

WARWICKSHIRE

What's On

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ISSUE 359 NOVEMBER 2015



LUCY ROSE
HOMETOWN SHOW
IN WARWICKSHIRE
interview inside...



YAMA
exploring
Japanese rituals
at DanceXchange

A GIANT PANTO...
Jack arrives in
Leamington Spa



causing chaos at Warwick Arts Centre

INSIDE:
FILM
COMEDY
THEATRE
LIVE MUSIC
VISUAL ARTS
EVENTS
FOOD & DRINK
& MUCH MORE!

Great Theatre at the Grand!

TUES 3 - SAT 7 NOV

★★★★★
"HEARTILY RECOMMENDED"
THE INDEPENDENT

ALDOUS HUXLEY'S
BRAVE NEW WORLD

A NEW ADAPTATION BY DARWIN KING
WITH ORIGINAL MUSIC BY THE NEW PHOENIX

★★★★★
"POWERFULLY PRESCIENT"
DAILY MAIL

TUES 10 - SAT 14 NOV

Bilston Operatic Company presents...

**H A I R Y
S P R A Y**

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written and directed by JOHN WATERS

Book by Mark O'Donnell &
Thomas Meehan | Music by Marc Shaiman
Lyrics by Scott Wittman & Marc Shaiman

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TUE 24 - SAT 28 NOV

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED
A MISS MARPLE MYSTERY

STARRING
JUDY CORNWELL
AS
MISS MARPLE

FRANK FARTCHER
TOM BROTHER
SARAH THOMAS
RACHEL BRIGGS
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TUES 1 - SAT 5 DEC

SOUTH STAFFS MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY
PROUDLY PRESENTS

Irving Berlin's
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THE MUSICAL

BASED UPON THE
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WRITTEN FOR THE SCREEN BY MORMAN KRASNA,
NORMAN PANAMA AND MELVIN FRANK

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY IRVING BERLIN
BOOK BY DAVID IVES AND PAUL BLAKE
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BY ARRANGEMENT WITH R&H THEATRICALS EUROPE

SAT 12 DEC 2015 - SUN 24 JAN 2016

THE
CHUCKLE BROTHERS
as Fred and Barry Stone
JOHN ALTMAN
as Captain Hook

PETER PAN
The Swashbuckling Pantomime Adventure!

MON 18 JAN 2016

JIM DAVIDSON
CHARLTON NIL

FRI 29 JAN 2016

BRENDAN COLE
A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

SAT 30 JAN 2016

The
Sensational 60's Experience

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STEVE ELLIS (The Voice of Love Affair)
THE FORTUNES
NEW AMEN CORNER
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ALAN MOSCA
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SUN 31 JAN 2016

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YEAR OF THE MONKEY

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November 2015



Lord Of The Flies new staging of William Golding's dystopian novel at The REP more on page 26



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New exhibition displays contemporary art for sale

Birmingham's Waterhall Gallery this month hosts a new contemporary art exhibition, with all works on display available for purchase.

SALON has been organised by New Art WM. It provides visitors with the chance to invest in recently produced work by contemporary artists from the West Midlands and beyond. Prices start at £20.

The exhibition, which features paintings, prints, sculptures, books, photographs and drawings, shows at the gallery from 13 November to 23 December. It will showcase work by internationally renowned artists including Gillian Wearing, Bedwyr Williams, Vanley Burke, Stuart Whipps and BAZ.



Get your skates on, in Solihull

Solihull residents are being urged to get their skates on this month and take advantage of the town's first ever outdoor Christmas ice rink. The rink opens on 13 November in Mell Square and showcases a festive hub of activity throughout the winter period. Open to the public seven days a week (from 10am until 9pm at weekends and 3pm until 9pm Monday to Friday), the sure-to-be-popular attraction also features on-site Christmas cabins serving mulled wine, German sausages, roasted meats and numerous other festive favourites. Visitors can enjoy the rink until Sunday 3 January. Tickets start at £9 for adults and £8 for children, with discounts for family tickets and students.



Stars in the forest

Simply Red will perform as part of the annual Forest Live initiative in 2016. The band, who recently released new album *Big Love*, will be playing hits such as *Money's Too Tight (To Mention)*, *Stars* and *Fairground* in Cheshire's Delamere Forest (in Northwich) on Saturday 2 July.



The Mailbox unveils iconic Urban Room

Birmingham premier lifestyle and retail destination The Mailbox has unveiled its iconic Urban Room. Designed by Stirling Prize-winning architects Stanton Williams, the Urban Room 'creates a beautiful space for shoppers to enjoy during the day and an impressive destination for Birmingham's events, exhibitions and social activities after retail hours'.

Mini Museum for mini people

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery has opened a new Mini Museum for pre-school children.

The new animal-themed, toddler-friendly space incorporates many of the paintings and exhibits that have proved most popular with younger visitors to the museum. A story-telling space and a mini puppet theatre also feature.

"We want children to feel a sense of ownership of some of the fantastic works of art that we have here," says Andy Fowles, who devised the concept for the Mini Museum, "so it was important to create a space which is engaging and interesting for children, and where parents feel comfortable letting their children play."

For more information, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk.

Birmingham in Mexico

Two of Birmingham's leading arts organisations are making themselves known in Mexico as part of this year's UK-Mexico Year of Culture.

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group will this month perform at the country's Festival Internacional Cervantino.

Meanwhile, Digbeth contemporary art gallery Grand Union has sent artist Andrew Lacon to undertake a research programme into pre-hispanic art in Mexico City.

Truly scrumptious casting for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

A brand new version of hit musical *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* visits the Midlands next year, stopping off at both the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent (from 30 March to 9 April) and the Birmingham Hippodrome (7 to 18 September).

The show comes complete with 'sensational' sets, 'stunning' special effects and, of course, the Sherman Brothers' memorable score.

Jason Manford joins Michelle Collins and Phill Jupitus in the show during its Stoke run, playing the lead character of Caractacus Potts, while Lee Mead takes on the role at the Hippodrome.

Tickets can be booked via the theatres' respective websites: atgtickets.com and birminghamhippodrome.com.



Bigger Beeb in Brum

The BBC Academy is expanding its role in Birmingham with a new digital team. The team's task will be to come up with products to help deliver fresh, professional training to BBC staff and the wider broadcast industry. Commenting on the expansion, Joe Godwin, Director of BBC Birmingham and BBC Academy, said: "Digital products are now a part of how we all learn, communicate and share ideas. Eventually the entire Academy will become searchable for everyone, bringing all the content, courses and expertise into one product for the first time. "The new site will enable a wide range of people to interact with the BBC's services and training. It's a fantastic showcase of the work the BBC Academy's been doing here in Birmingham." For more information, visit bbc.co.uk/careers.

Hand in glove...

People who once worked in Worcester's historic Fownes glove factory have the chance to take a stroll down memory lane this month. The factory was converted into a hotel thirty years ago, and General Manager Mohamed Khalil is holding an evening reception and buffet supper on Saturday 21 November to celebrate the anniversary.

Anybody who has family associations with Fownes and would like to attend the hotel reception can get in touch either by emailing Nigel@media-consult.co.uk or by writing to Julie Merrick at the hotel in City Walls Road, Worcester WR1 2AP.

The guest list is being restricted to sixty.



Festive trees making a difference for local children

The NSPCC Festival of Trees is returning to Birmingham this Christmas. Following the resounding success of last year's event, which raised £20,000, the charity is asking local businesses and organisations to 'make a difference' to local children by sponsoring a tree.

Throughout December, a display of Christmas trees will line the Mall of the International Convention Centre Birmingham (the ICC), bringing some very special, tinsel-strewn Christmas cheer to all who pass through.

Commenting on the initiative, Amanda Synott, NSPCC Fundraising Manager for Birmingham, said: "The Festival of Trees was a huge success last year - and with the generosity and support of the Birmingham business community, we plan to make this year's event even bigger and better."

Funds raised by the Festival of Trees 2015 will be used to support the charity's work with local children and young people from its centre in the city.



BBC Music Awards a boost for the economy

It's estimated that the regional economy will get a £2.46million boost when the BBC Music Awards event makes its debut at Birmingham's Genting Arena next month (Thursday 10 December).

Hosted by Chris Evans and Fearne Cotton, the prestigious show will feature performances from some of the music industry's top names, including Ellie Goulding, Jess Glynne, Little Mix, Mumford & Sons and One Direction. In the build up to the main event, the BBC Music team will be running a series of outreach initiatives across the city to inspire and encourage new and aspiring artists.

Birmingham celebrates award-winning Swedish composer

Birmingham Conservatoire is this month holding a week of concerts, events and masterclasses to celebrate the work of award-winning Swedish composer Karen Rehnqvist.

Rehnqvist In Birmingham (running at the venue from 9 to 13 November) centres around a residency from the composer herself.

Karen's distinctive style incorporates elements of folk music - and particularly the vocal technique of Kulning, traditionally used to call animals across long distances.

Rehnqvist admits that she's looking forward to hearing her pieces rehearsed. "It's the best part of being a composer," she says. "I love to work with the musicians and hear their interpretation. I always try to inspire them to 'dare' a bit more, and be very clear about the expression. If there's a wrong note, it's okay - the expression and character of the music is what's most important to me."



IN BRIEF

It's a fact...

Birmingham is the UK's fastest growing tourist destination.

In 2014 the city welcomed more than 37.2million visitors, the highest number on record. In the same year, almost five thousand new jobs were created.

The local economy is now worth £5.98billion. Continued investment in the city's infrastructure and connectivity, and in its renaissance as a retail, cultural and culinary capital, are all viewed as key reasons for Birmingham's growing appeal.

Birmingham Rep announces new season

Three new plays will receive their stage premieres next year as part of Birmingham Repertory Theatre's Spring/Summer 2016 season.

Jonathan Coe's *The Rotters' Club*, Gareth Farr's *The Quiet House* and Tom Wells' *Folk* are part of a line-up that also includes a ground-breaking new production of *The Government Inspector* and a major revival of Alan Bennett's *Single Spies*.

"I'm proud to announce The REP's new season," says Artistic Director Roxana Silbert. "It combines new work from local writers alongside exciting premieres, striking productions of classics and bold new interpretations of three of Shakespeare's greatest works: Don Warrington stars as King Lear, John Heffernan and Anna Maxwell Martin lead in *Macbeth*, and experimental theatre company Filter bring their take on *Twelfth Night*."

"I'm very proud to be working in partnership with some of the finest artists and companies in the country to deliver world class theatre to our audiences." To book tickets for the Spring/Summer season, ring 0121 236 4455 or visit Birmingham-rep.co.uk.



Tom Wells' *Folk*



“The great thing about seeing Gangsta Granny on stage is that you’ll get to share it with an audience.”

David Walliams

David Walliams’ best-selling children’s book, *Gangsta Granny*, has been adapted for the theatre by Birmingham Stage Company and this month heads out on tour.

What’s On recently caught up with David to talk about the BSC adaptation, the challenge of writing for children - and what his own granny used to do that reminded him of a quacking duck...

What inspired *Gangsta Granny*, David?

When I was a child I’d spend lots of time with my grandmas. Sometimes I’d selfishly think spending time with them could be boring - but when I got them on a subject like living in London during World War Two, when bombs were raining down, they’d become very animated and I’d be enthralled. I realised everyone has a story to tell.

What were your grannies like, and are there any elements of their characters in *Gangsta Granny*?

There was definitely a smell of cabbages in one of my grandmas’ houses. The other broke wind like a duck quacking when she walked across the room.

Many people would say there’s a special bond between children and their grandparents. Why do you think that is?

I think grandparents love being grandparents because they get to give the children back to the parents! Children love spending time with their grandparents because they love hearing their stories and being allowed to stay up past their bedtime.

When did you decide to write children’s fiction?

Ten years ago I had an idea for a story. What if a boy went to school dressed as a girl? I thought it would be a thought-provoking children’s book. That became *The Boy In The Dress*, my first of eight children’s novels.

What are the delights of writing children’s fiction?

The only limitation in a children’s book is your imagination. You can take children on magical journeys in books that many adults would be reluctant to go on.

And the challenges of writing for children?

Children love to be scared, but it can’t be too horrifying. Children love to laugh, but it can’t be too rude. You always have to be the right side of the line.

You’ve often talked about Roald Dahl. What do you think makes him special?

I think Dahl’s books always feel a little bit forbidden. He manages to balance the humour and scary elements in his stories perfectly.

Which Dahl book do you particularly like and why?

The Twits is utterly hilarious. I love that it’s a children’s book with no child characters.

Which other children’s writer did you enjoy as a child?

I loved Dr Seuss books, especially *Green Eggs And Ham*. His books are like nightmares come to life. They’re rich and strange and utterly unlike anybody else’s work.

What do you think children enjoy in your books?

I imagine they like the humour, and that I don’t patronise them. I deal with quite big topics - cross-dressing, homelessness, grief. I know children are a lot smarter than most grown-ups think.

What are your feelings on seeing *Gangsta Granny* adapted for the stage?

It’s a huge thrill seeing it have this whole new life. It’s already been a TV film. People seem to really like the story. In fact, *Gangsta Granny* is my best-selling book by far.

Are there any particular challenges or difficulties with staging the story?

There’s lots of action in *Gangsta Granny*, especially when they try to steal the Crown Jewels. The challenge is bringing those scenes to life.

Are there any scenes you’re particularly looking forward to seeing on stage?

I like the characters of Ben’s mum and dad. Their obsession with ballroom dancing should be funny, so I can’t wait to see them brought to life.

Why were you keen to work with Birmingham Stage Company on the adaptation?

I saw their *Horrible Histories* show, which was superb. I loved the humour and the interaction with the audience, so I’m looking forward to seeing more of that.

What do you hope children will take away from watching *Gangsta Granny* on stage?

The moral of the story is, ‘Don’t assume old people are boring just because they’re old’. In fact, they’re likely to have had a much more

interesting life than yours. Talk to old folk, listen to their stories. They’re bound to be full of magic and wonder.

In what way do you think watching the stage show will be a different experience for children from reading the book?

The great thing about seeing *Gangsta Granny* on stage is that you’ll get to share it with an audience. So hopefully you’ll laugh and cry along with everyone else. That’s what makes theatre so special.

What are the elements that make up a good theatrical production for children?

They need to be fun and fast-paced. Children like audience interaction. They like to be involved.

Strictly Come Dancing raises its head in *Gangsta Granny*. Would you like to be in the show and, if so, how would you rate your chances of holding the glitter ball?

I can’t dance at all - as you might’ve seen in the TV adaptation of *Gangsta Granny*, when I tried to dance with Miranda Hart. So I’d say my chances are less than zero!



Gangsta Granny shows at **New Alexandra Theatre**, Birmingham, from Mon 7 to Sat 12 December and **Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent** from Wed 8 to Sat 11 June; returning to **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham** from Mon 27 June to Sat 2 July 2016.

interview

Lucy Rose



Hailing from Rowington in Warwickshire, Lucy Rose first came to prominence as guest vocalist on Bombay Bicycle Club's 2010 album, *Flaws*. She's since established herself as an artist in her own right, thanks to much-lauded debut album *Like I Used To*. Now, three years on, she's making a return with *Work It Out*, a top-ten release that features a broader, bolder sound. David Vincent caught up with her to find out more...

It's been three years since your debut. How did you *Work It Out*...?

For the new record I wrote about fifty songs and did tons of demos, which I had to whittle down. I recorded seventeen songs. That's the most difficult part - what goes on and what's the sequencing. I love all the songs I've recorded - all of them - so it's more about the overall mood of the album, mixing light with dark, light shades and dark shades.

Where did you start writing for it?

A lot of it was written on the road while I was touring the last album, which was one of the most inspiring places I could've been. Every day we were playing music, every day we were meeting new people, and that ended up with me writing every day.

Did writing while on the move influence the songs?

There's a song called *Koln*, which was written while we were in *Koln* (Cologne), Germany, and there's another about *Sheffield* - so that experience of travelling, of being on the road, runs through some of the songs. There are also songs about people I've met at gigs, people who've handed me a letter to tell me how I've inspired them or what a song meant to them. I've inspired them and that's inspired me.

You made your first album yourself at home, but with this one, you opted for a recording studio...

The first album was recorded in my parents' living room, so it was quite interesting to go and do this one in a studio. It was recorded in North London and was kinda perfect. But it felt quite surreal to go into a studio. Most people forget that I recorded at my parents' house. Suddenly I was in this studio with lots of history, and it felt properly surreal.

Like *I Used To* was such a success that fans expected a swift follow-up, but it's been three years. Why the delay?

It's not been the quickest of processes. Last time it was very quick - I recorded the album in January, had a record deal by May and it was released in September. This time, we were sitting on tracks for a long time and I was wondering whether there were definitely enough good songs.

When did you know that the album was ready?

I'm lucky enough to have some good people around me and I listen to them - but when it felt right, it felt right. It felt like the right time to put it out there. I was waiting for it for a long time; for it to be the best I could make it. It all came together in the end. The songwriting was the hard bit, although the organisational part can be gruelling in its own way - the planning, the videos and the promotion - but that's just something you have to go through...

Your new single is *Till The End*. Can you tell us a bit about the track?

It was written once I'd been given the all-clear on the album. I'd given it over (to the record label) and they'd signed it off, it was finished. I felt a huge weight had been lifted. The pressure was off, and I felt the most creative I'd felt in ages. I wrote that song a few days later. I did a rough demo, sent it to my producer, Rich Cooper, and he said, 'We need to get that on the album!'. So it was totally the reverse situation of what the label had been doing to me. I was the one saying it wasn't finished, that I needed to add to it, that I needed it to be as strong as it could be. We recorded it the day before we went on tour back in March. We didn't go through ten different versions, we just did it - and suddenly it was on the record!

You're well known as a guest vocalist, most famously working with *Bombay Bicycle Club* but also *Manic Street Preachers and Peace*. Any more recent or forthcoming collaborations you can tell us about?

I sang on *Ghostpoet's* new record, *Shedding Skin*, which I'm very honoured to have been asked to do. The song - *Sorry My Love, It's You Not Me* - is brilliant, as is the whole album. There's a couple of collaborations on my record. *Rae Morris* and *Sam Brookes* are on a couple of tracks. It's nice to have a couple of contrasting, different voices on there.

How did you meet *Obaro Ejimiwe*, aka *Ghostpoet*? He lived in *Coventry* for several years...

He just got in touch with me after he was nominated for the *Mercury Prize* for his first album, *Peanut Butter Blues And Melancholy Jam*. He just said he really liked my voice. It was very surreal!

You must have experienced a fair few surreal and 'pinch me' moments over the last few years. Any others spring to mind...?

Neil Young at *Hyde Park* last year. He is amazing! *Neil Young* was one of the biggest references for my first record of capturing character over perfection. I was madly impressed by him. My booking agent was so excited to tell me when it was confirmed that I'd be playing on the same stage as *Neil Young* at *Hyde Park*. There was so much about seeing him and seeing him on that stage...

Did you get a chance to speak to him?

I was definitely not brave enough to speak to him - I'd never have been able to do that. I met *David Gilmour* recently - I just talked at him for five minutes and walked off. I don't know what I said. So I'm banning myself from talking to my heroes. At *Hyde Park*, I was just perving over *Neil's* guitars - just standing there for ages, looking at them and thinking

that there were so many great songs written on those guitars! That was great.

Are you still selling your own brand of tea at gigs?

Yes! I've just had a huge tea delivery to my flat.

What's the blend?

It's a very complex blend! It's about two parts *English Breakfast Tea* to one part *Earl Grey*. My family all like different tea - some like *Earl Grey*, some *Breakfast* - so instead of making them each a pot, I'd just put them in the same pot and say, 'C'mon guys, let's meet in the middle!'.
As a tea addict, how do you cope when you're abroad? What do you drink instead of tea?

Coffee! It's awful! I've had to evolve. The tea in other countries isn't the same. I'm saddened by having to drink bad tea, so I don't - which is why I drink coffee. Also, we're up late, so I need it. (Coming back from my recent tour) as soon as I got on the ferry back from Europe, I said, 'I'm having a proper cup of tea, a real *PG Tips*'. It was delicious!

How do you like your brew? Do you have a routine?

I like my tea really strong but with a good splash of milk. But not too milky. Do I have a tea-drinking routine? No. Sometimes I put the tea bag in the hot water and then the milk, sometimes the tea bag goes in before the milk, then the water. It just depends how I'm feeling at the time!

Are you looking forward to your *Warwick Arts Centre* gig?

It's a hometown show! I feel like a bloody nervous wreck. My parents will be coming and I'm sure my mum will have a gaggle of friends with her, all *Warwickshire* ladies. You have to go home at Christmas and people always ask, 'how's the music going?', so I want to blow everyone's socks off. That's my hope for the gig.

You cut your teeth playing 'open mic' nights in London. But before you headed to the capital, did you play much around *Coventry* and *Warwickshire*?

I did one gig at *Coventry's Kasbah* when the first record came out, but I didn't want to play to people I knew, which is why I went to London and played to strangers. If it all goes bad at *Warwick Arts Centre*, I may never come back!

Lucy Rose plays *Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry*, on Fri 13 November and *The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent*, on Tues 17 November

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What's on

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Entertainment



Stewart Francis Pun Gent Tour

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



CBSO 2015-16 Festive Favourites with Alan Titchmarsh

Friday 18, Sunday 20 &
Monday 21 December
Symphony Hall
£12.50 - £47 plus transaction fee*



Town Hall Gospel Choir

Monday 7 December
7.30pm
Town Hall
£15 & £20 plus transaction fee*



We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Tuesday 22 December 2015 -
Wednesday 13 January 2016
Town Hall
£12 - £14 plus transaction fee*



Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra Perform Sibelius

Thursday 10 December
7.30pm
Symphony Hall
£9.50 - £45 plus transaction fee*



White Christmas

Wednesday 23 December
7.30pm
Symphony Hall
£12.50 - £39.50 plus transaction fee*



Andy Parsons Live and Unleashed - But Naturally Cautious

Thursday 10 December
8pm
Town Hall
£16.50 plus transaction fee*



Last Night of the Christmas Proms

Monday 28 December
7.30pm
Symphony Hall
£12.50 - £39.50 plus transaction fee*



Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain 30 Plucking Years

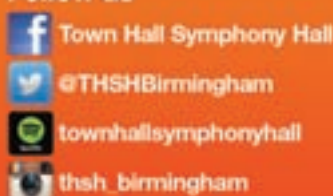
Monday 14 December
7.30pm
Symphony Hall
£24 plus transaction fee*



The Very Best of James Bond

Wednesday 30 December
7.30pm
Symphony Hall
£12.50 - £39.50 plus transaction fee*

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*A £3 transaction fee plus £1 (optional) postage, will be charged on all bookings except purchases made in person at the Town Hall or Symphony Hall Box office.

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Music

Courtney Barnett

Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 27 November

Australian singer-songwriter and guitarist Courtney is well known for her witty, rambling lyrics and deadpan singing style, both of which went down a storm when she played Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage this summer.

With debut album *Sometimes I Sit And Think, And Sometimes I Just Sit* receiving widespread critical acclaim, expect big things from this hugely talented twenty-seven-year-old.



Snakecharmer

The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 5 November

Six of the UK's most esteemed and experienced rock musicians have joined forces to create Snakecharmer.

Original Whitesnake members Micky Moody and Neil Murray have teamed up with Laurie Wisefield (Wishbone Ash), Harry James (Thunder, Magnum), Adam Wakeman (Ozzy Osbourne) and Chris Ousey (Heartland), playing classic twin-guitar-based rock exactly as it should be played.

Albert Hammond Jr

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Thurs 19 November

With The Beach Boys, Buddy Holly, John Lennon and The Velvet Underground cited as his major influences, it's fair to say Albert Hammond Jr has learned his craft from the best. His father no doubt contributed to his education too, having himself enjoyed plenty of success in the singles charts during the 1960s and '70s, both as a songwriter and a singer.

A member of indie rock band The Strokes, Hammond Jr released his first solo album, *Yours To Keep*, back in 2006, following up with a second offering two years later.

This current tour is in support of third album *Momentary Masters*, released earlier this year by Vagrant Records.



Mumford & Sons

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Mon 30 November

British rock band Mumford & Sons have released three studio albums since coming together in 2007. Debut offering *Sigh No More* (2009) peaked at number two on the UK Albums Chart and the US Billboard 200, while *Babel* (2012) and *Wilder Mind* (2015) both made number one on either side of the Atlantic. Indeed, the former became the fastest-selling rock album of the decade and led to a headline performance at Glastonbury in 2013. The band capped off an incredible summer with a huge British return show at the Reading Festival in August.



The Staves

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Sun 1 November

Acoustic folk rock group The Staves comprise three sisters from Watford - Emily, Jessica and Camilla. The trio appeared on Tom Jones' 2010 album *Praise And Blame* and then on Fionn Regan's third album, *100 Acres Of Sycamore*.

In 2012 the band released debut album *Dead & Born & Grown* - performed with The Civil Wars - and supported Bon Iver on their tour of the US and Canada.

Their second full-length album, *If I Was*, debuted at number fourteen on the Official UK Album Chart when it was released in March this year.

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Music PREVIEW

Average White Band

The Assembly, Leamington Spa,
Sun 22 November

This talented six-piece are regarded as one of the best soul, R&B and funk bands ever. First known for timeless instrumental hit Pick Up The Pieces, the band's strength lies in their songwriting, which has helped them achieve several gold and platinum albums and three Grammy nominations with Atlantic Records. They were also the first Brits to simultaneously sit at the summit of the USA Top 100 Singles, Albums and R&B Singles charts.



Julia Holter

The Glee Club, Birmingham,
Wed 11 November

American artist, singer, songwriter, producer and composer Julia Holter hit the big time in 2011 when debut studio album Tragedy was named one of the National Public Radio's Best Outer Sounds Albums. She's since released a further three albums: Ekstasis, which drew comparisons with works by Kate Bush and Joanna Newsom; Loud City Song, which she recorded with an ensemble of musicians; and Have You In My Wilderness, in support of which is this current UK tour.



Paul Weller

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
Fri 27 November

Forever doomed to be known as the Mod-father (if only behind his back), Paul Weller has done much of his growing up in public. From the heady punk-pop days of The Jam in the 1970s to the more soulful Style Council of the 1980s, he's graduated to a solo career consisting of solid guitar work punctuated by flashes of lyrical ingenuity and no shortage of ironic backhanders.

"I've always had an element of self-doubt," Weller recently revealed in an interview with the Guardian, "and that's probably one of the reasons why - not that I'm in any way unhappy about it - I've never been an interstellar, mega-superstar. Because you can only really do that when you're one hundred per cent sure about what you're doing."



Ghostpoet

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Tues 24 November

Ghostpoet is a rapper whose remarkable sound in trip-hop, dubstep and hip-hop has singled him out as one of the most distinctive voices in British music today.

He made his mark with Cash & Carry Me Home in early 2011. He then released debut album Peanut Butter Blues & Melancholy Jam, narrowly missing out to PJ Harvey for the 2011 Mercury Prize. His second album, this year's Some Say I So I Say Light, was warmly received, earning him slots at numerous festivals.

This new tour comes in support of third album Shedding Skin, released earlier this year.

The Swing Commanders

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 7 November

The Swing Commanders are back with a high-energy show featuring vintage tunes from the likes of Glenn Miller, Louis Jordan and Bob Wills.

Famed for their showstopping appearances at jazz, swing and country festivals, their travels this year have taken them to mainland Europe and America, where they headlined the Legends Of Western Swing event in Texas.



Bellowhead - That's All Folks

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton,
Wed 25 November

This eleven-piece group merge folk, jazz, funk, classical and world music influences with a twist of English music hall. Between them they play more than twenty instruments and have picked up numerous coveted awards in recognition of their quality. They're calling it a day after this tour, bringing down the curtain on twelve amazing years, so catch them while you can.



My Baby

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Wed 4 November

Having recently supported Seasick Steve on tour, this Netherlands-based three-piece bring their new album - Shamanaid - to UK stages for a run of headline shows.

The band combine soul, blues, trance and rock with a psychedelic twist.



Imagine Dragons

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
Fri 20 November

US chart phenomenon Imagine Dragons first exploded on to the global scene with their huge hit Radioactive, following it up with It's Time, Demons and Top Of The World. In the process they sold over twenty-two million singles worldwide and four million copies of debut album Night Visions.

They here bring highly anticipated new album Smoke + Mirrors to the stage, with support coming from UK and Aussie surfers Sunset Sons.

"With Smoke + Mirrors, I really tried to just open up a little more," explains frontman Dan Reynolds to mercurynews.com, "and kind of go places that I've been afraid of going. The whole record is really a raw record, which I'm really proud of, you know? But it was scary for me."



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PRESENTS



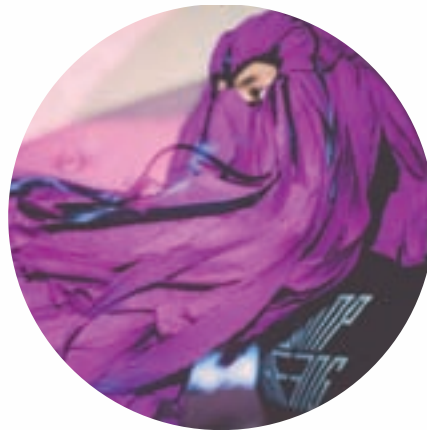
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Music GIG REVIEWS

For further reviews, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

The Demon Barbers

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

The opening notes of Green Day's Holiday ring out across Victoria Square, and a group of girls dressed in green skirts jump forward to start clanging sticks together. Seconds in, the noise is joined by the jingle of bells blended with accordion music, as an older morris troupe starts up alongside them. This is The Demon Barbers' pre-show dance extravaganza, where local dancers come to strut their stuff in place of a scheduled support act.

If this all sounds a bit mental already, it's nothing compared to the anything-goes show that's to follow inside Town Hall. Named best live act at the 2009 Radio 2 Folk Awards, The Demon Barbers are a dynamic part of the contemporary folk mash-up movement, their strange fusions standing alongside those of bands like Bellowhead and False Lights. What makes this group unique, however, is that it's not all in the tunes themselves: their eclectic mix of morris, clog and hip hop dancing (sometimes all at once) is every bit as central to their shows. The Disco at the Tavern tour brings together some of the country's oldest songs with original compositions and, on this occasion, even a Grateful Dead tribute. Waistcoats and bowler hats paired with neon ties and shutter glasses visually set the tone for when fiddle and melodeon meet electric bass guitar and keyboard. Among the evening's highlights are the atmospheric Three Ravens, Bryony Griffith's soaring vocals on Sally Free and Easy and Bonny Boy and the ska rhythms and frenzied chorus of Go Boys Go, as well as an astonishingly slick sword dance that morris men and hip hop crew tear through together.

What's perhaps most exciting about any Demon Barbers gig, however, is how much fun the band themselves are obviously having. Their energy is infectious: no one knows how to throw a party like Damien Barber and his maverick team. **Heather Kincaid** ■■■■■



James Bay

O2 Academy, Birmingham

To say that twenty-five-year-old singer-songwriter James Bay has had a busy year would be an understatement. His debut studio album, *The Chaos And The Calm*, went straight in at Number One in the UK album charts - selling over sixty-four thousand copies in the first week. His summer has been filled with festival performances - including a daytime slot on Glastonbury's famous Pyramid Stage - and he was even chosen as the winner of the BRIT Critics' Choice award.

It's no surprise, then, that this entire tour has been a sell out. Wearing his signature hat, Bay arrived on stage to be greeted by an army of screaming girls.

Opening his set with *Collide* - his funkiest number off the album - the artist showcased his impressive, husky vocals to the packed-out O2 Academy.

He swiftly moved to *Craving*, a beat-driven ballad accompanied by an electric guitar riff and heavily pounding drums. If *You Ever Want To Be In Love* and *Get Out While You Can* - Bay's heaviest and most rock-influenced track - also featured in the early part of the set.

Although he's labelled as an indie/folk rock artist, Bay's latest offering showcases his ability to diversify. The slower, more soul-influenced *Move Together*, *Need The Sun To Break* and *Scars* saw the audience singing along with every word.

The evening's penultimate number was a cover of Alicia Keys' *If I Ain't Got You*. Bay's take on the R&B classic was preferable to the original, his guitar solo partway through being nothing short of mesmerising. *Best Fake Smile* and *Let It Go* generated some of the best crowd reactions, as did his most popular single, *Hold Back The River*, the song with which Bay sensibly chose to close the show.

Lauren Foster ■■■■■



Music LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

SUN 1 NOV

RAYMOND FROGGATT Artrix, Bromsgrove
THE MOULETTES & NIZLOPI The Assembly, Leamington Spa
THE STAVES O2 Institute, Birmingham
JESS GLYNNE O2 Academy, Birmingham
IO EARTH The Robin, Bilston
NAH The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
THE HENRY GIRLS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
BLACKLISTERS, THEM WOLVES, FALSE GRAILS & JIM ZORN Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
DISORDER The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
INVASION The Roadhouse, Birmingham
LITTLE JIMMY Irish Centre, Birmingham
MUSIC OF BENARES Ort Cafe, Birmingham

MON 2 NOV

JOE SATRIANI Symphony Hall, Birmingham
NATHAN ENGLAND-JONES QUARTET Birmingham Conservatoire
PAUL ARMFIELD - FOUND Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
DINOSAUR PILE-UP The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

TUE 3 NOV

BLACKBERRY SMOKE O2 Academy, Birmingham
GRAVEYARD O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE ORDINARY BOYS The Copper Rooms, Coventry
JACK GARRATT O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE PARLOTONES The Jam House, B'ham
BOBBY LONG Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
LEROY JONES Malvern Theatres
HAWKLORDS The Robin, Bilston
BENJI KIRKPATRICK AND JANIE MITCHELL Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
CASPIAN & JO QUAIL The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

WED 4 NOV

WILL YOUNG Symphony Hall, Birmingham
MOTLEY CRUE Genting Arena, Birmingham
MY BABY O2 Academy, Birmingham
ALAN REID & ROB VAN SANTE The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
THE SUNSHINE UNDERGROUND O2 Institute, Birmingham
MIKE ZITO & THE WHEEL The Robin, Bilston
THE LIVE JAZZ BROAD

CAST: BROADCAST III

Birmingham Conservatoire
DEVON SPROULE & INVITATION TO LOVE The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry
THE STYLISTICS The Jam House, Birmingham
HOT 8 BRASS BAND Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
DISSIDENT PROPHET, TOM PEEL & JOANNA KARSELIS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
DERADDORIAN The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
ELIOT SUMNER The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
AN EVENING WITH PAUL MCGRATH Irish Centre, Birmingham

THU 5 NOV

MCALMONT & BUTLER AND THE MAGIC NUMBERS O2 Institute, Birmingham
GOSPEL GOES CHARITY 2015 - 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Birmingham Town Hall
AN EVENING WITH PAUL MCGRATH Irish Centre, Birmingham
DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE O2 Academy, Birmingham
RALPH MCTELL Artrix, Bromsgrove
EDDI READER Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
YELAWOLF O2 Academy, Birmingham
SOAK O2 Institute, Birmingham
KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS The Jam House, Birmingham
SNAKECHARMER The Robin, Bilston
JAMIE SMITH'S MABON Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
C DUNCAN The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham
HOLY MOLY & THE CRACKERS & THE BUFFALO SKINNERS The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry
THE GARDEN Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
SWINDLE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FRI 6 NOV

HAPPY MONDAYS O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE NAKED BEATLES Route 44, Birmingham
IBEYI The Oobleck, Birmingham
UNCLE FUNK & THE BOOGIE WONDERBAND The Assembly, Leamington Spa
JAMES ZABIELA The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
DARLIA O2 Institute, Birmingham
EAGLES OF DEATH METAL O2 Institute, B'ham
TRU GROOVE The Jam House, Birmingham
MR PRESIDENT Irish Centre, Birmingham

THE TOTAL STONE ROSES The Roadhouse, Birmingham
FLEETWOOD BAC The Robin, Bilston
JOHNNY 2 BAD & SKA 4 LIFE Irish Centre, Birmingham
KATIE STILLMAN & SIMON LANE Artrix, Bromsgrove
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN BRASS BAND The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
NINE BELOW ZERO Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
DARK HOUDINI O2 Academy, Birmingham
PIERA ONACKO TRIO Symphony Hall, B'ham
HANNAH JAMES Malvern Cube, Worcestershire
SAMM HENSHAW & IZZY BLUE O2 Institute, Birmingham
INTO THE SHADOWS Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
ANGRY MAN, SHAUN WILLIAMS AND JON COCKLE The Marr's Bar, Worcester
J FERNANDEZ & JAGHANA The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

SAT 7 NOV

FRITS WENTINK Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
DUBCHERRY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY Malvern Theatres
TRU GROOVE The Jam House, Birmingham
ANTARCTIC MONKEYS O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE HURLING BOYS Irish Centre, Birmingham
QUADROPHENIA NIGHT featuring The Atlantics and DJ Drew Stansall (The Specials), O2 Academy, Birmingham
AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS The Best of Phil Collins Part Two Tour, The Swan Theatre, Worcester
GREY WOLF Artrix, Bromsgrove
THE SWING COMMANDERS Artrix, Bromsgrove
SECRET AFFAIR O2 Institute, Birmingham
ANDROMEDA O2 Institute, Birmingham
NILS LOFGREN Malvern Theatres
3 DIVAS TRIBUTE The Robin, Bilston
ROXY MAGIC The Roadhouse, Birmingham
BEE GEES FEVER The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
JOHN KIRKPATRICK Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
PREDITAH, SKEPTA, CAUSE & AFFECT, DJ TARGET, BASSBOY, AD, C4 AND KIE O2 Academy, Birmingham
PERCUSSION SPECIAL WITH GOGGIE IFILL AND BETHAN JONES Symphony Hall, B'ham
COR GLANAETHWY Symphony Hall, B'ham
DAN SMITH & KRIS ROCHELLE The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham
STICKY JOE & CHESHIRE CAT Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
KWAI & LORD BYRON Hare & Hounds, B'ham
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LAU // SUN 22 NOV
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HAZEL O'CONNOR // SUN 6 DEC
PATTY GRIFFIN // SUN 24 JAN
VILLAGERS // SUN 7 FEB
EZRA FURMAN // TUE 16 FEB
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CIBLES, THE DELTA RHYTHM & AGAINST THE WHEEL The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
IBIZA CARNIVAL PRESENTS CAFE MAMBO The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
BILL PATRICK, JACK WICKHAM & LEWIS OXLEY The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
STONE COLD KILLERS & HUMP DE BUMP The Marr's Bar, Worcester
MOTOWN LEGENDS PARTY WITH SOUL LEGEND Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
CHRIS CLEVERLEY Ort Cafe, Birmingham
BOLLYWOOD THERAPY CBSO Centre, B'ham

SUN 8 NOV

SEAN CUDDY Irish Centre, Birmingham
THE PROCLAIMERS New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN O2 Academy, Birmingham
BARNS AND MELODY O2 Academy, Birmingham
CORKY LAING The Roadhouse, Birmingham
EMILY PORTMAN TRIO Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
FRENCH CHANSON AND GYPSY JAZZ WITH MONT-PARNASSE The Marr's Bar, Worcester
CALLAGHAN Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
JOGLARESA Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
MAD ABOUT MUSICALS Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

MON 9 NOV

ABC Symphony Hall, Birmingham
WE ARE THE OCEAN The Asylum, Birmingham
THE RED PAINTINGS The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
EX HEX The Oobleck, Birmingham
TWENTY ONE PILOTS O2 Institute, Birmingham
LAWSON O2 Academy, Birmingham
ANGE HARDY Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
RADIATOR HOSPITAL Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TUE 10 NOV

THE BOOTLEG SIXTIES Artrix, Bromsgrove
NELL BRYDEN O2 Institute, Birmingham
KACEY MUSGRAVES O2 Institute, Birmingham
TITUS ANDRONICUS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
PRIDES O2 Institute, Birmingham
SKINNY MOLLY The Robin, Bilston
EDDI READER Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE STEVE GIBBONS

BAND Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
THAT'LL BE THE DAY Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
KENT DUCHAINE The Jam House, Birmingham

WED 11 NOV

ELLA EYRE O2 Academy, Birmingham
JULIA HOLTER The Glee Club, Birmingham
GET ON UP! mac, B'ham
DUTCH UNCLES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ELEVENSES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS Palace Theatre, Redditch
MAGIC: A KIND OF QUEEN Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
GREG ABATE No1 Shakespeare St, Stratford-upon-Avon
SAMANTHA FISH AND LAURENCE JONES The Robin, Bilston
LOVELY THE BRAVE O2 Academy, Birmingham
PAT TRAVERS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
CADDY COOPER Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
LA PRIEST Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
VIN GARBUTT The Loyal Caledonian Corks, Birmingham

THU 12 NOV

JOHN WILSON & THE JOHN WILSON ORCHESTRA Symphony Hall, Birmingham
KING KING Artrix, Bromsgrove
THE MOCKINJAYS The Jam House, B'ham
VAMPIRES ROCK New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
MARTYN JOSEPH Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
DAN ANDRIANO O2 Institute, Birmingham
VINTAGE TROUBLE O2 Institute, Birmingham
JAH WOBBLE'S INVADERS OF THE HEART The Robin, Bilston
YOUNGHUSBAND & GRIMM GRIMM The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham
MARK PONTIN The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SHEELANAGIG Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FRI 13 NOV

SHOWADDYWADDY Forest Arts Centre, Walsall
DIZZY LIZZY The Roadhouse, Birmingham
SACK SABBATH & CORAYA Route 44, Birmingham
SKINDRED O2 Institute, Birmingham
BON GIOVI Artrix, Bromsgrove
LUCY ROSE Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
THE FRATELLIS The Copper Rooms, Coventry
REEL NOTE Irish Centre,

Birmingham
SHAM 69 O2 Institute, Birmingham
KATZENJAMMER O2 Institute, Birmingham
GLITZ, BLITZ & 70S HITZ Birmingham Town Hall
THE SKA STUDS Irish Centre, Birmingham
THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, B'ham
POLICED The Marr's Bar, Worcester
DRESSED TO KILL - THE TRIBUTE TO KISS The Robin, Bilston
LA VIE EN ROSE Symphony Hall, B'ham
LIGHT YOU UP The Asylum, Birmingham
THE SMYTHS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
BABAJOCK Palace Theatre, Redditch
TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES Malvern Theatres
SAM JACKSON O2 Academy, Birmingham
LITJ BUKEM Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ANNIE MAC The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
ROCK ANTHEMS Solihull Arts Centre

SAT 14 NOV

ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS Palace Theatre, Redditch
SPECTACULAR CLASSICS Symphony Hall, B'ham
MAMA - GENESIS Solihull Arts Complex
THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, B'ham
BOOTLEG BLONDIE The Roadhouse, B'ham
EVERYTHING EVERYTHING O2 Academy, B'ham
JACK AND JACK O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE LIFE & MUSIC OF CLIFFORD T. WARD Artrix, Bromsgrove
TALIB KWELI O2 Institute, Birmingham
SHERRY BABYS: FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS TRIBUTE Evesham Arts Centre, Worcester-shire
THE MOTELLAS Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
JOEY BADASS O2 Institute, Birmingham
HOOSIERS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
JOE STILGOE Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
SPECTACULAR CLASSICS Symphony Hall, B'ham
THE REAL THING The Robin, Bilston
BEATY HEART & BREEZE The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
ARCANE ROOTS The Asylum, Birmingham
WALTER HAWKINS CHOIR CELEBRATION - OH HAPPY DAY Birmingham Conservatoire
CORKY LAING The Assembly, Leamington Spa
AFFINITY 4 The Drum, Birmingham
SIMON KEMP RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA No1 Shakespeare St, Stratford-upon-Avon
DURAN (DURAN DURAN)

The Marr's Bar, Worcester
DUCKTAILS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
RICHARD DORFMEISTER & STEVE COBBY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
EVERYTHING EVERYTHING DJ SET The Oobleck, Birmingham
THE RAMONAS, DEVILISH PRESLEY, ROTUNDA & ARMY OF SKANKS The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
WAFF The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
DEATH BY THY SHEPHERD TOUR The Flapper, Birmingham
THE FATHER TEDS Irish Centre, Birmingham

SUN 15 NOV

THE RAF IN CONCERT 2015 Symphony Hall, Birmingham
HUGH CORNWELL The Assembly, Leamington Spa
MEGADETH & LAMB OF GOD O2 Academy, Birmingham
CORY HENRY & THE FUNK APOSTLES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE NICK ROSS ORCHESTRA: SOUNDS OF THE SABBOTAGE & PRIEST UNLEASHED The Robin, Bilston
THE WATCH PLAYS GENESIS: TWO SIDES LIVE The Robin, Bilston
MAVERICK SABRE O2 Academy, Birmingham
FIDLAR, BULLY & VANT O2 Institute, B'ham
GILMORE & ROBERTS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
THE JAM'D The Roadhouse, Birmingham
FRAN THE MAN Irish Centre, Birmingham

MON 16 NOV

QUEEN EXTRAVAGANZA - 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'A NIGHT AT THE OPERA' Birmingham Town Hall
WILL YOUNG Symphony Hall, Birmingham
THE GREAT VOICES OF SOUL FT. THE WHISPERS O2 Academy, B'ham
PERIPHERY O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE OMMA N CHAIN SHOWCASE Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
WALSALL JAZZ ORCHESTRA Forest Arts Centre, Walsall
THE MAGIC BAND The Robin, Bilston
JOHN JOSEPH BRILL The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
BLIND BOY PAXTON Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

TUE 17 NOV

STEVE HARLEY & COCKNEY REBEL Symphony Hall, Birmingham
EVERY TIME I DIE The Asylum, Birmingham
PETTER ELDH'S AMOK AMOR mac, Birmingham
CHERIE CURRIE OF THE RUNAWAYS The Robin, Bilston
WAVVES O2 Institute,

Birmingham
THE SOUNDS OF SIMON Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
SHARON SHANNON The Marr's Bar, Worcester
CHRIS ALDRIDGE AND BEEBE The Jam House, Birmingham
HOWIE PAYNE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE BLACK FEATHERS The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

WED 18 NOV

THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS O2 Academy, Birmingham
STEAK NUMBER 8 The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
THE ENEMY DJ SET The Oobleck, Birmingham
THE ENEMY O2 Institute, Birmingham
NITIN SAWHNEY O2 Institute, Birmingham
ESKA mac, Birmingham
GOSPEL CENTRAL The Jam House, B'ham
RALPH MCTELL Albany Theatre, Coventry
FIL CAMPBELL & TOM MCFARLAND The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham
KIKO BUN O2 Institute, Birmingham
NEWTON FAULKNER The Assembly, Leamington Spa
MARTHA TILSTON No1 Shakespeare St, Stratford-upon-Avon
JOHN MCENTIRE & SCHNEIDER KACIREK The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry
THE READY EDDIES The Robin, Bilston
RAKETANON Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THU 19 NOV

MY LIFE STORY The Assembly, Leamington Spa
STEELEYE SPAN Birmingham Town Hall
OF MONSTERS AND MEN O2 Academy, B'ham
ALBERT HAMMOND JR. Hare & Hounds, B'ham
ANDY SHEPPARD QUARTET Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
DEL CAMINO The Jam House, Birmingham
KEYWEST Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
MIKE STEWART LAWRENCE Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
FOSTER & ALLEN Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
BAY CITY ROLLERS STARING LES MCKEOWN The Robin, Bilston
ZERVAS & PEPPER The Glee Club, Birmingham
MARIA SCHNEIDER JAZZ ORCHESTRA Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BRANTLEY GILBERT O2 Institute, Birmingham
BRAIDS The Oobleck, Birmingham
SHARON SHANNON Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
METAL MASHUP The Roadhouse, B'ham

FRI 20 NOV

THE SEX PISTOLS EXPERIENCE The Robin, Bilston
FALLEN & KNIGHTWISH Route 44, Birmingham
IMAGINE DRAGONS Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
STEVE HARLEY & COCKNEY REBEL - The Best Years of our Lives 40th Anniversary Tour, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
THE WAILERS O2 Academy, Birmingham
HEY BEATLES Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
GHOSTPOET The Copper Rooms, Coventry
KREPT & KONAN O2 Institute, Birmingham
B'SPOKE The Jam House, Birmingham
THE EUREKA MACHINES The Marr's Bar, Worcester
CHILDREN OF THE GRAVY The Roadhouse, Birmingham
NICK HARPER Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE DRIVE O2 Academy, Birmingham
NERO O2 Institute, Birmingham
EVA PLAYS DEAD The Asylum, Birmingham
BLAIR DUNLOP The Oobleck, Birmingham
COLLAPSED LUNG The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SOMALI STARS F MAX-AMED BK & SAHARA LLAYS The Drum, Birmingham
THE OFFICIAL RECEIVERS BAND No1 Shakespeare St, Stratford-upon-Avon
DADDY G Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ROW TO BOAT Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
JIM WYNN SWING ORCHESTRA Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ANTI-SYSTEM & CONSTANT STATE OF TERROR The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
DAVE CLARKE The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
MOTOWN AND SOUL NIGHT WITH DJ PAUL KELLY Irish Centre, Birmingham

SAT 21 NOV

FROM THE JAM - SOUND AFFECTS O2 Academy, Birmingham
CELTIC WOMAN Symphony Hall, B'ham
FUSE ODG O2 Academy, Birmingham
B'SPOKE The Jam House, Birmingham
THE NIGHT WATCH-SINGING THE SEASONS Artrix, Bromsgrove
JAWS The Copper Rooms, Coventry
TOUCHSTONE & SPECIAL GUESTS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SATAN The Asylum, Birmingham
THE ENEMY The Empire, Coventry
STRIKING MATCHES O2 Institute, Birmingham
SAINT RAYMOND O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE DRIFTERS Malvern Theatres

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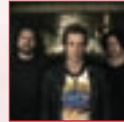
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3 November
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12 November
KING KING
Artrix, Bromsgrove



13 November
THE SMYTHS
Assembly Rooms, Leamington Spa



15 November
KING KING
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



22 November
AVERAGE WHITE BAND
Assembly Rooms, Leamington Spa



24 November
WALTER TROUT
Assembly Rooms, Leamington Spa

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The Snow Queen
4th November
7.30pm
£15.00 / 12.00

Matt Monro
19th November
7.30pm
£21.50

Downtrodden Abbey
20th November
7.30pm
£16.00 / 14.00
*Table £120 (10 People)

Herman's Hermits
11th December - 7.30pm - £18.50

Music LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

TOO REX - TRIBUTE TO MARC BOLAN & T-REX The Roadhouse, B'ham
ISLANDS IN THE STREAM Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore, Worcestershire
GUTS FOR GLORY, FIRES THAT DIVIDE, PELUGION, FREE SUN RISING AND SOUTHFALL O2 Academy, Birmingham
MEET ON THE LEDGE The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford
BON GIOVI The Robin, Bilston
THE PETEBOX The Obleck, Birmingham
DIRE STREETS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
SHATTER EFFECT The Marr's Bar, Worcester
THE LOADED The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry
DJ FORMAT & ABDOMINAL Hare & Hounds, B'ham
DIRE STREETS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
ANDY C The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
PARANOID LONDON, ADAM SHELTON & TOM CRAVEN The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
THE LENNON AND MCCARTNEY EXPERIENCE Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
THE ROVING CROWS Irish Centre, Birmingham
SCORCHER 15TH ANNIVERSARY Irish Centre, Birmingham
BLACK COUNTRY COMMUNITY & BAD FLOWERS Route 44, Birmingham

SUN 22 NOV

MEET ON THE LEDGE The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford
ZEBRAHEAD O2 Academy, Birmingham
BRIT FLOYD Symphony Hall, Birmingham
LAU The Glee Club, Birmingham
RICKY ROSS Birmingham Town Hall
AVERAGE WHITE BAND The Assembly, Leamington Spa
STILLMARRILLION The Robin, Bilston
THEA GILMORE Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore
VANGOFFEY O2 Institute, Birmingham
JUST FLOYD The Robin, Bilston
PETER KNIGHT'S GIGSPANNER Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
ELVIS PERKINS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
DEEZ HUTS, NASTY, EXPIRE, ASTROID BOYS & LOUIE KNUXX The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
SHILLELAGH Irish Centre, Birmingham

MON 23 NOV

HARRIET KRIJGH Birm-

ingham Town Hall
MALCOLM STENT IN THE AFTERNOON Solihull Arts Complex
BRIDGET KELLY O2 Institute, Birmingham
MATT CORBY O2 Institute, Birmingham
CLIFF & THE SHADZ The Robin, Bilston
BRASS MINIFEST: PHILIP COBB PUBLIC MASTERCLASS Birmingham Conservatoire
BRASS MINIFEST: THE ALFRED CORFIELD TRUMPET PRIZE Birmingham Conservatoire
GREY WOLF Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
TEN FE, JUICE & CINEMA Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
WIDOWSPEAK Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TUE 24 NOV

WALTER TROUT The Assembly, Leamington Spa
BEANS ON TOAST The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
GHOSTPOET O2 Institute, Birmingham
CHARLOTTE CARPENTER The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
HEART OF A COWARD The Marr's Bar, Worcester

WED 25 NOV

THE SENSATIONAL 60'S EXPERIENCE Palace Theatre, Redditch
MEATWAVE The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham
PARTISANS No1 Shakespeare St, Stratford-upon-Avon
BLAKE Solihull Arts Complex
CHVRCHES O2 Academy, Birmingham
RAY COOPER & ROWAN GODEL The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
JAMES MORRISON O2 Institute, Birmingham
SONDRGO mac, B'ham
VIRGIL & THE ACCELERATORS The Robin, Bilston
BLUE ROSE CODE Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
BROTHERS GROOVE The Jam House, B'ham
LANDSHAPES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THU 26 NOV

SIMON AND GARFUNKEL - THROUGH THE YEARS Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
JAZZ AT THE MOVIES Solihull Arts Complex
THE TEAM FEATURING ANGELO STARR The Jam House, Birmingham
THE BIG BAND AT CHRISTMAS Palace Theatre, Redditch
THE FRANK SINATRA SHOW Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
MAD DOG MCREA The Robin, Bilston

MODESTEP O2 Academy, Birmingham
GYPTIAN O2 Institute, Birmingham
HATCHAM SOCIAL The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
STRAY FROM THE PATH The Asylum, B'ham
THE MEN THAT WILL NOT BE BLAMED FOR NOTHING The Obleck, B'ham
MARIE CLAIRE BERREEN The Marr's Bar, Worcester
LEELA JAMES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
RED SHOES The Roadhouse, Birmingham

FRI 27 NOV

PAUL WELLER Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
SLAYER O2 Academy, Birmingham
JASPER CARROTT STAND UP & ROCK Wyre Forest Glades Arena, Kidderminster
MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS O2 Institute, Birmingham
UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE The Jam House, B'ham
THE JAMES HUNTER SIX & THE ATLANTIC PLAYERS Hare & Hounds, B'ham
UNFORGETTABLE Palace Theatre, Redditch
MAINLY MADNESS The Robin, Bilston
CHAD VALLEY O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE STRAWBS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
NICK HARPER The Glee Club, Birmingham
EVIL SCARECROW O2 Institute, Birmingham
SARAH CRACKNELL The Obleck, Birmingham
KARL LOXLEY Albany Theatre, Coventry
THE CLONE ROSES The Empire, Coventry
THE STAFFORDSHIRE BAND - CHRISTMASS EXBRASSAGANZA Forest Arts Centre, Walsall
ASHES Kasbah, Coventry
THE SUBTERRANEANS No1 Shakespeare St, Stratford-upon-Avon
SAM'S TOWN The Marr's Bar, Worcester
AVEC LE SOLEIL SORTANT DE SA BOUCHE & FANGTROUSER The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry
TV SMITH The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
THE BUDDY PRESLEY BAND The Roadhouse, Birmingham
FLASH BACK FRIDAY WITH DJ PAUL KELLY Irish Centre, Birmingham
MIKE MCGOLDRICK Irish Centre, Birmingham
HIGHER ON MAIDEN Route 44, Birmingham

SAT 28 NOV

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE The Jam House, Birmingham
FREE RADIO LIVE 2015 Genting Arena, B'ham
COVENTRY LEOPRIC LIONS Albany Theatre, Coventry
THE BLUES BAND Artrix, Bromsgrove
JOE BROWN Birmingham



Death Cab For Cutie - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Town Hall
DANCING QUEEN - THE CONCERT PALACE Theatre, Redditch
BEARTOOTH O2 Academy, Birmingham
PARTY NIGHT WITH BORDERLINE Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
BRENDON MANDERS O2 Academy, Birmingham
JAZZ FESTIVAL STARRING ARUN GOSH Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
ENTROPI & COREY MWAMBA TRIO DOUBLE BILL Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
THE COUNTERFEIT STONES The Robin, Bilston
HIT THAT JIVE JACK The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SOCA CENTRAL The Drum, Birmingham
INTO THE SHADOWS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
SPACE Kasbah, Coventry
LOS PACAMINOS FEATURING PAUL YOUNG No1

Shakespeare St, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND Malvern Theatres
GREEN HAZE The Marr's Bar, Worcester
WORLDSERVICE PROJECT & ZODIAC TRIO The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry
WOBBLE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ADESSE VERSIONS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
CREAM 9TH ANNIVERSARY The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
RUSS YALLOP The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
APPLAUSE Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
SOULED OUT 2 FUNK The Roadhouse, B'ham
BLACK JACK DAVEY & DJ ROB Irish Centre, B'ham
SOULED OUT TO FUNK The Roadhouse, B'ham
IVOR & LYNN'S CLASSIC ROCK DISCO Route 44, Birmingham
KARIMA FRANCIS Ort Cafe, Birmingham

SUN 29 NOV

JOSH GROBAN Symphony Hall, B'ham

JAZZ AT THE MOVIES Solihull Arts Centre
BLAKE & BRAZIL Irish Centre, Birmingham
BRING ME THE HORIZON O2 Academy, B'ham
AREA 11 O2 Institute, Birmingham
CHINA CRISIS The Robin, Bilston
THREADED Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
THE BLACKBYRDS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ALTERED SKY, EVERYBODY LOOKS FAMOUS & FAKE THE ATTACK The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
THE VIBRATORS, COMPLETE DYSFUNCTION, CODE 46 & THE VICTIMS The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MON 30 NOV

THE WATERBOYS Symphony Hall, B'ham
EMMMA-LEE SHEPHERD Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
MUMFORD & SONS Genting Arena, B'ham
ROB HERON & THE TEAPAD ORCHESTRA Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

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 THE RIVER ROOMS, STOURBRIDGE 01384 397177

For additional information and to find out What's On at these venues, visit: www.whatsonlive.co.uk

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL at SYMPHONY HALL

Saturday 12 December at 7.30pm

SINATRA CENTENARY

A concert of songs and music made famous by the world's most-loved singer.

Come Fly with Me Luck be a Lady Tonight
I've got you under my skin My Way

Plus a host of festive classics

Let it Snow White Christmas Jingle Bells

Richard Balcombe conductor Manchester Concert Orchestra



Sunday 27 December at 7.30pm

TCHAIKOVSKY SPECTACULAR

An all Tchaikovsky extravaganza of his greatest works.

Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture

Piano Concerto No 1 Swan Lake Suite

1812 OVERTURE

complete with a thundering indoor firework finale!

Toby Purser conductor London Concert Orchestra



Saturday 19 December at 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS WITH ALED JONES

Aled Jones joins a packed stage of superb artists for a wonderful concert of music and carols.

Gruber Silent Night Bach / Gounod Ave Maria

Blake Walking in the Air

Tchaikovsky Waltz of the Flowers & Trepak

from The Nutcracker and CAROLS FOR ALL

City of Birmingham Choir London Concert Orchestra



Monday 28 December at 2.30pm

THE FOUR SEASONS BY CANDLELIGHT

18th Century classics performed in full period costume in an evocative candle-lit style setting.

Mozart Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Clarke Trumpet Suite Pachelbel Canon

Vivaldi The Four Seasons

MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA in full period costume



Monday 21 December at 2.30pm

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG

Jonathan Cohen leads you through his most-loved carols and all-time Christmas hits.

Winter Wonderland Let it Go O Holy Night

O come, all ye faithful Merry Christmas Everyone

Santa Claus is coming to town

London Concert Chorus London Concert Orchestra



Monday 28 December at 7.30pm

LAST NIGHT OF THE CHRISTMAS PROMS

Rousing classics with a grand flag waving British finale!

Ravel Bolero Sousa Liberty Bell March

Tchaikovsky Sleeping Beauty Waltz

Denza Funiculi, funicula Bizet Toreador Song

And all your Proms favourites

John Pryce-Jones conductor London Concert Orchestra



Tuesday 22 December at 7.30pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Carols and seasonal classics staged in full 18th Century costume.

Vivaldi Gloria (First Mvmt) Handel Zadok the Priest

Christmas Sequence from Messiah

Mozart Alleluia from Exsultate Jubilate

Pearsall Gabriel's Message and CAROLS FOR ALL

MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA in full period costume



Tuesday 29 December at 7.30pm

THE SOUND OF MUSICALS

Show-stopping music and songs from the greatest Broadway and West End musicals.

Anything Goes Kiss Me Kate My Fair Lady

Guys and Dolls Les Misérables Grease

Cats The Phantom of the Opera

with an all-star line up from London's glittering West End

Richard Balcombe conductor London Concert Orchestra



Wednesday 23 December at 7.30pm

WHITE CHRISTMAS

A nostalgic show of all-time favourite Christmas songs and carols.

Sleigh Ride Winter Wonderland

White Christmas Santa Claus is coming to town

Frosty The Snowman Merry Christmas Everyone

Jingle Bell Rock and CAROLS FOR ALL

John Rigby conductor London Concert Orchestra



Wednesday 30 December at 7.30pm

THE VERY BEST OF JAMES BOND

Presented by Bond Girl Fiona Fullerton

All the iconic music and songs including:

From Russia with Love Goldfinger

Casino Royale Diamonds are Forever

Live and Let Die Skyfall For Your Eyes Only

Louise Dearman guest singer London Concert Orchestra



Thursday 24 December at 2.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CLASSICS

This concert of joyous seasonal and traditional music perfectly captures the true spirit of Christmas.

Berlioz The Shepherd's Farewell

Pearsall In dulci jubilo Adams The Holy City

Willcocks Masters in this Hall

Bach / Gounod Ave Maria and CAROLS FOR ALL

John Pryce-Jones conductor London Concert Orchestra



Saturday 2 January at 2.30pm

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

Wartime chart-toppers & hits from the forties

directed by legendary bandleader RAY McVAY.

Moonlight Serenade Strike Up the Band

Tuxedo Junction New York, New York

Chattanooga Choo Choo Rhapsody in Blue

Plus a tribute to the music of the Big Bands

Ted Heath Benny Goodman Louis Armstrong

With special guests THE JIVING LINDY HOPPERS





Orchestra Of The Swan, featuring Tamsin Waley-Cohen

Stratford ArtsHouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, Tues 10 November;
Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 11 November

The Stratford-based Orchestra Of The Swan here make a welcome return to Birmingham with another impressive repertoire of classical music.

During the course of their Town Hall concert season, the orchestra will be joined by numerous soloists, including Peter Donohoe, Emma Johnson and, on this particular occasion, acclaimed violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen (pictured).

Associate Artist Tamsin has been described by The Guardian as a performer of 'fearless intensity'. As well as performing with some of the world's most reputable orchestras, she's also a sought-after recitalist and the founder of the Honeycomb Ensemble.

She here performs two concertos by Bach - the E major and the Double violin concerto - with violinist David Le Page.

The full programme is: Handel, Overture Julius Caesar; Bach, Violin Concerto in E major; Bach, Double Violin Concerto; Bach, Concerto for Violin and Oboe; and Stravinsky, Concerto in D.



Birmingham Bach Choir

CBSO Centre, Birmingham, Sat 21 November

"Petite Messe Solennelle is the most beautifully tuneful, quasi-operatic of masses, and one of Rossini's great works," says Birmingham Bach Choir Chair Sarah Platt.

The choir is performing the piece to launch its new season.

"The work avoids the cloying sentimentality of other masses of this period by simply showing the composer having a good time," continues Sarah, "and giving everyone performing and listening a good time too."

The concert sees the choir, conducted by Paul Spicer, joined by Longfordbrown Piano Duo James Longford and Lindy Tennent-Brown (pictured above).

G4: Christmas By Candlelight

St Paul's Church, Birmingham,
Fri 27 November

After scoring a hit on X Factor in 2004, G4 became one of the country's biggest crossover classical groups.

Their debut album went straight to number one and sold more than two hundred-and-forty-five thousand copies, making it the fastest-selling record of that year.

Although they disbanded three years and three albums later - citing as the reason their need to pursue individual interests - they reunited in 2014 for their tenth anniversary and are this month releasing their new album, G4 Christmas.

To support the release, the boys are performing a series of shows in numerous beautiful churches and cathedrals across the country, one of which is this candlelit Birmingham gig. Expect Christmas classics and carols aplenty.



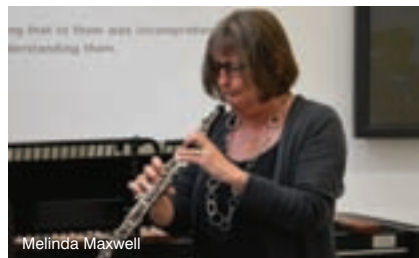
BCMG: The Comedy Of Change

CBSO Centre, Birmingham,
Sunday 15 November

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group's (BCMG) latest concert showcases the world premiere of Melinda Maxwell's Fractures: Monk Unpacked, a piece inspired by the work of master jazz musician Thelonius Monk.

Featuring alongside Maxwell's latest composition is title work The Comedy Of Change. A ballet score by Julian Anderson, the piece has been used by Rambert Dance Company and takes inspiration from notions of change in nature.

The concert sees BCMG launching its new initiative, Audience Exchange, which offers visitors the opportunity to pull up a chair and discuss the repertoire over a drink with fellow audience members.



Prague Symphony Orchestra

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Wed 25 November

The highly regarded Prague Symphony Orchestra's latest visit to the Midlands sees them bringing not only their usual dash of Bohemian flair but also a brand new chief conductor - the thirty-five-year-old Finnish violinist, Pietari Inkinen.

The orchestra's programme comprises Smetana's Sarka from Ma Vlast and Dvorak's Violin Concerto and New World symphony.

They're joined for the concert by British violinist Chloe Hanslip.

Jonathan Antoine

Bramall Music Building, Birmingham,
Wed 11 November

"There's only one way to express what music gives me," explains nineteen-year-old tenor Jonathan Antoine. "It gives me a purpose. It gives me point. When I sing, I can just be me."

Jonathan shot to stardom in the 2012 series of Britain's Got Talent and has been steadily building his career ever since. His recent success is in stark contrast to the life he knew before he was famous, though - he suffered a nervous breakdown after enduring relentless jibes from schoolmates about his twenty-stone weight.

"The overarching result of Britain's Got Talent is that I'm now

in a far better place," says the Essex-born singer. "I'd like to say to those people who bullied me in former times: You actively tried to make me unhappy, but now I'm far happier than you'll ever be."





EX CATHEDRA

Jeffrey Skidmore
Vocal excellence made in Birmingham

"Atmosphere, imagination,
anticipation...
the true magic
of Christmas"

Birmingham Post

Gaudete!

Wed 2 December, 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton

Wed 16 December, 7.30pm
Hereford Cathedral

'Early' Christmas music and readings from Latin America and Europe.

Bach Christmas Oratorio

Sun 6 December, 4pm
Town Hall, Birmingham

A wonderfully uplifting start to the Christmas season.

Christmas Music by Candlelight

18, 19, 21 & 22 December, 7.30pm
St Paul's Church, Birmingham

Popular, atmospheric concerts aimed at the heart of Christmas.



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CAROLS THAT COUNT

150 voices raising funds for children with cancer

James Llewelyn Jones Musical Director With Jody Smith Violin

Join the **Doddershill School Choir** for the matinee or evening performance, as singers spread some Christmas cheer with popular music and carols (old and new), accompanied by **Gemini Brass**.

**11th December 2015 at 2.15 pm and 7.00 pm
Town Hall Birmingham**

Tickets - £10, £16, £20 (some discounts available)

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Music Group



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The Comedy of Change

Sunday 15 November 2015, 7.30pm, CBSO Centre

Conductor: **Oliver Knussen**

Vocal Soloists: **RSVP Voices***

Gunther Schuller: Games

Arnold Schoenberg arr. Hans Abrahamsen:

Vier Stücke - aus 6 Kleine Klavierstücke op. 19

Hans Abrahamsen: Liebeslied

Julian Anderson: The Comedy of Change

Patrick Brennan: Polly Roe

(BCMGM/SaM Apprentice Composer-in-Residence)

Melinda Maxwell: FRACTURES: Monk Unpacked

(World premiere / BCMGM Sound Investment commission)

Igor Stravinsky: Renard*

This ballet-tinged programme frames the world premiere of Melinda Maxwell's Sound Investment commission, which uses Thelonus Monk's *Round Midnight* as its 'creative lever'. Stravinsky's magnificent one-act chamber opera-ballet *Renard*, a farmyard fairy tale with a bloody end, provides the tumultuous climax.

Classical LISTINGS

For full listing information on classical concerts, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA AN ALPINE SYMPHONY Programme includes works by Nielsen, Lindberg & Strauss, Sun 1 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY CONDUCTS... Also featuring the Philharmonia Orchestra & the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition winner. Programme includes works by Sibelius, Chopin & Rachmaninov, Tues 3 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TIMOTHY RIDOUT The first winner of the Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition, Timothy Ridout returns to Birmingham Conservatoire for what promises to be an inspiring performance of viola repertoire, Tues 3 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

THE PHILIP BATES COMPOSITION PRIZE 2015 Tues 3 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Omer Meir Wellber (conductor) & Baiba Skride (violin). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Schumann & Brahms, Wed 4 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BAIBA SKRIDE: SCHUMANN Programme includes works by Wagner, Schumann & Brahms, Thurs 5 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

KÓDÁLY STRING QUARTET Programme includes works by Haydn, Webern, Beethoven, Vivaldi & Boccherini, Fri 6 Nov, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

NATHANIEL VALLOIS (VIOLIN) AND DAVID QUIGLEY (PIANO) Programme includes works by Lekeu, Debussy arr. Heifetz & Milhaud, Fri 6 Nov, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

BAIBA SKRIDE WITH CBSO MUSICIANS Programme comprises Mozart's Quintets, Fri 6 Nov, Symphony Hall, Bham

KATIE STILLMAN (VIOLIN) & SIMON LANE (PIANO) - IN CONCERT Programme includes works by Mozart, Glazunov, Colin Matthews & Elgar, Fri 6 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BRITISH CARNATIC CHOIR GRAND PREMIERE Presented by ShruthiUK, this evening performance features children, young adults and professionals from across the region, Sat 7 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) & Catherine Arlidge (presenter). Programme comprises Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, Sun 8 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works from Mushel, Durufé, Thalben-Ball, Slominsky, Humperdinck & Howells, Mon 9 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

MONDAY SHOWCASE: HANNAH SLAVIN AND KATHRYN WHITMARSH PIANO DUO Programme includes works by Schubert, Schumann & Saint-Saëns, Mon 9 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

FRONTIERS: REHNQVIST IN BIRMINGHAM - COMPOSERS' PLATFORM Mon 9 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

BACH DOUBLED WITH TAMSIN WALEY-COHEN & DAVID LE PAGE Programme includes works by Handel, Bach & Stravinsky, Tues 10 Nov, Stratford Artshouse

BEG, BORROW OR STEAL - LONDON HANDEL PLAYERS Featuring music by Telemann, Leclair, Handel, Bach, Vivaldi and Campra, Tues 10 Nov, St Mary's Church, Warwick

CBSO WINTER DREAMS Featuring Ben Gernon (conductor) & Anna Vinnitskaya (piano). Programme includes works by Ravel, Tchaikovsky & Shostakovich, Wed 11 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN WITH TAMSIN WALEY-COHEN AND DAVID LE PAGE Programme includes works by Handel, Bach & Stravinsky, Wed 11 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

WIND AND BRASS FESTIVE JAMBOREE Featuring the internationally renowned Fine Arts Brass Quintet, Wed 11 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE CHAMBER CHOIR: SUN KING Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Sun King is a three hundredth anniversary celebration of the life of Europe's longest serving monarch, Louis XIV, Wed 11 Nov, St Alban the Martyr, Highgate, Birmingham

JONATHAN ANTOINE The

classically trained tenor who rose to fame on Britain's Got Talent visits Birmingham as part of his nationwide tour, Wed 11 Nov, Bramall Music Building, B'ham

THE STRINGCREDIBLES A musical journey from 1914 to 1918 featuring the music of Elgar, Shostakovich and Bridge alongside readings from Michael Morpurgo's War Horse and Marcia Williams' Archie's War, Thurs 12 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

JOHN WILSON & THE JOHN WILSON ORCHESTRA Celebrating the genius of George Gershwin, Thurs 12 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL AND KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL CONCERT Fri 13 Nov, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

FRONTIERS: REHNQVIST IN BIRMINGHAM - THALLEIN Fri 13 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: LA VIE EN ROSE Featuring Richard Balcombe (conductor), Graham Bickley & Mary Carewe (vocalists), Fri 13 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MFC BAROQUE EVENING Programme includes works by Roman, Zelenka & CPE Bach, Sat 14 Nov, Malvern Theatre

WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY Featuring internationally acclaimed opera singer, Sarah Connolly CBE, Sat 14 Nov, Worcester Cathedral

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Saint Michael's Singers & Paul Ledington-Wright (conductor). Programme comprises works by Mozart, Sat 14 Nov, Coventry Cathedral

SPECTACULAR CLASSICS Evening of great classics, dazzling lasers & special effects, Sat 14 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHANDOS - THE FULL ENGLISH Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Delius & Elgar, Sun 15 Nov, Malvern Theatres

UNIVERSITY BAROQUE ORCHESTRA Featuring Elisabeth Munns (soprano) & Christine Whiffen (harpsichord). Programme includes works by JS Bach, Vivaldi & Rameau, Sun 15 Nov, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

BCMG: THE COMEDY OF CHANGE Featuring the world premiere of Melinda Maxwell's Sound Investment commission, Sun 15 Nov, CBSO Centre, B'ham

CENTRAL ENGLAND ENSEMBLE Programme

includes works by Brahms, Finzi, Saint-Saëns & Shostakovich, Sun 15 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

RAF IN CONCERT Evening of musical entertainment to commemorate seventy-five years since the historic Battle of Britain, Sun 15 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

TCHAIKOVSKY'S FOURTH Programme includes works by Schubert, Beethoven & Tchaikovsky, Wed 18 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ORCHESTRAS, ENSEMBLES AND CHAMBER MUSIC: COMPOSERS' ORCHESTRA Thurs 19 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: THE BEST OF BEETHOVEN Featuring Alina Ibragimova (violin) & conducted by Michael Seal, Fri 20 Nov, Malvern Theatres

MORGAN PEARSE AND JONATHAN WARE Fri 20 Nov, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE STRING ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Elgar, Mozart & Tippett, Fri 20 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR Sat 21 Nov, CBSO Centre, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY: O RADIANT DAWN Conducted by Patrick Larley & featuring organist Kevin Gill, Sat 21 Nov, St Paul's Church, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY SINGERS AND UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CHOIR Featuring Simon Halsey (conductor) & Jonathan Clinch (organ), Sat 21 Nov, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

HAYDN - HARMONIE-MESSE Featuring Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society, Sat 21 Nov, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE NIGHT WATCH: SINGING THE SEASONS A musical journey through the mediaeval, renaissance & baroque periods, Sat 21 Nov,

Artrix, Bromsgrove

CARMEN Ellen Kent's production of Bizet's seductive opera, Sun 22 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Sun 22 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme tbc, Sun 22 Nov, Stratford-upon-Avon

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Mozart, Handel, Part, Anderson, Ponchielli, Mon 23 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

RISING STARS WITH HARRIET KRIJGH (CELLO) Also featuring Magda Amara on piano. Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Messiaen, Johanna Doderer & Franck, Mon 23 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

QUARTET LAB Programme includes works by Kurtág, Bartók & Beethoven, Wed 25 Nov, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

PRAGUE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Pietari Inkinen (conductor) & Chloe Hanslip (violin). Programme includes works by Smetana & Dvorak, Wed 25 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CAVALERI QUARTET Programme includes works by Stravinsky, Mozart, Puccini & Brahms, Thurs 26 Nov, Malvern Theatre

OPERA SCENES - STUDENTS FROM THE VOCAL AND OPERATIC DEPARTMENT Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Nov, Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: JAMES BOND Featuring Stephen Bell (conductor) & Lance Ellington (piano), Fri 27 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

G4: CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT Christmas classics and carols, Fri 27 Nov, St Paul's Church, Birmingham

CARDUCCI STRING QUAR-

TET Programme includes works by Haydn, Shostakovich, Vivaldi & Boccherini, Fri 27 Nov, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

THE BAND OF HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES SCOTLAND & BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE WIND ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Dunn, Zehle, Ellerby & Arnold arr. McDermot, amongst others, Fri 27 Nov, Adrian Boulth Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

ALEXANDER ULLMAN (PIANO) AND MICHAEL PETROV (CELLO) A rare opportunity to hear Alexander and Michael perform together. This lunchtime concert sees the duo perform works by Bach & Rachmaninov, Fri 27 Nov, The Barber Institute, B'ham

AN AUDIENCE WITH LESLEY GARRETT Fri 27 Nov, Malvern Theatre

ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN Featuring Richard Jenkinson (conductor), Charlotte Moseley (violin) & Claire Prewer (soprano). Programme includes works by Sibelius & Mahler, Sat 28 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONIC WINDS & UNIVERSITY WIND BAND Sat 28 Nov, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

CBSO: MAHLER'S FIRST Programme includes works by Ives, Bernstein & Mahler, Sat 28 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Rosina, Berio, Walton, Berlioz & Weill, Sun 29 Nov, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

OLIVER SHE IN RECITAL Programme comprises Carl Vine's Sonata No.1; Brahms' Seven Fantasies Op 116 & Mussorgsky's Pictures At An Exhibition, Mon 30 Nov, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY

O RADIANT DAWN

Saturday 21st November 2015, 7.30pm

O Radiant Dawn & Mass 2000 - MacMillan
The Music Makers & Two Sea Pictures - Elgar

St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square, Birmingham, B3 1QZ

Tickets: £14 (£12 / £7 concessions)
available online at www.bfcs.org.uk or at the door

Comedy

Bill Bailey

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 2 - Tues 3 November; Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Wed 18 - Thurs 19 November

Bill Bailey thinks his comedy should be educational. "From an audience perspective, it's great if they can leave one of my shows more informed than when they arrived," he says.

"Obviously I want people to come along and be entertained, have a laugh and get taken out of themselves for a couple of hours, but if people can glean something a bit more lasting than a couple of laughs, then all the better."



Nish Kumar

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Fri 6 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 12 November; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Thurs 26 November

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

Nish's days of anonymity - inebriated or otherwise - are now behind him. The Croyden-born comedian has emphatically hit the big time - and even more impressively, he's done so simply by being his usual affable self.



Hal Cruttenden

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 18 November

Hal Cruttenden must have been delighted when the Daily Telegraph wrote of him: 'He's naturally funny, but he's evolving here into something more challenging and provocative than some jolly-faced follower in the footsteps of Michael McIntyre'.

Alongside his comedy, Hal's also an oft-seen actor, having appeared in TV shows such as EastEnders and Kavanagh QC, and on film in The Madness Of King George.

As a laughter-merchant, he places great emphasis on cleverly constructed punch-lines, and is always happy to ridicule himself in the name of comedy.



Reeves & Mortimer

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 20 November; Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Mon 23 November

"Destiny has led us to this point in time," says Vic Reeves in speaking about his and Bob Mortimer's first live tour for twenty long years. "Now, finally, the diversion of Reeves & Mortimer can be revealed in full extent through a cornucopia of preposterous doggerel etc." Vic and Bob first worked together over a quarter of a century ago. They shot to stardom courtesy of a brand of anarchic comedy that blended surreal material with more traditional double-act fare such as corny jokes and violent slapstick.

For a time in the 1990s they were pretty much the biggest names on the UK comedy circuit. Their TV work included memorable shows such as The Smell Of Reeves & Mortimer and Shooting Stars - and even a remake of the cult 1960s television adventure series, Randall & Hopkirk (Deceased).

"Playing in front of a living audience is where it all began for us," says Bob Mortimer. "Some people feel most alive when they're on fire or in Turkey, but for us the stage is where we thrive. I will ensure that Vic arrives at all dates smartly dressed and unarmed. I promise not to mention football, JLS or apricots during the performances. Should you choose to attend, be warned - I will not be wearing a toupé."

Dara O'Briain

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 November

Charismatic, fast-talking and very, very funny, Dara O' Briain is a former biggest-selling comedian at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He's also a familiar face on the telly thanks to shows like Mock The Week and Have I Got News For You. Jokes include: "If we were truly created by God, why do we occasionally bite the insides of our mouths?" and "My iPod holds three thousand albums. I own, like, ninety albums. My iPod sits at home, sullen, frustrated, and underused, like a wife who gave up her career and the kids turned out to be shite."



Comedy Box Office

ARENA THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 321321
 ARTRIX, BROMSGROVE 01527 577 330
 BARCLAYCARD ARENA 0121 780 4141
 BEDWORTH CIVIC HALL 024 7637 6707
 BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME 0121 345 0600
 BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL 0844 338 5000
 BLUE ORANGE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM 0121 212 2643
 BRAMALL MUSIC BUILDING, BIRMINGHAM 0121 342 0495
 CIVIC HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON 0870 320 7000
 THE COURTYARD, HEREFORD 01432 340555
 THE DRUM, BIRMINGHAM 0121 333 2444
 EVESHAM ARTS CENTRE, WORCESTERSHIRE 01386 446 944
 THE GLEE CLUB, BIRMINGHAM 0871 472 0400
 HUNTINGDON HALL, WORCESTER, 01905 611 427
 JONGLEURS COMEDY CLUB, BIRMINGHAM 0870 011 1960
 KATIE FITZGERALD'S, STOURBRIDGE 01384 374410
 KITCHEN GARDEN CAFE, BIRMINGHAM 0121 443 4725
 MAC, BIRMINGHAM 0121 446 3232
 MALVERN THEATRES 01684 892 277
 NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM 0844 871 3011
 THE OLD REP THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM 0121 359 9444
 PALACE THEATRE, REDDITCH 01527 65203
 ROYAL SPA CENTRE, LEAMINGTON SPA 01926 334 418
 THE SLADE ROOMS, WOLVERHAMPTON 0870 320 7000
 STATION PUB, SUTTON COLDFIELD 0121 362 4961
 STRATFORD ARTSHOUSE 01789 207 100
 STOURBRIDGE TOWN HALL 01384 812960
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM 0121 345 0600
 WARWICKS ARTS CENTRE, COVENTRY 024 7652 4524
 WULFRUN HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON 0870 320 7000

Comedy LISTINGS

For full listing information on comedy gigs including times and dates visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

HARRY ENFIELD AND PAUL WHITEHOUSE Sun 1 Nov, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
JOSH WIDDICOMBE Sun 1 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall
PATRICK MONAHAN, SOL BERNSTEIN, DESI CENTRAL & TEZ ILYAS Sun 1 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
BILL BAILEY Mon 2 - Tues 3 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
ED BYRNE Tues 3 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove
ED BYRNE Wed 4 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
DANA ALEXANDER, SUSAN MURRAY & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 4 Nov, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
JOSH WIDDICOMBE Thurs 5 Nov, Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-Upon-Avon
GARY DELANEY, ANGELA BARNES & SCOTT BENNETT Thurs 5 Nov, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham
MIKE BUBBINS, CHRIS MCCAUSLAND & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 5 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham
FITZ OF LAUGHTER COMICS TBC Thurs 5 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 5 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall
KEVIN BRIDGES Fri 6 Nov, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
JIMMY CARR Fri 6 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham
DAN CLARK Fri 6 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham
NISH KUMAR Fri 6 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch
GARETH RICHARDS, HAYLEY ELLIS & MATT WINNING Fri 6 Nov, The Courtyard, Hereford
JONNY AWSUM, SAM HARLAND, STUART MITCHELL Fri 6 Nov, Mode, Worcester
RUDI LICKWOOD, GLENDA JAXON & JUNIOR BOOKER Fri 6 Nov, The Drum, Birmingham
GEOFF NORCOTT, LUKE TOULSON & TOBY HADDOKE Fri 6 Nov, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham
MIKE BUBBINS, CHRIS MCCAUSLAND, ED GAMBLE & CARL DONNELLY Fri 6 - Sat 7 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
HARRY ENFIELD AND PAUL WHITEHOUSE Sat 7 Nov, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
STEWART FRANCIS Sat 7 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
ADAM HESS & STEVE BUGEJA Sat 7 Nov,

The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham
ANDY KIND, AARON TWITCHEN, LIAM PICKFORD, KATE MCCABE & PAUL SAVAGE Sat 7 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
PAUL HAZELL Sat 7 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
GEOFF NORCOTT, MARK SIMMONS, STUART MITCHELL & JENNY COLLIER Sat 7 Nov, Coventry Showcase
ROBERT NEWMAN Sun 8 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
HAL CRUTTENDEN'S FUNNY FUNDRAISER Sun 8 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
FRED MACAULAY Mon 9 Nov, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield
LOUDEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 9 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham
JIM DAVIDSON Tues 10 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
JENNY ECLAIR Wed 11 Nov, The Courtyard, Hereford
NINA CONTI Wed 11 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall
ROB BECKETT Wed 11 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove
PHIL WANG & ALEX SMITH Thurs 12 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
MILTON JONES Thurs 12 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
NISH KUMAR Thurs 12 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
RUBY WAX Thurs 12 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall
DAVID O'DOHERTY Thurs 12 Nov, mac, B'ham
ROB DEERING, MARTIN MOR & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 12 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JOE LYCETT Thurs 12 - Fri 13 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
RUDI LICKWOOD, GLENDA JAXON & JUNIOR BOOKER Fri 6 Nov, The Drum, Birmingham
HARRY ENFIELD AND PAUL WHITEHOUSE Sat 7 Nov, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
STEWART FRANCIS Sat 7 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
ADAM HESS & STEVE BUGEJA Sat 7 Nov,

ROB DEERING, MARTIN MOR, CHRIS KENT & DAVE FULTON Fri 13 - Sat 14 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
DAVE GORMAN Sat 14 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
HARDEEP SINGH KOHLI Sat 14 Nov, mac, Birmingham
BOBBY MAIR, BRYAN LACEY, DAN EVANS & ADAM HESS Sat 14 Nov, Coventry Showcase
SEAN HUGHES Sun 15 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JUSTIN MOORHOUSE Sun 15 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
FRANKIE BOYLE Sun 15 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 16 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham
HAL CRUTTENDEN Wed 18 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove
BILL BAILEY Wed 18 - Thurs 19 Nov, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
PAM ANN Thurs 19 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
JENNY ECLAIR Thurs 19 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
STUART BLACK, ED POWNALL, JEREMY O'DONNELL & COMIC TBC Thurs 19 Nov, Malvern Theatres
ANDREW BIRD, MICKEY D & COMIC TBC Thurs 19 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ALAN DAVIES Fri 20 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
CHRIS RAMSEY Fri 20 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
GERRY K, TIM CLARK & SPECIAL GUEST Fri 20 Nov, WV1 Restaurant, Wolverhampton
VIC REEVES & BOB MORTIMER Fri 20 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ROBERT NEWMAN Fri 20 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
JIM DAVIDSON Fri 20 Nov, Bedworth Civic Hall, Warwickshire
ANDREW BIRD, MICKEY D, JO CAULFIELD & PRINCE ABDI Fri 20 - Sat 21 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham
JUNIOR SIMPSON, SEAN PERCIVAL, MARK OLVER & JOE BROMEHEAD Fri 20 - Sat 21 Nov, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham
FESTIVAL OF THE SPOKEN NERD Sat 21 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall
SEAN HUGHES Sat 21 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
RUBY WAX Sat 21 Nov, Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-Upon-Avon
KAREN BAYLEY, SUSAN MURRAY, PAUL PIRIE & TJ MCDONALD Sat 21 Nov, Coventry Showcase
THE NOISE NEXT DOOR Sat 21 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
JAY HANDLEY Sat 21 Nov, mac, Birmingham
BARNSTORMERS COMEDY



David O'Doherty

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 12 November

David O'Doherty is obsessive about stand-up comedy. "The trouble with being obsessive," explains the thirty-nine-year-old Dubliner, "is that it makes having a normal life really tricky. The obsession even impacts on something like having an argument with your girlfriend. Even though you're both crying, at the back of your mind you've registered the fact that what she's said is so funny you're going to use it in the act."

NIGHT Line-up tbc, Sat 21 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove
JENNY ECLAIR Sun 22 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
VIC REEVES & BOB MORTIMER Mon 23 Nov, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
JENNY ECLAIR Thurs 26 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
NISH KUMAR Thurs 26 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
DAVE GORMAN Thurs 26 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ROBERT NEWMAN Thurs 26 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove
JOE LYCETT Thurs 26 Nov, Station Pub,

Sutton Coldfield
JAMALI MADDIX, DANA ALEXANDER & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 26 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ADAM KAY Thurs 26 Nov, mac, Birmingham
MITCH BENN Fri 27 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
FESTIVAL OF THE SPOKEN NERD Fri 27 Nov, Solihull Arts Complex
JEREMY HARDY Fri 27 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove
SARAH MILLICAN Fri 27 - Sat 28 Nov, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
GEOFF NORCOTT, JOJO SMITH, ROBERT WHITE & JIM CAMPBELL Fri 27 - Sat 28 Nov, Jongleurs

Comedy Club, Birmingham
JAMALI MADDIX, DANA ALEXANDER, JARRED CHRISTMAS & TIM CLARK Fri 27 - Sat 28 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
MATT FORDE Sat 28 Nov, Evesham Arts Centre
JARLETH REGAN, RO CAMPBELL, ADAM ROWE & CHRIS BETTS Sat 28 Nov, Coventry Showcase
DAVE GORMAN Sun 29 Nov, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
SARAH MILLICAN Sun 29 Nov, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
SEAN MCLOUGHLIN Sun 29 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham.

Andrew Bird, The Glee Club, Birmingham



feature

Games Without Frontiers

Regent's Park Theatre's *Lord Of The Flies* comes to the Birmingham REP



William Golding's dystopian novel, *Lord Of The Flies*, recounts the story of a group of boys stranded on an uninhabited island who try to govern themselves.

An outdoor stage adaptation of the story is this month being brought to The REP by London's award-winning Regent's Park Theatre.

Here, Heather Kincaid talks to the show's director, Timothy Sheader, about the play, Golding's classic novel, and the challenges of shifting an outdoor production indoors...

Bags, suitcases and assorted laundry spill out into the audience and over the surrounding trees, belched indiscriminately from the ragged, metal-toothed maw of an aeroplane's severed corpse.

The piled luggage is an incongruous splash of colour in an otherwise dull and forbidding set, a disconcerting reminder of the ordinary lives its fictional owners left behind.

Before an actor's foot has even graced the stage, the heightened drama of this scene anticipates the explosive impact of the show to follow: a well-timed, touring revival of Regent's Park's 2011 *Lord Of The Flies*, visiting the Birmingham REP this month.

With the original production having played in the open-air theatre to rave reviews and widespread acclaim, its success was, according to director Timothy Sheader, a key factor in the company's decision to begin touring its work.

"There's such a lack of quality touring drama today, particularly for young audiences. It's noticeably diminished in my theatre-going lifetime," he laments. "I was really proud of this production as a piece of work for younger audiences, and that made me think that four weeks perhaps wasn't quite enough to exploit it in this venue."

While the story might concern children, it's certainly not for the faint-hearted. Like William Golding, Sheader is unflinching in his portrayal of children's capacity for committing, and falling victim to, atrocities. This subject, he feels, could be more relevant now than ever.

"Unfortunately, I don't think this story goes out of date. We're even more exposed to these kind of events today than people were in the 1950s [when *Lord Of The Flies* was written]. Then, it was more of a 'what if?'. Now, we've all seen terribly tragic examples of violence from and against children and young people in the news - whether it's child soldiers in Africa, teenage girls running away to Syria, or horrible youth gangs and murder cases in disenfranchised pockets of our own country."

Today, the devastation that opens this play will look uncomfortably familiar to anyone with a television set or internet connection. Yet even surrounded by such horrors, Sheader states that he does not support what some have taken to be Golding's message - the notion of an innate evil in humanity that inevitably manifests in the absence of law and order. With this in mind, I wonder whether there's a difference between directing an adaptation and working from an original script.

"I think it is different because you've always got that original source material to hand. It's not that one doesn't trust the playwright or changes their words, but going back to the original text can help to understand their choices."

The play itself seems fairly unambiguous in its conclusions about where the responsibility for children's atrocities lies. The 'beast' that becomes a symbol of the boys' murderousness is born from the fevered imagination of the youngest character, who discovers a dead soldier strung from a tree by his own parachute. This adult - a trained killer - hangs like a grotesque spectre over the kids as they act out a micro version of the war they have been sent away from. Bearing silent, passive witness to the carnage, as we might a lurid news broadcast, we the audience become complicit, too.

Despite its earlier achievements, there have inevitably been some changes to the production since 2011.

"It's been edited, so it's shorter and tighter," says Sheader. "I think it's better. But the most important thing is that the actors have changed. They're different people with different backgrounds, so that affects how the story is told."

Led by Luke Ward-Wilkinson and Freddie Watkins as warring 'chiefs' Ralph and Jack, the cast's professionalism is astonishing. Performances crackle with a raw, electrifying energy, their nuance, confidence and complexity belying the actors' years. It's rare enough to come across a faultless cast, rarer still to discover so much talent among actors this inexperienced, but Sheader and his team have managed the seemingly impossible task of assembling the right lads for the job.

"It was really hard," he confesses. "We met three hundred-and-sixty boys. They had to be at least eighteen, and we're playing them as about fourteen in our heads, which is older than in the novel, but it's as young as they could get away with. We had to consider height, physicality and the right mix of skills. They have to be strong and physically adept. Acting-wise they're so inexperienced that it mostly came down to intuition." It makes sense that such recent school-leavers would instinctively recognise themselves and their classmates in the characters. Still, the sheer hard work involved in creating this show should not be underestimated.

Luckily, inclement weather hasn't been something that cast or crew have particularly had to battle with during this run - though sometimes even this can be a blessing in disguise.

"We only stop performances for health and safety reasons, not for the comfort of the performers or the audience, so there's a tacit agreement that we'll carry on. The best strategy is just to prepare everybody and ensure the right call is made. And actually, the production is made for all sorts of weather. I imagine that the killing of Simon would look fantastic in the rain." Weather isn't the only variable in open-air

productions. For an outdoor theatre director, there's plenty to consider - including the effect of natural changes in the light as day turns to night. This transformation ties in neatly with *Lord Of The Flies*' story of descent into savage chaos. Sheader believes that the revival has benefited from scheduling later in the season (the original production ran in May), with the deeper, earlier darkness rendering certain scenes even more chilling. Matinees, meanwhile, tend to be a little less scary, thus better suited to younger viewers. As artistic director of Regent's Park, Sheader brings the 'helpful baggage' of these considerations to every show, his uniquely privileged knowledge of the space informing programming decisions.

"I look for big stories with an epic quality, concerned with ideas and often with non-naturalistic language. It's got to be robust enough to stand up to ambient noise and distractions. And popular - 'populist' is often seen as a shameful thing to say in theatre, but I want to encourage as many different types of people into the theatre as possible, because I think this is the perfect place for breaking down boundaries."

From its contemporary resonances to its huge scale and ambition, *Lord Of The Flies* certainly fits the bill. But will there be noticeable differences when the play arrives on an indoor stage in Birmingham?

"This production is designed for indoor theatres. I was initially worried that the new set would look small on our stage here. [In 2011], we used a real aeroplane that was lifted in by crane. This is all scenic, so it can be flat-packed and put in a van. What we won't have are the trees, so for the backdrop we'll have layers of painted cloths." Having studied in Birmingham, Sheader is looking forward to returning, noting its move towards a more creative, 'European' vibe in recent years.

In late February, the play will also show at nearby Warwick Arts Centre. Perhaps this tour will pave the way for more Regent's Park productions to visit the Midlands in the future...



Lord Of The Flies shows at **Birmingham REP** from Tues 3 to Sat 7 November, and then at **Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry**, from Tues 23 to Sat 27 February.



BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Autumn 2015 A new look for a new season

Jesus Christ SUPERSTAR
TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBERS
TIM ROGERS, GLENN CARTER, RACHEL ADEDEJI

Mon 2 - Sat 7 Nov
From £18

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Tue 10 & Wed 11 Nov
From £15

WNO
I puritani
Bellini
Orlando
Handel
NEW PRODUCTION

Tue 17 & Wed 18 Nov
From £16.50

DARA O BRIAIN

Thu 12 - Sat 14 Nov
£23

WNO
Sweeney Todd
Sondheim
NEW PRODUCTION

Thu 19 - Sat 21 Nov
From £16.50

Matthew Bourne's
SLEEPING BEAUTY
A GOTHIC ROMANCE

Tue 9 - Sat 13 Feb
From £18.50

MARY POPPINS

Wed 9 Mar - Sat 23 Apr
From £25

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
The Nutcracker

Fri 27 Nov - Sun 13 Dec
From £19

MARTI PELLOW JULIAN CLARY LEE MEAD MATT SLACK
Ataddin
The Magical 3D Pantomime Adventure!

Sat 19 Dec - Sun 31 Jan
From £14

Theatre



Jesus Christ Superstar

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 2 - Sat 7 November

X Factor finalist Rachel Adedeji (starring as Mary Magdalene) joins leading musical theatre performers Glenn Carter and Tim Rogers in this new touring version of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's phenomenal rock opera.

The production was the legendary duo's second collaboration and highlights the political and interpersonal struggles of Judas Iscariot

and Jesus of Nazareth.

With hits like I Don't Know How To Love Him, Hosanna, What's The Buzz? and, of course, the title track itself to recommend it, the show remains one of the most visually startling in the history of musical theatre. *Read our interview with Glenn Carter at whatsonlive.co.uk*



Queen Anne

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 19 November - Sat 23 January

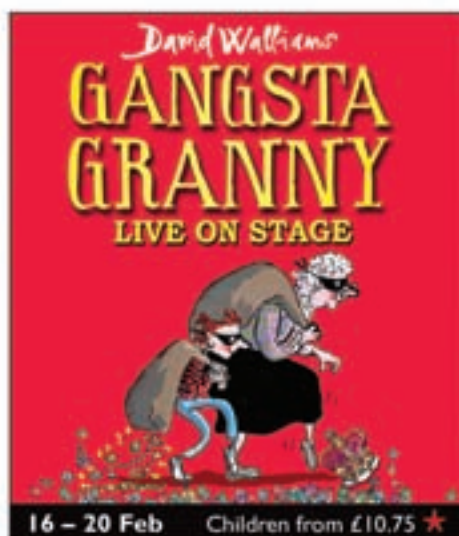
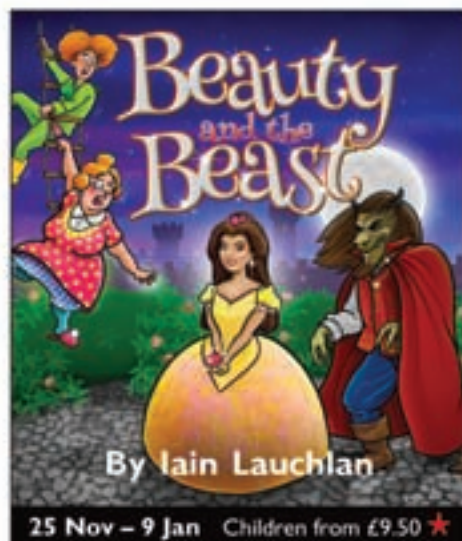
Helen Edmundson's new play recounts the eighteenth century story of a princess about to become a queen. With William III on the throne and England on the verge of war, Anne finds her advisers vying hard to exert influence over her. But when her close friend the Duchess of Marlborough begins to apply increasing pressure to the future monarch, Anne must decide whether to sacrifice her closest relationships for the sake of the country... Inspector Lewis and Holby City actress Emma Cunniffe (above in rehearsals) stars as Queen Anne.

Beryl

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 24 - Sat 28 November

Five times world pursuit champion, thirteen times national pursuit champion and twice road-racing world champion, unsung sporting legend Beryl Burton was a truly remarkable woman, bagging cycling title after cycling title while at the same time managing to be both a wife and a mother. Maxine Peake's critically acclaimed play celebrates the achievements of this record-breaking performer who, during her all-too-short lifetime, was awarded both an OBE and an MBE.





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.

Cyrano De Bergerac

The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Wed 11 - Sat 14 November

Edmond Rostand's famous 1897 play tells the tale of the poet and soldier of the title, Cyrano de Bergerac, who is desperate to win the love of the beautiful Lady Roxane. His efforts to do so, however, are somewhat complicated by the fact he's got a proboscis that's almost as big as the Eiffel Tower (that's an exaggeration for effect, obviously, but you get the idea).

Second Thoughts Drama Group are the troupe responsible for bringing this production to the Bear Pit Theatre stage.

La Merda

mac, Birmingham, Sun 8 - Mon 9 November

If you like your performers to keep their clothes on during a production, La Merda - which, translated, means Shit - is most definitely not the show for you.

Be warned, though - you will be missing an award-winning hour of theatre that's variously been described as 'mesmerising', 'compelling' and 'terrifying'.

Silvia Gallerano is naked throughout as she reveals her secrets and desires, not least among which is a hatred of her own thighs and a yearning for celebrity that's so strong she'd even eat faeces to achieve it...



Strictly Balti

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 November

Saikat is torn between the familiar sights of Birmingham and the mysteries of Bangladesh. And his parents aren't being particularly helpful in his struggle to make sense of his dual-identity either, with the 'horrors' of ballroom dancing being just one of the humiliations to which he finds himself subjected...



Guys And Dolls

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 24 November - Sat 5 December

The award-winning Sophie Thompson and David Haig here headline a high-energy cast alongside Jamie Parker.

Opening on a Broadway bustling with tourists and chorus girls, this legendary musical finds Nathan Detroit in dire need of some gambling money. Luckily for Nathan, he counts among his acquaintances Sky Masterson, one of the greatest gamblers in the country and a man who'll bet on pretty much anything. "For a close relationship that can last us through all the years of our life," says Sky, "no doll can take the place of aces back to back."

When Nathan bets Sky he can persuade Sarah Brown of the Save A Soul mission to go to Cuba with him, the stage is set for a warm-hearted tale of love and laughter.

Expect nifty dancing, high-stakes gambling, a little repenting and some truly fabulous Broadway numbers, including Luck Be A Lady and Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat.



Broken Glass

Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 13 - Sat 21 November

When Sir Antony Sher starred in a production of Arthur Miller's Broken Glass, he hailed the play for having 'the fearlessness of a young man's response to the world' - a quality made all the more remarkable by the fact that the playwright was seventy-eight years of age when he wrote it.

When Sylvia suddenly becomes paralysed after reading reports of Nazi Germany, Dr Harry Hyman is called in. As the doctor homes in on the source of Sylvia's problems, themes of guilt, personal tragedy and love begin to unfold...

seriously weird sisters." All of which should make it abundantly apparent that this is no ordinary version of Shakespeare's famous tragedy. "Our aim," the Pantaloons explain, "is to recapture an aspect of Shakespeare's drama which the modern naturalistic theatre has lost: the riotous energy of the clown."

Jekyll & Hyde

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 18 - Sat 21 November

Dr Jekyll is not himself! Robert Louis Stevenson's gothic novella is a dark, twisted tale of love, redemption and the seductive power of evil. A bonafide literary classic, it tells the story of a brilliant but obsessive scientist whose sadistic alter-ego wreaks havoc and mayhem on the fog-shrouded streets of Victorian London...

Brummegem Pals

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Sat 7 November; Solihull Arts Complex, Mon 9 - Tues 10 November; Stratford Arts House, Thurs 12 November

Popular Midlands comedians and long-time chums Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean came together last year to write this thought-provoking story about two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of the Great War. Seventeen-year-old best pals Jackie and Danny are looking for adventure. When war is declared, they sign up to one of Field Marshal Lord Kitchener's Pals Battalions - and look ahead to a conflict that everybody imagined would be over by Christmas...

The Glass Menagerie

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 10 - Sat 14 November

One of Tennessee Williams' most famous, widely admired and often-performed works, The Glass Menagerie is based on narrator Tom's recollections of his mother Amanda and his sister Laura.

Abandoned by her husband years earlier, Amanda hopes that her crippled daughter Laura may one day enjoy the comforts and admiration that she herself had once experienced, during her days as a fêted Southern belle.

Meanwhile, Laura's brother Tom yearns for a future away from the family home and the suffocating attentions of his overbearing mother...

Macbeth

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 17 November

"We here take cues from film noir, gangland Britain and the clowning tradition," explain the critically acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company, "to present a take on 'the Scottish play' that features femmes fatale, high-speed chases, killer lines, killer crimes and some



Blue Orange Theatre presents

Jekyll & Hyde

based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson

WARNING: This show contains moments of strong violence and threat.

Wednesday 18th November - Saturday 21st November

The Blue Orange Theatre
118 Great Hampton Street, Birmingham, B18 6AD
www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk
BOX OFFICE 0121 212 2643

BARBARA NICE'S COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS
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15TH - 23RD DECEMBER

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Theatre Shows November 2015

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13	Rock Anthems <i>GoGa return to celebrate some of the greatest rock songs of all time.</i> £15	
14	MAMA The Genesis Tribute Band <i>A marvellous 3 hour show.</i> £16.50	
24	Growing Old Disgracefully <i>Agony Aunt Virginia Ironside in a one woman show. Ages 16+</i> £12 (£10)	
26	Jazz At The Movies <i>Jazzy spin on the evocative songs and themes from classic films including Disney, The Pink Panther, Agatha, From Russia With Love, and much more!</i> £16	
27	Festival Of The Spoken Nerd <i>Feed you brain, tickle your ribs and light your bunson burner in this comedy show for the sci-curious.</i> For ages 14+ £15(£13)	

Box Office: 0121 704 6962
www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk

Curious

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 8 November; The REP, Birmingham, Sat 21 November

Tam Tam Theatre's production - described as 'a laugh-out-loud experience for the very young and the curiously inquisitive' - brings together kitchen and garden, extolls the virtues of dirt, and illustrates how messiness can conjure up the most perfect of birthday surprises.

At the end of the performance, children are invited to create their own recipes by digging in soft, moist soil.



The 3 Of Us

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 27 - Sun 29 November

This thought-provoking production explores the triangles that so often exist in people's everyday interactions - triangles that can sometimes lead to complications within friendships, relationships, work and family. The show blends contemporary musical theatre and rock music.



The Mousetrap

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 9 - Sat 14 November

Not only has everyone heard of The Mousetrap, everyone's seen it too - haven't they? Okay, maybe not, but as the show recently celebrated its sixtieth year in the West End, it's fair to say its capacity to put bums on seats is absolutely beyond question. The world's longest running production, the famous Agatha Christie play has been performed over twenty-five thousand times.



Sweeney Todd

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 November

The hugely talented Welsh National Opera make a welcome return to the region with this critically acclaimed version of Stephen Sondheim's Broadway hit. Described as a musical thriller, the show follows the diabolical endeavours of demon barber Sweeney Todd and his pie-making accomplice, Mrs Lovett, as they slice and bake their way through London.

This James Brining version sees the blood-letting action transposed to the late 1970s.

The Legend Of King Arthur

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 26 - Fri 27 November

Although many funsters Oddsocks are probably best known for their humorous takes on the works of William Shakespeare, they occasionally like to shake things up a bit by looking for their inspiration elsewhere. This is one such occasion. Magic, music, mirth, jousting knights - and an impressively gutsy Guinevere - are all present and correct in this high-energy production. The company are promoting the show as 'an exciting, interactive and action-packed winter treat for all the family'.



Learned Friends

Warwick Crown Court, Sun 29 November

The historic setting of Warwick's former Crown Court provides the unique backdrop against which this brand new production unfolds.

Described as a 'high-stakes drama', the play finds Prosecution and Defence counsel awaiting the verdict in the trial of a high-profile football manager, with numerous 'startling revelations' threatening not only relationships and careers but also the true course of justice...

During the performance, the cast and audience move between the main hall and a court room. Each performance is preceded by a historic introduction to the Court. Audience members can also purchase £4 tickets for post-show tours of the cells and dungeon.

Season's Greetings

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Tues 3 - Fri 6 November

Alan Ayckbourn's festive frolic is an absolute classic, and is here presented by Wythall Theatre Company.

With Christmas traditionally being a time of great stress and tension, it's hardly surprising that a gathering of the clan at Belinda and Neville's house comes with its fair share of issues. But with a frustrated wife, a seductive stranger, two eccentric uncles and a mechanical monkey in the mix, the 'season to be jolly' looks set to become even more explosive than anyone could've imagined...

Hetty Feather

Malvern Theatre, Wed 18 - Sun 22 November

"She's very naughty, very difficult but full of spirit," says author Jacqueline Wilson of her character Hetty Feather. A child of the Victorian era, Hetty was left at the Foundling Hospital when she was a baby and has grown up to have a famously short fuse.

Featuring all the best-loved characters from the hugely popular books - including the frightening Matron 'Stinking' Bottomly - this well-reviewed touring show is suitable for children aged seven and older.



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hairspray

MON 14 DEC - SAT 2 JAN

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THU 19 NOVEMBER

TASTE

Inspired by the tapestries of Grayson Perry, Taste is a delicious romp of a show with humour, and playfulness at its heart. Blending dance and drama, and exploring what defines our identity, Taste might just be your cup of tea!



THU 17 DECEMBER

SAFETY LAST

Following their wonderfully received accompaniment to *The General* & *Phantom Of The Opera*, **Unsafe Movies** make their 3rd appearance with a brand new live soundtrack to this classic Harold Lloyd silent movie.



SUN 20 - SAT 26 DECEMBER

DEAR SANTA

From the author of Dear Zoo, comes a special treat for Christmas, Dear Santa. A perfect introduction to theatre for those aged 2 to 7 years old, this is sure to be one Christmas present children and parents alike will never forget.



Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Commencing SUN 1 NOV

GREAT EXPECTATIONS The Crescent Theatre Company presents its version of Charles Dickens' classic tale, until Sat 7 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET Presented by Blue Orange Arts in association with Night Project Theatre, until Sat 7 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

RELATIVELY SPEAKING Bear Pit Theatre Company present Alan Ayckbourn's comic masterpiece, until Sat 7 Nov, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

LOVE FOR LOVE Selina Cadell makes her RSC directorial debut with Congreve's restoration comedy, where love for love is stronger than love for money, until Fri 22 Jan, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

TREE FU TOM LIVE Children's show starring the world's smallest superhero, direct from the smash-hit CBeebies series, Sun 1 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

HOW THE KOALA LEARNT TO HUG A charming tale about the magic of family and the importance of a nice warm hug! Based on the book *How The Koala Learnt To Hug*, by Steven Lee, this charming production is back on tour for its fifth anniversary celebration, Sun 1 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DIVORCE PAPERS Following his huge success with *Dolly House* in 2014, Jamaica's king of comedy Oliver Samuels is back with another blockbuster, Sun 1 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MILKSHAKE LIVE Starring Milkshake presenter Amy and some of the channel's favourite characters, this new show is sure to have children singing and dancing, Sun 1 Nov, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

HE HAD HAIRY HANDS Kill The Beast presents its critically acclaimed 1970s detective werewolf mystery, wrapped up in an 'hilarious Hammer Horror', Mon 2 Nov, mac, Birmingham

TEECHERS South Staffordshire College Performing Arts present an amateur staging of John Godber's classroom comedy, Mon 2 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

ALADDIN Timeless pantomime presented by Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Musical Society, Mon 2 - Thurs 5 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

KING CHARLES III Robert Powell takes the lead in Mike Bartlett's Olivier Award-winning future history play, Mon 2 - Sat 7 Nov, Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire (read the review at whatsonlive.co.uk)

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical, starring Glenn Carter as Jesus, Tim Rogers as Judas Iscariot and X Factor finalist Rachel Adedaji as Mary Magdalene, Mon 2 - Sat 7 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD South Staffordshire College Performing Arts present Charlotte Keatley's play, which explores the difficult relationships between mothers and daughters, Tues 3 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

LOST IN SPACES Award-winning writer, poet, performer and rights activist Penny Pepper presents her highly anticipated one-woman show which interweaves the personal and the universal, drawing on long-kept journals mixed with poetry, spoken word and music, Tues 3 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

GOING GREEN Opus Theatre present David Tristram's latest comedy, Tues 3 Nov, Bedworth Civic Hall

IN THE MOTHERHOOD World premiere of Hayley Pepper's new play, Tues 3 - Wed 4 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

SEASON'S GREETINGS A comedy by Alan Ayckbourn about the misery and high jinks of an average family Christmas, Tues 3 - Fri 6 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BRAVE NEW WORLD A Touring Consortium Theatre Company and Royal & Derngate Northampton production of Aldous Huxley's fantasy of the future, Tues 3 - Sat 7 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

FLARE PATH The stories of RAF bomber crews in World War Two and their sweethearts at home, waiting for their return, Tues 3 - Sat 7 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

LORD OF THE FLIES Great Leap Forward present William Golding's twentieth century classic, Tues 3 - Sat 7 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

CRAZY FOR YOU St Alphege Musical Production Society present an amateur production of the much-loved Gershwin musical, Tues 3 - Sat 7 Nov, Solihull Arts Complex

ONLY FOOLS AND... BOYCIE An intimate evening with actor John Challis, Wed 4 Nov, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

GHOST OPERA Award-winning Fellswoop Theatre present

a two-hander concerning two strangers, both haunted by living ghosts, Wed 4 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LEMONS, LEMONS, LEMONS, LEMONS, LEMONS A two-hander which imagines a world where we're forced to say less, Wed 4 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

'ALLO 'ALLO Stafford Players present an amateur staging of David Croft & Jeremy Lloyd's comedy, based on the popular TV series, Wed 4 - Sat 7 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

LES MISERABLES Amateur production presented by West Bromwich Operatic Society, Wed 4 - Sat 7 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

THE WIZARD OF OZ Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur version of the much-loved musical, Wed 4 - Sun 8 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LOSERS Tit4Twat present a performance which blurs lines between interactive theatre, live art and cabaret, Thurs 5 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ONLY FOOLS & BOYCIE An intimate evening with actor John Challis, Thurs 5 Nov, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

SOME PEOPLE TALK ABOUT VIOLENCE Barrel Organ explore what violence means and what it might look like. Showing as part of Emerge Festival, Thurs 5 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SPIRIT OF THE BLITZ: 75TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE Special commemorative show celebrating the songs and stars that kept Britain smiling through its darkest days, Thurs 5 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

LET THE RIGHT ONE IN A stage adaptation by Jack Thorne, based on the novel and film by John Ajvide Lindqvist, Thurs 5 - Sat 7 Nov, Dream Factory, Warwick

ROCK 'N' ROLL TO BROADWAY Presented by Brownhills Musical Theatre Company and featuring iconic musical numbers from the past to the present, Thurs 5 - Sat 7 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

GET HAPPY: THE JUDY GARLAND STORY Linder Productions present international musical theatre actress Sally Jones in a celebration of the life story of the legendary Judy Garland, Fri 6 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

A WULFRUN HOME An inclusive community cast of performers from Arty Party in Telford, WoW Theatre in Wolverhampton and children from local Wolverhampton schools use dance, theatre, film and storytelling to share their ideas, thoughts and visions about home, Fri 6 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

PYGMALION London Contemporary Theatre presents its version of the story of phonetics expert Henry Higgins and his social experiment - Eliza Doolittle, Fri 6 Nov, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

MMORPG Improvised comedy with table top gaming where every show is different, Fri 6 - Sat 7 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

STORIES FROM A CROWDED ROOM Earthfall presents its twenty-fifth anniversary production in which it explores stories in motion through highly physical dance, live music, text and encircling film, Fri 6 - Sat 7 Nov, mac, Birmingham

I AM JACK The Swan Youth Theatre present an amateur staging of William Douglas' 'gripping' new play, exploring the man behind the monster that was Jack The Ripper, Fri 6 - Sat 7 Nov, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE ROADLESS TRIP Artsadmin present Sarah Woods' participatory theatrical experience which fuses various creative elements to explore and create a positive future, Sat 7 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

CLICK.COM Rural Theatre Players present Paul Costello's comic romp through the joys and pitfalls of internet dating for 'mature' people, Sat 7 Nov, The Coach House, Malvern Theatre

OZZIE AND THE SECRET FOREST Fun, songs and audience participation for two-to-nine-year-olds, Sat 7 Nov, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

SHE CALLED ME MOTHER Starring Cathy Tyson, directed by Cara Nolan, Sat 7 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

BRUMMEGEM PALS A new play, written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean, Brummegem Pals is a moving story of two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of the Great War, Sat 7 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE OWL WHO WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK A blend of live music, puppetry and storytelling, based on the classic children's book by Jill Tomlinson. Suitable for three-to-seven-year-olds, Sat 7 Nov, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

A TRANSLATION OF SHADOWS Stan's Cafe explore the role of a Benshi, a narrator of the first silent films to arrive in Japan, Sat 7 Nov, Warwick Arts Shadows, Coventry

BABES IN THE WOOD Encore Academy give a modern twist to a classic fairytale, Sat 7 Nov, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

CRAZY GLUE Single Shoe Productions present a tragic-comedy about loss, inspired by Etgar Keret's short story, Sat 7 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

JOAN An earthy story of courage, conviction, hope, survival and love, Sat 7 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE BOY WHO BIT PICASSO With storytelling, music and lots of chances to make your own art, this hands-on



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9-14 November, 7.30pm
Saturday Matinee 2.30pm
Little Theatre Company presents
The Flint Street Nativity
Tickets £10, Conc. £9



17 November, 1pm
Chetham's School of Music
Tickets £10, Students £5



19 November, 8pm
Shappi Korszandi: Because I'm Shappi
Tickets £14, Conc. £12



28 November, 8pm
The Madhouse presents
Pete Riley & Shamona
Tickets £10 adv., Old £12

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



1&2 December, 1.30pm & 6.30pm
Box Clever Theatre presents
A Christmas Carol
Tickets £8, Conc. £6, Students & Children £5



12 December, 8pm
The Madhouse presents
Luke Jackson & Annabelle Bartram
Tickets £10 adv., Old £12



18 December, 1.30pm & 6.30pm
The People's Theatre Company presents
Santa In Love
Tickets £8.50 includes a present for each child

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JOE BROWN
IN CONCERT
WED 18 NOV



EMBARK ON A MUSICAL
JOURNEY WITH
JOOLS HOLLAND
AND HIS RHYTHM AND
BLUES ORCHESTRA
THU 5 NOV



A MUSICAL
EXTRAVAGANZA WITH
THE DRIFTERS
THU 19 NOV



CLASSIC ROCK SHOW
VAMPIRES ROCK
THE GHOST TRAIN
SUN 08 NOV



A TRIBUTE NOT TO BE MISSED
**THE ELO
EXPERIENCE**
FRI 20 NOV



SAINT PETERSBURG CLASSIC
BALLET PRESENTS
**THE
NUTCRACKER**
THU 12 - FRI 13 NOV



AN EXPLOSION OF LOVE
AND TREACHERY IN
ELLEN KENT'S
TOSCA
SAT 21 NOV



ACOUSTIC POWERHOUSE
SHOW OF HANDS
FRI 13 NOV



PREPARE FOR A LAUGH WITH
**HARRY ENFIELD &
PAUL WHITEHOUSE:
LEGENDS**
SUN 22 NOV



THEY WILL ROCK YOU
MERCURY
THE ULTIMATE
QUEEN TRIBUTE
SAT 14 NOV



ROCK OUT WITH
**THE ILLEGAL
EAGLES**
SAT 28 NOV



RELIVE TIMELESS HITS IN
**HALFWAY TO
PARADISE**
THE BILLY FURY STORY
WED 18 NOV



SWASHBUCKLING
PANTOMIME FUN
PETER PAN
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Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

family show introduces one of the twentieth century's most influential artists through the eyes of a young boy. Be sure to wear some play-clothes because it's going to get messy! Sat 7 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

APPRENTICES: THE PREVIEW SHOW A brand new stage play written by Alexandra Johnson to mark eighty years of the home of the Albany Theatre, Sat 7 Nov, Albany Theatre, Coventry

HOME FIRES BURNING A brand new series of short plays which explore the intrigue, excitement and heartbreak of WWI. Directed by Ian Craddock, all works are penned by local writers from the Big Script and performed by local actors, Sat 7 - Fri 13 Nov, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

HAUNTING JULIA Alan Ayckbourn's haunting study of grief, obsession & the supernatural, Sat 7 - Sat 14 Nov, Oldbury Rep

CURIOUS A play with few words, described as a laugh-out-loud experience for the very young and the curiously inquisitive, Sun 8 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LA MERDA Cristian Ceresoli's critically acclaimed play sees a 'young, ugly and literally naked' Silvia Gallerano reveal her revolting secrets, Sun 8 - Mon 9 Nov, mac, Birmingham

Week Commencing MON 9 NOV

SALLY MORGAN: PSYCHIC SALLY ON THE ROAD Mon 9 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

BRUMMEGEM PALS A new play, written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean, Brummegem Pals is a moving story of two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of the Great War, Mon 9 - Tues 10 Nov, Solihull Arts Complex

THE MOUSETRAP Touring production of Agatha Christie's famous thriller - the longest running show in the history of British theatre, Mon 9 - Sat 14 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE FULL MONTY Gary Lucy, Andrew Dunn, Louis Emerick, Rupert Hill, Martin Miller & Bobby Schofield star in Simon Beaufoy's rip-roaring staging of his classic film, Mon 9 - Sat 14 Nov, Malvern Theatre

MISS JULIE A young woman falls for her father's valet, with severe consequences, Mon 9 - Sat 14 Nov, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL Four schools perform four different Shakespeare plays, Tues 10 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE GLASS MENAGERIE Headlong present Tennessee Williams' classic play concerning a frustrated mother, a daughter lost in her imagination, and a son intent on rebellion, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

HAIRSPRAY Bilston Operatic Company present an amateur staging of the hit Broadway musical, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

WAITING FOR GODOT London Classic Theatre presents the Samuel Beckett classic, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

TAKIN' OVER THE ASYLUM St John's Players present an amateur staging of Donna Franceschild's cult 1994 TV series starring David Tennant and Ken Stott, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Nov, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE FALCON'S MALTESER Film noir pastiche which follows the adventures of hopelessly inept private detective Tim Diamond and his sharp-witted brother, Nick, Tues 10 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DR JEKYLL & MR HYDE Presented by Ambient Night Productions. May not be suitable for young children, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

DARK AND LOVELY Selina Thompson discusses afro hair, its politics, its connotations, its history and what it tells us about being Black, British and female in the UK today, Wed 11 - Sat 14 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED Middle Ground Theatre Company Ltd presents a lavish new production of a classic Miss Marple mystery, Wed 11 - Sat 14 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

GREASE Amateur production presented by Coventry Youth Operetta Group, Wed 11 - Sat 14 Nov,

Albany Theatre, Coventry

CYRANO DE BERGERAC Second Thoughts Drama Group present an amateur production of Edmund Rostand's classic tragi-comic story, Wed 11 - Sat 14 Nov, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

VAMPIRES ROCK Thurs 12 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BRUMMEGEM PALS A new play, written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean. A moving story of two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of the Great War, Thurs 12 Nov, Stratford Artshouse

DRACULA Bram Stoker's classic tale of the vampire, Thurs 12 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

CINDERELLA Birmingham Youth Theatre present a new version of the classic rags-to-riches story, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 Nov, The Old Rep, Birmingham

PUBLIC ADDRESS: THE SOAP BOX TOUR Featuring an ensemble of spoken word artists whose unique voices hail from all corners of the UK, Fri 13 Nov, mac, Birmingham

THE SISSY'S PROGRESS Part installation, part dance-theatre, part walking performance, The Sissy's Progress engages the violence of city life and the contradictions of gender politics. This performance forms part of SHOUT Festival, Fri 13 Nov, mac, Birmingham

BRUMMEGEM PALS A new play, written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean, Brummegem Pals is a moving story of two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of the Great War, Fri 13 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

ROMEO & JULIET Immersion Theatre present an 'exhilarating adaptation' of the greatest love story ever told, Fri 13 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DANGEROUS CORNER The Billesley Players present an amateur production of JB Priestley's classic thriller of secrets and lies, Fri 13 - Sat 14 Nov, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

BROKEN GLASS Arthur Miller's play tells a story of love, guilt and personal tragedy while focusing on Philip & Sylvia Gellburg, a New York couple living in Brooklyn in 1938, Fri 13 - Sat 21 Nov, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

GLORILLA A primal comedy from French/English comedy duo Spitz & Co, Sat 14 Nov, Artrix, Birmingham

THE SINGULAR EXPLOITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES A high-energy one-man show featuring a plethora of dashing heroes, villainous rogues and vintage thrills, Sat 14 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BRUMMEGEM PALS A new play, written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean, Brummegem Pals is a moving story of two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of the Great War, Sat 14 Nov, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore

BROKEN Groundbreaking piece of theatre exploring the stories of seven women, each one highlighting issues that cause emotional pain, Sat 14 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE MIS CAST MUSICALS CONCERT A refreshing spin on well-known musical theatre, presented in a way never before seen, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG Voices In Partnership present Stephen Sondheim's musical, which tells the fictional story of one-time Broadway composer Franklin Shepard, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Nov, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

TWELFTH NIGHT The Crescent Theatre Company present Shakespeare's popular comedy of mischief, madness and infatuation, Sat 14 - Sat 28 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT Little Angel Theatre bring Michael Rosen's much-loved children's book to life in a new puppetry production featuring music and lyrics by renowned singer-songwriter Barb Jung, Sat 14 - Sun 29 Nov, mac, Birmingham

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE Frank Capra's iconic film, retold as a radio play, Sun 15 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Week Commencing MON 16 NOV

THE OMMA N CHAIN SHOWCASE An evening of live entertainment showcasing performers with strong connections to the region, Mon 16 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE SCARECROWS' WEDDING Scamp Theatre present a heart-warming adaptation of Julie Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's new bestselling book. Suitable for ages three-plus, Mon 16 - Wed 18 Nov, Malvern Theatres

ABSENT FRIENDS London Classic Theatre present Alan Ayckbourn's exploration of friendship, marriage and what it ultimately means to be happy, Mon 16 - Wed 18 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leaming-

ton Spa

TERRIERS Drama exploring the pressures placed on young people by gang culture, Tues 17 Nov, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

I PURITANI Welsh National Opera present Bellini's English Civil War drama, containing a cavalcade of great opera moments and starring acclaimed tenor Barry Banks, Tues 17 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

MACBETH The Pantaloons Theatre Company put their own contemporary spin on Shakespeare's most dangerous play, Tues 17 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BAREFACED Big Brum Theatre In Education present Chris Cooper's tale of exploration and the remarkable courage of the young people that society has abandoned, Tues 17 Nov, mac, Birmingham

SALLY MORGAN: PSYCHIC SALLY ON THE ROAD Tues 17 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

AN OAK TREE Tim Crouch's intricate story of loss and suggestion, performed by two people - the playwright himself and a different second actor at each performance, Tues 17 - Thurs 19 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SISTER ACT Solihull premiere presented by St Augustine's MTC, Tues 17 - Sat 21 Nov, Solihull Arts Complex

CALAMITY JANE Redditch Operatic Society present an amateur version of the classic musical comedy, Tues 17 - Sat 21 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

LAST NIGHT A DJ SAVED MY LIFE A brand new musical starring David Hasselhoff, Tues 17 - Sat 21 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

WENDY AND PETER PAN Join Wendy, Peter, Tink and Captain Hook in Ella Hickson's acclaimed re-telling of JM Barrie's classic children's story, Tues 17 Nov - Sun 31 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

HALFWAY TO PARADISE - THE BILLY FURY STORY Musical which charts the rise to fame of the shy young boy from Liverpool who became one of Britain's best-loved rock stars. Timeless hits featured in the show include I Will, Jealousy, It's Only Make Believe and, of course, Halfway To Paradise, Wed 18 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

CRAZY GLUE Single Shoe Productions present a tragicomedy about loss, inspired by Etgar Keret's short story, Wed 18 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

BRUMMEGEM PALS A new play, written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean, Brummegem Pals is a moving story of two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of the Great War, Wed 18 - Thurs 19 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

JEKYLL & HYDE A London's Cockpit Theatre production based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel, Wed 18 - Sat 21 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

HETTY FEATHER Jacqueline Wilson's tale of plucky Hetty Feather, brought to life by award-winning script writer Emma Reeves and Olivier Award-nominated director Sally Cookson. Suitable for ages seven-plus, Wed 18 - Sun 22 Nov, Malvern Theatres

DAVID STARKEY - MAGNA CARTA Talk by the UK's leading constitutional historian, Thurs 19 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CONTAINED Mind The Gap weave nine true stories about family & friendships, love & loss, the everyday & the extraordinary, Thurs 19 - Fri 20 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME Based on a short story by Oscar Wilde, adapted by Constance Cox and presented by St Luke's Drama Society, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

SWEENEY TODD Welsh National Opera presents its critically acclaimed version of Stephen Sondheim's Broadway hit, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

POP GOES THE MUSICAL Walsall Youth Theatre showcase a collection of West End favourites, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS The Britain's Got Talent finalists return to celebrate their twenty-first anniversary, Fri 20 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE RED CHAIR Clod Ensemble tell the surreal story of a man who couldn't stop eating, Fri 20 Nov, All Stretton Village Hall, Church Stretton, South Shropshire

BRUMMEGEM PALS A new play, written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean, Brummegem Pals is a moving story of two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of the Great War, Fri 20 Nov, Albany Theatre, Coventry

KNIGHTMARE LIVE Live stage adaptation of the cult kids' TV show. Hosted by Treguard (Paul Flannery), and featuring teams guiding an audience member through the epic dungeon, Fri 20 - Sat 21 Nov, mac, Birmingham

Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

DRIVE THROUGH THE MUSICALS Join the Arcadians as they take you on a captivating journey, beginning with a magical introduction to the theme of musical films and travelling through time from the 1920s right up to the present day, Fri 20 - Sat 21 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

TREASURE ISLAND Scott Ritchie & BOA present an original adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale, Fri 20 Nov - Sun 3 Jan, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE CS Lewis' timeless classic - a perfect festive treat, Fri 20 Nov - Sat 16 Jan, The REP, Birmingham

TOSCA Ellen Kent Opera present Puccini's tale of love and treachery. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Sat 21 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

CURIOSUS A play with few words, described as a laugh-out-loud experience for the very young and the curiously inquisitive, Sat 21 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

THE BUTCH MONOLOGUES Presented as part of Shout, Birmingham's annual queer arts festival, The Butch Monologues seeks to re-position 'the negative, socially threatening concept of female masculinity'. Topics explored in the collection include butch desire, bravado, vulnerability, butch sex and perceptions of the body, Sat 21 Nov, The REP, B'ham

A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS Telford Academy of Performing Arts showcase various dance disciplines alongside extracts from musical theatre, Sat 21 Nov, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

THE SCARECROWS' WEDDING Scamp Theatre present a heart-warming adaptation of Julie Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's new bestselling book. Suitable for ages 3+, Sat 21 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

NOTHING! Solo contemporary show where Paul O'Donnell showcases his skills by singing, dancing and generally clowning about. This show forms part of the wider Shout Festival, Sat 21 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

ALL TURN A one-woman show which takes a stroll down the memory lane of Mr Albert North, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

PEPPA PIG'S SURPRISE Peppa Pig, George and their friends return with a brand new live stage show, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BOUND TO SOAR Variety showcase presented by RSM Stage Academy, Sun 22 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

DICKENS ABRIDGED A singing, dancing love letter to the life & works of Charles Dickens, Sun 22 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

6 IMPOSSIBLE THINGS The story of the Three Grimshaws, a variety act at the top of their game, told in a relaxed cabaret style and featuring a revolving stage, conjuring, acrobats, live music and sound effects, Sun 22 Nov, Quatt Village Hall, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Week Commencing MON 23 NOV

THE GREAT GATSBY Blackeyed Theatre Company perform Stephen Sharkey's staging of F Scott Fitzgerald's masterpiece, Mon 23 - Wed 25 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH Liza Goddard & Brian Capron star in a brand new musical comedy inspired by the 1950s film starring Peter Sellers, Mon 23 - Sat 28 Nov, Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE: GROWING OLD DISGRACEFULLY One-woman show which, according to The Scotsman, offers a 'life-affirming ramble through the joys of being a sexagenarian', Tues 24 Nov, Solihull Arts Complex

HAY FEVER Amateur production of Noel Coward's comedy of manners, presented by Warwick University Drama Society, Tues 24 - Fri 27 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED Middle Ground Theatre Company Ltd presents a lavish new production of a classic Miss Marple mystery, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BERYL Maxine Peake's critically acclaimed play celebrating the life of unsung sporting legend Beryl Burton, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

GUYS AND DOLLS Featuring Sophie Thompson & David Haig, Tues 24 Nov - Sat 5 Dec, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE Wed 25 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE SNOW DRAGON Tall Stories present the enchanting tale of a young goat named Billy and his encounter with the legendary Snow Dragon, Wed 25 Nov, Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire

A TOUCH OF FANTASY Hilarious stories that will take you from the Ritz to Tiffany's, Wed 25 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

YVETTE Presented by Dogpole Drama Company, Wed 25 Nov, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire

CHOREOGRAPHY OF AN ARGUMENT AROUND A TABLE An unpredictable and riotous performance that unpicks what it is to be in an argument, and how we win and lose while our trousers are down, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MACBETH Two Score Years And Ten present their version of Shakespeare's darkest and most powerful tragedy, Wed 25 - Sat 28 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST An enchanting tale of heroic adventure, true love, messy mayhem and festive frivolity, Wed 25 Nov - Sat 9 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SALLY MORGAN: PSYCHIC SALLY ON THE ROAD Thurs 26 Nov, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

YVETTE Dogpole Drama Company present a new play by Paul Higgins, based on a novella by Mau-passant, Thurs 26 Nov, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

STRICTLY BALTI Travelling Light Theatre take a light-hearted but nonetheless thought-provoking look at the trials and tribulations of being a second-generation immigrant in the UK, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Stourbridge Theatre Company present an amateur version of Alan Bennett's stage play, which is, in turn, based on the much-loved riverbank tale by Kenneth Grahame, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD Tall Stories Theatre Company present Julia Donaldson & Alex Scheffler's award-winning sequel, Thurs 26 Nov - Sun 3 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

YVETTE Dogpole Drama Company present a new play by Paul Higgins, based on a novella by Mau-passant, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury

JASPER CARROTT: STAND UP & ROCK! An evening of music and laughter featuring The Bev Bevan Band, Geoff Turton and Quill lead singer Joy, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Nov, Wyre Forest Glades Arena, Kidderminster

SPRING AND PORT WINE The Luke Players present Bill Naughton's humorous and poignant family drama, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Nov, mac, Birmingham

THE 3 OF US Contemporary musical theatre exploring the triangles which often create complications within friendships, relationships, work and family, Fri 27 - Sun 29 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BOUND TO SOAR Variety showcase presented by RSM Stage Academy, Sat 28 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

APPLAUSE: A CABARET OF SONG & DANCE Sat 28 Nov, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

THE MANY DOORS OF FRANK FEELBAD Bootworks Theatre present an innovative work for small children, featuring scavenger hunts, puzzles to solve and maybe even some dub-step dancing, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

PUSS IN BOOTS Lyngo Theatre use puppetry and its inimitable styling to bring the 'classic furry tale' to life, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LEARNED FRIENDS Ginny Davis' new play, performed in the historic setting of Warwick's former Crown Court, Sun 29 Nov, Warwick Crown Court



Dickens Abridged - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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Week Commencing MON 30 NOV

AN AUDIENCE WITH PAUL GASCOIGNE Listen to Gazza talk about his career highs and lows, Mon 30 Nov, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS Brand new family musical brought to the stage by the producers of We're Going On A Bear Hunt and The Tiger Who Came To Tea, Mon 30 Nov - Tues 1 Dec, Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire

THE WIZARD OF OZ The popular musical story of how a young girl from Kansas has to make her way home from the magical land of Oz, Mon 30 Nov - Sat 5 Dec, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

Theatre Box Office

Birmingham

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Shropshire

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THE EDGE, MUCH WENLOCK
01952 728911

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TELFORD 01952 382382

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LICHFIELD GARRICK
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NEW VIC, NEWCASTLE-
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CENTRE, CANNOCK
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REGENT THEATRE, STOKE
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RUGELEY ROSE THEATRE
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BELGRADE THEATRE,
COVENTRY
024 7655 3055

BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE,
WARWICK 01926 776438

THE DREAM FACTORY
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ROYAL SHAKESPEARE

THEATRE,
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
0844 800 1110

ROYAL SPA CENTRE
LEAMINGTON 01926 334418

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE,
COVENTRY 02476 524524

Worcestershire

ARTRIX ARTS CENTRE,
BROMSGROVE
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THE HIVE
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HUNTINGDON HALL,
WORCESTER
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MALVERN THEATRE
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NORBURY THEATRE,
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01905 770154

PALACE THEATRE
REDDITCH 01527 65203

ROSE THEATRE,
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SWAN THEATRE,
WORCESTER
01905 611427

Theatre **REVIEWS**

Below are reviews of theatre/dance productions we checked out last month. For further theatre reviews, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Annie Birmingham Hippodrome

If ever there was a perfect time to revive the classic seventies musical Annie then now is the time. A young company of actors deliver a stellar performance alongside a strong ensemble and a wickedly evil Miss Hannigan, wonderfully portrayed by Strictly judge Craig Revel Horwood with the latter revealing a feminine flair that surpasses all expectations. He executes his choreography with precision (naturally) and sings in fine voice during his solo Little Girls and Easy Street.

Opening the show with Maybe and It's the Hard Knock Life, it's clear to see that the company's youngest members are talented and well rehearsed in their choreography, their harmonies perfectly complimenting George Dyer's musical direction. Young Annie is played - in this performance - by Sophia Pettit whose strong voice and warming persona shine throughout the production. A young actress who should set her ambitions high, Pettit commands attention when performing Tomorrow and demonstrates vulnerability in the quest for her parents.

Lighting designer Ben Cracknell has created a terrific atmosphere across each scene complimenting Colin Richmond's set and costume design perfectly. Director Nikolai Foster has taken this classic Broadway musical and adapted in a new light whilst keeping all the classic elements and performances true to their original making it a production that shines from start to finish. *Kieran Johnson* ■■■■■

The Glenn Miller Story

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

Tommy Steele is seventy-eight. Although the years have diminished him as a song-and-dance man, the 'bubbly magnetism' for which he's best known remains undimmed. He's here cast as legendary band leader Glenn Miller, and is playing opposite a woman who's probably a third of his age. The show's set-up lets them get away with it - just. The Glenn Miller Admirer Society is visiting RAF Twinwood. It was here, on 15 December 1944, that Glenn boarded a transport plane that never reached its destination. The Society decides to 'do the show right here', a device which covers Steele's inability to hold an American accent.

The real star of the show is the superb band, authentically laying clarinets upon saxophones upon trumpets and trombones, just as Miller did when he found the sound that made him famous. In the first half of the show, they roar through a repertoire of pre-Miller music. The second half is more concert than play, as they perform the band leader's most famous tunes exactly as he would've demanded they be performed.

Glenn Miller's story is slight and hugely predictable. There's a thin explanation of how Moonlight Serenade was composed, a confirmation of how many gold discs he won, an account of how he got his first booking for the Glenn Miller Orchestra before he'd actually formed it, and the tale of his big break in Boston. However, you could've squeezed all of those story elements on to a postage stamp. The show is definitely more a case of The Glenn Miller Non-Story. But you can never keep a good man down. When Tommy whispered love song The Nearness Of You, I put down my pen and shed a tear. Steele still loves being on stage - and audiences will never stop loving him.

Chris Eldon Lee ■■■■■



Hairspray Malvern Theatre

The National touring production of Hairspray, the Musical, has you smiling, cheering and toe-tapping in your seat from start to finish. This joyous story with a strong, serious message at its soul captivates with wonderful performances throughout. Set in Baltimore in 1962, it tells the story of a young girl who doesn't fit the conventional TV norms of slender but who won't let that stop her from auditioning for her favourite TV show. She soon realises that body size is not the only deterrent as she befriends the 'negros' in her regular school detention class. Through their shared love of dancing and 45s, they vow to take on the TV show and ultimately the system together. We remember that America at this time was a society in which racism was rife. Segregation, although deemed unlawful, was not illegal and in 1962 was still being used as a tool of humiliation.

The girl with the big heart (and girth) played by Freya Sutton has made the role of Tracy Turnblad her own and is outstanding. The pairing of Benidorm's hairdresser Tony Maudsley and Blue Peter's Peter Duncan as her parents Edna and Wilbur is comic genius right there! Claire Sweeney is sultry as vicious Velma Von Tussle and X-Factor's Brenda Edwards' solo is particularly mesmerising. Supported by an excellent cast, it is difficult to pick out individuals when standards are so high.

The producer tells us that theatre should both educate and entertain. In this production we enjoy the sequins, flips, vocals and comedy yet we hear the message of 'integration not segregation' and on both counts to 'just sit still would be a crime'.

Brace yourselves for a bouffant-shaped journey of feel-good!. *Clare Higgins* ■■■■■

Hairspray returns to the region next month, running at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from 14 December to 2 January.

Anita And Me The REP, Birmingham

Anita And Me is a bittersweet coming of age story concerning two young girls growing up in the fictional Black Country village of Tollington.

Neglected and rejected by her parents, Anita is angry and defiant. Meena, on the other hand has a close relationship with her loving parents; but is in awe of Anita and sees her bravado as rebelliousness and her life free from the constraints of family obligations.

Jalleh Alizadeh brings a vulnerability to Anita's brashness and anger which helps us sympathise with her character as a victim of circumstances. Mandeep Dillon plays Meena with an naivety underlined by innocence rather than ignorance - awe-struck she may be, stupid she's not. In fact she may be the true rebel as she rejects her family, frustrated by their expectations of her as a daughter and a good girl in favour for a friendship with Anita.

Cultural and personal identity underlie the lives of those living in Tollington. Meena's parents are Indian immigrants, she herself is first generation British and a true mix of cultures - her Black Country dialect and love of pop music an obvious contrast to her parents Indian accented English and love of Punjabi music. They are for all intents and purposes the only Asians in the village.

The community in which they live is accepting and open for the most part; personified in the character of Mrs Worrall, played with humour and tenderness by Janice Connolly. The casual racism they experience on a daily basis is subtly underplayed and at times almost humorous. Meena's parents are tolerant in that they view the perpetrators as silly, stupid and a minority. Ameet Chana, as Meena's Dad, and Ayesha Dharker, as her Mum, are gentle and moral people who's patience and understanding is truly tested in the second act when the racism becomes increasingly dark, threatening and violent. A sound track of seventies classics run throughout the production alongside traditional Indian music with the two coming together in an hilarious Bhangra version of Cum On Feel The Noize by Slade. Many of Meena's soliloquies are sung to keyboard accompaniment by her neighbour Hairy Ned; others are spoken as letters written to the agony aunts for teenage girls, Jacky magazine's Cathy and Claire. This Meena's 'me time' gives us an insight into how she herself views her dilemmas, particularly when she realises that the friendship she rejected her family for cannot protect her from prejudice and violence. Although the music and humour tempers the themes of racism and domestic abuse, Anita And Me is at times uncomfortable but moreover it's funny and moving - all-in-all a 'Bostin' production. *Ted Finlay* ■■■■■

GREAT DAYS OUT

FROM 32 LOCAL BOARDING POINTS

Thu 19 Nov **Waddesdon Manor at Christmas**

Sat 21 Nov **Blenheim Palace & Market**

Tue 24 Nov **Christmas Lunch Cruise, Windsor**

Wed 25 Nov **Christmas Music Hall at Wicksteed Park**

Fri 27 Nov **Worcester Christmas Fair**

Sat 28 Nov **Birmingham Tattoo at NIA**

Sun 29 Nov **Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fayre**

Tue 1 Dec **Cheshire Oaks, Wirral**

Thu 3 Dec **East Lancs Railway with Lunch**

Fri 4 Dec **Longleat Festival of Light**

Sat 5 Dec **Haddon Hall at Christmas**

Fri 11 Dec **Hardwick Hall at Christmas**

Sat 12 Dec **Chester Christmas Market**

Mon 14 Dec **Winchester Cathedral & Market**

Tue 15 Dec **Chatsworth House at Christmas**

Wed 16 Dec **Hever Castle with lunch**

Fri 18 Dec **Hampton Court Winter Palace**

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Theatre WEST END

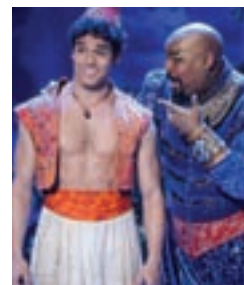
Adrian Lester at The Garrick...

Birmingham-born actor Adrian Lester is to reprise the role of Ira Aldridge in the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company production of *Red Velvet* at the Garrick next year. Written by Lolita Chakrabarti, *Red Velvet* is set in Covent Garden in 1833. It follows the story of a young, black, American actor (Lester) who's been asked to take over the role of Othello after the play's lead collapses on stage. With public riots taking place on the streets over the abolition of slavery, how will the cast, critics and audience react to the revolution taking place in the theatre? Of his decision to stage Chakrabarti's play, Kenneth Branagh said: "Writing, direction and performance are exceptional in *Red Velvet*. I'm immensely proud to be presenting this work. I believe that Lolita has written an important and exhilarating play which, in its discussion of performance, politics and race, is as entertaining as it is illuminating." Lester's impressive acting credentials include *Fences*, *Othello* at the National Theatre, and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*. On TV he's appeared in *Hustle*, *Being Human* and *London Spy*.



Aladdin to fly into the Prince Edward Theatre

Tickets for Disney Theatrical's production of *Aladdin* go on sale this month (23 November). The musical is currently enjoying a successful run at Broadway's New Amsterdam Theatre. It will open at Prince Edward Theatre on 9 June, with previews from 27 May. The production is based on Disney's 1992 animated movie version of the legendary Arabian Nights story. Featuring numerous familiar tunes - including the Oscar and Grammy Award-winning *A Whole New World* - the show also boasts a number of new songs. Broadway cast member Trevor Dion Nicholas will make his West End debut, playing the genie of the lamp. Further casting is yet to be announced.



Lessons in how to survive, in the West End...

People, Places And Things, Duncan Macmillan's acclaimed play about surviving in the modern world, is to transfer to Wyndham's Theatre next year.

A collaboration between Headlong and the National Theatre, the highly acclaimed production - *The Guardian* described it as 'vivid' and 'vibrant' - enjoyed a sell-out season in the National's Dorfman Theatre.

The play tells the story of Emma, a woman who, having had the time of her life, is now in rehab. Her first port of call is to admit there's a problem - but as far as she's concerned, the problem isn't with her, it's with everyone and everything else. But when intoxication feels like the only way to survive the modern world, how can she ever sober up?

People, Places And Things runs at Wyndham's Theatre for a twelve-week period from 15 March.



Win!

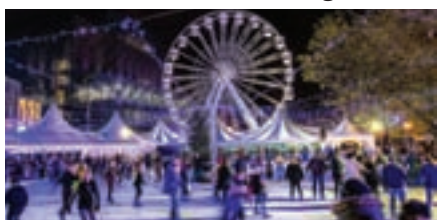
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Tickets to MCM Birmingham Comic Con



Closes Monday 9 November

Tickets to Skate Birmingham



Closes Thursday 12 November

Tickets to Beryl



Closes Tuesday 17 November

Tickets to Last Night A DJ Saved My Life



Closes Tuesday 10 November

Tickets to Of Mice And Men



Closes Friday 29 January

Tickets to A Murder Is Announced



Closes Friday 6 November

Tickets to Hairspray



Closes Monday 7 December

An Arnie experience at the ICC



Closes Monday 30 November

Tickets to The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe



Closes Friday 13 November

Family Ticket to Aladdin



Closes Thursday 7 January

Family ticket to Dick Whittington



Closes Monday 30 November

Tickets to Guys And Dolls



Closes Tuesday 17 November

Tickets to Gangsta Granny



Closes Monday 23 November

Tickets to Cinderella: A Fairytale



Closes Thursday 3 December

Tickets to The Snowman



Closes Wednesday 13 January

To enter all competitions go to www.whatsonlive.co.uk
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Forty-one Years Funny



The Trocks are back in town...

A moulting swan, a sleepwalking ballerina and a rock guitar-playing beggar woman: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo do classical dance like you've never seen it before...

Since its inception in 1974, the company has gained global renown for its unique and irreverent productions. Through the magic of make-up, costume and intensive training, sixteen men are transformed into a company of (mostly) graceful ballerinas, performing excerpts from a range of familiar and not so familiar stories, from Swan Lake to Patterns In Space. The result is a hysterically funny parody of the heightened drama, grandeur and gravity of traditional ballet, mixing mischief with the profoundest respect for the form.

"We like to pay tribute to the old style of ballet - that's the sort of style we make fun of," says Chase Johnsey, a longstanding member of the company. "It can be educational. With some of the more obscure pieces like Laurencia, we've been the first to bring those shows to New York, even though it's a Russian classic."

Upon joining the Trocks, dancers are allocated male and female alter-egos, mainly Russian, which they develop through classes, rehearsals and performances.

"One of the things they look for when you audition for the Trocks is personality," Johnsey continues. "Because there are only ever fourteen to sixteen dancers in the company, one person coming or going changes the feel of the whole show."

The dancers' perfectly co-ordinated comedy takes the diva stereotype to extremes: when the Trocks step out on stage, the room is immediately dominated by their larger-than-life personae, expressions exaggerated by bold eyeshadow, thick lipstick and multi-layered lashes.

"Getting to put on a face and a wig is so different to just going out and performing," says Matthew Poppe, a more recent addition to the team. "When you put on the full costume, you instantly feel much more in character."

Speed and efficiency are essential to their mid-show transformations: no mean feat when successive roles require a gender

swap. Thankfully, most character changes take place between acts - but it's not always that simple...

"In Don Quixote I have a really fast change," explains Johnsey. "It's just a few minutes, so I run off stage and they start ripping the costume straight off me! But it's all designed to be foolproof, so everything we need is put in place, ready for those quick changes."

Yet looks aren't everything, of course. As if sharp wit, faultless timing and the ability to sculpt a face with enviable perfection weren't enough, the Trocks are also highly skilled ballerinas, capable of sliding seamlessly from slapstick into virtuosic spectacle. They might have fun on stage, but they take their training very seriously, and that diligence more than pays off: their stunning performances are proof positive that it's not only women who can dance en pointe.

"I've never wanted to work so hard before," says Poppe. "I feel like I've found people that I like to work with and I'm doing things I'm really passionate about."

He's clearly not the only one to feel a sense of belonging here. Just a few minutes in the dancers' friendly and entertaining company gives a distinct impression of real warmth and loyalty between them - it's not so much camaraderie as family. There's more than one off-stage couple among them, and those who sign up tend to stick around. Having been recruited at the tender age of seventeen, Johnsey has now been dancing with the Trocks for twelve years.

"In ballet school they told me I would never be a professional ballet dancer," he says, with a wry smile. "Because I'm quite small, I couldn't really lift the girls, so I only ever had a few little parts before I joined."

Then there's Philip Martin-Nielson, diagnosed with such severe autism at the age of three that his mother was urged to send him to a specialist residential institution. Ignoring the advice, she instead enrolled him in gymnastics and sports groups which she hoped might improve his co-ordination.

Three years later, he discovered his voice and life-long passion through dance classes; by the time he auditioned for the Trocks, the artistic director, Tory Dobrin, saw only an exceptionally talented seventeen-year-old, unaware of his complicated history. In much the same way as the company's fresh approach provides new opportunities for performers, it can also help to open up ballet to wider audiences, challenging the perceptions of stuffiness or exclusivity that sometimes come with the territory.

"We really want to make it accessible and entertaining, and I think it's a great segue into understanding and appreciating traditional ballet," says Poppe. "There are a lot of jokes that are ballet-oriented, so it can appeal to regular ballet-goers, but there are also plenty of jokes that are just for everybody."

Far from undermining it, the Trocks breathe new life into ballet, defying expectations on all sides and winning the respect of the wider ballet community. Little wonder, then, they've developed a large cult following of fans young and old right across the world - with some avid enthusiasts even turning up to watch their shows in costume.

"The reaction is always good," says Johnsey. "Culturally, people respond differently - the Japanese are very polite and reserved, for example, whereas American and UK audiences tend to be more rowdy. We prefer that because it's more obvious that we're doing a good job. But people seem to really enjoy the show and we're always well-received wherever we go. We can hear the kids laughing a mile off!"

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo perform at **Birmingham Hippodrome** on Tues 10 and Wed 11 November.



SCOTTISH DANCE THEATRE
YAMA

Damien Jalet



The Skinny



Broadway Baby



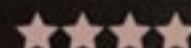
EdFest



The Herald



The Scotsman



The Evening Standard



dx DanceXchange

DANCE XCHANGE, BIRMINGHAM
Thu 26 & Fri 27 November at 8pm
dancexchange.org.uk / 0844 338 5000

Dance



Scottish Dance Theatre: YAMA The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 26 - Fri 27 November

Scottish Dance Theatre, Scotland's national contemporary dance company, visits the Midlands this month to perform Damien Jalet's full-length work.

Inspired by the choreographer's travels to Japan - and his encounters with a tribe of hermits known as yamabushis - YAMA explores the pagan and animist rituals practised in the mountains of Tohoku. Staged on an abstract set, Jalet's hypnotic choreography sees a tangled ensemble of dancers oscillate between a moving sculpture and

a possession ritual, in turn blurring the boundaries between the vegetal and animal world while centring on man's vital need to rise.

Set to haunting score by Winter Family, YAMA's received plenty of critical acclaim since its 2014 premiere in Dundee.

A regular collaborator with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Jalet is responsible for some of the most revered productions of the last ten years, including the Olivier Award-winning *Babel* (2011) and a radical staging of *Bolero* at the Paris Opera (2013).

2Faced Dance: Dreaming In Code

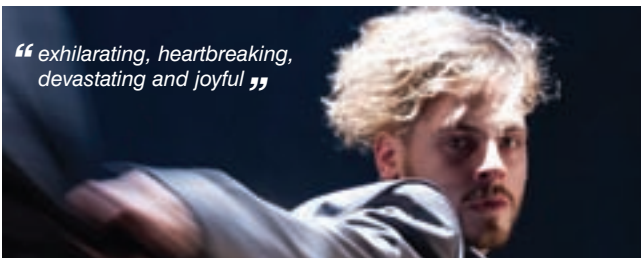
Atrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 20 November

This double-bill of works from award-winning choreographer Tamsin Fitzgerald and Eddie Ray for Frantic Assembly is performed by one of the UK's most innovative male dance ensembles.

The Herefordshire-based 2Faced Dance Company was formed by Fitzgerald in 1999, its stated mission being to inspire and increase dance provision to young people and the wider community. Since then, the company has performed at over one thousand venues across the UK and collaborated with numerous arts organisations, including Hofesh Shechter and DanceXchange.

The company here performs a work that's been described as 'exhilarating, heartbreaking, devastating and joyful'. *Dreaming In Code* comprises *Lucid Grounds* and *Milk Night*. Both pieces use a combination of theatre, dance, film and music by Angus MacRae and Tony-nominated composer Alex Baranowski to contemplate what the future could look like.

"exhilarating, heartbreaking, devastating and joyful"



Richard Alston Dance

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 10 November

A choreographer who's very much at the forefront of contemporary dance in the UK, Richard Alston takes inspiration directly from the music he uses.

This month sees his highly rated company return to Theatre Severn to perform a triple bill of works from its acclaimed repertoire...

Stronghold is a brand new piece by Martin Laurence which, described as 'urgent and exciting', revisits the music of Julia Wolfe.

Alston's latest work, *Mazur*, is a dance for two friends performed to Chopin's *Mazurkas* - music through which the composer expressed his longing for his homeland.

Bringing the evening to a close, *Brisk Singing* is a revived piece for eight dancers which presents a joyful response to Jean-Philippe Rameau's music from *Les Boréades* (1764).

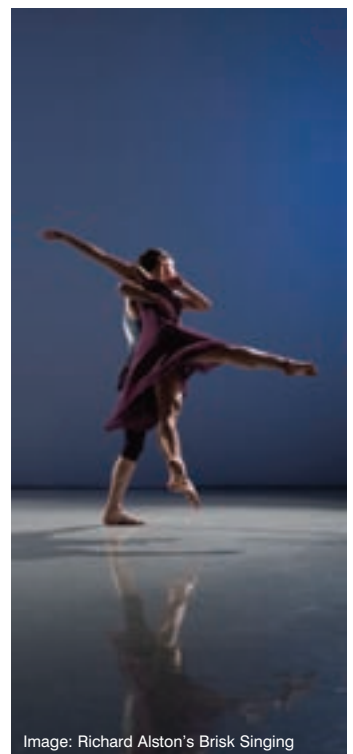


Image: Richard Alston's *Brisk Singing*

Dance continued...

Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Fri 27 November - Sun 13 December

Sir Peter Wright's enchanting version of this firm festive favourite returns to the Hippodrome this month, courtesy of Birmingham Royal Ballet. Created in 1990 as a thank you to Birmingham for its support of the company following its move to the Midlands from London's Sadler Wells, Wright's production is seen by many as the finest interpretation of Tchaikovsky's magnificent and mesmerising score.

In true Christmas spirit, the story follows the young Clara as she's swept up in a fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery, before finally being transformed into a beautiful ballerina.

A magical, must-see show for little princesses everywhere...



Diversity: Up Close And Personal

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 6 November;
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 13 - Sun 15 November

Since beating Susan Boyle in the live final of Britain's Got Talent in 2009, this London-based dance troupe have taken the world by storm with their breathtaking range of routines, performed to an eclectic soundtrack which includes everything from hip-hop to classical. They return to the Midlands this month to present a show that's based on the troupe's ITV Special, which aired earlier this year, and which features exclusively choreographed routines.

Sampad's 25th Anniversary Gala

5pm, Sunday 15 November 2015

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DIVERSITY - UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL
The troupe's most personal tour yet, featuring choreographed routines based on their ITV special, Fri 6 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
THE SNOW QUEEN Ballet Theatre UK present Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale ballet, Fri 6 Nov, The Swan Theatre, Worcester
RICHARD ALSTON DANCE Triple bill of works featuring Martin Lawrence's Stronghold, Alston's Mazur & Brisk Singing, Tues 10 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO Tues 10 - Wed 11 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome
DIVERSITY - UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL Fri 13 - Sun 15 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL Celebrated Portuguese director and choreographer Arthur Pita here brings the festive story of The Little Match Girl to life in a fusion of dance, song and original live music by Frank Moon, Sat 14 Nov, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome
SAMPAD 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA Featuring celebratory performances from renowned artists & luminaries, including Nahid Siddiqui, Chitrakala Bolar, Aakash Odedra & Soweto Kinch, Sun 15 Nov, mac, Birmingham

2FACED DANCE: DREAMING IN CODE Fri 20 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove
DIWALI UTSAV Featuring Bollywood, Kathak, Punjabi Bhangra, Bharatanatyam, Gujarati Raas Garba, Punjabi Giddha, contempo-

rary & Manipuri dance styles, as well as Dhol drumming, Sat 21 Nov, Arena Theatre, Birmingham
SONIA SABRI COMPANY: AKAAR Showcasing guest artists from the region, alongside students from local groups & communities, Sun 22 Nov, mac, Birmingham
YAMA: SCOTTISH DANCE THEATRE Thurs 26 - Fri 27 Nov, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham
THE NUTCRACKER BRB present Sir Peter Wright's festive favourite, Fri 27 Nov - Sun 13 Dec, Birmingham Hippodrome
THE NUTCRACKER Out Of The Box Youth Theatre present a creative take on a classic Christmas tale, Sat 28 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove



The Little Match Girl - DanceXchange, Birmingham

Film



EDITOR'S CHOICE

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2

CERT 12a tbc

Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Jeffrey Wright, Stanley Tucci, Donald Sutherland Directed by Francis Lawrence (USA)

It's now all-out war as Katniss Everdeen rallies her loyal supporters to take down the despotic Capitol. The fourth - and final - instalment in the phenomenal adaptation of Suzanne Collins' best-selling trilogy, this \$125million behemoth should make a tasty mint at the box-office. And, if Lionsgate has its way, this won't be the last we see of The Hunger Games franchise. In 3D.

Released Thurs 19 November



EDITOR'S CHOICE

Bridge of Spies

CERT 12a (141 mins)

Starring Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Amy Ryan, Alan Alda, Austin Stowell, Sebastian Koch, Eve Hewson Directed by Steven Spielberg (USA)

Co-written by the Coen brothers and Britain's Matt Charman (Suite Française), this is the story of the 1960 U2 incident, when an American spy plane was shot down by the Russians. With the Cold War freezing up again in the international headlines, this is a germane opportunity to explore relations between Moscow and Washington.

Tom Hanks plays the lawyer James B Donovan, whose job it is to negotiate the release of Francis Gary Powers (Stowell), the pilot shot down in Soviet airspace.

And talking of Tom Hanks, he's received rave reviews for his performance, the fourth that he's delivered for director Steven Spielberg. Interesting, too, that Eve Hewson, daughter of U2's Bono, should be in a film about a U2.

Released Fri 27 November

Released Fri 6 Nov

Brooklyn

CERT 12a (112 mins)

Starring Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Emory Cohen, Jim Broadbent, Julie Walters, Brid Brennan Directed by John Crowley (Ireland/UK/Canada)

Colm Tóibín wrote the delicate, evocative 2009 novel of the title, and with a screenplay by Nick Hornby the adaptation should be in good hands. Saoirse Ronan plays Ellis Lacey, a girl from Enniscorthy, County Wexford, who emigrates to Brooklyn in the 1950s, where she finds what it means to be Irish. Ms Ronan got rave reviews at the Toronto Film Festival and looks like a new frontrunner for an Oscar nomination.

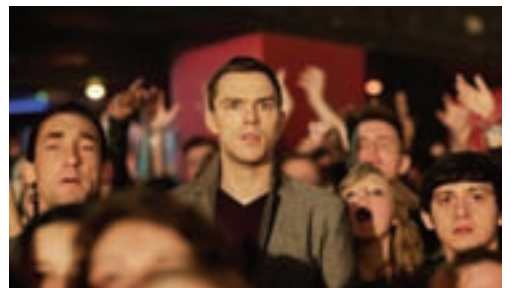


Kill Your Friends

CERT 18

Starring Nicholas Hoult, James Corden, Joseph Mawle, Ed Skrein, Rosanna Arquette, Craig Roberts Directed by Owen Harris (UK)

At the height of the Britpop revolution in 1997, talent scout Steven Stelfox (Hoult) goes to extreme ends to find the next big thing - and to salvage his career. Scripted by John Niven, from his own novel.



The Runner

CERT 15 (90 mins)

Starring Nicolas Cage, Sarah Paulson, Connie Nielsen, Wendell Pierce, Peter Fonda Directed by Austin Stark (USA)

Politics, sexual scandal and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010 collide in the life of Colin Pryce (Cage), an idealistic Louisiana congressman whose world is about to implode. The American reviews were not kind.



Released from Fri 6 Nov

Burnt

CERT 12a

Starring **Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller, Omar Sy, Daniel Brühl, Alicia Vikander, Lily James, Jamie Dornan, Uma Thurman, Emma Thompson** Directed by **John Wells** (USA)

Top chef Adam Jones (Bradley Cooper) burnt his bridges behind him when he let his arrogance and irresponsible lifestyle get in the way of his culinary genius. Now he's fighting to win a third Michelin star for a Paris restaurant. But first he must rediscover his inner mojo in London. What's not to like? Food. Bradley Cooper. Sienna Miller...



He Named Me Malala

CERT PG (87 mins)

Directed by **Davis Guggenheim** (United Arab Emirates/USA)

Malala Yousafzai was just fifteen years old when a representative of the Taliban shot her in the face at close range. Four years earlier she had started a blog detailing the need for female education in northwest Pakistan, among other things. Since the shooting, after her recovery in a Birmingham hospital, she has become the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate. Davis Guggenheim, who previously directed the 2006 documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, tells her story so far.



Scouts Guide To The Zombie Apocalypse

CERT 15 (93 mins)

Starring **Tye Sheridan, David Koechner, Logan Miller, Halston Sage, Joey Morgan, Patrick Schwarzenegger, Cloris Leachman** Directed by **Christopher Landon** (USA)

It's been three months since Arnold Schwarzenegger's zombie drama *Maggie* died at the box-office, so maybe his son Patrick will have better luck with this one. It certainly sounds more fun. There's a zombie break-out in a small California town and it's up to three boy scouts to try and save the day. Expect considerable gore, nudity and lots of naughty words.



FROM
FRI
NOV 20

Released from Fri 13 Nov

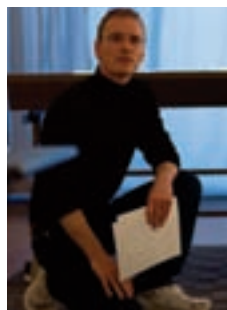
Steve Jobs

CERT 15 (122 mins)

Starring **Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet, Seth Rogen, Jeff Daniels, Katherine Waterston, Michael Stuhlbarg** Directed by **Danny Boyle** (USA)

This promises greatness. The writer of *The Social Network* (Aaron Sorkin), the director of *Slumdog Millionaire* (Danny Boyle) and Michael Fassbender. Add Kate Winslet in support along with the subject matter of the volatile and brilliant co-founder of Apple Inc., and Steve Jobs, the movie, should be a runaway success.

American critics are already saying this is the best thing Fassbender has done since, um, *Macbeth*. Largely based on Walter Isaacson's eponymous 2011 biography, along with interviews conducted by Sorkin.



The Lady In The Van

CERT 12a (104 mins)

Starring **Maggie Smith, Alex Jennings, Jim Broadbent, Frances De La Tour, Roger Allam, James Corden** Directed by **Nicholas Hytner** (UK)

The credentials bode well. A script by Alan Bennett, the director of *The Madness Of King George* and *The History Boys* and, of course, *Dame Maggie* herself. Inspired by the true story of a homeless woman who moved into a Bedford van in the drive of Alan Bennett's Camden home, the film looks destined for BAFTA glory. Based on Bennett's 1999 play of the same name.



The Dressmaker

CERT 15 tbc

Starring **Kate Winslet, Judy Davis, Liam Hemsworth, Hugo Weaving, Sarah Snook, Caroline Goodall** Directed by **Jocelyn Moorhouse** (Australia)

One thing's for sure, Kate Winslet's latest starring vehicle won't be for everyone. Adapted from Rosalie Ham's 2000 Gothic novel, it's a madcap affair about rival dressmakers in the Australian Outback of 1951. It's an odd place, Dungatar, much like many isolated communities suffering from too much gossip, sunstroke and in-breeding. The police sergeant is a cross-dresser, one old woman is addicted to hash brownies and Mr Pettyman (Shane Bourne) has fathered way too many of the local children. Then Tilly Dunnage (Winslet) breezes into town like Clint Eastwood and turns the place on its head. The townsfolk think she's a killer, but she's just a brilliant seamstress with a crazy mother... Nobody seems idiosyncrasy like the Australians, but Jocelyn Moorhouse rather overplays her hand, goading her leading ladies to devour the scenery whole. And there's some amazing scenery - along with a scene-stealing turn from Judy Davis as an "eligible hag," and equally selfless turns from Kerry Fox and Alison Whyte. Unfortunately, the comedy seldom hits its stride and the end result is a brave but unwieldy attempt at black farce.

Fathers And Daughters

CERT 15 (116 mins)

Starring **Russell Crowe, Amanda Seyfried, Aaron Paul, Diane Kruger, Quvenzhané Wallis, Jane Fonda, Octavia Spencer** Directed by **Gabriele Muccino** (USA)

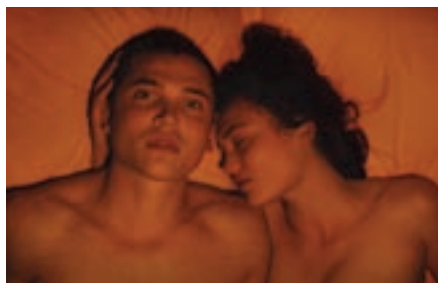
Russell Crowe plays Jake Davis, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist struggling with a mental breakdown after the death of his wife, while trying to bring up his five-year-old daughter. Twenty-five years later, his daughter, Katie (Seyfried), tries to come to terms with her troubled childhood. There may not be a dry eye in the house...

Released from Fri 20 Nov

Love CERT 18 (118 mins)

Starring **Karl Glusman, Aomi Muyock, Klara Kristin** Directed by **Gaspar Noé (France)**

In spite of the title, there's actually quite a lot of sex involved, hence the film's 18 certificate. Gaspar Noé is known for pushing the boundaries of cinema and here explores the carnal manifestations of romance, as witnessed through the drug-addled perspective of a Parisian film student. Expect hardcore grappling. In 3D, no less.



Released from Fri 27 Nov

The Good Dinosaur CERT tbc

Featuring the voices of **Raymond Ochoa, Jack Bright, Sam Elliott, Anna Paquin, Steve Zahn, Jeffrey Wright, Frances McDormand** Directed by **Peter Sohn (USA)**

Not all dinosaurs are human-chewing velociraptors. This one is a young Apatosaurus who, having lost his father, then loses his way after knocking himself out on a rock. He then befriends a human cave boy, whom he calls Spot... Another computer-animated production from Pixar, this will be the company's second cartoon released this year (after Inside Out). In 3D.



Shelter CERT 18 (106 mins)

Starring **Jennifer Connelly, Anthony Mackie, Rob Morgan, Amy Hargreaves, Bruce Altman** Directed by **Paul Bettany (USA)**

Marking the directorial debut of the actor Paul Bettany, Shelter stars Bettany's wife Jennifer Connelly as Hannah, a homeless junkie on the streets of Manhattan. She then meets Tahir (Mackie), a Nigerian busker whose visa has expired and, together, they find a surprising connection... Expect some pretty strong sexual material.



FROM FRI 27 NOV

Black Mass CERT 15 (123 mins)

Starring **Johnny Depp, Joel Edgerton, Benedict Cumberbatch, Kevin Bacon, Jesse Plemons, Peter Sarsgaard, Dakota Johnson** Directed by **Scott Cooper (USA)**

Johnny Depp has received some of the best reviews of his career for this hard-hitting tale of the Irish-American gangster Whitey Bulger. Bulger, the brother of a state senator, turned FBI informant when a Mafia family encroached on his own illegal dealings. Joel Edgerton, as FBI agent John Connolly, is also said to be sensational. Expect some pretty strong violence.



FROM FRI 27 NOV

Carol CERT 15 (119 mins)

Starring **Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara, Sarah Paulson, Jake Lacy, Kyle Chandler** Directed by **Todd Haynes (USA/UK/France)**

Carol Aird (Cate Blanchett) is a 1950s' New York socialite with an adoring husband and a young daughter, but who nonetheless catches the romantic attention of Therese Belivet (Rooney Mara), a department store clerk. Expect Oscar nominations (at least). Based on Patricia Highsmith's 1952 semi-autobiographical novel The Price Of Salt.

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

52 Tuesdays 15

Billie's journey to independence starts with the news that her mum is going to transition and live her life as a man. Although Billie is asked to move in with her father, they decide that every Tuesday will be a sacred space between mother and daughter. Stars Tilda Cobham-Hervey and Del Herbert-Jane. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Tues 17 Nov*

Alice's Journey 15

Alice is a thirty-year-old sailor in love with Félix, who waits for her ashore as she unexpectedly sets off as second mechanic on the Fidelio, an old freighter. On board, she discovers not only that she replaces a recently deceased mechanic, but also that the captain is none other than her first great love, Gaël. Stars Ariane Labed and Melvil Poupaud. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Tues 17 Nov*

Birdman 15

Michael Keaton plays Riggan Thomson, an actor once known for playing the superhero Birdman who is now on his uppers (Keaton himself, of course, played Batman in two blockbusters). So in an attempt to revitalise his career, Riggan has written a play that he intends to direct on Broadway, with his girlfriend in the lead. Things do not go smoothly. Also stars Zach Galifianakis and Edward Norton. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 6 Nov*

Book Of Life u

Originally entitled Day Of The Dead, this animated musical-adventure concerns a hopeless romantic with a guitar and two swords. However, in

order to pursue his romantic dream, he has to manoeuvre two alternative worlds. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 7 Nov*

Dark Horse 12a

A documentary telling the inspirational true story of a group of friends from a working men's club who decide to take on the elite 'sport of kings' and breed themselves a racehorse. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 2 Nov*

The Divide 15

Inspired by bestselling book *The Spirit Level*, *The Divide* looks at how the rising gap between rich and poor has impacted on our societies. As many Western countries have become richer, they've become unhappier, with fearful communities, health problems and declining social cohesion. Conversely, more egalitarian countries, such as Denmark and Japan, have healthier, happier and better educated populations. *Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Wed 4 Nov*

Doreen - The Movie 15

Doreen, the first person ever to be diagnosed with Lazy Cow Syndrome, became an overnight comedy sensation when her monologue, *Doreen's Story*, went viral on YouTube with over one million hits. Now, the movie aims to put this regional treasure and the Black Country well and truly on the map. Stars Gill Jordan. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 13 - Wed 18 Nov; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 24 Nov*

Dressed As A Girl 18

UK director Colin Roth-

bart in his feature film debut rips off the wigs and wipes away the mascara to find the real people behind the figureheads of East London's much-hyped alternative drag scene. Filmed over six years and following six cult stars as they swim against the tide (Jonny Woo, Holestar, Scottee, Amber, Pia Arber and John Sizzle), the film follows the literal highs and graphic lows of this popular tribe, revealing the personal struggles of each heroine. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sun 15 Nov*

Everest 12a

Featuring a mouthwatering cast that includes Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, John Hawkes, Robin Wright and Emily Watson. The actors play various characters involved in the 1996 Mount Everest disaster, the most deadly expedition (at the time) launched on the world's highest mountain. *Showing at Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Mon 2 Nov; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 3 - Wed 4 Nov; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 9 - Fri 13 Nov*

Exotica 18

In the upscale Canadian strip club *Exotica*, Christina is the most popular dancer. She's visited nightly by the obsessive Francis, a depressed tax auditor. Meanwhile, her ex-boyfriend - the club's MC, Eric - still jealously pines for her. Stars Bruce Greenwood and Mia Kirschner. *Showing at mac, Bromsgrove, Wed 4 Nov*

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 Tamar 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, received rave reviews. *Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 10 Nov*

Felicia's Journey 12a

A lonely middle-aged man spends all of his time studying tapes of an eccentric TV chef. Meanwhile, a young woman is making her way from Ireland to find her boyfriend, who moved to England. On arrival, she makes an early contact with the man, who recommends a boarding room to her. Slowly, it's revealed that he has, in fact, befriended and subsequently abused more than a dozen young women. Stars Bob Hoskins and Arsinée Khanjian. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Thurs 19 Nov*

Free Angela And All Political Prisoners

In this rarely presented documentary, legendary radical activist Angela Davis speaks for the first time about her 1970s imprisonment as a terrorist and conspirator, a flash-point in the black liberation struggle that made her a revolutionary icon. *Showing at The Drum, Birmingham, Sun 15 Nov; mac, Birmingham, Sun 15 Nov*

Futuro Beach 15

When Brazilian lifeguard Donato saves German biker Konrad from drowning, the pair immediately form a strong sexual bond. Their passionate affair intensifies, and Donato decides to leave his mother and younger brother Ayrton to start a new life with Konrad in Berlin. Years later, Ayrton arrives in Berlin to demand answers. His unexpected arrival forces all three men to confront their past. Stars Wagner Moura and Clemens Schick. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Mon 16 Nov*

A Girl At My Door 18

Following a personal scandal, police academy instructor Lee Young-nam is moved from Seoul to a quiet

seaside town. There, she takes up the office of Chief of Police and befriends an abused fourteen-year-old girl, who she then invites into her home... When the film screened at Cannes last year, it received a three-minute standing ovation. Stars Bae Doona and Kim Sae-ron. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Thurs 19 Nov*

Kingsman: The Secret Service 15

Based on Mark Millar and Dave Gibbons' comic book, *The Secret Service*, this spy adventure unites director Matthew Vaughn with the scenarist Jane Goldman for the fourth time (cf. *Stardust*, *Kick-Ass*, *X-Men: First Class*). Colin Firth plays a veteran secret agent who takes on a young protégé (Taron Egerton). Also stars Samuel L Jackson. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 6 Nov*

Legend 15

Tom Hardy stars opposite Tom Hardy in this biographical thriller about notorious twins Ronald and Reginald Kray. Based on John Pearson's 1972 book, *The Profession Of Violence: The Rise And Fall Of The Kray Twins*. Also stars Emily Browning. *Showing at Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 4 - Sat 7 Nov; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Thurs 5 Nov*

A Little Chaos 12a

There just aren't enough films about landscape gardeners. This one pits Kate Winslet's Sabine against the designs of André Le Nôtre, both of whom are competing to win the prize of constructing a new fountain at the Palace of Versailles. Alan Rickman plays King Louis XIV. Also stars Matthias Schoenaerts. *Showing at Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 30 Nov*

The Lobster 15

Contender for weirdest film of the year, *The Lobster* is set in a near

future where single people must find a mate or be turned into a beast - or crustacean. File it under 'Absurdist black comedy'. Stars Colin Farrell and Rachel Weisz. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 13 - Tues 17 Nov; Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 24 & Thurs 26 Nov*

The Martian 12a

During a manned mission to Mars, astronaut Mark Watney is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet. Stars Matt Damon and Jessica Chastain. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 6 - Wed 11 Nov; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire Sat 14 & Tues 17 Nov; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 30 Nov*

Miss You Already 12a

Might this be a cult weepie of the future? Could this be this year's *Beaches*? Anyway, Toni Collette and Drew Barrymore play lifelong mates whose friendship is tested when one gets pregnant and the other gets cancer. Filmed in London and West Yorkshire. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 6 - Tues 10 Nov*

The New Girlfriend 15

François Ozon's humorous psychological thriller stars Anais Demoustier as Claire, a young woman whose closest friend passes away, leaving behind her a husband, David, and a newborn baby. One day, Anais drops by David's house unexpectedly, and finds him harbouring an unusual secret... *Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 3 Nov*

Normal

A creative documentary based on original anthropological research on the relationship between migration, the sex industry and sex trafficking. The film brings the real-life stories of male, female and transgender

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migrants working in the sex industry to the screen. *Showing at The Drum, Birmingham, Thurs 12 Nov*

The Program 15

If nothing else, Lance Armstrong was a terrific inspirational speaker. He could look you straight in the eye and convince you he was telling the truth. Armstrong not only contracted stage three metastatic testicular cancer, but he beat it - and then went on to win the 'Tour' seven consecutive times. It's a compelling narrative and, as Armstrong, the blue-eyed Ben Foster is more than up to the task. More problematic is the act of compressing such a big story into less than two hours and bringing a freshness to a tale so often told. Also stars Chris O'Dowd. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Nov*

A Royal Night Out 12a

Quite what the Queen has made of this fictionalisation of the first flutters of her heart is anybody's guess. Anyway, it's VE Day and the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret are allowed to mingle with the commoners to celebrate. Think Roman Hol-

iday set in London. Stars Sarah Gadon and Emily Watson. *Showing at Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 16 Nov*

The Salt Of The Earth PG

A ravishing documentary portrait of Brazilian photographer Sebastiao Salgado, perhaps most famous for his mid-1980s shots of Brazil's biblically vast gold mines and their workers. Wim Wenders and Salgado's son, Juliano, have teamed up to tell his life story - from his early years through to his work on hostilities and environmental activism. *Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 17 Nov*

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel PG

Sequel in which the hapless Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel) has opened the new hostelry of the title, in spite of his impending marriage. Still, he has a new co-manager, the dauntless Muriel Donnelly (Maggie Smith). Also stars Judi Dench & Bill Nighy. *Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 24 Nov*

Sicario 15

An idealistic FBI agent (Emily Blunt) is enlisted to track down a nameless drug lord operating on the US-Mexican border. The film has received ecstatic acclaim and is being tipped for Oscar glory, with Ms Blunt a front-runner for best actress. Also stars Benicio del Toro and Josh Brolin. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 13 - Thurs 19 Nov; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 20 - Sat 21 Nov*

Spectre 12a

Whilst the newly appointed 'M' continues his ongoing battle with political forces to keep the secret service above water, a cryptic message reveals ghosts from Bond's past. It becomes clear that a menacing organisation named SPECTRE is at the bottom of the threat, and 007 is soon embroiled in a globetrotting mission to solve its mystery. Stars Daniel Craig and Léa Seydoux. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Sun 1 Nov; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Fri 20 - Wed 25 Nov; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Fri 27 - Mon 30 Nov*

Stations Of The Cross 15

Divided into fourteen chapters to mirror the number of stages of Christ's judgement up to his burial, this is a most unusual film. Winner of the Best Script award at Berlin, it focuses on fourteen-year-old Maria, who follows the aforementioned fourteen stages in which to reach her nirvana per the dictates of the fundamentalist Catholic community in which she's raised. Not surprisingly, perhaps, the whole film was shot in fourteen takes. Stars Lea van Acken and Hanns Zischler. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Wed 25 Nov*

Still Alice 12a

Julianne Moore is Alice Howland, a linguistics professor who is defined by her intellect, her language and her articulation. Then, during a routine lecture at Columbia University, she forgets the word "lexicon." For Alice, it is the beginning of the end... Also stars Alec Baldwin and Kristen Stewart. *Showing at Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 16 Nov*

Suffragette 12a

Suffragette focuses on the working women who fought for equal rights for their sex in the early part of the twentieth century. Starting off in 1912, the film takes a fictitious wife and mother, Maud Watts, and charts her involvement with key figures in the movement. Stars Carey Mulligan and Helena Bonham Carter. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 5 Nov; mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 5 Nov; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, until Thurs 5 Nov; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sun 22 Nov; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 27 & Sat 28 Nov; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Sat 28 & Sun 29 Nov*

Suite Française 15

This tale focuses on Lucille Angellier, a young wife in Nazi-occupied France who comes under the watchful gaze of a German commander posted at the home she shares with her domineering mother-in-law. Stars Michelle Williams and Kristin Scott Thomas. *Showing at Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Mon 9 Nov*

Taxi Tehran 15

Following *The Circle* (2000) and *Crimson Gold* (2003), Jafar Panahi was banned from making any more films for twenty years (and from leaving Iran). So he shot this drama in the back of a taxi while driving around Tehran, recording his passengers' confidential comments and opinions. Winner of the Golden Bear (best film) at this year's Berlin Film Festival. Stars Jafar Panahi and Hana Saeidi. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sun 29 - Mon 30 Nov*

A Walk In The Woods 15

It's hard to imagine Bill Bryson's 1998 memoir being turned into a film, let alone having Robert Redford play Bryson. The cuddly Bryson was in his mid-forties then and Redford is seventy-eight now. The walk in the woods was actually a two thousand, two hundred-mile trek along the Appalachian Trail, an amble that was somewhat complicated by the accompaniment of Bryson's dissolute 'former' friend, Stephen Katz (Nick Nolte). *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 8 & Fri 27 Nov*

DVD NEW RELEASES

Manglehorn 12a

Al Pacino got terrific reviews for this drama, in which he plays an eccentric, small-town locksmith in Texas still mourning an unresolved relationship from twenty years earlier. **Released 2 Nov**



Terminator Genisys 12a

Arnie is back in cybernetic mode as T-800. This time John Connor finds himself fighting the Machines on two temporal fronts: from both the past and the future. Also stars Jason Clarke and Emilia Clarke. **Released 2 Nov**



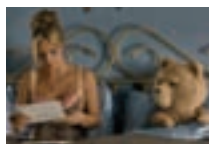
Ant-Man 12a

Ant-Man - aka Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) - is the latest superhero to scurry out of the Marvel Comics catalogue. Scott Lang is actually a conman who comes by a suit that enables him both to shrink and 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. **Released 23 Nov**



Ted 2 15

In this eagerly anticipated follow-up, Ted marries Tami-Lynn and they decide to have a baby. But Ted, being just a stuffed toy, needs human spermatozoa to impregnate her. Stars Mark Wahlberg and Seth MacFarlane. **Released 30 Nov**



Fifty Shades Of Grey 18

Fifty Shades Of Grey has really become a mainstream phenomenon. The first volume of EL James' 'literary' trilogy was initially deemed smutty, even pornographic, but even so became something of a housewives' choice. In August of 2012, Amazon announced that it had sold more copies of the novel than the entire Harry Potter series put together. Pundits have suspected that part of the title's success was due to its availability as an e-book, so that your mother could read it on public transport with impunity. Either way, a film version was inevitable, and here we have it. Expect blindfolds and spanking. Starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan. **Released 2 November**

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Get festive!

There's no shortage of opportunities for Midlanders (big and small) to get into the festive spirit this month and next. For starters, the region offers some of the best pantos in the land, complete with big-name stars of stage and screen. Then there's ice skating in Birmingham, Trentham, Solihull and Shrewsbury, sledging in Tamworth, festive crafts at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and Stourbridge's Red House Glass Cone, and Santa visits, festive trails and themed markets galore! You name it, the marvellous Midlands has got it covered...

A bumper treat awaits Midlands theatre-goers this Christmas, with a Santa's sackful of stars descending on the region. With its long-held reputation for hosting the country's biggest pantomime, the Birmingham Hippodrome this year presents Aladdin. Its all-star cast features Wet, Wet, Wet frontman Marti Pellow, panto veteran Julian Clary, West End star Lee Mead and comic genius Matt Slack. Up the motorway at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, meanwhile, comedy legends the Chuckle Brothers promise plenty of laughs as Starky and Smee in the swashbuckling tale of Peter Pan. The Chucklevision duo are joined by the ultimate Mr Nasty, John Altman - better known as EastEnders' badboy Nick Cotton. Moving north of the region, Stoke's much-loved son Jonny Wilkes makes his near-annual 'festive pilgrimage' to his home town, this year performing alongside regular sidekick Christian Patterson in another version of Peter Pan. If panto's not your thing, fear not, as there are plenty of festive alternatives available. The RSC, for instance, is taking a more serious approach to JM Barrie's classic tale of the boy who wouldn't grow up. Ella Hickson's

acclaimed production of Wendy And Peter Pan features Benidorm actor Adam Gillen as pirate's cabin boy and Tink's love interest, Martin. Elsewhere, the award-winning Hairspray The Musical stops off at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, a brand new production of The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe runs at the Birmingham REP, and The Gruffalo's Child enjoys an adventure at Warwick Arts Centre. And for those who like their festive tales good'n'ghostly, a new version of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol shows at Birmingham's Old Joint Stock Theatre. A new kid on the block for 2015 is Cinderella, at the Barclaycard Arena. Claiming to be the 'world's biggest pantomime', the production features Bradley Walsh, Paul O'Grady, Dick & Dom and a cast of over one hundred. For more information on festive offerings in the region, visit whatsonlive.co.uk



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Festive shows opening this month...

Treasure Island

Old Rep, Birmingham,
Fri 20 November - Sun 3 January

Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story has delighted generation upon generation of readers, and over the years has inspired sufficient stage and film adaptations to fill a treasure chest (and a big one, at that!). When salty old seadog Billy Bones brings his papers to the Admiral Benbow Inn, he draws young Jim Hawkins into the adventure of a lifetime - one which will see him not only setting sail in search of buried treasure, but also spending time in the company of a one-legged pirate with murder in mind...



The Gruffalo's Child

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Thurs 26 November - Sun 3 January

This musical adaptation is sure to be a hit with kids. It finds the Gruffalo and his youngster embarking on yet another adventure in the deep, dark wood.

Despite her dad's warning to stay away from the wood, the Gruffalo's child decides it's time to go and explore, unworried by the legend of the Big Bad Mouse...



Cinderella

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury,
Sat 28 November - Sat 2 January

With its comical Ugly Sisters, metamorphosing pumpkin, matchmaking fairy godmother, drop-dead gorgeous Prince Charming, super-cute mice and fits-one-foot-only glass slipper, Cinderella can justifiably lay claim to being the most popular of all pantomimes. This latest incarnation of the legendary fairy-tale promises to be a delightfully jaw-dropping experience for sure-to-be-wide-eyed young audiences.



Wendy And Peter Pan

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Tues 17 November - Sun 31 January

Second star to the right and straight on till morning - that's the way to Neverland.

Fly away with the boy who wouldn't grow up to a magical island filled with adventure. Meet a real fairy, Wendy and the Lost Boys. Oh, and beware the wicked Captain Hook. And don't forget to listen out for the 'tick tock' of a very hungry croc. Instructions, instructions!...

JM Barrie's classic tale is here adapted by Ella Hickson.

Beauty And The Beast

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Wed 25 November - Sat 9 January

When a young woman is captured by a hideous beast, she finds herself facing a life of isolation in his mysterious palace. The Beast, too, is trapped, seemingly forever, inside the grotesqueness of his physical appearance, the consequence of a spell cast upon him by an evil witch.

Only Beauty's ability to look beyond his ugliness and see the person within can save him...

All of which would make for an absorbing evening of theatre even without adding in the Belgrade's dose of high-quality panto magic!



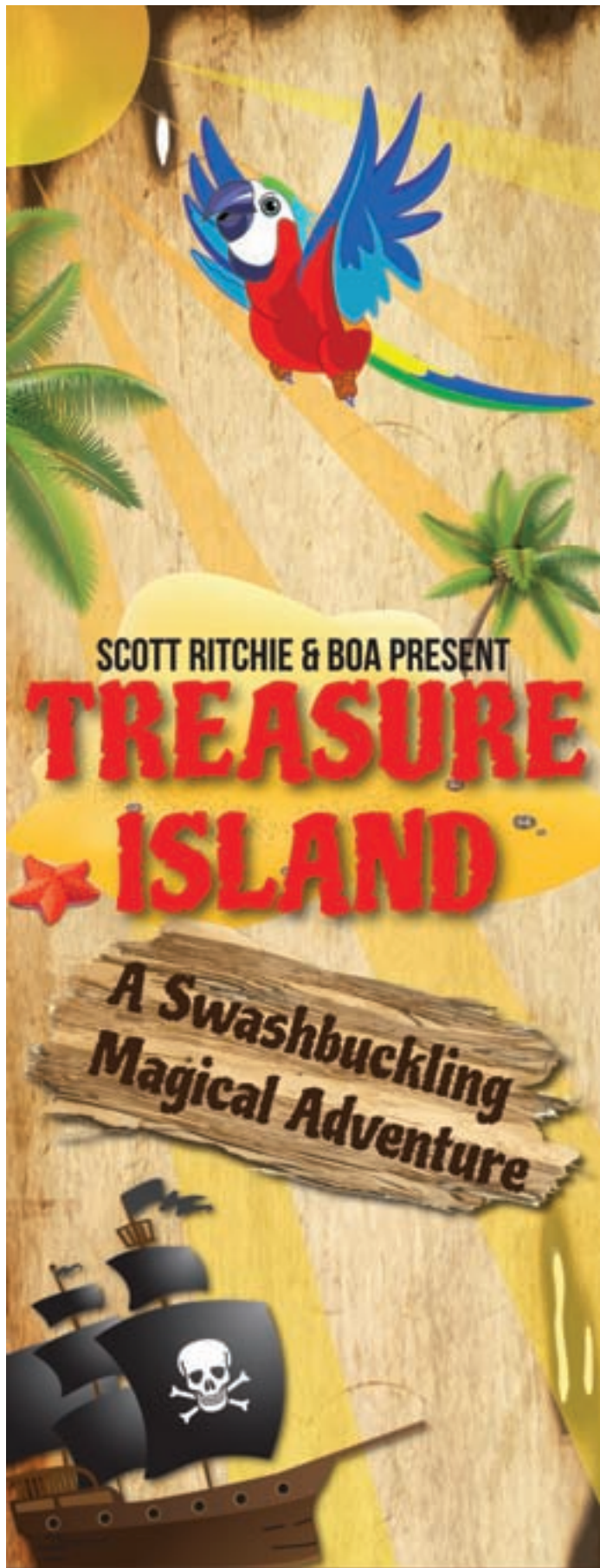
The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe

Birmingham REP, Fri 20 November - Fri 16 January

This much-loved tale from the pen of CS Lewis is rightly regarded as an all-time classic of children's literature. It sees the lion-god Aslan coming to the aid of three youngsters who've accidentally stumbled into his mystical world of Narnia.

Commenting on the show, The Rep's Artistic Director, Roxana Silbert, says: "The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe is a classic story that touches young and old, and this vivid stage adaptation will bring a little bit of magic to the winter season.





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Festive show LISTINGS

WENDY & PETER PAN Tues 17 Nov - Sun 31 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, £6 - £65

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE Thurs 19 Nov - Sat 16 Jan, The REP, Birmingham £7.50 - £35

TREASURE ISLAND Presented by Scott Ritchie and BOA, Fri 20 Nov - Sun 3 Jan, Old Rep, Birmingham, £15.95, Family tickets £55

ROBIN HOOD & MARIAN Sat 21 Nov - Sat 30 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, £16 - £23

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Wed 25 Nov - Sat 9 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry £8.25 - £22.25

THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD Thurs 26 Nov - Sun 3 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, £14.50

CINDERELLA Sat 28 Nov - Sat 2 Jan, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, £11.50 - £24.25

ERIC'S CHRISTMAS PARTY Mon 30 Nov - Sat 12 Dec, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, £16.00 - £22.50

ERIC'S CHRISTMAS PARTY Mon 30 Nov - Sat 3 Jan, The Swan Theatre, Worcestershire, £12.95 - £17.95

CINDERELLA Wed 2 Dec - Sat 5 Dec, Dovehouse Theatre, Birmingham, £9 - £11

DICK WHITTINGTON Wed 2 Dec - Sun 10 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, £11.50 - £23

CINDERELLA: A FAIRYTALE Thurs 3 Dec - Sat 9 Jan, mac, Birmingham,

£8.50 - £21

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Thurs 3 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Lichfield Garrick, Staffordshire, £12.50 - £24

GRIMM TALES Sat 5 - Sat 19 Dec, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, £8 - £15, Family tickets £36

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Sat 5 Dec - Sun 27 Dec, Bedworth Civic Hall, Warwickshire £9 - £14.50, Family tickets £45

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Sat 5 Dec - Sat 2 Jan, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington, from £12.50

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Sat 5 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Lichfield Garrick, Staffs, £12.50 - £21.50, Family tickets £63

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Starring Eternal's Vernie Bennett and X Factor's Lloyd Daniels, Mon 7 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Palace Theatre, Redditch, £18 - £65.25

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS Tues 8 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, The Place, Oakengates, Shropshire, £9.50 - £17.50

THE WITCHES Wed 9 Dec - Sun 10 Jan, The Curve, Leicester, from £12 - £16

SANTA'S RUSTY ROBOT Presented by Imagine Theatre, Thurs 10 - Thurs 24 Dec, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, £7.25 - £10.25

ALADDIN Fri 11 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Solihull Arts Complex, £16 - £19

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Fri 11 Dec - Sun 10 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse

Theatre, £18 (£14) Family tickets £58

THE LOST GIFT Sat 12 Dec - Thurs 31 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, £12 - £14

PETER PAN Starring The Chuckle Brothers and John Altman, Sat 12 Dec - Sun 24 Jan, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, £17.00 - £31.50

DICK WHITTINGTON Presented by All & Sundry, Sun 13 - Sun 20 Dec, Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove, £14 - £15, Family tickets £43 - £47

HAIRSPRAY THE MUSICAL Mon 14 Dec - Sat 2 Jan, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham from £15 - £67.40

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Tues 15 Dec - Wed 23 Dec, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, £15

CINDERELLA Mon 16 Nov - Sun 20 Dec, Town Hall, Sutton Coldfield, £10 - £16

CINDERELLA Mon 16 Nov - Sun 27 Dec, Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, £15

CINDERELLA Sat 19 Dec - Tues 29 Dec, Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock, £14 - £48

PETER PAN Sat 19 Dec - Sun 2 Jan, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham £11

ALADDIN Starring Marti Pellow, Julian Clary, Lee Mead and Matt Slack, Sat 19 Dec - Sun 31 Jan, Birmingham Hippodrome, £14 - £42

WE'RE GOING ON A BEARHUNT Tues 22 Dec - Wed 13 Jan, Town Hall, Birmingham £12 - £14



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Christmas Craft Fair
at The Ancient High House



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Christmas Market
in the Market Square



Wednesday 2 to Sunday 6 December
St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival
in St Marys Church



Saturday 5 December
Christmas Through the Ages
at The Ancient High House



Thursday 10 December to Saturday 10 January
Jack and the Beanstalk
rock and roll panto fun, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre



Saturday 12 December
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Tuesday 29th December

Saturday 19th, Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd,
Thursday 24th, Saturday 26th, Monday 28th,
Tuesday 29th: 2.30pm
Sunday 20th: 1.30pm, 6pm
Sunday 27th, Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th: 7pm

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Enchanted Dreams

The Pre-Raphaelite Art of ER Hughes

Heather Kincaid takes a stroll around BMAG's newest exhibition with curator Victoria Osborne...

Colourful in art as in life, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood rank among Britain's most celebrated visual artists. Their romanticism, fascination with myth and fairytale, and blurring of the boundaries between fine and applied art are characteristic of the era that produced them.

The Pre-Raphaelites' long-standing relationship with the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, largely thanks to local connections through Edward Burne-Jones, has, over time, resulted in the gallery accumulating the world's largest Pre-Raphaelite collection. As such, it's hard to think of a better way to celebrate BMAG's one hundred-and-thirtieth anniversary this month than with an insight into one of the movement's lesser-known painters - Edward Robert Hughes.

Until February 2016, BMAG is hosting Enchanted Dreams, the first ever full-scale retrospective of Hughes' work. Although his paintings are well known through reproductions, the originals are rarely displayed, due to the fragile nature of his preferred medium.

Curator Victoria Osborne explains: "Because watercolours are very delicate, they can't be exposed to light for long periods, so even when a museum has a work by E R Hughes, chances are it won't be on permanent display. That's why there's something really special about being able to bring all of these works together for this exhibition."

Arranged chronologically, Enchanted Dreams aims to give an insight into the man behind the work, showing portraits of the artist and a selection of his inspirations as well as Hughes' own creations.

"One of the things we know about Hughes is that he was incredibly good looking," Osborne continues. "That's something that everybody talks about, and there are lots of very striking photographs of him. That meant that he was in demand as a model - so we know that he modelled for Rossetti and Simeon Solomon, as well as for his uncle, Arthur Hughes. He seems to have been a very popular character - there are lots of very affectionate accounts of him."

The influence of his fellow Pre-Raphaelites is clear throughout the artist's career. Among the works with obvious lines of descent is *Oh, What's That In The Hollow* (1893). Inspired by Christina Rossetti's poem, *Amor Mundi*, the morbid image of a corpse wrapped in thorns echoes Millais' famous *Ophelia*, as well as Burne-Jones' *Briar Rose* series. Hughes also became a close friend of William Holman-Hunt, whom he served as studio assistant for many years.

"They had a very close and confidential relationship," reveals Osborne. "Towards the end of Hunt's life, he lost his sight to glaucoma - a real tragedy for a painter - so Hughes was actually painting for Hunt from his instructions for a while. There are letters where he talks about it, and you get a real sense of the weight of responsibility he felt in working for this man that he completely idolised. Such was the bond of trust between them that Hughes' work for Hunt included finishing major pieces such as *The Lady Of Shalott* and the final version of *The Light Of The World*."

Among the exhibition's most moving pieces is a tender, chalk portrait of an elderly Holman-Hunt, whose sad smile seems to hint at the difficulties he faced in old age.

Chalk was another medium in which Hughes developed a distinctive style, perhaps most strikingly in his red chalk representation of *Fra Lippo Lippi*, inspired by Robert Browning's poem. Having previously been viewed as secondary to paintings and sculptures, drawings gained recognition as independent works of art during the second half of the nineteenth century. Hughes' portrait brings the renegade monk vividly to life with its almost photographic appearance, as though red-ened and bleached by exposure.

Nevertheless, it's Hughes' large-scale watercolours that remain his crowning achievements, regularly taking pride of place at London's Royal Watercolour Society during his lifetime. Combining watercolour and body colour, Hughes created ambitious, often symbolic or narrative works, with sharp contrasts

and clearly defined details very difficult to achieve in the medium.

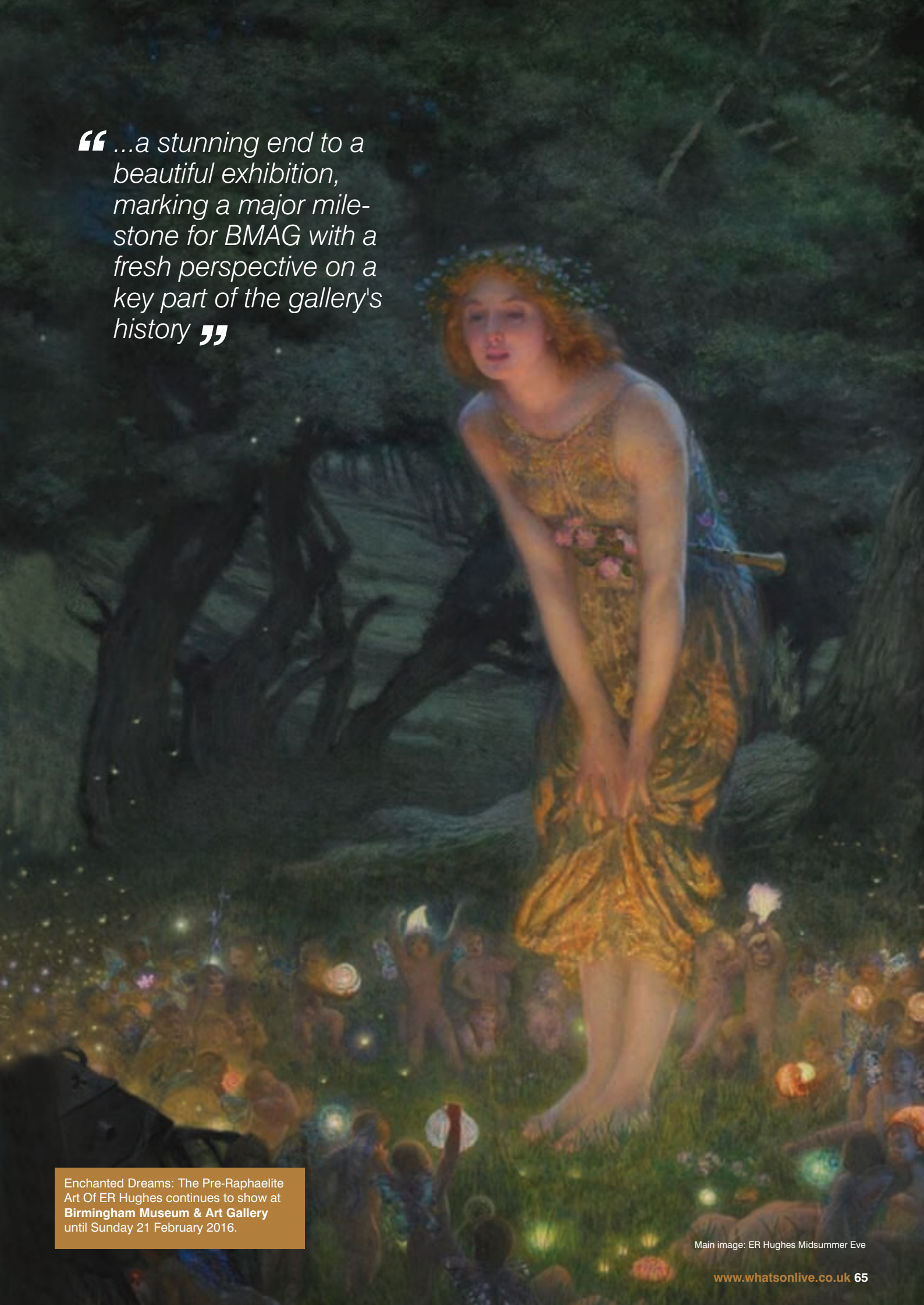
Enchanted Dreams' final room displays the artist's famous *Blue Phantasies*, including the BMAG favourite, *Night With Her Train of Stars* (1912), here displayed for the first time alongside its companion piece, *Wings Of The Morning* (1905). In the latter, the young, angelic and nude Dawn brightens the sky, surrounded by flocks of colourful birds, while the former shows a sombre, experienced yet reassuringly maternal Night, clad in a sweeping robe and smiling down at her cherubic stars.

These are spintingling paintings full of magic and mystery, and although they're Hughes' most familiar works, it's instantly apparent how little justice the many reproductions have done them. Youthful, fairytale figures, like those in *A Witch* (1902) and *Midsummer Eve* (1908), convey a sense of freedom and innocence. Yet at the same time, there's a haunting melancholy to the colour contrasts, and not without reason: the 'night-time' theme is in part a representation of death and mortality. Perhaps surprisingly, though, Hughes' vision of death is gentle and kind - even comforting - as in *Night and Valkyrie's Vigil* (1906), where the subject casts aside her helmet and chainmail as if to mourn her duties.

It's a stunning end to a beautiful exhibition, marking a major milestone for BMAG with a fresh perspective on a key part of the gallery's history.



“ ...a stunning end to a beautiful exhibition, marking a major milestone for BMAG with a fresh perspective on a key part of the gallery's history **”**



Enchanted Dreams: The Pre-Raphaelite Art Of ER Hughes continues to show at **Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery** until Sunday 21 February 2016.

Main image: ER Hughes Midsummer Eve

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

Winter Exhibitions

WAR GAMES

10 October 2015 – 17 January 2016

Free

V&A Museum of Childhood
London

INDELIBLE MARKS: THE DRESDEN PROJECT BY MONICA PETZAL

13 November 2015 – 3 February 2016

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Mechanical toy cowboy, Marusei Toys, Japan, 1960s-70s
© Victoria & Albert Museum, London



© Monica Petzal

Visual Arts

Terms Of Engagement

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, until Sun 17 January

During the last one hundred years, some of the country's most respected artists have been commissioned by Birmingham University to portray and honour its chancellors, vice chancellors and other leading figures.

Comprising oil paintings, works on paper and sculpture, this new exhibition takes a look at the process of realising portraits of some of the university's leading figures.

The display includes work by numerous prominent artists, including Jacob Epstein, Tom Phillips, Humphrey Ocean and Jennifer McRae.



Tom Wood (b. 1955) Portrait of Sir Michael Thompson

Paul Newman: Stage

mac, Birmingham, until Sun 22 November

Paul Newman's latest work brings together drawing, painting, performance and installation to examine two territories - the artist's studio and the public exhibition space. Occasionally referencing historical paintings sourced from artists' post-cards, the display includes works which look both backwards and forwards, as characters and motifs from a ten-year period re-emerge.



Making It: Sculpture In Britain: 1977 - 1986

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Sun 29 November

A ten-year period during which a new generation of artists introduced a fresh approach to sculpture is explored in this new exhibition.

Featuring sculptures by world-renowned artists including Antony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, Julian Opie, Cornelia Parker, David Nash and Richard Deacon, Making It highlights a time of great social, political and economic change.

Commenting on the show, Fiona Venables, Deputy Curator at Mead Gallery, said: "The late 1970s and early 1980s was such a pivotal time for sculpture in this country. This is a good time to stop and reflect on the work of a pioneering generation of British artists."



War Games

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry, until Sun 17 January

This highly interactive touring exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood in London explores the controversy surrounding childhood engagement with war, examining the role of armed conflict in the games youngsters play.

Children visiting the show are encouraged to dress up and participate in a range of thought-provoking activities, to investigate how games of war have evolved across the ages.

Further exhibitions

Katharina Ludwig And Cristobal Gracia

Grand Union, Birmingham, Sunday 1 - Sat 28 November

Grand Union this month offers its high-quality workspace to two artists-in-residence.

Mexico City's Cristobal Gracia is spending the month at the venue as part of an exchange that saw West Midlands-based artist Andrew Lacon heading in the opposite direction in September. Gracia's work challenges the construction of a present built and regulated by ideological and power structures imposed over time.

Katharina Ludwig, meanwhile, visits Grand Union having responded to an open call to Berlin-based artists and was selected in partnership with Birmingham artist Joanne Masding. Her work operates in the space between film, theatre, language, digital culture and artefact.

Periodic Tales: The Art Of The Elements

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, until Sun 13 December

Historic and contemporary works by Eduardo Paolozzi, Antony Gormley, Cornelia Parker and David Nash all feature in this fascinating exhibition, which takes a look at the way in which artists have explored the rich cultural symbolism of the elements featured in the periodic table.

Nicklin Unseen

Snow Hill Square, Birmingham, until Thurs 31 December

More than fifty images are featured in this outdoor photographic exhibition, which looks back to an era during which Birmingham was undergoing a significant period of transformation following World War Two.

The images were taken over a sixteen-year period by Phyllis Nicklin, a staff tutor in geography in the University of Birmingham's extramural department. They present a time which saw the building of new roads, houses, schools, shops and public facilities, as well as the construction of The Rotunda, the Bull Ring Shopping Centre and the Inner Ring Road.

Commenting on the exhibition, Mike Best, board director at Colmore Business District, said: "This year is a significant one for Birmingham's ongoing transformation. As New Street Station is reborn and the redevelopment of Paradise gets underway, Nicklin Unseen allows us to look back at how far we've come as a city in fifty years."



For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit whatsonlive.co.uk

STILL WITH US: THE STORY OF YARDLEY PEOPLE IN WORLD WAR ONE until Sun 1 Nov, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

COVENTRY ARTS CONSORTIUM Exhibition of work by thirteen artists from four local art societies, until Sun 1 Nov, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND PASTEL SOCIETY Exhibition in the showcase gallery, until Sun 1 Nov, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

GOOD MONEY: A CURRENCY COMPETITION FOR HANDSWORTH Local residents have been designing their own currency and nominating local Handsworth 'visionaries' to have their profiles cast on the coins, until Sun 1 Nov, Soho House, Birmingham

RBSA PRIZE FOR INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY, WINNERS & RUNNERS-UP Awarded each year to graduates from Birmingham City University's School of Jewellery, until Mon 2 Nov, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

NEW DISPLAY OF JAPANESE ART Colourful woodblock prints and beautiful ceramics by famous Japanese artists, until Mon 2 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

RACE 50 EXHIBITION Race relations over the past fifty years - portraits of members of the public, community leaders, activists, political and religious figures and business leaders, until Fri 6 Nov, The Drum, Birmingham

CODE AND CARPENTRY Interactive exhibition by Anna Horton and Sophie Bullock in partnership with Fierce Festival, until Sat 7 Nov, BOM (Birmingham Open Media)

EXODUS - MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE Photographic exhibition by Anand Chhabra and Sarjit Sra, until Thurs 12 Nov, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

STRING OF PEARLS: WOMBOURNE QUILTERS 30TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION until Sat 14 Nov, Bilston Craft Gallery

MADE IN THE MIDLANDS Digital prints of the history and remnants of Midlands manufacturing, until Sat 14 Nov, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS' EXHIBITION New community exhibition featuring fantastic images taken by West Midlands Fire Service's team of volunteer photographers, until Fri 20 Nov, 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, until Sat 21 Nov, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

JOHN HOPKINS ARBSA Display of studio and 'plein air' watercolours, until Sat 21 Nov, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

ILLUSTRATION BEATS EXPLANATION Featuring works by contemporary artists who use comics, storyboards & drawings as a visual way to convey new ideas about the world, until Sat 21 Nov, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

PAUL NEWMAN: STAGE Drawing, painting, performance & installation are here used to explore the idea of an internal landscape with occasional references to historical paintings sourced from artists' postcards, until 22 Nov, mac, Birmingham

5 CUBED: DIVERSE PERCEPTIONS Exhibition by a group of four mature, contemporary artists who met whilst studying for fine arts degrees in the West Midlands, and who've continued to exhibit together, until Sun 22 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ATOM EGOYAN: STEENBECKETT Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan's installation of 35mm celluloid film, which moves continuously around the gallery, until Sun 29 Nov, mac, Birmingham

MAKING IT: SCULPTURE IN BRITAIN: 1977-1986 A touring exhibition from the Arts Council Collection, until Sun 29 Nov, The Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre

OF TIME AND THE RAILWAY BY ROBERT DAVIES A film about the railway line between Birmingham and Aberystwyth, filmed by Robert Davies from the driver's cab of the train, recorded weekly over twelve



months, until Sat 5 Dec, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

DENNIS MINCHIN RBSA Solo work featuring a series of still lives in oil, until Sat 5 Dec, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

DISPLAY SHOW One in a series of group exhibitions and productions which have been designed 'to effect change upon the existing condition of Eastside Projects', until Sat 12 Dec, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

FLORE NOVE-JOSSERAND 'CITY GROWTH BLUES' A space created by artist Nove-Josserand, displaying a number of architectural hoardings through drawing, painting, photographing and constructing, until Sat 12 Dec, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

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

KERN BABY BY FAYE CLARIDGE An enigmatic new exhibition by artist Faye Claridge which takes on the form of an exaggerated sculptural emblem of folklore, until Sun 13 Dec, Compton Verney Gallery, Warwickshire

JUNE RIDGWAY ARBSA A collection of new ceramic work, identifiable via the artist's distinctive use of soft colour against lines of black, until Sat 19 Dec, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

MISSING POST OFFICE UK Birmingham branch of Missing Post Office UK by Japanese artist Saya Kubota, until Wed 23 Dec, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

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

THE GAIN LINE Award-winning contemporary artist Ravi Deepres takes audiences on a unique journey into the heart of the game of rugby, until Sat 9 Jan, Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

THE RUGBY OPEN EXHIBITION Celebration of Rugby's sporting heritage, with art works representing the 'proud home' of Rugby and rugby the game, until Sat 9 Jan, Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

GRAHAM IBBESON Sculptor Graham Ibbeson reveals the creative process behind his iconic statue of William Webb Ellis, until Sat 9 Jan, Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE Works by William Hogarth & John Brett feature in this exhibition, which explores the evolving imagery of children and childhood, until 10 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

MADE AT MAC: PHOTOGRAPHY A showcase of work from two Kate Green-led courses, until Sun 10 Jan, mac Birmingham

A TOUCH OF TEXTURE CRAFT EXHIBITION Featuring jewellery made using alternative materials including leather, felt, cotton, wool, silk and velvet, until Sat 16 Jan, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

FIONA BANNER - SCROLL DOWN AND KEEP SCROLLING Comprising a wide variety of text pieces, drawings, sculptures and films, until Sun 17 Jan, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

MEDICATE 2015 Contemporary collection exploring the physical, societal & psychological effects of disease on people, as well as the values and practices of medical science, until Sun 17 Jan, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

JACQUES NIMKI: SEEN/UNSEEN A new permanent installation featuring more than three hundred barely visible works referencing plant drawings, until Sun 17 Jan, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

FLINCK IN FOCUS Marking the four hundredth anniversary of Govert Flinck's birth, this exhibition explores the under-appreciated artist, until Sun 24 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

ANTONIO ROBERTS First solo exhibition, until Fri 29 Jan, BOM (Birmingham Open Media)

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

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, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MADE AT MAC AT HEART OF ENGLAND TRUST HOSPITALS Touring exhibition by various mac students, until Fri 29 July, Heartlands Hospital, Good Hope and Solihull Hospitals

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY IN 130 YEARS The story of the Museum & Art Gallery in a special anniversary exhibition, until Thurs 1 Sept 2016, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

FAMOUS REDDITCH PEOPLE Redditch Local History Society exhibition showing the impact of people in the town on activities which have stimulated the local community, Thurs 29 Oct - Sun 22 Nov, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Worcestershire



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

MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS EXHIBITION Work inspired by the British countryside featuring RBSA artists, Mon 2 - Sat 14 Nov, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

NEW CURATORS 2015: EXPLORING DRAWING Exhibition examining the different meanings and uses of drawing in the work of members, associates and guest artists, Mon 2 - Sat 28 Nov, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

CRAFTED FOR YOU Annual exhibition of some of the best craft makers in the Midlands, Sat 7 Nov - Sat 9 Jan, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

GALLERY 12 ANNUAL EXHIBITION A collective of artists based in and around Birmingham, comprising painters, printmakers, photographers, decoupage artists, jewellers and ceramicists, Fri 13 - Sun 15 Nov, Woodbridge Gallery, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM ART CIRCLE EXHIBITIONS Exploring the theme of movement, Mon 16 - Sat 28 Nov, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

MATHÉ SHEPHEARD ARBSA A semi-abstract approach that explores a variety of landscapes including skies, mountains, water, contours and textures, Mon 23 Nov - Sat 23 Jan, RBSA Gallery, B'ham

LYNNE SAWYER & KATHERINE WATSON: CONTEMPORARY ART/NATURAL LANDSCAPES Wed 25 Nov - Sun 3 Jan, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ALEX DROZD: SMETHWICK GALTON BRIDGE/PORTRAIT OF A STATION Photographic exhibition of the landscape surrounding Smethwick Galton Bridge railway station, Sat 28 Nov - Sun 24 Jan, mac, Birmingham

SOCIETY OF ARTISTS The sixty-eighth annual exhibition of the Worcester Society of Artists, Sat 28 Nov - Sat 30 Jan, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery.

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FLINCK IN FOCUS
A Question of Identity
in 17th-century
Dutch Portraiture

23 October 2015 - 24 January 2016



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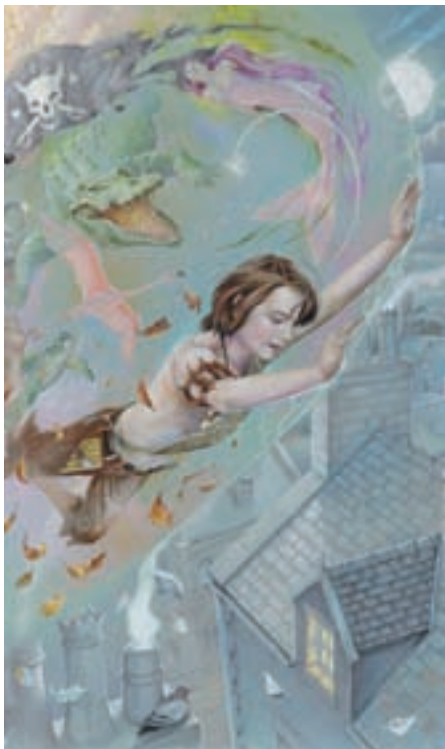
TALES OF THE EXPECTED AND THE UNEXPECTED ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE

The perfect opportunity for enthusiasts and collectors to browse, purchase and obtain information on a vast array of furniture and collectables, Antiques For Everyone features Georgian and Victorian furniture, British and European works of art, and highly collectable ceramics, porcelain and jewellery from the past three hundred years.

Among the Winter Fair highlights is a Whitby Jet jewellery exhibition. The display tells the story of the world's largest fashioned and rough Jet specimen collection of over two hundred pieces, most of which are being shown in public for the first time. Collections of antique dolls, miniature and decorative arts also feature.

Below are a few of our favourite things, on show at this month's fair at Birmingham's NEC from 19 to 22 November.

WINTER FAIR HIGHLIGHTS



Original illustrations by Steve Hutton for a new, limited edition book of Peter Pan. Prices range from £2,000 to £3,500. Exhibitor: Art Of The Imagination. Visitors can meet the illustrator on the stand at the fair.



Come and see the world record breaking Whitby Jet gemstone measuring 6.5 m/21ft in length, presented by W Hamond from the original Whitby Jet shop.

Vintage items have become a hugely popular feature of the fair, with an eclectic mix of fashion, jewellery and home-ware available to purchase. Below exhibitor: Kitty Verity.



A rare George I Georgian Silver Tea Caddy. Made in London. Date - 1716. The Coat of Arms is Buckley. Price: £3,500. Exhibitor: JB Silverware.



Regency rosewood George IV Easy Chair London, circa 1829. Price: £3,250. Exhibitor: Freshford Fine Antiques.

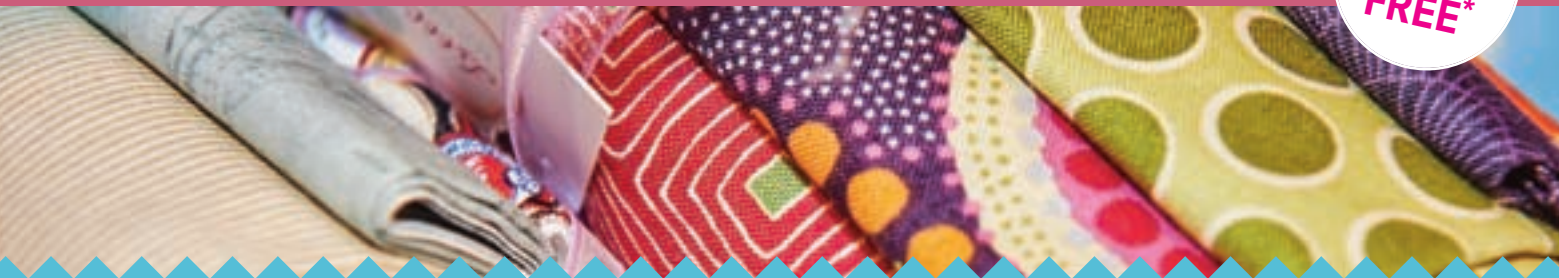
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SEPARATE
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Events



Crafts For Christmas NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 5 - Sun 8 November

This popular event for crafting enthusiasts at all levels brings together three distinct shows under one roof.

With plenty of inspiration for a creative Christmas, the shows feature a huge array of craft materials and handmade gifts from hundreds of exhibitors. This year's show-stopping attraction is the world's largest knitted Christmas tree, standing at an impressive twenty-five-feet and created by Alison Murray and a volunteer team of seven hundred knitters.

"I'm delighted to be exhibiting at Crafts For Christmas," says Alison, who's also displaying a fairytale gingerbread house, complete with snowman, winter garden and life-sized Father Christmas. "The Christmas Tree has over five thousand rectangles sewn on to it, and I'm proud to say it's already raised £17,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital."

Classic Motor Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 13 - Sun 15 November

The biggest event of its kind, the Classic Motor Show's 2015 highlights include a display of one thousand, eight hundred cars, six hundred trade stands, and marquees manned by two hundred-and-fifty of the UK's best motoring clubs.

Visitors can head to the Restoration Theatre to find out how to restore a cherished classic, search for that elusive part in the always-popular autojumble and take a ride as a passenger in their 'dream car'.

The event also features a dedicated Classic Motorbike show, complete with over three hundred motorcycles, club displays, classic bike concours, stage interviews and a bike-jumble.



MCM Comic Con Birmingham

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 21 - Sun 22 November

American actor Lee Majors became one of Hollywood's hottest properties in the 1970s when he starred as bionically-enhanced astronaut Steve Austin in hit television series *The Six Million Dollar Man*.

Lee is one of numerous celebrities making guest appearances at this well-established show, which brings together a broad scope of popular-culture categories including movies, gaming, comics, anime, television shows, gadgets, clothing and toys.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIRS

Get into Christmas spirit at Coventry Museums! Meet a host of wonderful local artists and craftspeople and buy unique handmade gifts, decorations, jewellery, prints and textiles in a relaxed seasonal atmosphere.

Making Merry

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

Friday 27 November, 7.30pm – 10.30pm
Saturday 28 November, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Coventry Transport Museum

Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 November, 10.00am – 4.30pm



Visit www.theherbert.org or www.transport-museum.com for full details.

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Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre

Worcester City Centre, Thurs 26 - Sun 29 November

This annual event, attracting in excess of a hundred thousand visitors, features over one hundred-and-sixty stalls selling crafts, gifts and speciality foods. It also boasts an array of period entertainment, with choirs, juggling stiltwalkers, a period carousel and barrel organ music all having featured in previous years.



Hereford Contemporary Craft Fair

The Courtyard, Hereford, Fri 13 - Sun 15 November

This well-attended annual show features fifty-nine contemporary craft designer-makers presenting a wide variety of work, including jewellery, textiles, furniture, ceramics, glass, stone carving, basketry, fashion & accessories and metalwork.

Around one-third of those exhibiting are from the county of Herefordshire itself.

Commenting on the show, organiser Leoni Linton says: "Visitors to the event are able to meet every single maker of the craft they see, bringing to life an object of beauty with an understanding of who made it and how and why they made it. This makes every purchase both personal and special - especially a bespoke commission, which virtually all our exhibitors take."



Campers Christmas

Coventry Transport Museum, Sun 29 November

"We're delighted to be hosting our very popular Campers Christmas event again," says Coventry Transport Museum's Clive Skelhon, "and this time it comes with a bit of a sci-fi twist.

"It's a really fun time of the year, where owners of campervans, motorhomes and trucks can join us to display their vehicles outside



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BBC Good Food Show Winter

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 26 - Sun 29 November

A long-time favourite on the UK's culinary events calendar, the BBC Good Food Show brings a packed programme of inspiration and entertainment to the NEC.

Attracting the crème de la crème of TV personalities, this year's show sees Paul Hollywood, Mary Berry, Michael Roux Jr and James Martin cooking up a treat or several in the Supertheatre. Add into the mix oodles of tastings and hundreds of exhibitors showcasing their wares and you've got yourself the makings of a delicious day out.

the museum - and decorate with fabulous festive items.

"This year we're celebrating the upcoming release of the new Star Wars film, so we're inviting people to bring their best Star Wars garb!"



Birmingham International Tattoo

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sat 28 - Sun 29 November

The Birmingham International Tattoo is this year marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War Two. Marching bands from Hungary, France, Sweden and Italy join British forces in what promises to be the event's best ever line-up. Displays from the Royal Navy, Army and RAF complement the music of the massed bands, with special guest appearances from British tenor Tim Pitman and singer Rebecca Robinson.



Winter Wonderland

SnowDome, Tamworth, Fri 20 November - Thurs 31 December

An all-new, adventure-packed stage show awaits festive-season visitors to this popular Staffordshire destination.

Santa and his friends are making their final preparations for Christmas and time is running out - they need the help of Midlands-based youngsters to make everyone's wishes come true...

Suitable for children of all ages, the Winter Wonderland show is just part of the festive fun on offer at Tamworth's snowy indoor attraction. A safe environment ensures visitors are able to play and slide in real snow as they explore Santa's Christmas snow trail, take a walk through the enchanted forest, enjoy a game of snowballs and hitch a ride on a sledge.

The less adventurous, meanwhile, can observe the snow action as they amble along the promenade walkway. There's even an animal village, where youngsters can meet Santa's reindeer and say hello to some of his furry friends.



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Events PREVIEWS

Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market

Birmingham City Centre,
Thurs 12 November - Tues 22 December

This is the largest outdoor Christmas market in the country and sits at the centre of Birmingham's festive celebrations. Drawing crowds from across the city and further afield, the markets feature a wide range of traditional handmade toys, art, and items from throughout the world, as well as plenty of food and drink, including German mulled wine (Glutelin), grilled sausages, vegetarian options, pretzels and German beer. Carols singers, live music and an ornate carousel also feature.



Ice Skate Birmingham

Centenary Square, Birmingham, Sat 14 November - Sun 10 January

Ice Skate Birmingham makes a welcome return to the city centre this month. As usual located in front of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the popular visitor attraction can hold up to three hundred people in one session. Younger or inexperienced skating enthusiasts can keep upright by using special Penguin Skating aids, which can be booked online and in advance.

The rink is once again overlooked by the Observation Wheel, offering passengers superb views of surrounding Birmingham landmarks.

Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

From **SUN 1 NOV**

DISNEY ON ICE: WORLDS OF ENCHANTMENT until Sun 1 Nov, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

CROOME'S SPELLBINDING HALLOWEEN TRAIL Using clues, follow the trail to find the ingredients to make a witch's or wizard's brew, until Sun 1 Nov, Croome Park, Worcester

THE SKELETON MENAGERIE Help to create a spectacularly spooky display as part of Herbert's Festival Of The Dead, until Sun 1 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

COVENTRY ARTS CONSORTIUM 2015 The thirteenth exhibition of work by artists from four local art societies, until Sun 1 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

THE HAUNTED CASTLE Featuring wanton witches, scary tales and a brand new Fire Joust, until Sun 1 Nov, Warwick Castle

BRICK 2015 This haven for LEGO fans boasts numerous interactive features, until Sun 1 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

ARCHERY LEADERS COURSE For anyone wishing to become qualified at leading archery groups, until Sun 1 Nov, The Ackers, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR Arrive in fancy dress for some ghoulish fun across the whole attraction, until Sun 1 Nov, Cadbury World, Bournville

FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN 2015 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities, until Sun 1 Nov, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

HALLOWEEN TRAIL A spooky family trail around the grounds, until Sun 1 Nov, Croft Castle, Worcestershire

FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN 2015 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities, until Sun 1 Nov, Packwood House, Solihull

PUMPKIN WEEK Daily carving competitions, plus a pumpkin hunt and Hatton's Halloween Pumpkin House, until Sun 1 Nov, Hatton Adventure World,

Warwickshire

SCAREFEST Alton Towers has spectacularly revamped its hugely popular Scarefest attraction for 2015, until Sun 1 Nov, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

OCTONAUTS TRAINING ACADEMY Enrol your little ones at the all-new academy and find out what it takes to become a member of the crew, until Sat 7 Nov, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

FESTIVE RAG WREATH MAKING until Sat 28 Nov, Birmingham Back to Backs

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG 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 1 Nov, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

ANTIQUE AND COLLECTORS FAIR The ideal opportunity to find something perfect for your home, collection or wardrobe, Sun 1 Nov, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

CAR STORIES Various family-fun workshops where you can tell your own car stories across the half-term, Sun 1 Nov, Heritage Motor Centre, Warwickshire

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS Celebrating twenty-five years of the house, Sun 1 - Mon 30 Nov, Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath

GINO'S ITALIAN ESCAPE Tue 3 Nov, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG Chance to practise drifting in safe and legal conditions on some of the Pod's thirty acres of open tarmac, Wed 4 Nov, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

FIRE & DUST A poetry open-mic night hosted by Silhouette Press and The Big Comfy Book Shop, Wed 4 Nov, Fargo Village, Coventry

AN EVENING WITH PAUL MCGRATH Former Ireland and Aston Villa legend Paul McGrath reminisces about his career, Wed 4 - Thurs 5 Nov, Irish Centre, Birmingham

STEVE BACKSHALL'S WILD WORLD Illustrated with photos and films from Steve's expeditions, Thurs 5 Nov, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

WOLVERHAMPTON BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT Thurs 5 Nov, Wolverhampton Racecourse

URBAN PRESENTS SGT BILKO'S VINTAGE EMPORIUM

CLASSIC FILM NIGHT A regular film night for all die-hard classic film fans, Thurs 5 Nov, Fargo Village, Coventry

CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS Thurs 5 - Sun 8 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

ART MATERIALS LIVE Thurs 5 - Sun 8 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

Celebrating Bonfire Night



FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR A War Of The Worlds fireworks display to celebrate the theme park's sixty-fifth anniversary, with some of the rides and attractions open until 9pm, Fri 30 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Staffordshire

GUNPOWDER, TREASON AND PLOT Celebrate bonfire night with craft activities, quizzes and trails, Sun 1 Nov, Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath

FIREWORK DISPLAY AND LASER SHOW Sun 1 Nov, Hampton Court Castle, Herefordshire

NO BANGS BONFIRE NIGHT A traditional bonfire party, ideal for younger visitors and those who don't like loud bangs. Meet Guy Fawkes and listen to live music, Thurs 5 Nov, Avoncroft Museum, Worcestershire

SILENT FIREWORKS A fireworks display with a difference, with no bangers or loud noises. Ideal for little ones, Thurs 5 Nov, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

WOLVERHAMPTON BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT Thurs 5 Nov, Wolverhampton Racecourse

FIREWORKS AT ALTON TOWERS Fri 6 - Sun 8 Nov, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

FIREWORK FRENZY A spectacular evening of fireworks, Monster Trucks and stunts. Plus a huge bonfire, funfair, catering and bar facilities, plus family entertainment, Sat 7 Nov, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

FIREWORK FESTIVAL Sat 7 - Sun 8 Nov, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Worcestershire



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Sat 28th & Sun 29th
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Games, try-on armour, falconry, archery, hands-on history and St Nicholas' grotto. For kids of all ages - young and old.

Book your tickets online for discounted prices

www.ludlowmedievalchristmas.co.uk

THE SHUGBOROUGH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 27, Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 November

Come and enjoy some seasonal shopping in the fabulous setting of the Hall grounds where you'll be able to sample and buy everything from our wide range of arts, craft and gift stalls with anything from jewellery and other accessories including handicrafts, hand made cards, photography candles, aromatherapy products, through to ceramics and wood turning. Food and drink would include wine, real-food as well as chocolates and many other confections. And there's an extra special seasonal treat in the magnificent Mansion House. It will re-open especially during the Christmas Fair, offering you a glimpse of how the Victorians decorated their grand houses for Christmas. The house will be filled with fresh flowers and lit by the light of hundreds of candles - the pièce de résistance being the magnificent candlelit 300-year-old chandelier. Shugborough Candlelit Mansion House will open from 11am to 4pm with the downstairs area decorated throughout with fresh flowers, Christmas decorations and trees.

The Fair is open between 10am - 4pm each day

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Milford Staffordshire ST17 0XB

admission: £9 concessions: £7.50 (combined ticket includes admission to both House and Fair)
Single tickets will be available to purchase at the gate on the day at a cost of £5 adults, £4 concessions
children aged 12 and younger FREE if accompanied by an adult - admission discounts at oakleighfairs.co.uk/shugchrist



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Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

STITCHING, SEWING & HOBBIYCRRAFTS Thurs 5 - Sun 8 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR Unlock the secrets of Witley's partying past, Fri 6 Nov, Witley Court, Worcestershire
CIVIL WAR TALK: SENT TO COVENTRY Fri 6 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
THE NATIONAL GRADUATE RECRUITMENT EXHIBITION Fri 6 - Sat 7 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
CAKE INTERNATIONAL The world's largest sugar craft, cake decorating and baking show, Fri 6 - Sun 8 Nov, NEC, Birmingham



Cake International, NEC, Birmingham

THE INTERNATIONAL MODEL BOAT SHOW Fri 6 - Sun 8 Nov, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre
EXCALIBUR COMPUTER FAIR Sat 7 Nov, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull
ENTHUSIASTS OF BRITISH VEHICLES BUILT BEFORE 1985 sixty iconic British cars, have a chat with the owners and take lots of photographs, Sat 7 Nov, Coventry Transport Museum
SETTER AND POINTER SHOW Sat 7 Nov, Staffordshire County Showground
SHAKESPEARE TOUR OF STRATFORD Sat 7 Nov, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-Upon-Avon
THE NATIONAL PET SHOW 2015 Hundreds of different animals, animal-action displays, informative talks and demonstrations, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
COUNT DUCKULA Live on stage for the very first time, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Nov, Cadbury World, Birmingham
THE GREAT UPTON SEWING BEE Join in a 1940s sewing bee with a chance to have a go yourself with a needle and thread, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Nov, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire
WWE LIVE Sun 8 Nov, Genting Arena, Birmingham
REP WEDDING FAIR AUTUMN 2015 Sun 8 Nov, The REP, Birmingham
TREE PLANTING PARTY Sun 8 Nov, Croft Castle, Worcestershire
CHILDREN'S MARKET A chance to purchase all kinds of things for babies and children. Free activities for little ones, Sun 8 Nov, Fargo Village, Coventry
ANTIQUE AND COLLECTORS FAIR Sun 8 Nov, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull
COIN & BANKNOTE FAIR Coin, banknote, medal and antiquity dealers from the UK and Ireland, Sun 8 Nov, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull
BAKE AND MAKE Make your own Christmas treats and presents, Mon 9 Nov, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

Week Commencing MON 9 NOV

STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD & CONSERVATION TOUR Behind-the-scenes tour, Tue 10 Nov, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery
GROW AND EXPLORE OUTDOORS An under-fives session, Wed 11 Nov, Hill Close Gardens, Warwick
FESTIVE GIFT FAIR, Thurs 12 - Sun 15 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET Thurs 12 Nov - Tue 22 Dec, Birmingham City Centre
NATURE TOTS - JAYS, JACKDAWS AND MORE Wildlife event for little ones, Fri 13 Nov, The Parkridge Centre, Solihull
LANCASTER INSURANCE CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW Fri 13 - Sun 15 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
75 YEARS Commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Coventry Blitz, with artwork by John Piper and Gustav Metzger, Fri 13 Nov 2015 - Sun 7 Feb 2016, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
DRESDEN TODAY - ART AND ARCHITECTURE A unique opportunity to hear historian Eveline Eaton discuss

and explore the art & architecture of the city of Dresden, Sat 14 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
SECOND WORLD WAR FAMILY DAY A day of workshops, activities and experiences to commemorate the lives lost in the Second World War, Sat 14 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
COUNT DUCKULA Live on stage for the very first time. Sat 14 - Sun 15 Nov, Cadbury World, Birmingham
WINTER WONDERLAND The theme park, magically transformed into a Winter Wonderland, Sat 14 Nov - Thu 24 Dec, Twinlakes Family Theme Park, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire
ICE SKATE BIRMINGHAM Sat 14 Nov 2015 - Sun 10 Jan 2016, Centenary Square, Birmingham
LIZ LOCHHEAD An evening with the National Poet of Scotland, Sun 15 Nov, Artrix, Worcestershire
HIGHBURY HALL BY CANDLELIGHT Sun 15 Nov, Highbury Hall, Moseley, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM ARMS FAIR The UK's biggest antique and vintage arms fair, Sun 15 Nov, National Motorcycle Museum, Warwickshire
COVENTRY BLITZ ANNIVERSARY Blitz survivors share their experiences of the Coventry Blitz, Sun 15 Nov, St. Mary's Guildhall, Coventry

Week Commencing MON 16 NOV

OTTER WEEK Themed events and fundraising activities to raise awareness for an otter conservation project, Mon 16 - Mon 23 Nov, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham
WAR GAMES WITH THE VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD Talk from the curator of War Games - a touring exhibition from the Victoria & Albert Museum of Childhood, Tue 17 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
HISTORIC SPORTS CAR CLUB - CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS A nine-race event for post-war racing cars from the 1950s to 1980s, featuring the final races of 2015 for some of the HSCC Championship and Series, Tue 17 Nov, Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire
DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG Chance to practise drifting in safe and legal conditions on some of the Pod's thirty acres of open tarmac, Wed 18 Nov, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants
THE ORIGINAL DUDLEY GHOST TOUR Join the Dudley Ghost Tour around various haunted sites, Wed 18 Nov, Station Hotel, Dudley
TUDOR FESTIVE FOOD: TALK & TASTING Learn all about Tudor Christmas food with food historian Stuart Peachy, Thurs 19 Nov, Avoncroft Museum, Worcestershire
CHRISTMAS AT CROFT Celebrate an Edwardian Christmas with decor, traditions and food from the era, Thurs 19 - Fri 20 Nov, Croft Castle, Worcestershire
THE SKILLS SHOW The nation's largest skills and careers event, providing young people with opportunities to discover what they're good at and what they enjoy. Plenty of interactive activities and hands-on experiences, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE WINTER FAIR The largest vetted art, antiques and interiors fair in the UK, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
CIVIL WAR TALK: SENT TO COVENTRY Fri 20 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
NATURE TOTS - KINGS AND QUEENS Wildlife for little ones, Fri 20 Nov, The Parkridge Centre, Solihull
SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND Fri 20 Nov - Thu 31 Dec, The Snowdome, Tamworth
THE KINGMAKER'S MEDIEVAL BANQUET Sat 21 Nov, Warwick Castle
EXCALIBUR COMPUTER FAIR Sat 21 Nov, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull
CHRISTMAS FAIR 2015 Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WEEKENDS Christmas pantomime version of The Sleeping Beauty. Santa stars in his own show, with a gift for every child, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov, Cadbury World, Birmingham
CRAFT & CHRISTMAS GIFT FAYRE Over fifty exhibitors, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley
MAGICAL CHRISTMAS A magical christmas experience including Polar Express 4D and meeting the reindeers, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth
CHRISTMAS AT CROFT Celebrate an Edwardian Christmas with decor, traditions and food from the era, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov, Croft Castle, Worcestershire
MCM BIRMINGHAM COMIC CON A weekend-long celebration of movies, comics, sci-fi, games, anime and collectables, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS FOOD AND CRAFT FAYRE Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov, The Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Worcestershire
CHRISTMAS AT STOWE Carols, children's crafts, shopping and a yuletide menu, Sat 21 Nov 2015 - Sun 10 Jan 2016, Stowe House Gardens, Staffordshire
SANTA HUNTS A fun-filled search for Santa, Sun 22 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley
THE NATIONAL GLASS FAIR Featuring a wide choice of glassware, from eighteenth century drinking glasses through to contemporary studio glass, Sun 22 Nov, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

Week Commencing MON 23 NOV

RAMBLE WITH THE RANGERS Join the ranger team for a different walk each month in the castle's historic parkland. Walks are of differing lengths and difficulties, Wed 25 Nov, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham
CHRISTMAS AT GREYFRIARS WITH WORCESTER CHRISTMAS FAYRE Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Nov, Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcestershire
CANDLE-LIT CHRISTMAS Explore Greyfriars at Christmas, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Nov, Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcestershire
BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW WINTER Thurs 26 - Sun 29 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
NATURE TOTS - LEAVES Wildlife for little ones, Fri 27 Nov, The Parkridge Centre, Solihull
ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION RECRUITMENT EXHIBITION Meet recruiters from the industry's top employers and get one-to-one advice, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
MAKING MERRY Meet a host of local artists and craftspeople, learn new skills and find the perfect gift for your loved ones, Fri 27 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
MAGICAL CHRISTMAS Including Polar Express 4D and meeting the reindeers, Fri 27 - Mon 30 Nov, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth
ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS KINGDOM Festive entertainment, including a real-life nativity and a Festive Friends puppet show, Sat 28 Nov - Fri 25 Dec, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AND SANTA'S GROTTTO Sat 28 Nov, Selly Manor, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO 2015 Sat 28 - Sun 29 Nov, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Including paintings, artisan foods and unique handmade gifts, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Nov, Coventry Transport Museum
CHRISTMAS AT CROFT Celebrate an Edwardian Christmas with decor, traditions and food from the era, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Nov, Croft Castle, Worcestershire
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Sat 28 - Sun 29 Nov, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Worcestershire
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE WEEKEND A variety of stall holders, mulled wine and mince pies, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Nov, Highbury Hall, Birmingham
WARLEY NATIONAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION Exhibitors from the UK and abroad launch their latest products and sell rare items, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Nov, NEC, Birmingham
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WEEKENDS Pantomime version of The Sleeping Beauty. Santa stars in his own show, with a gift for every child, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Nov, Cadbury World, Birmingham
CHRISTMAS AT COUGHTON Festive shopping in the Coach House gift shop, locally sourced Christmas lunch and, at weekends, a Christmas market in the stableyard, Sat 28 Nov - Sun 6 Dec, Coughton Court, Warwickshire
MOTORCYCLE LIVE The best products, bikes & services, from leading companies across the globe, Sat 28 Nov - Sun 6 Dec, NEC, Birmingham
CHRISTMAS AT WARWICK CASTLE Meet Santa Claus and enjoy a range of festive events, Sat 28 Nov - Sun 3 Jan, Warwick Castle
SANTA'S SLEEPOVERS Experience a magical festive sleepover at one Alton Towers' themed hotels, Sun 29 Nov, Alton Towers, Staffordshire
CHRISTMAS FUN Festive songs, carols and other seasonal activities, Sun 29 Nov, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham
DOLL AND TEDDY FAIR Sun 29 Nov, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull
CAMPERS CHRISTMAS A Christmas grotto experience starring campervans, motorhomes and custom truck cabs, Sun 29 Nov, Coventry Transport Museum
CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS Georgian-inspired Christmas, Mon 30 Nov, 2015 - Sun 3 Jan 2016, Croome Park, Worcestershire

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Eating Out

World-class dining

Michelin-starred Birmingham city centre eatery Adam's has been named the fourth best rated fine dining restaurant in the world by the 2015 Travellers' Choice Restaurants Awards. Currently located on Bennett's Hill, the restaurant was also rated the third best in Europe and, for the first time, the best in the UK. The awards are testament to the high standards of food and service provided by owner and chef Adam Stokes and his wife, Natasha. The restaurant opened in 2013 and attained its Michelin star six months later. Adam and Natasha plan to relocate their business to New Oxford House on Waterloo Street, just off Colmore Row - a move which will see the restaurant's capacity rise from twenty-five to thirty-eight covers.



Adam Stokes - chef and owner

An evening of art and food

Digbeth contemporary art gallery Grand Union and pop-up restaurant Nomad have once again joined forces to present a unique evening of art and food. The event takes place in the gallery space on 6 November. Guests include artists-in-residence Cristobal Gracia, from Mexico City, and Berlin's Katharina Ludwig, both of whom will be on hand to talk about their artistic practices. The chefs at Nomad have designed a menu of small plates and bespoke cocktails inspired by traditional dishes from the artists' home countries. Tickets for the evening cost £25, which includes three courses and a bespoke cocktail. Alternatively, just pop in and buy a plate or two. For further details, visit grand-union.org.uk

Middle Eastern delights...

Food & drink guide Dine Birmingham is this month hosting a Middle Eastern feast. A Taste of Syria takes place on 3 November at Syriana on Constitution Hill. The event has been organised in collaboration with Oxfam's Syrian Refugee Appeal, to which all profits will be donated. The evening promises an upmarket dining experience with traditional Syrian cuisine of mezze, a selection of main courses - including a vegetarian option - and authentic Syrian pastries. There will also be live entertainment on the night, courtesy of Middle Eastern music and 'hypnotic' belly-dancing. Tickets must be pre-booked and start at £30 per person. For further information, visit dinebirmingham.co.uk/upcoming-events.

Owen De Visser Photography



Spanish, informal and explosive...

REVIEW

If you enter Grand Central from New Street, you'll find that the old concrete ramp that used to link the Pallasades shopping centre is still there. Beloved of Brummies for decades, the ramp is a whisper of old Birmingham.

As I sat on a leather-upholstered chair, sipping saffron lemonade and popping calamares into my mouth at Tapas Revolution, I reflected how the city has changed in recent years.

This autumn saw the opening of the sparkly new New Street Station and, of course, John Lewis. Most importantly, there are now innumerable good and affordable places to eat - and this is precisely what the new Grand Central shopping centre is priding itself on. Surrounding the massive atrium of New Street Station, Grand Central's balcony-style eateries flog Asian soup, prosecco by the glass and lurid green juices to shoppers. I'm willing to put money that the best of these cafes-come-restaurants is

Tapas Revolution. Inspired by the tapas bars of Madrid, this small chain has arrived in Birmingham after openings in London's Shoreditch and Westfield. The brains behind the business is TV chef Omar Allibhoy - Spain's answer to Jamie Oliver, complete with scooter and obligatory bushy beard.

The food is very, very good. That Spanish staple, pan con tomate (£2.95), was drenched in luscious olive oil - wholesome and indulgent at the same time. Chorizo a la sidra (£5.25) was hot, spicy and succulent, and worked a treat with the calamares fritos (£5.25). Fried as crisp as a chip, it was the best squid I've ever had in this country. The torreznos con mojo dulce - crispy pork belly to you and me, £5.50 - was expertly executed, slow-cooked to tenderness whilst keeping the all-important crackling. But star of the show for me was the pisto (£3.75), a stew of aubergine, courgette, pepper and herbs which could easily be dull but in the hands of these chefs was an explosion of taste and sunshine.

Dessert was the tad overpriced manchego with quince jelly (£5.75) and the outstanding Torrija (£4.25), egg-soaked brioche topped with custard and caramel. Sounds odd, tastes amazing. Pleasingly, the staff are actually Spanish and the service is pin-sharp, the waiters unfazed by a family with boisterous toddlers and equally happy to discuss craft beer with businesspeople in suits.

This is informal eating at its best. Take your kids, take your colleagues, take your partner, take your parents. No-one can eat at Tapas Revolution and go home grumpy. Ah, Grand Central. You may give us outstanding tapas, but you'll never take away our ramp..

Helen Stallard

Food: ■■■■■
Service: ■■■■■
Ambience: ■■■■■
Overall value ■■■■■
OVERALL ■■■■■

Tapas Revolution,
Grand Central,
Ground Floor Level,
68a East Mews,
Birmingham,
B2 4XJ

Restaurant LISTINGS

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit: www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Birmingham

24 CARAT BISTRO 27 Warstone Lane, Birmingham, B18 6JQ 0121 236 0519
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 2HJ
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
ITIHAAS 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, B31 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, B13 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



Las Iguanas, Coventry

Bright Street, B1 1BL
THE VAULTS Newhall Place, Newhall Hill, B1 3JH 0121 212 9837
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

BINDLES BAR & BRASSERIE 55 Sidbury, WR1 2HU 01905 611120
BRAMBLINGS Hither Green Lane, Redditch, B98 9BE 01527 406600
BRIDGE INN Plough Road, Droitwich, WR9 7NQ 01905 345874
CHADDESLEY 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
EW E 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, Stouilton, Worcester, WR7 4RJ 01905 840647
THE INN AT STONEHALL Stonehall Common, Worcester, WR5 3QG 01905 820462
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

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