

Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

Birmingham

What's On

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EDDIE IZZARD
IN THE MIDLANDS

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thelist

Your 16-page week
by week listings guide



JULIAN CLARY

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SPECIAL GUEST: JAY JAMES



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MAGAZINE GROUP



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Matthew Bourne's The Red Shoes amongst Hippodrome highlights

A specially commissioned outdoor production commemorating the centenary of the Great War is one of the highlights of Birmingham Hippodrome's recently announced 2016/17 programme of shows.

Furious Folly, taking place as night falls in a no-man's land on the battle front between the two lines, immerses its audience within an open-air collage of sound, light, pyrotechnics and performance. The production will be presented in Sutton Park.

The Hippodrome season also sees Sir Matthew Bourne making a welcome return to Birmingham with brand new show *The Red Shoes*, a dance piece based on the beloved fairytale and Academy Award-winning movie of the same title.

Other highlights of the season include Shakespeare-inspired productions by Birmingham Royal Ballet and Welsh National Opera, Cuban choreographer Nilda Guerra's 'sizzling' new dance show *Vamos Cuba*, and Billy Elliott *The Musical*, stopping off at the Hippodrome as part of its first ever UK tour.

For more information about these shows and other elements of the Hippodrome's 2016/17 season, visit, birminghamhippodrome.com.



Plans revealed for city centre redevelopment



Birmingham City Council has revealed plans to transform one of the city's largest public spaces. A full business case for the redevelopment of Centenary Square has been put to cabinet with councillors asked to accept a £10.55 million Enterprise Zone grant from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) to fund the cost of delivering the project.

The square's new design was chosen following a high profile competition which attracted nearly 200 entries from architects and designers around the world. The new design incorporates lighting columns, a water feature with fountain jets and a glade of trees.

Work on the scheme is scheduled to begin in early 2017, subject to subsequent planning permission, with the project due to be completed by summer 2018.

Will wannabe surgeons make the cut?

Midlands-based wannabe surgeons are being given the chance to work in a real operating theatre this summer.

The anatomy dissection tour Operating Theatre Live is heading to Birmingham in August, and is aimed at children and young people between the ages of 14 and 17 who want to pursue careers in health and medicine.

The students will work in groups to dissect a real GI tract (stomach & intestines), a heart, a set of lungs, a head and brain sample and a real leg and bone.

Operating Theatre Live runs from 10 to 12 August in Sutton Coldfield.

Aldo Zilli announced for Foodies Festival



Award-winning celebrity chef and restaurateur Aldo Zilli is set to be a star attraction at Birmingham's forthcoming Foodies Festival. Aldo, who specialises in Italian, vegetarian and seafood cuisine, will take his place at the Cannon Hill Park event next month, heading a line-up of celebrity chefs that also features Great British Bake Off 2015 winner Nadiya Jamir Hussain.

Other attractions at the three-day festival include an artisan producers market, craft beer masterclasses, a kids cookery theatre, a vintage cider tent and, for those with an adventurous nature and cast-iron stomach, a jungle bug eating challenge.

The Birmingham Foodies Festival takes place in Cannon Hill Park from 3 to 5 June.

Cabaret Festival returns for a second year

Birmingham's Cabaret Festival is back for a second year, taking place at the city's Old Joint Stock venue from 4 to 29 May.

"Cabaret has undeniably undergone a renaissance in the past couple of decades," explain the festival's organisers. "Music, comedy, circus, drag and burlesque acts, to name but a few branches, frequently dominate the headlines at festivals and venues across the world. Cabaret is often the place to discover the newest and most daring cross-disciplinary theatre, and it's something we're delighted to be bringing to the second city."

West Midlands the best for young visitors

Travel guidebook series Rough Guides has named the West Midlands as the third best place in the world to visit with children.

Edinburgh, the Isle of Wight and Wales were the only other UK destinations to feature in the top-30 list. Kerala in India took first place and Maribor in Slovenia second.

Commenting on the success, Emma Gray, Director of Marketing & Communications at Visit Birmingham, said: "The West Midlands is bursting at the seams with vibrant cultural attractions, globally-recognised cuisine and innovative independent festivals - all proving a hit with local and visiting families."

"This latest recognition from Rough Guides follows a record 2015 for the region's visitor economy, with Birmingham alone welcoming an all-time high of more than 38 million tourists."

"With an exciting 2016 calendar including Shakespeare's 400th anniversary, there's so much here to inspire and enthral children from across the globe."

For Rough Guides' full list, visit, roughguides.com/special-features/the-30-best-places-to-go-with-kids/



Mel B promises to spice up the festive season

It will definitely be a case of 'mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the Spiciest one of all?' at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena this Christmas, when Spice Girl Mel B stars as the Scary Queen in Snow White.

Melanie Brown - aka Scary Spice - will headline the production, which is being promoted as 'the world's biggest panto'.

Mel will be joined by Big Brother favourite Rylan Clarke-Neal as her henchman, Paddy McGuinness as Muddles and Strictly Come Dancing's Vincent and Flavia as the mysterious spirits in the mirror.

The show will also boast a giant castle, 'amazing' special effects, 24ft-high fountains and impressive displays of aerial acrobatics.

The production runs at the Barclaycard Arena from 19 to 22 December. For more information and to buy tickets, visit, barclaycardarena.co.uk/whats-on/worlds-biggest-pantomime



Little Shop Of Horrors for Rhydian



Welsh baritone Rhydian Roberts is to star in Little Shop Of Horrors when it tours to Birmingham and Coventry in the autumn. Rhydian, who's sold in excess of one million albums worldwide since appearing on The X Factor in 2007, will take the role of sadistic dentist Orin Scrivello, the character memorably played by Steve Martin in the 1986 film version.

The show runs at the New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday 27 September to Saturday 1 October and The Belgrade, Coventry from Wed 26 to Sat 29 October.

Be At One in Birmingham

Cocktail bar chain Be At One is opening its first Birmingham venue this month.

Founded in 1998 by bartenders Steve Locke, Rhys Oldfield and Leigh Miller, Be At One is located in the Piccadilly Arcade and has one of the largest cocktail lists in the industry.

Commenting on the Birmingham opening, co-founder Steve Locke said: "We're very much focused on providing a world class guest experience, which we deliver through our bartenders, in-house training and an extensive range of cocktails."

"Be At One is a cocktail institution, providing great service, an unbeatable party atmosphere and, most importantly, a pretention-free attitude. Birmingham is a major step for us - the city has a thriving cocktail scene and one that we're very excited about joining."

The Birmingham Be At One Cocktail Bar opens for business on 12 May.

Birmingham Jazz Festival just got bigger

The Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival has teamed up with Solihull Business Improvement District (BID) to become the Birmingham and Solihull Jazz & Blues Festival.

Commenting on the development, Melanie Palmer, Executive Director of Solihull BID, said: "From our experience in running our own annual Solihull Jazz Festival, we realised that there's a huge appetite for jazz in and around Solihull. I believe that the time is now right to engage with the long-established Birmingham event to produce a festival that will have a far greater footprint than would two separate festivals."

The Birmingham and Solihull Jazz & Blues Festival takes place from 15 to 24 July. The event includes around 150 performances presented in 60 venues, almost all of which will be free to attend.

What's On Readers' Awards 2016

You've been voting in your thousands - literally OVER 25,000 VOTES CAST - in our first ever What's On Readers' Awards! And, the WINNERS are:



The organisers of
Moseley Folk Festival



Barbara Nice



Graham Callister



Chris Sudworth

THEATRE: Best Touring Play

WINNER: Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time

1st RUNNER-UP: East Is East

THEATRE: Best Touring Musical

WINNER: Hairspray

1st RUNNER-UP: The Bodyguard

THEATRE: Best Home-Produced Show In The Midlands

WINNER: The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe - The REP

1st RUNNER-UP:

Wendy & Peter Pan - RSC

THEATRE: Best Pantomime In The Midlands 2015/16

WINNER: Aladdin - Birmingham Hippodrome

1st RUNNER-UP: Peter Pan - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THEATRE: Best Midlands Amateur Dramatic/Operatic Group

WINNER: West Bromwich Operatic Society (WBOS)

1st RUNNER-UP:

Bournville Musical Theatre Company

DANCE: Best Production

WINNER: BRB's - The Nutcracker

1st RUNNER-UP: Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands

CLASSICAL (inc Opera): Best Production

WINNER: CBSO at Symphony Hall

1st RUNNER-UP:

WNO - Sweeney Todd

Best Midlands Arts/Cultural Festival

WINNER: Birmingham Weekender

1st RUNNER-UP:

Birmingham Comedy Festival

Best Midlands Theatre/Arts Venue (Large: 1000+ capacity)

WINNER: Birmingham Hippodrome

1st RUNNER-UP: Birmingham Rep



Rob Macpherson from
Birmingham Hippodrome

Best Midlands Theatre/Arts Venue (Medium: 500-1000 capacity)

WINNER: mac - Birmingham

1st RUNNER-UP: Lichfield Garrick

Best Independent Cinema

WINNER:

Electric Cinema - Birmingham

1st RUNNER-UP:

mac - Birmingham

Best Midlands Comedian

WINNER: Barbara Nice

1st RUNNER-UP: Andy White

Best Midlands Music Venue (Large: 1000+ capacity)

WINNER: Symphony Hall

1st RUNNER-UP: Barclaycard Arena

Best Midlands Music Venue (Medium: 500 - 1000 capacity)

WINNER: The Robin - Bilston

1st RUNNER-UP:

Warwick Arts Centre - Coventry

Best Midlands Music Festival

WINNER: Moseley Folk Festival

1st RUNNER-UP:

Shrewsbury Folk Festival

Best Midlands Live Band

WINNER: The Twang

1st RUNNER-UP: Rainbreakers

Best Midlands Exhibition

WINNER: Staffordshire Hoard - BMAG

1st RUNNER-UP:

Pop Art - Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Best Birmingham Art Gallery/Exhibition Venue

WINNER: Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

1st RUNNER-UP: IKON Gallery

WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

#artsmatters
#culturematters

Best Midlands Art Gallery/ Exhibition Venue (outside Birmingham)

WINNER: Wolverhampton Art Gallery
1st RUNNER-UP: New Art Gallery -
Walsall

Best Midlands' Visitor Attraction

WINNER: Black Country Living
Museum
1st RUNNER-UP: Severn Valley
Railway

Best Midlands Outdoor Event

WINNER: The Big Hoot - Birmingham
1st RUNNER-UP: Frankfurt Christmas
Market - B'ham

Best Midlands Indoor Event

WINNER: BBC Good Food Show
1st RUNNER-UP: MCM Comic Con

Best Family-friendly/Community Festival

WINNER: Birmingham Weekender

1st RUNNER-UP: Moseley Folk
Festival

Best Midlands' Food Festival

WINNER: Birmingham Ind Food Fair
1st RUNNER-UP:
Ludlow Food Festival

Best Midlands Street Food Event

WINNER: Digbeth Dining Club -
Birmingham
1st RUNNER-UP: mac Food Market -
Birmingham

Best Midlands Street Food Vendor

WINNER: Brum Yum Yum
1st RUNNER-UP:
Bournville Waffle Company

Best Midlands Retail Shopping Centre

WINNER: Bullring - Birmingham
1st RUNNER-UP:
Grand Central - Birmingham

Best Sporting Event

WINNER: The Rugby World Cup
1st RUNNER-UP:
Aegon Classic Tennis

Best Midlands Nightclub

WINNER: Rainbow Venues in Digbeth
1st RUNNER-UP: The Nightingale -
Birmingham

Midlands Entertainment Personality of the Year Award

WINNER: Citizen Khan (Adil Ray)
1st RUNNER-UP: Beverley Knight



Citizen Khan with
Lauren Foster

Best Regional Theatre/Arts Venue (Small - under 500 capacity)

Birmingham

1st RUNNER-UP:
The Crescent Theatre
WINNER: The Old Rep

Black Country

WINNER:
Arena Theatre, W'ton
1st RUNNER-UP:
Stourbridge Town Hall

Shropshire

WINNER:
The Hive, Shrewsbury
1st RUNNER-UP:
Theatre on the Steps

Staffordshire

WINNER:
Stafford Gatehouse
1st RUNNER-UP:
Brewhouse Arts

Warwickshire

WINNER:
Albany Theatre, C'try
1st RUNNER-UP:
Criterion Theatre

Worcestershire

WINNER:
Artrix, Bromsgrove
1st RUNNER-UP:
Evesham Arts Centre

Best Regional Live Music Venue (Small - under 500 capacity)

Birmingham

WINNER:
Hare & Hounds
1st RUNNER-UP:
The Glee Club

Black Country

WINNER:
The Slade Rooms
1st RUNNER-UP:
Newhampton Arts
Centre

Shropshire

WINNER: Henry Tudor
House, Shrewsbury
1st RUNNER-UP:
Walker Theatre at
Theatre Severn

Staffordshire

WINNER:
The Sugarmill, Stoke
1st RUNNER-UP:
Tamworth Assembly
Rooms

Warwickshire

WINNER: The Tin
Music & Arts, C'try
1st RUNNER-UP:
Leamington Lamp,
Leamington Spa

Worcestershire

WINNER: Huntingdon
Hall, Worcester
1st RUNNER-UP:
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Best Regional Visitor Attraction

Birmingham

WINNER: Birmingham
Museum & Art Gallery
1st RUNNER-UP:
Cadbury World

Black Country

WINNER: Black
Country Living Museum
1st RUNNER-UP:
Dudley Zoo

Shropshire

WINNER: Ironbridge
Gorge Museums
1st RUNNER-UP:
Attingham Park

Staffordshire

WINNER: Drayton Manor
1st RUNNER-UP:
National Memorial
Arboretum

Warwickshire

WINNER: Coventry
Transport Museum
1st RUNNER-UP:
Warwick Castle

Worcestershire

WINNER:
Croome Park
1st RUNNER-UP:
Severn Valley Railway

Best Independent Regional Restaurant

Birmingham

WINNER:
Purnells
1st RUNNER-UP:
Sabai Sabai

Black Country

WINNER: The
Summerhouse, Dudley
1st RUNNER-UP:
Indigo Restaurant

Shropshire

WINNER:
The King and Thai
1st RUNNER-UP:
The Hundred House

Staffordshire

WINNER: The Swan
with Two Necks
1st RUNNER-UP:
The Orange Tree

Warwickshire

WINNER:
Tailors, Warwick
1st RUNNER-UP:
Greyhound Inn

Worcestershire

WINNER: The Royal
Oak, Evesham
1st RUNNER-UP:
The Black Star

AMELIA LILY

The former X Factor finalist chats to What's On about starring in explosive Broadway musical American Idiot when it visits Birmingham this month



“ Theatre’s something that I’ve wanted to do since I was about nine years old, so I feel like I’m living my dream now. ”

Spring 2002 - As the world reels in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, former leading lights of the US pop punk scene Green Day are falling apart. Another tour and a greatest hits album do little to assuage the effects of messy personal lives, declining popularity and a lack of communication. The trio decide a change is needed, opening up to each other and experimenting with new sounds. By November 2003, they’ve recorded 20 songs for an album titled Cigarettes And Valentines, but that month, the master tapes are stolen. Producer Rob Cavallo asks them to consider whether the lost material was really their best work. Frontman Billie Joe Armstrong disappears to New York for an alcohol-fuelled month alone. It might have been the end of Green Day. Remarkably, two years later, they would become perhaps the biggest rock band in the world.

In September 2005, American Idiot took the industry by storm. Unlike the unreleased Cigarettes And Valentines, this concept album marked a true departure from their earlier work, with sprawling, multi-part musical suites in Jesus Of Suburbia and Homecoming, and powerful political punch in anthems like Holiday and, of course, the title track. Its success spawned sell-out tours, an avalanche of branded merchandise, a live tour CD and DVD and, in 2009/10, a Broadway musical, created by Armstrong and Michael Mayer. Following a West End run at the Arts Theatre last year, the show is now embarking on a second UK tour, stopping off at Birmingham’s New Alexandra Theatre this month.

“The show is about three boys trying to find meaning in their lives post-9/11,” Lily explains. “One of the guys moves away to the city and becomes a bit of a drug addict, one of them stays at home with his pregnant girlfriend and the other one goes off to fight in the army. So they’ve all got these very different stories and journeys and you see how they reunite at the end.”

Best known as an X Factor finalist, pop starlet Lily, now 21, was less than 10 years old when Green Day mania rocked the western world. As



such, for her, being a part of the show has been a fascinating process of discovery.

"I was really young at the time, though of course I knew their big hits - how could you not? But I've learned so much more about the band by being in the show. It also helps that my boyfriend Steve is the biggest Green Day fan ever!"

Conveniently enough, that's Steve Rushton, also appearing in the show as the less-than-willing young father, Will. He stars alongside Emma Housley as his girlfriend, Heather, Alexis Gerred as military recruit Tunny, Newton Faulkner as the hapless city-bound hero Johnny, and Lucas Rush as Johnny's anarchic alter-ego, St Jimmy. Jimmy's not the only character whose existence is in question, however. There's also a hint that Johnny's mysterious love interest, Whatsername, might be little more than a hallucination, or perhaps even a symbolic figure representing his ideals.

"Whatsername is a city girl who Johnny meets when he leaves home, and it's a really fiery romance they have, so she has quite an emotional journey throughout the show," says Lily. "I'm still not sure myself whether she's actually real or just in his head, and I think it's kind of up to the audience to decide for themselves. I think it's great that the show leaves people thinking and doesn't give them all the answers. It makes it quite a challenging role for me but also means I have a lot of freedom."

Unsurprisingly, their relationship doesn't exactly end in a conventional happy ever after...

"Eventually, it gets to the point where Johnny has to choose between her and the drugs, and he chooses the drugs," she continues. "Letterbomb is such a good song to perform because that's when you really see Whatsername come out of her shell and let out all the rage and frustration she's been bottling up inside."

It doesn't seem too much of a stretch to see

some reflection of the band's own former struggles in the disillusionment of the show's three leads. Indeed, Armstrong joined the cast as Jimmy for several performances during the first Broadway run. Like the album, the show pulses with genuine anger and shows how, all too often, a sense of powerlessness and disenfranchisement can lead young people into self-destructive apathy. Sadly, more than ten years later, it's a story that's lost none of its power, with the expansion of mass media and the War on Terror showing no signs of letting up yet. If the rise of George W Bush provoked a backlash, it's nothing on the fascinated horror with which the world now watches Donald Trump. Meanwhile, in the UK, Tony Blair remains unforgiven by many for the Iraq War, and Russell Brand evoked both outrage and admiration for arguing against the value of voting in a system so stacked against real change.

"I don't think this story will ever get old," says Lily. "Even though I was very young at the time, I actually do remember 9/11 happening quite vividly. My mum was ironing in the kitchen and we were watching TV, and all of a sudden it was breaking news. So many people were affected by it, not just in America, but across the world, and people are still questioning why it happened now. What's great about American Idiot, though, is that it really gives a good message out to people."

Like the band, well known for their dynamic live gigs, those behind the musical know how to put on a good show. Among the things reviews of American Idiot have consistently praised is its capturing of the raw energy of a rock concert - something to which Lily is no stranger.

"When I first got the phone call from my agent about American Idiot, I was really excited about it. Being a rock show and a musical, it sounded right up my street. There are parts of the show where you definitely feel like you're at a rock gig, and you can see

by the audience's reactions that they're having the time of their lives, which is an amazing feeling!"

Following a string of UK chart hits, including her Number Two debut single, *You Bring Me Joy*, Lily's first professional experience in musical theatre came as something of a surprise, and saw her rather thrust in at the deep end.

"I got a call last year saying that Bill Kenwright was looking for a Narrator for Joseph and they needed somebody asap. I was invited to his offices to perform, and he offered me the job there and then, which was amazing! Of course, then I only had four days to learn the entire show! It was one of the most challenging things I've ever done, but also one of the things I'm proudest of having achieved. As my first musical, it was hard, but I think I just about pulled it off!"

Ever driven and determined, Lily kick-started her own musical career while still at school, writing her own songs and posting videos of herself singing on YouTube. But acting has also been a long-term passion of hers, and she's thrilled to have been able to seize so many opportunities to develop her skills and show off her talents at such a young age.

"Theatre's something that I've wanted to do since I was about nine years old, so I feel like I'm living my dream now. It does seem like everything's happened very spontaneously for me in the musical theatre world, but I really enjoy that and I think that's how I work best. I don't like to plan too far in advance - I prefer to just see how things go. I feel very lucky that I've been able to have a pop career and a musical theatre career at only 21, and I hope I'll continue with both."

.....
American Idiot shows at New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham from Tues 10 May to Sat 14 May

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Come and join the conversation

Go Greek for charity at Simpsons!

An exclusive charity meal will see Birmingham restaurant Simpsons 'go Greek' this summer.

The Michelin-starred Edgbaston eatery will host the event - complete with Greek music, a raffle and an auction - at nearby El Borracho de Oro on Saturday 9 July.

The special evening is being held in aid of the International Rescue Committee, which is helping refugees who land destitute in Greece and the Greek islands.

Tickets for the meal cost £60 per

person and can be booked by calling El Borracho on 0121 454 5368.



MPW unveils new dining concept at The Cube

Marco Pierre White will this month launch a new 'ultra-casual' dining concept at The Cube in Birmingham.

Bardolino Pizzeria Bellini & Espresso bar will feature an all-day express menu of authentic Italian food, coffees and Bellinis.

Commenting on his new venture, Marco said: "Bardolino represents affordable, friendly and casual dining with recognisable family favourites and classic Italian dishes."

"Bardolino is a restaurant concept created for both discerning diners and aspirational families alike. After all, pasta is a child's favourite food."



REVIEW: The Chameleon Restaurant And Bar A calmer Chameleon for a more rounded experience?...



Given that it's named after a creature that can change colour to blend in with its surroundings, it's ironic that, regardless of time or circumstance, Birmingham's Chameleon Restaurant & Bar is a seriously bright place - complete with dazzling fluorescent lighting and a giant, glowing chandelier. The nightclub venue is also loud and lively - especially at 7.30pm on a Friday night as the post-work revellers kick off their weekend. Whether the above is a good atmosphere for dining is a matter of personal preference and likely to be shaped by your age, group size and how much you want to converse with your din-

ner date.

Grabbing something from the lively bar menu (served from 12 to 9pm) or the excellent-value pre-theatre set menu (4 to 7pm) is one thing, but sitting down for a bona fide meal is likely to present something of a challenge to anyone whose clubbing days are in the past. Like me.

Situated near the entrance to the venue, the Green Room Restaurant is designed to offer a relaxed dining experience, but the lack of any separation from the noise and bustle of the club makes the notion somewhat spurious. Of course, there are people who like to be part of the

action and enjoy being able to see and hear what's going on, but whether that's relaxing or not is a moot point.

One thing I did appreciate being able to see was the open kitchen - always a good sign. The a la carte menu (starters from £5 to £8, mains £15 to £28) gave off good vibes too, with enough variety to make selecting dishes difficult but not so much to suggest the chef was a 'Jack of all trades'.

For starters, my partner and I shared the Seafood Board, a thoroughly agreeable combination of truly succulent king prawns. It's a difficult dish to get wrong, but this was very right all the same - tasty smoked mackerel pâté (with more than a hint of horseradish, apparently made fresh), smoked salmon and some wonderful Devonshire crab meat.

We were very happy with our choice, and continued the sharing theme for our main course, opting for the 16oz Chateaubriand - a dish that has eluded me all my life. If anything, we were even more impressed. The salt-encrusted steak was cooked a perfect shade of pink (perhaps the chef

used the hue of the chandelier as a guide), carved at our table and accompanied by fries, asparagus and cherry tomatoes on the vine. The meat was flawless, the overall combination glorious - and very filling. So filling, in fact, that we were unable to attempt a dessert, leaving me to imagine the chocolate cheesecake with peanut crumb and ponder 'what might have been'. That expression summed up our evening in many respects. On the plus side, what might have been a disappointing night based on the incongruous nightclub atmosphere was mercifully redeemed by the high quality of the food and service, but it was hard not to speculate how much better the experience would have been in a more refined environment. *Steve Adams*

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
OVERALL	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The Chameleon Birmingham Restaurant & Bar
1 Victoria Square
Hill Street
Birmingham
B1 1BD
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ASPARAFEST

Worcestershire's Asparagus-tastic Music & Food Festival

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Worcestershire WR11 7PA
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Graham Nash

Fourteen years on from *Songs For Survivors*, Graham Nash is back with his sixth solo album, *This Path Tonight*. What's On recently caught up with Nash to talk about the inspiration behind his latest offering.

Released on Nash's own Blue Castle label, *This Path Tonight* is a deeply personal project for the 74-year-old songwriter, borne out of a period of considerable change.

"There have been things going on in my personal life, and as I always do, I've been reacting to that," he says of the inspiration for the new material. "My wife of almost 40 years and I decided to divorce, I fell in love with the very beautiful Amy Grantham, and I took all that and turned it into this record."

Featuring a distinctive black-and-white image, taken by Amy, of Nash wandering through trees near Woodstock in the US, *This Path Tonight*'s 10 core tracks were produced with British guitarist Shane Fontayne, whose CV includes work for Paul Simon, Rod Stewart, Sting and Bruce Springsteen.

"Shane was lead guitarist for Marc Cohen, and Crosby and I sang on a couple of his early albums," says Graham, mentioning one of many guest appearances he and long-standing partner-in-crime David Crosby have made over the decades. "I went to see Marc at the El Rey Theatre in Los Angeles, and Shane was playing guitar. Me and Crosby were about to go to Europe, but our own guitarist couldn't make it, so we asked Shane. He learnt 35 songs in a few days."

Writing 20 songs together over a month, they recorded them in just a week. The album's key track is *Myself At Last*. "We were starting to record on the Monday, so all the equipment goes in on the Sunday. We sat down to make sure the bass was going to come out of the right channel and all that, and that song just came out, which was fantastic. After that, we knew the record would be great."

The song features one of the album's stand-

out lines - 'I've found myself at last' - which Nash explains simply: "I was cruising in life for 10 to 12 years."

Despite the gap between solo releases, *This Path Tonight* continues a journey he began with his debut, way back in 1971.

"In a way, nothing has changed much at all in my songwriting. I have to feel something, and in that way, this record is no different from any of them, right back to *Songs For Beginners*."

Raised in Salford, Lancashire, Nash formed The Hollies with school pal Allan Clarke in 1962, cracking the charts with a string of enduring hits including *Here I Go Again*, *Just One Look*, *Carrie Anne* and *Jennifer Eccles*. But disillusioned, Nash quit the group in '68 for America, where he formed supergroup Crosby Stills And Nash (CSN) with The Byrds' Crosby and Buffalo Springfield's Stills.

"We were reasonably well known," Nash recalls of his decision to quit the Brit hit-makers for the US. "The Hollies had had some hits - *I'm Alive* and *Bus Stop* - and we were treated well in America, they loved our energy. In many ways it was an easy decision, as I'd heard our (CSN) voices together, and that was very attractive to me."

CSN's circle included Neil Young (who later joined the trio), Nash's girlfriend Joni Mitchell, The Mamas And The Papas, and The Grateful Dead. Nash's vocals can be heard on many key recordings of the period. "We were wanted. They loved our vocal sounds, we were lucky boys," he says.

The trio's legacy has been well served in recent years, with Nash overseeing individual boxsets by each member and the CSNY 1974 40-track live collection. With a wealth of alternative versions and outtakes already

available, there is, surprisingly, still more unheard stuff in the vaults. "Oh, lots of stuff! Lots of stuff! The only plan I have right now - although I'm a little bit CSNed out - is that I'd like to remix the *Déjà Vu* record, from start to finish. Back then (1970), the time you had was limited to what you could fit onto a record - five or six tracks a side - but the jams that we had going on after the fade-outs were fabulous! It'd be very easy to do, as the master tapes are in great condition."

However, despite their on/off career, it now seems unlikely CSN/CSNY will ever perform again. Responding to recent reports that he and Crosby are no longer on speaking terms, Nash says simply: "It is over. I said what I said. We had a good run... we had a good innings."

But many of those classic CSN/CSNY songs, including *Marrakesh Express*, *Our House* and *Teach Your Children*, still form part of Nash's solo set-lists.

"I've done too much music, too much, so I have to do some of everything (live)," he says of his stripped-down shows accompanied by Shane. "We start with *Bus Stop*, from my Hollies days - a song written by Graham Gouldman."

Alongside the album and UK tour, Nash also has a photography exhibition at Salford Museum & Art Gallery (until 3 July) and is enthusiastic about his future plans: "A lot more creating, a lot more painting, a lot more photography."

**Graham Nash plays
Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday 22 May**

Manic Street Preachers

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Sat 14 May

Nearly 30 years of producing high-quality material has seen the Manics claim their place in the upper echelons of British rock. After hitting the big time with a cover of Suicide Is Painless in the early '90s, they survived the disappearance of band member Richey James to go on and enjoy mega success with *A Design For Life*, from the album *Everything Must Go*. The record was certified triple platinum in the UK and went on to sell over a million copies and bag multiple Brit awards.

They here return to Birmingham to celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Everything Must Go*, playing two sets on the night - the album in full followed by rarities and curios, greatest hits and a few brand new songs. Rock band The Editors provide support.



Travis

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Thurs 12 May



Rock four-piece Travis have accumulated two number one LPs, five top ten singles, two Brit Awards and more than eight million record sales across their illustrious career. They've released eight studio albums since their inception in 1990, including *Good Feeling* (1997), *12 Memories* (2003) and *Where You Stand* (2013).

After a quiet few years, the band behind hit singles *Why Does It Always Rain On Me* and *Flowers In The Window* are back on the road in support of their highly anticipated new album, *Everything At Once*, released at the end of April on their own label, Red Telephone Box.

Cate Le Bon

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 22 May

Welsh singer-songwriter Cate Le Bon appears at Birmingham's Glee Club this month in support of her fourth album, *Crab Day*, which was released last month.

"Crab Day was lovingly formed in the mouth of the Pacific Ocean, as it quietly mocked us with its magnitude," says Cate. "It's the sound of the 'accidentally on purpose' coming together of the right people at precisely the right time in an environment that furnished and fuelled the abandonment we felt effortlessly. It's a coalition of inescapable feelings and fabricated nonsense, each propping the other up. Crab Day is an old holiday. Crab Day is a new holiday. Crab Day isn't a holiday at all."



Anastacia

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 3 May

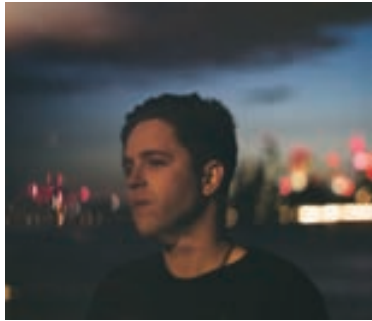
Best known for her singles *Left Outside Alone* and *I'm Outta Love*, Anastacia has released five albums and sold over 30 million copies worldwide.

The *Ultimate Collection* sees the American singer return to Sony Music, the label that was instrumental in catapulting her to global superstardom.

"I feel so blessed and humbled to be experiencing this exciting next chapter of my life," she says. "The idea for my *Ultimate Collection* is to include something for everyone. I'm eternally grateful to be reunited with Sony, the record label that made all of this possible from day one. Fifteen years later, I'm back, I'm home and I couldn't be happier."

Benjamin Francis Leftwich

The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham,
Thurs 5 May



Five years after the release of his debut album, singer-songwriter Benjamin Francis Leftwich's eagerly anticipated new album, *After The Rain*, is to be released this summer, with the first single - *Tilikum* - already available to stream on Spotify.

"If one person emails me and says 'This is the most moving song I've ever heard and it really helped me' - if it gets one person like that, I'll be really happy."

YolanDa Brown

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Sat 7 May

Regarded as the premier female saxophonist in the UK, YolanDa's debut album - *April Showers, May Flowers* - reached number one on the iTunes and Amazon jazz charts. As well as performing across the world in her own right, she's also toured in support of The Temptations and Errol Brown, and collaborated with artists including Julian Marley, Soweto Kinch and as part of Jools Holland's Rhythm & Blues Orchestra. She visits Warwick Arts Centre on her Reggae Love Songs Tour, accompanied by Mica Paris.



Laura Mvula

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Sat 21 May

Birmingham-born soul singer-songwriter Laura Mvula captivated audiences back in 2013 with debut album *Sing To The Moon*.

Influenced by the likes of Nina Simone, Jill Scott and Erykah Badu, Mvula's latest single, *Overcome*, features the legendary Nile Rodgers. It's taken from her new album, *The Dreaming Room*, which is set for release on 17 June.

James

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Fri 20 May

English rock band James originally signed to the iconic Factory Records in 1982. They have since gone on to produce a string of massive hit singles, including *Sit Down*, *Come Home*, *She's A Star* and *Born Of Frustration*. Now, 34 years on, they're touring in support of their 14th album, *Girl At The End Of The World*, which they claim to be their best yet.

Italian-English solo acoustic singer Jack Savoretti supports.



UB40 ft. Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sun 1 May

Since reforming in 2013, the trio of Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey have been at the top of their game. Recent highlights include their 2014 world tour, a huge show in Las Vegas, and critical acclaim for their new material in 2014's *Silhouette*.



Ian Siegal & Jimbo Mathus Tour

The Robin, Bilston, Tues 31 May

Eight-time British Blues Awards winner Ian Siegal here teams up with multi-instrumentalist Jimbo Mathus for a night of roots, blues, folk and Americana. The duo are also releasing a 21-track album recorded during their debut tour.

City Of Sounds Festival

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire, Sun 1 May - Sun 26 June

This two-month long event is a fond farewell to the Adrian Boult Hall, the main performance space of Birmingham Conservatoire. The venue closes at the end of June as part of the redevelopment plan for the Paradise area of the city centre. Birmingham Conservatoire will next year move into a brand new £56million home in the Eastside region of the city. The festival is launched on 1 May with a concert by Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway (pictured), who will afterwards hold a series of workshops and masterclasses for flute players of all levels.

Among the festival contributors during the weeks that follow are the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, local folk band The Destroyers and saxophonist and 10cc member Mike Stevens.

Other West Midlands music groups and ensembles taking part include Birmingham Festival Choral Society, Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra, Ex Cathedra, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir.

Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra then brings down the curtain on Adrian Boult Hall's 30 years of service to the city when it performs Verdi's Requiem at the venue on 26 June. The concert will be conducted by Sir Richard Armstrong and broadcast live on BBC Radio Three.

Commenting on the festival, Birmingham Conservatoire's Principal Professor, Julian Lloyd Webber, said: "I wonder if Birmingham will ever have seen so many of its extraordinary musical organisations gathered together under the same roof?! The Adrian Boult Hall has been at the forefront of Birmingham's cultural mix for the past 30 years, so it's fitting that we're marking its closure with a magnificent festival.

"Although we're saying goodbye to the venue, City Of Sounds is also the perfect signpost for what's to come. The new Birmingham Conservatoire will be the first of its kind - purpose-built for the digital age - and, along with our new auditorium, audiences will be able to enjoy Birmingham's only dedicated jazz venue."



Karl Jenkins: Requiem

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 7 May

"Karl Jenkins," says opera and concert star Bryn Terfel, "produces always impeccable writing for a multitude of voices and instruments. I wish I had his talent to compose tunes but am proud to consider myself as one who adores to sing them." Terfel is far from alone in his admiration of the 72-year-old Welshman. A recent exhaustive survey revealed that Sir Karl is the most-performed living composer in the world. Indeed, his best-known work, The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace, has been performed over 1,500 times in 20 different countries.

He returns to Birmingham this month to conduct another of his most admired pieces, his Requiem, alongside his 1995 composition Palladio and his 2014 Cantata for St Luke, The Healer.



Il Divo

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Sat 7 May

Crossover favourites Il Divo were X Factor guru Simon Cowell's attempt to take opera to the masses, albeit pop-opera. They present a romantic and timeless repertoire which has seen them garner a worldwide fanbase since bursting onto the scene more than a decade ago. The fellas return to Birmingham this month in support of their seventh studio album, Amor & Pasion.



Sir András Schiff

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 23 May

Sir András Schiff is one of the world's most prolific classical performers. Although held in high regard for his keyboard interpretations of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann, it's perhaps his performances of Johann Sebastian Bach's music for which he's most admired. On this occasion, though, the Hungarian-born pianist is turning his attention to Mendelssohn. In the company of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, he presents the following programme: Piano Concerto No 2 in D minor; Hebrides Overture; Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor; Symphony No 3, Scottish.

The Academy Of Ancient Music: Vivaldi In Dresden

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, Wed 18 May

Since being founded in 1973 by Christopher Hogwood, the Academy of Ancient Music have gathered quite a following. The ensemble's stated aim is 'to energise baroque and classical music', performing the work of Bach, Handel, Haydn and Mozart in the way they perceive it was intended. Their concerts have been described as 'transmitting the kick of an energy drink' - an assessment with which the ensemble are entirely happy. This Barber Institute concert sees them performing the following programme: JS Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.1; Vivaldi's Concerto in G minor RV577; Telemann's Concerto for 3 oboes and 3 violins; Vivaldi's Concerto in D major RV562; and JS Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.4.

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Entertainment



Anastacia

Tuesday 3 May
7pm
Symphony Hall



Sue Perkins LIVE! in Spectacles

Sunday 18 September
7.30pm
Town Hall



Cyndi Lauper

Wednesday 22 June
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Ronan Keating

Tuesday 27 September
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Sarah Millican

Saturday 16 July,
Sunday 17 July &
Monday 29 August
8pm
Symphony Hall



Nina Conti – In Your Face

Sunday 30 October
7.30pm
Town Hall

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Let's Dance: IDFB 2016 At A Glance

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From ballet to Bollywood, hip-hop to lindy-hop and kathak to acrobatics, since 2008, International Dance Festival Birmingham has been rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the UK's most important dance events, firmly cementing its place in the city's cultural calendar.

Characterised by a multitude of street performances, solo shows, genre-crossing collaborations, interactive workshops and community projects, the fifth IDFB has attracted some of the dance world's biggest stars, as well as showcasing home-grown talent and expanding its reach across Birmingham and into the wider West Midlands region.

"I think there's been a desire to see Birmingham start to challenge London as a place for dance, where artists want to live and make work," said David Massingham, IDFB Co-Artistic Director and Chief Executive of DanceXchange. "There's an enormous amount of great space for dance here, and a big appetite for showing diverse work from around the world, so over the last few years, we've started getting messages from people all the time asking to be part of it."

One big change for 2016 is the introduction of a "Festival Hub" at the old Municipal Bank on Broad Street. Conveniently located next to Centenary Square, where much of the outdoor action takes place, the disused bank provides plenty of room for a café, performances, socialising and even an art exhibition called Cosmic Birds.

Visual art might seem an odd inclusion, but it fits in with IDFB's wider blurring of the line between dance and other creative pursuits. A former dancer who switched careers following an injury, Shun Ito creates metal and light sculptures which move, according

to Massingham, "in a very choreographic way". His work will also serve as the basis for a live event featuring a dance performance by Kei Miyata and experimental music by Ex Easter Island Head.

"I've always seen dance as a very collaborative art form, and I like breaking down barriers to dance, especially through our work with circus," said Massingham.

Cosmic Birds ties in nicely with a subtle, underlying theme for the festival - the interplay between man and machine - which comes to the fore during "Live Nights", four evening extravaganzas bringing multiple acts together in Centenary Square. Ideal for those with limited free time, Live Nights promise "the complete festival experience in one place", with Massingham's The Machine Show serving as the spectacular centrepiece.

"The outdoor works like RIDE and Phone Box that we're sending out on tours of the city will all come into the centre during Live Nights so people can see a lot of them in one go. We wanted to create an exciting nighttime atmosphere and make this something people want to come and join in with, so we've done things like bringing in Digbeth Dining Club to provide food and drink."

Like DanceXchange, IDFB is guided by a passion for accessibility and inclusiveness as well as excellence. By developing such a wide-ranging programme, Massingham and the festival team hope to reach diverse audiences and encourage as many people as possible to get involved.

"When we set out in 2008 with the first festival, I wanted to try to provide something for everyone instead of having the same few people come to everything. We've got all the

outdoor work which is free, and we've got things like Put Your Foot Down in the Bullring which is a day of youth and community dance and people in training showing off their skills and entertaining shoppers, which I think is a really good thing for the shopping experience too. Even if people just dip their toes in once, I think that's great."

Whatever your interests, there's certainly plenty to look forward to, but for those who aren't sure what to check out first, here are some of our top picks to give a flavour of what's on offer.

Find out what else David Massingham has to say about this year's festival at whatsonlive.co.uk

International Dance Festival Birmingham takes place at various city centre locations from Sun 1 to Sun 22 May. Check out our highlights on page 22. For further information and full festival listings, visit idfb.co.uk

Political Mother

Heather Kincaid explores Hofesh Shechter's critically acclaimed work which returns to the Midlands as part of International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016



“*Hofesh is one of the most exciting artists to emerge in recent years*”
David Massingham

Part rock concert, part brutal satire and part cinematic spectacle, Hofesh Shechter's first full-length dance production premiered at the 2010 Brighton Festival to extraordinary acclaim. A year later, the show was reworked as Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut for an international tour, with sell-out shows held in rock venues around the world - an achievement virtually unprecedented in contemporary dance.

This May, thanks to the International Dance Festival team, lucky Birmingham audiences will have the chance to experience the groundbreaking style and raw, youthful energy of Political Mother on two separate dates at Birmingham REP.

“Hofesh and I have worked together on and off for a long time,” says David Massingham, IDFB's Co-Artistic Director. “When we approached the company about putting on Political Mother for IDFB, they said that they weren't going to be touring it any more, but I convinced them to put it on one last time, and now Hofesh is actually going to be performing in it.”

“It feels exciting and absolutely right to bring Political Mother home to Birmingham,” says Shechter. “I spent part of the rehearsal period for this show working in the studios at DanceXchange, and although we have since toured it throughout the world, this is our first time to perform it to audiences in Birmingham.”

Long recognised as one of the most important and original artists currently working in contemporary dance, Shechter has been seen by critics as blazing a trail to open up the medium to a wider audience, stripping it of any perceived pretension and propelling it into the mainstream. Nowhere is this more true than in the brazenly anti-authoritarian and musically intense Political Mother, whose innovative choreography is inspired as much by news footage and everyday life as it is by established forms and structures.



Born in the notoriously fraught city of Jerusalem before moving to the UK, where conflict with the Middle East seems almost perpetual, it's perhaps no surprise that Shechter's work would have a strongly political bent.

"Everything I've experienced has left a mark on my work, and a lot of that experience has been about conflict, about struggling to make sense of things," he said in a 2009 Guardian interview.

Growing up in Israel, Shechter developed an early interest in folk dance, joining a local group before going on to train at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. This early passion remains a key influence on his work, both formally and philosophically. A statement displayed in lights during *Political Mother* reads, "Where there is pressure there is folk dance". It might be understood as a kind of ethos for his work: like its musical equivalent, folk dance can be seen as in some way inherently political, a kind of counter-culture to more elitist or industry-controlled art forms.

Nevertheless, it's the contrasts and juxtapositions that make Shechter's work truly radical, bringing together these traditional folk elements with visceral images inspired by films and by real conflict, along with the kinds of furious, thrashing sounds and movements you'd be more likely to encounter at a rock concert than in a dance production. Piercing lighting creates stark shadows as one scene cuts to another in quickfire succession. Among the things you'll witness in this show is a ritual samurai suicide, a dictator's incoherent ranting, and the weary movements of what appear to be a group of prisoners.

"When I come to do a piece, I don't come with an answer," says Shechter. "I hope to awaken interesting connections for myself. I want to try to create all these different worlds, then edit between them and see

what happens."

His experimental style isn't limited to choreography. Following a period working with leading Israeli dance company Batsheva, Shechter moved to Paris to study music and play drums for a rock band called The Human Beings. Today, he frequently acts as both composer and choreographer for his shows, relying on a few trusted collaborators to help him realise his visions. He describes the development of *Political Mother* as "a very complex and to some extent random process", where composition and choreography are inextricably intertwined, though he does remember what began the creative journey for the show.

"I have an idea - a drum loop that drives us forward, that keeps a train of rhythm that carries us down the rabbit hole. My first instinct is to steal a groove from a Peter Gabriel song - so I do. Yaron (Engler, musical collaborator) and I are sitting in the working room recording it on what is left from my old drum kit. It sounds rough. This miserable recording grew into what now sounds like 'the end of the world'. Peter himself wouldn't know it was inspired by him, and the way it sounds now I'm not sure he'd want to." The end result is even further from this starting point: *Political Mother* is as varied and dramatic musically as it is visually. The drum loop Shechter describes is layered up with "magical, haunting viola sounds" from Nell Catchpole, as well as with his own vocals, sung with an old Egyptian string band in mind, "cigarettes hanging from their lips while playing and with a glass of arak within reach." In the final production, the heavy metal fury of roaring guitars and pounding military drums mingle with gentle, baroque-style chamber music and even melancholy klezmer sounds. It's a mad-sounding melting pot, but if the overwhelmingly positive response is anything to judge by, there's certainly method in it.

Since the gritty and provocative *In Your Rooms* set his career skyrocketing in 2006/7, Shechter has gone on to produce work for the Royal Ballet and a Broadway revival of *Fiddler On The Roof*, as well as choreographing the 'Maxxie's Dance' sequence for Channel Four's *Skins* and creating several shows with his self-titled dance company, formed in 2008. Yet *Political Mother* remains one of his most powerful and successful pieces to date. It's hard to imagine a show better suited to IDFB, given the festival's celebration of diversity and innovation and its commitment to "breaking down barriers to dance", something for which *Political Mother* has itself been praised.

"I think there's a growing group of people in this city who want to see something a little bit unusual," says Massingham. "I think Birmingham really wants to be that kind of international and European city, and I think our festival reflects that."

Both IDFB and Birmingham REP are thrilled to be supporting Shechter's work at the festival.

"*Political Mother*," says Birmingham REP's Artistic Director Roxana Silbert, "is a typically bold, raw, intense piece accompanied by pulsating live music in a heady collision of contemporary dance meets rock gig. Birmingham audiences are in for a real treat."

Massingham agrees: "Hofesh is one of the most exciting artists to emerge in recent years and has made much of his work here in Birmingham, so it's fantastic to see *Political Mother* performed at IDFB, after sell-out seasons all over the world - it's a real coup for the festival and the city."

Hofesh Shechter's *Political Mother* will show at The REP, Birmingham, Fri 13 to Sat 14 May

whatsonlive.co.uk 21

Centenary Square LIVE NIGHTS

Free Performances, Live Music, Circus and Dance plus award-winning street food from Digbeth Dining Club

The Machine Show

Centenary Square, Birmingham,
Wed 11 - Sat 14 May

Age Guidance 12+

A power-driven dance and circus spectacular set against a wall of sound, The Machine Show is the must-see centrepiece of IDFB 2016. This 40-minute show features an impressive line-up of 13 international performers including Melanie Lomoff, popping legend Salah Benlemqawansaa and Aakash Odedra, as well as live music from French electro/rock dance group Rinôçérôse.



Motionhouse: Torque

Centenary Square, Birmingham,
Fri 13 - Sat 14 May

Dancers and JCB diggers work together in this breathtaking demonstration of strength and agility.

Corey Baker: Phone Box

Multiple locations plus Centenary Square, Birmingham (check website for details), Sun 1 - Sat 14 May

In this nostalgic yet exhilarating 20-minute show, Birmingham-based Corey Baker brings to life the iconic British phone box with incredible acrobatic feats and a wacky digital soundtrack.



ZoieLogic Dance Theatre: Ride

Multiple locations plus Centenary Square, Birmingham (check website for details), Sat 7 - Sat 14 May



ZoieLogic presents an innovative and visually arresting outdoor work exploring the nature of travelling and the relationship between man and machine. Thrown together on a strange journey in a customised Ford Orion named Stanley, three strangers soon discover that the 80s car may have a life of its own...

Visit idfb.co.uk for further information

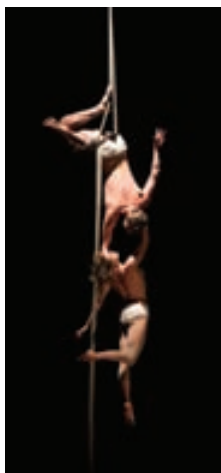
More IDFB 2016 highlights...

The Ricochet Project: Smoke And Mirrors

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham,
Tues 17 - Wed 18 May

Age Guidance: 14+ (contains nudity)

Winner of a Total Theatre Award for Best Circus at Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2015. Combining poetic acrobatics, contemporary dance, contortion and high-flying circus feats, Smoke And Mirrors scrutinises the state of America and the pursuit of happiness in the modern world. Delicate metaphor and jaw-dropping spectacle are seamlessly woven together against a minimalist set in this poignant, hour-long production by award-winning US company Ricochet.



UK Premiere

Ballet BC: Bill / 16+ A Room / Solo Echo

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 20 - Sat 21 May

A cutting-edge company consisting of 17 performers, Ballet British Columbia is committed to innovation in contemporary dance. Since 2009, Ballet BC has developed an exciting repertoire of new work by acclaimed Canadian and international choreographers. Their first IDFB performance will consist of three pieces: Sharon Eyal's Bill, Crystal Pite's Solo Echo and Artistic Director Emily Molnar's 16+ A Room.



Hemabharathy Palani / Subhash Viman: Trikonanga & Twine / Morphed

The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 21 May. Age Guidance 12+

This 75-minute double-bill combines traditional Indian dance with contemporary influences. Award-winning dancer and choreographer Hemabharathy Palani blends Bharatanatyam with contemporary dance and ballet in Trikonanga & Twine. Meanwhile, British dancer Subhash Viman presents Morphed, an examination of our indefinitely morphing identities in a globalised world. A promising new talent inspired by hip-hop, urban and contemporary styles, Viman has worked with top Bollywood choreographers as well as training in classical Indian dance.



Balletboyz: Life

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 28 May

An all-male company of 10 incredible dancers, the fresh and inventive Balletboyz return to Lichfield with a brand new show co-produced by Sadler's Wells in association with Artsdepot. Taking a powerful and sometimes provocative look at life and death, the production features two new commissions by Pontus Lidberg and Javier de Frutos, as well as an original score written for an ensemble of nine musicians.

Tribhangi Dance Theatre: Sukuma

mac, Birmingham, Sun 8 May,
Albany Theatre, Coventry, Mon 9 May

Hailing from Johannesburg, South Africa, the award-winning Tribhangi Dance Theatre brings its dynamic dance fusion to the Midlands in 'a show like no other'. Combining the grace and elegance of Classical Indian Bharatanatyam with the intense physicality of African dance styles, Sukuma promises to be an exhilarating, high-energy experience for audiences of all ages.



Motionhouse & No Fit State: Block

mac, Birmingham, Fri 27 - Sat 28 May

Dance, circus skills and physical theatre collide in this unique collaboration between leading UK companies Motionhouse and NoFit State Circus.

Twenty oversized blocks are deconstructed and reformed into an infinite variety of shapes and structures for the performers to explore, move and play with, reflecting on the diversity, challenges and contradictions of life in the city.

Directed by Kevin Finnan and Paul Evans, the event is supported by mac Birmingham.

Riverdance

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Fri 6 - Sat 7 May



Riverdance needs no introduction: experienced live in the UK by over 2.9 million people and watched on television by more than two billion viewers worldwide, the international phenomenon has lost none of its magic over the course of 1000-plus performances. Composed by Bill Whelan, produced by Moya Doherty and directed by John McColgan, the current tour has been described as 'an unmissable chance' for UK audiences to reconnect with this stand-out show.

Birmingham Royal Ballet

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Tues 17 - Wed 18 May

Showcasing the range and beauty of its widely renowned work, Birmingham Royal Ballet returns to Theatre Severn with a selection of new and familiar pieces, themed around Shakespeare's writing to coincide with the 400th anniversary of his death. Famous pas de deux excerpts from well-loved ballets such as Romeo And Juliet, The Dream and The Taming Of The Shrew are performed alongside José Limón's The Moor's Pavane - a single-act adaptation of Othello - and Jessica Lang's one-act ballet Wink, a new work inspired by Shakespeare's sonnets.

Live accompaniment is provided by the acclaimed Royal Ballet Sinfonia.



Slam Dunk

2006

— 20 FESTIVAL 16 —

2016

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ANNIVERSARY

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Heart of a Coward I WECAME AS ROMANS Miss May I THE WORD ALIVE NEW YEARS DAY CHAARWOLVES

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SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL

Showcasing the best in contemporary emo, punk and ska, the three-stop touring Slam Dunk Festival this year moves its Midlands date from Wolverhampton to the NEC. Associated with the Leeds-based club nights and indie record label of the same name, Slam Dunk Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, meaning that attendees in 2016 can expect to experience the biggest and best Slam Dunk party to date. Over 50 artists will play across seven stages, alongside DJ sets, exclusive signings and a riotous afterparty to round things off.

2016 Line-up Includes: Panic! at the Disco, Of Mice & Men, New Found Glory, Mallory Knox, Yellowcard, Shikari Sounds System, Mayday Parade, The King Blues and The Story So Far

WHAT CREATOR BEN RAY HAS TO SAY ABOUT SLAM DUNK...

Slam Dunk Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Take us through the journey from its inception...

It started in 2006, when I needed a large venue to put on Fall Out Boy in the city of Leeds. I ended up using the large Millennium Square - and as it was a Saturday, I turned it into an all-day event and called it a festival! It's then just grown over the last 10 years - and we've added more stages and more venues as it's done so. That's increased the audience size from a couple of thousand to nearly 40,000. We first added a Midlands event, in Wolverhampton, in 2013. After three successful years there, we've moved to Birmingham's NEC for 2016.

You've stated the 2016 event is going to be the best party you've ever thrown. What's going to make this year better than the previous nine?

It's simply much bigger than before. The NEC is a great venue, and we'll also be throwing a big after-party in conjunction with Birmingham-based promoter Upwr. Taking place in one of the Pavilions at the NEC, it will be the biggest rock club night the Midlands has ever seen.

The festival is usually held at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall but has relocated for the time being due to the venue's refurbishment. Is the plan to move back to Wolverhampton when the Civic reopens?

We will look at the options. It will ultimately come down to the size of the acts we have on.

Slam Dunk Festival won Best Festival at the Kerrang! Awards in both 2014 and 2015. Did you ever imagine the event would be so successful?

No, not at all. It started almost as an accident - I never set out to create a festival. The event has grown at a good, slow rate. It wouldn't have been such a success if we'd tried too much, too quickly.

Who are you most looking forward to seeing play at this year's event?

As it's the 10th anniversary, it was important to book a line-up that represented the 10 years. I think we've done that, so I'm looking forward to re-living some great memories as well as discovering new artists.

It must be a real bonus that Panic! At The Disco's only UK dates this year are for Slam Dunk. How did booking them come about?

I knew they were planning to tour Europe around the time of the event, as I've always done their shows in Leeds, so I offered them the slot.

Are there any moments, good or bad, from previous years that are particularly memorable?

Nothing sticks out because there have been so many of both! It's really fun and really stressful at the same time.

Generally speaking, rock bands have a reputation for being rebellious. Are there any moments from previous years where



Pictured - Ben Ray, Director of Slam Dunk and Todd 'Jd' Malloy, Live Music Co-ordinator

this was particularly evident?

Back in 2010, the last time New Found Glory played, they and a load of other bands invaded the stage during the set of alternative girl band The Millionaires. It was pretty chaotic, so I hope they don't do that again!

What's the most unusual thing you've ever come across on an artist's rider?

A framed picture of Cuba Gooding Jr.

What are your hopes for the festival in the future?

Just to keep getting bigger and better!

Slamdunk Festival is at the NEC, Birmingham on Sun 29 May

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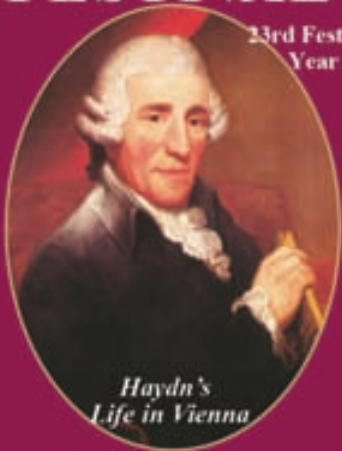
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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Festivals

Imagined Isle Folk Festival

Birmingham Town Hall,
Thurs 12 - Mon 16 May

Celebrating the vibrancy and diversity of Britain's contemporary folk scene, Town Hall's Imagined Isle Festival showcases some of the country's most accomplished and acclaimed traditional musicians alongside exciting local and emerging talent. Ranging from intimate performances from Eric Bibb and Declan O'Rourke to larger scale, multi-act events like Future Folk and fascinating retrospectives like Way To Blue: The Songs Of Nick Drake, Imagined Isle promises to be an unforgettable few days with something to capture the imagination of just about anyone. Events are individually listed and can be booked separately, allowing you to pick and choose shows for yourself.

Line-up includes: Kate Rusby, Eric Bibb, Emily Portman (pictured) & The Coracle Band, False Lights, Josienne Clarke & Ben Walker, Luke Jackson, The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain and Way to Blue: The Songs of Nick Drake



Birmingham Pride

Gay Village, Birmingham, Sat 28 - Sun 29 May

Marking its 20th outing in 2016, this year's Birmingham Pride takes A Generation Of Pride as its theme, celebrating the pivotal, hard-won achievements of the LGBT community over the course of the last two decades. Legal changes to the age of consent, marriage and adoption rights, the right to serve in the military and to change one's official gender are among the milestones passed in recent years. On a local level, too, the event will highlight the growth of Birmingham's own gay scene into one of the most popular in the country, with over 15 vibrant bars and clubs in the Gay Village as well as one of the UK's first LGBT health and wellbeing centres. Today, Birmingham Pride attracts over 50,000 visitors per year, boasting a diverse array of activities and entertainment including music, cabaret, dance and, of course, the hugely popular Carnival Parade. It's come a long way from its humble 1990s roots outside the Nightingale Club.

Line-up includes: Erasure's Andy Bell, Katy B, Lawson, DJ Fresh, Lisa Stansfield, Fleur East, Marvin Humes, MNEK, Blonde, Liberty X, Imani, Dakota, Vengaboys, Ms Dynamite and Lucy Spraggan

Swingamajig

The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Sun 1 May

Returning to Birmingham for the fourth year, Swingamajig is a unique festival which invites Electro Swing lovers and vintage connoisseurs to take to the streets and party in style. Bringing the 'sounds and styles of the 1920s up to date with a modern twist', this year's event features festival creators and organisers Electric Swing Circus and headliners Balkan Beat Box.

Line-up also includes: JFB, The Destroyers, The Tootsie Rollers, Father Funk, Aries, Stenchman, Jim Wynn Swing Orchestra, C@ In The H@, The Carny Villains, Jack Rabbit Slim, Swingrowers, Gypsies Of Bohemia, Cafe Manouche, Swing Dance, Jon Udry, Tankus The Henge, Kitty Bang Bangs, Rubyyy Jones, Eliza DeLite, Equador Wizard and many more also feature amongst this year's line-up.

Bearded Theory

Catton Hall, Derbyshire,
Thurs 26 - Sun 29 May

Taking place in the grounds of Catton Hall in the heart of the National Forest, the multi-award-winning Bearded Theory has been rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the UK's best independent festivals. Ever expanding to meet demand, the festival takes place during the May bank holiday weekend, with fantastic acts spread across six stages, including a dance tent, a cinema and a comedy & cabaret area in addition to the main Pallet and Woodland stages. But it's not only the convenient location and top-quality performers that make it popular: Bearded Theory also features a free, award-winning Children's Village (along with affordably priced tickets for kids), an award-winning bar selling drinks at typical pub tariffs, permission to bring your own drinks, and even award-shortlisted loos!

Line-up includes: Levellers, Killing Joke, Terrorvision, Reverend and the Makers, Public Image Ltd, Billy Bragg, Wilko Johnson, Squeeze, Arrested Development, Turin Brakes, Jack Savoretti and Stiff Little Fingers

Katherine Ryan

Birmingham Town Hall,
Fri 20 May

Having experienced motherhood, divorce and MTV, award-winning Canadian funny lady Katherine Ryan is well placed indeed to take a wry look at those aspects of life that make people angry and bitter. Alongside her comedy career, Katherine also takes occasional acting roles - the part of George in Channel Four's Campus, and Merc's assistant in Episodes, feature among her more recent engagements. She visits the Midlands this month with her show, Kathbun.



Four of the best...

Squidboy

mac, Birmingham,
Fri 13 May

Rubber-faced New Zealand funnyman Trygve (pronounced 'trig-vee') Wakenshaw hasn't had much time to spend in his new London home - he's been way too busy touring this hugely successful show since it caused a stir at Edinburgh in 2013. Treadmills, bags of crisps, a lion, a dog, a girlfriend and 'the romance of Jacques Brel' are all present and correct during a truly silly and surreal 60 minutes of high-energy madness.



Dan Thomas

The Glee Club,
Birmingham,
Fri 13 - Sat 14 May

Dan Thomas's dad was a big fan of Tony Hancock - and was determined to ensure his son developed an appreciation of the Birmingham-born funnyman too. "Hancock's hangdog misery-guts quality is something I've tried to capture onstage as well as in my everyday life," the Cardiff-based comedian recently told Buzzmag. "I got started in comedy because I was told that it was a super-glamorous and quick way of making easy money. And the other night, as I sat in my knackered 12-years-old Ford Fiesta after a gig, eating a chicken chow mein with my bare hands, I realised how true that was."



Jonny Awsum

Henry Tudor House,
Shrewsbury,
Wed 4 May

'If you can't beat 'em, join 'em' seems to have been the perspective taken by musical comic Jonny Awsum. Having served as a barman at London's Chuckle Club for eight long years, Jonny decided it was high time he put down the pint glasses and picked up the microphone himself. Now a regular on the UK comedy circuit, he's also been the warm-up artist for ITV1 lunchtime series Loose Women and featured in Cravendale's hugely popular 'cats with thumbs' advertising campaign, viewed more than a million times on YouTube.





Eddie Izzard: Force Majeure 333

mac, Birmingham, Mon 23 May

Not many comedians make it to God-like status through stand-up alone. Jerry Seinfeld had a TV show, while Saturday Night Live alumni like Steve Martin and Bill Murray used the movies to make it big. Only performers like Bill Hicks, Jackie Mason and Lenny Bruce managed it through stage work alone - but you can definitely add Eddie Izzard to that list.

Eddie's worked a live crowd for more years than he probably cares to remember, building his reputation with material based around skewed logic and surreal tangents. Of late it's been his endeavours for Sport Relief which have seen him in the headlines, completing 27 gruelling marathons in as many days.

For this latest visit to Birmingham, he's presenting a reloaded version of the three-year-old Force Majeure show he's been performing across the world in four different languages, three of which - English, French and German - will be in evidence on the night. Critics have stopped short of hailing the show classic Izzard, but there's plenty of off-the-wall material for his fans to enjoy.

Brexit supporters may think twice about attending, mind - he's performing the show in support of the Stronger In Europe campaign.

Max And Ivan

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 25 May

"After a killer-awesome Edinburgh Festival and kick-ass Soho Theatre run," say Max and Ivan, "we're pleased to be heading out on our first ever UK tour. So come along if you fancy a whole heap of skits and sketches followed by an hour-long epic tale." Character comedy duo Max Olesker and Ivan Gonzalez have enjoyed plenty of positive reviews for their latest show, which finds them introducing their audience to the odd-ball - and soon-to-be-doomed - community of the godforsaken Sudley-on-Sea. "We aren't judgmental," the boys add, "so if you're the kind of person who prefers to enjoy comedy whilst sat in your pants, you're very welcome to do so at our live gig."



Just The Tonic

The Comedy Loft, Birmingham, Thurs 5 May

Lee Nelson tops the bill at this special launch night for Birmingham's brand new comedy club.

Just The Tonic began in Nottingham over 20 years ago and has now taken over the Jongleurs sites in Birmingham, Reading, Watford and London. Past performers at the club have included Ricky Gervais, Matt Lucas, Al Murray, Bill Bailey and Stewart Lee.

Already lined up for Birmingham gigs are Reginald D Hunter, Adam Bloom, Glenn Wool, Ivan Brackenbury and Paul Sinha. Watch this space for details about when each of them is performing...



Julian Clary: The Joy Of Mincing

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 1 May; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 26 May

Julian Clary's winning line in 'saucy postcard' humour and innuendo disguises an intelligent sarcasm that digs fun at both himself and his audience. A perennial favourite in the stand-up comedy world, his forays into TV haven't always been as successful - a long-ago gag at the expense of Norman Lamont saw him blacklisted by television producers for some considerable time.

Julian's here making a welcome return to the Midlands with his latest touring show, an offering which his website promises will be 'a masterclass in camp comedy'.



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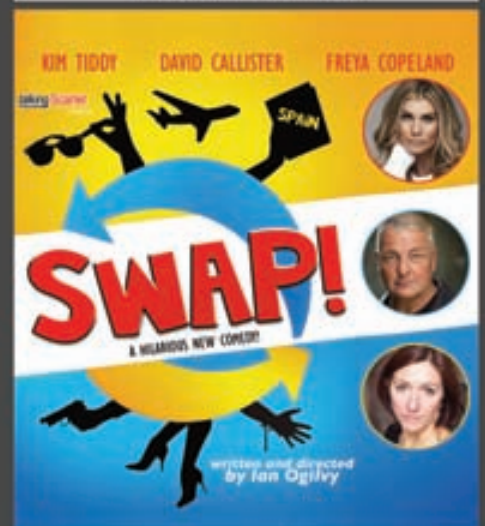
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MON 20 - SAT 25 JUN



TUE 28 JUN - SAT 2 JUL



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King Lear

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 19 - Sat 28 May

"Our version of King Lear is set in more or less the same period of prehistory as the play," says former Rising Damp star Don Warrington, who takes the title role. "We haven't moved it, so it's quite a primitive setting. I've seen some of the costume designs, and they're rather medieval-looking."

One of Shakespeare's most iconic roles, Lear has been played by illustrious actors including Orson Welles, James Earl Jones, Laurence Olivier and Ian McKellen. Big shoes indeed for Don to fill...

"I've seen three performances that were pretty remarkable," he says. "One was Paul Schofield's, which I've only seen on film. I also saw Eric Porter in the theatre many years ago and, more recently, I saw Simon Russell Beale. It's all extra pressure, but bring it on! I try to wear it as lightly as I can and just get on with doing the play." Read the full interview with Don Warrington online at whatsonlive.co.uk

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The Father

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 3 - Sat 7 May



There's plenty of humour in this highly praised offering from French playwright Florian Zeller, but that doesn't mean it's an easy or always comfortable ride. Kenneth Cranham stars as 80-year-old Andre, a man whose life is becoming ever more challenging as he struggles with the onset of dementia.

Alice In Wonderland

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 28 May - Sat 11 June

This timeless classic tells the magical story of a little girl called Alice, who falls down a rabbit hole and discovers the world of Wonderland - an enchanted and sometimes scary place populated with nonsensical and amusing characters such as the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. Presented by Blue Orange Arts.

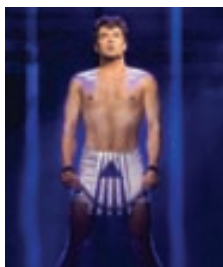
Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May

X Factor winner Joe McElderry takes the lead in this Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice show which tells the story of a boy driven into slavery by his calculating brothers, who're all envious of his coat of many colours.

Joseph's ability to predict the future from his dreams, however, ultimately frees him and wins him a place among the highest in the land... This long-time hit show is an ensemble triumph, with terrific energy put in by all concerned.

Spectacular sets and excellent music complete the experience, which provides everything you'd expect of a Rice /Lloyd Webber collaboration, for better or worse.



certainly achieving its aims with this latest theatrical offering, imaginatively unfolding the story of a young girl raised by the creatures residing in a dense mangrove forest.

But when conflict between man and beast threatens to devour her home, she finds herself unexpectedly chosen by Allah to embark on a quest, the outcome of which could change the forest forever...



Tina Turner: Tea Lady & Friends

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 26 May

Tracey Collins describes herself as a musical character comedian. Her award-winning show, meanwhile, has been called a remarkable tour de force, and her alter-ego title character a deliciously funny cross between Mrs Overall and Beyonce. The show plays Birmingham following a sell-out debut run at the Edinburgh Festival and hit performances at Bestival and Latitude festivals. Tracey advises that the evening will feature not only 'hit songs, off-the-wall characters and quick changes' but also 'simply the best tea in town'... What's not to like?

Daughter Of The Forest

The Drum, Birmingham, Sun 29 May

Theatre company Komola Collective is clear about its intentions - to revisit history, challenge social taboos, unearth myths, question accepted beliefs and look at the world through women's eyes. And the company is

The Sound Of Music

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Tues 24 - Sat 28 May; Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury, Tues 31 May - Sat 11 June;
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Tues 4 - Sat 8 October

One of the most popular family musicals of all time, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound Of Music* is best known from its mid-1960s film version starring Julie Andrews. It tells the story of the Von Trapp family's World War Two flight across the mountains of Austria, and features hit songs like *Edelweiss*, *My Favourite Things*, *Do-Re-Mi*, *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*, *The Lonely Goatherd*, *So Long*, *Farewell* and, of course, the title track itself.

Lucy O'Byrne (*The Voice*) plays the lead role of Maria.



Margaret Thatcher: Queen Of Soho

mac, Birmingham, Fri 6 - Sat 7 May

This critically acclaimed show has been described as 'a delightful odyssey of gay rights, the '80s and disco'. Taking place on the eve of the vote on controversial anti-gay clause, Section 28, it finds the prime minister lost in London's decadent Soho, where she accidentally becomes a cabaret superstar... The production sees performer and co-writer Matt Tedford pulling on the tights to play Maggie. *Read our interview with Matt online at whatsonlive.co.uk*



Rehearsal For Murder

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Mon 9 - Sat 14 May; Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury, Mon 27 June - Sat 2 July

The Agatha Christie Theatre Company take a break from presenting grizzly whodunnits by the legendary Queen of Crime to present instead a grizzly whodunnit by two near-legendary American screenwriters. Richard Levinson and William Link, the writing team behind this show, are best known

for numerous TV detective series, included among which are *Columbo* and *Murder, She Wrote*.

Robert Daws, Amy Robbins, Robert Duncan, Ben Nealon and Susan Penhaligon star in this twisted tale of 'murder most foul', in which a playwright not only determines to prove his fiancée's death was no accident but also to unmask her killer...



Laila: The Musical

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



A bittersweet tale of star-crossed lovers that originated in seventh century Persia, *Laila Majnu* was once described by British poet Lord Byron as 'the Romeo And Juliet of the

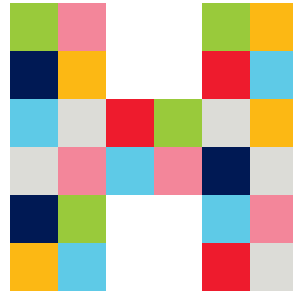
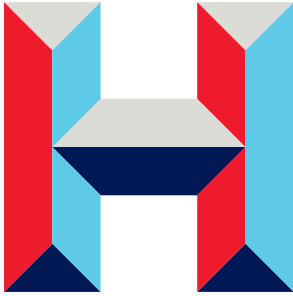
east'. "Laila Majnu is one of the oldest love stories but has rarely been told in the west," explains Pravesh Kumar, the artistic director of Rifco, the company behind this brand new contemporary musical. "The story has travelled across borders and generations through music and verse and is a natural musical. I wanted to share this beautiful tale and look at the timeless themes of love and honour in today's multicultural Britain." Rifco's previous theatrical offerings include award-winning musical Britain's Got Bhangra.

The Alchemist

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Thurs 26 May - Sat 6 August

Ben Johnson's *The Alchemist* was described by poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge as having one of the three most perfect plots in literature. It's also widely considered to be Johnson's finest work. When an outbreak of the Plague forces the gentleman Lovewit to flee London, his butler Jeremy is left in sole charge of the house. Jeremy uses the premises - not to mention his association with a conman and a prostitute - to set up a series of elaborate scams. But can the man now calling himself Captain Face really get away with claiming he can turn tin into bankable gold?... Polly Findlay (pictured) directs.





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Produced by DanceXchange in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome, funded by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.



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The Very Magic Flute

Arena Theatre,
Wolverhampton,
Tues 24 - Wed 25 May

'Beautiful' puppets, 'magical' transformations and an innovative use of sign language are here combined by the highly rated Krazy Kat theatre company, an ensemble well versed in the business of visual storytelling. The 50-minute show has been created for children aged between three and seven and is loosely based on Mozart's famous opera, The Magic Flute.



Made In Dagenham

Wolverhampton Grand
Theatre, Tues 24 - Sat 28 May

West Bromwich Operatic Society make a welcome return to the Grand with their brand new version of the hit West End musical comedy. Based on true facts, the show tells the story of the 1968 Ford sewing machinists strike at the Ford Dagenham plant. The female workers' decision to walk out in protest against sexual and financial discrimination led to the introduction of the Equal Pay Act of 1970.



Hairspray The Musical

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Mon 9 - Sat 14 May

Freya Sutton, Claire Sweeney, ex-Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan and former X Factor favourite Brenda Edwards star in this touring version of the Tony Award-winning show. Set in 1962, it boasts a jukebox-worth of '60s-style dance music and 'downtown' rhythm and blues. At its heart is the story of Tracy Turnblad (Sutton), a chubby teenager who enjoys an overnight rise to stardom when she earns the chance to appear on a local TV dance show...

WHAT'S ON READERS' AWARD WINNER!



Graeme Of Thrones

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 12 May;
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 24 May



This original and unauthorised parody of hit TV series Game Of Thrones has been created by a team of top comedy writers. Described as 'a rollercoaster ride of beheadings, incest and war', it stops off in the Midlands direct from a sold-out run in the West End.

Grumpy Old Women: Fifty Shades Of Beige

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 13 - Sat 14 May;
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 22 May; New
Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 10 June;
Lichfield Garrick, Wed 6 July

If you've seen the TV series, you'll already know how this show works. Celebrity ladies of a certain age come together and wax lyrical on all manner of subjects salient to being middle-aged women in the 21st century. Jenny Eclair, Susie Blake and Kate Robbins are the purveyors of mirth taking to the stage on this particular occasion. Subjects for their consideration include the art of 'grumpy grooming', the joy of large pants, middle-aged drinking, voluntary euthanasia versus retirement and how to customise an unwanted pole-dancing kit...

Joan

mac, Birmingham, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 May;
Lichfield Garrick, Fri 13 May; Brewhouse Arts
Centre, Burton upon Trent, Fri 6 May

Drag Idol champion Lucy Jane Parkinson - aka LoUis CYfer - here fuses lyrical new writing with drag king cabaret to present an imaginative retelling of the story of Joan of Arc.

"The show's about Joan's journey," explains Lucy Jane, "about her belief that St Catherine has visited her and is leading her into battle.

Then there's her decision to look more like a guy. From being just a regular person, she suddenly has a new-found strength when she decides to incorporate her masculinity into her life."



Talent

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Fri 20 May - Sat 4 June

Although best known as a comedian, the late Victoria Wood's initial success came as a playwright when, way back in 1978, she penned this lighthearted offering, in so doing bagging herself the first of numerous BAFTA nominations. Set in a run-down nightclub, it follows the fortunes of wannabe star Julie as she makes her bid for fame and fortune by entering a talent contest. With frumpy best friend Maureen in tow, Julie finds herself suddenly plunged into the backstage world of ukulele-wielding pensioners, hapless magicians and predatory comperes with wandering hands...



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Adil Ray

The man behind Citizen Khan talks about his What's On Readers' Award win and Mr Khan's plans for Hollywood...



Firstly, congratulations on winning Best Entertainment Personality in our What's On Readers' Awards. How does it feel to have won such an accolade?!

Thank you very much. It's for Citizen Khan, and I think Mr Khan would be absolutely delighted. He'd think it's only right that he should win the award - it's just one award away from getting an MBE, I think, so he's delighted.

What have you found most challenging about transferring the world of Citizen Khan from the TV studio to the stage?

I think in a way it's always challenging, whatever we're doing, whether we're writing the sitcom or doing the live show. In a way, though, it feels like an organic progression because the show is filmed in front of a live studio audience, so we're already sort of a live show. Some of the best bits, I find, are in between the scenes, when we have to move sets and cameras around. So in character as Mr Khan, I sort of interact and play around with the audience a lot, so we're actually taking bits like that and creating a live show in which Khan will speak to the audience, get involved, get to the cheap seats. If you're coming to the Genting Arena and you're in the cheap seats in the top block, he will come and get you. It'll be great fun. He'll also do stuff like that somewhere like Warwick Arts Centre - which is a lovely, intimate venue - and that'll be great as well. So it's al-

ways a challenge doing stuff like this because you just never know with comedy - you write it and you hope. You've just got to put the effort in, I think. We've done a few little try-outs. We did something the other day at mac - Midlands Arts Centre - in front of just 80 people. We're going to try and do a couple more of those before we do the first date. Just put the work in, that's the challenge - make sure you concentrate and work hard at it.

What motivated you to create a live show - a relatively unusual move for a television comedy?

In a way, yes it is. In years gone by, you'd never do it, but recently, with things like Mrs Brown's Boys going live, I think there's the possibility that it can happen. I just thought it would be a nice thing to do.

Why do you think Citizen Khan has proved to be so popular?

I think it's a universal story. Of course, we've got a strong USP - that it's a Pakistani Muslim family - so it kind of stands out in that sense. I think the success is because it connects and relates to lots of people. Despite the fact the family's Pakistani, you know your White British public can watch it and go 'I connect with that, he's a little bit like my dad' or 'I was a little bit like Alia - the daughter - when I was growing up'. That's actually quite a lovely feeling, the fact that we can connect with this family even though they're Pakistani Muslims. The show sells well abroad now - we're doing well in places like Russia, Bulgaria, India and South Africa - and I think that's the reason why. I think people just connect with the family. And it's quite warm, you know. I think the format is designed to feel warm and give you a nice feeling. I think when you watch this kind of comedy, you grow to love it and develop a real affection for it.



Citizen Khan hasn't been universally popular with Muslim viewers. How do you respond to suggestions that it's disrespectful in the way it depicts Islam?

I think there certainly was that in Series One. We had a few complaints and people would say that perhaps it was mocking the faith, but I think a lot of those people have since realised that it's not intending to do that. It's just a comedy. If anything, it's universalising and humanising a community, and essentially it's just there to make us laugh. I think that's more the case now. I don't hear people complaining any more. Of course you can spend an afternoon on twitter and you'll find somebody who wants to make negative comments - I think that's par for the course and you've just got to accept it. Comedy is so subjective. I sit with my co-writers - who're absolutely brilliant writers - and debate comedy, and they'll like something that I don't like and I'll like something that they don't like.

What were your motivations for deciding to follow a career in comedy?

Growing up, I was a big fan of comedy - it made me laugh! I remember when I was very young watching Not The 9 O'Clock News and loving Rowan Atkinson. I thought he was just brilliant. Me and my dad were massive fans of Fawlty Towers and Only Fools And Horses. Also watching sitcoms with my mum on a Friday night was great. We'd sit there with fish and chips on our plate, watching Cheers. I loved the show, whereas my mum just fancied Ted Danson! My family were like lots of other families - we had our fair share of problems. It wasn't always plain sailing, but when a comedy was on, we'd all sit down and have a laugh together. Comedy can be so powerful in that way, and I just wanted to be a part of it.

What's your perspective on the subject of comedy boundaries? Do you think there are/should be any no-go areas for comedians in terms of the subject matter they refer to in their material?

No, not at all. For me, you can make a joke about absolutely anything as long as the intention is right. I'll give you an example. Between friends, we all say the worst things. We can be very politically incorrect, we can give each other the worst insults ever. We know that, because we're friends and because we've got a relationship with one another, the intention is to make each other laugh, to have a bit of fun, not to make anybody feel bad or offend anyone. The same can happen in any joke, in any comedy - you just have to show your intention. With Mr Khan, for example, in the end I think he does wear his heart on his sleeve and he's vulnerable, so we kind of excuse him for being slightly obnoxious and rude and offensive at times.

You're Birmingham-bred and still live there. How has the city changed during your lifetime, and have the changes been for the better or worse?

For the better. It's a fantastically diverse city. I used to take an hour-long bus ride into school, and it was a classic experience because I'd see so much of Birmingham and realise just how diverse we were as a city. We're even more diverse now. You walk through the city centre and it looks fantastic. Birmingham is a microcosm of what Britain is going to be in many years to come. You can come to Birmingham and adapt to that Brummie lifestyle, and I think that's fantastic. I kind of started to fall out with Birmingham a few years ago. I felt like we were getting caught up in whether we wanted to be the second city, whether we should compete with Manchester, whether we should compete with London. I don't care whether we're the second, fifth or sixth

city as long as we're a city that we're proud of. And that's the thing we need to be more of. Whoever we are, whatever we are, we should be immensely proud, and I think we've finally started to accept that. We've stopped rubbishing ourselves, which I think we're very good at in Birmingham.

There's obviously plenty of mileage left in the Citizen Khan character, but what do you have planned for an encore - or won't you mind if, a bit like Steve Coogan, you remain inextricably linked to one character for the rest of your career?

It's a good question. Do I put him to sleep for a while and bring somebody else out? People do that, but I feel like we're onto something with Citizen Khan. I love it, and we feel very lucky to have a fifth series coming up, so why not let it run and run? We're thinking of possible film ideas at the moment, so there are no plans to put him to sleep just yet. Hopefully, if the audience love it and the BBC still commission it, we'll see plenty more of Citizen Khan.

And finally, you have plans to tackle Hollywood, so what can we expect from Citizen Khan in future months?

It's very, very early days. This film idea just exists in my head and in my lounge at the moment. I'm writing a story idea and I'm being very ambitious. I think it could be a movie for Citizen Khan fans, but it could also be very funny simply to have a movie with a Muslim character at the centre of it. It's certainly something I'd like to do. We'll take it one step at a time - studios and other producing directors agree with me, so time will tell, I guess.

Citizen Khan plays Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 2 May and Genting Arena, Birmingham, Friday 6 May

X-Men: Apocalypse CERT tbc

Starring **James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Oscar Isaac, Nicholas Hoult, Rose Byrne, Tye Sheridan, Sophie Turner, Kodi Smit-McPhee**

Directed by **Bryan Singer (USA)**

The ninth instalment in the X-Men series, Apocalypse features the eponymous mutant (Isaac) with a dastardly plan up his sleeve. Having hibernated for thousands of years, he emerges to find a world that he is not entirely happy with. So, recruiting a disillusioned Magneto (Fassbender) and other disgruntled mutants, he sets about ridding the planet of mankind. It's up to the telepathic Professor X (McAvoy), the shape-shifting Mystique (Lawrence) and other more level-headed mutants to stop him. Of course, it will be an uphill struggle. In 3D.

Released Wed 18 May



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in May...

Florence Foster Jenkins

CERT **PG** (110 mins)

Starring **Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant, Simon Helberg, Nina Arianda, Rebecca Ferguson**
Directed by **Stephen Frears (UK/USA)**

Florence Foster Jenkins was a New York heiress and socialite and, as a child, a prodigy on the piano. However, her real passion was as an operatic soprano and because of her connections, she got to sing places others could but dream of. Her lack of rhythm, pitch and tone, though, did not appear to be a problem to her. Very much a true story, Jenkins' tale was loosely adapted into a French film, Marguerite, which was only released here in March. You just can't keep a bad singer down...

Released Fri 6 May



I Saw The Light

CERT **15** (124 mins)

Starring **Tom Hiddleston, Elizabeth Olsen, Cherry Jones, Bradley Whitford, Maddie Hasson**

Directed by **Marc Abraham (USA)**

The biographies are coming thick and fast at the moment. Here, the London-born Tom Hiddleston takes on the mantle of the legendary Country and blues singer Hank Williams, from whose famous gospel song the film takes its title. Williams' life was tragically short-lived, but his influence was considerable, as is his musical legacy.

Released Fri 6 May

Knight Of Cups CERT **15** (118 mins)

Starring **Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Natalie Portman, Brian Dennehy, Antonio Banderas, Wes Bentley, Freida Pinto, Cherry Jones**
Directed by **Marc Abraham (USA)**

Terrence Malick used to be a director that critics and film buffs scraped and bowed to. However, his recent, and more frequent, offerings have left many baffled, if not infuriated. His latest is a modern, experimental drama inspired by various ancient texts in which a Hollywood screenwriter (Bale) attempts to find the meaning of life. The film is divided into eight chapters, seven of which are named after tarot cards. Of course, some might find it all terribly profound.

Released Fri 6 May



Bad Neighbours 2 CERT tbc

Starring **Seth Rogen, Zac Efron, Rose Byrne, Chloë Grace Moretz, Dave Franco, Ike Barinholtz, Selena Gomez**

Directed by **Nicholas Stoller (USA)**

Just when you thought there couldn't be another sequel this year... Just kidding. Here, Mac and Kelly (Rogen and Byrne) are expecting their second child and have come to some sort of understanding with their formerly raucous neighbour Teddy (Efron). Then the sorority sisters of Kappa Kappa Nu move in next door and all hell is let loose. Time for Teddy to step up to the plate, then.

Released Fri 6 May



CRITIC'S CHOICE



Money Monster CERT tbc

Starring **George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Jack O'Connell, Dominic West, Caitriona Balfe, Giancarlo Esposito**

Directed by **Jodie Foster (USA)**

'Money Monster' is the name of a TV show that gives its viewers useful tips on how to manage their finances. However, when Kyle Budwell (O'Connell) loses all his dosh on a bad tip from the show's host, Lee Guest (Clooney), he decides to take him hostage – live on-air. Besides

the double star wattage of Clooney and Roberts - she plays the director of the show - the actor to look out for is Jack O'Connell. The Derby-born thesp came out of nowhere in 2014 when he played three completely different starring roles in Starred Up, '71 and Unbroken. And with Jodie Foster wielding the megaphone, this could prove to be cinematic gold.

Released Fri 27 May

Angry Birds CERT PG tbc

With the voices of **Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Danny McBride, Maya Rudolph, Kate McKinnon, Sean Penn**

Directed by **Fergal Reilly and Clay Kaytis (USA/Finland)**

Based on the video game of the same name (a favourite of David Cameron's), this cartoon from Sony Pictures Imageworks attempts to get to the bottom of all that avian indignation. Set on an idyllic island populated by flightless birds, the film suggests that some green pigs may have something to do with it. In 3D.

Released Fri 13 May



Everybody Wants Some!

CERT 15 (117 mins)

Starring **Blake Jenner, Zoey Deutch, Ryan Guzman, Tyler Hoechlin**

Directed by **Richard Linklater (USA)**

On their last weekend before the start of school, a group of college baseball players test the waters of unsupervised adulthood. If the concept of this comedy fails to get your juices flowing, remember that Richard Linklater's last film, Boyhood, was nominated for six Oscars (and won the BAFTA for best film).

Released Fri 13 May

The Darkness CERT tbc

Starring **Kevin Bacon, Radha Mitchell, David Mazouz, Lucy Fry**

Directed by **Greg Mclean (USA)**

With his Australian horror films Wolf Creek and Rogue, the Aussie filmmaker Greg Mclean established himself as a master of the genre. Here, he helms his first American film, the story of a family who, returning from a trip to the Grand Canyon, appear to have brought a supernatural presence back with them. Apparently based on real events.

Released Fri 13 May



Green Room CERT 18 (95 mins)

Starring **Anton Yelchin, Imogen Poots, Joe Cole, Callum Turner, Mark Webber, Patrick Stewart** Directed by **Jeremy Saulnier (USA)**

The green room is where the heavy metal band The Ain't Rights finds itself trapped after a gig goes awry. Actually, there was nothing wrong with the group's performance, they just happened to witness something they really, really shouldn't have. Desperate to make some real cash, the band agreed to sing for a crowd of neo-Nazi types at a venue tucked away in the Oregon woodland. That's desperation for you... The writer-director Jeremy Saulnier is a smarter genre filmmaker than most, employing a narrative shorthand that cuts to the chase without losing any humour or character interest. His film also makes for extremely intense viewing, with special kudos going to the make-up and special effects department. It's certainly not recommended to those of a more sensitive disposition.

Released Fri 13 May



Our Kind Of Traitor

CERT 15 (95 mins)

Starring **Ewan McGregor, Stellan Skarsgård, Damian Lewis, Naomie Harris** Directed by **Susanna White (UK)**

The latest adaptation of a John le Carré novel, this spy thriller sees a British couple on holiday who find themselves befriended by a Russian oligarch. However, Dima (Skarsgård) has an ulterior motive for his amiability and soon the couple's holiday in the sun turns into a game of shadows.

Released Fri 13 May



Sing Street

CERT 12a (106 mins)

Starring **Lucy Boynton, Maria Doyle Kennedy, Aidan Gillen, Jack Reynor** Directed by **John Carney (Ireland/USA/UK)**

John Carney started out as bassist for the Irish rock band The Frames, directed some of their music videos and went on to helm the critically acclaimed feature films *Once* and *Begin Again*. He keeps to the theme of music here with this simple love story in which a boy starts up a band in order to impress a girl. Bono himself collaborated on the soundtrack.



Released Fri 20 May

A Hologram For The King CERT 12a (98 mins)

Starring **Tom Hanks, Alexander Black, Sarita Choudhury, Sidse Babbett Knudsen, Ben Whishaw, Tom Skerritt** Directed by **Tom Tykwer (USA/Germany)**

Business has not been going well for Alan Clay (Tom Hanks). So the salesman heads to Saudi Arabia to pitch his latest idea to an Arab king building a massive new complex in the desert. Based on the 2012 novel by Dave Eggers.

Released Fri 20 May

The Silent Storm

CERT 15 (95 mins)

Starring **Andrea Riseborough, Damian Lewis, Ross Anderson, Kate Dickie, John Sessions** Directed by **Corinna McFarlane (UK)**

Set on a remote Scottish island prior to the Second World War, *The Silent Storm* marks the solo directorial debut of McFarlane. It's a passionate tale, the story of a hot-headed minister (Lewis) and his nature-loving wife (Riseborough) who are joined by a Glaswegian delinquent bequeathed to them by a charity. The newcomer may be a curse, or perhaps a blessing...



Released Fri 20 May

Alice Through The Looking Glass CERT PG tbc

Starring **Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway, Mia Wasikowska, Rhys Ifans, Helena Bonham Carter, Sacha Baron Cohen** Directed by **James Bobin (USA)**

Like Superman and Marty McFly (and others), Alice is forced to travel back in time in order to alter the outcome of events. You see, when she returns to Underland she finds the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp) in a terrible state and decides to dabble in a bit of quantum physics. But would Lewis Carroll approve? Michael Sheen supplies the voice of the White Rabbit and the late Alan Rickman is the Blue Caterpillar.

Released Fri 27 May



Love & Friendship

CERT U (93 mins)

Starring **Kate Beckinsale, Chloë Sevigny, Xavier Samuel, Stephen Fry, Emma Greenwell, James Fleet** Directed by **Whit Stillman (USA/Ireland)**

Considering the popularity of Jane Austen, it's extraordinary that nobody's made a film of her 1794 novel *Lady Susan* till now. Kate Beckinsale - who starred in the same director's *The Last Days Of Disco* (1998) - plays Lady Susan Vernon who, while staying at a massive estate, sets about finding a suitable husband for her daughter. Of course, she wouldn't mind an eligible man for herself...

Released Fri 27 May



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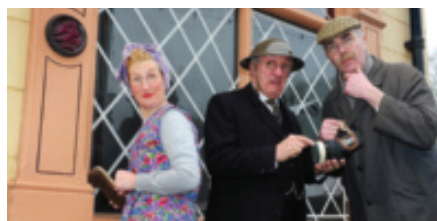
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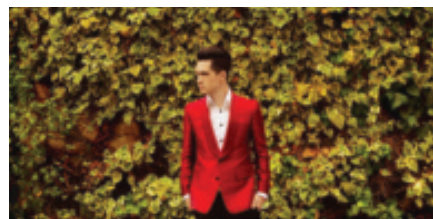
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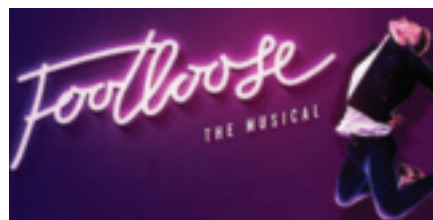
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Visual Arts

Turning To See: From Van Dyck to Lucian Freud

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,
Sat 28 May - Sun 4 September

The first ever to be curated by internationally renowned, West Midlands-born artist John Stezaker, this striking, free exhibition takes Sir Anthony van Dyck's last self-portrait as a starting point to explore the idea of physical and metaphorical turning in portraiture. From Rembrandt and Rossetti to Picasso and Bomberg, *Turning To See* showcases major loans from the National Portrait Gallery alongside highlights from Birmingham's collection, creating a spectacle of turning that mirrors the way the viewer moves around the space. Fragile, rarely displayed works such as Burne-Jones' sketches for the *Pygmalion* series also feature, as well as new collages by Stezaker himself.



Buried Treasures: Uncovering Hoards

The Barber Institute, Birmingham,
Fri 6 May - Sun 26 February

Displaying artefacts from no fewer than 48 coin hoards, including the British Dorchester and Appleford Hoards, this historical exhibition sheds light on Roman, Byzantine and Turkman worlds. Examining buried treasures can yield exciting revelations about wealth, power and trade networks in the ancient world, as well as prompting questions about their burial and rediscovery.

A series of lectures runs alongside the exhibition, delving deeper into its themes and the questions it poses.



Land, Sea And Air

New Art Gallery, Walsall,
Fri 27 May - Sun 4 September



Spanning a period of more than 40 years, the diverse works collected in this exhibition are linked through the use of maps as a common inspiration. Frank Bowling, Tiffany Chung, Agnes Denes, Shilpa Gupta, Tania Kovats and Cornelia Parker explore both the physical geography that maps set out to represent, and the more complex personal and political meanings they contain through themes of conflict, resistance, negotiation and power as well as notions of home and identity.

Fools Rush In

Airspace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent,
until Sat 28 May

This solo print exhibition takes autobiography as its subject, exploring the growth of celebrity culture, mass-produced books and fabricated life stories.

Taking its name from the subtitle of an autobiography by Stoke-born Anthea Turner, *Fools Rush In* reflects on the premature creation of legacies, and how the proliferation of such texts undermines their value and distinction. Unwanted and second-hand books, often bought as token gifts, are dissected and reduced to only their embossed spines. By painting and applying printmaking ink to these, artist Leigh Clarke removes any sense of hierarchy between the famous personalities whose names they bear.

For his project at Airspace, Clarke will work with students on the BA Fine Art course at Staffordshire University to locate and collect every autobiography in the city's charity shops, which will serve as the material for the exhibition. To counter these glossy celebrity stories, six local writers have also been commissioned to ghost-author a limited edition of autobiographies about local heroes.



Another Minimalism

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 5 May - Sat 25 June

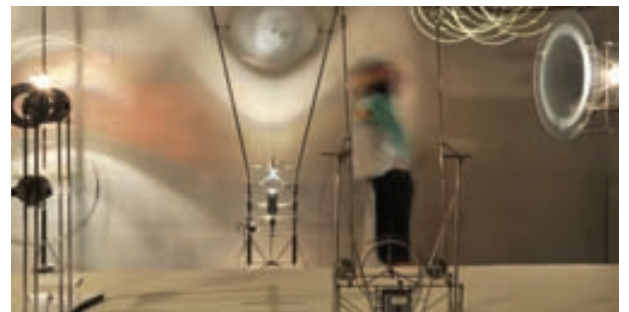
Curated by Melissa E Feldman, this free touring exhibition brings together work by contemporary artists from around the world, linked through their emphasis on light and space. Building on the ground-breaking work of Californian artists like Robert Irwin, Larry Bell and Maria Nordman in the 1960s and '70s, a younger generation now continues to experiment with minimalistic, site-specific and experiential designs, using materials such as mirrors, glass and coloured lights to alter perceptions of space and time. Another Minimalism is the first exhibition to connect the California Light And Space movement with new work by artists including Tacita Dean, Olafur Eliasson, Spencer Finch, Uta Bart, Sarah Braman, Sam Falls, Jeppe Hein, Ann Veronica Janssens and James Welling.



Shun Ito: Cosmic Birds

Festival Hub, The Municipal Bank, Birmingham, Mon 2 - Fri 20 May

Japanese artist Shun Ito explores gravity, movement and light through a series of mesmerising kinetic sculptures in this free, family-friendly exhibition, organised as part of the International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016. Drawing on his physical experiences as a dancer, the artist captures the beauty of natural falling and spinning motions with intricate mechanical creations, including the dramatic installation Cells, a giant mobile made up of over 200 rotating steel rings and 30 light bulbs created in residency in Birmingham.



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Curated by John Stezaker

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National Portrait Gallery
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Image: Self-Portrait by Sir Anthony van Dyck, c.1640 © National Portrait Gallery, London. www.npg.org.uk/vandyck

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FINALS DAY

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SUNDAY 8 MAY 2016

BARCLAYCARD ARENA
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Events

Museums At Night

Various locations across the Midlands,
Wed 11 - Sat 14 May

This biannual event sees museums all over the UK throwing open their doors after hours, allowing visitors to explore the country's rich and diverse culture in a different light. The evening events also provide the opportunity for real enthusiasts to indulge their particular interest in an atmosphere that's calm and relaxing - not always possible during normal opening hours. A total of ten museums across the West Midlands are taking part in the event. Featured attractions include twilight tours in spooky cellars, pottery workshops and crafts, a film screening of Shakespeare, and a medieval experience. For more information or to run an event, visit museumsatnight.org.uk



Red By Night

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Sat 14 May



Flying sparks, clanging hammers and rising smoke are the order of the day - or rather, the night - at this special Black Country Living Museum event.

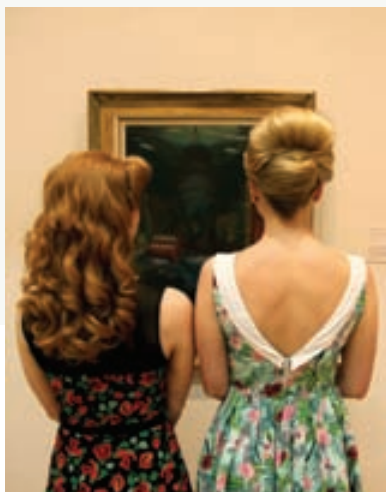
The Dudley visitor attraction's annual Night At The Museum celebration this year brings to life the history of the region via a package of entertainment that includes soundscapes, theatre performances, light shows, poetry, music and storytelling. There are fire jugglers on hand too, while inquisitive visitors can also descend into an underground mine and check out a full-scale replica of the Newcomen Engine, the world's very first successful steam engine.

Plenty of traditional food and drink should ensure the rumbling of stomachs isn't added to the museum's cacophony of industrial sounds.

Roaring Twenties

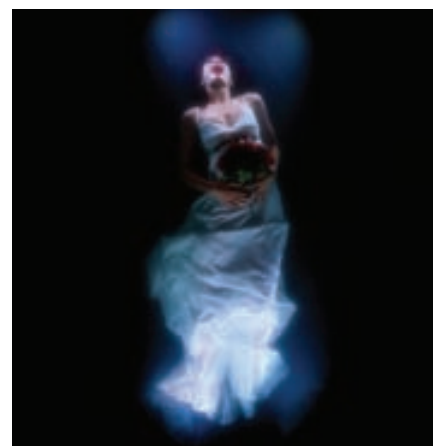
Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum,
Sat 14 May

A Museums At Night event offering visitors the chance to return to the jazz-drenched days of the early 20th century, The Roaring Twenties brings together comedy sketches from local show group the Cubbington Players and music of the era from the Gershwin Gang. Attending dressed in the style of the 1920s isn't compulsory but is certainly encouraged. For those who'd rather not do so but who'd nonetheless like to enter into the spirit of the occasion, there's a photo booth in which visitors can kit themselves out in vintage costume from the era.



Compton Verney

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Fri 13 May



Compton Verney is opening its current displays, Shakespeare In Art and Boydell's Vision, for evening perusal as part of its Museums At Night event. Experts from The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust will be on hand to inform visitors about the plays which feature in the exhibitions. Other attractions on the night include a talk on how Shakespeare's plays influenced Elizabethan thinking about the subject of 'emotion', and a screening of Peter Hall's 1968 movie version of A Midsummer Night's Dream, filmed entirely at Compton Verney and starring Helen Mirren, David Warner, Diana Rigg and Judi Dench.

Visit Eastnor
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 @EastnorCastle
 EASTNOR CASTLE

Chilli Festival
 Sun 1st to Mon 2nd May
 #EastnorChilliFestival

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The Baby Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 13 - Sun 15 May

Sleep-deprived new parents would do well to call on their reserves of energy and get along to this popular show. Widely considered to be the UK's leading pregnancy and parenting event, the Baby Show brings together leading retailers and brands, includes one-to-one demonstrations and provides the opportunity

to 'touch, feel and compare' items, enabling shoppers to make an informed decision about their purchases. The show also offers free advice on topics such as sleeping, breastfeeding and weaning, and comes complete with a host of facilities to help you have a hassle-free day.

We're fairly sure that if your baby could talk, they'd advise you to attend...

Ludlow Spring Festival

Ludlow Castle & Grounds, South Shropshire, Sat 14 - Sun 15 May

This annual festival ably illustrates why Ludlow is one of the country's most reputable foodie towns. The two-day event features more than 200 beers (from more than 50 local brewers) and an array of food stalls, with vendors offering delectable delights ranging from artisan flours to charcuterie, award-winning cakes, gourmet sausage rolls and local cheeses.

A hugely popular element of the festival is the talks and demonstrations - this year including interactive sessions with chef Steve Lyons - while for younger visitors, there's the chance to get 'hands on' in special cookery classes.



Open Cockpits Evenings

RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton, Fri 13 - Sat 14 May

Now here's an opportunity no aviation fan will want to miss. The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford's Open Cockpits Evenings offer 300 visitors per night the rare opportunity to step inside some of the world's most iconic aircraft - including two research jets which have never before been opened to the public.

"Events like this make a visit to RAF Cosford extra special," says the museum's event manager, Abi Betteridge. "It's a unique opportunity to have access inside military aircraft. To make sure visitors get the most out of the event, we have a fantastic team of volunteers on hand to answer any questions they may have. We've also added two new aircraft to the list, along with some that haven't been open for a number of years - so there's something new and exciting for any returning visitors to enjoy."

The Open Cockpits Evenings are part of the Europe-wide Museums At Night initiative, which sees hundreds of museums, galleries, libraries, archives and heritage sites opening their doors to the public for special after-hours events.

Queen Victoria's Birthday

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Sat 28 May - Sun 5 June

While our current Queen is celebrating her 90th birthday, the good folk of Blists Hill are putting out the bunting in honour of another long-reigning monarch. This year's birthday bash for Queen Victoria features poetry readings and short stories, candle-dipping workshops, school house lessons and the chance to ride on a horse-drawn bus. There's also a self-led trail to enjoy, providing visitors with the opportunity to discover more about Victoria and the British Empire.

Take note that Sunday the 29th is an extra special day, with added attractions including a Punch & Judy show, street games, live entertainment and a 'patriotic parade'.



Drive-In Movie

Telford Shopping Centre, Shropshire, Mon 30 May

Telford Shopping Centre 'goes American' this May bank holiday when it hosts three drive-in movies in its Red Oak car park - Despicable Me 2 (from 2pm), Dirty Dancing (from 5.30pm) and Star Wars: The Force Awakens (from 8.30pm). Movie fans can relax in the comfort of their own vehicle to enjoy the films, tuning in their car radio to hear the soundtrack through the car speakers. Food and drink is available to purchase on the day, but viewers are encouraged to bring along a picnic if they prefer.

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Events

more events from around the region

Ultimate Smash Down

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
Sun 8 May

Ten hours of top-class badminton is the mouthwatering prospect awaiting fans of the sport at this National Badminton League season-two finale event. Quickfire badminton action, Powerplays, time-outs and sudden-death tie-breaks should ensure there's no let up in the tension as the league's top four teams go head to head to be crowned champions.



Motul FIM Superbike World Championship

Donington Park, Derby, Fri 27 - Sun 29 May

This is the prestigious World Superbike Championship's only UK round - and Donington Park's premier event of the year. As well as a World Superbike race on both the Saturday and Sunday, the event also features World Supersport and Superstock 1000 championships, and races from the Ducati TriOptions Cup, European Junior Cup and the National Superstock 600 and 1000. Other attractions include live music on the Friday and Saturday evenings, an exclusive 'rider Q&A session' (for campers only) and children's entertainment in the form of football, bouncy castles and mascot appearances.



Eastnor Chilli Festival

Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire,
Sun 1 - Mon 2 May

Promising to heat up the bank holiday weekend, Eastnor's fifth annual Chilli Festival showcases an abundance of spiced-up entertainment for all the family to enjoy. The castle courtyard will be transformed into a chilli

market for the event, where visitors can both try and buy the selection of chilli-infused delights on offer - including chocolate, bread, cakes, vodka, cocktails and chutney. There's also a selection of specialist hot food suppliers on hand, selling authentic Asian curries and a variety of other spicy foods. Other attractions include a chilli-eating competition, contributions from local chefs, a children's cookery school, a puppet show and live music.

Tudor Weekend

Blakesley Hall, Birmingham,
Sun 29 - Mon 30 May

Visitors to Blakesley Hall get the chance to participate in Tudor games and dancing or try their hand at writing with a quill pen at this family-friendly event. Tudor reenactors entertain and educate throughout the weekend, presenting battle scenes from Shakespeare's Henry V, performing a short play first staged in 1575, and demonstrating a range of sure-to-be-impressive sword-fighting techniques. Tudor-style cooking is also on the agenda, while a number of Tudor ladies will be showing off their impressive textile skills. Sounds like a step back in time that could be well worth taking...



Race, Rock 'n' Ride

Santapod Raceway,
Northampton,
Sat 21 - Sun 22 May

This is the first ever Race, Rock'n'Ride event - and if its action-packed programme of entertainment is anything to go by, it surely won't be the last. Highlights include two-seater dragster rides, Podzilla monster truck displays, stunt bikes and shows, a display of classic race bikes, a FireForce jet car, a round of the Straightliners Drag Racing Championships, mini monster truck rides for kids, Run What Ya Brung, a wheelie competition and live music from AC/DC tribute act Live/Wire. Time to get your motor running, we think...

The National Kit Car Motor Show

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
Sun 1 - Mon 2 May

Hundreds of trade stands, live action displays and more than 4,000 cars - from the unusual to the exotic - feature among the highlights at this unique event. The two-day get-together also offers the opportunity for visitors to take a trip in an impressive Dakar 4x4 around the site's massive off-road course. The chance to enjoy 'the drift of your life', courtesy of the show's Slalom Experience, is another sure-to-be-popular attraction.



See [the list](#) for all your
events listings

FOR YOUR COMPLETE LISTINGS VISIT



What's On

WWW.WHATSONLIVE.CO.UK

Your week to week
listings guide
May 2016

thelist



Cats at Birmingham Hippodrome Mon 30 May - Sat 4 Jun

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

What's On

Sun 1 to Sun 8 May



Swingamajig at the
Rainbow Venues, Digbeth

Sun 1 May

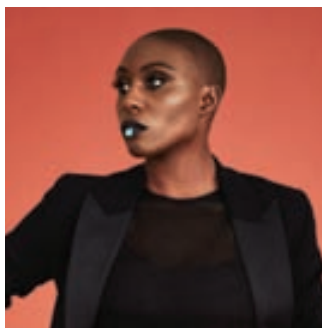
Mon 9 to Sun 15 May



Bodypower UK at
NEC, Birmingham

Fri 13 - Sun 15 May

Mon 16 to Sun 22 May



Laura Mvula at
O2 Institute, Birmingham

Sat 21 May

Mon 23 to Tues 31 May



David Morgan at
The Core Theatre, Solihull

Sun 29 May

THROUGHOUT MAY

Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS 2016 Exhibition of works by graduates from various West Midlands art schools, until Sun 15 May. Also showing at Wolverhampton Art Gallery & Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM QUR'AN One of the earliest surviving copies of the Islamic holy book, on display, until Wed 3 Aug

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY IN 130 YEARS The story of the Museum & Art Gallery, told via a special anniversary exhibition, until Thurs 1 Sept

NEW TURNING TO SEE: FROM VAN DYCK TO LUCIAN FREUD Van Dyck's last self-portrait, curated by West Midlands-born and internationally renowned artist John Stezaker, Sat 28 May - Sun 4 Sept

Eastside Projects

NEW PRODUCTION SHOW Sat 30 Apr - Sat 16 July

Grand Union

PREM SAHIB A solo show of new work, until Fri 3 June

Ikon Gallery

DAN FLAVIN: IT IS WHAT IT IS AND IT AIN'T NOTHING ELSE An exhibition of fluorescent light works, until Sun 26 June

The Library of Birmingham

OUR SHAKESPEARE The Library of Birmingham has joined forces with the British Library to stage a colourful free exhibition, until Sat 3 Sept

Parkside Gallery, BCU

NEW IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE? Exhibition celebrating the 30th anniversary of Birmingham alternative music venue and disco The Click Club, Tues 3 - Sat 28 May

RBSA Gallery

ECO-CRAFT EXHIBITION Showcasing designer-makers with an ethical approach to craft-making, until Sat 7 May

SHIRLEY BONAS - ARBSA ALL SEASONS ALL WEATHERS Exhibition of work reflecting Shirley's love of the Wyre Forest and the local countryside, until Sat 14 May

JANETTE SUMMERFIELD RBSA Variations On A Theme - how an image can be interpreted in several ways, until Sat 21 May

JEFF LOMAS RBSA Grasslands - an exhibition of ceramics, until Sat 28 May

NEW PRIZE EXHIBITION Annual open exhibition. Wed 4 May - Sat 4 June

NEW WANDERLUST CRAFT EXHIBITION Having a strong desire to travel, or 'wanderlust', has inspired many

designer-makers with their creative practice, Mon 9 May - Sat 24 Sept

NEW DAVID HAWTHORNE ARBSA - SUNLIGHT AND SHADOWS Atmospheric paintings of land, sea and skies, Mon 16 May - Sat 25 June

NEW ATTILIO FIUMARELLA A series of new photographs from the winner of the RBSA's Photographic Prize exhibition, Mon 23 May - Sat 9 July

NEW KATHLEEN FABRE Solo exhibition of new site-responsive installations, Mon 30 May - Sat 2 July

The Barber Institute

CHANCE, ORDER, CHANGE: ABSTRACT PAINTINGS 1939 - 1989 A great opportunity to enjoy abstract art at its purest, until Sun 8 May

PRESTIGE & POWER Artists, writers, politicians and royalty are the subjects in this display of works by Rubens, Van Dyck and Charles Le Brun, until Sun 15 May

INTO THE WOODS Featuring stylistically diverse works by distinguished artists, including Jacob van Ruisdael, Theodore Rousseau & Samuel Palmer, until Sun 12 June

NEW BURIED TREASURES A fascinating exhibition exploring coin hoards, telling the stories of their deposition and their discovery, Fri 6 May 2016 - Sun 26 Feb 2017

NEW CURIOUS BEAUTY This display showcases Ennemond-Alexandre Petitot's drawings for ornamental vases, engraved by Benigno Bossi (1727 - 1792), Fri 27 May - Sun 4 Sept

mac, Birmingham

MADE AT MAC: LIFE DRAWING The artworks featured were created on the life drawing course, led by artist tutor Sally Delany, until Sun 15 May

PRINTS: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SERIES AND 11 DRYPOINTS BY LOUISE BOURGEOIS Two collections of works by one of the most influential artists of recent decades (1911-2010), until Sun 19 June

BARBARA WALKER: SHOCK AND AWE A major new commission of drawings, until Sun 3 July

BOM (B'ham Open Media) INGENIOUS AND FEARLESS COMPANIONS The first ever exhibition by the High Altitude Bioprospecting (HAB) science-art collective, until Sat 11 June

Bramall Music Building

ANTONIO ROBERTS: PERMISSION TAKEN Work by Antonio Roberts focused on issues surrounding copyright, permission culture and art, until Mon 30 May

Museum of The Jewellery Quarter

COLLECTING BIRMINGHAM: STORIES THAT SHOULD BE SHARED The first in a series of four exhibitions showcasing objects collected from local people, telling their stories of life in Birmingham, until Sat 31 December

Gigs

MAGNUM Sun 1 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

DANCEHALL DAYS Sun 1 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

TONY KEARNEY Sun 1 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

DAN SARTAIN Sun 1 May, Ort Cafe, Birmingham

FULL 100 2016! FEATURING TARRUS RILEY Sun 1 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MICHAEL BOLTON Sun 1 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ANDROMEDA XV - MAYDAY WARNING Sun 1 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

UB40 Sun 1 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

JOE GODDARD Sun 1 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

INTRIGUE IN TANGIERS Sun 1 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

DO NOT SLEEP FEATURING PACO OSUNA Sun 1 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MARK LANEGAN Mon 2 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

WHITECLIFF Mon 2 May, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CHRIS CORNELL Mon 2 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DANIEL CHAMPAGNE Tues 3 May, The Robin, Bilston

ANASTACIA Tue 3 May, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE BLUETONES Tues 3 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MICHAEL CHAPMAN Tues 3 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

JEZ LOWE & THE BAD PENNIES Wed 4 May, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

DANNI NICHOLLS Wed 4 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

FIELD HARMONICS Wed 4 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NINA NESBITT Wed 4 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TEDDY THOMPSON & KELLY JONES Wed 4 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TINASHE Wed 4 May,

O2 Institute, B'ham

NGOD Wed 4 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JONNY & THE BAPTISTS: THE END IS NIGH Wed 4 May, mac, Birmingham



9BACH Wed 4 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SI CRANSTOWN WITH HIS BAND Wed 4 May, The Robin, Bilston

HATTIE BRIGGS Thurs 5 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

WORLDSERVICE PROJECT Thurs 5 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH Thurs 5 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

RAT BOY Thurs 5 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

MAHALIA Thurs 5 May, The Glee Club, B'ham

BOY JUMPS SHIP Thurs 5 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BOXER REBELLION Thurs 5 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CREDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEWED Thurs 5 May, The Robin, Bilston

FLIGHT 15 Fri 6 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Fri 6 May, Birmingham Town

WUSSY Fri 6 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DANNY DARCY Fri 6 May, Irish Centre, B'ham

AURELIO VOLTAIRE + AMONG THE ECHOES Fri 6 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

YOUNG PILGRIMS, FOFOLAH & JACT Fri 6 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KING KRAB + CHEMICAL MOJO + FRANTIC Fri 6 May, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

RICKY COOL AND THE IN CROWD Fri 6 May, O'Neill's, Birmingham

THE ICICLE WORKS Fri 6 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

YES Fri 6 May, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE TREATMENT Fri 6 May, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

KLASSIDE Fri 6 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FROM THE JAM Fri 6 May, The Robin, Bilston

PILGRIMAGE FEAT. FOFOLAH, JACT & YOUNG PILGRIMS Fri 6 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DANNY DARCY Sat 7 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

TOO REX Sat 7 May, The Roadhouse, B'ham

BRANTLEY GILBERT Sat 7 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SOUND OF THE SIRENS Sat 7 May, Ort Cafe, Birmingham

THE DIRTY NIL & WACO Sat 7 May, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ESKIMO DANCE Sat 7 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LETHAL BIZZLE Sat 7 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SCOTT MATTHEWS Sat 7 May, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

JAKE & ELWOOD Sat 7 May, The Robin, Bilston

IDESTORY + STILETTO FARM + NOISE REVOLT + YOUTH WITHIN Sun 8 May, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

PALEHORSE Sun 8 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

T R DALLAS Sun 8 May, Irish Centre, B'ham

CHAMELEONS VOX + EVIL BLIZZARD Sun 8 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BIG BOY BLOATER Sun 8 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham



SYMPHONIC FLOYD FEATURING THE EN SUITE ELECTRIC BAND Sun 8 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHRIS WOOD Sun 8 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

KARNATAKA Sun 8 May, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

CELEBRITY RECITAL WITH SIR JAMES AND LADY JEANNE GALWAY

Programme includes works by Gaubert, Chaminade, Harty, Gossec, Marais, Kreisler & Morlacchi, Sun 1 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

BENEDICT MASON PORTRAIT Sun 1 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

FINAL YEAR RECITALISTS Featuring Matthew Hayden (baritone), Jacob Dorell (voice), Lydia Haynes (soprano) & David Woods (tenor), Tues 3 May, The Bramall, Birmingham

THOMAS TROTTER IN RECITAL

Programme includes works by Bach, Mozart, Widor, Dove, MacMillan, Dukas & Liszt, Wed 4 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO VAUGHAN WILLIAMS' FIFTH

Featuring John Wilson (Conductor), Alice Coote - Mezzo soprano) Programme includes works by Bax, Elgar & Vaughan Williams, Thurs 5 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FINAL YEAR RECITALISTS

Karis Ong (piano), Christopher Percival (piano) & Usha Aron (piano), Thurs 5 May, The Bramall, Birmingham

DI XIAO: MOON, WATER AND DANCE

Programme includes works by Ravel, Guang Ren, Debussy, Jianzhong Wang, Yiqiang Sun & Liszt, Fri 6 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CBSO PLAYERS: VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

PHANTASY QUINTET Fri 6 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

IL DIVO Sat 7 May, Genting Arena, Birmingham

KARL JENKINS REQUIEM Karl Jenkins conducts his highly acclaimed and popular Requiem alongside Palladio & The Healer. Lucy Knight (soprano), Håkan Vramsmo (baritone), Clive Bell shakuhachi & Zands Duggan (percussion), also feature, Sat 7 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CANOLDIR: 50 GLORIOUS YEARS

Celebrating 50 glorious years of music making, Canoldir will here be joined by the Make Choirs of Bridgend, Cardiff Arms Park, Dunvant & Pontarddulais, Sat 7 May,

Birmingham Town Hall

BIRMINGHAM CITADEL BAND OF THE SALVATION ARMY GALA CONCERT 2016

Sat 7 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

JARRED CHRISTMAS, TONY LAW FEATURING BETHANY BLACK, RICH WILSON, JAMES ANDERSON & COMIC TBC Sun 1 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham



MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 4 May, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

MANILLA ROAD COMEDY Thurs 5 May, The Victoria, Birmingham

GARY LITTLE, FUNMBI OMOTAYO & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 5 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LEE NELSON, MATT REED & COMIC TBC 5 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

DAVE JOHNS, ANDREW RYAN, GARY LITTLE & FUNMBI OMOTAYO Fri 6 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SIMON EVANS Fri 6 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CITIZEN KHAN Fri 6 May, Genting Arena, Birmingham

MATT REED, JARLATH REGAN, STEVE BUGEJA & BRENDON BURNS Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

FUNMBI OMOTAYO, ANDREW RYAN, DAVE JOHNS & GARY LITTLE Sat 7 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CURTIS WALKER, SINCK, MELANIE GAYLE & JOHN SIMMIT Sun 8 May, mac, Birmingham

Theatre

DON QUIXOTE James Fenton's staging of Cervantes' comic novel - a work regarded as one of the foundation stones of modern fiction, until Sat 21 May, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

DOCTOR FAUSTUS Maria Aberg returns to the RSC to direct Marlowe's notorious take of vanity, greed & damnation, until Thurs 4 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

CYMBELINE Melly Still directs Shakespeare's rarely performed romance, until Fri 12 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Blue Orange Arts presents its version of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners, Thurs 28 April - Sat 7 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

BAD JEWS Joshua Harman's renowned play, set in a Manhattan apartment on the evening of a family funeral, Mon 2 - Sat 7 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT Duncan James takes the lead as Tick in a touring production of the feel-good international musical based on the smash-hit movie of the same name, Mon 2 - Sat 7 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



CONNECTIONS 500 In collaboration with the National Theatre, 13 youth theatres from across the country visit The REP to present a selection of plays to celebrate the 21st year of the National Theatre's Connections Festival. Each group stages one of 12 plays commissioned by the

National Theatre since 1995, Tue 3 - Sat 7 May, The REP, Birmingham

THE FATHER Kenneth Cranham reprises his role in Florian Zeller's



acclaimed play, Tues 3 - Sat 7 May, The REP, Birmingham

SWEENEY TODD The Arcadians present the story of the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, Tues 3 - Sat 7 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

AMBER TOPAZ: STORM IN A D CUP One-woman comedy show from one of the UK's brightest burlesque and cabaret stars, Thurs 5 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BUGSY MALONE Birmingham Youth Onstage present an amateur production based on the popular 1976 gangster movie of the same name, Thurs 5 - Fri 6 May, Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

MR B THE GENTLEMAN RHYMER Mr B continues his ongoing quest to reconnect hip-hop with manners and bring the Queen's English to Birmingham, Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MARGARET THATCHER: QUEEN OF SOHO Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, mac, Birmingham

WEEKEND ROCKSTARS Theatre meets gig in Middle Child's unapologetic telling of three young lives living for the weekend, Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, The REP, Birmingham

TO MEET OSCAR WILDE Norman Holland's fascinating play in which Oscar Wilde gives a dissertation on his colourful life, Fri 6 - Sat 14 May, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

DON QUIXOTE Part of the RSC's Unwrapped Season, in which members of the acting company demonstrate some of the skills that go into making a production, Sat 7 May, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

AGE 12+



Jackie

The Musical

STARRING JANET DIBLEY

TUE 24 - SAT 28 MAY

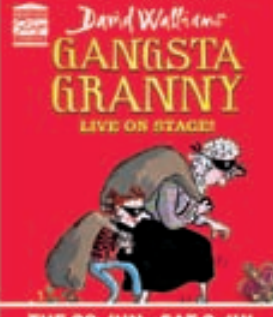
AGE 12+



TOM

A STORY OF TOMMY JONES THE MUSICAL

WED 1 - SAT 4 JUN



David Walliams

GANGSTA GRANNY

LIVE ON STAGE

TUE 28 JUN - SAT 2 JUL



Footloose

THE MUSICAL

★★★★★
METRO

MON 4 - SAT 9 JUL



THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

WITH SPECIAL GUEST STAR
RUTHIE HENSHALL

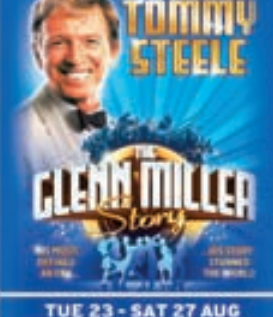
TUE 19 - SAT 23 JUL



Sense

THE MUSICAL

WED 17 - SAT 20 AUG



TOMMY STEELE

THE GLENN MILLER STORY

TUE 23 - SAT 27 AUG

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GOD OF CARNAGE The Crescent Theatre Company present Noel Coward's comedy of manners, Sat 7 - Sat 14 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

WOODY SEZ: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF WOODY GUTHRIE Soul-stirring hit musical capturing the heart and spirit of America's original folk hero, Woody Guthrie, Sun 8 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

NEDERLANDS DANS THEATER 2 With an impressive company of 18 international dancers, NDT2 presents a mixed repertoire of work that promises to inspire and entertain. Tue 3 - Wed 4 May Birmingham Hippodrome



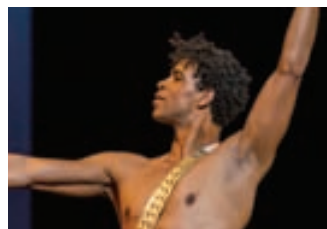
COMPAGNIE PHILIPPE SAIRE: BLACK OUT A strong and intimate experience which sees thousands of black granulated fragments transform the dancers' world into a moving, pictorial composition that jars as it shifts in response to the light, sound and movement, Tues 3 - Wed 4 May DanceXchange, Birmingham Hippodrome

BRIDGING THE VOID Experimental Dance present a new film/dance production featuring a dramatic movement vocabulary performed by three dancers. Wed 4 May mac, Birmingham

DETOX Intense, energetic and thought-provoking production by Pagrav Dance Company, Thurs 5 May, The Drum, Birmingham

ECLIPSE & JINX 103 A double bill showcasing choreographic works that beautifully complement one another, Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, DanceXchange, Birmingham Hippodrome

CARLOS ACOSTA Featuring an incredible cast of dancers from Cuba, Carlos here performs excerpts from his favourite ballet repertoire. Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, Birmingham Hippodrome



ZOEIOLOGIC DANCE THEATRE: RIDE World premiere of an outdoor dance theatre work exploring the nature of travelling, Sat 7 May, Ward End Park, Birmingham

PUT YOUR FOOT DOWN An afternoon of spectacular free dance performances in a range of styles, Sat 7 May, The Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham

TRIBANGHI DANCE THEATRE: SUKUMA High-energy fusion of Indian classical Bharatanatyam and African dance, brought together with contemporary flair, Sun 8 May, mac, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

VERTIGO (PG) This cinematic classic from the master of suspense was so poorly received upon its initial 1958 release that Alfred Hitchcock later withdrew it from distribution for several years. Its reputation has since grown and it is now widely regarded as Hitchcock's finest film, a haunting examination of male desire memorably filmed in real San Francisco locations. Stars James Stewart & Kim Novak. Sun 1 May, The Electric Cinema, Birmingham

COURT (tbc) A sewerage worker's dead body is found inside a manhole in Mumbai. An ageing folk singer is tried in court on charges of abetment of suicide. He is accused of performing an inflammatory song which might have incited the worker to commit the act. As the trial unfolds, the personal lives of the lawyers and the judge involved in the case are observed outside the court. Stars Usha Bane & Vivek Gomber. Tues 3 - Thurs 5 May, mac, Birmingham

BIG HERO 6 (PG) San Fransokyo is in trouble! Robot genius Hiro Hamada finds himself catapulted into danger, and turns to Baymax, a plus-sized inflatable robot, for help. Sat 7 May, mac, Birmingham

FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS (PG) Meryl Streep stars in the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins, a New York heiress and socialite who obsessively pursued her dream of becoming a great singer. Convinced of her own talent, the voice Florence heard in her head was beautiful, while to everyone else it was both hilarious and awful. Fri 6 - Thurs 12 May, The Electric Cinema, Birmingham

THE SEVENTH SEAL (PG) Ingmar Bergman's allegory about a medieval knight (Max von Sydow) who plays chess with Death (a white-faced, shrouded figure played by Bengt Ekerot) was a landmark of arthouse cinema in the late 1950s. Taking its title from the Book of Revelation, the film examines the knight's crisis of faith during a dark period of human history. Sun 8 May, The Electric Cinema, Birmingham

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 6 May, showing at selected cinemas.

BAD NEIGHBOURS 2 (tbc)
EVOLUTION (15)

FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS (PG)

I SAW THE LIGHT (15)

KNIGHT OF CUPS (15)

ROBINSON CRUSOE (PG)

THESE FINAL HOURS (15)

Events

BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUZ SIGHTSEEING TOUR Beginning at the commercial heart of the city at the end of Colmore Row, Victoria Square, this popular tour includes the city's major buildings of architectural interest including St Philip's and St Chad's Cathedrals, the Victoria Law Courts, the Town Hall, the Council House, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and Library, Sun 1 May, Birmingham City Centre



INTERNATIONAL DAWN CHORUS Catch the early morning chorus on an RSPB-led walk around the garden, Sun 1 May, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

10K GREAT BIRMINGHAM AFTERPARTY Sun 1 May, The Slug and Lettuce, Birmingham

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS Join the residents of Blists Hill Victorian Town on May Day as they mark the occasion with fun and merriment, Sun 1 May, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire



EASTNOR CHILLI FESTIVAL Now in its fifth year. All things chilli to try and buy! Live music, bars, hot food, children's cookery school, a chilli-eating competition and cookery demonstrations, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

PIRATE WEEKEND Pirates invade Cadbury World for a weekend of swashbuckling fun, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, Cadbury World, Bournville

MEDIEVAL RE-ENACTMENT WEEKEND The manor house museums welcome the Buckingham's Retinue, who will be setting up camp in the grounds, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, Manor House Museum, West Bromwich

PENGUIN WEEK Learn all about the penguin leader Alf and his pals. Plus, get involved in numerous activities to celebrate World Penguin Day on the 25th, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

IRONBRIDGE GORGE WALKING FESTIVAL Now in its 11th year, this popular festival offers nine days of free, varied and rewarding walks in and around Telford's stunning Ironbridge Gorge, where the Industrial Revolution began over 300 years ago, Sun 1 - Sun 8 May, Ironbridge, Shropshire

WARWICK MAY RACING CARNIVAL Mon 2 May, Warwick Racecourse

CAFE SCIENTIFIQUE: THE FUTURE OF EYE CARE A talk from Professor Shehzad A Naroo from the School of Life and Health Sciences at Aston University, Tues 3 May, Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE FILM FESTIVAL BCLM celebrates Deaf Awareness Week, hosting a series of specialist films suitable for deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences, Tues 3 - Sat 7 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

TALES FROM HISTORY: THE LUNAR SOCIETY AND SOHO HOUSE To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Lunar Society, Soho House Manager Samina Kosar gives a talk at Waterstones as part of their Tales From History season, Thurs 5 May, Soho House, Birmingham

DIGBETH FIRST FRIDAY Digbeth comes alive on the first Friday of each month with exhibitions, late-night openings, special events, culture in unexpected spaces, live music, street food and more, Fri 6 May, Digbeth, Birmingham

HANDSWORTH HERITAGE WALK Check out fine Georgian and Victorian architecture, a convent designed by Augustus Pugin, a church that was built nearly one millennium ago, Sat 7 May, Soho House, Birmingham

KINGS HEATH FARMERS MARKET Sat 7 May, All Saints Church, King's Heath, Birmingham

THE KINGMAKER'S MEDIAEVAL BANQUET It's the year 1471 and you have been summoned to dine with the infamous Earl of Warwick for an unforgettable evening of eating, drinking and medieval revelry, Sat 7 May, Warwick Castle

CADBURY CHARACTER WEEKEND Pose for photographs alongside Freddo, Caramel Bunny and friends as they meet and greet visitors, Sat 7 - Sun 8 May, Cadbury World, Bournville

1940'S WEEKEND Fabulous music and magical memories, Sat 7 - Sun 8 May, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

CENTRAL PERFORMANCE SHOW The fastest sports & performance cars in the country battle it out head to head, Sun 8 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

TOY COLLECTORS FAIR Sun 8 May, NEC, Birmingham

BIKE4LIFE FEST 2016 Bike4Life Fest returns, with over 3,000 bikers and enthusiasts expected at the biggest biking event in the Midlands, Sun 8 May, RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton

AJ BELL NATIONAL BADMINTON LEAGUE Sun 8 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham



Declan O'Rourke, Symphony Hall, 14 May

Gigs

ELESSAR Mon 9 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

ISAAC GRACIE Mon 9 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SKATERS Mon 9 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

TRIO CATCH Mon 9 May, Birmingham Town Hall

CLIVE GREGSON Mon 9 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

CORKY LAING Mon 9 May, The Robin, Bilston

SHOOK TWINS Tues 10 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

IGOR LEVIT Tues 10 May, Birmingham Town Hall

THE REFORM CLUB Tues 10 May, The Robin, Bilston

COLUM SANDS Wed 11 May, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

CHASTITY BELT Wed 11 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THEO JACKSON Wed 11 May, Lichfield Garrick

A CELEBRATION OF JOHN DENVER Wed 11 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

JASON DONOVAN TEN GOOD REASONS & GREATEST HITS TOUR Wed 11 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE BAR STOOL PREACHERS Thurs 12 May, Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE HEAVY Thurs 12 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FREE REIGN Thurs 12 May, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

IMAGINED ISLE FOLK FESTIVAL Thurs 12 - Mon 16 May, Birmingham Town Hall

WAY TO BLUE: THE SONGS OF NICK DRAKE Thurs 12 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TRAVIS Thurs 12 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

QUI Thurs 12 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

REND COLLECTIVE Thurs 12 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ABSOLUTE BLONDIE Thurs 12 May, The Robin, Bilston

EMILY PORTMAN & THE CORACLE BAND Fri 13 May, Birmingham Town Hall

MANOS PA'ARRIBA Fri 13 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

OATHBREAKER Fri 13 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

FRAN THE MAN Fri 13 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

THE HARTS + SALAD DAYS + SHOOT THE SYMPHONY + THE REAL COOL Fri 13 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SNOWPOET Fri 13 May, The Glee Club, B'ham

CRIME & PUNISHMENT Fri 13 May, The Flapper, Birmingham

ARMY OF BONES Fri 13 May, The Asylum, Birmingham

BILLY OCEAN Fri 13 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE SESSIONS - A live re-staging of The Beatles at Abbey Road Studios Fri 13 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE SUMMER SET Fri 13 May, The Asylum, Birmingham

ANDY JORDAN Fri 13 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LIVEWIRE - TRIBUTE TO AC/DC Fri 13 May, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS Fri 13 May, The Robin, Bilston

KATE RUSBY Sat 14 May, Birmingham Town Hall

DECLAN O'ROURKE Sat 14 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PAT BRESLIN Sat 14 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

ANDY BLACK Sat 14 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE MEMBRANES Sat 14 May, The Flapper, Birmingham

IN DISMAY + HOPE FOR RETURN + VICTORY LANE + SILO 18 Sat 14 May, Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

MANIC STREET PREACHERS Sat 14 May, Genting Arena, B'ham

SUPERFICIALS Sat 14 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JOCELYN BROWN & KENNY THOMAS Sat 14 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE SMITHS LTD Sat 14 May, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

ROCK 4 SPON 5 Sat 14 May, The Robin, Bilston

FUTURE FOLK FEATURING FALSE LIGHTS, JOSIENNE CLARKE & BEN WALKER AND LUKE JACKSON Sun 15 May, Birmingham Town Hall

SEAN WILSON Sun 15 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

TRANSVIOLET Sun 15 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MIKE PETERS PRESENTS THE ALARM Sun 15 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TRIAXIS / IMMNESION Sun 15 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

FRANCES Sun 15 May, The Glee Club, B'ham

RICKY COOL AND THE IN CROWD Sun 15 May, The Brasshouse, Birmingham

FRANKLY SINATRA Sun 15 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Sun 15 May, Birmingham Town Hall

THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA Sun 15 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

OYE SANTANA Sun 15 May, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

RISING STARS: TRIO CATCH Featuring Boglárka Pecze (clarinet), Eva Boesch (cello) & Sun-Young Nam (piano), Mon 9 May, Birmingham Town Hall

IPHIGENIE EN TAURIDE English Touring Opera presents a 'heart-wrenching' masterpiece based on a famous story from Greek myth, Mon 9 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DON GIOVANNI English Touring Opera presents its version of Mozart's 'most engrossing' opera, Tues 10 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

IGOR LEVIT (PIANO) Programme comprises Beethoven's Sonata No 17 Op 31 No 2 & Frederic Rzewski's The People United Will Never Be Defeated, Tues 10 May, Birmingham Town Hall

CITY OF SOUNDS: TWO TRIOS Featuring Ben Muirhead & Billy Weir as one act alongside The Birmingham Conservatoire Trio which comprises Jiafeng Chen (violin), Jiaxin Lloyd Webber (cello), Di Xiao (piano) presenting music by Bach, Debussy, Paganini & Mendelssohn, Tues 10 May, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: SCANDINAVIAN SERENADE Featuring David Le Page (violin) & David Curtis (conductor). Programme includes works by Grieg, Sibelius & Dvorak, Wed 11 May, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: BEN-HUR LIVE Carl Davis conducts the CBSO Orchestra in live score to accompany the 1925 silent movie, Fri 13 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

RECYCLAGE MUSICAL Featuring Richard Sutcliffe (viola) & Sofie Vanherie (harpsichord). Programme includes works by Marin Marais, Antoine Forqueray, Louis de Caix d'Hervelois and Jean-Baptiste Barrière, Fri 13 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

MOSCOW STATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Stephen Johnson, Rachmaninov & Shostakovich, Sat 14 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: A GREAT BRITISH SUMMER Featuring Julian Wilkins (conductor) & the CBSO Children's Chorus. Tom Redmond presents, Sun 15 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 9 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 10 May, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 11 May, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

ALISTAIR BARRIE Thurs 12 May, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield

MARK OLVER, PAUL MCCAFFREY &

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 12 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TRYGVE WAKENSHAW: SQUIDBOY Fri 13 May, mac, Birmingham

DAN THOMAS, DANE BAPTISTE, PAUL MCCAFFREY & COMIC TBC Fri 13 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DIANE SPENCER, KEVIN MCCARTHY, IAN COGNITO & DARIUS DAVIES Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

PAUL MCCAFFREY, MARK OLVER, DAN THOMAS & DANE BAPTISTE Sat 14 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHAZIA MIRZA Sat 14 May, mac, Birmingham



HAL CRUTTENDEN Sat 14 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

Theatre

CENTURY SONG Volcano Theatre present a unique show inspired in part by Virginia Woolf's Orlando and Alice Walker's In Search Of Our Mothers' Garden, Tues 10 May, mac, B'ham

SOUTH PACIFIC This popular musical presented by Solihull Theatre Company is an unusual love story set against the backdrop of a cruel war. Contains much-loved songs such as I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair and the famously finger-wagging Happy Talk! Tues 10 - Sat 14 May, The Core Theatre, Solihull

AMERICAN IDIOT X Factor finalist Amelia Lily and musical theatre star Aaron Sidwell star in Green Day's explosive, award-winning Broadway musical, Tues 10 - Sat 14 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

KIKI LOVECHILD: SHEETS Brand new clown show for grown-ups, about the end of the world, Wed 11 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE WEDDING SINGER Heart Of Worcestershire College Performing Arts present an amateur version of the musical comedy, based on the 1985 film of the same name, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JOAN An earthy story of courage, conviction, hope, survival and love, performed by Drag Idol champion Lucy Jane Parkinson, aka LoUIS Cyfer, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 May, mac, Birmingham

**AMAZING MAY AND JUNE...
SPECIAL FESTIVAL MARKETS**

WORCESTER BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY MARKET



Set in an idyllic setting along the river and South Quay in Worcester offering a rambling mix of traders selling a wide variety of goods of every description.

Find this market:
The Quay Worcester Mon 2nd & 30th May, 10am-4pm

WORCESTER SPRING FESTIVAL



This is one of our historical events held in Worcester High Street with traders specialising in Art-Craft, Vintage, Collectables and unusual goods as well as food & drink.

Find this market:
High Street Worcester 20th & 21st June, 9am-5pm

STAFFORD UP-MARKET AND FOOD EVENT



Held in the Market Square in the centre of Stafford. A brilliant UpMarket with traders specialising in Street food or fine foods, farm fresh, home-made, art, craft, vintage, shabby chic, and all speciality lines.

Find this market:
Market Square, Stafford Sat 20th May, 9am - 5pm

HIMLEY STEAM AND COUNTRY FAIR



In conjunction with this market event at the famous Himley Hall, there will be a host of Family Entertainment, Vintage Cars, Sheep Trials & Fairground Organs. Traders selling fine food, street food, Farmers, Arts, Crafts and all unusual goods.

Find this market:
Himley Hall & Park Sun 5th June, 10am-4pm

ROYAL MARKET & FOOD FESTIVAL



We are very excited to be hosting this fabulous market in celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday. Enjoy this epic Street Party and food festival in a fantastic location, definitely an event not to be missed. Family entertainment, Live Music in the bandstand, dog shows and fun-fair and lots more will be happening throughout this three-day event. Including Street Food, fine foods, farmers, artists, crafts, Collectables and all unusual goods.

Find this market:
Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge Fri 10th June 2pm-8pm, Sat 11th June 10am-8pm & Sun 12th June 10am-8pm

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the drum

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

Thur 5 May
DETOX
 Using contemporary Kathak dance to explore how cleansing can reveal true potential

Fri 6 May
THE THREE AMIGOS
 Comedy triple header featuring Chrissy Charles, Junior Booker and Shabba

Fri 13 May
TU REHN DE COMEDY CLUB
 Micky Sharma, Prince Abdi and Guzzy bear join forces in this inspired night of comedy

Thu 17 May
THE DIARY OF A HOUNSLOW GIRL
 Comic story of living between two cultures

Sat 28 May
CBEEBIES SID SLOANE LIVE SHOW
 A fantastic fun-filled adventure that'll knock your socks off!

Sun 29 May
THE DAUGHTER OF THE FOREST
 Based on the traditional Bangladeshi tale of Bonbibli

For a full what's on listing visit
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Alice in Wonderland



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LAURA MVULA

PLUS GUEST **SARAH WALK**



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THE SORCERER AND TRIAL BY JURY

Tinkers Farm Opera present a Gilbert & Sullivan double bill, Wed 11 - Sat 14 May, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

STAGE DOOR JOHNNY OBJETS TROUVES

The host of the Old Joint Stock's Footsie Club brings his solo show to the cabaret festival, Thurs 12 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

GRAEME OF THRONES An original and un-authorised parody on the international phenomenon that is Game Of Thrones, Thurs 12 May, Lichfield Garrick

JO BLACK Evening of song, stories & nonsensical behaviour from the gin-drinking cabaret darling, Fri 13 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CLUB CAIRO Fusion of live music, dance & theatre, bringing audiences a super-sensory experience steeped in Arabian tradition, Fri 13 May, mac, Birmingham

JOAN An earthy story of courage, conviction, hope, survival and love, performed by Drag Idol champion Lucy Jane Parkinson, aka LoUIS CYfer, Fri 13 May, Lichfield Garrick



EAST END CABARET Raucous and risqué musical comedy show from the award-winning cult comedy duo, Sat 14 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

WILD! BY EVAN PLACEY A one-person show that unravels the story of a wayward yet fragile and misunderstood boy with an untamed imagination, Sat 14 May, Lichfield Garrick

PUPPETRY OF THE PENIS Non-sexual show that features full-frontal male nudity. Suitable for adults only! Sat 14 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

GYLES BRANDRETH - WORD POWER! Sat 14 May, Lichfield Garrick

MADE UP Heart-warming play about friendship and the faces we show the world, Sat 14 - Sat 21 May, The REP, Birmingham

FRANKLY SINATRA Stephen Triffitt brings the swing, the swagger and the velvet vocals of Frank Sinatra to the stage, Sun 15 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

COMPANY WANG RAMIREZ: MONCHICHI A bedrock piece by duo Wang Ramirez creates a portrait of a new, urban, mobile and intercultural generation, Tues 10 May DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham

ARACALADANZA: MOKO DANCE Produced in association with MOKO

Dance, award-winning international company Aracaladanza's new dance theatre production for families is inspired by the visionary genius of Leonardo da Vinci, Tues 10 May The REP, Birmingham

VUELOS (FLIGHTS) Award-winning international company Aracaladanza return to the UK to delight audiences with their new dance theatre production, Tues 10 May, The REP, B'ham

ZIOLOGIC DANCE THEATRE: RIDE World premiere of an outdoor dance theatre work exploring the nature of travelling. Commissioned and co-produced by DanceXchange for IDFB 2016 and co-commissioned by Gulbenkian, Kent and Dance Village in Bristol Harbour Festival, Tue 10 May, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham; Wed 11 May, Handsworth Park, Birmingham; Thurs 12 May, Bournville College, Birmingham; Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, Centenary Square, Birmingham

CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN: SONGS OF THE WANDERERS Spiritually evocative movements set to soulful Georgian folksongs, brought to life on a truly astonishing set featuring 3½ tons of golden rice grains. Tues 10 - Wed 11 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

TAMIN FITZGERALD: CUBES Bringing together dancers, runners and acrobats for a series of spectacular solos and duets celebrating the talent, youth and diversity of the Midlands. Wed 11 - Sat 14 May, Centenary Square, Birmingham

THE MACHINE SHOW A brand new dance & circus spectacular, headlined by live music from French band Rinôçérôse, that takes its inspiration from the manufacturing and automotive industry in Birmingham, looking back at the Industrial Revolution. Wed 11 - Sat 14 May, Centenary Square, Birmingham

KEI MIYATA: IN A LANDSCAPE A live performance, this dynamic new piece incorporating Ito's installation, Cells, combines hypnotic electronic sounds - played live by Liverpool's guitar-based percussive innovators Ex Easter Island Head (EEIH) - with sculpture, movement, and fizzing electric light bulbs, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 May, Municipal Bank, Birmingham

HOFESH SHECHTER: POLITICAL MOTHER Described as a dance experience like no other, Shechter's Political Mother fuses movement from internationally acclaimed dancers with the choreographer's cinematic score, featuring a band of live drummers and electric guitarists, pulsating live music, extraordinary ensemble sequences and cinematic editing. Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, The REP, Birmingham

MOTIONHOUSE: TORQUE A poignant celebration of the relationship between movement and emotion. Moments of beautiful interaction between dancers and machine are designed to be understood through the senses. A visceral, exciting experience which moves the audience through risk, daring, beauty and the

unexpected. Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, Centenary Square, Birmingham

VERTEDANCE, JIRI HAVELKA & THE CLARINET FACTORY: CORRECTION Imagine a world where you can't progress despite your best efforts to push forward. Award-winning contemporary dance company VerTeDance have created a beautifully poignant piece about our lack of freedom, reclusion and our power to make decisions, Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, DanceXchange, Birmingham

Talks

PRESENTING ANCIENT EGYPT - THE CREATION OF THE SECRET EGYPT: UNRAVELLING TRUTH FROM MYTH EXHIBITION With Chris Kirby from Culture Coventry, Wed 11 May, Perry Beeches II: The Free School, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT CINEMAS:

EDDIE THE EAGLE (PG) With lashings of comedy, this is the true story of Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards, a young Englishman who was determined to become an Olympic skier - against improbable odds. Stars Taron Egerton & Hugh Jackman. Fri 13 - Thurs 19 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LABYRINTH (U) Young Sarah is left home alone by her parents and has to babysit her little brother Toby. But the baby keeps crying and Sarah, while telling him a story to make him sleep, inadvertently conjures the Goblin King from a fantasy world. Stars David Bowie & Jennifer Connelly. Sat 14 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE (PG) Nicholas Ray's juvenile delinquent film opened after the death of its star, James Dean, in a car crash and made Dean into an icon of rebellion. The storyline follows Jim Stark (Dean), a restless teenager always in trouble with the law. His mother smothers him, while his father is weak and ineffectual, and the family has only recently moved to Los Angeles to try and save Jim from a life of crime. Sun 15 May, The Electric Cinema, Birmingham

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 13 May, showing at selected cinemas.

ANGRY BIRDS (tbc)

CABIN FEVER (tbc)

THE DARNKESS (tbc)

EVERYBODY WANTS SOME (15)

GREEN ROOM (18)

KILL COMMAND (15)

OUR KIND OF TRAITOR (15)

CABIN FEVER (tbc)

Events

WINTERBOURNE CENTRE FOR HORTICULTURE OPEN DAY With sample classes, practical activities and tours of the facilities, this is a great opportunity to find out what the centre can offer to get your horticultural career off the ground, Tues 10 May, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham

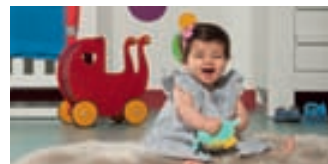
HANDSWORTH HERITAGE WALK Check out fine Georgian and Victorian architecture, a convent designed by Augustus Pugin, a church that was built nearly one millennium ago, Wed 11 May, Soho House, Birmingham

MUSEUMS AT NIGHT The Writing West Midlands young writers' group are picking up the theme of Edwardian Literature as the house opens until 8pm, Thurs 12 May, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH JAMIE CARRAGHER Fri 13 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BODYPOWER EXPO 2016 Fri 13 - Sun 15 May, NEC, Birmingham

THE BABY SHOW The UK's leading pregnancy and parenting event returns to the NEC. Whether you're expecting or have recently had a baby, you'll find everything you need at the show, Fri 13 - Sun 15 May, NEC, Birmingham



MAGICAL LANDS AND ENCHANTED PLACES Experience Selly Manor as never before as it's transformed into magical kingdoms from classic stories and fairytales, Sat 14 May, Selly Manor, Birmingham

EVENING HOUSE TOURS 2016 Sat 14 May, Packwood House, Solihull

BAMMA 25 Presented by David Haye and Andy Shepherd and broadcast around the world, BAMMA returns to the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham, Sat 14 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE BASIL BRUSH SHOW Join Basil Brush and Mr Stephen for a Booming Bonkers Bash as they take you on a journey of laughs, silliness and song, Sat 14 - Sun 15 May, Cadbury World, Bournville

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Sat 14 - Sun 15 May, Birmingham City Centre

MISTER MAKER Sat 14 May - Sun 12 Jun, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

MIDLAND CLOCK AND WATCH FAIR Sun 15 May, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

BONSAI DEMO See some of the experts demonstrating best care and practice for Bonsai trees, Sun 15 May, Birmingham Botanical Garden

W DAY Sun 15 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove



Daughtry, O2 Academy, Sat 21 May

Gigs

ERIC BIBB Mon 16 May, Birmingham Town Hall

STEVE TURNER Mon 16 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

SEPTEMBER GIRLS Tues 17 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BRIAN WILSON Tues 17 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CALAN GOSS Tues 17 May, mac, Birmingham

FORT HOPE Tues 17 May, The Asylum, B'ham

EAGULLS Tues 17 May, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

EVERYBODY LOOKS FAMOUS Tues 17 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

KIERAN GOSS Tues 17 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST Wed 18 May, The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

LANDSCAPES Wed 18 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

TOM ROBINSON Wed 18 May, The Robin, Bilston

HEATHER PEACE Wed 18 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham



KEN VANDERMARK + NATE WOOLEY DUO Wed 18 May, mac, B'ham

DAN REED & DANNY VAUGHN Wed 18 May, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

EMMA POLLOCK Wed 18

May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SHE MAKES WAR Wed 18 May, Ort Cafe, Birmingham

SCOOPS Wed 18 May, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

DANIEL KEMISH (FULL BAND) + SUPPORTS Wed 18 May, The Roadhouse, B'ham

THE JAM DRC + THE NATURAL EMOTIONS Thurs 19 May, The Roadhouse, B'ham

SACRED QAWWALI: SOUNDS OF SPIRITUALITY Thurs 19 May, mac, Birmingham

NICK DEWHURST Thurs 19 May, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

RORY MCLEOD & THE FAMILIAR STRANGERS Thurs 19 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SIMON MCBRIDE Thurs 19 May, The Robin, Bilston

THE YOUNG Fri 20 May, O2 Academy, B'ham

MOTOWN AND SOUL NIGHT WITH DJ PAUL KELLY Fri 20 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

HENRY WU Fri 20 May, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

IDEAL CLUB Fri 20 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

FAIRPORT CONVENTION Fri 20 May, The Robin, Bilston

THE HOSTS Fri 20 May, The Flapper, B'ham

THE SMYTHS Fri 20 May, O2 Academy, B'ham

SONGWRITER SESSIONS @ THE GALLERY WITH GARY O'NEAL & ALEX VANN Fri 20 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND: THE MUSIC OF JAMES TAYLOR AND CAROLE KING Fri 20 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

METAL 2 THE MASSES

Fri 20 May, Slade Rooms, W'hampton

OUT OF TIME MOD WEEKENDER Fri 20 - Sun 22 May, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

SPICE GIRLS TRIBUTE Fri 20 May, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield

JAMES Fri 20 May, Barclaycard Arena

THE BORN AGAIN BEATLES Fri 20 May, Lichfield Guildhall

BUSTED Fri 20 May, Genting Arena, Birmingham

THE OASIS EXPERIENCE WEEKENDER Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, The Roadhouse, B'ham

GREEN CIRCLES Sat 21 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

AMY WADGE & PETE RILEY Sat 21 May, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

DILJIT DOSANJH Sat 21 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

DAUGHTRY Sat 21 May, O2 Academy, B'ham

SPACE Sat 21 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LAURA MVULA Sat 21 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TOUNDR Sat 21 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

STONE BROKEN Sat 21 May, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

JOSH GROBAN Sat 21 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE FORTUNES - PAST & PRESENT Sat 21 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

KING KING Sat 21 May, Birmingham Town Hall

LAUREN RAY Sun 22 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

PAUL KELLY Sun 22 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

BABY STRANGE & WHITE Sun 22 May, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CHARLIE PUTH Sun 22 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GRAHAM NASH Sun 22 May, Birmingham Town Hall

BY THE RIVERS Sun 22 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CATE LE BON Sun 22 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Classical Music

ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC: VIVALDI IN DRESDEN Programme comprises works by Vivaldi, Telemann, Wed 18 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

DANIEL HOPE WITH THE KAMMERORCHESTER BASEL Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Pärt, El-Khoury & Bach, Wed 18 May, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO BECOME OCEAN Featuring Ludovic Morlot (Conductor) & Steven Osborne (Piano) Programme includes works by Sibelius, Ravel & John Luther Adams, Thurs 19 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: SHOSTAKOVICH'S PIANO QUINTET Featuring Steven Osbourne (piano), Zoe Beyers & Jane Wright (violin), Adam Romer (viola) & Richard Jenkinson (cello), Fri 20 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP Featuring Daniel Galbreath (conductor), Ulrich Heinen (cello), Malcolm Wilson (piano) & the Viva Nova Chamber Choir, Fri 20 May, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA GRAND OPERA GALA Celebrating 25 Years of Symphony Hall Featuring: Andrew Greenwood (conductor), Claire Rutter (soprano), Justine Gringyte (mezzo-soprano), Peter Auty (tenor & Ashley Holland (baritone), Fri 20 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CITY OF SOUNDS: MOZART'S CORONATION MASS Featuring Patrick Larley (conductor), Elouise Waterhouse, Alistair Donoghue, Rob Tilson & Lucinda Scott, Sun 22 May, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 16 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 17 May, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 18 May, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

REGINALD D HUNTER, ADAM BLOOM, STEVE HARRIS & DARRELL MARTIN Thurs 19 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham



BOBBY MAIR, JULIAN DEANE & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 19 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

IVO GRAHAM, DAVID FULTON & ANDREW RYAN Thurs 19 May, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

STEPHEN GRANT, TOM GLOVER & TIERNAN DOUIEB Fri 20 May, Lichfield Garrick

RICH WILSON, PETER BRUSH & JOHN RYAN Fri 20 May, Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton

DAMIAN CLARK, JOJO SMITH, JULIAN DEANE & BOBBY MAIR Fri 20 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KATHERINE RYAN Fri 20 May, Birmingham Town Hall

SIMON BLYTH, MICKEY BARTLETT, DAVE LONGLEY & WAYNE DEAKIN Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JOJO SMITH, BOBBY MAIR & DAMIAN CLARK & JULIAN DEANE Sat 21 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT LINE-UP TBC Sat 21 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JEREMY HARDY Sat 21 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham



ROMESH RANGANATHAN Sun 22 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Theatre

SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME A nostalgic feelgood journey which transports audiences back to the early 1960s, Mon 16 - Sat 21 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE DIARY OF A HOUNSLOW GIRL A comic story of dreams, aspirations and coming of age, Tues 17 May, The Drum, Birmingham

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT X Factor winner Joe McElderry dons the coveted coat in Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's sparkling family musical, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

INVINCIBLE The Original Theatre Company and The Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds present a brand new production of Torben Betts' smash-hit comedy, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May, The REP, Birmingham

THE WIZARD OF OZ Amateur production presented by Coleshill Operatic Society, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SCOTTISH FALSETTO SOCK PUPPET THEATRE: SHAKESPEARE 'Earth's funniest footwear' return with a brand new show of songs, sketches, socks and violence, taking on The Bard Of Avon himself. Howl at their Hamlet, roar at their Romeo And Juliet, and peer into their Coriolanus, Thurs 19 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

KING LEAR Don Warrington stars in Shakespeare's brutal portrait of one man's unwinding sanity, Thurs 19 -

Monday 16 - Sun 22 May



King Lear, The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 19 - Sat 28 May

Sat 28 May, The REP, Birmingham
FORBIDDEN NIGHTS New all-male variety show with full theatre production and explosive choreography, Fri 20 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
TRIBUTE ACTS TheatreState present a

boldly honest exploration of father/daughter relationships, Fri 20 May, mac, Birmingham
WESTERN? Comedy meets theatre, meets jazz-fusion. A fast, physical and farcical show presented by

Sleeping Trees, Sat 21 May, Lichfield Garrick

FIRST STAGES: HANSEL & GRETEL The Play House Theatre present a reworking of a children's classic, Sat 21 May, The REP, Birmingham

WONDERWOMAN: THE NAKED TRUTH Notnow Collective address family, parenthood and work-home subjects in a challenging, highly visual and immersive way, Sun 22 - Tues 24 May, mac, Birmingham

Dance

DANCE: SAMPLED A selection of different dance styles, all in one night, performed by some of the world's best dancers - Company Wayne McGregor, Birmingham Royal Ballet, BBC Young Dancer finalist Vidya Patel, world tango champions German Cornejo and Gisela Gallessi from Buenos Aires, and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's Faun, Tues 17 - Wed 18 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE RICOCHET PROJECT: SMOKE & MIRRORS Poetic acrobatics, contemporary dance, contortion and high-flying feats combine in an exhilarating examination of the current state of America in the pursuit of happi-

ness, Tues 17 - Wed 18 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SANDHYA & SANGACHHADHWAM Double bill of Indian dance, Thurs 19 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

GISELLE - VIENNA FESTIVAL BALLET A tale of innocence, love, betrayal and madness, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 May, Lichfield Garrick

BALLET BC Ballet British Columbia is a unique creation-based company of 17 dancers under the leadership of Artistic Director Emily Molnar. Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

PINOCCHIO Ballet Theatre UK present a choreographed staging of the classic family tale, Sat 21 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham



Pinocchio, Crescent Theatre, Sat 21 May

Birmingham Museums

Museum Mayhem

this Half-Term

at Birmingham Museums

Loads to see and do!

TUDOR WEEKEND
Blakesley Hall
 29 & 30 May

SEA MONSTERS & DINOSAURS
Thinktank
 28 May - 4 June

birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on

PLUS LOADS MORE AT
 Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery | Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum | Aston Hall | Blakesley Hall | Museum of the Jewellery Quarter | Sarehole Mill | Soho House | Woolley Castle Ruins



Aztec Weekend, Cadbury World, Sat 21 - Sun 22 May

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

TRUMBO (15) In 1947, Dalton Trumbo (Bryan Cranston) was Hollywood's top screenwriter - until he and other artists were jailed and blacklisted for their political beliefs. Directed by Jay Roach, the film recounts how Dalton used words and wit to win two Academy Awards and expose the absurdity and injustice of the black-

list. Also stars Helen Mirren. Fri 20 - Thurs 26 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 20 May, showing at selected cinemas.

THE CALL UP (tbc)

THE DAUGHTER (15)

A HOLOGRAM FOR A KING (tbc)

THE SILENT STORM (15)

SING STREET (15)

IVAN'S CHILDHOOD (12a)

JOURNEY TO THE SHORE (tbc)

RISEN (12a)

ROCK THE KASBAH (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p39

Events

LADIES SEASONAL STYLE EVENT Wed 18 May, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

EXPLORE AVONCROFT: THE FLORA & FAUNA OF AVONCROFT MUSEUM A guided tour around the museum, including its ponds, orchard and wildflower meadow, Thurs 19 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

WALK WITH PRIDE: FROM GUNS TO GRAFFITI A five-mile walk through historic Aston, Digbeth and Highgate, Fri 20 - Mon 30 May, Birmingham LGBT Centre

RACE, ROCK 'N' RIDE Brand new and on two wheels, a weekend filled to the brim with anything and everything from the world of motorcycles, Sat 21 - Sun 22 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

DOWN UNDER LIVE Sat 21 - Sun 22 May, National Motorcycle Museum,

Solihull

AZTEC WEEKEND Travel 1,000 years back in time to the Aztec jungle. Explore the origins of the cocoa bean and uncover the mysteries of Emperor Montezuma, Sat 21 - Sun 22 May, Cadbury World, Bournville

BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUZ SIGHTSEEING TOUR Beginning at the commercial heart of the city at the end of Colmore Row, Victoria Square, this popular tour includes the city's major buildings of architectural interest including St Philip's and St Chad's Cathedrals, the Victoria Law Courts, the Town Hall, the Council House, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and Library, Sat 21 - Sun 22 May, Birmingham City Centre

HANGING BASKETS WORKSHOP Create and take home your very own hanging basket, Sun 22 May, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens

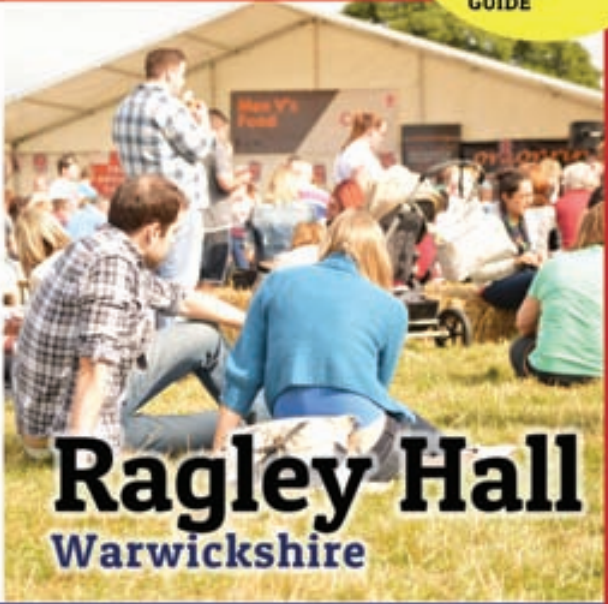
BIG FISH LITTLE FISH FAMILY RAVE Sun 22 May, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham

PIZZA MAKING AT SAREHOLE MILL Join the millers at Sarehole Mill for a fun and informal baking class. Learn to make dough, see the mill in action and create and bake your own delicious pizza, Sun 22 May, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

FOOD - DRINK - MUSIC

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**Thinktank,
Birmingham Science Museum**

Explore the Planetarium, outdoor Science Garden and NEW Spitfire Gallery.



Sarehole Mill

One of the only two surviving watermills in Birmingham. Discover the idyllic childhood haunt of J.R.R. Tolkien.



Soho House

Elegant Georgian home of industrialist Matthew Boulton, and meeting place of the Lunar Society.



Blakesley Hall

Visit one of Birmingham's finest timber-framed Tudor houses.



Aston Hall

Experience the splendour of this magnificent 17th-Century Jacobean mansion and relive its role in the English Civil War.



Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

Step back in time to a perfectly preserved jewellery workshop.



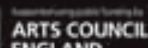
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Luke Concannon, The Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham, Wed 25 May

Gigs

BEN CAPLAN & THE CASUAL SMOKERS

Tues 24 May, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

G-EAZY Tues 24 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

OWINY SIGOMA BAND Tues 24 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DIET CIG Wed 25 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LUKE CONCANNON Wed 25 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

TIA MCGRAFF Wed 25 May, The Robin, Bilston

HOMESHAKES Wed 25 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NIGHT BEATS Wed 25 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

BARLUATH Wed 25 May, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

PENTATONIX Wed 25 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MORTIIS + SERAPH SIN + DEADFILMSTAR Thurs 26 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SAMM HENSHAW Thurs 26 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



LUKAS GRAHAM Thurs 26 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

IN THIS MOMENT Thurs 26 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BEVERLEY KNIGHT Thurs 26 May, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

THE PRIMITIVES Thurs 26 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLAKE - SONGS FROM STAGE & SCREEN Fri 27 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BOOGIE NIGHTS LIVE WITH ABBA TRIBUTE & DJ ROB Fri 27 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

DR FEELGOOD + EDDIE & THE HOT RODS Fri 27 May, The Robin, Bilston

WHITE LUNG Fri 27 May, The Flapper, B'ham

THUNDERSTONE Fri 27 May, The Asylum, Birmingham

FETTY WAP Fri 27 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE NEIL DIAMOND STORY Fri 27 May, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

GORDON LIGHTFOOT Fri 27 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE NEIL DIAMOND STORY Fri 27 May, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

SEAFRET + SPECIAL GUESTS Fri 27 May, Ort Cage, Birmingham

CIARAN CLIFFORD & THE HIGH DRIVES Sat 28 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

YOUNG CULTURE PRESENTS TROJAN SOUNDSYSTEM 'DEX 'N' FX' Sat 28 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE LEGENDS OF REGGAE FESTIVAL 2016 Sat 28 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FIRE RED EMPRESS Sat 28 May, O2 Academy,

Birmingham

DIZZY LIZZY Sat 28 May, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

DREAMING OF KATE - KATE BUSH EXPERIENCE Sat 28 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY Sat 28 May, The Core Theatre, Solihull

PAT JORDAN & FINIAN'S RAINBOW Sun 29 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

LA GUNS + OLIVER DAWSON SAXO Sun 29 May, The Robin, Bilston

MONSTER CEILIDH BAND Sun 29 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

BC CAMPLIGHT Sun 29 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MAGCON Sun 29 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LEEROY STAGGER Mon 30 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

BONNIE RAITT Mon 30 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HANDS LIKE HOUSES + I THE MIGHTY + DEAD! + THE GOSPEL YOUTH Tues 31 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE HUNNA Tues 31 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HAUS Tues 31 May, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN - CARPENTERS TRIBUTE Tues 31 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

JOEL SAVOY, JESSE LEGE AND CAJUN COUNTRY REVIVAL Tues 31 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER

Programme includes works by W. Harris, JS Bach, Messiaen, A. Hollins & J Ireland, Mon 23 May, Birmingham Town Hall

SIR ANDRIS SCHIFF WITH THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF EUROPE

Programme comprises Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No2 in D minor, Hebrides Overture & Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor, Mon 23 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO TCHAIKOVSKY'S FIFTH

Featuring Alexander Vedernikov (conductor) & Tasmin Little (violin). Programme includes works by Glazunov & Tchaikovsky, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: IN A STRANGE LAND

Programme includes works by William Byrd, Gesualdo, Lobo & Tallis, Thurs 26 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

BLAKE Re-inspired by the classic trio harmonies of The Three Tenors, The Bee Gees and Boyz-II-Men, the 3 Brit-Award-winners perform exclusive songs from their fifth studio album, released UK-wide this autumn, Fri 27 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove



MILOS KARADAGLIC IN RECITAL

Featuring an eclectic programme of works ranging from Bach to The Beatles, Fri 27 May, Birmingham Town Hall

FINAL YEAR RECITALISTS Line-up tbc, Tues 31 May, The Bramall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

EDDIE IZZARD Mon 23 May, mac, Birmingham

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 24 May, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

FAT PENGUIN COMEDY Wed 25 May, The Patrick Kavanagh, Birmingham

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 25 May The Mockingbird, Birmingham

MARK NELSON, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON PLUS COMIC TBC Thurs 26 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, CIAMH McDONNELL & CHRIS TURNER Fri 27 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

SUZI RUFFELL, ALEX BOARDMAN, MARK NELSON & CHRIS MCCAUSLAND Fri 27

May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, CIAMH McDONNELL & COMIC TBC Sat 28 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

SUZI RUFFELL, MARK NELSON, ALEX BOARDMAN & CHRIS MCCAUSLAND Sat 28 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham



Theatre

SALLY MORGAN - CALL ME PSYCHIC

Sally Morgan is back with a brand new show, Tues 24 May, Lichfield Garrick

MADE IN DAGENHAM West Bromwich Operatic Society presents its version of the British musical comedy about friendships, love and the importance of fighting for what's right, Tues 24 - Sat 28 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE SOUND OF MUSIC New production of the timeless family musical. Lucy O'Byrne, from BBC One's The Voice, plays Maria. Gray O'Brien stars as Captain Von Trapp, Tues 24 - Sat 28 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

JACKIE THE MUSICAL Brand new 'fun & feisty' musical featuring original choreography by Arlene Phillips. Janey Dibley, Graham Bickley, Nicholas Bailey & Mike James star, Tues 24 - Sat 28 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

TINA TURNER: TEA LADY & FRIENDS

Join musical character comedian Tracey Collins for a high-octane evening of hit songs, off-the-wall characters, quick changes and the best tea in town, Thurs 26 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM THEATRE MRES: LITTLE MISSES Four individuals reflect on incidents which have changed their lives forever, Thurs 26 May, mac, Birmingham

THE QUIET HOUSE Gareth Farr's highly anticipated new play explores fertility and the taboo that surrounds it, Thurs 26 May - Sat 4 Jun, The REP, Birmingham



Queen Tribute Band

Saturday 18th June

Back by popular demand!

Join us for another fantastic evening with Flash, the top Queen Tribute band.

Doors will open at 6.30pm with a DJ to start the evening with some great music.

Flash take the stage at 9.15pm until late

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SIXWAYS STADIUM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT NITROCIRCUS.LIVE

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NITROCIRCUS



Cats, Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 30 May - Sat 4 June

EAST END CABARET Raucous and risqué musical comedy show, Fri 27 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MAUSOLEUM: TALES OF CHAOS AND CLAUSTROPHOBIA Explores the lives and stories of refugees through a narrative of poetry. Presented by Fired Up Theatre, Fri 27 - Sat 28 May, Lichfield Garrick

GOLDILOCKS AND THE 3 BEARS A mix of puppetry, music and mischievous moments for children aged two and older, Fri 27 May, Lichfield Garrick

YETIS DEMON DIVE BAR Evening of naughty songs and hilarious characters from the London Cabaret award-winners, Sat 28 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

FERTILITY FEST Bringing together 20 of the country's leading writers, visual artists, theatre makers, film directors and composers for a day of performance, discussion and debate on one of the most important scientific and societal developments of modern times, Sat 28 May, The REP, Birmingham

THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS (THE MUSICAL!) Satire in which one storyline becomes five delightful musicals, Sat 28 May - Sat 4 Jun, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Blue Orange Arts presents its version of Lewis Carroll's classic tale, Sat 28 May - Sat 11 Jun, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

BANGARANG Keith Shebada stars in a fiery comedy set in Princess Street, downtown Kingston, Sun 29 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

DAUGHTER OF THE FOREST Komola Collective present a play based on a traditional Bangladeshi tale about the impact of manmade disasters on the surrounding wildlife and its local people, Sun 29 May, The Drum, B'ham

CATS Andrew Lloyd Webber's record-breaking musical returns, direct from the London Palladium, Mon 30 May - Sat 4 Jun, Birmingham Hippodrome

HAIRSPRAY Presented by Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company, Tue 31 May - Sat 4 Jun, Lichfield Garrick

SHADOWLANDS Stephen Boxer, Tony Slattery & Amanda Ryan star in a stage version of William Nicholson's TV drama and subsequent film of the same name, Tue 31 May - Sat 4 Jun, The REP, Birmingham

Dance

PASHA: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE YOU The Strictly star hits the road once again with a brand new show in which he'll be joined by spectacular dancers and guests, including Anya Garnis, Tues 24 - Wed 25 May, The Core, Solihull

NEW WORK NIGHTS: DANCE Featuring

headline act Sonia Sabri Dance Company, as well as developing work from other West Midlands dancers and choreographers, Thurs 26 May, Old Rep, Birmingham

MOTIONHOUSE & NO FIT CIRCUS: BLOCK Exciting new collaboration which showcases what happens when dance and circus collide, Fri 27 - Sat 28 May, mac, Birmingham

BALLETBOYZ - LIFE Back with a brand new show for 2016, co-produced by Sadler's Wells in association with Artsdepot, Sat 28 May Lichfield Garrick

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

SPEED SISTERS (PG) Documentary following The Speed Sisters the first all-woman race car driving team in the Middle East. Grabbing headlines and turning heads at improvised tracks across the West Bank, these five women have sped their way into the heart of the gritty, male-dominated Palestinian street car scene. Mon 25 - Thurs 2 Apr, mac, Birmingham

HIGH RISE (15) The director Ben Wheatley has garnered considerable acclaim following his films Down Terrace, Kill List and A Field in England. Here, he untangles an eco-system preserved in a luxury London tower block, where a young doctor (Hiddleston) moves to the twenty-fifth floor to discover fierce dissent between the residents. Stars Tom Hiddleston & Jeremy Irons. From Fri 29 Apr, mac, Birmingham

FUTURE SHOCK! THE STORY OF 2000AD (15) This documentary offers an illuminating overview of the magazine's history: a warts and all look at the various highs and lows, a peek inside the creative process of some of its most legendary creators, and a funny, moving and passionate chronicle of how a disparate band of talented eccentrics came together to create something both visionary and

extraordinary. From Sat 30 Apr, mac, Birmingham

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 29 April, showing at selected cinemas.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR (tbc)

DEMOLITION (15)

SON OF SAUL (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p39

Events

HERITAGE SKILLS WORKSHOP: BASKET WEAVING Try your hand at this ancient craft and make two functional, attractive items for your home, Tues 26 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

2016 BETWAY PREMIER LEAGUE DARTS Thurs 28 Apr, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

FLORALIA FESTIVAL Flower arrangements through the ages, Fri 29 Apr - Mon 2 May, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS Family show featuring 'incredible ball handling wizardry, rim-rattling dunks, trick shots, comedy and fan interaction', Sat 30 Apr, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

EXCALIBUR PAPER CRAFTING FAIR Papercrafting and Stamping Show, Sat 30 Apr, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

PIRATE WEEKEND Sat 30 Apr - Mon 2 May, Cadbury World, Bournville

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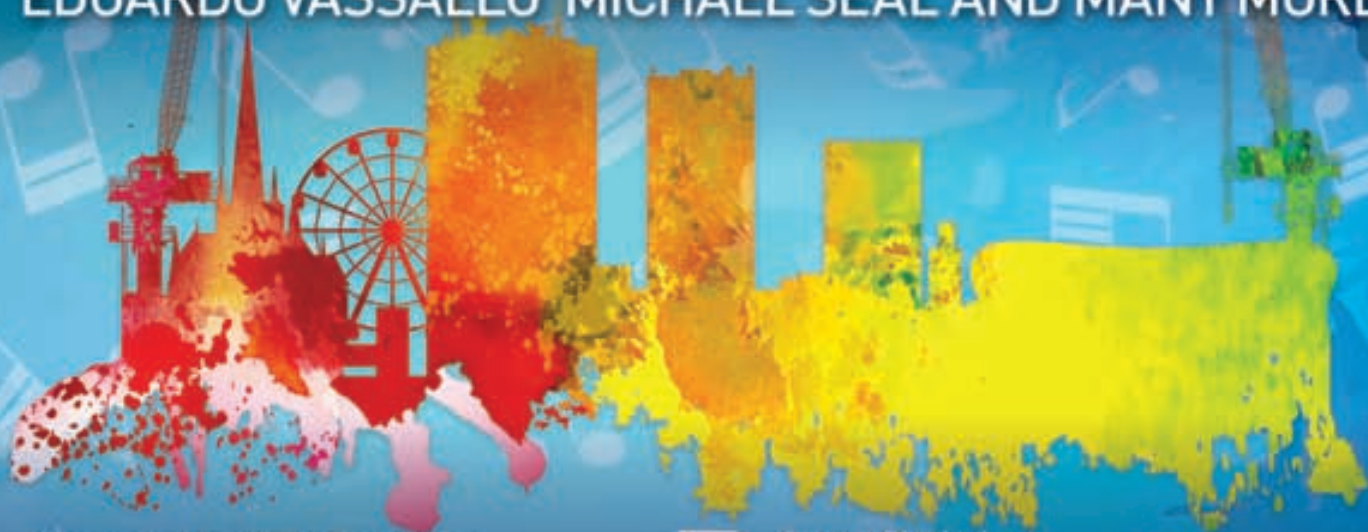
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