike in Coventry

Next month sees the return of Sky Ride Coventry. Taking place on a three-mile circuit in the heart of the city centre, Sky Ride is the biggest event of its kind in the West Midlands, bringing together people of all ages and abilities in a fun and safe environment. The one-day event also offers a programme of free family activities, including circus skills workshops, face painting and pedal-power smoothie machines.

This year visitors will also be able to witness British and European trials bike Champion Danny Butler lead the event's Extreme Mountain Biking Show.

Sky Ride Coventry takes place between 11am and 3pm on Sunday 27 September.

## Celebrating the past and present and future at BMAG

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) has announced a series of celebratory events for the venue's one hundred-and-thirtieth anniversary in November.

The BMAG team will share a different precious object on Facebook and Twitter for

one hundred-and-thirty days leading up to the main event. A request has also been launched for visitors to tweet photographs of themselves next to their favourite items, using hashtag #BMAG130.

The programme of celebrations for the museum's birthday on 28 November so far includes live music, a raffle, entertainment for all ages and the chance to sample a slice of birthday cake in the Edwardian Tearoom.

A time capsule for future museum-goers to explore will also be assembled during the course of the day.

## Irish comedian Kielty goes back to his stand-up roots

Irish funnyman Patrick Kielty has announced he's going back to his stand-up comedy roots with a brand new tour in the autumn.

Presenting material trialled at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Patrick will take to the road with Help - a show where he attempts to re-write the modern rule book for love, life and happiness - with a little guidance from the audience.

Patrick's Midlands fans can catch him at Birmingham's Glee Club on 25 October.

## Space project to inspire youngsters at Thinktank...

Birmingham's award-winning Thinktank Science Museum has launched a new project offering youngsters the chance to learn about human space flight and life on the international space station.

Led by the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres in Bristol, Destination Space has been developed by teams at the National Space Centre in Leicester, the Science Museum in London and Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre in Cheshire. Leading astronaut Tim Peake is also working on the project.

Destination Space launches at Thinktank in October with a calendar of special events, including meet-the-experts sessions and an astronaut show based around Tim's mission.



## Choir seeks tenors for bursary scheme

Birmingham's Bach Choir is seeking applicants for its Student Tenor Bursary Scheme 2015-16. Bursaries of £500 are open to tenors under the age of thirty with student status. Successful applicants, who will work alongside internationally renowned conductor, tutor and composer Paul Spicer, will be required to participate in the choir's major concerts. They will also need to attend a minimum of seventy-five percent of the regular Wednesday evening rehearsals. Closing date for applications is midday 23 September. Interested singers will be invited to attend rehearsals from 9 September to experience being part of the choir and to learn the repertoire. For further information, visit [birmingham.bachchoir.com](http://birmingham.bachchoir.com)



## New awards ceremony to celebrate Birmingham

A new awards ceremony celebrating Birmingham culture, creativity and commerce has been announced.

The Birmingham Awards aim to recognise contributors to the city's success story and will take place at Edgbaston Stadium on 27 November.

Awards categories include Restaurant of the Year, Art & Culture, Businesswoman of the Year and Young Achiever.

For further information on categories and how to nominate candidates, visit [birminghamawards.co.uk](http://birminghamawards.co.uk)

## Mark Wright to host Style Birmingham

Essex celebrity and TV presenter Mark Wright has announced he's to appear at this year's Style Birmingham Live.

The Only Way Is Essex star will host all eight catwalk shows at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's Gas Hall on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September.

A platform on which to showcase the latest autumn/winter styles and collections from the city's high street retailers and shopping centres, Style Birmingham also offers tips and fashion advice from experts.

Commenting on his participation in the event, Mark said: "I'm a big fan of Birmingham, and the people have always been so welcoming. It's changing so much and I can't wait to be there to host Style Birmingham Live and see the latest looks from the city's amazing line-up of shops." Tickets to Style Birmingham are now on sale and include entry to the show, a drink on arrival plus an exclusive goody bag, and access to retailer offers and activities.



### WIN!!!

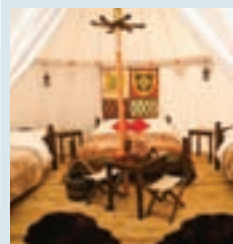
#### Leamington Food Festival hamper

The team behind the ever-popular Leamington Food & Drink Festival has put together a hamper of delicious goodies as a prize on the festival website. To be in with a chance of winning, all you need to do is visit [leamingtonfoodfestival.co.uk/food-hamper](http://leamingtonfoodfestival.co.uk/food-hamper) and complete your details. Simple!

#### Overnight stay at Warwick Castle

What's On Magazines has teamed up with Warwick Castle to offer readers the chance to experience a sleepover in one of the venue's ready-to-sleep Mediaeval Warwick Tents, worth £200 per night.

Find out more and how to enter at [whatsonlive.co.uk/competitions](http://whatsonlive.co.uk/competitions)



## Programme announced for Birmingham Weekender

Organisers behind the biggest free outdoor event ever to grace the streets of Birmingham have announced its programme of entertainment.

Birmingham Weekender (25 to 27 September) will see the city become a hub of creative activity, hosting pop-up performances, a musical picnic, participative events, workshops and much more. Highlights include: Compagnie Transe Express' Maudits Sonnants - an orchestra of baroque bell-ringers playing from a musical chandelier suspended above Centenary Square; physical theatre from Motionhouse; circus theatre from RoguePlay Theatre; and interactive performances from Vamos' octogenarian campaigners, the Crimplene Crusaders.

New commissions will be presented by Birmingham Repertory Theatre in association with Mem Morrison Company, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Birmingham Opera Company, Corey Baker Dance, Sampad Arts with poet Amerah Saleh, and Barbara Nice in association with Women & Theatre.

The weekend will also see the transformation of Centenary Square and Victoria Square. While Centenary Square hosts a Mexican day-of-the-dead block party, Victoria Square will present a music 'festival within a festival'.



## Building for a Guinness World Record

The world's largest LEGO brick caravan will be unveiled at this year's Motorhome & Caravan Show, which runs at Birmingham's NEC from 13 to 18 October.

Attempting to win the Guinness World Record for the largest ever touring caravan made entirely of LEGO bricks, a team of eight professional LEGO brick builders will use more than one hundred-and-fifty thousand individual interlocking bricks to build the model. A yet-to-be-announced special guest will lay the final brick on the morning of 13 October. The model will be based on a modern T@B 320 RS 'teardrop' caravan, including a fully working interior. Visit [motorhomeandcaravanshow.co.uk](http://motorhomeandcaravanshow.co.uk) for further information and to purchase tickets.

# Maureen Chadwick

Whether it's *Bad Girls*, *Footballers' Wives* or episodes of *Coronation Street* and *Waterloo Road*, there's no doubting writer Maureen Chadwick's ability to produce gritty and entertaining storylines. This month sees Maureen's latest theatrical venture make its debut at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre. Featuring music and lyrics by her partner, Kath Gotts, *Crush* is a comic musical set in the early 1960s. What's On recently met up with Maureen to find out what audiences can expect - oh, and to talk a little bit about *Bad Girls*...



“ I had myself locked into a cell at one point so that I could feel the true claustrophobia of it all. ”

**Where did the inspiration for *Crush* come from, Maureen?**

Both Kath and I grew up reading schoolgirl stories and absolutely loving them. It seemed a wonderful subject matter for musical comedy, and as far as we know it's a genre that hasn't really been milked by musical theatre. We felt we could have fun with the genre, salute it and, at the same time, put a new spin on it. The Spice Girls started off this whole girl power thing, which sort of made the feminist message contemporary. That's resonant in the story, but the theme is really about girl friendships and that 'all for one and one for all' sort of spirit.

**If there's a contemporary feel, why the decision to set it in 1963 and not the present day?**

In an early version, we thought the themes were timeless. We didn't specify a time frame but then it became apparent that we should be selective. We chose 1963 because it represented the cusp of the transition into the '60s. The Swinging '60s hadn't really got going and you've still got a '50s flavour very apparent - but Dame Dorothea Dosserdale School for Girls is right at the forefront of change. The new, hateful headmistress who's recently arrived there is trying to overturn the school liberationist values. She's trying to turn back the tide on the sexual revolution and trying to bring back Victorian values. Dame Dorothea was set up by a campaigning Suffragette back in 1928 who would've seen education as the true gateway to emancipation and would've welcomed girls from all walks of life. In *Crush*, some of the pupils are fee-paying posh girls, one of them is an American, one is from an orphanage and another is the daughter of a fireman and clerk, so it embraces a real social mix.

**How much of the musical reflects your own personal experience of schooling?**

Both of us went to all-girl schools, so we've both lived in that world. We've certainly tried to channel our inner schoolgirl, as I suppose everyone else will. There's also a stunning boy in *Crush* who appears in various guises and does indeed become the love interest for one of our girls. We're hoping it will entertain a mixed audience of all ages.

**How do you set about creating the characters, and do you have a favourite?**

The way we work is very collaboratively. It always has to start with a story because all musicals, however marvellous the music is, need a story to hold everything together and motor things along. We chose characters to definitely represent the different types of girls and we got a great contrast between our deputy head and the horrible headmistress. Miss Bleacher the headmistress is quite fierce and reactionary and dear Miss Austin, who was herself a pupil at the school, is the keeper of the flame.

**In your TV creations - *Bad Girls*, *Footballers' Wives* and *Waterloo Road* - there's always an element of shock and often controversy. Will these be evident in *Crush* too, or will it be pretty mild?**

The tone of it is obviously very different because it's musical comedy, so there's an overall light entertainment spin to it. Nevertheless it touches on many similar issues. There are always going to be some people who're going to be shocked about some things that the rest of us take for granted. I would say it's only now that you can have a musical comedy which does indeed celebrate two girls falling in love. It's a sign of the times that we can have such subject matter in family entertainment.

**And do you have a character that you empathise with?**

When you write the story you have to empathise with all of them. When Kath was writing the music for one of Jim Fenner's songs in *Bad Girls*, she had to get inside the head of a sexual predator, which is not a nice place to be. When writing this we had to get inside the head of Miss Bleacher. You have to

think, if I were her, what would I be saying and feeling? You have to identify with every point of view, but overall we know who we want to win and that's the excitement of doing it, really. We like all the characters but for different reasons.

**Does it all come good in the end?**

Overall yes, but there are some twists and turns which may not be entirely predictable.

**Did you know you wanted to become a professional writer even when you were at school?**

I jointly loved art and English. I left school and studied art and subsequently philosophy. My original intention was to become a painter, but then I started taking writing more seriously and just switched over. I had an office job at the time where I was left alone for most of the day, so I thought, well I can't paint here but I could certainly start writing some plays, and that's how I got into writing. I got an agent and got my first TV commission, which was to write on *Angels*. Tony Holland, who created *EastEnders*, also created *Angels*, which was all about nurses. I then got my commission to write for *Coronation Street*. I'd never watched it before. I didn't even know who Jack Duckworth was, so I had to catch up really fast. In all, I think I wrote around forty-five episodes, including the one when Hayley declared herself to be a transsexual. It was also when Deidre Barlow was in prison, so it was great fun.

**The disciplines required for writing for TV and stage are very different. Which do you prefer?**

I thoroughly enjoyed writing for TV but I don't think it's quite the same as it was when we were doing all our shows in *Shed*. I rather doubt that *Bad Girls* would be commissioned as readily now as it was then. We were very fortunate at the time that ITV had a fairly hands-off approach to let you run with things. They also gave you quite a sizeable series to start off with. We had ten episodes for our first series of *Bad Girls*. That gave us enough time to really garner an audience because it was the first prime-time TV drama series to have a central lesbian love story.

**Where did your research take you when you were writing *Bad Girls*?**

We went into several prisons. I had myself locked into a cell at one point so that I could feel the true claustrophobia of it all. It was all entirely research based. Obviously in TV drama more things happen at once, but unlike documentaries you can actually show stuff that a documentary camera could never access, so it really was fantastic to be able to open the doors to that closed world. Prior to that, people just didn't really know much about women's prisons. They thought women prisoners were either mad, bad or fat. We wanted to try and help people feel that it could be you, your mum, your sister or your daughter...

**In complete contrast, you wrote *Footballers' Wives*...**

Yes, and I hate football. I'd never been to a football match before, but *Footballers' Wives* was as much about football as *Dallas* was about oil. We proposed it to ITV and they commissioned us to write a series. Ann McManus and I were the lead writers and

creators on all the *Shed* stuff, so we just threw ourselves into it. Our intention was for it to be a social satire. We saw it as a wonderful opportunity to look into that world of the young, newly rich, over rich, and all the mistakes you can make when you're in that situation.

**Is it true you got a roasting from some people about the show?**

We've always had a roasting. Yes, we were termed 'trash TV'. We were the proud bearers of that title. Basically a lot of male critics hated us. They didn't think we understood the joke, which is just to give you a flavour of the level of patronising comments that came our way. But the public has always got the shows and we've won lots of awards for all of them. To begin with it was a bit of an uphill struggle but, unlike *Bad Girls*, I think *Footballers' Wives* appealed to the ABCs, so it was possibly more of a middle-class pastime.

**You've ticked the boxes for TV and stage. Would you ever consider turning your hand to a novel?**

I've written a film script, which I completed a few months ago, so that's me dipping my toe into another medium.

**Do you and Kath always work together?**

I write my plays on my own but we work together on musicals. Kath and I know how to work together efficiently. Kath gives me lines of dialogue and I give her lines of lyrics. Most of them get refused but we do find it very easy to cook things up together and chew over ideas.

**Do you set yourselves ground rules to ensure you have a work/life balance when working on the same production?**

I learned a bit of a lesson when working at *Shed*. It was so full-on at one point and my work/life balance was non-existent. So I think I would now know how not to get too bogged down. We do balance time off much better now, but that's mainly because I can.

**Is there a place where you're most creative?**

Sometimes it's better to leave your office and go for a walk. Then things just sort of surprise you because they don't always come from conscious thought. I always keep a note pad at the side of the bed. It's a bit bloody annoying when you get an idea in the middle of the night but it's always better to write them down than forget them.

**So far your work has taken you to schools, prisons, on to the football pitch and into nightclubs. Is there a particular environment that you'd like to explore in the future?**

Sometimes you just don't know about the milieu until you've found the story or the character. We've got a few things cooking but I wouldn't want to give away anything more than that...

Crush shows at **The Belgrade Theatre**, Coventry from Friday 4 to Saturday 19 September

interview

# Robert Powell

From King of  
the Jews to  
King of England



**Best known for playing the King of the Jews, Robert Powell is now set to play the King of England. Powell shot to international stardom in the 1970s when he portrayed Christ in Franco Zeffirelli's internationally acclaimed television series Jesus Of Nazareth. Next month he'll be opening the Birmingham Rep's autumn season, taking on the role of our very own Prince of Wales in the award-winning play, King Charles III.**

**What's On caught up with Robert to ask about this latest theatrical endeavour, the challenge of playing the Son of God - and what it's like to make a cult TV comedy series with the one and only Jasper Carrott!**

**Does playing a famous person who's still alive - as you're doing here, Robert - bring with it a particular set of challenges for an actor?**

I suppose it faintly does but I don't think I've played someone who's still alive before. I'm not allowed to do an impersonation of Prince Charles - which is unfortunate, as I do a rather good one. As an actor, I'll be playing Charles entirely subjectively, leaving it for the audience to make up their own minds.

**Have you ever met Prince Charles?**

We're not friends but we've certainly met each other many times. We're members of the same club. He doesn't pitch up to that very often, probably every couple of years, but we're aware of each other and I like him enormously. I'm an ambassador of the Prince's Trust, so I also have other connections.

**Does knowing Charles, and the thought that you're likely to come across each other in social circles, make a difference to how you portray him on stage?**

I joke that the next time I see him he might not be quite so affable, but I see the world through my eyes and I assume that other people have a similar way of looking at things. The play is quite brilliant and is in blank verse. It has a Shakespearean element which brings a tremendous gravitas to it without being too colloquial. Without sounding pompous, the blank verse element of it brings a degree of weight to the play. The audience are probably not that aware of it - just as you're probably not aware if you've never read Shakespeare that it's written as verse.

**Do you know if Charles has seen the play?**

I don't think he has. If it were me, I wouldn't be offended by it; I'd be flattered. I think it shows him in a very good light - but, again, I'm talking subjectively because I'm about to play him. What people will judge him by are the elements that they already know. It's very much about his relationship with his children, and wanting to make his mark having waited all his life for this moment. He doesn't want to waste it and so picks something you'd never expect him to pick to make his mark. The play's about the battle against everybody else as Charles tries to keep his integrity, because he's very conscious of his own conscience. He's a very conscience-driven man, and all the better for that. I'm completely biased because I think he's utterly delightful.

**Do you foresee King Charles III appealing to a mixed-age audience?**

Very much so. Even though Charles is the pivotal character, the sons are equally interesting and exciting characters, as is

Kate. I think the youngsters who come to see it will be thrilled, and there are certain elements that will be so recognisable to them in terms of their relationships with their parents.

**You always seem to be in work and it goes without saying you're a talented actor. But what's been the secret of your long-term and ongoing success?**

I work very hard. I really do. I put in a huge amount of effort when I'm working. I don't know whether that makes a huge amount of difference, but all I can say is that I've been doing this for fifty-plus years...

When we were doing *Holby City*, we started filming at eight in the morning and finished at seven, with an hour for lunch. We filmed in Elstree and I used to be able to get home by about quarter to eight, at which time I'd pour a large glass of wine and then spend the next hour going through the script for the following day. Most of an actor's life is dealing in the currency of banality. The secret of being successful is to become the alchemist and turn dross - which, to be honest with you, most stuff is. Okay, occasionally you'll get a Shaw, a Shakespeare, a Stoppard or an Alan Bennett, and it's thrilling, but most of the time you're dealing with banality, particularly in television. There are two ways of dealing with it. You can just say it, or you can bring something to it that arrests people. Something that's different. In other words, you give it a life which is beyond the actual word itself. That's what I spend my time doing - finding the layers. I know it sounds awfully pompous in principle, but you asked me why I've been reasonably successful. I'm not saying that other actors don't work hard too - they do - but the ones who think they can get away with taking it easy get found out very quickly.

**Most people will first and foremost associate you with the role of Christ, which you famously played in 1977 in Franco Zeffirelli's Jesus Of Nazareth. How did your role in such a high-profile international television series come about?**

I knew they were casting but didn't give it a second thought, simply because I'd been to see Franco for two films in the late '60s/early '70s. I didn't get to read on either occasion. I just walked in and sat in front of his desk, talked for a couple of minutes and Franco said, 'Thank you, thank you' and that was it. So when I got the call from Franco's representatives saying he wanted to see me for *Jesus Of Nazareth*, I turned him down. I actually said no because at that time I was on stage playing a lead role in Tom Stoppard's *Travesties* for the Royal Shakespeare Company. I said to my agent, 'I'm not going to go and humiliate myself. If he wants to see

me, tell him to come to the theatre, or go to the cinema if he wants to find out whether I can act'. This is the arrogance that success can bring you and I own up to that. It's why one wants to be successful. Not for the money and not for the fame thing but purely and simply because it does give you the right to get better parts.

A message came through asking if I'd screen test for it. I said, 'Yeah, I'll do that. At least that gives me a chance to show him what I can do'. So I pitched up to a screen test where they put a blonde wig and beard on me. I remember phoning my agent from a phone box down the very same corridor at Elstree Studios where, years and years later, I used to walk when doing *Holby*. I rang my agent and said, 'I think we can forget that, it was disastrous'. About two weeks later they phoned again and said that Franco wanted to come over from Rome to meet me and test me himself. Halfway through that test I knew he was going to ask me to do it. Then, when they did ask me, I decided not to say yes for about a week. There was no revenge involved. I just didn't want to do it, but it was one of those things where you know in your heart of hearts that, having been asked, you have to say yes.

**Did you ruffle any religious feathers?**

To be honest, we didn't. While we were shooting it, which was a nine-month process, we had a Rabbi on set all of the time. We also had a representative from the Catholic Church in Rome and a representative from General Motors, who were the sponsor. So we were very, very careful not to ruffle feathers.

We actually threw away the first two weeks' filming. Franco and I watched the rushes and I said it didn't work. Our ambition was to show the humanity - the human side, if you like - of the divine Christ. Unfortunately, though, all that happened was that he became too human and you lost the other part of him. So we decided between us that I wouldn't do anything. I would leave it all up to the audience. I would offer up a blank canvas. I would offer up the look, the voice, the eyes, the presence, but I wouldn't perform it. That resulted in five hundred thousand people saying, 'That's my Christ'. I'd allowed them to see their Christ in me. I'd love to turn around and say it was deliberate but it wasn't. I couldn't find any other way of doing it at the time, but the net result was little short of remarkable - well, from the letters I received anyway.

**Moving forward in time, the 1990s saw you team up with one of the Midlands' finest comedians, Jasper Carrott. How did you find that experience?**

It was purely accidental. Jasper was a friend and he was doing *Canned Carrott* at the time.

# Robert Powell



**“** *I'm not allowed to impersonate Prince Charles - which is unfortunate as I do a rather good one* **”**

His writers, who were very, very clever, had written these four-minute-long sketches to go into his show about these two idiotic policeman. They were wondering who they could get to play the other one and Jasper suggested me. They just laughed and said, 'Don't be so bloody stupid, he won't do it!'. Jasper phoned me and asked if I'd be interested.

If he'd asked me to play a straight man to his comic man then he would've got very short shrift - there was no way I was going to do that - but he sent me the script and I laughed out loud because both of the characters were very funny, in different ways. I asked him which one he wanted me to play and he said I could do either, so I opted for Briggs. During the course of the five television series we did, the programme evolved into a cult show that was so silly and which kids loved.

#### **It must have been great fun to film...**

It was very difficult to film. Say the working day was a nine-hour shoot, they had to factor in an extra hour a day where there would be no filming done because everyone would be laughing. We once had to cover the camera operator with a sheet because we could see his shoulders moving as he laughed. And we ruined so many takes from snorting.

#### **Will you be meeting up with Jasper while you're in the Midlands?**

Definitely. He's got a birthday party the day before I start teching in Birmingham, so I'll have to behave myself.

#### **Your career spans TV, film and stage.**

##### **Which do you favour?**

Television. I love it. It's a fabulous medium. Twenty years ago I was banging on about young actors' desire to do movies. Television is so much better. You get a bigger audience and a longer time to tell a story. I now read trade papers which say that television is the new movies and I'm really quite proud to have spotted it. I've been banging on about this for years.

#### **So TV wins over stage, then?**

The only reason that stage loses is that it's unbelievably hard work.

#### **Was acting always on your radar?**

It was what I did as a kid and something I did as a teenager. Being on stage always made me happy. To me, it was more real than reality. I was a shy person as a boy, very shy, and I didn't know who I was. When I went on stage I threw off all of that and became somebody else.

#### **If this wonderful career hadn't panned out, what do you think you'd be doing now?**

God only knows. If Hugh Hunt, who was the head of drama at Manchester University, hadn't come to see me in a play I was doing for the university's stage society, I would probably have been a lawyer of some kind. But he did come to see it. He came around to the little stage door and said, 'Why are you bothering with law, why don't you come and read drama with me?' To me, this was the most wonderful thing I'd ever heard. I went home and told my parents. They were shocked but very supportive.

I then resigned from the law faculty and applied to switch courses to drama. A month later I got a letter back from the board saying I hadn't qualified - ironically because I didn't

have English Literature at either O Level or A Level. I hadn't taken it. I'd chosen Latin, Greek and Ancient History. They said they would hold the place for a year. I immediately found the English Lit set book, picked up a copy of *The History Of Mr Polly* by HG Wells and had a look at it, once. I then walked into the drama department at Manchester, collared a bloke who was a drama lecturer and said, 'Have you got any ideas of what I can do for you?'

You talk about serendipity, you talk about going through life and you talk about luck. There is luck, but I think you make your own. I had gone in and asked the right bloke. Some people wouldn't even have gone in. They would've sat on their arses for a year or got a job on the local council, but I didn't want to do that. So I talked to this lecturer and he said he had contacts at three theatres, Leatherhead, Colchester and Stoke. I wrote letters, went to see all of them, and got offered a job at Stoke-on-Trent's theatre in the round. It turned out that the man I had spoken to was Stephen Joseph, who'd invented theatre in the round and formed the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough with my great and very close friend, Alan Ayckbourn. I had just picked, out of nowhere, the right man to ask and ended up in the totally right theatre. They offered me a job for six weeks - three weeks rehearsal and three weeks playing a spear carrier in *King Lear*. The director there then offered me a place in the acting company and as an Assistant Stage Manager as well. Theatre in the round is the perfect place to be because it's essential. It has one five-letter word, which is truth, and if you're not true then it doesn't work. If you try to cheat, you're just so exposed.

#### Looking back on your extensive and varied career, what would you say is your best highlight?

That's very, very difficult. I won the Best Actor award at Venice Film Festival thirty odd years ago. It was one of the proudest moments of my life. The competition was tremendous. *The Thirty Nine Steps* will always be, for me,

one of the happiest times of my life. My son had just been born and I was doing this film where I was just having so much fun. It didn't cost very much money and I wasn't paid very much but it was so enjoyable. I've had so many people, including Dominic West, who've come up and said it's one of their favourite films. I was so thrilled because I didn't know Dominic. I do now because he's become my new best friend. Those things are so meaningful.

#### Have you ever turned down a role and then later regretted it?

I famously turned down *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, which went on to be a huge, huge hit in the West End. I did turn down something in America, although I'm unsure if it was ever made. In the late '70s, /early '80s, they asked me if I'd do a television series in California of *The Man Who Fell To Earth*. That seemed thrilling, so we talked terms and the deal was that I'd have to sign for five years. I said to my agent that there was no way I could sign for five years. I was in the prime of my life and I didn't want to do that. I wanted to be able to move around and do other things. I didn't want to be tied to something.

#### Did you ever consider upping sticks and moving over to the States?

Yes, just after *Jesus Of Nazareth*. The reason that we shot *The Thirty Nine Steps* when we did, in mid-winter in Scotland, was because I had to get out of the country before April because Babs and I were moving to LA. But we didn't. Something came up which meant it was preferable to stay here. Babs and I went to LA a few years ago and we spent quite a lot of time driving around. I turned to Babs and said, 'Thank God we didn't move here'. She said, 'I'm so glad you said that, I thought it was just me'.

I don't mind visiting, but I find the place utterly oppressive. I don't know what it is - maybe it's the topography - but I don't like Los Angeles.

I'm terribly English and I love the country I live in. I love all the things about it. I love pubs and I'm very fond of cricket. If I look at

my address book, there's only a relatively few contacts who're actors. There are many great sportsmen because I got involved via various charities with cricket, football and golf. I've made great friends in the sporting world. I'm still addicted to all kinds of sport, though not to play.

The other reason I didn't go to the States in the early '80s was because, at that time, no other British actors - apart from Michael Caine, Sean Connery and possibly Roger Moore - were really making a career in Hollywood. The actors who were there were playing villains or gays. They were playing the parts that the American actors didn't want to play. Obviously, thirty, forty years later, things have changed radically. Now the British actors are doing frightfully well. This certainly wasn't the case when I was a young actor. Nowadays nearly all of them are either Irish or Scottish, which is interesting. Franco Zeffirelli reckoned if he had his choice he would always use British actors. He loves their work ethic.

#### Finally, what advice would you give to somebody who's starting out in the profession?

Always do more than people expect. Never do enough, always do more and go the extra mile. Always learn your lines. I do see it a lot in television, where the younger actors think they can learn them just before we shoot, in make-up or whatever. Always know your lines because it is utterly insulting to other actors when you forget them. Always do more than people expect. There's so much young talent around and I think it's utterly thrilling. I'm the vice president of arts educational school. I go to see their end-of-term shows and they take my breath away. On *Holby* we had such a high turnover of talent. Spotting it was great fun because I was never wrong. Russell Tovey is a perfect example. I spotted his talent when working with him on an early episode around 2004/05. Look where he is now. He's become a very fine actor.

The Thirty Nine Steps will always be, for me, one of the happiest times of my life.

Poirot (2014)



Jesus Of Nazareth (1977)



Holby City (2005 onwards)



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## Entertainment



### Belinda Carlisle

Sunday 4 October  
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### Festival of the Spoken Nerd: Just for Graphs

Saturday 21 November  
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Town Hall  
£15 plus transaction fee\*



### Will Young: The Love Revolution Tour

Wednesday 4 November & Monday 16 November  
7.30pm  
Symphony Hall  
£35 & £45 plus transaction fee\*



### Ronnie Spector In concert

Tuesday 1 December  
7.30pm  
Symphony Hall  
£28 & £32.50 plus transaction fee\*



### Jimmy Carr: Funny Business

Friday 6 November  
8pm  
Symphony Hall  
£25 plus transaction fee\*



### Stewart Francis: Pun Gent Tour

Thursday 3 December  
8pm  
Symphony Hall  
£17.50 plus transaction fee\*



### Nina Conti – In Your Face

Wednesday 11 November  
8pm  
Town Hall  
£18.50 plus transaction fee\*



### Rebecca Ferguson – Lady Sings The Blues Tour 2016

Saturday 23 January 2016  
7.30pm  
Symphony Hall  
£22.50 – £35 plus transaction fee\*

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# Music

## Bangla Beats

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Wed 26 August

Offering lovers of Bangladeshi music the opportunity to check out some of the country's most talented musical artists, this is the biggest indoor bangla concert ever to be held in the UK.

High-profile performers include Habib Wahid, whose music fuses a traditional Bengali folk sound with contemporary techno and urban beats, and Nazmun Munir Nancy, a singer well known in her native country for her TV jingles and contributions to numerous film scores.



## Funeral For A Friend

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Sat 1 August

Funeral For A Friend are a five-piece post-hardcore band from Wales. They've released six studio albums, including *Casually Dressed & Deep In Conversation* (2003) and *Tales Don't Tell Themselves* (2007). Their latest offering, *Chapter And Verse* - released earlier this year - has been described by promoters as 'a raw and energetic effort that propels the band to a whole new level, whilst simultaneously raising the bar for everyone else'.

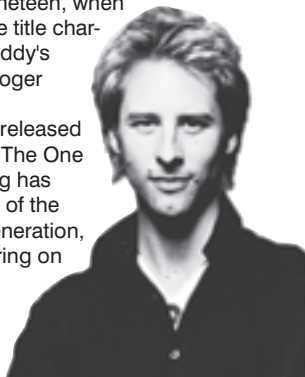


## Chesney Hawkes

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury, Sun 9 - Mon 10 August

Born into a musical family, Chesney Hawkes' career began at nineteen, when he appeared as the title character in the film *Buddy's Song*, alongside Roger Daltrey.

In March 1991, he released his biggest single, *The One And Only*. The song has since become part of the soundtrack of a generation, still regularly featuring on radio playlists and compilations.



## Tom Jones

Betley Court Farm, Cheshire, Fri 14 August

Tom maybe doesn't get quite as many pairs of ladies' knickers tossed in his general direction nowadays, but one thing that definitely hasn't changed is the depth, quality and resonance of his truly incredible vocal. Jones here gives another no doubt powerhouse performance that's certain to be awash with greatest hits, from Swinging '60s numbers such as *It's Not Unusual* and *What's New Pussycat?* through to post-reinvention crackers like *Sex Bomb*.

## The Fratellis

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Thurs 20 August

Named after the criminal family in cult film *The Goonies*, The Fratellis have been on something of a journey. After the release of their first two albums - *Costello Music* in 2006 and *Here We Stand* in 2008 - the band went their separate ways for a three-year period, during which time Jon and Mince tried out various group and solo projects and Barry joined Brummie boys *The Twang*. In 2013 the rock trio re-formed and released third album *We Need Medicine*, which peaked at number twenty-six in the UK album charts - significantly lower than their previous two albums.

The boys are now on the road again with a tour in support of new album *Eyes Wide, Tongue Tied*, released on the twenty-first of this month.



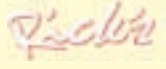
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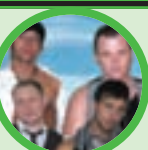
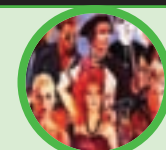
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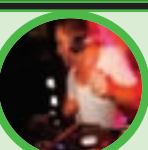
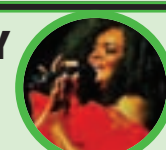
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## Music PREVIEW

### Atif Aslam

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 29 August

Multi-talented Bollywood singer, dancer and actor Atif Aslam has been making some big changes in his life of late, taking a break from his career, getting married and becoming a father. Perhaps most interestingly, he's also felt compelled to leave his native Pakistan. He now lives in Dubai.

"We have a lot of problems in Pakistan," he recently told the country's News On Sunday magazine. "We're preachy, all of us, including myself. We have religion issues, we have political issues - so we don't know who we are. It was becoming very difficult because life isn't easy here in Pakistan and I needed to remove myself from this cycle of negativity. I don't want to add to the depression. I want to reduce it."



### Coco And The Butterfields

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 1 August

CoCo And The Butterfields are a five-piece band (a genre combining folk, pop and hip-hop) who formed in 2011. The Canterbury five-piece, who've been described as 'a colourful, energetic and crowd-stomping group', have earned plenty of critical acclaim for their performances at Glastonbury, Isle Of Wight and Camp Bestival.

Expect a seriously entertaining evening.



### The Stranglers

The Copper Rooms, Warwick University, Coventry, Sat 15 August

Formed forty years ago, The Stranglers were major players in the instigation of the UK punk rock scene, although later-career endeavours have seen them explore a variety of musical styles, including new wave, art rock, gothic rock and pop.

Mainstream success came their way courtesy of 1982 single Golden Brown, with other notable hits including No More Heroes, Peaches, Always The Sun and Skin Deep. With twenty-plus UK top-40 singles and seventeen top-40 albums to their name, there's plenty of great music to enjoy at any show they play.



### The Electric Swing Circus

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Sat 1 August

The Electric Swing Circus are a talented six-piece fusing electro beats and 1920s swing. With an explosive sound that reverberates back through time, they hotfoot their way through everything from breakbeat and house to reggae and dubstep - and all in their own unique style. Their eponymous debut album was released in 2013 and was followed by a big year of festivals and international touring. A new album is in the pipeline for 2015. Catch them in Birmingham as part of the regular Hot Club de Swing night. They perform alongside C@ in the H@, Screamin' Miss Jackson & The Slap Ya' Mama Big Band and Billy Chill Fingers.

### The Stray Birds

Stafford Gatehouse, Fri 21 August

Their website describes their sound as having been 'drawn from the richness of American folk music traditions, spun with a stirring subtlety and grace'. No Depression magazine, meanwhile, reckons they're 'a band destined for global success', while Whispering Bob Harris expects them to be 'elevated into a kind of folk/bluegrass superstardom'. The Stray Birds - well, two of them at least - came together in Pennsylvania in early 2010 when a snowy winter offered plenty of opportunity for Maya de Vitry and Oliver Craven to pool their creativity. Charles Muench came on board later and a full-length album followed, as did plenty of positive feedback.

### Less Than Jake

Kasbah, Coventry, Sat 1 August

With a career spanning over twenty years, Less Than Jake have secured their status as one of the most popular and loveable ska punk bands around. Their 1995 debut album, Pezcore, was followed by Losing Streak (1996) and Hello Rockview (1998), both of which significantly increased the band's exposure. The boys have since released a further five albums, with 2003's Anthem being their most commercially successful to date.



### Levellers

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Wed 19 August

With numerous top-ten albums and singles (not to mention plenty of sell-out concerts across Europe) to their name, the Levellers continue to hit all the right chords for a phenomenal cross-section of people, from 'crusties' to students through anarcho punks and hippies. This Warwickshire date finds the Brighton-based folk-punk band airing songs from their most recent albums as well as rabble-rousing favourites from the mists of time.



### The Tubes

The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 13 August

When The Tubes toured the UK way back in the 1970s, the risqué nature of their show saw many of the gigs being cancelled by local councils.

It was all grist to the mill for the San Francisco-based rockers, though, and generated a level of publicity they might otherwise never have achieved.

The band released their self-titled debut album in 1975 and quickly established a reputation as arch satirists. Vocalist Fee Waybill's antics were the stand-out feature of their live shows. A former roadie, Waybill adopted a variety of personae from behind the microphone, drug-addled British 'glam rock' star Quay Lewd being one of the most popular. Best remembered for 1983 single She's A Beauty, they're appearing in the Midlands as part of their fortieth anniversary tour.

# Music GIG REVIEWS

For further reviews, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Rufus Wainwright

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

When it comes to the art of songwriting, Rufus Wainwright is quite the Renaissance man, taking on genres as divergent as contemporary pop, musical theatre, classical composition and opera in a recording career spanning nearly thirty years.

Armed with only piano, acoustic guitar and the rich, mellifluous tones of a seasoned tenor voice, the ever-theatrical Canadian presented a set punctuated in equal parts by moments of near-transcendent beauty (the brooding and wistful ballads *This Love Affair* and *The Art Teacher* being notable highlights) and unadulterated whimsy - cue a cameo from Rufus' half-sister Lucy Wainwright Roche as a bedraggled Liza Minnelli pursued by an irate Judy Garland in drag!

Beginning the gig by launching headlong into a solo rendition of 1998 hit *Beauty Mark*, Rufus truly mesmerised his audience as, one by one, familiar classics from his back-catalogue took on a renewed majesty all their own. He moved fluidly across some of his most confessional material, from *Want* - a homage to his own mum and dad (the great Loudon Wainwright the Third) - to cheerily upbeat classics like *Out Of The Game* and *April Fools*.

In a set by no means short of theatrical flourishes, notable highlights included a richly sensuous rendition of the final aria from Rufus' opera, *Prima Donna*, a mischievous outing of the chirpy *Liza And Me* - a tongue-in-cheek nod to his album, *Rufus Does Judy At Carnegie Hall* - and a heartfelt rendition of the quietly self-reflective *Montauk*.

The pinnacle of the evening, however, came in the form of a special guest appearance from RSC Head of Music Bruce O'Neil and his orchestra. They joined Rufus on stage to perform an exquisite arrangement of *Sonnet Number 29*, part of Wainwright's five-movement sonnet suite set to music.

Special mention too must go to Lucy Wainwright Roche, whose quirkily offbeat charm was matched in equal parts by her soft Celtic vocal. Her and Rufus' rendition of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* was worth the price of the ticket alone. Keeping it in the family has never sounded so good. This was truly a virtuoso night of music.

**Katherine Ewing** ■■■■



## Idina Menzel

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Elphaba, Maureen Johnson, Queen Elsa, Shelby Corcoran... Idina Menzel is many things to many people. And this could not be more apparent last night, performing to a packed crowd of cheering, crying, singing musical-theatre-obsessed fans at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham. Opening with a rendition of show-stopping "Defying Gravity", Idina waltzed onto stage wearing a strapless, black boho dress and some high wedges which she soon kicked off as things warmed up. Talking about her incredible career, the people who have made a difference to her working and personal life, she paid tribute to her own idols - Ethel Merman, Johnathan Larson, her music teacher at college, her little boy, and we, her adoring fans. Although the rumours circulating about her voice being shot after years of belting out *Wicked* songs appeared to be true - she struggled with a few of those top, iconic notes that she is so famous for hitting, it quite simply did not matter. Her humour, warmth and wit won over the crowd in an instant. "Take Me Or Leave Me" made it's way into the crowd, with several ballsy members of the audience singing alongside her, and by the time we'd all sung "No Day But Today", the finale "Let It Go" and the encore track which she had written for her son, her voice had warmed into the effortless, staggering heights where it belongs. A truly stunning, inspirational, and talented woman.

**Jessica Aston** ■■■■



# Music LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## SAT 1 AUG

**QUILL** The Robin, Bilston  
**MATTHEW LONG** The Priority Theatre, Kenilworth  
**PHOENIX CALLING O2** Academy, Birmingham  
**FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**COCO AND THE BUTTERFIELDS** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**EXTREME NOISE TERROR** The Asylum, B'ham  
**REAL NIRVANA** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**FRED ZEPPELIN** The Marr's Bar, Worcester  
**RATTLESNAKE JAKE** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**JOHN ALTMAN & FRIENDS** Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, B'ham  
**LESS THAN JAKE** Kasbah, Coventry  
**RATTLESNAKE JAKE** Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge  
**GRROUPER** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**HOTWIRED** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**LEON** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**THE ELECTRIC SWING** CIRCUS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**MARCIA CARR & BRUCE Q** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**DAN PAGE** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

## SUN 2 AUG

**FIVE STAR SWING: THE BIG BAND** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**LIQUID BRASS** Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire  
**PAT JORDAN & FINIANS** RAINBOW Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**STEVE HARRIS - BRITISH LION** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**HARLEQUIN'S KISS, KOMODO & ELLIE LEECH** The Roadhouse, Birmingham

## MON 3 AUG

**TREMBLING BELLS** The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

## TUE 4 AUG

**DEATH ANGEL** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**THE TERRORSAURS, DEAD FLOWERS & THE UNDERTAKERS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**WILLIE WATSON** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## WED 5 AUG

**MORDRED** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**BAD RELIGION** The Institute, Birmingham  
**HOLLYWOOD ENDING O2**

Academy, Birmingham  
**TIM ERIKSEN** Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**TREMBLING BELLS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**THE WEDDING CRASHERS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**SCOUT KILLERS, FILTHY PALMS, BLAME FATE & BLITZKRIEG CITY** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

## THU 6 AUG

**KATE VOEGELE AND TYLER HILTON** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE CHRISTIANS** The Jam House, B'ham  
**SNUFF** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**HAILU MERGIA WITH PAWEŁ SZPURA & MIKE MAJKOWSKI** The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry  
**GOODNIGHT LENIN** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## FRI 7 AUG

**MILLICENT STEPHENSON (SAXOPHONIST) WITH LIVE BAND. NOT JUST JAZZ II** Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**GALLUS COOPER & SCOPYONS** The Robin, Bilston  
**GENERATIONS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**HAPPY MONDAZE** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**DEFINITELY MIGHTBE AND ADORED** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**DETROIT SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE BOOTLEG SIXTIES** Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire  
**FRAN THE MAN** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**TODDLA T** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**SLUM VILLAGE** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**HEIDI BROWNE** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

## SAT 8 AUG

**DETROIT SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**U2-2** The Robin, Bilston  
**KICK UP THE 80'S** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**THE WEEKEND ANTHEMS** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**PAT BRESLIN** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**REVOLVER & THE PURPLE SHADES** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**SULK, BLACK HONEY & TABLE SCRAPS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE DESTROYERS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**UNDERGROUND OCEAN** O2 Academy, B'ham  
**TRIP** Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge  
**MY NU LENG** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham

MICHAELA WYLDE Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

## SUN 9 AUG

**CENTRAL ENGLAND CONCERT BAND** Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire  
**THE SANDY DENNY SONGBOOK** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**CHESNEY HAWKES** Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury  
**DERMOT HEGARTY** Irish Centre, Birmingham

## MON 10 AUG

**CHESNEY HAWKES** Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury  
**THE AVENGERS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**DON BROCO** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

## TUE 11 AUG

**BEUJERIA** The Asylum, Birmingham

## WED 12 AUG

**THE MIDDLE ONES, T-SHIRT WEATHER & OKINAWA PICTURE SHOW** Ort Cafe, Birmingham  
**GOSPEL CENTRAL** The Jam House, B'ham  
**DON BROCO** The Institute, Birmingham  
**SKY CHILDREN** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

## THU 13 AUG

**THE TUBES** The Robin, Bilston  
**A WILHELM SCREAM** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**TWIN HEART** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**DR FEELGOOD** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**BREAK EVEN, LANDSCAPES & ENDLESS HEIGHTS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**TEENAGE BOTTLEROCKET** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**JEDWARD** Kasbah, Coventry

## FRI 14 AUG

**DEFINITELY MIGHT BE** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**TOM JONES** Betley Court Farm, Cheshire  
**SOUL JUNCTION** The Robin, Bilston  
**ROMANS** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**DEFINITELY MIGHTBE** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**SKABUCKS** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**THE GUNS N' ROSES EXPERIENCE** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**HANNAH BROWN & KATE WILKINS** Ort Cafe, Birmingham  
**SOLID SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**SEEKING DAYLIGHT O2** Academy, Birmingham  
**ILL PHIL, X5 DUBS & DONKIE PUNCH** The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury  
**MILESTONE EXPRESS** Irish Centre, B'ham  
**JAZZIE B** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



**PUNK'D** Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge  
**WARS, PROLONG THE AGONY & RISE OF ATHENA** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**HEIDI BROWNE** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

**SAT 15 AUG**

**SOLID SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**BON GIOVI** The Robin, Bilston  
**QUILL** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**TOTAL ACCESS LIVE** Betley Court Farm, Cheshire  
**SWORN TO OATH** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE STRANGLERS** The Copper Rooms, Coventry  
**MENTALICA** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**U2 360** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE NICK ROSS ORCHESTRA: SOUNDS OF THE GLENN MILLER ERA** The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**ONE STOP BOOGIE - 70S V 80S** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**BLACK JACK DAVEY** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**PETE DORLING** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ANDY ISHERWOOD** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**3 IN A BAR JAZZ BAND** Market Square, Wellington, Shropshire  
**NOTORIOUS BROTHERS** Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge  
**CLIVE HENRY, ALEX ARNOUT & EAST END** DUBS The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**MARK RADFORD & NIGHT-SHIFT** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**SAFONE** The Institute, Birmingham  
**RAY HURLEY & CHRIS BASS** Alfie Bird's, Birmingham  
**JOE SEAGAR** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

**SUN 16 AUG**

**CLOUD ATLAS** The Robin, Bilston  
**LITTLE JIMMY** Irish Centre, Birmingham

**MON 17 AUG**

**THE COOL BROTHERS** Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**TUE 18 AUG**

**NERVOUSA** The Asylum, Birmingham

**WED 19 AUG**

**YOUNGBLOOD BRASS BAND** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**LEVELLERS** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**THE SPOOKY MEN'S CHORALE** Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**STEVE AJAO BLUES GIANTS** The Jam House, Birmingham

**THU 20 AUG**

**REMODE** The Robin, Bilston  
**SLIM JIM PHANTOM OF THE STRAY CATS** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**THE SPOOKY MEN'S CHORALE** mac, Birmingham  
**THE FRATELLIS** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**JOYCE SIMS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**PEGA MONSTRO** The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

**FRI 21 AUG**

**THE STRAY BIRDS** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**WHO'S WHO** The Robin, Bilston  
**BAILEY MCCONNELL** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**BUDAPEST CAFE ORCHESTRA** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**ABBA - SWEDE DREAMZ** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**RANDOM HAND** The Marr's Bar, Worcester  
**ROCKET** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**ERIC MARTIN** The Institute, Birmingham  
**MOTOWN AND SOUL NIGHT WITH DJ PAUL KELLY** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**MATT WOOSEY** The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry  
**MICHAELA WYLDE** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

**SAT 22 AUG**

**ROCKET** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE AND FINALLY BIG BAND** The Swan The-

atre, Worcester  
**JOHNNY 2 BAD & LEGEND** The Robin, Bilston  
**AMINGTON BAND** Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

**THE CONCESSIONS** Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire  
**TEN STRINGS AND A GOAT SKIN** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**SILVERCHILD** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**LIZZIE AND THE BAN-SHEES** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**THE DECADES BAND** The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**SMART CASUAL, SHARKS VS BEARS, WAIT FOR THE FALL & NO TOMORROW** O2 Academy, B'ham  
**MR PRESIDENT** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**THE DRIVE, HIVE, FAITH, AMONST THE PEOPLE & FRINGE** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**THE TELFORDAIRES** Market Square, Wellington, Shropshire  
**STRAIGHT ACES** Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge  
**SYMPHONY STATE** The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry  
**BASSMAN BIRTHDAY BASS** The Institute, Birmingham

**SUN 23 AUG**

**DEERHOOF** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**FALLEN & WIZARDS OF OZ** The Robin, Bilston  
**INTRIGUE IN TANGIERS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**JOHN MCNICHOLL** Irish Centre, Birmingham

**WED 26 AUG**

**NO DEVOTION** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**BANGLA BEATS** Barclaycard Arena, B'ham

**THU 27 AUG**

**JOHN OTWAY BAND** The Robin, Bilston  
**DEL CAMINO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**MARTYN JOSEPH** Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**FRI 28 AUG**

**DEFINITELY MIGHTBE AND ADORED** The Robin, Bilston  
**RILEY WALKER** The



**Rainbow Venues, Birmingham**  
**COLD FIELDS** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham  
**THE STEVE GIBBONS BAND** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**GIN ANNIE** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**TANG** Ort Cafe, B'ham  
**B'SPOKE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**FLASH BACK FRIDAY WITH PAUL KELLY** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**DJ MISMATCH** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**HEIDI & TOM** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

**SAT 29 AUG**

**B'SPOKE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**CHRIS TYE** The Brew-house Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**T.REXTASY** The Robin, Bilston  
**GEHTIKA** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**MARCIA GRIFFITHS & FRIENDS WITH BOB ANDY, JUDY MOWATT, TANYA STEPHENS, RICHIE SPICE & 809 BAND** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE THREE BELLES** Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire  
**VOICE OF THE HEART - KAREN CARPENTER** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**THE COMMANDMENTS** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**MELLOW PEACHES & CHRIS CLEVERLEY** Ort Cafe, Birmingham  
**THE HURLING BOYS** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**DAN PAGE** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

**SUN 30 AUG**

**THE DOORS ALIVE** The Robin, Bilston  
**HUGH CORNWELL** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**CHICK FLIX** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**LUKE DANIELS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham  
**LIEFEST** featuring: Lobster, Broken Witt Rebels, Dirty Old Folkers, Barnsey & Tom Forbes, The Actress & Bishop, B'ham  
**DJ HYPE** Alfie Bird's, Birmingham  
**RICHY AHMED & PATRICK TOPPING** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**JONNY CRAIG** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham  
**ELROW - ROWSHOW SAM-BODROMO DO BRASIL** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

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For additional information and to find out What's On at these venues. Visit: [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)



Youngblood Brass Band - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



## Sir Mark Elder & The National Youth Orchestra Of Great Britain

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 7 August

Chief Conductor with the Halle, Mark Elder this month leads the UK's largest symphony orchestra as part of the Birmingham International Concert Season 2014/15.

The performance opens with Re-greening, a new commission by Tansy Davies which celebrates the season of Spring. Written especially for the NYO, it's performed without a conductor and completely from memory. Tansy is one of the UK's most inventive contemporary composers, writing music which has been described as having 'a visual quality that engulfs the senses'. The winner of the 1996 BBC Young Composers' Competition, she's since been commissioned to produce work for Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Orchestra of the Swan, the Cheltenham Festival, the BBC, the Aldeburgh Festival, City of London Sinfonia and CBSO Youth Orchestra, to name but a few.

The evening's second offering is Mahler's beautifully uplifting Symphony No.6.

## Classical LISTINGS

For full listing information on classical concerts, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**HARTWIG BARTE-HANSEN ORGAN CONCERT** Sat 1 Aug, St. Mary's Church, Warwick  
**NATIONAL SCOUT & GUIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT** Sat 1 Aug, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

**RETORICA** Featuring Harriet Mackenzie & Philippa Mo (violins). Programme includes works by Telemann, Wieniawski, Mozart, Bach, Prokofiev & Handel, arr. Halvorsen, Mon 3 Aug, Church Stretton School, South Shropshire

**SIR MARK ELDER AND THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN** Fri 7 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**HUW WIGGIN (SAXOPHONE) & JAMES SHERLOCK (PIANO)** Programme includes works by Schumann, Piazzolla, Rachmaninov & Bernstein, Fri 7 Aug, Church Stretton School, South Shropshire  
**THE NATIONAL YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN** Programme includes works by Camille Saint-Saens,

David Maslanka, Kit Turnbull, David Stanhope, Philip Sparke & Michael Markowski, Sat 8 Aug, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

**ORGAN PROMS WITH GERT VAN HOEF** Sat 15 Aug, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**COLLABRO** Sun 16 Aug, Betley Court Farm, Cheshire

**JONATHAN SCOTT ORGAN CONCERT** Sun 16 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**PENNY WEEDON'S KEYBOARD ORCHESTRA** Programme includes works by Debussy, Elgar, Holst, Wagner, Strauss, Addinsell & Grieg (Piano Concerto), Fri 28 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**HARRIET AMOS** Programme features works by Debussy, Albeniz, Chopin, Mozart & Scarlatti, Fri 28 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**ANTHONY HAMMOND ORGAN RECITAL** Mon 31 Aug, All Saints' Church, Leamington Spa

## The National Youth Wind Orchestra Of Great Britain

Birmingham Conservatoire, Sat 8 August

This summer concert sees the NYWO make its Adrian Boulton debut, presenting a varied programme of works by international composers.

Under the leadership of Dr Matthew J George, the UK-wide orchestra present Camille Saint-Saens' Occident And Orient, David Maslanka's Give Us This Day, Kit Turnbull's Scene From Childhood, David Stanhope's The Little Ripper March, Philip Sparke's A Savannah Symphony and Michael Markowski's As Midnight On A Moonless Night.

With Sir Simon Rattle as its patron, the orchestra brings together young musicians from all walks of life to develop their musical skills in a safe and musically rich environment. Regular courses facilitated by professional tutors give access to internationally renowned conductors. Working with contemporary composers on new commissions has allowed NYWO to perform with a host of leading international soloists.

Commenting on the orchestra, Sir Simon Rattle said: "The National Youth Wind Orchestra consists of some of the finest young wind players in the country. The future of music lies in the hands of young players such as these. We should all do our best to ensure that everyone concerned with this tremendous orchestra is given help and encouragement, financial or otherwise, to continue with this rewarding and worthwhile work in music education."

Following its Birmingham date, the orchestra heads to London to perform an afternoon concert at St John's Smith Square on 9 August.



## Collabro

Betley Court Farm, Cheshire, Sun 16 August

Since winning last year's Britain's Got Talent, Collabro have earned themselves an impressive following with their musical theatre renditions. This outdoor concert follows hot on the heels of the group's thirty-two-date tour and the release of their highly successful debut album, Stars.



Retorica - Church Stretton School, South Shropshire

# Comedy

## Angie McEvoy

Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham, Weds 12 August

"After three years of studying Performing Arts," says Angie McEvoy by way of explaining her route into comedy, "I abandoned my original ambition of being Watford's answer to Maria Callas when I discovered stand-up comedy and realised how much fun being sarcastic to drunk people could be." Since her epiphany, Angie's wasted no time in honing that sarcasm - and judging by her widespread popularity, the 'drunk people' have very much enjoyed her doing so.

## Joe Pasquale

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire, Sat 8 August; Lichfield Garrick, Sun 9 August

The stand-up equivalent of the Naked Gun movies - if you don't like this joke, there'll be another one along in a second - squeaky-voiced laughter merchant Joe Pasquale here makes a welcome return to the Midlands with a show that's sure to delight his legion of fans. Joe's been big business since he won ITV1's I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here! a few years back, and has more than once showed his pulling power in the region by putting plenty of bums on seats during a couple of panto runs.



## Blue Orange Comedy Nights

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 10 & Mon 17 August

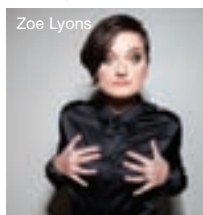
Comedy nights are always entertaining. Either you get a good line-up of cocky, confident performers who know how to handle their material, their audience and any number of hecklers, or you get comedians who end up dying a slow death right before your very eyes... There's not much chance of that happening with the little lot who take to the stage for these particular comedy gigs, though. LouDeemY Soup (pictured) - featuring both new and established acts - takes place on the second Monday of the month, and Box Of Frogs - an evening of improvisational fun - on the third. And what's more, with one evening pay what you can - and the other free, you've got good reason to smile even before anyone cracks a joke.

## Comedy LISTINGS

**PETER BRUSH, JONNY AWSUM, MICKEY D & ERICH MCELROY** Sat 1 Aug, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham  
**TOM DEACON, ANDY ASKINS, STEVE BUGEJA & SIMON BLIGH** Sat 1 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**DALISO CHAPONDA, GARETH RICHARDS, PETE BECKLEY & DAVE WILLIAMS** Thurs 6 Aug, The George Hotel, Lichfield  
**CRAIG MURRAY & ANDY ROBINSON WITH COMEDY CAROUSEL & COMIC TBC** Thurs 6 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**DAVID LONGLEY, TIM CLARK, PAUL MYREHAUG & BARRY CASTAGNOLA** Fri 7 - Sat 8 Aug Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**CRAIG MURRAY, BRYAN LACEY, SUSAN MURRAY & INDER MANOCHA** Fri 7 - Sat 8 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**JOE PASQUALE** Sat 8 Aug, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**JOE PASQUALE** Sun 9 Aug, Lichfield Garrick  
**LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT**

Featuring new and established acts, Mon 10 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**ANGIE MCEVOY & MAUREEN YOUNGER** Wed 12 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**TOM DEACON, MANDY KNIGHT, STEVE GRIBBIN & CHRIS MCCOUSLAND** Fri 14 - Sat 15 Aug, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
Each show features three comics & MC Damion Larkin, Sat 15 Aug, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**TOADALLY FREE COMEDY!** Mon 17 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**ZOE LYONS, ANDY WHITE & ANDY ROBINSON WITH COMEDY CAROUSEL** Thurs 20 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ZOE LYONS, ANDY WHITE, ANDY ROBINSON & MAGNUS BETNER** Fri 21 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**GARETH BERLINER, STE PORTER & CRAIG MURRAY** Fri 21 - Sat 22 Aug Jongleurs Comedy

Club, Birmingham  
**ZOE LYONS, ANDY WHITE, ANDY ROBINSON & ANDREW STANLEY** Sat 22 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham



**COMEDY IN THE MET** Line up tbc, Sat 22 Aug, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**JUNIOR SIMPSON, ANDREW STANLEY & ANDY ROBINSON WITH COMEDY CAROUSEL** Thurs 27 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**STEFANO PAOLINI, TREVOR COOK, NICK PAGE & BARRY DODDS** Fri 28 - Sat 29 Aug Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**JUNIOR SIMPSON, ANDREW STANLEY, DAN EVANS & PAUL JAMES** Fri 28 - Sat 29 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham  
**CLINT EDWARDS, MIKE BUBBINS, NICK DIXON & SOL BERNSTEIN** Sat 29 Aug, The Glee Club, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

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WED 5 AUG - SAT 5 SEP

ALEXANDRA BURKE  
**THE BODYGUARD**  
THE MUSICAL

FROM £35

TUE 8 & WED 9 SEP

A former Avon production, co-produced with Les Nuits de l'Opéra, Glasgow International Arts Festival and Salford Quays

**Sylvie Guillem**  
Life in Progress

Choreography  
Mats Ek  
William Forsythe  
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FROM £35

THU 10 - SAT 12 SEP

**ALAN CARR**  
YAP, YAP, YAP!

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TUE 22 - SAT 26 SEP

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&  
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MON 2 - SAT 7 NOV

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TUE 10 & WED 11 NOV

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FRI 13 & SAT 14 NOV

**DARA O BRIAIN**

FROM £23

**WNO** WELSH NATIONAL OPERA CONSORTIUM

THU 19 - SAT 21 NOV

**SWEENEY TODD**

A co-production between Welsh National Opera, Wales Millennium Centre and West Yorkshire Playhouse in association with Royal Exchange Theatre

THU 19 - SAT 21 NOV

**SWEENEY TODD**

Booked with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Book by Hugh Wheeler  
Music by Stephen Sondheim  
Book by Hugh Wheeler  
Originally adapted by Christopher Bond  
Originally directed by Harold Prince  
Original set designer by Jonathan Tunick

**Sweeney Todd**  
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

FROM £35

# Theatre



*“ a true theatrical spectacle that's impressively superior to the film which inspired it. I urge you to go see for yourself. ”*

★★★★★ *What's On Magazine, April 2015*

## The Bodyguard

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 5 August - Sat 5 September

Alexandra Burke stars as Rachel Maron in this award-winning musical based on the blockbusting 1990s Hollywood movie starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston.

When ex-Secret Service agent Frank Farmer is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker, sparks soon begin to fly between the pair. Each expects to hold the whip-hand in the relation-

ship; neither expects to fall in love...

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

Read the review online at [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)



## Valmiki Pratibha

mac, Birmingham, Sun 30 August

This new production of Rabindranath Tagore's famous opera arrives in the Midlands after earning positive reviews in London, Manchester and Liverpool. It was written in the late nineteenth century and tells the story of a blood-thirsty bandit named Ratnakar. Renouncing his life of violence, the bandit transforms into the pious sage Valmiki, the first millennium BC author of Ramayana, an epic poem hailed as one of the greatest ever works of Indian literature.

## Othello

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Fri 28 August

Shakespeare's tragic tale of lost handkerchiefs, ruined reputations and mistreated wives has always been one of the theatre's most powerful stories.

When the malevolent Iago believes himself to have been overlooked for promotion by Othello, his Machiavellian mind turns to thoughts of vengeance. Othello's willingness to be led by the nose is all grist to Iago's mill, and fatal consequences ensue...

Holby City's Hugh Quarshie returns to the RSC to play the title role, with Lucian Msamati as Iago and Joanna Vanderham as Desdemona.





Look for the ★ to save 20% off the cost of your full price tickets when you book equivalent amounts for two or more participating shows at the same time. See website for further information on ticket prices and other concessions.

## Dogfight

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,  
Wed 5 - Sun 16 August

This amateur show is a musical adaptation of the 1991 film of the same name and finds six young Marines determined to enjoy themselves before heading off to join the Vietnam war. The Marines engage in a 'dogfight', a tradition which sees each of them trying to outmanoeuvre the others by taking along the ugliest girl they can find to a party. But the rules of the game are changed dramatically when Private Eddie Birdlace meets Rose...



## Sparrows In A Hat

The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Thurs 20 - Sat 22 August

Be warned: Steve Farr's play about 'two fifty-year-olds desperately seeking real love in a world that seems to have something against them' features scenes of both a violent and sexual nature and includes language which some may find offensive.

The show deals with some heavyweight subject matter too, including abuse, addiction and violent assault.

That said, it also features quite a lot of dancing, Esperanto and a cheese obsession, so award-winning playwright Farr is confident he's providing something for everyone! Performed in the round, the production is presented by highly rated theatre company Second Thoughts.



## As You Like It

Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sun 23 August; Swan Theatre, Worcester, Tues 25 August

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of Gloucestershire-based touring theatre company The Festival Players - and what better way to celebrate than with one of Shakespeare's most likeable comedies. For those not in the know, As You Like It 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 their surroundings, Rosalind and her companions - cousin Celia and Touchstone the fool - find a happiness they hadn't known existed.



## Love Me Tender

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 24 - Sat 29 August

Award-winning singer and platinum-selling artist Mica Paris takes top billing alongside Shaun Williamson in this brand new homage to the music of Elvis Presley. Penned by Tony Award-winning Joe DiPietro, the show is described as 'a funny and moving tale of hope, second chances and the healing qualities of rock'n'roll'.

Needless to say, the soundtrack offers plenty of opportunity to enjoy some 'Elvis the Pelvis'-style hip-swivelling fun in the aisles, with classic songs such as The Devil In Disguise, Hound Dog, Blue Suede Shoes and Heartbreak Hotel all featuring.

## Talking Heads starring Stephanie Cole

Malvern Theatre, Mon 24 - Sat 29 August

Alan Bennett's darkly comic monologues brilliantly exemplify the playwright's ability to dig deep beneath the surface of his characters and unearth their various levels of emotional and psychological turmoil. This particular evening of Bennett magic stars Stephanie Cole and comprises three hilarious yet heartbreaking pieces, presenting portraits of people that are often quirky, sometimes awkward but always quintessentially English.

A Chip In The Sugar finds middle-aged Graham's life with his mother threatened by the appearance of an old flame. A Lady Of Letters, meanwhile, focuses on the curtain-twitching Irene, a woman always eager to speak (or rather, write) her mind, while A Cream Cracker Under The Settee beautifully illustrates how an obsession with housework leads to one woman's downfall.

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 8 August; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 2 August

Accessible language, likeable characters, romantic liaisons, magical creatures and a series of comical caperings with an ass are here combined to excellent effect in one of Shakespeare's most popular works. Lysander and Demetrius both fancy Hermia, Helena's sitting on the shelf, Titania and Oberon are up to no good, and Puck's got his finger in more pies than Mr Kipling. Add into the mix a group of rude mechanicals and the recipe for success is pretty much complete... This particular staging is presented by north Worcestershire-based touring company Madcap Productions, who specialise in presenting classical and historically based theatre to contemporary audiences.

## Absent Friends

Malvern Theatre, Wed 19 - Sat 22 August; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 3 - Sat 5 September

Alan Ayckbourn will always be best known for his tales of bedhopping couples, dysfunctional marriages and backfiring friendships, the most famous among which are 1970s offerings such as Absurd Person Singular, Season's Greetings, Bedroom Farce and The Norman Conquests. Perhaps slightly less well known but very much in the same mould is this 1974 comedy, which sees unfulfilled housewife Diana's well-intentioned tea party taking several turns for the worse before ultimately descending into complete chaos.



## 42nd Street

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,  
Wed 12 - Sat 15 August

Based on the 1933 movie of the same name which, in turn, was based on the novel by Bradford Ropes, 42nd Street tells the inspiring story of small-town Peggy Sawyer's rise from chorine to Broadway star. Songs include Lullaby Of Broadway, We're In The Money, Shuffle Off To Buffalo, Keep Young And Beautiful, I Only Have Eyes For You and, of course, the spectacular title number itself.

Live Film Take Part Support Exhibitions Festivals

# THE ROSES



## Summer In Tewkesbury

As The Roses is redeveloped, we offer an exciting programme of events at The Watson Hall and Victoria Gardens, in Tewkesbury.



### A Midsummer Night's Dream

Sun 2 Aug 3pm

Victoria Gardens



### Mr Holmes PG

Fri 7 - Tues 11 Aug

The Watson Hall



### The Wind In The Willows

Tues 11 Aug 2.30pm

Victoria Gardens



### Twelfth Night

Tues 11 Aug 7pm

Victoria Gardens



### Minions U

Fri 14 & Thurs 20 Aug

The Watson Hall



### The Urban Folk Quartet

Tues 25 Aug 7.30pm

The Watson Hall

Visit [www.roses theatre.org](http://www.roses theatre.org) for full info on events, Box Office opening times, venues and parking during The Roses' redevelopment.



**Box Office: 01684 295074**  
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 Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 5NX

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AUGUST  
 2015

Saturday 1st August  
**COCO AND THE BUTTERFIELDS**  
 COLOURFUL, ENERGETIC &  
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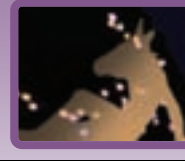
Friday 7th August  
**MY PET MONSTER & ME**  
 FAMILY FUN SHOW FROM  
 BLUNDERBUS



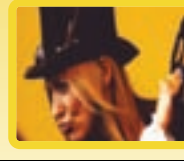
Friday 7th August  
**ZADIE SMITH**  
 TALK FROM THE RENOWNED  
 NOVELIST



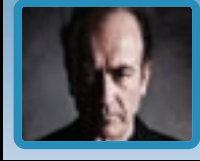
Saturday 8th August  
**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**  
 MADCAP'S VERSION OF THE  
 SHAKESPEARE CLASSIC



Saturday 15th August  
**QUILL**  
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
 BEV BEVAN



Sunday 30th August  
**HUGH CORNWELL**  
 SOLO ACOUSTIC TOUR  
 FROM THE STRANGLERS  
 FRONTMAN



FORTHCOMING CINEMA: The Spongebob Movie (U) // Minions (U) // Mr Holmes (PG) Queen & Country (15) // Song Of The Seas (PG) // Spy (15)

FORTHCOMING SCREENINGS: Othello (RSC Live) // The Beaux' Stratagem (NT Live) Aida (Opera Australia) // Romeo & Juliet (Royal Ballet Live) // Roger Waters' The Wall - Encore Coriolanus (NT Live) // Le Nozze di Figaro (ROH Live) // Hamlet (NT Live) // Henry V (RSC Live) The Barber Of Seville (ENO Live)

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## STRATFORD ARTSHOUSE

WHAT'S ON IN  
 SEPTEMBER 2015

Saturday 12th September, 7.30pm  
**IVORY & GOLD**  
 FROM RAGTIME TO BROADWAY:  
 Eclectic Americana for all ages  
 Tickets: £16



Thu 24th - Sat 26th September, 7.30pm  
**THE PHOENIX PLAYERS**  
 Presents The Tiffeld Thunderbolt  
 Tickets: £10, Conc £8



Sunday 27th September, 1pm & 4pm  
**MR TIGER GOES WILD**  
 Adapted from the book by Peter Brown  
 Tickets: From £10



Wednesday 30th September, 8pm  
**ROB BECKETT**  
 Mouth of the South  
 Tickets: From £14



01789 207100 / [Stratfordartshouse.co.uk](http://Stratfordartshouse.co.uk)





## That'll Be The Day

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,  
Thurs 20 August

That'll Be The Day is a musical romp through rock'n'roll history - from its birth in the 1950s, through the vibrant era of the Swinging '60s and on into the taste-free decade of the 1970s. In the process, the production takes a look at the attendant dance and fashion crazes - and just for good measure throws in some entertaining spoofs on the great figures of the rock era. Pure unashamed fun, the show is here celebrating its thirtieth anniversary.



## Twelfth Night

Shrewsbury Castle, Tues 11 August; Ludlow Millennium Green, South Shropshire, Wed 2 September

As with many Shakespearean comedies, Twelfth Night is based on a case of mistaken identity, with Viola disguising herself as a boy and causing all sorts of awkward romantic shenanigans. The play is made by the subplot, in which the merciless Sir Toby Belch and his foolish companion Sir Andrew Aguecheek seek to humiliate the pompous Malvolio - an aim they achieve with more than a little style...

This particular staging is presented by The Lord Chamberlain's Men. Founded in 2004, they're named after Shakespeare's original troupe of travelling players.



## Accidental Death Of An Anarchist

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford,  
Tues 18 - Wed 19 August

The Arts Centre Telford (TACT), producers of this latest version of Nobel Prize-winning Dario Fo's much-loved farce, are advising audiences that they'll head for home at the end of the evening both 'enlightened and amused' - which won't be a bad return on a night at the theatre...

The play is based on the real-life events surrounding the death of Italian railwayman and anarchist Giuseppe Pinelli, who, in 1969, either fell or was thrown from the fourth floor window of a Milan police station.



## Pongo's Party

Old Rep, Birmingham, Wed 19 - Thurs 20 August

Real-life husband-and-wife team Martin Parsons (Playdays Live, Sooty's Magic Castle) and Kate Ashmead (Tweenies, Thomas & Friends Live) are the creators and presenters of this interactive family show aimed at children between the ages of two and seven.

Bringing together songs, games and the voice of Justin Fletcher (aka CBeebies' Mr Tumble) as Pongo the Pig, the production is set in what Martin describes as 'a vibrant, colourful and imaginative farmyard that's home to a whole host of loveable puppet characters'.

"We've always been committed to producing top quality, live entertainment that can reach as wide an audience as possible," says Martin. "and this show has everything that children could ever want at a party."

## The Tempest

Severn Valley Country Park, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire, Fri 14 August; Witley Court, Worcestershire, Sat 15 August; Stokesay Castle, Nr Craven Arms, South Shropshire, Thurs 27 August; Wenlock Priory, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Sat 29 August

Rain Or Shine Theatre Company are the troupe behind this outdoor staging of Shakespeare's final play.

The Tempest is a tale of love and politics, revolving around the magical figure of Prospero and the characters that inhabit his enchanted island. They include the supernatural Ariel - a flighty spirit and faithful servant to Prospero - and Caliban, grotesque slave and native of the mystical island.

When a royal band of seafarers are shipwrecked on the island, it isn't long before strange things begin to happen...



## Pride And Prejudice

Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, Fri 14 August; Berrington Hall, Leominster, Wed 19 August

Elegant Georgian settings and wonderful comic characters abound in this stage adaptation of Jane Austen's famous romantic novel. The foolish and marriage-obsessed Mrs Bennet is relentless in her pursuit of suitable men for her five daughters to marry, her increasingly desperate quest generating all manner of muddle and mayhem in the process... This much-loved and oft-performed story is here presented by young theatre company The Pantaloons who fuse a variety of popular theatre traditions including commedia dell'arte and stand-up comedy to bring a sense of play to classical works.

## Tere Mere Nakhry

The Drum, Birmingham, Sun 2 August

The topical issues of domestic violence, female harassment, child abuse and discrimination come under the microscope in this thoughtful and thought-provoking work of theatre. Blending humour and drama to excellent effect, the play looks in on the world of Mrs Shamim, a widow who's remarried and lives a traditional Asian life. Meanwhile, her elder son, Ahsan, has embraced the British way of living, rejecting the possibility of an arranged marriage in favour of marrying for love...



### TRES TRES CABARET

THE MET STUDIO

**Fri 31 July**

Tres Tres Cabaret promises to bring you the most extravagant variety show to the secluded intimacy of The MET Studio. Featuring the hottest performers from the international cabaret scene to surprise and delight you. Dress to impress and join us for an evening of glitz, glamour and so much more. Get your tickets now for the show that is yet again set to be the talk of the town.



8pm, £15 **18+**

### WIZARD OF OZ

GATEHOUSE THEATRE

**Wed 5 - Sat 8 August**

Put a smile on everyone's face and join Stafford Gatehouse Theatre Summer School for the magical musical The Wizard of Oz.

Featuring the iconic songs Over The Rainbow, Munchkinland (Ding Dong! The Witch Is Dead, We're Off To See The Wizard (Follow The Yellow Brick Road) and many more that the whole family will be singing along to.



2.30pm & 7.30pm, £10/£9 concs

### TREE FU TOM

GATEHOUSE THEATRE

**Fri 21 & Sat 22 August**

The world of Treetopolis comes to Stafford as we invite you to do Tree Fu and help Tom save the day! This brand new show, packed with adventure, fun, music and participation, sees Tom take the stage in his first nationwide tour - be part of the magic.



Fri 21 1pm & 3.30pm, Sat 22 11am, £12.50/£10.50/£42 fam

### MET COMEDY

THE MET STUDIO

**Sat 22 August**

Bringing you the very best in live comedy from around the country, The MET Studio has line ups to rival the biggest comedy clubs in the UK. Offering a combination of big names such as Greg Davies, Jon Richardson and up and coming stars such as Patrick Monahan and Paul Chowdhry.



8pm, £10 **16+**

### PIVA: MEASURE FOR MEASURE - MUSIC FROM SHAKESPEARE'S TIME

THE MET STUDIO

**Fri 11 Sept**

Piva has developed a special show where they will be playing late 16th century popular dance and ballad music which would have been used in the theatres of the day. As with any Piva show, they bring the period alive with stories and tales about life in Shakespeare's theatre.



7.30pm, £10/£8

### LUKE JERMAJ - SIXTH SENSE

THE MET STUDIO

**Sat 12 Sept**



8pm, £16/£14 concs **16+**

Luke Jerмай is the most incredible man you've probably never heard of. He can read your mind. No really; he can read your mind. He doesn't use mind games or psychological tricks; there are no smoke and mirrors. Jerмай's - Sixth Sense' has gained critical acclaim with 5 Star reviews from Edinburgh to London's West End.

**BOOKONLINE**  
Box Office 01785 619080  
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

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for  
**Pongo's Party**



Has everyone forgotten Pongo's birthday? Help make his party one to remember and join in the biggest pass-the-parcel in town!



Featuring the voice of children's TV's Justin Fletcher as Pongo the Pig!

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**19th - 20th August 1:30pm**  
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**THE OLD REP THEATRE**



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**AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS**



2 September, 12.30pm  
Literature at Lunchtime with Dr Jane - Earnest Hemmingway's **The Old Man and the Sea**  
Tickets: £6



3 September, 8pm  
**Sam Sweeney's Fiddle Made in the Great War**  
Tickets: £15adv, £17otd



25 September, 8pm  
**O'Hooley & Tidow Summat's Brewin' Micro Tour**  
Tickets: £10



2 October, 8pm  
**Chris Parnall**  
**SOLD OUT**  
Tickets: £17.50



7 October, 12.30pm  
Literature at Lunchtime with Dr Jane - Thomas Hardy's **Tess of the D'Urbervilles**  
Tickets: £6



8 October, 8.00pm  
**Mark Thomas - Tresspass**  
Tickets: £15, £10 conc



15 October, 8.00pm  
**Sean Kelly Live!**  
Tickets: £15, £13 conc.



21 October, 8pm  
**King King**  
Tickets: £16 adv, £18 ottd



30 October, 8.00pm  
**Robert Newman: The Brain Show**  
Tickets: £15, £10 conc.

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# Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## From SAT 1 AUG

**BARNUM** Brian Conley stars as the Greatest Showman On Earth in Cameron Mackintosh's blockbuster musical, until Sat 1 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

**DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS** Michael Praed, Noel Sullivan, Carley Stenson and Mark Benton star in this national touring show based on Frank Oz's 1988 film, until Sat 1 Aug, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION** George Bernard Shaw's period drama, presented by Everyman Theatre Cheltenham, until Sat 1 Aug, Malvern Theatre

**THE THREE LITTLE PIGS** He can huff and he can puff until the cows come home, but will the Big Bad Wolf get the better of the three little superstar piglets in this brand new retelling of the classic story? until Sun 2 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

**OTHELLO** Holby City's Hugh Quarshie returns to the RSC to play Shakespeare's Othello, while Lucian Msamati features as Iago and Joanna Vanderham as Desdemona, until Fri 28 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Polly Findlay directs Shakespeare's uncompromising play, until Wed 2 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE JEW OF MALTA** Justin Audibert makes his RSC debut to direct Christopher Marlowe's subversive play, until Tue 8 Sep, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**VOLPONE** Former RSC Artistic Director Trevor Nunn returns to direct Henry Goodman in the title role of Ben Jonson's comic, satirical, angry and timeless play, until Sat 12 Sep, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING: THE TRIBUTE SHOW** Celebration of the iconic music from the award-winning soundtrack to Dirty Dancing, Sat 1 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** Oddssocks present a high-octane musical version of Shakespeare's witty battle of

the sexes, Sat 1 Aug, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

**A PLOUGHMAN'S TALE** A recital of songs, all by composers or with words by poets contemporary to the Great War, which tells the tale of a ploughboy born in the late 1800s, Sat 1 Aug, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Chapterhouse Theatre present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's comical and heart-warming play, Sat 1 Aug, Erding Hall, Wrexham

**SHORTS 3** The Blue Orange Writers' presentation is back with the usual eclectic mix of ten-minute plays based on any theme, Sun 2 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**TERE MERE NAKHRY** Humour and drama is used to elaborate the issues of domestic violence, female harassment, child abuse, discrimination and the conflict of identity, Sun 2 Aug, The Drum, Birmingham

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Madcap Productions fuse music, dance, stage combat & physicality in a fast-paced staging of Shakespeare's popular play, Sun 2 Aug, Victoria Pleasure Gardens, Tewkesbury (tickets available from Roses Theatre)

## Week Commencing MON 3 AUG

**ANNIE** Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Society Youth Section presents an amateur production of the much-loved rags-to-riches musical, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**LIGHTS, CAMERA... MUSIC!** The AC Group presents a celebration of some of the most iconic music from Academy Award-winning films, Wed 5 - Sat 8 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**THE BODYGUARD** Award-winning musical based on the blockbuster film. X Factor winner Alexandra Burke takes the lead as Rachel Moran, Wed 5 Aug - Sat 5 Sep, Birmingham Hippodrome

**THE WIZARD OF OZ** A Stafford Gatehouse Theatre Summer School production, Wed 5 - Sat 8 Aug, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**WONDERIA** A cast of young people use a variety of circus skills to take audiences on a journey through the ages, Wed 5 - Sun 9 Aug, The Dream Factory, Warwick

**DOG FIGHT** MYK Productions present a staging of Pasek and Paul's musical adaptation of the 1991 film of the same name which follows six young Marines on one final wild night of debauchery before their deployment to Vietnam, Wed 5 - Sun 16 Aug, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**MY PET MONSTER AND ME** Blunderbus fuse music, puppetry & high-energy storytelling in this monster of a show for young children, Fri 7 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**ZADIE SMITH: WORDS** An evening with the internationally acclaimed author of White Teeth, The Autograph Man, On Beauty and NW, Fri 7 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Madcap Productions fuse music, dance, stage combat & physicality in a fast-paced staging of Shakespeare's popular play, Sat 8 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**GLYNDEBOURNE LIVE: BRITTEN'S THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA** Britten's extraordinarily tense and chilling treatment of this historic tale is explored in a brilliant production by actress Fiona Shaw, best known for her roles in the Harry Potter films and the True Blood TV series, Sun 9 Aug, mac, Birmingham

**TWELFTH NIGHT** London Contemporary Theatre present an outdoor production of Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identity, Tues 11 Aug, Victoria Pleasure Gardens, Tewkesbury (tickets available from Roses Theatre)

**TWELFTH NIGHT** Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identity, Tues 11 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** London Contemporary Theatre Company present an outdoor staging of Kenneth Grahame's popular tale, Tues 11 Aug, Victoria Pleasure Gardens, Tewkesbury (tickets available from Roses Theatre)

**42ND STREET** Featuring spectacular dance scenes and classic hits,



Wind In The Willows - Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Wed 12 - Sat 15 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**THE THREE MUSKETEERS** Performed by award-winning touring theatre company Illyria, Fri 14 Aug, Rose Bank Gardens, Worcestershire

**KAPOW!** 2Faced Dance invite audiences to join them as three of planet Earth's greatest superheroes get ready to battle it out for the title of Most Supreme Superhero, Fri 14 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**CHARLIE AND MATILDA'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE** Out Of The Box fuse a couple of Roald Dahl's much-loved plays as

part of Artrix's Family Fun Festival, Fri 14 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE TEMPEST** Rain Or Shine Theatre present an outdoor staging of The Bard's final masterpiece, Fri 14 Aug, Sevens Valley Country Park, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** The Pantaloons present an Jane Austen's romantic comedy, Fri 14 Aug, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** The Harlequins present an amateur staging of Disney's award-winning animated feature, Sat 15 Aug, Palace Theatre,

Redditch

**THE TEMPEST** Rain Or Shine Theatre present an outdoor staging of The Bard's final masterpiece, Sat 15 Aug, Witley Court, Worcester-shire

## Week Commencing MON 17 AUG

**PIERS PLOWMAN AS NEVER HEARD BEFORE** Readings by Peter Sutton from his new translation of one of the greatest medieval English poems, Tues 18 Aug, Vesta Tilley Studio, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**DOG FIGHT**  
A NEW MUSICAL

The Old Joint Stock Theatre  
**AUGUST 5th-16th**  
Music & Lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul  
Book by Peter Duchan

Based on the Warner Bros. Film and Screenplay by Bob Comfort  
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with JONES & BOND MUSIC INC. THEATRE INTERNATIONAL OF NEW YORK

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WED 02 SEPTEMBER

### OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL

The Ocean Film Festival showcases the world's most amazing ocean films both above and below the water's surface - letting you immerse yourself in the wonders of the ocean without getting your feet wet!



TUE 03 - SAT 05 SEPTEMBER

### ABSENT FRIENDS

Exploring friendship, marriage and what it ultimately means to be happy. First produced in 1974, Ayckbourn's acute social observation still has relevance today and has never been sharper, funnier or more biting.



SAT 05 SEPTEMBER

### THE MAN CALLED MONKHOUSE

Using film archive, and stand up material from Monkhouse himself, Simon Cartwright portrays the nation's favourite 'Comedy Technician', from his troubled childhood, to the heights of the comic's TV stardom and beyond.



WED 09 - FRI 11 SEPTEMBER

### WAITING FOR GODOT

A country road. A tree. Evening. A ground-breaking, meditation on the meaning of life and death. Beckett's unique, timeless play moves seamlessly between absurdist comic sketch and captivating philosophical drama.



SUN 13 SEPTEMBER

### ISLANDS IN THE STREAM

The queen and king of country, Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers, capturing the vocals and gentle humour of the duo's legendary live shows. With all the greatest hits: Jolene, Ruby, 9 to 5, Here You Come Again, Lady and more...



MON 21 - TUE 22 SEPTEMBER

### JURASSIC ADVENTURES

Join Dr Grant's team of explorers as they search for proof that Dinosaurs still exist! A fun family show that will have you in pre-hysterics! Contains mild peril, fun, laughter and HUGE DINOSAURS!



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A BIG HIT MUSICAL'

EVENING STANDARD

TUE 20 - SAT 24 OCT

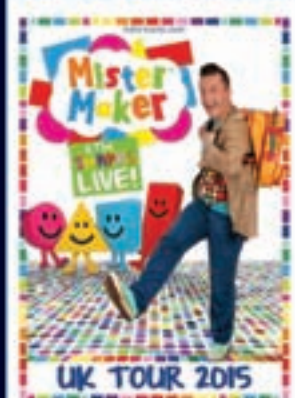


THE  
SHAWSHANK  
REDEMPTION

FEAR WILL HOLD  
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HOPE CAN SET  
YOU FREE

AGES 10+

MON 28 SEP - SAT 3 OCT



UK TOUR 2015

FRI 9 & SAT 10 OCT

Peppa Pig  
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# Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## DEATH OF AN ACCIDENTAL ANARCHIST TACT

The Arts Centre Telford - present Dario Fo's internationally recognised play, widely regarded as a classic of twentieth century theatre, Tues 18 - Wed 19 Aug, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**OLIVER!** Malvern Theatres Young Company present a staging of Lionel Bart's musical, based on Dickens' well-known novel, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Aug, Malvern Theatre

**PONGO'S PARTY** Featuring CBeebies' Justin Fletcher and Nicole Davis as the voices of Pongo the Pig and Molly-Moo the Cow, Wed 19 - Thurs 20 Aug, The Old Rep, B'ham

**VESTA** One-woman show about the life and music of Vesta Tilley, regarded as one of the most remarkable female entertainers ever to have lived, Thurs 20 Aug, Vesta Tilley Studio, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**ABSENT FRIENDS** Lon-

don Classic Theatre present Alan Ayckbourn's critically acclaimed observation of friendship, marriage and what it means to be ultimately happy, Wed 19 - Sat 22 Aug, Malvern Theatre

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Rock'n'Roll spectacular combining music from the 50s, 60s & 70s with wacky comedy routines, Thurs 20 Aug, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**SPARROWS IN A HAT** Second Thoughts Drama Group present a play which is described as 'more than just a story of two fifty-year-olds desperately seeking real love in a world that seems to have something against them...' Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Aug, Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**WEST SIDE STORY** Amateur production presented by Wing It Theatre, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Aug, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**SING-A-LONG-A FROZEN A**

full screening of the Disney sensation, complete with on-screen lyrics to help you sing along with Anna and Elsa during the film, Fri 21 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**TREE FU TOM** New show starring the world's smallest superhero, direct from the smash-hit CBeebies series, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Aug, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**SING-A-LONG-A FROZEN A** full screening of the Disney sensation, complete with on-screen lyrics to help you sing along with Anna and Elsa during the film, Sat 22 Aug, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**DRACULA SPECTACULAR** Ambient Night Productions & The Prince of Wales Theatre present a riotous Transylvanian tale, a culmination of summer workshops at the theatre, Sat 22 Aug, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

**PEEK-A-BOO** Join the Gardener on her mission to bring the garden buzzing back to life. An interactive performance that explores children's responses to their first experience of theatre, Sat 22- Mon 31 Aug, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

## Week Commencing MON 24 AUG

### TALKING HEADS

Stephanie Cole presents all three of Alan Bennett's brilliant observational monologues, including A Cream Cracker Under The Settee, A Chip In The Sugar and A Lady Of Letters, Mon 24 - Sat 29 Aug, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

**LOVE ME TENDER** Feel-good musical featuring Elvis Presley's greatest hits. Starring the Shaun Williamson and award-winning and platinum album-selling singer Mica Paris, Mon 24 - Sat 29 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**AS YOU LIKE IT** The Festival Players present an all-male production of The Bard's pastoral comedy, Tues 25 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE SELFISH GIANT** Sealegs Puppet Theatre Company present an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's fairytale, Tues 25 Aug, Watson Hall, Tewkesbury (tickets available from Roses Theatre)

**ANIMAL ALPHABET** Richard Digance's fully interactive show for young audiences, Tues

25 Aug, Lichfield Garrick

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: THE SUMMER Pantomime** Wed 26 - Sat 29 Aug, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**OTHELLO** RSC Live screening featuring Holby City's Hugh Quarshie in the lead role. Lucian Msamati plays Iago, Wed 26 Aug, Warwick Arts Centre

**BOUNCERS** Swan Theatre Amateur Company present a staging of John Godber's award-winning comedy, Tues 25 - Sat 29 Aug, Vesta Tilley Studio, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**A FETE WORSE THAN DEATH** Murder-mystery complete with fish & chips supper, Thurs 27 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

**JAY RAYNER: MY DINING HALL** Evening with the award-winning journalist, writer, broadcaster - and restaurant critic, Thurs 27 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**THE TEMPEST** Rain Or Shine Theatre present an outdoor staging of The Bard's final masterpiece, Sun 27 Aug, Stokesay Castle, South Shropshire

**THE TEMPEST** Rain Or Shine Theatre present an outdoor staging of The Bard's final master-

piece, Tues 29 Aug, Wenlock Priory, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES** Chapterhouse Theatre bring Arthur Conan Doyle's detecting duo to life in the search for the most elusive piece of treasure known to mankind, Sat 29 Aug, Erddig Hall, Wrexham

**THE GINGERBREAD MAN** Magic, music and plenty of audience participation come together in David Wood's famous play, Sat 29 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**FAME THE MUSICAL** Amateur production presented and performed by TACT - The Arts Centre Telford, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Aug, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**EMMA** Heartbreak Productions present a staging of Jane Austen's comedy of manners, Sun 30 Aug, Hoar Cross Hall Hotel & Spa, Warwickshire

**VALMIKI PRATIBHA** A remarkable story of how a blood-thirsty bandit renounces violence and greed, transforms into the pious sage Valmiki and writes the Indian epic Ramayana, a dance drama in English, Sun 30 Aug, mac, B'ham

## Experience Spectacular Drama At The REP This Autumn


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Below are reviews of theatre productions we checked out last month. For further theatre reviews, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Unearthed

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

"Hello, I'm Theresa Heskins and I'm the Director of the New Vic."

Those opening words to *Unearthed* elicited a spontaneous and very deserved round of applause for the woman who has taken this theatre to new heights. But it wasn't actually Theresa who was saying them. It was Bryonie Pritchard, playing her. And every character that followed her on to the stage was another genuine individual portrayed by an actor.

I'm all for verbatim theatre. Taking the testimonies of real people, word for word, and compiling them into a play is an excellent way of getting to the heart of the matter. So *Unearthed* is the nearest thing to a living, breathing television documentary, telling - with the aid of some stunning pictures - the story of the finding of the Staffordshire Hoard. And once Theresa steps away, we, the audience, fill her shoes... hearing what she heard as she researched the story.

In a field we meet a bevy of metal detector enthusiasts led by David Nellist. He plays Terry Herbert, the Staffordshire man who had the piece of luck in the first place; drawn to the site, we learn, by 'visions'. Nellist provides a literally down-to-earth portrayal of a gentle farmer, bemused by the enormity of it all. Short and squat, with detector in hand, he sort of stumbles after the experts as might you or I. But he's never overawed. And the million quid will come in handy.

Elizabeth Elvin's portrayal of the Stoke Museum's Cathy Shingler is a treasure in itself. Full of life and twice as bubbly, she's a woman utterly enthused, conjecturing like I've never seen an academic conjecture before.

My one niggle regarding *Unearthed* is the inclusion of hesitations and broken and overlaid speech in the verbatim script. I guess it's to remind us of the authenticity of the dialogue, but it can hinder comprehension of complex affairs.

At the end, 'Theresa' is still recording 'Terry'. "How are you going to end your play?" he asks. "I think it will be a bit of a cliff hanger", she replies. And it certainly is. *Chris Eldon Lee* ■■■■■



## The Merchant Of Venice Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Led by the fabulous Patsy Ferran as an irresistibly witty and commanding Portia, Polly Findlay's female-centric *Merchant* is a refreshing reinvention of a familiar tale.

Fresh from her run as Jim Hawkins in *Treasure Island*, Ferran is the very picture of Balthasar's description ("so young a body with so old a head"), well-matched by Nadia Albina's chirpy Nerissa. Their energy and optimism is off-set by a Jessica like none you've seen before: in spirit, Scarlett Brookes' melancholy take on the character is a better match for Jamie Ballard's incessantly weeping Antonio than James Corrigan's laddish Lorenzo.

Unusually, the production downplays racism, skimming over Portia's prejudiced portrayal of her suitors. While some lines on injustice and hypocrisy stand out, Shylock's typically moving speeches play second fiddle to those delivered by the women. In contrast to his forced conversion, the young brides undergo gradual processes of growth and self-discovery, experiencing genuine second thoughts about their hasty marriages.

In defiance of Shylock's and Antonio's mutual misery, comedy takes precedence in this pacy crowd-pleaser. With lightning-fast timing and bucket-loads of audience interaction, Tim Samuels is side-splitting as the clownish servant Gobbo, rivalled only in laugh count by Ken Nwosu's endearing Gratiano and Brian Protheroe's swaggering Aragon.

In this money-mad age, there's something wonderfully cathartic about witnessing piles of cash carelessly swept aside after the climactic trial scene. In light of recent events, is it too much to read a little of our new breed of female political leaders into Rina Mahoney's pragmatic Duke and Portia's crushing defeat of the hot-headed men around her? *Heather Kincaid* ■■■■■

*The Merchant Of Venice* continues to show at the RST until Wed 2 September

## Volpone Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

On paper, Trevor Nunn directing Henry Goodman in Ben Jonson's classic satire sounds a mouthwatering prospect. The themes of greed and lust are suitably timeless, while the notion of scammers defrauding people and businesses has never been out of fashion. Indeed, it's probably more relevant in 2015 than it was in the time of Shakespeare's greatest contemporary. For instance, I had three phone calls from people offering to mend my non-existent 'Windows computer' on the day of the show.

Sadly, *Volpone* doesn't live up to the billing - a situation almost as frustrating as those phone calls (almost). The outstanding Goodman, whose *Volpone* was a delightful mix of preening arrogance and cheery wit (and had a real twinkle in his eye), did his best to drive proceedings along, but it was an uphill battle that even he couldn't win. Annette McLaughlin's Lady Politic was the only other portrayal to catch the eye, and both would have needed chisels to get something out of the wooden performances of Orion Lee (Mosca) and Matthew Kelly (Corvino).

The production itself could have done with a little more time in the workshop too. For all the contemporary references - reality TV, iPads, bearded hermaphrodite Androgyn0 resembling Eurovision winner Conchita, throwaway lines about vegetarians, global warming, the Budget and the Greek economic crisis - Nunn's production was, for the most part, very much rooted in the past. Not Jonson's seventeenth century but the 1970s, courtesy of a range of inane (at best) and crass (at worst) sitcom-style gags. Very much out of place in a supposedly biting satire, they made it something of a farce in more ways than one. *Steve Adams* ■■

*Volpone* continues to show at the Swan Theatre until Sat 12 September



# What's on...



Thurs 3rd September  
**MICHAEL ENGLISH**  
Time: 7.30pm



Sat 19th September  
**SING-A-LONG-A FROZEN**  
Time: 11am, 3pm, 6.30pm



Weds 23rd September  
**JOSH WIDDICOMBE**  
Time: 8.00pm



Sat 26th September  
**LOLO WILLIAMS**  
Time: 7.30pm



Wed 30th September  
**DEREK ACORAH**  
Time: 7.30pm



Thurs 1st October  
**THE ILLEGAL EAGLES**  
Time: 7.30pm



Fri 2nd October  
**BLAKE**  
Time: 7.30pm



Sat 3rd October  
**MAX BOYCE**  
Time: 7.30pm



Thurs 8th October  
**JETHRO**  
Time: 7.30pm

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### October

## JOE LONGTHORNE

Thursday 1st October  
7.30pm • £22.50

## PURPLE ZEPPELIN

Friday 2nd October  
7.30pm • £16 • Conc £15

## BASIL BRUSH

Saturday 3rd October  
11am & 2.30pm  
£14 • Conc £12 • Family £42

## ROY CHUBBY BROWN

Thursday 8th October  
7.30pm • £20

## CARPET CRAWLERS GENESIS TRIBUTE

Thursday 15th October  
7.30pm • £18 advance  
£20 on the door

## RAT PACK

Saturday 17th October  
7.30pm • £20

## GIMME GIMME NIGHT FEVER

Friday 23rd October  
7.30pm • £18



WLCT



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## Curtain set to close on Miss Saigon

Cameron Mackintosh has announced that Boubil and Schönberg's *Miss Saigon* will make its final performance at the Prince Edward Theatre on 27 February 2016.

Since opening at the theatre in May 2014, *Miss Saigon* has broken box office records and garnered numerous accolades, including nine awards at the 2015 Whatsonstage.com Awards.

Set against the backdrop of the 1975 US evacuation of the city, *Miss Saigon* tells the story of an American GI and his love for a young Vietnamese woman.

Tickets to see the show can be booked online at [miss-saigon.com/box-office](http://miss-saigon.com/box-office).



## Political farce debuts at The Menier...

The Menier Chocolate Factory is to stage the world premiere of Anthony Horowitz's *Dinner With Saddam* in the autumn. Award-winning director Lindsay Posner is at the helm of the production. Sanjeev Bhaskar (*Goodness Gracious Me*) stars as Saddam's host - a man forced to hide the Iraqi dictator during the onset of the 2003 allied bombing campaign.

A political farce in which personal issues merge with politics over the dinner table - and where something sinister is being cooked up behind the kitchen door - *Dinner With Saddam* opens at the Menier Chocolate Factory on 22 September, with bookings currently being taken until 14 November.

Nathan Amzi, Ilan Goodman and Rebecca Grant join Bhaskar in the production. At the time of going to print, the role of Saddam has yet to be cast.



Sanjeev Bhaskar

## Zoe Wannamaker in double bill

Zoe Wannamaker is to appear alongside John Dalglish and Kenneth Branagh in a new production of Terrence Rattigan's *Harlequinade*, which opens at The Garrick Theatre in October. Rattigan's classic is being brought to the stage by the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company and sees Wannamaker take on a dual role during every evening performance. As well as playing Dame Maud in *Harlequinade*, she will also perform Rattigan's dramatic monologue, *All On Her Own*, prior to the main show. A powerful, atmospheric play written for television by Rattigan in the 1960s, *All On Her Own* has never previously been seen in the West End. Speaking of having Wannamaker on board, Kenneth Branagh said: "Zoe is a brilliant comedienne and a great tragic actress too. In joining us for the Rattigan comedy we seized on the opportunity to let her show us the dramatic side of a playwright also known as 'the English Chekhov'. The rarely seen *All On Her Own* provides a fabulous woman's role, and makes for an intriguingly balanced double bill."

Bookings are now being taken for *Harlequinade* and *All On Her Own*, which play in rep at The Garrick Theatre from 17 October to 16 January.



## Extended booking for Kinks musical

*Sunny Afternoon*, the award-winning musical which pays homage to The Kinks, has extended its booking at the Harold Pinter Theatre until 16 April 2016. Adapted from Joe Penhall's book and featuring music, lyrics and original story by Ray Davies, the show celebrates the music of one of the most popular bands to come out of the 1960s. The production has wowed audiences and critics in equal measure since it opened at the venue in October 2014.



# GREAT DAYS OUT IN SEPTEMBER

## FROM 32 LOCAL BOARDING POINTS

Sat 5 Sept	Great Dorset Steam Fair
Tue 8 Sept	'Marks in Time' Exhibition & Kirkgate Market
Thu 10 Sept	Billy Elliot at Victoria Palace, London
Sat 12 Sept	Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum
Tue 15 Sept	Samlesbury Hall with Guided Tour
Wed 16 Sept	A Day on the Isle of Wight
Thu 17 Sept	Doctor Who Experience, Cardiff
Fri 18 Sept	Weymouth, Dorset
Sun 20 Sept	Duxford Air Show
Tue 22 Sept	Sidmouth with cream tea
Wed 23 Sept	Hidcote Garden & The GW Railway
Thu 24 Sept	Miss Saigon at Prince Edward Theatre
Sat 26 Sept	Epping & Ongar Railway & Vintage Bus Ride
Sun 27 Sept	Malvern Autumn Gardening Show
Tue 29 Sept	Polesden Lacey & Denbies Wine Estate
Wed 30 Sept	Sinatra at the London Palladium

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SAT 10 OCT



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**ROY ORBISON  
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FRI 18 SEP



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**AN INSPECTOR  
CALLS**  
TUE 13 - SAT 17 OCT



ENGLISH YOUTH BALLET  
**SWAN LAKE**  
FRI 18 - SAT 19 SEP



FASHION, FRIENDS,  
AND FUN WITH  
**HELLO KITTY**  
TUE 20 OCT



STARRING BLUE'S  
DUNCAN JAMES  
**PRISCILLA**  
MON 21 - SAT 26 SEP



LIVE, STUNNING  
AND TIMELESS  
**THE RAT PACK**  
VEGAS SPECTACULAR SHOW  
FRI 23 OCT



STARRING TOMMY STEELE  
**THE GLENN  
MILLER STORY**  
MON 28 SEP - SAT 3 OCT



THE SENSATIONAL  
NEW SMASH-HIT  
**THE FULL  
MONTY**  
MON 26 - SAT 31 OCT



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MY VALENTINE**  
TUE 6 OCT



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CBBEIES HERO  
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# Film

Released from Fri 7 Aug

## The Gift

CERT 15 (108 mins)

Starring Jason Bateman, Rebecca Hall, Joel Edgerton Directed by Joel Edgerton (USA/Australia)

Simon and Robyn (Bateman, Hall) are a happily married couple whose lives are turned around with the arrival of a friend from Simon's past. The unwanted visitor (Edgerton) insists on bringing the couple gifts, but their meaning is not entirely welcome. The actor Joel Edgerton (Exodus: Gods And Kings, Kinky Boots) makes his directorial debut with this thriller - from his own screenplay.



## Max

CERT 12a (111 mins)

Starring Josh Wiggins, Lauren Graham, Thomas Haden Church, Dejon LaQuake, Robbie Amell, Jay Hernandez Directed by Boaz Yakin (USA)

Based on real events, this is the remarkable story of a Belgian Shepherd called Max, trained to assist the US Marines in Afghanistan. When his trainer, Kyle (Amell), is shot, Max is traumatised, and because he will not respond to anybody else, he is to be put down. However, Max turns out to respond to one other human: Justin, Kyle's brother... Of course, Max is anything but mad.

## Manglehorn

CERT 12a (97 mins)

Starring Al Pacino, Holly Hunter, Harmony Korine, Chris Messina Directed by David Gordon Green (USA)

Al Pacino got terrific reviews for this drama, in which he plays an eccentric, small-town locksmith in Texas still mourning an unresolved relationship of twenty years ago. The director, Green, received raves for his earlier films George Washington, Prince Avalanche and Joe.



From Thurs 6 Aug

## Fantastic Four

CERT tbc

Starring Miles Teller, Michael B. Jordan, Kate Mara, Jamie Bell, Toby Kebbell, Reg E. Cathey, Tim Blake Nelson Directed by Josh Trank (USA)

The future of our planet is under threat. Again. So Mister Fantastic, the Human Torch, the Invisible Woman and The Thing team up to do battle. We're talking a reboot of the 2005 film, which grossed \$330million worldwide. This one cost \$120million, so it better swamp the multiplexes and fight off all comers. The cast here is not so much stellar as talented, with Miles Teller (from Whiplash, Divergent) stretching himself in new directions as Mister Fantastic, the superhero with biologically elastic capabilities.

The director is Josh Trank, who brought us the intelligent, often thrilling 'found footage' thriller Chronicle (2012). In 3D.



From Wed 12 Aug

## Man From U.N.C.L.E.

CERT 12a (126 mins)

Starring Henry Cavill, Armie Hammer, Alicia Vikander, Elizabeth Debicki, Jared Harris, Hugh Grant Directed by Guy Ritchie (USA)

Most cinemagoers will be too young to remember Robert Vaughn and David McCallum as Napoleon Solo and Illya Kuryakin, but they were jolly cool secret agents back in the 1960s. Guy Ritchie's large-screen adaptation returns to the Cold War of the Swinging '60s and has attracted a very sexy cast. Here, Solo and Kuryakin team up to stop a criminal organisation from swamping the globe with nuclear weapons. It may be a Hollywood movie, but the subject is as English as James Bond. And, incidentally, U.N.C.L.E. stands for the United Network Command for Law and Enforcement. We knew you'd want to know.

Released from Fri 14 Aug

## Absolutely Anything

CERT 12a (86 mins)

Starring **Simon Pegg**, **Kate Beckinsale**, **Sanjeev Bhaskar**, **Rob Riggle**, **Eddie Izzard**, and the voice of **Robin Williams**  
Directed by **Terry Jones** (UK/USA)

As an off-the-wall experiment, a gaggle of unorthodox aliens decides to confer a disenchanting, human school teacher (Pegg) with the ability to do absolutely anything. With Terry Jones behind the camera, the film has a strong whiff of Monty Python, with vocal cameos from Jones, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle and Michael Palin.



## Mistress America

CERT 15 (84 mins)

Starring **Greta Gerwig**, **Lola Kirke**, **Heather Lind**, **Cindy Cheung**  
Directed by **Noah Baumbach** (USA)

Having co-written *Frances Ha* (2013) together, real-life couple Noah Baumbach and Greta Gerwig now embark on this screwball comedy set in New York. Gerwig plays Brooke, a human firecracker who juggles a frenetic life of aerobics, interior design and social media. And her new stepsister, Tracy (Kirke), didn't even see her coming... The American critics loved it.



## Trainwreck

CERT 15 (125 mins)

Starring **Amy Schumer**, **Bill Hader**, **Tilda Swinton**, **John Cena**, **Brie Larson**  
Directed by **Judd Apatow** (USA)

You may not have heard of Amy Schumer, but she's big news in the US. She is the star of Comedy Central's *Inside Amy Schumer* sketch show and now has her first starring movie vehicle with this, which she wrote herself. She plays Amy, a magazine writer who is used to putting herself about. She then starts to have 'feelings' for a successful



From Wed 12 Aug

## Pixels

CERT 12a (106 mins)

Starring **Adam Sandler**, **Kevin James**, **Michelle Monaghan**, **Peter Dinklage**, **Josh Gad**, **Brian Cox**  
Directed by **Chris Columbus** (USA)

You're not going to believe this, but the world is under attack. This time the aliens have taken exception to a time capsule sent into outer space by NASA, in particular video-feeds of classic arcade games, which they interpret as a declaration of war. So, in keeping with the games, the aliens launch models for their various assaults based on Pac-Man, Space Invaders and their ilk. So, in order to fight back, President Will Cooper (James) enlists the help of his childhood friends, all of whom were rather good at saving the earth at their local video game arcade...

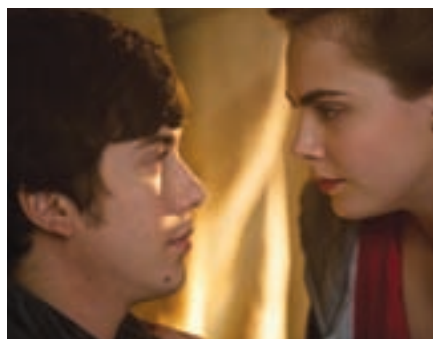


## Paper Towns

CERT 12a (109 mins)

Starring **Nat Wolff**, **Cara Delevingne**, **Justice Smith**, **Austin Abrams**, **Halston Sage**  
Directed by **Jake Schreier** (USA)

John Green wrote the 2012 novel *The Fault In Our Stars*, which was turned into a hugely successful film last year. His *Paper Towns* was published in 2008 and concerns the search for Quentin's next-door neighbour and first love Margot, who loved mysteries so much that she became one. The London-born supermodel Cara Delevingne plays her.



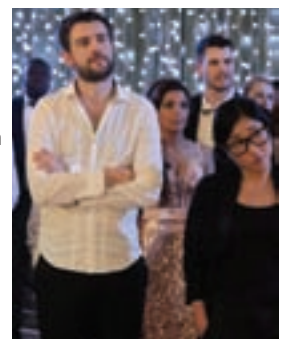
Released from Fri 21 Aug

## The Bad Education Movie

CERT tbc

Starring **Jack Whitehall**, **Harry Enfield**, **Mathew Horne**, **Sarah Solemani**, **Jeremy Irvine**, **Iain Glen**  
Directed by **Elliot Hegarty** (UK)

The Marlborough-educated comedian Jack Whitehall actually wrote the screenplay to this spin-off of his TV series *Bad Education*. He reprises his role of Alfie Wickers, the worst teacher to grace the British educational establishment, who decides to take his class on a school trip to Cornwall after they've finished their GCSEs. Inevitably, mayhem ensues.



## Vacation

CERT 15 (99 mins)

Starring **Ed Helms, Christina Applegate, Leslie Mann, Chris Hemsworth, Beverly D'Angelo, Chevy Chase**

Directed by **John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein (USA)**

Older viewers may recall the madcap escapades of the Griswold family in National Lampoon's Vacation (1983) and National Lampoon's European Vacation (1985) - and maybe even their four sequels. Now Clark Griswold's little boy Rusty is all grown up and takes his own family cross-country to visit the wonders of the theme park Walley World, before it finally closes.

Rusty is now played by Ed Helms, best known as Stuart Price in The Hangover trilogy. Expect some naughty bits.



## Good People

CERT 15 (88 mins)

Starring **James Franco, Kate Hudson, Tom Wilkinson, Omar Sy, Anna Friel, Sam Spruell**

Directed by **Henrik Ruben Genz (USA)**

N.B. If you stumble across a large cache of somebody else's money and don't tell anybody, the likelihood is that you will invite more trouble into your life than you can handle. At least, in the movies. And that's what happens to Tom and Anna Wright (James Franco, Kate Hudson), an American couple living in London up to their ears in debt.



## Gemma Boverly

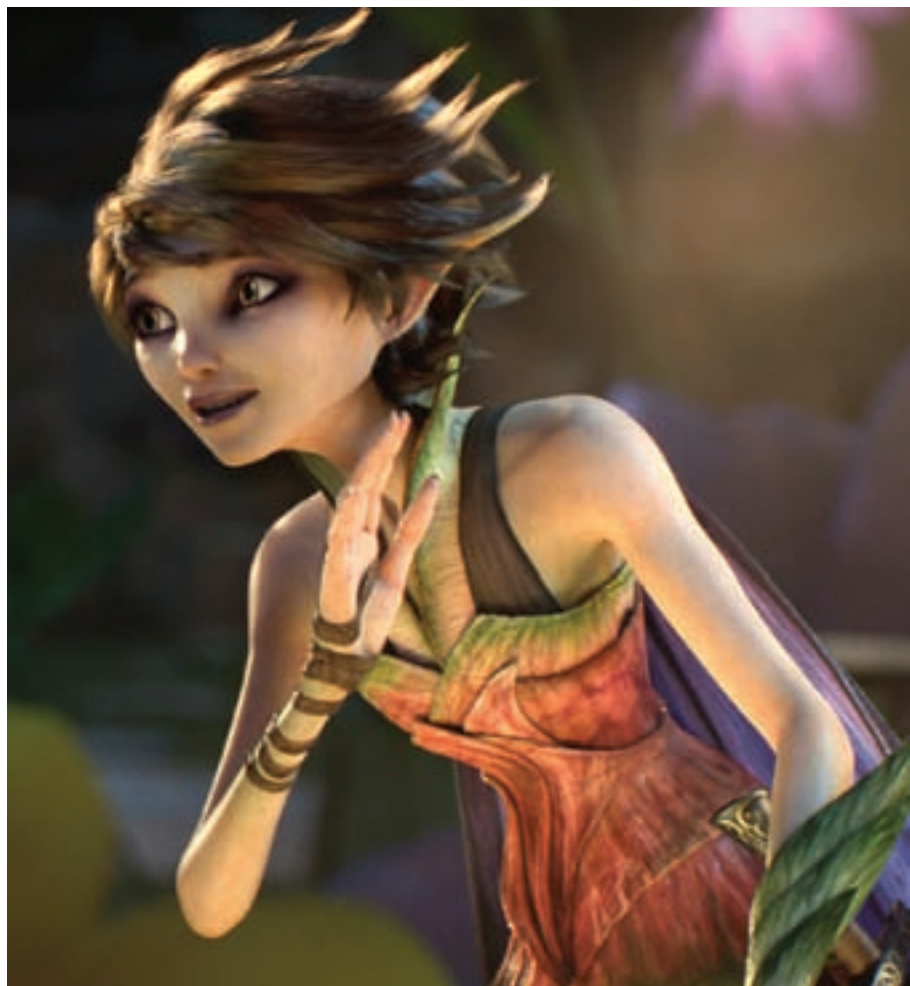
CERT 15 (99 mins)

Starring **Fabrice Luchini, Gemma Arterton, Jason Flemyng, Mel Raido, Isabelle Candelier, Elsa Zylberstein, Pip Torrens**

Directed by **Anne Fontaine (France/UK)**

Having taken the title role of Posy Simmonds' cartoon heroine Tamara Drewe (loosely based on Far From The Madding Crowd), Gemma Arterton now segues into the title role of Simmonds' other famous literary distortion. She plays Gemma who, with her husband Charles Boverly (Flemyng), moves to a small farm in Normandy. A local baker and Flaubert fan

(Luchini) is intrigued by the couple's similarity to the fictitious Charles and Emma Boverly. And he knows the story doesn't have a happy ending...



Released from Fri 28 Aug

## 45 Years

CERT 15 (95 mins)

Starring **Charlotte Rampling, Tom Courtenay, Geraldine James, Dolly Wells**

Directed by **Andrew Haigh (UK)**

Kate and Geoff Mercer are planning their forty-fifth wedding anniversary when an unexpected discovery threatens to torpedo the celebration, not to mention the couple's marriage... Both Ms Rampling and Mr Courtenay won best acting gongs at this year's Berlin Film Festival.



## Hitman: Agent 47

CERT tbc

Starring **Rupert Friend, Hannah Ware, Zachary Quinto, Ciarán Hinds, Thomas Kretschmann**

Directed by **Aleksander Bach (USA/Germany)**

Fresh off his success as Peter Quinn in Homeland, Rupert Friend replaces Timothy Olyphant as the immaculately attired assassin of the video game fame. Here, he teams up with a woman (Hannah Ware - from TV's Boss and sister of the singer Jessie Ware) to help her track down her father. The late Paul Walker was originally due to star as the eponymous agent in this reboot.

## Strange Magic

CERT U (99 mins)

Featuring the voices of **Alan Cumming, Evan Rachel Wood, Kristin Chenoweth, Maya Rudolph, Alfred Molina, Elijah Kelley**

Directed by **Gary Rydstrom (USA)**

More fantastic chicanery from the imagination of George Lucas, this animated fantasy is, in his words, aimed at "twelve-year-old girls." However, unlike Star Wars, Strange Magic is also a musical and is set in the opposing worlds of fairies and bog creatures. Inspired by A Midsummer Night's Dream, the film was a critical and commercial disaster in the US.

## American Ultra

CERT tbc

Starring **Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart, Toopher Grace, Connie Britton, John Leguizamo, Bill Pullman**

Directed by **Nima Nourizadeh (USA)**

Mike Howell (Eisenberg) is a drug-addled government 'sleeper' agent who has become a liability. But when the powers-that-be decide to terminate him, he proves to be too well-trained to eliminate. Pot luck may have something to do with it.



# Film A-Z LISTINGS

All films are currently on general release unless otherwise stated. For full listing information, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Aliens 15

In this sequel the planet from Alien (1979) has been colonised, but contact is lost. This time, the rescue team has impressive firepower, but will it be enough? Starring Sigourney Weaver and Michael Biehn. This is an outdoor event. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 22 Aug*

## Amy 15

Bafta-winning documentary maker Asif Kapadia focuses his attention on the career, life and death of Amy Winehouse, the London-born singer-songwriter. Again, the reviews have been exemplary - although Amy's family are none too happy with the film. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Thurs 6 Aug; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Fri 14 Aug; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 17 Aug*

## Ant-Man 12a

Ready for a new franchise? Here comes Ant-Man - aka Scott Lang (Paul Rudd). Scott Lang is actually a conman who comes by a suit that enables him to shrink yet become incredibly strong. With the new technology at his pincer tips he decides to reform his ways and join up with the entomologist Hank Pym (Michael Douglas) to save the world. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, from Fri 21 - Fri 28 Aug*

## Back To The Future Part II PG

Marty McFly has only just gotten back from the past, when he is once again picked up by Dr Emmett Brown and sent through time to the future. Marty's job in the future is to pose as his own son, to prevent him from being thrown in prison. Stars Michael J Fox and Christopher Lloyd. This is an outdoor event. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 1 Aug*

## The Burning 15

A mysterious man emerges from the Argentinian rainforest only to witness a poor farmer being killed by mercenaries sent to requisition his land. Taking the dead man's daughter with them, they retreat back into the jungle. Using his innate knowledge of the forest, the mysterious man heads off in pursuit. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Tues 4 - Thurs 6 Aug; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 5 - Thurs 6 Aug*

## The Butler 12a

The Butler is loosely based on real events. The Butler in question works at the White House and it's through his eyes that we see many of the major historical episodes of the twentieth century. Starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 27 Aug*

**WATCH THE FILM TRAILERS AT [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)**

## The Choir PG

A troublesome eleven-year-old orphan ends up at the National Boychoir Academy. However, even though he can sing well, he rebels against his privileged classmates and the school's exacting choir master. Stars Dustin Hoffman and Kathy Bates. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 6 Aug; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 18 & Thurs 20 Aug*

## Cinderella pu

Once upon a time... Oh,

don't let us spoil the plot for you. Let's just say there are long work hours, really horrible step-sisters and a rather dashing prince. This version actually adheres more to Disney's classic 1950 cartoon version than Charles Perrault's original folk story. Starring Cate Blanchett and Lily James. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug*

## Clouds Of Sils Maria 15

Twenty years ago, the actress Maria Enders (Juliette Binoche) made her name playing a young woman who drives her female boss to suicide. Here she's agreed to star in a revival of the play, this time portraying the older woman, with her original part played by a Hollywood star with a predisposition for scandal. Interestingly, the latter is embodied by Kristen Stewart. *Showing at The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Sat 8 - Mon 10 Aug*

## Cobain: Montage Of Heck 15

The first ever, fully authorised documentary tracks Kurt Cobain from his earliest years through the height of his fame with never-before-seen home movies, animation and revelatory interviews from his family and closest confidantes. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 10 - Tues 11 Aug*

## Danny Collins 15

Danny Collins (Al Pacino) is an ageing rocker and still lives the part. Then he comes across a letter written to him by John Lennon forty years previously and decides to change his ways... Inspired by a true story. Also stars Annette Bening and Jennifer Garner. *Showing at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 4 - Fri 14 Aug; The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Fri 7 - Thurs 13 Aug*

## The Diary Of A Teenage Girl 18

Based on Phoebe Gloeckner's graphic novel, adapted for the screen and directed by Marielle Heller, The Diary Of A Teenage Girl charts the coming-of-age adventures

of Minnie Goetze, a punchy teen growing up fast in the countercultural haze of 1970s San Francisco. Stars Bel Powley, Alexander Skarsgård and Kristen Wiig. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 24 Aug, Tues 25 & Thurs 27 Aug; mac, Birmingham, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug*

## Eden 15

The latest film from acclaimed French filmmaker Mia Hansen-Løve (The Father Of My Children, Goodbye First Love) studies a young Parisian DJ caught up in the exploding dance music scene of the 1990s. Stars Félix de Givry and Pauline Etienne. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 8 Aug, Mon 10 - Thurs 13 Aug*

## Eden Reborn 18

Not for the easily queasy, this eco-feminist reimagining of the Myth of Eden in response to Ted Hughes' Theology has been described as a cannibalistic sex metaphor and likened to the work of Angela Carter. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sun 23 Aug*

## Far From The Madding Crowd 12a

The last time Thomas Hardy's immortal 1874 novel was adapted for the screen was courtesy of the modern-day, thinly disguised Tamara Drewe (2010), with Gemma Arterton. Thomas Vinterberg's version is strictly of the costumed variety, set in Victorian England. Carey Mulligan, as the fêted Bathsheba Everdene, has received rave reviews for her performance. Matthias Schoenaerts, Michael Sheen also star. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sun 16 - Tues 18 Aug*

## The Forgotten Kingdom tbc

Atang leaves the slums of Johannesburg for his ancestral land of Lesotho, to bury his estranged father. Stirred by memories of his youth, he falls in love with his childhood friend and discovers the mystical beauty and hardships of the people, before facing his own bittersweet reckoning. Stars Zenzo Ngqobe and Nozipho Nkemeleba. *Showing at The Old Market Hall,*

*Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Mon 3 - Wed 5 Aug*

## Frankenweenie PG

The story of a young scientist called Victor Frankenstein (Tahan, from I Am Legend), who brings his pet bull terrier, Sparky, back to life, the film is actually a feature-length version of a short Burton made back in 1984. Featuring the voices of Charlie Tahan and Frank Welker. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 8 Aug*

## The Gone Girl 18

Nick Dunne, on his fifth wedding anniversary, reports the disappearance of his wife. Then, as a media frenzy builds around the gone girl, suspicion starts to fall on Nick himself... Stars Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 7 Aug*

## Inside Out u

Largely set inside the brain of an eleven-year-old girl, Inside Out's five protagonists are the emotions that dominate her actions: Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness, each given its own voice. But there's more to this set-up than meets the mind, as Joy and Sadness get lost! *Showing at Malvern Theatres, until Thurs 6 Aug; The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, until Fri 14 - Thurs 27 Aug; The Courtyard, Hereford, from Sat 29 Aug*

## Iris 12a

The last film by Albert Maysles (Grey Gardens, Gimme Shelter) is a wonderful portrait of nonagenarian style icon Iris Apfel. One of the most recognisable characters amongst New York's fashion elite, Iris is a singular woman whose enthusiasm for fashion, art and people shows no sign of slowing down. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 28 Aug*

## Jurassic World 12a

The continuing story of the Costa Rica theme park, a somewhat different place than it was twenty-two years ago. However, in spite of everything now running smoothly, visitor rates have declined. So, in an effort to sex the place up,

the Masrani Global Corporation decides to create a hybrid dinosaur, the Indominus Rex. Of course, it's all a terrible mistake... Stars Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 4 - Thurs 6 Aug & Sat 8 Aug*

## The Legend Of Barney Thomson 15

Unlike Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, Glaswegian barber Barney Thomson stumbles into serial murder by accident. Stars Emma Thompson and Robert Carlyle. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 7 - Thurs 13 Aug*

## Looking For Love 15

This new documentary from filmmaker Menelik Shabazz (The Story Of Lovers Rock, Burning An Illusion) combines music and performances with intimate interviews exploring relationships within the UK's black British community. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 21 - Tues 25 Aug*

## Love & Mercy 12a

Brian Wilson was the co-founder of The Beach Boys and this is his story. His younger self is played by Paul Dano, his older persona by John Cusack. It was not an easy life. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 7 - Thurs 13 Aug; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Fri 21 & Mon 24 Aug*

## Magic Mike XXL 15

The former male stripper 'Magic Mike' is back, this time to compete in a stripping convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina - his last hurrah. Expect six packs galore. Stars Channing Tatum and Matt Bomer. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, from Fri 28 Aug*

## Manglehorn 12a

Al Pacino plays a lonely locksmith whose life is transformed by a new romance in this magical love story from acclaimed director David Gordon Green (Joe, All The Real Girls). Also stars Holly Hunter. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 21 - Thurs 27 Aug; Warwick Arts Cen-*

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tre, Coventry, Fri 28 - Mon 31 Aug; *The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, from Fri 28 Aug*

### Marshland 15

Like a Spanish True Detective, this period cop thriller from writer/director Alberto Rodriguez follows two ideologically opposed detectives in the moody Andalaz swamplands, forced to come together to find the perpetrator of a series of brutal attacks on two local teenage sisters. Stars Javier Gutiérrez and Raúl Arévalo. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 14 - Thurs 20 Aug*

### Minions PG

Having destroyed all the masters that they'd previously served, the minions set off to find someone equally evil to assist. So they attend a villain's convention and latch on to Scarlet Overkill (Sandra Bullock), who's planning to take over the world. *Showing at The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, until Thurs 13 Aug; The Courtyard, Hereford, Sat 1 Aug; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 4 - Thurs 6 Aug; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Tues 4 & Thurs 6 Aug; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 7, Mon 10 - Thurs 13 Aug*

### Mr Holmes PG

Just when you think they've tried every angle on Sherlock Holmes, along comes a new interpretation. In this version, Holmes is retired and suffering from dementia but still resolved to solve a fifty-year-old case. Starring Ian McKellen. *Showing at The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, until Thurs 6 Aug; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Sat 1 Aug; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 4 - Wed 5 Aug; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 7 - Tues 11 Aug; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 10 - Wed 12 Aug*

### Paddington 15

A film about the loveable bear with a penchant for marmalade. Starring Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Tues 25 Aug*

### Queen And Country 15

Celebrated British director John Boorman brings us a sequel to his 1987 drama *Hope And Glory*. Here, it's ten years after the events of the first film and Bill Rohan is called up for National Service in the shadow of the Korean War. Stars Callum Turner. *Showing at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, until Mon 3 Aug; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South*

*Shropshire, Mon 3 - Weds 5 Aug; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 6 - Tues 11 Aug; The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Fri 14 - Thurs 20 Aug; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 15 Aug, Mon 17 - Tues 18 Aug*

### Ruth And Alex 12a

When Ruth and Alex first moved to Brooklyn, it was the 1970s - years before gentrification, and years before they would realise that they won't always be able to climb several flights of stairs to get home. So the couple opt to put their apartment on the market and over one weekend, they discover that finding a new apartment is starting a whole new adventure! Stars Diane Keaton and Morgan Freeman. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 14 - Sat 15 Aug & Tues 18 Aug*

### Samba 15

Samba is a charismatic Senegalese dishwasher who has been living illegally in France for ten years. When the authorities catch up with him, a fragile immigration volunteer takes on his case and an unexpected romance begins. Starring Omar Sy & Charlotte Gainsbourg. *Showing at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 4 Aug*

### Self/Less 12a

Damian is a healthy young man who, thanks to pioneering medical science, has the consciousness of a wealthy dying aristocrat transferred into his body. Inevitably, though, there is a clash of interests... Stars Ryan Reynolds and Ben Kingsley. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Fri 21 & Thurs 27 Aug*

### Shaun The Sheep u

Shaun, the sheep, first appeared in Aardman Animations' stop-motion Wallace and Gromit cartoons and then landed his own series on CBBC. Now he makes it to the big screen and leads his flock astray when he and his woolly cohorts end up in the Big City. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 27 Aug*

### Slow West 15

This pocket-size Western with a poetic heart sees Kodi Smit-McPhee playing Jay Cavendish, a love-struck Scottish teenager who, in 1870, travels to Colorado in search of his true love, Rose. Along the way he hooks up with Silas, a bounty hunter who's both a blessing and a curse. Also stars Michael Fassbender. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 6 Aug; Ludlow Assembly*

*Rooms, South Shropshire, Thurs 13 & Sat 15 Aug*

### Song Of The Sea PG

An Irish youth discovers that his mute sister Saoirse is a selkie who must find her voice and free supernatural creatures from the spell of a Celtic goddess. Featuring the voices of Brendan Gleeson and Lisa Hannigan. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 11 - Thurs 13 Aug; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 17 - Tues 18 Aug & Fri 21 Aug; The Courtyard, Hereford, Fri 14 - Thurs 20 Aug; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug; The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, from Fri 28 Aug*

### Spy 15

Director Paul Feig made a star of Melissa McCarthy in *Bridesmaids* and *The Heat* and now casts her as CIA analyst Susan Cooper. When two of Susan's colleagues are in trouble she volunteers to go undercover so as to avert global catastrophe. Good ol' Susan. Also stars Jason Statham and Jude Law. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 1 Aug; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Weds 12 - Thurs 13 Aug; The Courtyard, Hereford, Fri 14 - Thurs 20 Aug*

### Theeb tbc

Set in western Arabia in 1916, using mostly non-professional Bedouins, *Theeb* (meaning 'wolf') tells the story of two brothers from a family of pilgrim guides who live a traditional Bedouin life during a time of radical industrial change. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sun 30 - Mon 31 Aug*

### The Third Man PG

Writer Holly Martins travels to Vienna looking for his friend Harry Lime. Upon his arrival, Holly learns that Harry is dead. Soon, Holly finds that there's more to Harry's unfortunate demise than what lies on the surface. Like all film-noir, no one is who they appear to be, not even the dilapidated city itself. Starring Joseph Cotten and Orson Welles. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Aug*

### Timbuktu 12a

Nominated for an Oscar for best foreign language film, *Timbuktu* is the story of a simple cattle herder and his wife and what happens to them when the Malian city of the title is occupied by Islamic Jihadists. Set in 2012. Starring Abel Jafri and Hichem Yacoubi. *Showing at The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Tues 11 - Thurs 13 Aug*

## DVD NEW RELEASES

### Hot Tub Time Machine 2 15

This comedy sequel sees the gang this time transported into the future, in their trusty magic hot tub, to save the past. Starring Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson and Clark Duke. **Released 3 Aug**



### The SpongeBob Movie U

Here, the jolly yellow sea sponge joins forces with his adversary, Plankton, to help retrieve his precious 'Krabby Patty' formula. The villain of the piece - a pirate named Burger-Beard - is played by Antonio Banderas. **Released 3 Aug**



### Insurgent 12a

In this, the second installment of the *Divergent* trilogy, Tris Prior continues her fight against the totalitarian state that governs a dystopian Chicago of the future. Starring Shailene Woodley. **Released 3 Aug**

### The Water Diviner 15

In this historical drama Russell Crowe plays the father of three boys who went missing during the Battle of Gallipoli and who subsequently travels to Turkey to find them. **Released 10 Aug**



### Get Hard 15

When millionaire businessman James King (Will Ferrell) is sent down for ten years for tax evasion, he's not sure he's ready for prison. So he hires Darnell Lewis (Kevin Hart) to help prepare him for a life behind bars. **Released 10 Aug**



### Woman In Gold 12a

Based on a true story of a Jewish octogenarian (Helen Mirren) who, with the help of an American lawyer (Ryan Reynolds), takes on the Austrian government in order to reclaim a portrait stolen from her family by the Nazis. **Released 3 Aug**

### Child 44 15

Filmed in the Czech Republic, this hard-hitting thriller takes as its subject a spate of child murders. Tom Hardy plays

Leo Demidov, a disgraced intelligence agent in the Stalin-era Soviet Union who takes it upon himself to investigate the killings. Based on the 2008 novel by Tom Rob Smith. Also stars Gary Oldman. **Released 24 Aug**

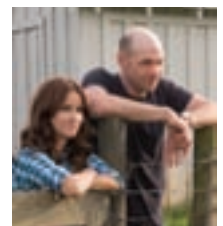


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The last time Thomas Hardy's immortal 1874 novel was adapted for the screen was courtesy of the modern-day, thinly disguised Tamara Drewe (2010), with Gemma Arterton. Thomas Vinterberg's version is strictly of the costumed variety, set in Victorian England. Carey Mulligan, as the fêted Bathsheba Everdene, has received rave reviews for her performance. Matthias Schoenaerts, Michael Sheen also star. **Released 31 Aug**

### The Good Lie 12a

Based on true events, this is the story of a brassy American woman who assists in the relocation of four young Sudanese refugees. Starring Reese Witherspoon. **Released 31 Aug**



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# Festivals

## Lichfield Fake Festival

Beacon Park, Lichfield, Sat 15 August

The UK's only touring tribute festival stops off in Lichfield this month. The hugely popular Fake Festival concerts take place across the country, with each show featuring three top UK tribute bands. This Beacon Park gig sees Jamiroquai tribute Space Cowboy, Kazabian and Bon Jovi Experience all taking to the stage. Local support bands are invited to perform before the professionals take over. A kids' entertainment zone, food traders and a licensed bar also feature.

## V Festival

Weston Park, Shropshire, Sat 22 - Sun 23 August

Taking place simultaneously in Essex and Staffordshire, V Festival continues to be one of the most popular events on the pop festival circuit. Boasting an extensive music line-up across four main stages over two days, the festival annually features some of the biggest names in the music industry. World-renowned US DJ Calvin Harris takes the limelight at this year's event, appearing on the Virgin Media stage on the Saturday evening, whilst English rock group Kasabian headline the Sunday night.

The 2015 line-up also features Olly Murs, Stereophonics, Sam Smith, The Script, Hozier, Ellie Goulding, George Ezra, Tom Jones, Clean Bandit, Annie Mac, The Kooks, Paloma Faith, Nero, Jessie Ware and Example.



Calvin Harris

## Bridgnorth Music And Arts Festival

Various venues around Bridgnorth, Fri 28 August - Sun 6 September

Now in its tenth year, this ten-day event is the biggest free festival of its kind in Shropshire. Music, comedy, art, dance, film and poetry all feature, with events taking place at various locations throughout the town. Delta Rhythm, Minerva, Voodoo Sioux, Defy All Reason, Martyr de Mona, The Troy Redfern and Butterfly Stone all feature amongst this year's line-up.



## Shrewsbury Folk Festival

West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury, Fri 28 - Mon 31 August

Having grown considerably in both reputation and stature since its debut at the town's Quarry Park in 2006, Shrewsbury Folk Festival is now undoubtedly one of the country's top events of its kind - a status endorsed by Bellowhead's Jon Boden, who rated it in the Sunday Telegraph as one of his five favourite festivals.

Offering a lot more than just great music, its relaxed atmosphere provides a perfect environment in which to meet like-minded people. And with dozens of workshops to enjoy, there's plenty to keep people of all ages entertained. For the more energetic, the dance tent provides the perfect place in which to participate in ceilidhs and to watch dance displays. The children's festival and circus tent, meanwhile, are certain to keep youngsters amused, while young folkies are invited to get involved in Re-folkus, the festival's very own youth festival.

Headliners this year include singer-songwriter Kate Rusby (pictured), Quebec-based group La Bottine Souriante, Richard Thompson OBE and Sharon Shannon, an Irish musician best known for her work with the accordion and for her fiddle technique. An Oysterband 'special performance' is also on the bill, as well as Steve Knightley, O'Hooley & Tidow, Amadou Diagne, Catrin Finch & Seckou Keita, Dawes, Spooky Men's Chorale, False Lights and Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain.



The Dawes



Richard Thompson  
Photo credit: Ron Slezniak



Sharon Shannon



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# Stafford Arts Festival



**Saturday 5th September 2015  
10.30am - 4pm in Stafford Town Centre**

**Art, Crafts, Dance, Music,  
Workshops and much more...**

Stafford Arts Festival is now in its 5th year, the streets and Market Square come alive with dancers, musicians and artists! Exhibitions, workshops, music activities and much more. Have a go at free art and craft sessions.

For latest programme details visit  
[www.stafford-towncentre.co.uk](http://www.stafford-towncentre.co.uk)



## Fusion Festival

Cofton Park, Birmingham, Fri 28 - Sun 30 August

Following the success of the previous two festivals, Fusion is this month back at Cofton Park for a third outing. Run in association with Capital FM and in support of the Prince's Trust, the 2015 incarnation certainly boasts a popstastic line-up.

Teenage heartthrob Justin Bieber headlines the Friday evening, dance act Rudimental take the Saturday top slot and McFly and Busted fusion McBusted close festivities on the Sunday night. The Vamps, Clean Bandit, Tinie Tempah, Labrinth and Gorgon City also feature in the line-up.



Rudimental

## Festivals Listings

For full listing information on festivals, including dates and line-up, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

### AUGUST

#### BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR

Line-up includes Within Temptation, Trivium, Rob Zombie & Black Label Society, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Aug, Catton Hall, Derbyshire

**BULLDOG BASH** Line-up includes Permageddon, Easydread, TBone & Sky Valley Mistress, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Aug, Shakespeare County Raceway, Stratford-upon-Avon

**LAKEFEST** Line-up includes Embrace, Ash, Billy Bragg & The Magic Numbers, Fri 7 - Sat 9

Aug, Croft Farm Waterpark, Tewkesbury

**REWIND NORTH** Line-up includes Soul II Soul, The Human League, The Boomtown Rats & Kim Wilde, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Aug, Capesthorpe Hall, Cheshire

**STRAWBERRY FIELDS FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Bombay Bicycle Club (DJ Set), Mistajam, Mark Knight & Jaguar Skills, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Aug, Cattow Farm, Leicester

**FARMER PHIL'S FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Dr Feelgood, Ferocious Dog, 3 Daft Monkeys & Talisman, Fri 14 - Sun 16 Aug, Gatten Farm,

Shropshire

**BETLEY CONCERTS** Line-up includes Tom Jones, Total Access Live & Colabro, Fri 14 - Sun 16 Jul, Betley Court Farm, Cheshire

**THE NORTH SHROPSHIRE CAJUN AND ZYDECO BIG WEEKEND** Line-up includes Jimmy Breaux, Randy Vidrine, Rough Chowder & The Hotfoot Specials, Fri 14 - Sun 16 Aug, Welshampton, North Shropshire

**LICHFIELD FAKE FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Bon Jovi Experience, Kazabian & Space Cowboy, Sat 15 Aug, Beacon Park, Lichfield

**THE GREEN MAN FESTIVAL** Line-up includes St Vincent, Super Furry Animals, Hot Chip & Slowdrive, Thurs 20 - Sun 23 Aug, Glanusk Park, Brecon Beacons

**THE JUST SO FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Seas Of Mirth, Formidable Vegetable Sound System, Patch and The Giant & Backyard Burners, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Aug, Rode Hall Parkland, Cheshire

**PERSHORE JAZZ FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants, John Hallam and Remi Jazz, Gypsy Fire, Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Aug, Pershore College, Warwickshire

**V FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Calvin Harris, Kasabian, Stereophonics & Sam Smith, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**PRESTEIGNE FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Fenella Humphreys, Matthew Taylor, Navarra Quartet & Nova Music Opera, Thurs 27 Aug - Tues 1 Sept, Powys

**CREAMFIELDS** Line-up includes Avicii, Tiesto,

Armin Van Buuren & The Chemical Brothers, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Daresbury, Cheshire  
**BEERMAGEDDON** Line-up includes Rannoch, Mpire Of Evil, Tyson Dog & Heavenwood, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove  
**FUSION FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Justin Bieber, McBusted, Rudimental & Tinie Tempah, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Cofton Park, Birmingham

**SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Richard Thompson, La Bottine Souriante, Kate Rusby & Sharon Shannon, Fri 28 - Mon 31 Aug, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury

**GREENBELT FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Duke Special, Pascuala Ilabaca, King Porter Stomp & Worry Dolls, Fri 28 Aug - Mon 31 Aug, Boughton House, Northamptonshire

### SEPTEMBER

**THE KENILWORTH FESTIVAL** Line-up tba, Thurs 3 - Sun 6 Sept, various venues around Kenilworth

**FESTIVAL NO.6** Line-up includes Grace Jones,



Billy Bragg - Lakefest, Croft Farm Waterpark

Belle & Sebastian, James & Metronomy, Thurs 3 - Sun 6 Sept, Portmeirion

**MOSELEY FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes The Monkees, Spiritualized, Idlewild & Anna Calvi, Fri 4 - Sun 6 Sept, Moseley Park, Birmingham

**WELFEST ON THE MEADOW** Line-up includes The Loose Covers, The Vooz, Souled Out 2 Funk & Matt Eaves, Sat 5 Sept, Synder Meadow, Warwickshire

**BELBROUGHTON BEER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Clutching At Straws,

Leatherat, Mitchell Jinks & The Busby Babes, Thurs 10 - Sat 12 Sept, Hartle Lane, Worcester-shire

**ONBOARD THE CRAFT FESTIVAL** Line-up in-

cludes The Hawklords, Son of Man, Dr Hasbeen & Glow People, Fri 11 - Sat 12 Sept, Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove

**WHITWELL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC** Line-up includes Eddie & The Hot Rods, Seven Little Sisters, Maelor Hughes & Black Thorn, Fri 11 - Sun 13 Sept, various locations around Banbury

**BROMYARD FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Breabach, Gerry Colvin Band, John Doyle & Sharon Shannon, Fri 11 - Sun 13 Sept, Bromyard

**WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Benjamin Dallow, Bleak Zero, The Barefoot Bandit & Constructor, Fri 18 - Sun 20 Sept, various venues in Worcester



St Vincent - Green Man Festival, Glanusk Park

# COVENTRY Transport MUSEUM



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# A Great Day Out

## Coventry TRANSPORT MUSEUM

**Several years in the planning, the relaunch of Coventry Transport Museum has proved to be well worth the wait, mixing exciting new elements with the best of the old to create a fully immersive experience.**

A journey through the museum begins with a look at the transport industry's history. The story starts in the nineteenth century, when a slump in the previously booming weaving industry led entrepreneurs to seek new business.

Upon entry to the museum, visitors are greeted by steampunk and Monty Python-inspired animations of Coventry innovators like James Starley, all waiting to tell their tales.

By the early twentieth century, Coventry was a world bike-making capital, and interest in the budding motor industry soon followed.

It's said that the first Rover car was built in the canteen of the company's cycle factory. Fascinating facts like these nestle among the vintage photos and lavish artwork adorning the walls, printed in period styles to suit their surroundings.

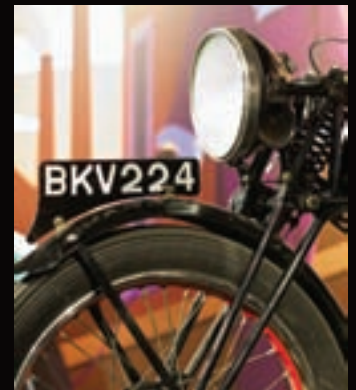
The historical section ends with a Coventry-made black taxi - which you can hop inside to enjoy a video tour of the city today - and the We Love Coventry wall, a work-in-progress to be completed by visitors.

Passing by work and leisure vehicles, including unique items like a Sky Blues tour bus and a restored 1916 Maudslay lorry, you'll discover the Innovation & Future area, where highlights include glimpses of modern car construction, a state-of-the-art driverless model, and projects by local university students. There's also a glittering Jaguar room, the bright lights and sparkling floors of which complement the gleaming surfaces of the new F-Type and C-X75.

Finally, there's the Supersonic section - complete with sleek metal walls listing record-breaking speeds. Here you'll find the Thrust cars from the original museum, now joined by a huge K-Nex model of their successor, Bloodhound SSC, which aims to reach 10000mph. Choose from three simulations, including a revamped 4D version of Thrust's journey, and an animated look inside Bloodhound.

Interactive elements throughout reveal the industry's broader impact, from the Rational Dress Society's fight for practical clothing for female cyclists, through to mass immigration, factory closures and environmental concerns. Try on turn-of-the-century clothes, test your skills as a World War Two fighter pilot, cast your vote on the Ryton Plant closure and design your own supersonic car.

Brilliantly conceived, the relaunch brings Coventry's past, present and future vividly to life, showing a new side of the city to visitors and residents alike.



Try on turn-of-the-century clothes, test your skills as a World War Two fighter pilot, cast your vote on the Ryton Plant closure and design your own supersonic car.



01952 433424 [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)

# New for Summer 2015 Ironbridge Gorge Museums



## Play Days!

This summer at Blists Hill Victorian Town have fun on the Green with traditional Family Games, Craft Demonstrations, Hands-on Activities and Music & Drama.  
*Activities start from 27 July*

Activities vary day to day and may carry additional charges. check [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk) for details



## New Home for Spry at Blists Hill Victorian Town

Climb high above the decks of this huge river boat for a spectacular bird's-eye view

Entry ticket required. check [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk) for details

## SHIFTING WORLDS

An exciting programme of contemporary arts at Coalbrookdale MUSEUM of IRON.  
Visit [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk) to find out more



New installation  
by David Nash



Faye Claridge, Artist in Residence



Exhibition of contemporary & historic  
industrial art (opens 28th Sept)

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# A Great Day Out

## Blists Hill VICTORIAN TOWN

**One of ten award-winning museums that make up the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Blists Hill: Victorian Town offers visitors the chance to step back in time to the days of Queen Victoria. Set over fifty-two acres, the museum has plenty to offer and is very much an interactive experience. The town has all you would ever need - if you were Victorian, that is.**

There are general drapers, blacksmiths, a pharmacy (also home to a particularly gruesome dentist room) and the bank, where you can exchange your new money for old and try to manage with pounds, shillings and pence. Don't worry, though - these Victorians can manage our modern monies, but unsurprisingly they don't have any cash machines.

Wherever you shop or visit there are costumed demonstrators and town characters, all of whom are ready to take the time to chat and tell you their character's story. It's living history and very engaging. If you're curious about something in particular, just ask; the players are very knowledgeable about their particular roles and the circumstances their characters lived in. You'll always hear an interesting story or some gossip about another resident of the town. And very often you'll get to have a good laugh too - Victorians weren't all stuffy!

Thankfully they also liked food and drink just as much as we do - so if you're feeling peckish, pay a visit to the fried fish dealer and enjoy traditionally cooked fish and chips (they're delicious!). Alternatively, pop into the New Inn - not only do they serve a fine ale, they also have a tearoom upstairs with some healthier eating options! And if you fancy something sweet, pop to the bakers - alongside the fresh baked bread there are tasty buns and biscuits to enjoy - or head to the sweet shop, where you can grab a bag of traditional favourites.

Give yourself plenty of time to stroll through Blists Hill as there's so much to take your attention, including the shire horses (horse-and-cart rides), blast furnaces, the cottage gardens and the doctor's room. Be sure to stop off and see the winding engine - an amazing example of Industrial Revolution ingenuity - and pay a visit to the photographer's, where you can don Victorian clothes and have an old-style photo taken.

There's also a funfair to enjoy - complete with carousel, chair-o-planes and game stalls - the funicular train and the clay mine ride.

Blists Hill is a great experience that makes for a fun day out for all ages. And with so much to do, including a full programme of daily events, you'll more than likely find yourself wanting to go back for more. No two visits are the same, and you can even get a yearly pass which allows you not only to visit Blists Hill as often as you like but also to check out the other museums managed by the trust.

For more information, visit [ironbridge.org.uk](http://ironbridge.org.uk).



A great experience that makes for a fun day out for all ages.



Celebrating the arts in the great outdoors

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# SUMMER in SOUTHSIDE

SAT 29 & SUN 30 AUG





**Birmingham's Southside district once again plays host to a selection of free outdoor theatre this month. Dance, circus and music performances are programmed during the bank holiday weekend (Sat and Sun only).**



Artists confirmed to appear include Australian company Ployplot. Their show, Tangle, sees them engaging children and their families in the activity of creating a giant weaving playspace from coloured elastic.

Other show highlights include acrobatic action from Mimbire, a street theatre company whose latest comedy-packed production, Bench, explores 'the dance of life'.

Broadcasting live on 69.9FM, meanwhile, is Bramble FM's rock roadshow, featuring in-the-moment improvisation and a soundtrack of world-class music presented by two 'architects of idiocy' - Maureen Clarke and Lesley Beauchamp.

Fresh from Glastonbury is Dolly the Giraffe.



Dolly is a made-to-scale interactive puppet who loves to munch leaves, nibble hats and have a good old poo! Presented by VIP Puppets, this walkabout act offers plenty of interactive fun for all the family.

Commenting on the event, Birmingham Hippodrome's Director of Creative Programmes, Graham Callister, said: "This year's Summer In Southside offers audiences a packed programme of fun as the streets around Birmingham Hippodrome are taken over by a mix of live street theatre, comedy, dance, puppetry, visual arts and music. We're looking forward to welcoming back the thousands of visitors who attended last year's event in Birmingham's most vibrant and diverse district."

For a full programme of events and artist information, visit [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com).



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# DEFINING MOMENTS

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# Visual Arts

## Hidden Stories

Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham, until Wed 30 September

The fourteen members of Thinktank's Young People's Forum Ignite have teamed up with local artist Matt Reeves to create this art installation. Featuring a unique sculpture and model planes suspended on wires, the presentation forms part of Thinktank's Summer Of Flight attraction.



## Portrait Prize Exhibition

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham, until Sat 22 August

The RBSA has teamed up with the charity Changing Faces for the latest incarnation of its biennial exhibition. The charity offers emotional and practical support to the one million-plus people in the UK who have a condition, injury or illness affecting their appearance. Part of the exhibition shows how portraiture enables everyone to explore with confidence their response to disfigurement.

The exhibition is open to all artists and offers top cash prizes worth over £3,000.



## Love Is Enough

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 6 September

Citing both Andy Warhol and William Morris as significant influences on his work - which explores socio-political aspects of contemporary culture - artist Jeremy Deller has here curated an exhibition designed to compare and contrast the interests and ideas of the two men. Love Is Enough brings together significant and iconic works by both artists, including some rarely seen pieces. It also features archival material owned or made by Warhol and Morris that sheds light on their influences and working practices.



## At Home With Vanley Burke

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, until Sun 27 September

'The Godfather of Black British photography' has had the entire contents of his Nechells flat transported to Ikon for his latest exhibition. The distinctive interior of Vanley Burke's flat is an embodiment of his compulsive acquisitiveness. Displaying a vast collection of printed material, clothes, records, ornaments and countless other items, it provides an invaluable insight into Britain's African Caribbean communities.

Commenting on the project, Vanley explained: "This flat is many things. It's an archive, it's a gallery, it's my home, it's where I collect a part of our history. History is part of a lived experience. It's those objects which might look so insignificant, so kitsch, but to a lot of people they contain so much information about how their parents lived."

## Further exhibitions

### Sound System Culture

The Drum, Birmingham,  
Thurs 6 August - Fri 7 September

This exhibition forms part of a national tour celebrating reggae sound systems in key cities throughout the UK. Featuring photographs, audio recordings, archive film footage and a variety of other memorabilia, the presentation also provides visitors with the opportunity to interact with Heritage HiFi, a vintage-style sound system custom-built for the project.

### Of Time And The Railway

mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham,  
until Sun 20 September

Mid-Wales-based artist Robert Davies' previous creative endeavours include a FIFA centenary project with Brazilian football legend Pele and an assignment with the BAR Honda Formula One team. Robert's latest project saw him take to the driver's cab of a train for the purpose of producing a film about the passage of time and the changing landscape of England and Wales. The film, shot across a long period of time, takes the viewer on a journey from nighttime in Birmingham to sunset in Aberystwyth, along the way shifting from late summer into the bleakness of winter.



### The Arts And Crafts House: Then And Now

Compton Verney, Warwickshire,  
until Sun 13 September

The historic arts & crafts movement and its 'fascination with the creation of the home' is investigated in this new exhibition. Taking a look at the work and ideas of John Ruskin and William Morris, the display explores how subsequent generations of designers created new ways of living and working. The exhibition, which has been devised as a series of encounters between historic and contemporary works, includes new commissions by Rosa Nguyen and landscape & garden designer Dan Pearson.



For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**MITRA SABOURY: IN RESIDENCE** Exhibition showcasing how the artist uses her body as a 'sensual and sentient' tool to explore architecture and the built environment, until Mon 3 Aug, Grand Union, Birmingham

**DAVID GEORGE RBSA** A selection of oils and watercolours of recent travels to Cornwall, France, Cuba, Portugal, Ibiza and Wales, until Sat 8 Aug, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**FAY NICOLSON: OVER AND OVER PURE FORM** Solo exhibition showcasing how the artist plays with the physicality of images and possibilities for formal and material transformation through repetition, until Sat 8 Aug, Grand Union, Birmingham

**ROB LECKEY ARBSA** A display of harbours, boats, cities and landscapes using acrylic paint and inks, collage and mixed media, until Sat 15 Aug, RBSA, Birmingham

**ARTRIX SUMMER EXHIBITION** Contemporary works selected by a team of Young Curators led by Artrix Learning and Engagement Co-ordinator TC Peppercorn, until Sun 16 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**PORTRAIT PRIZE EXHIBITION** This biennial event sees RBSA team up with the charity Changing Faces. Part of the exhibition shows how portraiture can reveal the richness and diversity of faces, until Sat 22 Aug, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**GREEN FINGERED** Solo exhibition by Gemma Marmalade, until Sat 29 Aug, BOM (Birmingham Open Media), Dudley Street, Birmingham

**PHILIP POTTER ARBSA** Drawing inspiration from natural and synthetic forms, Philip explores relationships to culture, landscape and body in this display of sculptures, until Sat 29 Aug, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**MADE AT MAC: CERAMICS** An exhibition of course participants' work, until Mon 31 Aug, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**BATHING BEAUTIES: RE-IMAGINING THE BEACH HUT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY** Celebrating architectural design & bringing imaginative new

ideas to the traditional beach hut, until Mon 31 Aug, Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

**WAY OF THE WARRIOR** Exhibition of arms and armour from historical movies, including Gladiator, Last Samurai & War Horse, until Sat 5 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**LOVE IS ENOUGH: ANDY WARHOL AND WILLIAM MORRIS** Exhibition bringing together significant and iconic works by both artists, including some rarely seen pieces, until Sun 6 Sept, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**FROM 'RED' ELLEN TO OSWALD MOSLEY** Portraits of inter-war politicians by Edmund Knapp, until Sun 6 Sept, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**SUSAN STOCKWELL: SEA MARKINGS** Exhibition inspired by the RSC's summer 2015 season of plays and the world of sixteenth century Venice, until Sun 6 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**CANNON HILL ART SCHOOL SUMMER SHOW** Showcase of end-of-year work by Cannon Hill Art School students, until Sun 6 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**ALIEN INVASION** Meet iconic lifesize characters from Star Wars: Chewbacca, Yoda and the Dark Lord himself, Darth Vader, until Sun 6 Sept, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Worcestershire

**WALKING THE RAINBOW: EARLY YEARS ACTIVITY SPACE** Delve into a world of colourful possibilities, where the light sparkles and textures and materials inspire young imaginations to soar, until Sun 6 Sept, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**JEWELLERY EXHIBITION** Showcase of contemporary jewellery from School of Jewellery Artists in Residence and staff members, until Thurs 10 Sept, Pure Bar, Birmingham

**NAUTICAL CRAFT EXHIBITION** Works by contemporary designer/makers created in response to the sea and coast, until Sat 12 Sept, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**THE STORY OF CHILDREN'S TELEVISION FROM 1946 TO TODAY** Fascinating exhibition which takes a look at some of the shows and characters that have excited and delighted youngsters across the decades, until Sun 13 Sept, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**THE DAN PEARSON WILLIAM MORRIS MEADOW** Dan Pearson's commission comprises a mown parterre (a formal garden) based on the designs of legendary English designer William Morris, until Sun 13 Sept, Compton Verney Gallery, Warwickshire

**LOVE, LIFE & LANDSCAPES** Featuring German romantic prints & drawings from the Barber's collection, until Sun 13 Sept, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**THE ARTS AND CRAFTS HOUSE: THEN AND NOW** Exhibition tracing the origins, legacy and enduring appeal of the historic arts & crafts movement and its fascination with the creation of the home, until Sun 13 Sept, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**THE HART SILVERSMITHS: A LIVING TRADITION** Exhibition which tells the story of the tradition, skill and way of life of the silversmith, until Sun 13 Sept, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**OF TIME AND THE RAILWAY** Robert Davies' film about the railway line between Birmingham & Aberystwyth, until Sun 20 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**THE MODERNIST FACE: SMITH, DOBSON & BRITISH PORTRAITURE**

**1920-60** A snapshot through the lens of Modernism, this latest Barber exhibition explores the work of two under-appreciated British artists, until Sun 27 Sept, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**JACQUES NIMKI: SEEN/UNSEEN** A new permanent installation featuring more than three hundred barely visible works referencing plant drawings, until Sun 27 Sept, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**AT HOME WITH VANLEY BURKE** Exhibition showcasing the entire contents of the artist's flat in Nechells, north-east Birmingham, until Sun 27 Sept, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**TAKEHISA KOSUGI: SPACINGS** Exhibition featuring three of the artist's sound installations, involving everyday materials and radio electronics, until Sun 27 Sept, Ikon, Birmingham

**JULIE BROOK: PIGMENT A** A compelling video work shot in a cave in Namibia in 2013, and featuring three himba women extracting red pigment, until Sun 27 Sept, Ikon, Birmingham

**HIDDEN STORIES** An art installation created by local artist Matt Reeves and Ignite (Thinktank's Young People's Forum) until Wed 30 Sept, Thinktank at Millennium Point

**THE HISTORY OF US: A STENCILLED (SORT OF) HISTORY OF THE HUMAN RACE, BY STREET ARTIST** Spray-painted with stencils and offering an unconventional view of the past, this is our history as seen through the eyes of street artist Pahl, until Sun 4 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**SIR TERRY FROST R.A (1915-2003): A LEAMINGTON LAD** This exhibition, in the year which marks the centenary of the artist's birth, includes a large number of works which haven't been displayed before, until Sun 11 Oct, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

**9 EVENINGS: REDUX**



Wendy Ramshaw's Room Of Dreams - Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Fay Nicolson: Over And Over Pure Form - Grand Union, Birmingham



Fresh look at Billy Kliver's seminal 1966 art, performance & technology programme, until Sat 17 Oct, Vivid Projects, Digbeth, Birmingham

**AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD** Exhibition examining the changing focus of pilgrims and the countries which their pilgrimages have taken them to, until Sat 31 Oct, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

**STILL WITH US: THE STORY OF YARDLEY PEOPLE IN WORLD WAR ONE** An exhibition that celebrates the lives of some of the people in Yardley during World War One, until Sun 1 Nov, Blakesley Hall,

Birmingham

**ART IN THE PARK: KERN BABY BY FAYE CLARIDGE**

This enigmatic new commission by artist Faye Claridge for the grounds at Compton Verney takes on the form of an exaggerated sculptural emblem of folklore, until Sun 13 Dec, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**CHINESE COLLECTION RE-DISPLAY** Consisting of over one hundred objects spanning over three thousand years, until Sun 13 Dec, Compton Verney Gallery, Warwickshire

**BIRMINGHAM PEOPLE AND CHANGE IN THE INNER-CITY** Display exploring the way in

which ordinary Birmingham people have been represented in art during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, until Thurs 31 Dec, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**20TH CENTURY BRITISH STUDIO CERAMICS** A display of seventy-eight pieces of studio ceramics made by twenty-nine potters working in England and Wales during the twentieth century, until Thurs 31 Dec, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**INHERITING ROME**

Exhibition which uses money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery, until Sun 24 Jan 2016, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**THE CLIVE BEARDSMORE GIFT** The 2015 interventions into the Garman Ryan Collection is a selection from a substantial gift of artworks donated to the gallery by a private collector, Clive Beardsmore, until Sun 24 Jan 2016, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

**MENTAL SPACES** An ongoing project containing work produced by local artists affiliated to The Asylum Art Gallery, until Sat 2 Apr 2016, Light House

Media Centre, Wolverhampton

**WENDY RAMSHAW'S ROOM OF DREAMS** An installation made up of many parts, from small jewels in frames to large, freestanding furniture, until Sun 22 May 2016, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**HIROSHIGE'S JAPAN: 53 STATIONS OF THE TOKAIDO ROAD** Famous series from one of the great masters of Japanese landscape print, Sat 1 Aug - Sat 21 Nov, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**MAGGIE KITCHING RBSA** Display of prints drawn directly from life using vinyl relief and etchings, Mon 10 Aug - Sat 26 Sept, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**PAULA HAMILTON ARBSA** A display of 'garden works' which, owing to Paula's background as a textile artist, are rich in colour and design, Mon 17 Aug - Sat 10 Oct, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**P CLOSE: SMALL PRINTS EXHIBITION** Collective exhibition showcasing a variety of print-making techniques & styles, Mon 24 Aug - Sat 5 Sept, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**STONES @ HOME IN THE**

**GARDEN EXHIBITION** Solo exhibition by Viv Astling RBSA, Mon 24 Aug - Sat 5 Sept, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

series of small-scale sculptures & drawings that reference time as measured by the sun, moon & tides, Mon 31 Aug - Sat 24 Oct, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**Museums & Art Galleries**

**Birmingham**

ARTIFEX Sutton Coldfield 0121 323 3776

BARBER INSTITUTE 0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 0121 348 8000

CASTLE GALLERIES 0121 248 8484

GRAND UNION 0121 643 9079

IKON GALLERY 0121 248 0708

RBSA GALLERY 0121 2364353

STRYX GALLERY, DIGBETH stryxarts@gmail.com

WHITEWALL GALLERY 0121 200 3328

WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 552195

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY 01902 552507

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, DUDLEY 01384 812745

DUDLEY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 01384 815575

WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 552195

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, DUDLEY 01384 812745

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LIGHT HOUSE MEDIA CENTRE WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 716055

THE NEW ART GALLERY WALSALL 01922 654400

RED HOUSE GLASS COVE 01384 812750

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY 01902 552055

01902 552055

**Warwickshire**

COMPTON VERNEY GALLERY 01926 645500

HERBERT ART GALLERY COVENTRY 02476 237521

LANCHESTER GALLERY, COVENTRY 02476 888248

MEAD GALLERY WARWICK 02476 524524

ROYAL PUMP ROOMS 01926 742700

RUGBY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 01788 533201

01788 533201

**Worcestershire**

WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY 01905 25371

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Until 27 September 2015

**IKON**

Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS

www.ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708

Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 5pm, free entry

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 548894. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Exhibition supported by the Mill Dam Trust and funds raised through Art Happens, the Art Fund's crowd-funding platform.

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# Events



## Summer At Thinktank

Thinktank, Millennium Point, Birmingham, until Sun 27 September

Birmingham's popular Thinktank science museum is hosting a packed programme of activities and events for children to enjoy throughout the summer holidays. Among them is Science Busking - presenting plenty of scientific curiosities - Meet The Experts sessions - where scientists and engineers provide a fascinating insight into their groundbreaking research - and Explore Your Universe, which takes place each weekday and explains the science behind everything from atoms to astrophysics.

Other activities include arts & crafts and daily Planetarium shows. Visitors can also explore Birmingham's 'Spitfire story' in the brand new Spitfire Gallery, take part in Spitfire storytelling sessions and get hands-on in special Spitfire model-making workshops (every Monday and Wednesday, charges apply and booking recommended). The outdoor Science Garden, meanwhile - complete with giant-sized exhibits - is open daily and free to enter after 3pm. For more information, visit [birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on)

## Battle Of Evesham Festival

Various locations throughout Evesham, Sat 1 - Sat 15 August

It's seven hundred-and-fifty years since the Battle of Evesham and Simon de Montfort's bloody defeat by the army of King Henry III. Despite the defeat, de Montfort is hailed a hero - he fought for the people - and the Battle of Evesham Festival aims to celebrate this legacy.

The festival features a packed programme of activities, including medieval cooking, falconry displays, archery, dancing and a 'scary' ghost tour. There's also the chance to learn more about the battle itself via history talks and weapon and armory handling. The event culminates with a battle re-enactment over Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 August.



## Western Motorhome Show

The Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Fri 14 - Sat 16 August

The Western-themed Motorhome Show returns to the Three Counties Showground this month. A huge exhibition area features over three hundred traders, numerous new and pre-owned vehicles and accessories galore, including specialist western memorabilia. Western re-enactments and living history displays also feature.

Evening entertainment includes performances by Arizona Storm, the Martin Ruddy Band, Texas Tornados, the Farmer Dan Band, Nashville Numbers and, on the Saturday night, the Stephen Smyth Band.

The Saturday also features the Waylon Jennings tribute show and Kelly O'Brien's Dolly Parton tribute.

There's line dancing tuition available across all four nights of the event too, presented by show favourites the Jolly Stompers.

For a full line-up and more information, visit [westernmotorhomeshow.co.uk](http://westernmotorhomeshow.co.uk)



**SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 1PM & 3:30PM**  
**ADULT: £13 CONCESSION: £11 FAMILY: £44**

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## Summer Holiday Garden Events

We're holding a host of events to keep children entertained all summer long:

- 10 August: **Circus**
- 19 August: **Peppa Pig**
- 26 August: **Pirate Teddy Bear Picnic**

To book please visit  
[birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/family-activities/](http://birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/family-activities/)

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Birmingham Museums

Mind blowing days out this  
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**Birmingham Museums**

[birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on)

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**Loads to see and do all summer!**

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**£10 Family Tickets**  
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*Unearth the story of the Staffordshire Hoard*  
 Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

\*Heritage Sites include:  
 Aston Hall • Blakesley Hall  
 Sarehole Mill • Soho House  
 Museum of the Jewellery Quarter  
 & Weoley Castle Ruins

\*£10 family tickets at Heritage Sites valid for 2 adults and unlimited children (under 18) at one Heritage Site (see above) until 31/8/15. Not valid on Jane Austen Day at Soho House (16/7/15) or Tudor Weekend at Blakesley Hall (29-31/8/15). See [birminghammuseums.org.uk/family-ticket](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk/family-ticket) for full terms.



## Art In The Park

Jephson Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa,  
Sat 1 - Sun 2 August

After a hugely successful first year, Art In The Park makes a welcome return. This year's line-up includes over eighty artists, eleven bands, and special performances from Motionhouse Youth Dance Company and the Pauline Quirke Academy. The event also celebrates the opening of the award-winning RHS Chelsea Garden. Clay pot making, flora and fauna-inspired screen printing and t-shirt designing feature among the hands-on activities available to enjoy.



## Worcester Festival

Various locations, Worcester,  
Sat 15 - Mon 31 August

Seventeen days' worth of drama, exhibitions, film, live music, street theatre, sports activities and workshops are here brought together in Worcester's biggest summertime celebration. As usual, the popular festival - which has grown year on year since its debut in 2002 - will end with a suitably large bang (or several, to be precise), courtesy of a sky-lighting firework display on the South Quay.



## Alien Invasion At Forge Mill

Forge Mill Needle Museum, Bromsgrove,  
Wed 12 and Wed 19 August

Forge Mill Needle Museum is preparing for an alien invasion. To coincide with its Creatures From Outer Space exhibition, the museum is hosting alien science workshops. Children can get involved in a whole range of activities, including making gooey alien slime, bouncing alien eggs and launching rockets.

One of the highlights of the event is the use of NASA space navigation equipment to try and detect life elsewhere in the universe. Due to the popularity of the workshops, advance booking is recommended. Other Forge Mill summer highlights include Day Of The Daleks (9 Aug), which sees the Charity Dalek Squad taking over the museum.



## The Festival Of Quilts

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 August

Bringing together a unique blend of exhibitors, galleries, practical workshops and in-depth lectures, the Festival Of Quilts is Europe's largest celebration of patchwork and quilting. Catering for everyone from the complete beginner to the professional maker, the event hosts over one hundred-and-forty 'quick & easy workshops', master classes in the Quilt Academy and lectures from some of the best-known names in quilting.

Commenting on the show, Jonathan Burton, Portfolio Director, said: "The Festival Of Quilts offers a truly inspirational showcase of quilt-making, with the finest skills on display. It's a place for beginners through to professionals to share ideas, learn new skills and meet with others who're equally passionate about the world of patchwork and quilting."

## Circus In The Garden

Birmingham Botanical Gardens,  
Mon 10 August

The National Festival Circus is pitching its big top in Birmingham Botanical Gardens this month. Unleashing slapstick clowns, gravity-defying equilibrists and super-speedy jugglers, the show also features 'magic by the bucket load' and looks set to offer a lively day out for the whole family to enjoy.

## The Great Joust

Warwick Castle, Sat 1 - Sun 31 August

The Jousting Knights are back! The grounds of Warwick Castle are alive throughout August with the thundering sounds of fearless knights on horseback, their bravery, skill and agility being tested to the limit in an outdoor arena next to the River Avon. The show runs twice daily and is included in the price of admission to the castle.



## Family Night

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,  
Sat 15 August

An evening of old-fashioned fun is on offer at the Black Country Living Museum this month as Family Night returns. Featuring a jam-packed line-up of activities, the sixth incarnation of this annual event brings games, pantomime, Punch & Judy, storytelling, face

painting and singalong songs to the museum's cobbled streets. There's also the chance to enjoy a falconry show, go face-to-face with a variety of creepy crawlies and enjoy local theatre company Fizzog's pantomime version of Alice In Wonderland. The panto is being presented as part of the museum's one hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary celebration of the publication of Lewis Carroll's much-loved children's classic.



## Summer Holidays Mini Activities

Heritage Motor Centre, Warwickshire,  
Tues 4 - Thurs 13 August

If you like Minis and you're also looking for ways to entertain your children during their summer holiday, the Heritage Motor Centre is definitely the place to head for. The venue's range of Mini-related summer activities includes Lego Technics - offering visitors the opportunity to build their very own Minis and race them on the Heritage track - and Wheelie Lego Wednesdays, which sees participants racing against the clock to become the fastest car builder in the Midlands.

Family craft sessions, meanwhile, provide the chance to build a Mini to take home. Oh, and while you're there, don't forget to explore the centre's very own collection of Minis!



**Forge Mill Summer-**  
**OUT OF THIS WORLD!**

**ALIEN INVASION EXHIBITION**  
18 July - 6 September  
Encounter your favourite Hollywood blockbuster sci-fi aliens!  
For admission prices and opening times please refer to website.

**DAY OF THE DALEKS**  
9 August, 11am - 4pm

**ALIEN SCIENCE WORKSHOPS**  
12 & 19 August  
9.30am, 11.00am, 1.30pm & 3.00pm  
(Please book in advance)

**SCARECROW DAY**  
30 August, 11am - 4pm

Please see website for more details  
[www.forgemill.org.uk](http://www.forgemill.org.uk)



 Forge Mill Needle Museum & Bordesley Abbey Visitor Centre  
Needle Mill Lane, Riverside,  
Redditch, Worcs, B98 8HY  
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**FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL**

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10am-6pm PUMP ROOM GARDENS

Immerse yourself in a world of tasty morsels. It's not to be missed! WIN a £250 Hamper! See website for details.  
"One of the top 10 UK Food Festivals." (Telegraph 2013)

[www.leamingtonfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.leamingtonfoodfestival.co.uk)



## The Color Run

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 15 August

Organisers of the Color Run are promising participants it will be the most enjoyable five kilometres they've travelled in a very long time. Less about speed and more about 'enjoying a colour-crazy day with your friends and family', the event sees its participants doused in coloured powder at every kilometre, ensuring they're all the colours of the rainbow by the time they cross the finishing line. If you fancy giving it a go, be sure to wear a white shirt for the event - it's obligatory!



## British Showjumping National Championships

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, Tues 11 - Sun 16 August

The British Showjumping National Championships this month comes to Warwickshire for the first time. The event is one of the summer highlights on the British showjumping calendar and features the prestigious International Stairway League final (Sunday 16 August), at the end of which the British Showjumping National Champion will be crowned.

A new addition to the calendar, the Stoneleigh Horse Show, is running in conjunction with the championships and is set to make a big impression.

The event offers plenty of competitions, indoor performances, hospitality and shopping opportunities for visitors to enjoy. And just to make the day even more appealing, entry to the show is free.

For more information, visit [bsnationalchampionships.co.uk](http://bsnationalchampionships.co.uk)



## Games Through The Ages

Shakespeares Birthplace Trust, Warwickshire, Sat 1 - Mon 31 August

Take a trip back in time to play some of the popular games of yesteryear; at Shakespeare's Birthplace mark the 600th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt; have a go at Tudor favourites like quoites and loggits at Mary Arden's Farm and take a swing at the tin-can alley at Anne Hathaway's Cottage. Plus many more activities on offer throughout Shakespeares Birthplace.



## Festival Of Imagineers

Coventry City Centre, Mon 3 - Sat 8 August

A diverse range of arts-based activities and performances awaits visitors to Coventry's second Festival Of Imagineers this month.

Working in partnership, Imagineer Productions and Culture Coventry take over spaces at various city centre venues (including the Coventry Cathedral Ruins, Millennium Place and Broadgate) to offer a series of free experiences for people to sample.

There's also the chance to explore hidden spaces and inventions across the city, including the underground slipper baths.

Budding inventors can enjoy Merel Karhof's wind-powered knitting machine and join Coventry Makerspace to make LED festival badges.

Other event highlights include: Imagineer Productions' new performance, *Come Fly With Me*; the regional premiere of Pif-Paf's *Planetary* - a brand new piece of aerial theatre; Acrojou's *The Wheel House*, a contemporary circus experience housed in a hand-built structure; and *Godiva*, in all her glory, aboard her cyclopedia.

For full festival events and times, visit [imagineerproductions.co.uk](http://imagineerproductions.co.uk)

## Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

from SAT 1 AUG

### EVENING SCENIC SPECIALS

A scenic evening ride with the added option of traditional fish and chip supper, Sat 1 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster  
**FAMILY SATURDAYS** Free family activities, Sat 1 Aug, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham  
**MK1 CORTINA OWNERS CLUB LTD DISPLAY**

Featuring over fifty members of the MK1 Cortina Owners club with their cars, Sat 1 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum  
**MGF20** Celebrating twenty years of the MGF, Sat 1 Aug, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**BENTLEY DRIVERS CLUB** The largest gathering of Bentleys in the club's annual calendar, Sat 1 Aug, Silverstone Circuit, Northampton  
**PLANT HUNTERS FAIR** Sat 1 Aug, National

Memorial Aboretum, Staffordshire  
**1940S WEDDING WEEKEND** A wartime wedding experience with live music, dancing and costumes, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Aug, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

**POETRY FESTIVAL** Enjoy the talents of poets including Ashley Hutchings, 'The 52 project', Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, free poetry events and readings plus workshops from the poet in residence, Sally Goldsmith, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Aug, Various locations in Stratford-upon-Avon  
**ART IN THE PARK** A weekend of art, creativity, inspiration and fun with over eighty artists, live bands, workshops, theatre performances and demonstrations from acclaimed sculptors, painters and craftsmen, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Aug, Jephson Gardens

**NEWCOMEN IN STEAM** The only full-sized working replica of the world's first steam

engine can be seen in action. Due to the unpredictable nature of the Newcomen and to avoid disappointment, please check running details with the museum prior to travelling, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**17TH CENTURY WEEKEND** The past is brought back to life with food and music, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

**THE COUNTRY FAIR** Join the town's residents on the Green at this new event based on a Victorian country fair, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Aug, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**ULTIMATE STREET CAR** The fastest, hottest, largest and loudest modified car festival in Europe, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**THE BADDESLEY BOOK FAIR 2015** A large selection of new and second-hand books for sale, Sat 1 - Sun 9 Aug, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire

**EXCAVATE! SUMMER OF ARCHAEOLOGY** A chance to get involved in the archaeological digs taking place over the summer, with a special opportunity to help with the digging at the

weekends, Sat 1 - Sun 9 Aug, Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire  
**WILD WEST CARNIVAL** Grab your chaps, cowboy hat and boots and join in all the fun of the wild Wild West, until Sun 9 Aug, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

**THE BATTLE OF EVESHAM FESTIVAL** A packed programme including falconry displays and ghost tours, along with a battle re-enactment, Sat 1 - Sat 15 Aug, Various locations around Evesham

**SUMMER ACTIVITY DAYS: HUNT FOR BUGS & MINI BEASTS** Grab a bug-hunting kit and see what you can find, Sat 1 - Fri 21 Aug, Croome Park, Worcester

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS AT COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM** Fun activities for all the family to enjoy, Sat 1 - Fri 28 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

**TUDOR THREADS AND STUART SEWING** Sat 1 - Sun 30 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

**LEGO CITY DEEP SEA EXPLORER** Get hands-on and build a Lego sea creature this summer, Sat 1 - Mon 31 Aug, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham  
**AUGUST ACTIVITIES** Sat 1

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Bank Holiday Weekend  
**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August**  
10am - 5pm Events throughout the weekend.

Entry Cost Per Day  
**Adults £5.50**  
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(admits two adults and up to three children)  
\*(on presentation of council tax bill/exemption certificate as proof of residency).

Telephone: 01905 361821  
The Commandery, Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HU

**HANDS ON HISTORY**  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES  
Tuesday 21st July - Sunday 30th August 2015  
11am - 1pm and 2pm-4pm (Tuesday to Saturday)  
2pm-4pm (Sundays)  
**£2 per child**  
No booking necessary.

For visitor information see  
[www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)

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Part of Worcester City Museums

Museum Worcester is a partnership between Worcester City and Worcestershire County Councils



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- Children's playground
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- Family friendly café
- Under 5's go FREE

\*Times & conditions: Free child entry valid with one full paying adult of comparable per-visitor. Bring this advert to receive offer. Please don't eat at Table Dink when you have admission. Valid on admission only. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or membership. For photocopies. Valid until 4 September 2015.



Compton Verney  
Warwickshire  
CV35 9HZ  
T. 01926 645 500  
www.comptonverney.org.uk  
Registered charity no. 1032478

# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

- Mon 31 Aug, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton  
**TOP FIVE OF THE '50 THINGS TO DO'** Family fun outdoors, Sat 1 - Mon 31 Aug, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton  
**GAMES THROUGH THE AGES** Take a trip back in time to play some of the popular games of yesteryear. At Shakespeare's Birthplace, mark the six hundredth anniversary of the battle of Agincourt and try out archery and swordplay in the garden; have a go at Tudor favourites like quoits and loggits at Mary Arden's Farm; take a swing at the tinn-can alley at Anne Hathaway's Cottage; enjoy games from WWI England like tiddly-winks, hopscotch and skittles at Hall's Croft; play Tudor parlour games like draughts and a seventeenth century version of Hazard at Harvard House, Sat 1 - Mon 31 Aug, Shakespeare's Birthplace  
**THE GREAT JOUST** The jousting knights return, Sat 1 - Mon 31 Aug, Warwick Castle  
**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!** An action-packed summer of magic, movie sets and more! Bring your pictures to life with thaumotropes and watch as the images appear to move, Sat 1 Aug - Wed 2 Sept, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley  
**SUMMER HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN** Join the summer of fun at Cadbury World, Sat 1 Aug - Wed 2 Sept, Cadbury World, Birmingham  
**SUMMER CERAMIC DROP-IN WORKSHOPS** Personalise a ceramic mug with brightly coloured designs using on-glaze painting, or create your own creature out of clay. The summer holiday workshops at Coalport China Museum are held from 11am until 1pm and 2pm until 4pm. A museum admission ticket is required to take part in the workshops. Workshops are an additional £4 per item, Sat 1 Aug - Wed 2 Sept, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire  
**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: WICKED WARWICK** New for 2015, the Horrible Histories bring Wicked Warwick back to life, Sat 1 Aug - Sun 6 Sept, Warwick Castle

**CROOME'S DISCOVERY LOG BOOKS** Join the journey of discovery around the park, using a log book, Sat 1 Aug - Sun 6 Sept, Croome Park, Worcester  
**SUMMER OF FUN** Featuring the return of the Rory The Lion Show, a bigger and better Thomas Land and all the usual rides, Sat 1 Aug - Sun 6 Sept, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth, Staffs  
**SUMMER HOLIDAY FAMILY ACTIVITIES** Explore over two hundred cars whilst completing fun and interactive family activities, Sat 1 Aug - Sun 6 Sept, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**SUMMER OF ARCHAEOLOGY - INDIANA BONES TRAIL** Explore the excavations on the estate, Sat 1 Aug - Sun 6 Sept, Brockhampton Estate, Worcestershire  
**PLAY LIKE AN EDWARDIAN** Play Edwardian and wartime fete games, Sat 1 Aug - Sun 6 Sept, Croft Castle, Leominster  
**SUMMER HOLIDAY AT MAD** A chance to design a part of the MAD Marbles Wall, Sat 1 Aug - Mon 7 Sept, The MAD Museum, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUZ TOURS** A chance to see Birmingham in all its glory, a look at its history, iconic landmarks and beautiful architecture, starting and ending in Victoria Square, Tours run every Saturday and Sunday to the end of September - excluding the first Sunday of the month, when a special Museum Heritage Bus tour will operate, Sat 1 Aug - Sun 27 Sept, departs Victoria Square, Birmingham  
**A THOUSAND FANCIES - TAKING THE AIR WITH JANE** A summer collection of costumes from romantic televised dramas, Sat 1 Aug - Sat 31 Oct, Berrington Hall, Leominster  
**CAR RALLIES AT COSFORD** Sat 1 Aug - Thurs 31 Dec, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton  
**RARE PLANTS FAIR** Sun 2 Aug, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham  
**NATIONAL CAR RACES** The British Automobile Racing Club (BARC) is one of Britain's leading organising clubs and brings two days of racing to the circuit, Sun 2 Aug, Donington Park

Racing Circuit  
**FORD FAIR** The annual Ford Fair visits Silverstone, Sun 2 Aug, Silverstone Circuit, Northampton  
**TEDDY BEAR ZIP WIRE** Take a cape for your teddy and fly them down the zip wire, Sun 2 Aug, Croome Park, Worcester  
**GUIDED WALK OF HIMLEY HALL** Sun 2 Aug, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley  
**EXTRAORDINARY THINGS ABOUT TREES** Sun 2 Aug, Priory Park, Dudley  
**BUDDING BAKERS** Easy Peasy Cookery will be on hand for baking and decorating workshops, Sun 2 - Thurs 6 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire  
**CROOME'S OUTER EYE-CATCHERS: PANORAMA TOWER** Explore inside the outer eye-catchers which are only open at certain times of the year, Sun 2 Aug - Sun 4 Oct, Croome Park, Worcester

## Week Commencing MON 3 AUG

**WOLVERHAMPTON SPEEDWAY** Monday night is race night... check out all the action from the track, Mon 3 Aug, Ladbroke Stadium, Wolverhampton  
**WW1 DISCOVERY DAY** Join uniformed officers on a detailed tour of the museum's WWI trench system, Mon 3 Aug, The Staffordshire Regiment Museum  
**TRIAL & PUNISHMENT** A look at the medieval justice system, Mon 3 - Tues 4 Aug, Goodrich Castle, Herefordshire  
**ACTIVE AFTERNOONS** Craft and outdoor activities, Mon 3 - Tues 4 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton  
**MEDIEVAL TOYS AND GAMES** Discover all the games and toys which kept children in medieval times entertained, Mon 3 - Fri 7 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire  
**TREE SPIRITS** An exploration of the Onny Meadows with craft activities, Mon 3 - Fri 7 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre  
**FESTIVAL OF IMAGINEERS** Imagineer Productions is working in partnership with Culture Coventry to create the second annual Festival of Imagineers, taking place in locations across the city centre, Mon 3 - Sat 8 Aug, Coventry City Centre  
**PERFECT PUPPETS** Make your own string puppet, Mon 3 - Sat 8 Aug, Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry  
**SPORTING FUN AT PRIORY PARK** Multi-sports fun,



Games Through The Ages - Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon

Tues 4 Aug, Priory Park, Dudley  
**DINOSAURS AND MONSTERS WEEKS** Masks, mobiles, puppets and clay, Tues 4 - Fri 8 Aug, Hartlebury Museum, Worcester  
**FASHION WEEK** Comparing the extravagant outfits worn by wealthy Victorians to those of the common townsfolk, craft workers and street paupers. Guests are invited to dress up for the occasion and enter the daily Fashions Of The 1900s competition, with on-the-spot prizes for the best outfits, Tues 4 - Sun 9 Aug, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire  
**SUMMER HOLIDAYS MINI COLLECTION ACTIVITIES** Fun interactive Mini activities for all the family, Tues 4 - Thurs 13 Aug, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**HONDA RON HASLAM RACE SCHOOL** The Ron Haslam Race School offers the experience of riding on an international racing circuit, Wed 5 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit  
**BURWARTON SHOW** Annual agriculture show featuring live arena events, displays, livestock and heavy horses, exhibitors and competitions, Thurs 6 Aug, The Showground, Cleobury North, South Shropshire  
**RECYCLED JEWELLERY** Join artist Lisa Broughton and make your own jewellery out of unused materials, Thurs 6 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
**SHIVER ME TIMBERS!** Pirate-themed family fun, Thurs 6 - Fri 7 Aug, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton  
**THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS** Bringing together a unique blend of exhibitors, galleries, practical workshops and detailed lectures to create the biggest celebration of patchwork and quilting in Europe, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Aug,

NEC, Birmingham  
**JUST DESSERTS** Cooking tips for an Edwardian feast, Fri 7 Aug, Croft Castle, Herefordshire  
**SUMMER ACTIVITY DAYS: POND DIPPING** See what creatures you can find in the lake, Fri 7 Aug, Croome Park, Worcester  
**WATTLE & DAUB** Activities for children in the garden, Fri 7 Aug, Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcester  
**VW CAMPER AND BUS SHOW** Family activities for VW bus enthusiasts, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire  
**DONINGTON CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE FESTIVAL** One of the biggest classic racing events in Europe with five hundred racing machines expected on track over the weekend, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit  
**EVENING SCENIC SPECIALS** Scenic evening ride with the added option of traditional fish and chip supper, Sat 8 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster  
**SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL** Run What Ya Brung till late, track open from 9.30am to 8pm with evening entertainment and camping, Sat 8 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**NGS OPEN GARDEN** A one-hour private tour led by the senior gardener and the Park & Garden Manager, Sat 8 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire  
**MODELS IN THE YARD** Sat 8 Aug, Chedhams Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**AN EVENING WITH STEVE PARISH AND FRIENDS** The former motorcycle racer discusses his career in racing, Sat 8 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit  
**ST. THOMAS' CHURCH CHOIR IN THE SINGING CAVERN** Sat 8 Aug, Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Mines  
**VJMC CLASSIC CLUBS**

**SHOWS** Part of the Donington Classic Motorcycle Festival, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit  
**TRANSIT VAN CLUB RALLY** Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**BRITISH RACING TRUCKS** Truck racing is back after a twenty-six-year break, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Silverstone Circuit, Northampton  
**CASTLE SMALL PUPPET THEATRE** Discover the inhabitants of the puppet theatre, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**MILITARY SKILLS** Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Nr Wolverhampton  
**KIDDERMINSTER ARTS FESTIVAL** The town centre and parks around it come to life with music, theatre, street performance, film, urban art, workshops, exhibitions and installations, Sat 8 - Sun 23 Aug, Kidderminster Town Centre  
**MONSTER TRUCK NATIONALS** The battle to find the ultimate Monster Truck National Champion. Racing and freestyle mayhem, as seen on TV, plus a host of Mega Machines and horsepower for all ages, Sun 9 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG** Santa Pod Raceway in Northamptonshire offers the cheapest and most accessible track time in the UK. Run What Ya Brung offers you the chance to take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sun 9 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**HEREFORD & WORCESTER ANIMAL RESCUE DOG SHOW**, classes for all dogs available, with entry only £1 per class, Sun 9 Aug,

## SPECTATORS WELCOME

National Agricultural and Exhibition  
Centre (NAEC), Stoneleigh  
11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015



- 6 days of competition
- Show Jumping
- Showing
- Shopping!

### SCHEDULE AVAILABLE ONLINE

More information and enter online at  
[www.bsnationalchampionships.co.uk](http://www.bsnationalchampionships.co.uk)  
Tel 02477 712 110



## UK NATIONAL DRUM FAIR

Honorary President - Carl Palmer Vice President - Pete Cater

Europe's Biggest and Best  
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Cocks Moor's Woods Leisure Centre  
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The Vintage Vault  
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TICKETS - £10 SATURDAY £8 SUNDAY, £16 WEEKEND  
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# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Brockhampton Estate, Worcestershire

### CLASSIC VAN AND PICKUP SHOW

A brand new show purely for light commercial vehicles, including vans, pickups and campers, Sun 9 Aug, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

### NORTON FEST

Over one hundred-and-twenty-five Norton motorcycles on display, Sun 9 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

### P6 OWNERS CLUB NATIONAL SHOW

National P6 Owners Club Rally celebrating the V8 Engine, Sun 9 Aug, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

### DAY OF THE DALEKS

The Charity Dalek Squad invade the museum, Sun 9 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

### BREAKFAST CLUB

Monthly social gathering open to all, Sun 9 Aug, Shelsley Walsh, Worcester

### CLASSIC CAR AND TRANSPORT SHOW

Featuring over one hundred vehicles dating back to the 1920s, arena attractions, the popular autojumble and a trade area, Sun 9 Aug, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

### WW1 DAY AND EDWARDIAN FETE AND FAIR

Step back in time to the early 1900s, Sun 9 Aug, The Staffordshire Regiment Museum

### EXOTIC ANIMALS

Talks and displays of creepy crawlies, Sun 9 - Thurs 13 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

### Week Commencing MON 10 AUG

### CIRCUS IN THE GARDENS

Featuring plate spinning, juggling and all the fun of the circus, Mon 10 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

### FAMILY FUN DAY

All-weather afternoon racing, Mon 10 Aug, Wolverhampton Racecourse

### ACTIVE AFTERNOONS

Craft and outdoor activities, Mon 10 - Tues 11 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

### TERRIFIC TUDORS

The castle is brought back to life as a Tudor palace, Mon 10 - Fri 14 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

### PLAY ON THE PARK A

range of activities for all the family to enjoy, Mon 10 - Fri 14 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

### SCIENCE WITH A BANG

Featuring slime making and mini rockets, Mon 10 - Fri 14 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, South Shropshire

### SUPER SHAUN'S

Make your own Shaun the Sheep character to take home, Mon 10 - Sat 15 Aug, Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry

### PIRATE FESTIVAL

Put on your best pirate outfit and join in all the family fun, Mon 10 Aug - Sun 6 Sep, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

### STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD & CONSERVATION TOUR

Behind-the-scenes tour of the Conservation Studio, Tues 11 Aug, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

### ANIMALS WEEK

Make your own headbands, snappers and origami, Tues 11 - Fri 14 Aug, Hartlebury Museum, Worcester

### BLISTS HILL AT PLAY

Victorian leisure time on the Green, Tues 11 - Sun 16 Aug, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

### HONDA RON HASLAM RACE SCHOOL

The Ron Haslam Race School offers the experience of riding on an international racing circuit, Wed 12 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit

### ALIEN SCIENCE

Make gooey alien slime and bouncy alien eggs, Wed 12 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

### RECYCLED BUNTING

Join designer Gilly Page to make your own bunting out of recycled fabric, Thurs 13 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

### SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Fun creative workshops to help explore the exhibitions, Thurs 13 Aug, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

### SHIVER ME TIMBERS!

Pirate-themed family fun, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Aug, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

### SUMMER ACTIVITY DAYS: PLANT IT, GROW IT, EAT IT

Decorate your very own plant pot, plant some seeds and take it home to watch them grow, Fri 14 Aug, Croome Park, Worcester

### KNIGHT SCHOOL

A chance to learn the art of sword fighting and combat skills, Fri 14 Aug, Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcester

### SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW

As usual both days' proceedings culminate in a massed bands arena finale and a spectacular firework display, Fri 14 - Sat 15 Aug, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

### WESTERN MOTORHOME SHOW

A large exhibition area showcases new and pre-owned motorhomes. Accessory stands and three halls of country music entertainment for campers also features, Booking in advance is recommended, Fri 14 - Sun 16 Aug, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

### SOUNDS OF THE 60S

Head back to the 1960s - the decade it all started for the Severn Valley Railway. Featuring Friday & Saturday night concerts with big headliners, Italian Job Minis at the Engine House, a fashion show and stalls, guest DJs at Kidderminster and a 1960s mini-bar, Sat 15 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

### THE COLOR RUN

Run the colourful 5K course solo - or even better, take your friends along, Sat 15 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

### RUN WHAT YA BRUNG

Santa Pod Raceway in Northamptonshire offers the cheapest and most accessible track time in the UK. Run What Ya Brung offers you the chance to take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sat 15 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

### FAMILY NIGHT

Celebrating the one hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, the museum comes alive with themed entertainment and characters, Sat 15 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

### COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM CLASSIC CAR BREAKFAST CLUB

A chance to show off your classic car and/or motorcycle, Sat 15 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

### COVENTRY CAR DAY

A display of over one hundred-and-twenty-five Coventry-built cars, Sat 15 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

### BATTLE PROMS PICNIC CONCERT

The UK's premier classical picnic proms, with Spitfire, cannons, cavalry and fireworks, Sat 15 Aug, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

### JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK

Sat 15 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

### BMW CC NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Featuring old and new, classic and modern, and the biggest collection in Europe, Sun 16 Aug, Heritage Motor Centre Gaydon, Warwickshire

### LET'S GO FLY A KITE

Take your own, buy or make a kite to fly, Sun 16 Aug, Croome Park, Worcester

### SUNDAY BRASS AND CHURCH FETE

Featuring a brass band and church-style fete, Sun 16 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

### WOLVERHAMPTON SPEEDWAY

Monday night is race night... check out all the action, Mon 17 Aug, Ladbroke Stadium, Wolverhampton

### WW1 DISCOVERY DAY

Join uniformed officers on a detailed tour of the museum's WWI trench system, Mon 17 Aug, The Staffordshire Regiment Museum

### BOUNCE AND BOING

Inflatable obstacle course and bouncy castle, Mon 17 - Thurs 20 Aug, Eastnor Castle

### DEER PARK, HEREFORDSHIRE

**BLACK COUNTRY VOYAGES** Mon 17 - Thurs 20 Aug, The Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

### AWESOME ARCHAEOLOGY

Victorian adventurer Professor Erasmus Hyll and his assistant, Ted Lavender, lead the digs in the castle grounds, Mon 17 - Fri 21 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

### DEADLY SPECIMEN SCULPTURES

Make your own deadly creature from craft materials, Mon 17 - Sat 22 Aug, Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry

### ARTIST TALK: ROBERT DAVIES

Join artist Robert Davies for further insight into his film, Of Time And The Railway, a piece of work that was eighty-six days in the making, Tues 18 Aug, mac, Birmingham

### PIRATES CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

Featuring a treasure hunt and the chance to make your own cutlass, eye patch and hat, Tues 18 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

### HISTORY WEEK

Including Egyptian amulets, Aztec masks, Viking



Knights And Princesses - Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

### BRITISH RACING & SPORTS CAR CLUB

The Mighty Mini Championships is one of the most popular club events in motor-sport, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Aug, Silverstone Circuit, Northampton

### CHALLENGE

Second visit of the season from Avon Tyres/TTC Group, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Aug, Shelsley Walsh, Worcestershire

### IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY

Fun woodland activities for all the family, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Nr Wolverhampton

### MINI IN THE PARK

Bringing together thousands of classic Mini and new Mini owners to celebrate Britain's most iconic car, Sun 16 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

### BONSAI DEMONSTRATION

As well as the bonsai display, experts will be on hand to answer questions, Sun 16 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

### Week Commencing MON 17 AUG

### WOLVERHAMPTON SPEEDWAY

Monday night is race night... check out all the action, Mon 17 Aug, Ladbroke Stadium, Wolverhampton

### WW1 DISCOVERY DAY

Join uniformed officers on a detailed tour of the museum's WWI trench system, Mon 17 Aug, The Staffordshire Regiment Museum

### BOUNCE AND BOING

Inflatable obstacle course and bouncy castle, Mon 17 - Thurs 20 Aug, Eastnor Castle

**Plus**  
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Events and Activities across the Midlands

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# Events LISTINGS

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runes and Roman arenas, Tues 18 - Fri 21 Aug, Hartlebury Museum, Worcester

## A VICTORIAN CHILDHOOD

A brand new event for 2015. Meet on the village Green to learn about a Victorian childhood, Tues 18 - Sun 23 Aug, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## SUMMER HOLIDAY JAGUAR COLLECTION

**ACTIVITIES** Family activities that explore the Jaguar Collection, Tues 18 Aug - Thurs 3 Sept, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**PEPPA PIG** Peppa Pig and George in the gardens, Wed 19 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

## HONDA RON HASLAM RACE SCHOOL

The Ron Haslam Race School offers the experience of riding on an international racing circuit, Wed 19 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit

## ALIEN SCIENCE

Make gooey alien slime and bouncy alien eggs, Wed 19 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum

## ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY LECTURE

Thurs 20 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

## FAMILY FUN DAY

Thurs 20 Aug, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

## DECORATIVE DREAMCATCHERS

Artist Louise Mary leads this family craft session on making dreamcatchers, Thurs 20 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

## SPACE ALIENS

**CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP** A chance to get creative with recycled materials to make aliens and space rockets, Thurs 20 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

## SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Fun, creative workshops to help explore the exhibitions, Thurs 20 Aug, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

## SHIVER ME TIMBERS!

Pirate-themed family fun, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Aug, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

## KNIGHTS & PRINCESSES ACADEMY

Hands-on medieval activities in the academy for budding knights and princesses, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Aug, Stokesay Castle, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

## ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

See what you can discover, Fri 21 Aug, Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcester

## LITERATURE

Poetry evening with Vanley

Burke, Fri 21 August,

Ikon Galley,

Birmingham

## FULL BEAM FILM FESTIVAL

A drive-in festival showing Annie Hall and The Big Lebowski, Fri 21 Aug, Green Street, Kidderminster

## VW ACTION

All things VW with racing, RWYB, show'n'shine and much more, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

## EVENING SCENIC SPECIALS

A scenic evening ride with the added option of traditional fish and chip supper, Sat 22 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

## KIDS DISCOVER RAG RUGGING

Join the crafty folk to learn how to make a mini rag rug, Sat 22 Aug, Birmingham Back to Backs

## IDENTIFYING METAL OBJECTS AND ARTEFACTS

Sat 22 Aug, Chedhams Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

## FUNCAP CAR ENDURANCE RACES

The Fun Cup offers excellent value, packed grids and exciting racing, Sat 22 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit

## FULL BEAM FILM FESTIVAL

A drive-in festival showing Dirty Dancing and Night Of The Living Dead, Sat 22 Aug, Green Street, Kidderminster

## THE TIME TRAVELLERS' IRONBRIDGE QUEST

An interactive adventure taking over Ingenuity and the Museum of Iron, Sat 22 Aug, Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## 750 MOTOR CLUB 750

Motor Club championship car races, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug, Silverstone Circuit, Northampton

## SCOPE FESTIVAL OF SHOW JUMPING

Sat 22 - Sat 29 Aug, Staffordshire County Showground

## MECCANO EVENT

See some amazing working Meccano models and find out more about the versatile building system with the Telford Meccano Society, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## PEAK PERFORMANCE TEST & TUNE DAY

RWYB with maximum track time for serious enthusiasts. Car clubs, performance specialists and individuals all welcome, Sun 23 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway,

Northampton

## ASTON MARTIN OWNERS CLUB

A James Bond paradise featuring over twenty classic Aston Martins, Sun 23 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

## DRIVE & DINE - TRUCK FEST

An exclusive drive-out event for owners of classic cars (over thirty years old), Sun 23 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

## BUSES FESTIVAL 2015

Over one hundred buses and coaches of all ages, Sun 23 Aug, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

## RETRO RIDES

Sun 23 Aug, Shelsley Walsh, Worcester

## MAD SCIENCE

Crazy and fun experiments by the Mad Scientist, Sun 23 - Thurs 27 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

## Week Commencing MON 24 AUG

## KNIGHTS & PRINCESSES ACADEMY

Hands-on medieval activities in the academy for budding knights and princesses, Mon 24 - Fri 28 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

## HERE'S ONE WE MADE EARLIER

Create anything you want in a classic Blue Peter-style workshop, Mon 24 - Sat 29 Aug, Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry

## CREATE A CASTLE CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

Get creative by making your own castles and crowns, Tues 25 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

## BUG HOTEL MAKING AND HUNT

Make a bug hotel and hunt for butterflies, Tues 25 Aug, Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire

## DRIVING SCHOOL

A chance to receive theoretical and practical tuition and guidance from experienced competitors and instructors, Tues 25 Aug, Shelsley Walsh, Worcester

## PIRATE WEEK

With skull & crossbone flags, treasure maps and pirate hats, Tues 25 - Fri 28 Aug, Hartlebury Museum, Worcester

## JUNIOR DRAG RACING FUN DAY

A fun day for all junior racers aged eight to seventeen. Featuring junior drag bikes, junior dragsters and junior funny cars, Wed 26 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

## TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC & PIRATE FETE

Take along your teddy bear for a picnic, treasure hunt and fun and games, Wed 26 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

## MAGICAL MUSIC

Play the lion a tune, Wed 26



Oliver Twist Weekend - Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

Aug, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

## LET'S GO FLY A KITE

Take your own, buy or make a kite to fly, Wed 26 Aug, Powis Castle and Garden, Powys, Mid Wales

## SCARECROW MAKING

Take along some old clothes and join in with this fun scarecrow-making activity, Wed 26 - Thurs 27 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

## BEETLEMANIA BROOCHES

Make collage prints inspired by insects with Adrienne Craddock, Thurs 27 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

## CHILDREN'S FACE PAINTING

A chance for youngsters to learn the art of face painting, Thurs 27 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

## THURSDAY LATES

A stroll around the gardens with live music and local performers, Thurs 27 Aug, Erddig Hall, Wrexham

## SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Fun, creative workshops to help explore the exhibitions, Thurs 27 Aug, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

## SHIVER ME TIMBERS!

Pirate-themed family fun, Thurs 27 - Fri 28 Aug, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

## SUMMER ACTIVITY DAYS: POND DIPPING

See what creatures you can find in the lake, Fri 28 Aug, Croomer Park, Worcester

## SUMMER BARBEQUE PARTY

Enjoy a glass of Plimms punch and a night of rhythm & blues, Fri 28 Aug, Park House Hotel, Shifnal, Shropshire

## 1940S GAMES AND VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Fri 28 Aug, Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcester

## OCTO BRITISH GRAND PRIX MOTORGP

The MotorGP Paddock is back at Silverstone, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Silverstone Circuit,

Northampton

## EVENING SCENIC SPECIALS

A scenic evening ride with the added option of traditional fish and chip supper, Sat 29 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

## SECOND HAND BOOKS

Sat 29 Aug, Chedhams Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

## A WALK WITH BATS

Ecologist Rebecca Collins leads a nature walk in search of bats, Sat 29 Aug, Croomer Park, Worcester

## SUMMER IN SOUTHSIDE

Birmingham's Southside district once again plays host to a selection of free outdoor theatre. Dance, circus and music performances are programmed over the bank holiday weekend. For a full programme of events and artist information, visit [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com), Sat 29 - Sun 30 Aug, Southside, Birmingham

## THE SEIGE OF BROCKHAMPTON

The Sir John Savile Household perform the seige of Brockhampton at the moated manor house, Sat 29 - Mon 31 Aug, Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire

## OLIVER TWIST WEEKEND

Characters from Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist come to life in a special themed event, Sat 29 - Mon 31 Aug, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## SCARECROW DAY

Meet a whole host of scarecrow characters. Have a go at building one yourself and enter Forge Mill's competition, to be judged by the Mayor of Redditch, Sun 30 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

## MULTI-PERIOD LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND

Sun 30 - Mon 31 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

## CRAFTY BEASTS

Celebrating rare-breed animals and the skills of Tudor rural workers. Watch traditional craft demonstrations and join in with animal-themed activities, including ferret roulette, falconry, and sheep walking. The craft market will be selling locally produced handmade products, including stained glass ornaments and gifts, handmade chocolates and jewellery, Sun 30 - Mon 31 Aug, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

## SIEGE!

The castle is under siege as the forces of Simon de Montfort fend off the attack of Prince Edward in the Civil War, Sun 30 - Mon 31 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

## ALICE IN WONDERLAND WEEKEND

Celebrating one hundred-and-fifty years of Alice In Wonderland with a treasure hunt around the castle and grounds, Sun 30 - Mon 31 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

## Week Commencing MON 31 AUG

## ROLLING MILL DEMONSTRATION

Originally used to amend and resize iron bars, the Rolling Mill is a typical Black Country hand rolling mill from around the 1900s, Mon 31 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

## WOLVERHAMPTON SPEEDWAY

Monday night is race night... check out all the action, Mon 31 Aug, Ladbroke Stadium, Wolverhampton

## A DAY IN THE COUNTRY

Demonstrations of everything rural, with crafts and countryside activities, Mon 31 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove



# Eating Out

## Cantonese food at its best in Harborne

It was halfway through the dim sum platter at Henry Wong that I realised I'd never before eaten really good Cantonese food. The slow-cooked chilli ribs, panko-crumbed wasabi prawns, crispy won tons and delicately sweet prawn dumplings (£15.75) politely but firmly knocked the socks off every greasy takeaway that masquerades as authentic Chinese.

The quality of the cooking explains why this mainstay of the Harborne food scene has survived for some thirty years. That, plus the exemplary service.

We rolled up an hour late due to a booking confusion. Unfazed, the hostess was all warm welcomes and smiles. With a chilled riesling pushed into my hands, I relaxed to the soft tones of Wong's resident lounge singer as she worked her way through the great American songbook. So discreet was she that my partner hadn't realised that the music was live and taking place right behind his chair.

Back to the food. The honey pepper chicken dish featured deep-fried nuggets of joy, full of pepper flavour without head-blowing heat (£10.95). They worked well with the fried beef with black bean (£9.50) and baby pak choy (£9.50), which came fresh and green and crunchy. The Shanghai fried rice with pak choy and mushrooms (£5.25) was another revelation, full of flavour whilst retaining that fluffy lightness of perfect steamed grains. Dessert isn't something you expect with Chinese cuisine. At Wong's, however, you can choose a chocolate mousse - expertly styled into a chocolate-framed pyramid - or ice cream macaroons. Or, of course, banana fritters, hot and crispy and smothered in caramel.

Henry Wong isn't cheap - but with cooking of this quality, nor should it be. The dining room would benefit from some colour, I feel, to break up the tasteful shades of taupe and beige.

This is just the kind of neighbourhood restaurant that everyone wants in their own town. For a grown-up yet relaxed evening out, put Henry Wong on the go-to list. *Helen Stallard*

Food: ■■■■■  
Service: ■■■■■  
Ambience: ■■■■■  
Overall value ■■■■■  
**OVERALL** ■■■■■

Henry Wong | 283 High Street | Birmingham  
B17 9QH Tel. 0121 427 9799



## Belfry restaurant gets hole in one...

### REVIEW

As four-time host to the prestigious Ryder Cup Championship, The Belfry Hotel & Resort takes pride in its reputation as one of the world's top golfing destinations. Riding high off the back of its recent £26million refurbishment, the venue has repositioned itself in the gastronomic landscape following the appointment of culinary heavyweight Glen Watson as Chef Director. Entering the spacious surroundings of the immaculately finished Ryder Grill, a first glance at the restaurant's newly introduced A La Carte menu revealed an extensive choice of freshly prepared dishes, ranging from chargrill classics like Chateaux Briand to seasonal specialities such as herb-encrusted Cumbrian lamb and tuna tartare with wasabi.

There was also an option of vegetable wellington served with tenderstem broccoli, tomato and red pepper coulis. As a former consultant to the great Albert Roux, Watson's menu displays real respect for his ingredients, painstakingly sourced from across the UK for both freshness and quality.

For starters (ranging from £6.50 - £13.50), I opted for grilled scallops served with minted pea puree and crispy chorizo. Beautifully tender and oozing flavour, the smokiness of the scallops was offset perfectly by the fresh, sweet-tasting flavour of the minted pea puree, both of which were complemented beautifully by the rich kick of the crispy chorizo topping. My partner's choice of garlic chilli prawns with grilled ciabatta bread, rocket leaves and charred lime was equally impressive. The richness of the garlic butter and prawn was complemented by the sharp and zesty kick of the charred lime and chilli. A main course of marinated duck breast with caramelised risotto and a radish and coriander salad (£24.50) raised the bar for a second time. This was by far the finest example of duck I've yet tasted in a restaurant. Tender and succulent, it was accompanied by an impressive caramelised onion risotto. Choosing from the 'char-grill' menu, my partner was equally enamoured with the twenty-eight-day aged Scotch beef sirloin with red wine sauce (£29.50) - both in terms of the generosity of portion size and the unsurpassed tenderness of

the meat. Special mention must go to the plentiful range of vegetable side dishes, priced at a reasonable £4 each. What the dessert menu was arguably lacking in imagination, it more than made up for in flavour and strength of execution. Both my warm chocolate fondant with vanilla ice cream and my partner's crème brulee with summer berries and macaroon (priced at £7 each) were executed to perfection. If you're looking for something a little bit different, try one of The Belfry's 'liquid desserts'. My visit to the Ryder Grill exceeded my expectations. The venue is surely one of the Midlands' top dining destinations and a worthy addition to The Belfry's already world-class facilities. *Katherine Ewing*

Food: ■■■■■  
Service: ■■■■■  
Ambience: ■■■■■  
Overall value ■■■■■  
**OVERALL** ■■■■■

The Ryder Grill  
The Belfry Hotel & Resort  
Sutton Coldfield  
B76 9PR  
Tel. 0844 980 0600

# Restaurant LISTINGS

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit: [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Birmingham

**AALTO RESTAURANT** Hotel La Tour, Albert Street, Birmingham, B5 5JT 0121 718 8000  
**AIR RESTAURANT LG** Arena, Bickenhill Rd 0844 338 0333  
**BALCONY BRASSERIE** Selfridges on 4, The Bullring, B5 4BP  
**BANK** 4 Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 633 4466  
**BAR ESTILO** 10-114 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B1 1RF 0121 643 3443  
**BARAJEE** 265 Broad Street, B1 2DS 0121 643 6699  
**BELLA ITALIA** 102 New Street, B2 4HQ 0121 643 1548  
**BERLIOZ** Burlington Arcade, New St, B2 4JQ 0121 633 1737  
**BLUE GINGER** 32 Poplar, Rd, Kings Heath, B14 7AD 0121 444 0999  
**BLUE MANGO** Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 633 4422  
**BLUE PIANO RESTAURANT AND BAR** 24-26 Harborne Rd, B15 3AA 0121 454 6877  
**BUONISSIMO** 1 Albany Rd, Harborne, B17 9JX 0121 426 2444  
**CAFE OPUS** 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 248 3226  
**CAFE SAFFRON** Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, B69 4RR 0121 552 1752  
**CARLUCCIO'S** The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace, B1 2HP 0121 633 9262  
**CENTENARY BAR & BRASSERIE** Broad Street, B1 2EP 0121 245 2080  
**CHI BAR & GRILL** 61 Newhall Street, B3 3RB 0121 233 3150  
**CHIMICHANGA** 41 Mill Lane Arcade, Touchwood, Solihull, B91 3GS 0121 704 0749  
**CHUNG YING** 16-18 Wrottersley Street,

B5 4RT 0121 622 5669  
**CHUNG YING CENTRAL** 126 Colmore Row, B3 3AP 0121 400 0888  
**CHUNG YING GARDEN** 17 Thorpe St, B5 4AT 0121 666 6622  
**CIELO** 6 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 632 6882  
**COAST TO COAST** 9 Brindleyplace, Broad Street, B1 2HU  
**COTE** The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587  
**CUCINA RUSTICA** 24 Ludgate Hill, B3 1DX 0121 233 2277  
**EASTZEAST** 167 Broad Street, Birmingham, B15 1AY, 0121 643 4808  
**EDMUNDS** 6 Brindley place, B1 2JB 0121 633 4944  
**FIESTA DEL ASADO** 229 Hagley Road, Birmingham, B16 9RP 0121 445 9331  
**FLEET STREET KITCHEN** Fleet Street, Islington Gates, B3 1JH 0121 236 0100  
**ITHAAS** 18 Fleet St, B3 1JL 0121 212 3383  
**JAMIE'S ITALIAN** Middle Mall, Bullring Shopping Centre, B5 4BE 0121 270 3610  
**JIMMY SPICES** Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 643 2111  
**LAS IGUANAS** Arcadian Centre, Hurst St, B5 4TD 0121 622 4466  
**LASAN** 3-4 Dakota Buildings, James St, St Paul's Square, B3 1SD 0121 212 3664  
**THE LOFT LOUNGE** 143 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG 0121 622 2444  
**THE LOST & FOUND** 8 Bennetts Hill, B2 5RS 0121 643 9293  
**LOVES** The Glasshouse, Browning St, B16 8FL 0121 454 5151  
**MECHU** 47 - 59 Summer Row, B3 1JJ 0121 212 1661  
**METRO BAR & GRILL** 73 Cornwall St, B3 2DF 0121 200 1911

**MINT** Yew Tree Retail Park, Stoney Lane Yardley, B25 8YP 0121 789 8908  
**MOUNT FUJI** The Bullring, B5 4BH 0121 633 9853  
**NUVO BAR** 11 Brindley Place, B1 2LP 0121 631 1600  
**OPUS** 54 Cornwall St, B3 2DE 0121 200 2323  
**THE ORIENTAL** The Mailbox, 128-130 Wharfside St, B1 1RQ 0121 633 9988  
**PEACHY KEENS** 1741 Coventry Road, B26 1DS 0121 764 5519  
**PENNY BLACKS** The Mailbox, 132-134 Wharfside St, B1 1XL 0121 632 1460  
**PICCOLINO** 9 Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 634 3055  
**PITCHER & PIANO** Brindleyplace, B1 2HP 0121 643 0214  
**POPPY RED** Arcadian Centre, Birmingham, B5 4TD 0121 687 1200  
**PURNELL'S** 55 Cornwall St, B3 2DH 0121 212 9799  
**PURNELL'S BISTO** 11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY, 0121 2000 1588  
**RAJDOOT TANDOORI** 78 - 79 George St, B3 1PY 0121 236 1116  
**THE RECTORY** 50-54 St Paul's Sq, B3 1QS 0121 605 1001  
**RED PEPPERS** 117 Wharfside St, B1 1RF 0121 643 4202  
**SAN CARLO** 4 Temple St, B2 5BN 0121 633 0251  
**SHIMLA PINKS** 215 Broad St, B15 1AY 0121 633 0366  
**SIMPSONS**, 20 Highfield Rd, Edgbaston, B15 3DU 0121 454 3434  
**THE SLUG AND LETTUCE**, Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1 2HL 0121 633 3049  
**STRADA** 109-111 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B1 1XL 0121 643 7279  
**TGI FRIDAYS** 180 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, B16 9NY 0121 454 1930  
**THAI EDGE** 7 Oozells Sq, B1 2HL 0121 643 3993  
**TURTLE BAY** 81-91 John Bright Street, B1 1BL  
**THE VAULTS** Newhall Place, Newhall Hill, B1 3JH 0121 212 9837

Amantia - Birmingham



**WAGAMAMA** Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1  
**WATERS ON THE SQUARE** Chad Square, Hawthorne Rd, Edgbaston, B15 3TQ

## Warwickshire

**7 SQUARE** 7 Old Square, Warwick, CV34 4RA 01926 411 755  
**NO. 9 CHURCH STREET** Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6HB 01789 415522  
**AGRA PLACE** 12 Abbey Green, Nuneaton, CV11 5DR 024 7635 0515  
**THE ALMANACK** Abbey End North, Kenilworth, CV8 1QJ 01926 353637  
**AUBERGINE** 32 Smith St, Warwick, CV34 4HS 01926 400 086  
**THE BELL** Alderminster, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 8NY 01789 450414  
**BLUE BISTRO** 21 Spon St, Coventry, CV1 3BA 024 7622 9274  
**CARLUCCIOS** 13 Waterside, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6BA 01789 267424  
**CATALAN** 6 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW 01926 498 930  
**THE CHURCH STREET TOWNHOUSE** 16 Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HB 01789 262222  
**COOMBE ABBEY** Brinklow Road, Coventry, CV3 2AB 024 7645 0450  
**CROSSED KHUKRIS GURKHA** 115 Abbey Street, Nuneaton, CV11 5BX 024 7634 4488  
**EDWARD MOON** 9 Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6EP 01789 267069  
**EGO** 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 864463  
**THE ENCORE** Bridge Street, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6AB 01789 269462  
**FINEST CATCH** B'ham Rd, Henley in Arden, B95 5QR 01564 793783  
**FIVE RIVERS** 20-22 Victoria Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 3AB 01926 431999  
**HIGH PAVEMENT BAR & DINING** 3 High Street, CV34 4AP 01926 494725  
**HELP OUT MILL** Heather Rd, Shakerstone, Nuneaton, CV13 0BT 01530 260666  
**INDIA RED** 25 Abbey Street, Nuneaton, CV11 5BX 024 7634 2090  
**LE BISTRO PIERRE** Swans Nest, Bridgford, Stratford

upon Avon, CV37 7LT 01789 264804  
**MALLORY COURT** Harbury Lane, Leamington Spa, CV33 9QB, 01926 330214  
**MATRICARDIS** 97 High St, Henley in Arden, B95 5AT 01564 792735  
**MERCHANTS** Swan Street, Warwick, CV34 4BJ 01926 403833  
**NUMBER SIX** Castle Street, Warwick, CV34 4BP 01926 497663  
**ONE ELM** 1 Guild St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6QZ 01789 404919  
**PREZZO** 1-3 High St, Warwick, CV34 4AP 01926 475867  
**RESTAURANT 23** 34 Hamilton Terrace, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa, CV32 4LY 01926 422422  
**RISTORANTE DA VINCI** 50 Earlsdon Street, Coventry, CV5 6EJ 024 7671 3554  
**ROBBIE'S RESTAURANT** 74 Smith Street, CV34 4HU 01926 400470  
**ROOFTOP RESTAURANT** @ The RST, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB 01789 403449  
**SAFFRON GOLD** Market St, Westgate House, Warwick, CV34 4DE 01926 402061  
**THE SAXON MILL** Coventry Rd, Guys Cliffe, Warwick, CV34 5YN 01926 492 255  
**TAILORS** 22 Market Place, Warwick, CV34 4SL 01926 410590  
**THE TREVELYAN** Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0NR 01789 295252  
**THE VINE INN** 86 - 88 West St, Warwick, CV34 6AW 07873 219005  
**WARWICK SPICE** 24 Smith Street, CV34 4HS 01926 491736  
**ZIZZI** 85-87 Regent Square House, Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4NL 01926 432532

55 Sidbury, WR1 2HU 01905 611120  
**BRAMBLINGS** Hither Green Lane, Redditch, B98 9BE 01527 406600  
**BRIDGE INN** Plough Road, Droitwich, WR9 7NQ 01905 345874  
**CHADESLEY RESTAURANT** Brockencote Hall Hotel, Kidderminster, DY10 4PY 01562 777876  
**THE CHASE INN** Chase Rd, Upper Colwall, Malvern, WR13 6DQ 01684 540276  
**CHESTERS** 51 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DL 01905 611638  
**CROWN & SANDYS** Main Rd, Ombersley, WR9 0EW 01905 62025  
**EWEL AND LAMB** Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove, B60 4DN 01527 871 929  
**THE FIG TREE** 99 Church Street, Gt Malvern, WR14 2AE 01684 569909  
**FUSION BRASSERIE** Hawbridge, Stoultton, Worcester, WR7 4RJ 01905 840647  
**THE INN AT STONEHALL** Stonehall Common, Worcester, WR5 3QG 01905820462  
**KING CHARLES II** King Charles House, New St, Worcester, WR1 2D 01905 22449  
**L'AMUSE BOUCHE** 51 Graham Rd, Malvern, WR14 2HU 01684 572427  
**LE BRASSERIE** 5 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster, DY11 6UU 01562 744976  
**MAEKONG THAI** 12 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AE 01527 578888  
**MASSALLA LOUNGE** 35 Broad St, Worcester, WR1 3NH 01905 729955  
**MUG HOUSE** Claines Lane, Worcester, WR3 7RN 01905 456649  
**ON THE ROCKS** 44 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AE 01527 882412  
**PARADISE BALTI** 7 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster, DY11 6UU 01562 60479  
**PORTWAY ITALIAN**, Alcester Rd, Redditch, B48 7HT 01564 824794  
**ROSADOS'S** 2 Finstall Rd, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove, B60 2DZ 01527 889948  
**SAFFRON BISTRO** 15 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DP 01905 610505

## Worcestershire

**ANAKARALI** 47 The Tythings, Worcester, WR1 1JT 01905 21412  
**ANGEL CHEF** 1 Angel St, Worcester, WR1 3QT 01905 731131  
**ANUPAM** 85 Church Street, Malvern, WR14 2AE 01684 573814  
**BACCHUS** 44 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0TA 01527 877557  
**BENEDICTOS** 34 Sidbury, Worcester, WR1 2HZ 01905 21444  
**BINDLES BAR & BRASSERIE**

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**EDMONDS**  
Birmingham



**ORIENTAL**  
Birmingham



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Worcestershire



**ANGEL CHEF**  
Worcestershire

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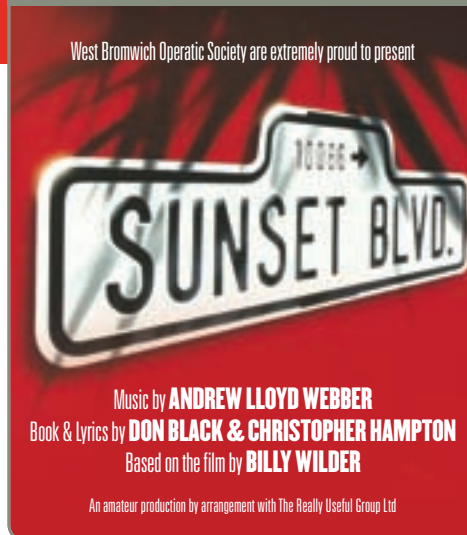
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FRI 4 - SAT 5 SEPT



TUES 8 - SAT 12 SEPT



SUN 13 SEPT



SAT 26 SEPT



WED 30 SEPT - SUN 11 OCT



TUES 13 OCT





WED 14 OCT



THURS 15 OCT



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