

THE MIDLANDS ESSENTIAL ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

MIDLANDS

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VAN OUTEN**
DANCES INTO BRUM

INSIDE

Michele Dotrice

The Ladykillers are back...
interview inside

Rhydian Roberts

talks Rocky Horror...
interview inside

Les Misérables

hits the big screen
read the review...

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TREY SONGZ

Grammy Award-winner in town **interview inside...**

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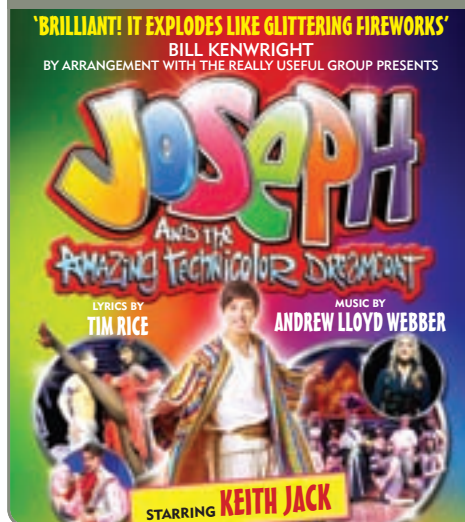
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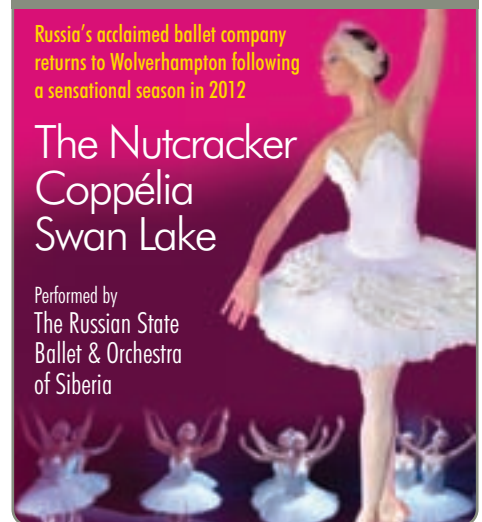
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What's On
MAGAZINE GROUP



Trey Songz - on tour in the Midlands. Read the interview page 6

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Blondie in the woodlands...

An independent Forestry Commission initiative to bring music to new audiences without commercial branding or sponsorship has announced a major act for its 2013 programme. Eighties chart-toppers Blondie - fronted by pop icon Debbie Harry - are to perform seven outdoor concerts across the UK, including one in Staffordshire's Cannock Chase Forest on 29 June. Tickets, which are now on sale, cost £36 (subject to booking fee). They are available from the Forestry Commission box office on 03000 680400, or can be purchased online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music



Gallery announces the return of its storytelling initiative

This month sees the return of a popular storytelling event at Birmingham's Ikon Gallery. Working in collaboration with Writing West Midlands, the Tell Me On A Sunday initiative sees five storytellers presenting live performances of seven-minute stories based on a given theme. The evenings will be curated by Cat Weatheril, one of Europe's leading performance storytellers, who'll also be telling her own story at the event. The launch event, which coincides with National Storytelling Week, takes place at Ikon on 27 January, and will be followed by similar sessions on 17 February, 17 March and 14 April.



Diversity in the Midlands

Britain's Got Talent winners Diversity have announced that they're bringing a brand new show to Birmingham at the end of the year. Yet-to-be-announced special guests will appear alongside the acclaimed troupe when they perform at the National Indoor Arena on 8 December. Since achieving overnight stardom on the hit ITV1 talent show back in 2009, the London-based dance troupe have taken the world by storm, performing their diverse range of dance routines - accompanied by an eclectic soundtrack featuring everything from hip-hop to classical - to more than one million people worldwide. The boys are promising that their brand new production, Limitless, will offer 'everything you love about Diversity but on a much bigger scale, with loads of surprises!'

A platform for the region's most recent graduates...

A new initiative in which recent visual arts graduates from across the region can showcase their work gets its first outing next month. Led by Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery in partnership with the Barber Institute of Fine Arts and artist-led gallery and studios Grand Union, New Art West Midlands 2013 will provide a platform from which up-and-coming artists can launch their careers. Selected works from twenty artists will appear at one of three city venues - Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (15 February to 19 May), the Barber Institute (8 March to 19 May) and Grand Union (15 February to 16 March).

Midlands venue receives tourism award

Leicester's Curve Theatre has been named Large Visitor Attraction of the Year in the recent Leicester and Leicestershire Tourism Excellence Awards. The awards recognise and celebrate the excellent work that a wide range of attractions, accommodation-providers, restaurants, pubs and events in Leicester and Leicestershire undertake, to make sure visitors have the best possible

experience. This latest gong is a welcome addition to other recent awards for The Curve, including the ProCon People's Choice Building of the Decade Award and the Visit England Access For All Gold Award.

Lloyd Webber musical to make a welcome return...

Following its critically acclaimed debut tour last year, Andrew Lloyd Webber's Jesus Christ Superstar returns to the region this Spring for one night only. The much-praised production sees award-winning comedian and writer Tim Minchin perform the role of Judas Iscariot alongside Spice Girl Melanie C as Mary Magdalene, former Radio One DJ Chris Moyles as King Herod and Ben Forster in the title role. Jesus Christ Superstar shows at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena on 28 March.



Hippodrome's Stage Appeal hailed a great success

Organisers behind Birmingham Hippodrome's recent Stage Appeal have declared the initiative a resounding success after meeting their £1million target. Monies raised have enabled the theatre to completely replace its thirty-year-old stage, upgrade over five hundred light fittings to LED, refurbish the orchestra pit, and remodel the entrance foyer with a new box office, cloakroom, digital signage and heat-efficient front doors.



Iconic rapper announced as festival headliner

Reading & Leeds Festival organisers have announced that they've secured the most successful rapper in history to headline this year's event. Eminem, who's renowned for his phenomenal live shows, last appeared at the event eleven years ago, and has confirmed that these two dates will be his only UK performances in 2013.

Birmingham Royal Ballet dance programme on track...

Birmingham Royal Ballet is making a big noise about the continued success of its Dance Track programme, fifteen years after the initiative was first launched. The BRB programme seeks out and nurtures dance talent from primary schools across Birmingham, annually delivering no fewer than two thousand, five hundred workshops to Year One pupils.

Commenting on the initiative, Pearl Chesterman, BRB's Director for Learning, said: "Dance Track continues to make the company accessible, ballet enjoyable and careers in dance achievable, regardless of background, social, economic or religious beliefs. We are extremely proud of the successes and achievements of Dance Track, and thrilled the initiative has huge benefits to individuals, families and the wider community involved."



Stand-up tour for funnygirl Miranda

Miranda Hart is heading out on tour in Spring 2014. The hugely popular comedian and actress is best known from her very own BBC TV comedy series, but has also turned up in hit shows like Not Going Out, Nighty Night, Smack The Pony, Ab Fab, The Vicar Of Dibley and Jack Dee's Lead Balloon. The 2014 tour will mark the first time Miranda's performed as a stand-up since her BAFTA-nominated TV series aired on the BBC. Audiences are being warned to expect a show that includes 'galloping, attempts at song and dance, and simply - such fun!'. Miranda will perform at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena on 8 April 2014.

IN BRIEF

Warwickshire musician in Battle Of The Blues

A Shipston-on-Stour blues artist has made it through to the North West heat of the New Brunswick Battle Of The Blues.

Nineteen-year-old Laurence Jones has been chosen as one of just six acts from across the region to compete in the next heat of a search for Britain's best unsigned and original Blues artists.

Laurence - who began playing classical guitar at the age of eight - has high hopes of making it through to the London final in March. If he emerges triumphant from the competition, he'll be flown out on an all-expenses-paid trip to Brunswick, Canada, to perform main-stage at the province's Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival in September. Good luck, Laurence!

Bumper prize on offer at award-winning Chinese restaurant

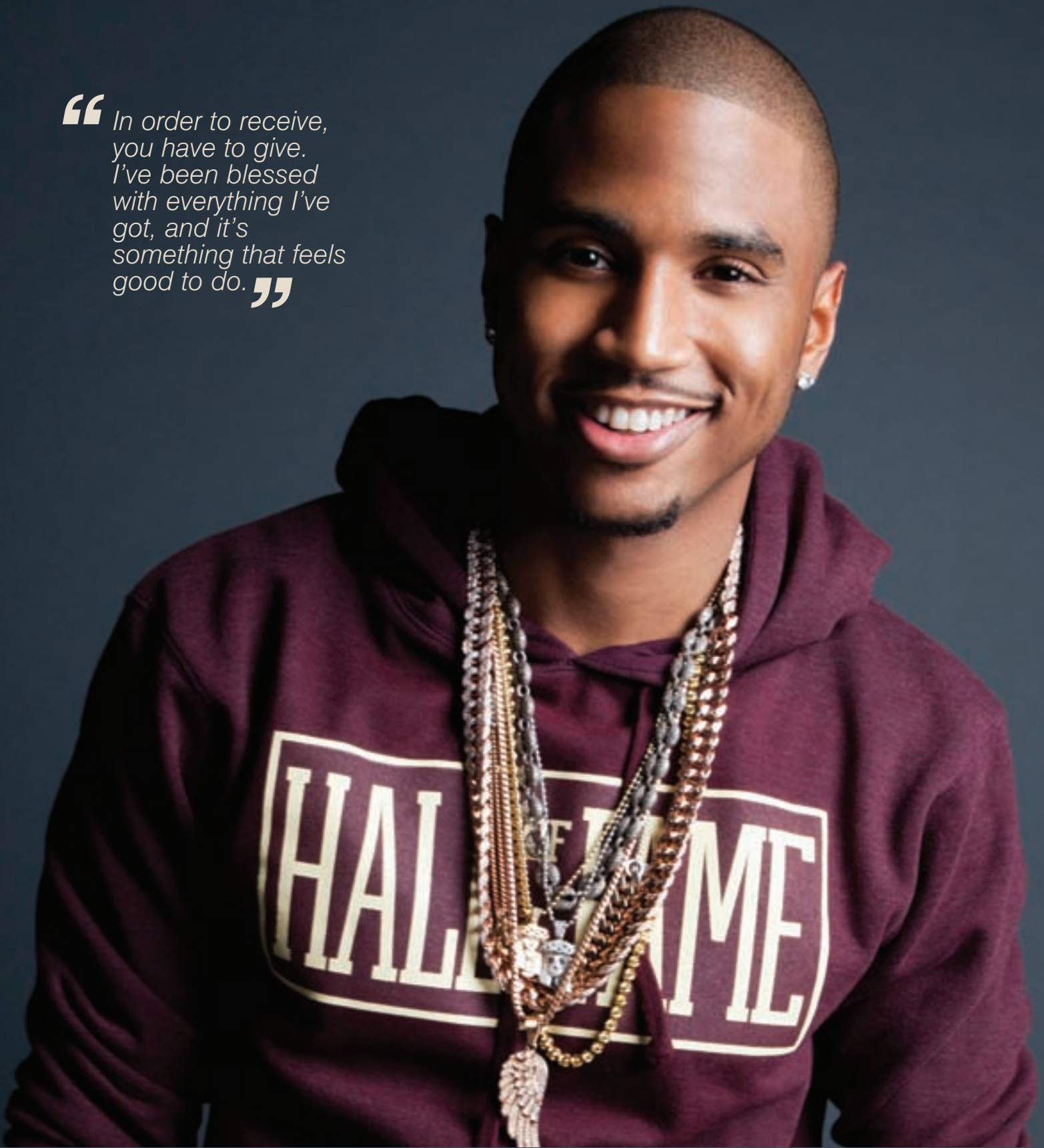
Recently voted the best Chinese eatery in the Midlands, Birmingham's Chung Ying Cantonese Restaurant is now one of three finalists in the national Tsingtao Legacy of Taste contest, competing in the Best Chinese Restaurant category. Now in its fifth year, Tsingtao Legacy of Taste celebrates the best Chinese cuisine in Britain, with the aim of protecting the heritage of authentic Chinese cooking. After being selected by a public vote, each of the finalists will be judged by some of the country's best Chinese chefs and former winners of the competition, including the owners of the Michelin-starred Kai Mayfair and Manchester's historic Yang Sing restaurant. The awards ceremony takes place in London on 31 January, ahead of celebrations for Chinese New Year on 10 February. Chung Ying is offering What's On readers the chance to win a bumper prize, including a meal for two at the restaurant. For full details and to enter, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk



New motoring event for Stratford

Shakespeare's home town is this year playing host to a brand new motoring festival. The Stratford Festival of Motoring makes its debut on 5 and 6 May, and is expected to feature more than two hundred classic cars and special-interest vehicles. The new event will also include two runs through the Warwickshire and Gloucestershire countryside. The runs will be open to all entrants. If you have an historic or unusual vehicle and would like to participate in the festival, contact Adrian Grubb by email at adrian@stratforward.co.uk or enter online. The entry fee is £15 per day or £20 for both days. For further information, visit, www.shakespeare-country.co.uk/Stratford-Festival-Of-Motoring.aspx

“ *In order to receive,
you have to give.
I've been blessed
with everything I've
got, and it's
something that feels
good to do.* ”



Trey Songz

Multi-Grammy Award-winner in the Midlands...

For the vast majority of small-town boys growing up in America, becoming a musician of international standing is nothing more than a far-fetched dream. But with sheer determination, faith, hard work and inspiration, Trey Songz has managed to turn that dream into a reality and secure himself a place in the upper echelons of the music industry. The R&B singer/songwriter, producer and actor has acquired numerous awards along the way, including two prestigious Grammys, with a third pending. What's On caught up with him to find out more...

Was becoming a musician always something to which you'd aspired?

You know what's interesting? When I was younger, it was so far-fetched a dream that I didn't realise how much I loved it. I'd sing every song that came on the radio, and watch every video I could watch. I come from a very small town, so singing was something that I *liked* to do, but it wasn't something that I thought I *could* do. After years and years of talent shows, I decided it was something that I *wanted* to do. Meeting Troy Taylor, my mentor, producer and friend, gave me the connection I needed in the music world. It's hard to meet someone who's an official in music, and I was blessed to have him.

How did you get your first big break?

My stepfather went to high school with Troy Taylor's partner at the time, Charles Farrar. He brought me to Charles, who was the business side of Troy's operation. I sang for him, and he was impressed enough that he took me to Troy. At this point, they'd produced records for Boyz II Men, Brian McKnight and some other great artists. I went to Troy's basement, which was covered in plaques, and as a fourteen or fifteen-year-old kid, that's when I knew it was real. I sang for him, and he told my mother that he wanted me. That was the beginning of it all.

You connected with a lot of people from the outset, which resulted in your album reaching the Top Twenty in the US. What do you think it is about you and your music that makes it so immediate for people?

I think music of any sort connects with people. Music is the international language, to the point where I can go to a non-English-speaking country and they'll sing the words back to me. I think music is a feeling. Nowadays, more than ever, it creates a relationship with your fan base. It's about the records you make, and how much of yourself you give within the music.

From where do you draw inspiration for your music?

There are so many different places. It could be a situation of my own; it could be a conversation I'm having with a friend. If it's something that really hits me, then I'll write it down. Sometimes I'll hear things and think that it'll be a pretty dope song title, so sometimes I'll start with that. There's inspiration all over the place.

Chapter V - your fifth album and first Billboard number one - sees you collaborate with some big names, including P Diddy, Lil Wayne, and producers Benny Blanco and Rico Love. How did you guys get together?

For the Chapter V album, it was as simple as making a couple of phone calls to each

individual on the album. That's the benefit of being in the game as long as I have; you build relationships with people, you do shows with them. People that are relevant in music, you will always run into them at one point or another. I've chosen to keep my alliances strong; I don't overuse favours. You won't see a lot of features on my albums, with Chapter V having the most I've ever had.

So how did you celebrate when the album reached Number One?

When the album came out, I was on a promo tour. I was city to city, so it wasn't really a celebration I had. I was on listening parties, where people could listen to the album. The great thing was, I could celebrate every night by listening to it with other people. They might have been a group of radio programmers, DJs or journalists. For the actual album's release, I just had dinner with my close friends and family. It was a great time.

You're back touring the UK. Were you surprised by the speed of your success over here?

I think there was a time when I was surprised. At this point, when I come back so frequently and make my presence known, I make sure that my fans know I'm back and that I care. Whether its coming back to do Jools Holland or whatever, I stay for a few days and go to the radio stations. The hard work and dedication pays off. I think my fans know how hard I work. When I first started coming to the UK - before I had any radio success, any mainstream records - I was selling out venues. That was a big surprise. I thank my fans for their continued support.

So what surprises do you have in store for your fans on this latest tour?

Well, it wouldn't be a surprise if I told you! I do plan to give an incredible show. If you came out to see me touring last year, then you'll see the evolution within the performance.

Looking back, what's been the highlight of your career in music?

I don't think there's just one highlight. When they show a football game, they don't just show one highlight, there are normally many. My game isn't over yet. But one would be Aretha Franklin being on my album. Then there was touring with Jay Z, and touring with Stevie Wonder. Even meeting the President or taking care of families through my foundation. There are so many things that I'm blessed and grateful for.

You're also an established actor. Again, was that something you'd always wanted to do?

I love movies and I've always acted. I'm a

goofball! I'd always act and do different impersonations, so I guess I've always had the love for it. Right now, with it being so accessible, it's something that I just want to take my time with and make sure I do it in the proper way. I've developed a very strong sense of appreciation for it, but music is still my first love.

Next year sees the release of Texas Chainsaw 3D, in which you play Ryan, a young guy on a road trip with his girlfriend and friends. Have you been a fan of the series?

I have been a fan, but before starting filming, I hadn't seen the original. I'd only seen the two remakes. The good thing about this particular Texas Chainsaw is that the storyline is written to continue from where it left off last time. I was just happy to be a part of it.

You've just started filming Baggage Claim - a romantic comedy in which you play a producer who's living large and loud. A bit of a contrast from Chainsaw...

Yeah, the two roles are really different, and the films are too. I think that's the beauty of it. For a moment, while filming, you get to be someone else. If you embody that, you can really have an impact on-screen.

In 2010, you founded the Angels With A Heart Foundation. What was your thinking behind this?

In order to receive, you have to give. I've been blessed with everything I've got, and it's something that feels good to do. It's something that I wish someone had done for me - when I was younger, with my mother. We needed the Salvation Army or welfare. It feels good to be able to give back.

Is it just your hometown of Petersburg that will benefit from this, or do you aim to take the initiative nationwide?

I believe that giving back starts at home. We still have mini-projects going on at home, but we're hoping to be worldwide at some point. We have Angels With A Heart missions, and my 'Angels' around the world - they give back in their town, document it and send it in. It's one of the most beautiful things about my career - I have a fan base that's willing to give back in the blink of an eye.

So what's in the pipeline for the near future?

Well, I'll still have my world tour going on, and Baggage Claim is coming out too. I'll still be in the studio, probably trying to make a new album. I can never stay away from the studio for too long!

Trey Songz performs at the LG Arena, Birmingham, on Sun 27 January



Michele Dotrice

brings Mrs Wilberforce to Wolverhampton...

Michele Dotrice's career was changed forever forty years ago when she accepted the role of the accident-prone Frank Spencer's wife Betty in the classic BBCTV sitcom *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*. Michele is now once again in the limelight, starring in the currently touring stage version of the famous Ealing Comedy, *The Ladykillers*. What's On recently caught up with Michele to find out more...

What's it like being back on tour?

Touring's certainly not for cissies, that's for sure. The last tour I did was about nine years ago, and that was only for about seven weeks. I think with *Ladykillers* we'll have toured for a total of twenty-six weeks by the time we finish, and that's a long time. It's very tough to be away from home, especially for those with children and loved ones. Nevertheless, it's a great production and a joy to be part of.

So, are you an obvious choice to play Mrs Wilberforce?

I wouldn't have thought I was obvious casting, because she's a lot older than me. Mind you, by the end of this tour, I don't think I'll be needing the wig and the old-age make-up - I'll be there!

What have been the biggest challenges in playing Mrs Wilberforce?

Just getting on the stage each night! No, but seriously - I suppose it's been a challenge to perform in an area that I haven't performed in before. That, for me, was the initial appeal of the role, plus the fact that the production has been such a great success in the West End. I didn't manage to see it when it was there, but maybe that's an advantage, inasmuch as you're not coming to it through someone else's eyes.

How true is the stage version to the Ealing classic?

Well, the lovely thing is that it's very much based on the film, but Graham Lineham has updated it, obviously, for a modern-day audience. You couldn't just reproduce it as an Ealing comedy. Audiences these days wouldn't tolerate that. So Graham's updated it and created some wonderful characters. You have this motley crew of ne'er-do-wells who arrive at Mrs Wilberforce's house in the guise of musicians. These characters are very funny and very modern, even though it's set in the 1950s. It's a very pacey production and requires a lot of energy, which, combined with touring, is very exhausting, but also very rewarding. To hear the audience at the end of the evening is tremendous.

And what about the comedy elements?

Comedy's not as easy as it looks. No two nights are the same - it's astounding how they vary. One night a sure-fire laugh suddenly doesn't happen, and you think, 'what did I do differently' and 'what happened there?'. It throws you off your tracks and you begin to churn it over in your mind. Sometimes it takes you a few performances to get a laugh back again. Sometimes you never get it back, and then sometimes you find a new laugh. That's the fascination of comedy for me - the fact that it's never the same; and that you also get an instant, audible response, which you don't get with a serious drama.

Is it a production which appeals to all ages?

Totally! We've had a lot of younger people coming to see it, and that's been very rewarding. You automatically assume that it will appeal to a certain type of audience, but I think because of Graham's reputation as a comedy writer with *Father Ted* etc., there's been a younger-audience interest. All of my grandchildren have been to see it - the youngest is nine - and they've all thoroughly enjoyed it.

You come from an acting background, so were you always destined to tread the boards?

I first walked on stage at the age of eleven at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, which later became the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Then I rejoined them when I was fifteen. In between, I did a lot of TV - so yes, I guess it was inevitable, really. I guess it's always been there - although there was a time, when I was about eight or nine, that I thought I'd like to be an archaeologist. That was a bit of a sea-change, but I got over it...

Are you glad you did?

Oh, I think so. I don't think at the age of sixty-five I'd want to be outside, digging!

What are your fondest memories of your formative years at the RSC?

There are so many. I was working with the best of the best actors and directors, and not a bad writer in Mr Shakespeare! My father Roy was, for many years, a stalwart at the RSC, and he and I performed together there when I was fifteen. That was lovely! I also played the French princess opposite Ian Holm in *Henry V*, which was also terrific - the most incredible grounding for me. I think I was very, very fortunate to get that, especially when I look at our daughter Emily, who's a wonderful actress, and see how difficult it is for young actors these days. They just don't have the opportunities I had with reps - learning your craft and the chance of doing fantastic drama on TV. They just don't have that.

So you'll be pleased with the promise of increased investment in TV dramas?

Oh, I do hope so. I think people are kind of sick of Reality Television. I know it's still up there, but I think there's a turning point now. I think people want the BBC to have the reputation they used to have when I was younger, when their reputation for drama and classics was beyond compare. I hope things change for young actors, because there's a huge amount of talent out there which needs nurturing. These people need the opportunities.

You enjoyed enormous success playing Betty in *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*. Was it as much fun filming the series as it was for the viewer watching?

It was a complete joy, but also a nightmare,

because I was permanently wetting myself performing alongside Michael! It was totally impossible. We had to be separated all the time in rehearsals because I spent so much of my time collapsed on the floor in fits of laughter. When I think about it, up until that point I'd been working with the RSC and doing dramas on TV. Then, suddenly, I'm put into this little half-hour comedy show. I'd never done comedy on TV before, but *Some Mothers* changed my life. I'd been around for a long time, slogging away in the theatre, then suddenly I was a household name. It totally changed both mine and Michael's lives. I look back on it with great pride and enormous joy. It was a bit of special television which is still cherished and still talked about today.

Are you still in contact with Michael?

Yeah, in the past few years he's been extremely supportive and kind. When he heard I was doing this, he was so excited for me. Although he's now living in New Zealand, he regularly rings me to check how it's going and to see that I'm okay and I'm eating properly. He's also wonderful with my daughter Emily, who he calls Scratch. The extraordinary thing is that, in the new year, Emily is going to be doing the tour of *The Woman In White*, which Michael did a few years back. I know that's to do with my Edward (Woodward) up there - he's definitely fixed that up.

Did a lot of offers come in after *Some Mothers*?

A lot of the same kind of thing, which was a bit of a double-edged sword, really. It was quite tricky for quite a while, as some people saw me as Betty and not as an actress playing a part. For a long while, directors and producers were fearful that I'd just be thought of as that particular character, so it was a bit of a handicap initially. Then my life kind of shifted, because Edward and I moved to America for quite a long time and I had Emily. So other things happened - which were bonuses - and my career went on the back-burner.

What's been the highlight of your career?

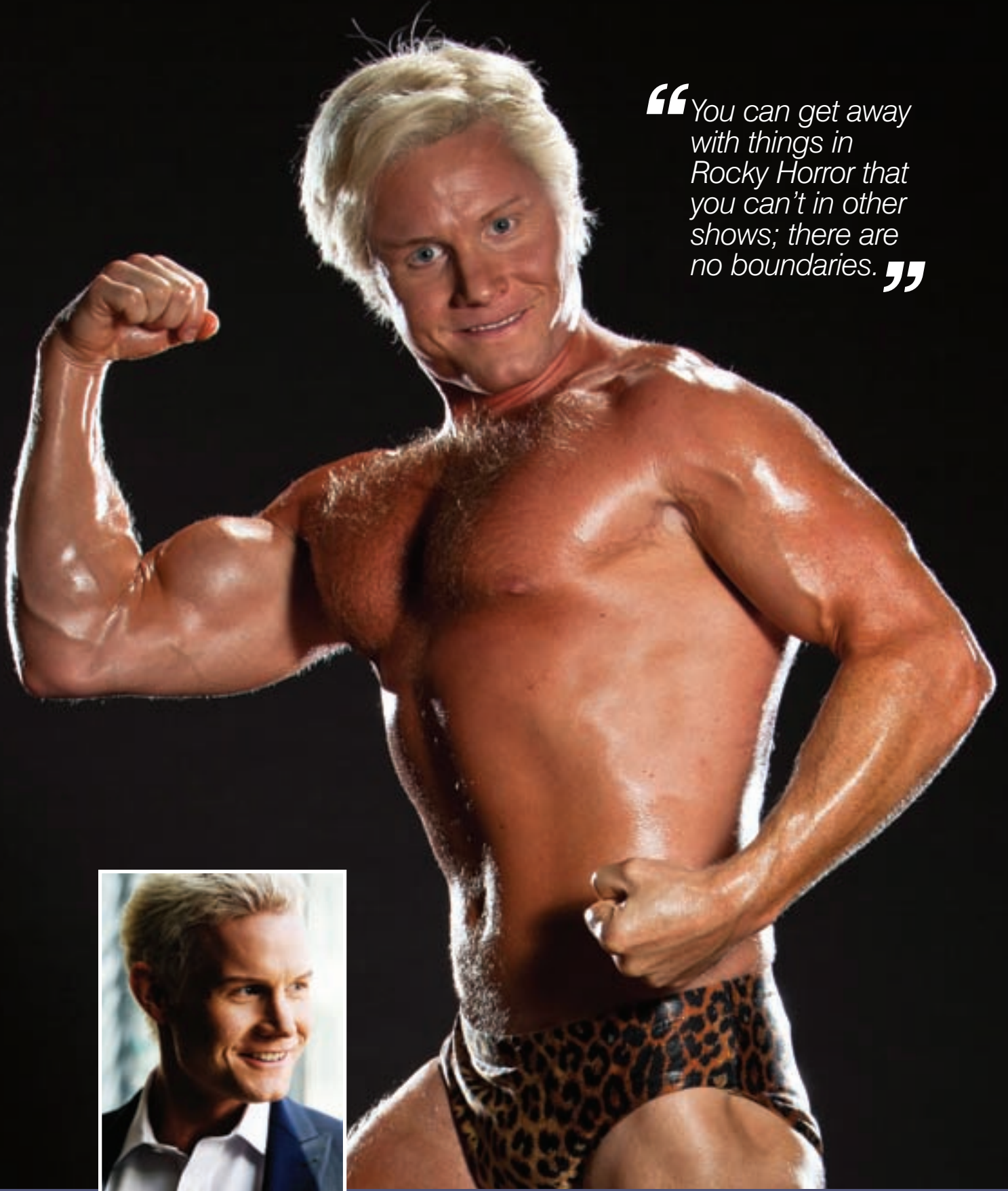
I don't know if I've had a highlight yet. I've just done a lot of jobs, and I hope I've done those jobs well. I couldn't look back at anything and think 'wow, that's a highlight!' I just do a job to the best of my ability.

What's next after *The Ladykillers*?

I think I'm going to join a nunnery! I don't know what's next, just getting my bones to the theatre this evening is going to be a challenge. But I'm sure I'll be okay as long as I keep taking the tablets!

The *Ladykillers* shows at **Wolverhampton Grand Theatre** from Mon 28 January to Sat 2 February

“You can get away with things in Rocky Horror that you can't in other shows; there are no boundaries.**”**



Rhydian Roberts

back in the Midlands for some Rocky Horror...

X Factor finalist and musical theatre star Rhydian Roberts is heading to the Midlands this month to play Rocky in the fortieth anniversary tour of The Rocky Horror Show. What's On recently caught up with the ex-Birmingham Conservatoire student to find out about Rocky Horror..., stripping off on stage, and what he's got planned for the future...

Since appearing on The X Factor in 2007, you've had a very successful and varied career. Were you expecting to achieve what you have?

I guess I'd always hoped to. It's been more varied than I'd originally anticipated because I've had the benefit of releasing albums and doing solo tours. I was training to be a singer-actor, so after my five years at the Conservatoire in Birmingham I went to the Royal Academy to study with Mary Hammond. It was always my goal to go into theatre. My career is probably now at the level where I always wanted it to be.

So singing and acting was something you'd always aspired to do?

I'd done it in my school days with school productions. I've always taken part and enjoyed it. Then I went to university, where I was part of the musical theatre society. I did some semi-professional stuff, then professional stuff with the help of X Factor. Being in a cast is what makes me happy. Today, I'll go into rehearsals and come into my own. It's where I feel comfortable. Creating roles is something that I love to do, and luckily, the older I get, the greater the number of roles that become available. It's fun; it's the best job in the world.

Since finding fame, you've released a number of albums, hosted your own TV show and been on numerous tours. Is there a particular highlight that stands out?

There've been lots of highlights. My album going double platinum, that was great. The people I've met, people I've worked with. I've worked with some of the best people in the industry. I get to work with the same people that Michael Buble has worked with, that Andrea Bocelli has worked with. There's only a handful of these people in the world, and I've been fortunate enough to have worked with them. As far as a one-off event goes, singing at the Ryder Cup was a highlight; singing in Wembley Stadium was equally great. Getting these roles in theatre is something I don't look down on, either. I still have to audition like everyone else, but it's nice that these producers and casting directors think I can turn it in and make it work. They could book a whole load of others, but they don't. They book me. That's a nice highlight, right there.

At one point in your career, you moved away from opera and ventured into pop. You haven't returned there since - is pop now something you try to avoid?

I think I know where I am. I'm a classical crossover artist, and I'm one that can do musical theatre. That's where I want to be, and I've discovered that in the past two years. I've discovered that's what my audience like, and that's what I do best. That's the music which will stand the test of time, because the songs that I sing will never go out of fashion. So hopefully, if I play my cards right, my act won't go out of fashion either. Pop, on the other hand, is a fickle industry. I'd be competing against people like Justin Bieber. And the audience base, the teenyboppers, they grow up. I'm happy doing what I'm doing. I'm in the classical world and I'll be dead happy staying there.

Will we see a fifth studio album from you any time soon?

Yeah, there'll definitely be one. There are lots of ideas floating about and some songs coming in. I don't want to rush it, though. The marketing strategy for my next album needs to be right, and there needs to be a clear definition of what I am. My voice is improving as I get older, like it does with a lot of classical voices. I'm twenty-nine now, and hopefully, my voice will be at its best when I'm thirty-eight or forty.

You've got your second UK concert tour coming up in February. What can we expect?

It'll be a varied programme, different from my last tour. There will be something from every album, but there will be new stuff too. I'm going to bring with me a special guest group called The Tenors of Rock, which I co-founded. They're six strapping lads with some of the best rock voices in the country, and they'll be singing with me on the tour.

You've played a fair few musical theatre roles, in shows like War Of The Worlds, We Will Rock You and Grease. Which gave you the greatest sense of achievement?

That's a great question! They all gave me a sense of achievement, but for different reasons. The War Of The Worlds was great, because Jeff Wayne hand-picked me himself. I didn't have to audition for that one. We toured around British and European arenas, and were given the star treatment with five-star hotels; it was great. Jeff toured with us, and I made some great friends within the cast. As far as a particular role goes, I'd say getting into Rocky Horror was a real coup for me, because I really wanted to do it. With it being the fortieth anniversary tour, I just had to get on board.

Is there a dream role you'd like to play?

There are so many. Jekyll and Hyde, Sweeney Todd, the Phantom of the Opera; I could go on and on. The Beast in Beauty And The Beast. There are loads, and that's the great excitement of theatre; there are all these parts to discover - and hopefully I can play them all at some stage or other.

As you mentioned, you're heading to the Midlands this month to take on the role of Rocky in the fortieth anniversary UK tour of Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show. Are you a fan of the production?

Yeah, it's awesome! It's so crazy and so different from anything else that's out there. And it certainly was when it was written.

Do you foresee any particular challenges with regard to playing Rocky?

Walking in heels! Seriously, though, I don't think there's a really challenging aspect, because it's a small cast and I'm required to do some of the chorus parts - well, we all are. There's nothing too taxing. It makes it interesting, because when I was playing Teen Angel in Grease, there was only one song to do, and then I was in the dressing room. With this, I just have to lose my inhibitions and strip off my clothes! It's no big deal, though. I guess wrestlers and boxers do it every week. I have

to get boffed by a bloke; that's an experience. There's lots of bisexuality in it. I think the sexual innuendo will be funny.

Is there a particular scene you're looking forward to?

Yeah. I get seduced by Janet, played by Roxanne Pallett - that's an interesting one!

The Rocky Horror Show has such a huge cult following. Does it worry you that you might have a certain expectation to live up to in playing the role of Rocky?

I could definitely think like that, but I choose not to. All I think of is that the casting director has chosen me this year, and they think that I'm good enough to be there. They've been doing it for years - they know what they're doing. I think if I was playing Frank N Furter, then there'd be more expectation, definitely. I don't envy anybody who plays Frank, as there will always be comparisons to Tim Curry. Also, regarding the audience participation, Rocky is pretty immune from that element of the show, save for a few wolf whistles. Frank can interact with the audience, as can the narrator. I'm taking a bit of a back seat, which is the way I like it.

What do you think it is about the show that's secured it such a worldwide following?

How risqué it is. It was a movement back in the 1970s that was bold, but there were many people that felt the same way as Richard O'Brien did. It was rebellious and fresh. It still is in a way. I think the music has a large part to play in it too. Everybody knows The Time Warp, and it's also a chance to dress up in fancy dress. When you're at theatre school, it's the one musical that everybody wants to be a part of, because it's so much fun. You can get away with things in Rocky Horror that you can't in other shows; there are no boundaries.

So, are you excited about coming back to the Midlands?

I love it in Birmingham. I lived in Selly Oak and Edgbaston for seven years. I know the city inside-out. It has a great tradition in the arts and performance. I love Symphony Hall as well. I'm looking forward to performing in the New Alexandra Theatre, because I've never been there before - although I've done the Hippodrome a couple of times.

Finally, what have you got planned for the future?

I've got a couple of concerts in Israel in April, providing there isn't too much fighting going on. It's a busy Spring, so after that I'll probably head to France to recuperate and see what comes in. I'm always working on the fifth album too; it's an ongoing project. Oh, and The Tenors of Rock who I mentioned earlier - I'll be investing some time in developing them and their brand.

Rhydian plays Rocky in the fortieth anniversary production of The Rocky Horror Show at **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham** Mon 28 January to Sat 2 February and **Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent** Mon 20 to Sat 25 May

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Music

Ella Henderson

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Sat 5 January

Hotly tipped by judges and bookmakers to win the 2012 version of the hit ITV1 talent series X Factor, Ella was eliminated from the show in a shock public vote, after her sing-off with fellow contestant James Arthur reached deadlock. Not that there's much chance of her X Factor failure bringing down the curtain on her burgeoning career, with the hugely talented teenager having just been signed by Sony. Expect to hear plenty more about her in the forthcoming weeks, months and years.



Blak Can

Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Sat 19 January

According to the band's promo information, Blak Can is 'cast in the Black Country with an industrial heritage', and is 'an insurgence of upbeat rhythms reminiscent of heavy machinery, pulsating keyboards and cutting guitar riffs'. After eighteen months of creating dark but uplifting electronica, the band are now busy unleashing their music, with debut album Flat Pack Nation having hit iTunes last summer. Influenced by Joy Division and My Bloody Valentine, they supported The Twang at their Bristol gig last year. Expect to hear new music at this Wolverhampton show.



Nell Bryden

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Sun 27 January

A native New Yorker, Nell Bryden grew up in an artist loft in Brooklyn Heights. Her tireless work ethic has seen her travel three hundred thousand miles to play one thousand, four hundred shows over the past seven years. Having journeyed to New Orleans to write an album inspired by the jazz, roots and blues influences of the city, she headed home with the job only half finished - it was only the sale of a Milton Avery painting given to her by her father that provided the finances she needed to complete the project. She performs in Birmingham in support of her fourth album, Shake The Tree.



Trey Songz

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sun 27 January

R&B star Trey Songz is riding high after the success of latest single Simply Amazing, his first to make the UK top ten. Raised as an army brat, it wasn't until others noticed his voice that he turned his attention to music, moving to New Jersey to record his debut album in 2003. Now onto his fifth album, appropriately entitled Chapter V, Trey kicks off his four-date UK tour in Birmingham, having previously played European dates in France, Spain and Belgium. *Read the interview with Trey on page 6*

The Blackout

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Wed 23 January

Singing from the same hymn sheet as fellow Welsh rockers Lost Prophets, with whom they've toured, this Merthyr Tydfil six-piece have also been out on the road with Funeral For A Friend, Kids In Glass Houses, The Automatic and Fightstar. The release of their demo The Blackout! The Blackout! The Blackout! in 2006 led to a Kerrang! nomination for Best British Newcomer, since which time they've released three albums, with a fourth one pending. They play Birmingham this month as part of a six-date tour.



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CARAVAN

THU 24 JAN
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ALAN MERRILL & THE ARROWS
I LOVE ROCK & ROLL
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Donny & Marie

LG Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 24 January

If your fortieth birthday is a thing of the past, this nostalgia-rich walk down memory lane may prove to be right up your alley. Donny needs no introduction. Teenage girls of the early 1970s routinely papered their bedroom walls with his posters - unless they were David Cassidy fans, of course - and were even known to swoon at the sight of his gleaming white teeth flashing in the semi-darkness as he and his brothers played yet another sell-out concert. He's had a bit of a rollercoaster ride since those long-ago days, mind, losing much of his fame and most of his fortune before rising phoenix-like from the ashes to star in the hit stage musical *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Donny's been performing alongside sister Marie since 2008, presenting a sell-out show in Las Vegas, and this brand new tour offers UK-based Osmond fans the chance to reconnect with two of their favourites. Expect all the unforgettable hits, including *One Bad Apple*, *Paper Roses*, *Love Me For A Reason* and *Crazy Horses*.



Migeul

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Tues 15 January

This US sensation recently released his sophomore album, *Kaleidoscope Dream* (it debuted at number three on the *Billboard* 200), and has been touring with fellow R&B crooner Trey Songz. Boasting an electric sound, his rich and soulful vocals are combined with a fusion of electro-tinged R&B and a hip-hop edge. *Kaleidoscope Dream* is certainly a high-energy album, so expect his live show to follow suit. Support comes from British singer-songwriter Daley.



Cave Painting

The Rainbow, Birmingham, Fri 25 January

Generously giving away free downloads of debut album *Votive* to fans, Cave Painting are releasing debut single *Leaf* this month, and playing thirteen live dates across the UK during the course of the next few weeks. Support from bloggers and DJs Zane Lowe and Fearnie Cotton saw them signed to Hideout



Ronan Keating

LG Arena, Birmingham, Fri 25 January

With eight studio albums behind him, some of which went straight to number one, it's fair to say that Ronan Keating long ago stopped being thought of only in terms of Boyzone. After getting back together with the chart-topping band, he's now once again out on his own, and looks set to carry on as a performer in his own right for just about as long as he likes. This year sees him celebrating two glorious decades in the music business, during which time he's dueted with Elton John, sung for the Pope, recorded with Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), been appointed a UN Goodwill Ambassador, and guided Boyzone's fellow Irish boyband Westlife to fame and fortune. He appears in the Midlands this month in support of his ninth studio album, *Fires*.

Records after having played only one gig - a fact which ably illustrates why this Brighton five-piece is being so hotly tipped for big things.



Caravan

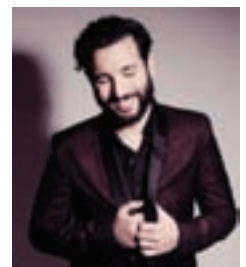
The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 10 January

Formed in Canterbury in 1968, Caravan was one of the most formidable acts to emerge from the Prog Rock movement of the 1970s. Creating a style that blends psychedelic rock and jazz, the band was popular both at home and in continental Europe, and in 1971 achieved Gold disc award status in the UK for *In The Land Of Grey And Pink*. Celebrating the fortieth anniversary of seminal 1973 album *For Girls Who Grow Plump In The Night*, the band is playing a very special ten-date tour, with Garron Frith supporting.

Ron Pope

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 6 January

A man with a big presence on the internet, the bluesy-voiced Ron Pope's music reflects his impressively eclectic tastes, with the New York-based singer-songwriter declaring himself a fan of pretty much everything from soul to roots rock, hip-hop to gospel, and Van Halen to Michael Jackson.



Lucy Ward

The Hive, Shrewsbury, Sun 20 January

Hailing from Derby, Lucy Ward is a singer, guitarist and concertina player, performing traditional English folk songs as well as self-penned material. A finalist in the 2009 Radio Two Young Folk Awards, she was signed to Navigator Records in 2010 and released debut album *Adelphi Has To Fly* a year later. Positive reviews followed from Mike Harding and Verity Sharpe, as well as publications such as *The Guardian* and *Uncut*. Lucy won the best newcomer gong at the Radio Two Folk Awards in 2012, and plays The Hive as part of the Shrewsbury Folk Festival.



Ali Campbell

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 26 January

Local lad Ali Campbell is, of course, a household name in modern pop-reggae circles, after decades spent as lead vocalist and guitar player for Midlands-based reggae act UB40. As a solo artist, he's released a handful of albums. This O2 gig has been rescheduled from December, when it was postponed due to the recording demands of Ali's new album.

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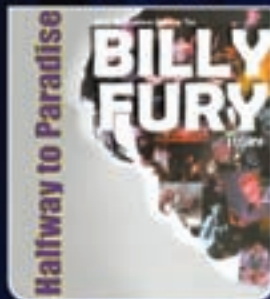
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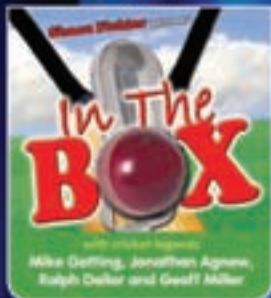
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MOZART: Quartet in E flat K428
TIPPETT: Quartet No.3
BEETHOVEN Quartet in C Opus 59 No 3



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Family Concert to introduce the brass family!

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Ensemble 360 & Polly Ives (narrator)
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February 3, 3pm

Ensemble 360

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BRITTEN Three Divertimenti for String Quartet
CHARLIE PIPER Jacaranda (Sextet)
MOZART Clarinet Quintet in A K581

February 24, 3pm

Onyx Brass

MONTEVERDI, HOLBORNE, BACH SHOSTAKOVICH, TIMOTHY JACKSON, COPLAND, GABRIELI, IVES, CHERYL FRANCES-HOAD, and ARNOLD

March 17, 11.30am

Ensemble 360 & Paul Rissman (narrator)

Sir Scallywag And The Golden Underpants
Paul Rissmann's new work following the sold out Chimpanzees of Happytown

FOR AGES 3+

March 17, 3pm

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Music GIG REVIEWS

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Rodrigo y Gabriela

HMV Institute, Birmingham

Say the words 'Mexican acoustic guitar' to the average person and what springs to mind? An inoffensive yet forgettable soundtrack to coffee over lunch, or, at best, memories of lazy summer evenings spent sipping wine in some inner-city bar or bistro. But follow those words with the names 'Rodrigo y Gabriela' and they suddenly take on an altogether different dimension, as anybody fortunate enough to experience the duo's awe-inspiring performance at the HMV Institute would no doubt tell you! Taking in influences as diverse as thrash metal, flamenco-jazz, funk, acoustic rock and salsa, Rodrigo y Gabriela are one of those rare live acts whose mindbending guitar technique and masterful song-writing ability seem somehow to transcend conventional barriers of age, nationality and taste. This was virtuoso guitar playing at its very best; Rodrigo's nimble fretwork synthesizing perfectly with the hypnotic base rhythms of Gabriela's guitar-based percussion. And whilst, at times, this barrage of technique felt alienating - maybe even borderline indulgent - it certainly didn't detract from the quality of the overall experience. As fiery as a double-shot of tequila slammer and just as intoxicating, a 'Rod and Gab' concert is one hangover you definitely won't regret.

Kate Evans ■■■■■



The XX

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

Any fan of The xx's debut album, xx, or their latest offering, Coexist, may be forgiven for wondering how their melodic riffs and haunting vocals would translate on the big stage, playing out to a packed gig audience. But it was a rare treat to find that the 2010 Mercury Prize-winning band exceeded expectations, living up to the hype that's surrounded them over the past couple of years.

Oliver Sim's husky vocals were even better live, and during the latter half of the performance DJ Jamie Smith ('Jamie xx') really came into his own on the decks; he could have been playing out to an aching hip crowd over an Ibiza sunset, rather than sub-zero Wolverhampton.

The evening kicked off with 'Angels'. Only once the trio had began playing did a curtain lift to reveal their outlines against the dark, moody, smoke-filled stage. The success of the night was not down to the music alone though, but also the result of a dazzling lighting display; one might suspect they've been taking notes from Muse. The high point was 'Shelter', where music and lighting combined to near-epic proportions.

The only disappointment of the evening, if any, was 'Infinity'; in an attempt to bring the set to a climatic close (the backdrop to which was the slow unveiling of a huge sculptural 'X'), the soft, moody guitar and delicate but desperately passionate vocals so familiar on the album, were delivered too forcefully on stage.

If you're a fan of the British trio, you'll be far from disappointed with them live. **Claire Lloyd** ■■■■■



Music LISTINGS

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

WED 2 JAN

LEE ROGERS & OZ MCGOWAN The Jam House, Birmingham

THUR 3 JAN

DUELLER 88 The Jam House, Birmingham

FRI 4 JAN

GROUPER The Jam House, Birmingham
INTO VALHALLA & GOOD-BYE TO YESTERDAY The Flapper & Firkin, Birmingham
KAI MCKENZIE AS MICHAEL BUBLE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE PRESS The Roadhouse, Birmingham
NEARLY DAN The Robin, Bilston

SAT 5 JAN

CINEPHOTOLOUR, CLAUSROPHOBIQUE, PURPLE STEREO, OUR DAYS WASTED & ECHOES OF ISIS O2 Academy, Birmingham
GROUPER The Jam House, Birmingham
ELVIS NIGHT Featuring Elvis' Bass Player Jerry Scheff, The River Rooms, Stourbridge
FAT FIGHTERS A heavy-weight tribute to the Foo Fighters The Roadhouse, Birmingham
ELLA HENDERSON The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury
SERVO The Kasbah, Coventry
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS Artrix, Bromsgrove



King Pleasure...

SUN 6 JAN

THE SWORD The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
RON POPE The Glee Club, Birmingham

MON 7 JAN

THE PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA New Vic Theatre,

Newcastle-under-Lyme

TUES 8 JAN

LUCAS D & THE GROOVE GHETTO The Jam House, Birmingham

WED 9 JAN

GOSPEL CENTRAL The Jam House, Birmingham
WILL KAUFMAN The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham



Will Kaufman

THUR 10 JAN

CARAVAN The Robin, Bilston
ENDINGS AND ORIGINS O2 Academy, Birmingham
MIKE WILLIAMS QUARTET Bramall Music Building, Birmingham
ENDORPHINS, KAIZEN, FROZEN IN FEAR, ENDINGS & ORIGINS O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE PARIS 1940S The Jam House, Birmingham

FRI 11 JAN

SHAMTERA The Roadhouse, Birmingham
OLLIE HUGHES AS ROBBIE WILLIAMS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
WHO'S WHO The Robin, Bilston
SOLID SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
THINK FLOYD Artrix, Bromsgrove

SAT 12 JAN

MORNINGTON LOCKETT The Hive, Shrewsbury
A NIGHT FOR JOEY G IV The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
DEFINITELY MIGHT BE & ADORED Tribute to Oasis & The Stone Roses The Robin, Bilston
PHIL BEER Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE DECADES BAND The River Rooms, Stourbridge
DARK SIDE OF THE WALL Tribute to Pink Floyd, The Roadhouse, Birmingham
LOUIS ROBINSON'S TRIO

DAMBA Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ERADIKATOR, BULLIT-STORM & ELYSIUM O2 Academy, Birmingham

SUN 13 JAN

RAT PACK VEGAS SPECTACULAR Artrix, Bromsgrove
OLD TIRE SWINGERS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham

TUE 15 JAN

MIGUEL HMV Institute, Birmingham
BEN MARKLAND QUINTET The Jam House, Birmingham

WED 16 JAN

THE GIANT KILLERS The Jam House, Birmingham
ABSOLUTION SAXOPHONE QUARTET New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
STEVE KNIGHTLEY The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

THUR 17 JAN

TAKING CARE OF ELVIS Featuring Ben Portsmouth as Elvis, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
ARE YOU EXPERIENCED - JIMI HENDRIX TRIBUTE The Robin, Bilston
THE MOONSHAKERS The Jam House, Birmingham

FRI 18 JAN

JOHN KIRKPATRICK - THE VICTORIAN FARMER'S YEAR Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE RED LEMONS The Jam House, Birmingham
THE ADAMS JOVI EXPERIENCE Tribute to Bryan Adams and Bon Jovi, The Robin, Bilston
KENDRICK LAMAR HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE KILLERZ The River Rooms, Stourbridge
DAMIEN O'KANE Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
SARAH GILLESPIE FEAT. KIT DOWNES The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

SAT 19 JAN

THE RED LEMONS The Jam House, Birmingham
PINK - MISS UNDERSTOOD The River Rooms, Stourbridge
BLAK CAN The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
ALOHA FROM HAWAII Lichfield Garrick
MIRANDA SYKES AND REX PRESTON The Hive Shrewsbury

BRING YOUR PARTY TO OUR PARTY AT NAILCOTE HALL HOTEL

THE MARQUEE
BRING YOUR PARTY TO OUR PARTY

Rick's
AT NAILCOTE HALL HOTEL

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with SOUL LEGEND
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with THE KRYSTALLES
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with MIKE LEIGH
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with HARRY CAMBRIDGE
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with ABSOLUTE LEGENDS
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ROBBIE & MORE **£35.00**

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with THE BRIEFCASE
BLUES BROTHERS **£32.50**

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BEWDLEY WASSAIL FESTIVAL

WITH WYTC-HOOD MORRIS

A TRADITIONAL SEASONAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE HEALTH OF OUR FRUIT TREES

SATURDAY 5TH JANUARY 2013
12noon - 4PM

- 12noon - 1.45pm Workshops for children participating making rag jackets and learning to dance
- 2pm Lantern parade starting at Gardeners Meadow finishing at The Community Orchard in Jubilee Gardens
- 2.15 - 4pm Wassail with WYTC-HOOD MORRIS - leading an afternoon of dance and song
- Hog Roast
- Local Mulled Apple Juice supplied by Bewdley Apple Co-Op
- Refreshments

This is a free event but charges applicable for food and refreshments.

For more information contact 01299 405516 or info@bewdley.org.uk

Bewdley Development Trust www.bewdley.org.uk

Wyre Forest District Council

theatre on the steps
BRIDGNORTH

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

Sat 5th, Sun 6th, Thurs 10th, Fri 11th, Sat 12th, Fri 18th, Sat 19th, Sun 20th, Thurs 24th, Fri 25th and Sat 26th Jan 2013

Tickets: Stalls £10.00
Balcony £9.00
Concessions and Group Discounts (not Saturday Nights)

PERFORMANCE TIMES
Evenings 7.00pm
Saturday matinees 2.00pm
Sunday matinees 3.00pm

ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES
BY ALAN P FRAYN

EARLY BOOKING RECOMMENDED

Yet again the Theatre on the Steps provides the very best of traditional pantomime, hilarious comedy, great music, great scenery and a great show for children of all ages.

A humble woodcutter Ali Baba, his loyal slave girl Marjan, a houseboy called Mustafa Screwloose, Fatima Fandango, struggle with the 40 thieves led by Asbad and his scoundrel sidekicks Bashim and Grabbit. The evil queen of the East does battle with the Good Spirit of Arabia - add in a handsome Prince and a beautiful Princess Fairy to throw some romance to the mixture of comedy, music and dance and you have a perfect pantomime "Oh Yes you do".

Directed by Christine Reddihough
Musical Director Julian Brown
Choreography Sally Hobday

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Tourist Information Centre
Bridgnorth Library, Lastley St., Bridgnorth

More info on our website: www.theatreonthesteps.co.uk

Music LISTINGS

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

BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
YOUNG KATO O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE JACKIE GENERATION Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
DERRIN NAUENDORF Lichfield Guildhall
G2: DEFINITIVE GENESIS The Robin, Bilston
MIKE FLETCHER BIG BAND
EC WM PROJECT CBSO Centre, Birmingham
A LOVE FROM OUTER SPACE WITH ANDREW WEATHERALL & SEAN JOHNSTON Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
BELLOW THE DEPTHS, FALLEN INQUEST & SINCE DAY ONE The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
VIN GARBUTT Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton



Vin Garbutt

SUN 20 JAN

LUCY WARD The Hive Shrewsbury
JUMP THE SHOCK The Robin, Bilston
SONGBIRD: THE EVA CASIDY STORY Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham

MON 21 JAN

CULT OF LUNA The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
MARTIN CARTHLY Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham

TUES 22 JAN

ITCHYFEET The Jam House, Birmingham

WED 23 JAN

THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
TIM KLIPHUIS TRIO The Hive, Shrewsbury
HARTY ANTHONY The Jam House, Birmingham
THE BLACKOUT HMV Institute, Birmingham
RED SHOES Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham
THE JOHN RICHARDS BAND Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

THUR 24 JAN

MENACE 67 PLUS NEVER THE LAST BREATH AND SEPARATION ANXIETY The Roadhouse, Birmingham
DR TEETH BIG BAND The Jam House, Birmingham
DONNY & MARIE LG Arena, Birmingham
THE BARRON KNIGHTS Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
ALAN MERRILL & THE ARROWS The Robin, Bilston
REAL DIAMOND Featuring John Hylton, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

FRI 25 JAN

VOICE OF THE HEART - KAREN CARPENTER Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
COLVIN QUARMBY Lichfield Guildhall
RONAN KEATING LG Arena, Birmingham
THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, Birmingham
CAVE PAINTING The Rainbow, Birmingham
AN EVENING WITH TONY CHRISTIE Lichfield Garrick
HOT FOOT The Roadhouse, Birmingham
BLACK CELEBRATION - DEPECHE MODE TRIBUTE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE CLASSIC ROCK SHOW Birmingham Town Hall
JACKSON LIVE IN CONCERT Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
SYLOSIS, DEVIL SOLD HIS SOUL & CYTOTA O2 Academy, Birmingham
AMONG THE ECHOES, BEFORE THE STORY ENDS, SHINKICKER & THE HEIST O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW Solihull Arts Complex



The Johnny Cash Roadshow

JESSIE J TRIBUTE The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

SAT 26 JAN

COWBOY JUNKIES Warwick Arts Centre,

Coventry
ONE STOP BOOGIE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE SUBTERRANEANS Rock Anthems from the like of U2, Queen & Kaiser Chiefs The Jam House, Birmingham
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS The Roadhouse, Birmingham
MY FAVOURITE RUNNER UP The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE JOHN RICHARDS BAND Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton
ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS Lichfield Garrick
TALON - THE BEST OF THE EAGLES Birmingham Town Hall
THE RAT PACK IS BACK Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
STRAFF DANCE - FROM BLUES TO BACH Artrix, Bromsgrove
COUNTERFEIT STONES Artrix, Bromsgrove
ALI CAMPBELL O2 Academy, Birmingham
SIGNIFY, MARTYR DE MONA, ACELDAMA, CAPTAIN HORIZON AND IN ALCHEMY O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE PONTIACS... NOT JUST ROCK'N'ROLL Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE TREORCHY MALE VOICE CHOIR Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
THE SOLDIERS Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



The Soldiers

JEAN GENIE - TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE The Robin, Bilston
THE NOTEBENDERS Symphony Hall, Birmingham
THE DRIFTERS The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury
THEATRE OF SILENCE, THE EVENT HORIZON, STONE THE ALCHEMIST & SPECIAL GUESTS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
FLOYDIAN SLIP - PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE Tamworth Assembly Rooms
REBECCA NEWMAN Solihull Arts Complex

SUN 27 JAN

TREY SONGZ LG Arena, Birmingham
COUNTERFEIT STONES Artrix, Bromsgrove
BLACK DYKE BAND Symphony Hall, Birmingham
THE GLENN MILLER AAF ORCHESTRA WITH STRINGS Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
THE RAT PACK VEGAS SPECTACULAR Tamworth Assembly Rooms
NELL BRYDEN Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



Ali Campbell

MON 28 JAN

DANNY BOWES & BEN MATTHEWS The Glee Club, Birmingham

TUE 29 JAN

FOCUS Artrix, Bromsgrove
PAUL CARRACK Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
ACOUSTIC SESSIONS The Jam House, B'ham
SPIN DOCTORS The Robin, Bilston
WE THE KINGS O2 Academy, Birmingham

WED 30 JAN

BLUE COUPE The Robin, Bilston
ANBERLIN O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE CHURCHFITTERS Lichfield Guildhall
HEATWAVE The Jam House, Birmingham
THE SYD LAWRENCE ORCHESTRA AND SINGERS Solihull Arts Complex
VIN GARBUTT The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
TROYKA & THE GOLDEN AGE OF STEAM Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
TOM FORBES, ILLUSION,

LIZZIE HAYNES & JOE MAISEY, JOSEPH HICKLIN & KATY EMMA O2 Academy, Birmingham

THUR 31 JAN

COLIN BLUNSTONE & BAND Artrix, Bromsgrove
STEVE CROPPER WITH THE ANIMALS & FRIENDS The Robin, Bilston
DEL CAMINO The Jam House, Birmingham
CARLO NUNEZ, PHILIP PICKETT & MUSICIANS OF THE GLOBE Birmingham Town Hall

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 STOURBRIDGE TOWN HALL 01384 812812
 WULFRUN HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON 0870 320 7000

Shropshire

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 THE EDGE ARTS CENTRE, MUCH WENLOCK 01952 728911
 THE HIVE, SHREWSBURY 01743 234970
 THE IRONWORKS, OSWESTRY 01691 679123
 THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY 01743 281281
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Angela Hewitt

Britten Sinfonia featuring Angela Hewitt

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 13 January

Composer Benjamin Britten's position at the forefront of twentieth century British classical music is impressively endorsed by his many awards, not least amongst which is the Grammy Hall of Fame Award for his War Requiem. This year marks the centenary of Britten's birth, and there are numerous concerts celebrating the occasion in the 2013 Birmingham International Concert Season. Ex Cathedra gets things started with a performance of A Boy Was Born at Birmingham Town Hall on 12 January. This is followed the day after by a concert which sees internationally acclaimed pianist Angela Hewitt join forces with the Britten Sinfonia to perform popular pieces from the composer's early years (Britten's Simple Symphony and Variations On A Theme Of Frank Bridge) as well as works by Beethoven and Prokofiev.

Halle Orchestra: New Year in Vienna

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 4 January

One of the UK's top symphonic ensembles, the Manchester-based Halle Orchestra is admired around the globe for its extensive orchestral repertoire.

This Victoria Hall concert is the Halle's first of 2013, and pays homage to Austria's famous dynasty of composers, the Strauss family, as well as featuring works by Offenbach and Lehar.

Performed under the directorship of David Parry, and featuring tenor Toby Spence, the concert includes the Die Fledermaus Overture, Emperor Waltz, The Blue Danube, Pizzicato Polka, Radetzky March, Gold And Silver Waltz and Orpheus In The Underworld Overture.



Toby Spence



Carducci String Quartet

Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Fri 25 January

Appearing as part of the Leamington Music International Quartet Season, the Carducci String Quartet this month return to the region to perform Haydn's Quartet in G minor Op 74 No 3 The Rider, Britten's Quartet No1 and Debussy's Quartet. Recognised as one of the most successful young string quartets on the classical music scene, Carducci annually perform in excess of ninety international concerts, and in the process have earned themselves an enthusiastic and cosmopolitan following. They even have their own festival, in Highnam, Gloucestershire, in May.

Dante Quartet

Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, Sat 12 January

The multi-award-winning Dante Quartet is held in high regard for the 'imaginative programming and emotional intensity of its performances'. Comprising Kryisia Osostowicz and Giles Francis on violins, Rachel Roberts on viola and Richard Jenkinson on cello, the Quartet here performs Haydn's Quartet Op 77 No1 (Dream), Debussy's Quartet in G minor and Kodaly's Quartet No1 in C minor.



Belcea Quartet

Birmingham Town Hall, Mon 28 - Tues 29 January

Since their formation at the Royal College of Music in 1994, the Belcea Quartet have become a force to be reckoned with. Regularly performing in some of the world's finest concert halls, the quartet this month stop off in the Midlands to perform the first of three gigs at Birmingham's Town Hall. Their programme features Haydn's String Quartet in D minor, Op 103; Beethoven's String Quartet in A, Op 18, No5; and String Quartet in C sharp minor, Op 131.



Classical LISTINGS

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

JOHANN STRAUSS GALA: ONE NIGHT IN VIENNA

Featuring the Johann Strauss Orchestra, Rainer Hersch (conductor), Charlotte Ellett (guest soprano) & the Johann Strauss Dancers, Tue 1 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA

Featuring conductor David Parry & Toby Spence (tenor), Fri 4 Jan, Malvern Theatre

HALLE: VIENNESE GALA

Featuring conductor David Parry & Toby Spence (tenor), Fri 4 Jan, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

CBSO VIENNESE NEW YEAR

Featuring Martin Yates (conductor) & James Edwards (tenor). Programme to include works by Johann Strauss II, Suppe, Lehar, Kreisler, Heuberger, Waldteufel, Tauber, Romberg & Siczynski, Sat 5 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

H.M.S PINAFORE Semi-staged concert performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's nautical tale of romance and mistaken identities, Sun 6 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO THE BIRMINGHAM BEETHOVEN CYCLE

Symphonies 4 & 5 featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor) & Carolyn Sampson (soprano), Wed 9 - Thurs 10 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HERMES ENSEMBLE

The Belgium-based ensemble present a programme of works by Kaija Saariaho, Michael Zev Gordon, Toshio Hosokawa & Wim Hendercock, Fri 11 Jan, Barber Concert Hall, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: A BOY WAS BORN

The opening concert of the Britten Anniversary in Birmingham, Sat 12 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

DANTE QUARTET

Programme includes works by Haydn, Debussy & Kodaly, Sat 12 Jan, Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury

ORIFLAMME ENSEMBLE

Featuring Anton Rosenfeld (horn), Danielle Mason (saxophone) & Antoine Mitchell (conductor). Programme includes works by Verdi, Chabrier, Debussy & Saint Saens, Sat 12 Jan, St Mary's Church, Warwick (Leamington Music)

RIISING STARS: DANIELA KOCH (FLUTE) & OLIVER TRIENDL (PIANO) Sun 13

Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

BRITTEN SINFONIA FEATURING ANGELA HEWITT Sun 13 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

HEATH STRING QUARTET Featuring Oliver Heath & Cerys Jones (violins), Gary Pomeroy (viola) & Christopher Murray (cello). Programme includes works by Mozart, Tippett & Beethoven, Sun 13 Jan, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick (Leamington Music)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by CHH Parry, JS Bach, Mascagni, Dukas & Bonnet, Mon 14 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE SCHUBERT ENSEMBLE Programme comprises Enescu Piano Quintet Op.29, Tues 15 Jan, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

PETER DONOHOE: OPUS ONES Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Bartok, Schumann, Berg & Brahms, Wed 16 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

WINTER WORDS FROM IAN BOSTRIDGE Celebrating the Britten Anniversary in Birmingham. Programme includes works by Schubert, Ives & Britten, Wed 16 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE VIOLA ENSEMBLE Programme includes works by JS Bach, Garth Knox, Benjamin Dale, Grieg & Gordon Jacobs, Thurs 17 Jan, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

TIPPETT QUARTET Featuring John Mills & Jeremy Isaac (violin), Julia O'Riordan (viola) & Bodizar Vukotic (cello), Fri 18 Jan, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CHEHAM'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC Programme includes works by Elgar, Prokofiev & Arutunian, Fri 18 Jan, Barber Concert Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: A SPRING SYMPHONY Featuring Edward Gardener (conductor), Susan Gritton (soprano), Allan Clayton (tenor), Kelly O'Connor (alto), CBSO Chorus, CBSO Youth Chorus & CBSO Children's Choir. Programme includes works by Bridge, Elgar & Britten, Sat 19 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LEAMINGTON SINFONIA Featuring Simon Ballard (piano) & Jenny

Barrie (conductor). Programme includes works by Saint Saens & Tchaikovsky, Sat 19 Jan, Kingsley School, Leamington Spa

CINDERELLA: OPERA WARWICK Opera Warwick present their ground-breaking production which brings Rossini's masterpiece La Cenerentola to the vibrant setting of twenty first-century Essex, Mon 21 - Wed 23 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

FRETWORK WITH ELIZABETH KENNY (LUTE) Featuring Asako Morikawa, Reiko Ichise, Liam Byrne, Richard Tunnicliffe & Richard Boothby (viols), Tues 22 Jan, St Mary's Church, Warwick (Leamington Music)

MARK LOCKETT PIANO RECITAL Tues 22 Jan, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

THE PRIMROSE PIANO QUARTET Programme comprises Brahms Piano Quartet in A major, Op.26, Tues 22 Jan, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: NELSON CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY Featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor) & Simon TrpÅeski (piano). Programme includes works by Strauss, Chopin & Tchaikovsky, Wed 23 & Thurs 24 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PAUL LEWIS SCHUBERT PIANO RECITAL This performance forms part of Malvern's Concert Club season, Thurs 24 Jan, Malvern Theatres

CAMERATA Featuring conductors Daniel Galbreath & Ed Harrison. Programme includes works by Bruckner, Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Stanford, Durufle, Gibbons, Greene & Holst, Thurs 24 Jan, St Alban The Martyr, Highgate, Birmingham

EUROPEAN UNION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Featuring Tasmin Little (violin) & Katrin Finch (harp). Programme includes works by Grieg, Mozart, Elgar, Gorecki & Haydn, Fri 25 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE BAROQUE ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Bach, Vivaldi, Purcell, Corelli & Rameau, Fri 25 Jan, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

TRIO PETRUS Featuring Peter Fisher (violin), Peter Adams (cello) & Peter Hewitt (piano). Programme includes works by Haydn & Mendelssohn, Fri 25 Jan, Barber Concert Hall, Birmingham

CARDUCCI STRING QUARTET Featuring Matthew Denton & Michelle

Fleming (violins), Eoin Schmidt-Martin (viola) & Emma Denton (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, Britten & Debussy, Fri 25 Jan, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

ELEANOR PERCY & IRINA LYAKHOVSKAYA This acclaimed duo have been performing recitals together for twelve years. Their discography includes sonatas by Brahms, Prokofiev and the complete Mozart sonatas for the Melodiya Label, Sun 27 Jan, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THOMAS TROTTER WITH BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE CHAMBER CHOIR A Britten-inspired programme directed by Paul Spicer, Mon 28 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

BELCEA QUARTET A concert which forms part of the Britten Anniversary in Birmingham celebrations, Mon 28 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

THE BANTOCK STRING QUARTET Programme comprises Bantock's In A Chinese Mirror & Beethoven's String Quartet Op. 18 No.4, Tues 29 Jan, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

BELCEA QUARTET The second of three Birmingham concerts from the Belcea Quartet. Programme features

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WARWICK ARTS CENTRE
02476 524524

works by Shostakovich & Beethoven, Tues 29 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

THE LABEQUE SISTERS PLAY POULENC Concert featuring 'some of the most delightful music ever written for two pianos & orchestras'. Programme includes works by Poulenc & Mozart, Wed 30 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ALINA IBRAGIMOVA (VIOLIN) & CEDRIC TIBERGHLEN (PIANO) Programme includes works by Schubert, Wed 30 Jan, Barber Concert Hall, Birmingham

gramme includes works by Schubert, Wed 30 Jan, Barber Concert Hall, Birmingham

BEYOND CLASSICAL: TANTRUMS & TIARAS Featuring sopranos Sophie Pullen & Louise Martin with Jon French on piano, Thurs 31 Jan, Symphony Hall Cafe Bar, Birmingham

MANCHESTER CAMERATA: THE FOUR SEASONS Thurs 31 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse

A Boy Was Born - Ex Cathedra perform a programme of choral music by Britten
12 January 2013, Town Hall

A Spring Symphony - performed by the CBSO, Choruses and conductor Edward Gardner
17 & 19 January 2013, Symphony Hall

Steven Osborne plays Britten's Piano Concerto
6 February 2013, Symphony Hall

For full details and information on more events taking place in Birmingham throughout the year, visit www.birminghambritten.co.uk

Tickets: 0121 345 0602

Part of **Britten 100** www.britten100.org

Partners: Birmingham City Council, Arts Council ENGLAND, Join the conversation #bhambritten

Comedy

Rudi Lickwood

Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham,
Fri 18 - Sat 19 January

Nobody's safe from becoming a target of Rudi Lickwood's fast-paced humour, least of all his wife, who, he claims, has emasculated him, and whose snoring and menstruating he hates. His kids don't escape unscathed either - but then if they were better at art and playing the recorder, they wouldn't give dad quite so much material to work with. Lickwood started out as an Eddie Murphy impersonator back in the late-1980s before turning his considerable comic talent to the business of stand-up. He's since forged a reputation for himself as a slick live performer who'll get his audience roaring with laughter rather than quietly chuckling away to themselves. Critics claim he fast-tracks to big laughs, way too often utilising tried, tested and predictable subject matter rather than more cutting-edge material. That said, if you're going to judge a comedian by the level of audience laughter during a gig, Lickwood's definitely got this stand-up business well and truly, er, licked.



Milton Jones

Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 31
January; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 2
- Sun 3 March; New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, Sat 16 March

With a style of humour that's mainly based around puns and one-liners, Milton Jones has established himself as one of Britain's most in-demand funny men. Not only a comedian but also a writer and actor, his stand-up bears testimony to his cutting-edge wit, not to mention his taste for the surreal and the nonsensical.



Pete Firman

The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Sat 26 January; Solihull Arts
Complex, Fri 1 February; Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 15
February; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 5 April

Pete Firman's been described as 'funnier than most comedians and more magical than Dumbledore on a good day' - which, as reviews go, isn't a bad one. Combining comedy and magic to excellent effect, this Middlesbrough-born funnyman looks to have a bright future ahead of him. TV appearances include Saturday Live Again!, For One Night Only, Dirty Tricks, Deren Brown's 3D Magic Spectacular and The Secret World Of Magic.

Russell Kane

Artrix, Bromsgrove,
Wed 30 January

This man's official public-ity blurb says it all: "Love. Race. Politics. Class. Strap in for some super-speed sunderings and inconvenient sociology in an hour of self-soiling merriment that will leave you with rickets." In short, Russell Kane is a very funny man - and it's not just his publicist who thinks so. Kane's been drawing a crowd since bursting onto the scene back in 2004, serving up liberal doses of humour in an act which features some considerably weighty and thought-provoking material. Jokes include, "What's the most evil snack imaginable for a vegetarian? Philosophically speaking, it's a Scotch egg, because it's got death on the outside and potential for life within."



Comedy Box Office

ALEXANDRA THEATRE,
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DUDLEY CONCERT HALL
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REDDITCH
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BROMWICH
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WORCESTER
01905 28190
RICOH ARENA, COVENTRY
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KIDDERMINSTER
01562 743745
ROYAL SPA CENTRE,
LEAMINGTON SPA
01926 334418
STAFFORD GATEHOUSE
THEATRE
01785 254653
SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX
0121 704 6962
THE SLADE ROOMS,
WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000
THE GEORGE HOTEL,
BURSLEM, STAFFS
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TAMWORTH ASSEMBLY
ROOMS
01827 709618
THEATRE SEVERN,
SHREWSBURY
01743 281281
VICTORIA HALL, HANLEY,
STOKE-ON-TRENT
0844 871 7649
WARWICK ARTS CENTRE
02476 524524
WEST BROMWICH TOWN
HALL
0121 596 4429
WULFRUN HALL,
WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000

Comedy LISTINGS

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



Paul Tonkinson

MARTIN MOR, ROGER MONKHOUSE, HARRIET DYER & CRAIG MURRAY
Thurs 3 Jan, The George Hotel, Lichfield
DAVE JOHNS, WINDSOR, ANDREW BIRD & DANA ALEXANDER

Fri 4 - Sat 5 Jan, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
BRENDON BURNS, JASON COOK MICKEY SHARMA & PAUL F TAYLOR
Sat 5 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DANNY BUCKLER, BARRY CASTAGNOLA, KANE BROWN & COMIC TBC
Sat 5 Jan, Jongleurs, Birmingham
MAUREEN YOUNGER, ANNETTE FAGON & COMICS TBC
Wed 9 Jan, The Kitchen Garden, Birmingham
TIM CLARK, ADAM BLOOM, GORDON SOUTHERN & JOHN FOTHERGILL
Fri 11 - Sat 12 Jan, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
MANDY KNIGHT, COLE PARKER, PAUL PIRIE & CURTIS WALKER
Fri 11 & Sat 12 Jan, Jongleurs, Birmingham
PAUL TONKINSON, MATT PRICE, TOBIAS PERSSON & SOL BERNSTEIN
Fri 11 & Sat 12 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham
KEN DODD
Sat 12 Jan, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock
RUDI LICKWOOD, STEVE CRIBBIN, PAUL SINHA & CARL HUTCHINSON
Fri 18 & Sat 19 Jan, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
KEVIN DEWSBURY, BRENDAN DEMPSEY, GARY LITTLE & COMIC TBC
Fri 18 & Sat 19 Jan, Jongleurs, Birmingham
JUNIOR SIMPSON, GARY DELANEY, CLINT EDWARDS & DANIEL SLOSS
Fri 18 & Sat 19 Jan, The Glee Club,

Birmingham
COMEDY AT THE MET
Sat 19 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
ANDY ROBINSON, CAREY MARX & COMICS TBC
Thurs 24 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham
BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT Line-up tbc, Fri 25 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
JO CAULFIELD Fri 25 Jan, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
ANDY ROBINSON, CAREY MARX, TIFFANY STEVENSON & COMIC TBC
Fri 25 - Sat 26 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham
RICH WILSON, PRINCE ABDI, SUSAN MURRAY &

DAVID HADINGHAM
Fri 25 & Sat 26 Jan, Jongleurs, Birmingham
BENNETT ARRON, ROGER MONKHOUSE, ANGIE MCEVOY & JASON PATTERSON
Fri 25 - Sat 26 Jan, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
JAMES ACASTER: PROMPT Sat 26 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
PETE FIRMAN: HOOD-WINKER Sat 26 Jan, The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire
SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?
Comedy's answer to the X-Factor and Britain's Got Talent

which sees fifteen comedians battle it out... Sun 27 Jan, Drummonds Bar, Worcester
RUSSELL KANE
Wed 30 Jan, Artrix, Bromsgrove
JOE LYCETT, MICHAEL FABBRI, TOM DEACON & AVA VIDAL
Wed 30 Jan, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
MILTON JONES: ON THE ROAD Thurs 31 Jan, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
ADAM BLOOM, MICHAEL FABBRI & ANDREW RYAN
Thurs 31 Jan, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Jo Caulfield
BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW
Friday 25 January, 7.30pm
£14 Full Price / £12 Concs
Box Office 01584 878141
www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk

THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS

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PO BOX 4538
LONDON
SW19 8XU

HEREFORD COURTYARD THEATRE
WED 23 JAN 2013
01432 340555 courtyard.org.uk

STOKE VICTORIA HALL
THRS 24 JAN 2013
0844 871 7649 ambassadortickets.com/Victoria-Hall

WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC THEATRE
25 FRI JAN 2013
0870 320 7000 wolvescivic.co.uk

STAFFORD GATEHOUSE THEATRE
WED 30 JAN 2013
01785 254653 staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
WED 13 FEB 2013
0845 127 2190 buxtonoperahouse.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT HALL
THRS 14 FEB 2013
0115 989 5555 trch.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM ALEXANDRA THEATRE
MON 18 FEB 2013
0844 871 3011 alexandratheatre.org.uk

LEICESTER DE MONTFORT HALL
TUES 19 FEB 2013
0116 233 3111 demonforhall.co.uk

TELFORD OAKENGATES THEATRE @ THE PLACE
WED 6 MARCH 2013
01952 382382 theclaceltelford.com

BLOODY MARVELOUS! FESTIVAL REVIEW ★★★★★
FREAKY, FUNNY, SHOCKING & SEXY! BIZARRE ★★★★★
BLOODY GOOD FUN! TIME OUT ★★★★★

CIRCUSOFHORRORS.CO.UK
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Venues with a symbol also sell tickets via **ticketmaster**
0844 499 3666 ticketmaster.co.uk

WARNING: THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS CONTAINS SOME NUDITY AND LANGUAGE OF AN ADULT NATURE, IT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN, SISSIES OR CHAVS. THIS SHOW CONTAINS NUTS! THE DANGEROUS NATURE OF OUR PERFORMANCES MEANS INDIVIDUAL ACTS MAY SOMETIMES CHANGE



Tickets: £14 - £37.50

UNTIL SUN 27 JAN '13

ROBINSON CRUSOE
CARIBBEAN PIRATES
The Swashbuckling Pantomime!

★★★★★

There aren't any weak links, a cracker of a show!

KATHRYN ROONEY as Polly

BRIAN CONLEY as Robinson Crusoe

★★★★★

The lavish sets and costumes are out of this world!

LESLEY JOSEPH as The Fairytale of the Ocean

ANDREW RYAN as Mr. Cruise

FRI 1 & SAT 2 FEB

Les Ballets
Trockadero
de Monte Carlo

£15 - £35.50

TUE 5 - SAT 9 FEB

Matthew Bourne's
SLEEPING BEAUTY
A GOTHIC ROMANCE

£16 - £29.50

FRI 15 - SAT 23 FEB

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

"ELABORATE AND SPLENDID"
THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

Aladdin

£15 - £42

TUE 26 FEB - SAT 2 MAR

THE FULL MONTY
A PLAY BY SIMON BEAUFY

£15 - £22.50

TUE 5 - SAT 9 MAR

WNO Welsh National Opera

Lulu ALBAN BERG
Madam Butterfly GIACOMO PUCCINI
The Cunning Little Vixen LEOS JANACEK

£10 - £40

WED 13 MAR - SAT 4 MAY

CAROLAN MACKINTOSH'S
SPECTACULAR NEW PRODUCTION
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

★★★★★
STUNNING, INTENSE & SPECTACULAR
HUNDRED EXPRESS

£22 - £50

TUE 7 & WED 8 MAY

DANCE CONSORTIUM presents

SUTRA
A Sadler's Wells Production

£10 - £25

TUE 14 - SAT 18 MAY

HIGH SOCIETY

£14 - £34

TUE 21 MAY - SAT 1 JUN

'THE MOST HAPPY, FUNNY, SUNNY, SHOW IN TOWN!'
GODALMIN
'THE MUSICAL WITH EVERYTHING A TRIUMPH!'
OBSERVER

hairspray

£19.50 - £45

Theatre



Rhydian Roberts who'll be playing Rocky

The Rocky Horror Show

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 28 January - Sat 2 February; Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 20 - Sat 25 May

Hook up your fishnets, tighten your corsets and prepare to Do The Time Warp Again - The Rocky Horror Show's returning to the Midlands! Richard O'Brien's cult production is back on the road, celebrating its fortieth anniversary and starring Ben Forster, Roxanne Pallett and Oliver Thornton alongside X Factor favourite Rhydian Roberts. Originally opening in 1973 at the Royal Court, it tells the tale of the

straight-laced Brad and the deliciously corruptible Janet, who arrive at the castle of the alien transvestite Frank N Furter and witness the birth of the monster, Rocky. In the meantime they take the audience through a selection of love-them-or-loathe-them musical numbers, such as Sweet Transvestite, Damn It Janet and The Time Warp.

Read the interview with Rhydian on page 10



The Ladykillers

The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 28 January - Sat 2 February

This classic black comedy may be best known as a 1950s Ealing film, but its stage adaptation has nonetheless garnered plenty of praise too, enjoying a sell-out season in the London West End. For those unfamiliar with the legendary Alec Guinness film, it tells the story of a sweet old lady, alone in her house, who finds herself pitted against a gang of criminal misfits intent on pulling off a brilliantly conceived heist. The Play What I Wrote director Sean Foley is the man at the helm, while Clive Mantle, Chris McCalphy, William Troughton, Cliff Parisi, Paul Brown and Michelle Dotrice star.

National Theatre Live: The Magistrate

Artrix, Bromsgrove; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry; Malvern Theatre; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire; Thurs 17 January

This is the latest in the National Theatre Live series, which sees popular London stage productions being screened cinema-style at arts venues across the Midlands. American movie actor John Lithgow takes the title role in a show that's been described as 'fast, furious and brilliantly plotted'. Set in London during the Victorian era, it tells the story of young Cis Farrington, a smoker, gambler, drinker and womaniser who's five years older than he imagines and who's mother has married an amiable police magistrate named Posket. But when high-spirited carousing leads to a police raid and a night of outrageous mishap, Cis's life of excess and debauchery looks set to take an unexpected turn for the worse...



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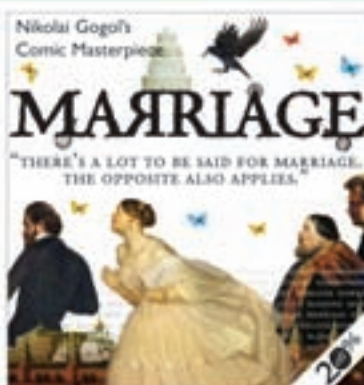
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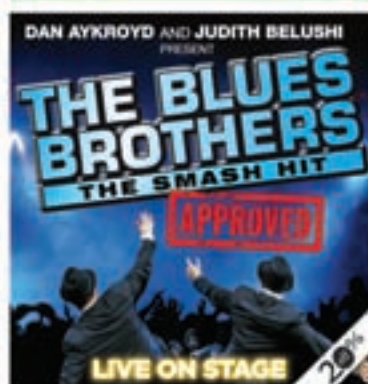
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28 May - 1 June From £15.75



11 - 15 June Kids From £9.75



30 Aug - 14 Sept From £17.75



28 Sept - 19 Oct From £16.25

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

BOOK NOW 024 7655 3055 www.belgrade.co.uk

In A Pickle

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Tues 15 - Sat 19 January

By transforming everyday environments into colourful, tactile 'wonderlands', Oily Cart take their audiences on a journey into the world of the imagination. Hydrotherapy pools and trampolines, aromatherapy, video projection and puppetry all feature in their work, with this particular project seeing them inviting their young audiences on a voyage of discovery through the landscapes of Shakespeare's imagination.



Strictly Come Dancing Live!

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham,
Fri 18 - Sun 20 January

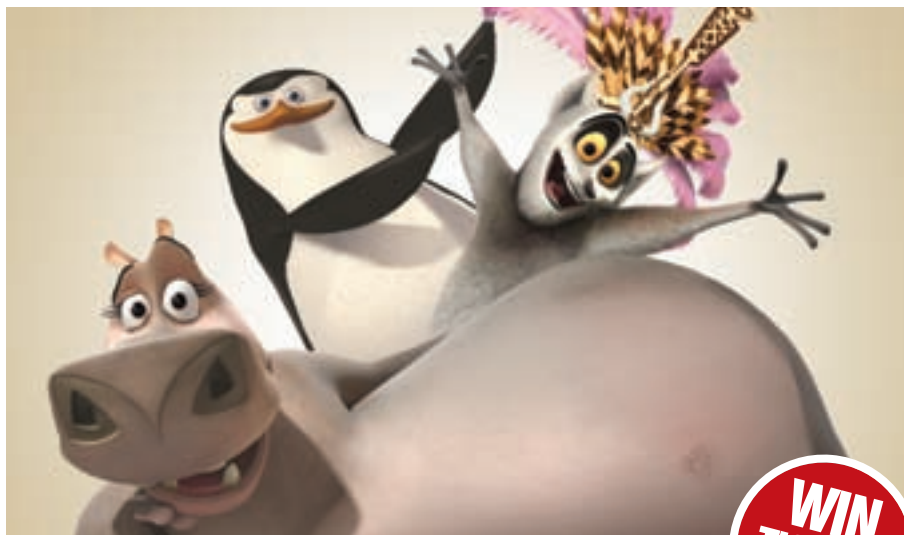
England cricketers Phil Tufnell and Michael Vaughan are this month playing their part in ensuring audiences are 'bowled over' by the latest live version of hit BBC1 celebrity talent series Strictly Come Dancing. Vaughan and 'Tuffers' are joined on the road and the dancefloor by West End favourite Denise Van Outen, Tracey Beaker star Dani Harmer, popular telly presenter Fern Britton, actress Lisa Riley and GB Olympian Louis Smith. A now-annual show, this sure-to-be-glitzy live version offers fans of the TV series a chance to get more 'up close and personal' with their heroes, including the always-value-for-money judges Craig Revel Horwood, Len Goodman and Bruno Tonioli. One-time X Factor presenter Kate Thornton presides over proceedings.



She Stoops To Conquer

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Sat 19 January

Irish playwright Oliver Goldsmith's comedy was first performed in 1773, and focuses on the character of wealthy countryman Mr Hardcastle and his attempts to ensure that his daughter Kate marries man-of-substance Charles Marlow. But Marlow is uneasy with upper-class women, so Kate decides that she must 'stoop to conquer', and instead present herself as the kind of lower-class woman around whom her intended feels far more comfortable. It goes without saying that not everything runs entirely according to plan...



Madagascar Live!

LG Arena, Birmingham, Fri 18 - Sun 20 January

The smell of the greasepaint and roar of the crowd has tempted the furry cast of Madagascar the movie to forsake New York's Central Park Zoo in favour of treading the boards on a brand new UK tour. The blockbuster DreamWorks film comes to life in Birmingham when Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe and Gloria the Hippo hit the road and start the new year off in style with a great big jungle roar. Imaginative sets and costumes are both present and correct - as are a number of brand new songs - in a show that the producers are confident will send your kids positively wild (which is a good thing... we think!).



Alice's Adventures in www.land

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham,
Wed 9 - Sat 12 January

The White Rabbit hops from tweet to tweet, the Cheshire Cat does a live stream, the Caterpillar's got a blog, and there's even a Tea Party chatroom in this bright and original new version of Alice In Wonderland. Devised and created by Stage2 members using the structure of the original book, the show recounts the story of fifteen-year-old Alice from Birmingham, as she uses social networking and internet searches to immerse herself in the adventures of Lewis Carroll's legendary heroine.

Twelfth Night

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 31 January - Sat 9 February

As with many Shakespearean comedies, Twelfth Night is based on a case of mistaken identity, with Viola disguising herself as a boy and causing all manner of awkward romantic shenanigans. However, the play's continuing popularity can mainly be attributed to its hilarious (well, by Shakespeare's standards anyway) comic sub-plot, in which the merciless Sir Toby Belch and his foolish companion Sir Andrew Aguecheek seek to humiliate the pompous Malvolio, and achieve their aim with more than a little style...



Elsie And Norm's Macbeth

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
Thurs 24 - Sat 26 January

John Christopher Wood's engaging and funny play offers audiences the chance to enjoy a helping or two of Shakespeare with a very big twist indeed. Set in the living room of the Trivial Pursuit-playing Elsie and Norm, it centres around the couple's attempts to bring a bit of culture into their lives via the staging of their very own version of Macbeth. They're assisted in their efforts by a large toy panda in a kilt, who's given the job of playing Banquo, and by Norm's willingness to rewrite a line or two of Shakespeare's script, just to make it that little bit punchier!



Animal Farm

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Wed 30 January

A bale of hay, a range of sound effects and his own exceptional physical and vocal dexterity are all that the talented Guy Masterson deploys to present this one-man version of George Orwell's legendary yarn. Masterson first performed his solo homage to the twentieth century classic way back in 1995, and is here bringing the show out on what he claims will be its final UK tour. At turns poignant and humorous, the production is now the most frequently performed solo show in the world, and is suitable for audience members of all ages.

THE ROCK N ROLL MUSICAL
RICHARD O'BRIEN'S
ROCKY HORROR Show
ALL NEW 45TH ANNIVERSARY
Party PRODUCTION
MON 28 JAN - SAT 2 FEB

THE SENSATIONAL
60's EXPERIENCE
STARRING
THE TREMELOES,
HERMAN'S HERMITS,
THE UNION GAP UK,
& THE IVY LEAGUE
THU 28 FEB

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
60
MON 4 - SAT 9 FEB

★★★★
'YESTERYEAR
ENGLAND AT IT'S BEST'
THE TELEGRAPH
MAURICE'S JUBILEE
TUE 5 - SAT 9 MAR

THE
Circus of Horrors
CURSE OF
THE DEVIL DOLL
MON 18 FEB

'THE BEST FEEL-GOOD SHOW
SINCE MAMMA MIA!'
Lambie Express
STARRING JASON DONOVAN
PRISCILLA
QUEEN OF THE DESERT
MON 18 - SAT 30 MAR

YAMATO
DRUMMERS
OF JAPAN
FRI 22 FEB

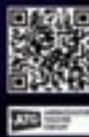
GOODNIGHT
MISTER
TOM
TUE 9 - SAT 13 APR

HARRY HILL
SAUSAGE TIME
TUE 26 & WED 27 FEB

Presenting the Best of
Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons
THE JERSEY NIGHTS
MON 15 - WED 17 APR

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60TH ANNIVERSARY
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MON 18 - SAT 23 FEB



THE CLASSIC STORY ON STAGE
FIRST EVER NATIONAL TOUR
DIRTY DANCING
TUE 12 - SAT 30 MAR



ALL NEW SHOW
**DERREN BROWN
LIVE 2013**
MON 1 - SAT 6 APR



ROYAL SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY PRESENTS
**THE WINTER'S
TALE**
TUE 16 - SAT 20 APR



FEATURING THE CLASSIC 60S
HITS OF POMUS & SHUMAN
**SAVE THE LAST
DANCE FOR ME**
MON 22 - SAT 27 APR



'GRITTY, GRIPPING, SUPERB.
IT'S A MUST' MAIL ON SUNDAY
**BLOOD
BROTHERS**
TUE 7 - SAT 11 MAY



FEATURING OVER 20
DANCEFLOOR CLASSICS
**PRISCILLA
QUEEN OF THE DESERT**
MON 10 - SAT 15 JUN



ATG TICKETS
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**REGENT THEATRE
STOKE-ON-TRENT**
www.atgtickets.com/stoke (fees apply)

The Wind In The Willows

Birmingham Botanical Gardens,
Sat 5 January

Kenneth Grahame's famous children's book tells a classic story of how one life can command the full attention of three others. Mole, Badger and Ratty simply don't have time for any of their own interests - they're way too busy having to look after their reckless and irrepressible friend, Toad... Gloucester-based professional theatre company Rain Or Shine is the ensemble behind this new version of one of the twentieth century's most legendary and delightful yarns, presenting an adaptation which they describe as being 'suitable for everyone aged six to one hundred-and-six'.

Circus Of Horrors: Curse Of The Devil Doll

Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs
24 January; Civic Hall, Wolverhampton,
Fri 25 January; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
Wed 30 January

An off-kilter affair that bears more resemblance to a freak show than any modern definition of a circus, the Circus of Horrors is a side-step into a world beyond political correctness and taste. It brings together all the more extreme acts associated with circus and takes them to the edge of reason. There's no denying the skill of those participating, or indeed the ensemble's sheer 'wow' factor.



The Orphan Of Zhao

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Thurs 28 March

Often referred to as the Chinese Hamlet, The Orphan Of Zhao was adapted by Voltaire and was the first Chinese play to be translated in the West, its origins tracing back to the fourth century BC. It centres on a young orphan's voyage of discovery as, in the aftermath of a violent coup, he discovers the shattering truth behind his childhood. RSC Chief Associate Director Gregory Doran here directs a new adaptation by James Fenton.

ARENA THEATRE

Wulfruna Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1SE
Box Office
01902 321 321

Tuesday 22nd Jan, 7.30pm

THE HALF

A 50 year old actor, down on his luck, attempts to reverse his fortunes by doing a one man show. Nothing new there, except that he's chosen to perform Shakespeare's Hamlet, uncut, which lasts four and a half hours! He's sold his car and his father's gold watch to pay for it all and his wife has left him. It's his opening night - will he make it to the stage or will he self-destruct?



Tickets: £9 full price and £7 concs.

Friday 25 Jan, 8pm

BOX OF FROGS

Box of Frogs, Birmingham's premiere Improv company, create hioctane comedy nonsense from audience suggestions. Unrehearsed, and improvised entirely live. Expect to laugh, expect to be amazed - but most of all expect the unexpected.



Tickets: £5

Tues 29th Jan, 7.30pm
Wed 30th Jan, 1.30pm & 7.30pm

JANE EYRE



Hull Truck Theatre brings to life the classic story of love, loss and redemption in a new adaptation of one of the great gothic novels.

From a harsh childhood controlled by unfeeling adults, Jane Eyre has to rely on her own courage and convictions to make her way in the world. Employed as a governess, she travels across the bleak Yorkshire moors to the mysterious Thornfield Hall - a house of locked doors with a dangerous secret.

Tickets: £10 full price and £8 concs.
Matinee £5

For full details of our Spring Season please visit our website: www.arena.wlv.ac.uk

Theatre
THE OLD JOINT STOCK
BIRMINGHAM'S PREMIER PUB THEATRE

Every Tuesday starting the 8th Jan for 3 weeks, 6pm to 10pm
NTI WINTER CYCLE

In these Workshops we will explore the effect of Alienation in Brecht and how using Meisner helps Actors fire the lines of a play. From out of all this we will create a play for and about Birmingham.

£12 each course, £50 All

Saturday 12th Jan. 3pm & 8pm
THE WIT & SONGS OF NOEL COWARD

Pianist and entertainer, Peter Gill presents a tribute to the wit and song-writing skill of that most English of Englishmen, Noel Coward, who said of himself "I am an enormously talented man and there is no point in denying it."

£12 / £10

Sat 19th Jan, 2.30pm & 7.30pm
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

AlterEgo Theatre Company present their fantastically funny and ferociously physical comedy of manners, misunderstandings and mistaken identity. "***** A stunning production all round" - Broadwaybaby.com

£10 / £8

Wed 30th Jan, 8.00pm
DEATH OF A BEAUTY SALESWOMAN

The fantastic one-woman comedy by Debbie Tracey returns! Beauty knows no pain- she's a pain who knows no beauty. Welcome to the extreme, ridiculous and downright hilarious world of Jacqueline Jones, Tropic Beauty International saleswoman extraordinaire...

£10 / £8

Thurs 31st Jan, 8.00pm
FOGHORN IMPROV - RIGHT UP YOUR STREET

What does it take to create a successful soap? Dozens of writers? Months of planning? Millions of pounds? Not if you're Foghorn Improv! In this show we will create a gripping improvised soap opera from start to finish, using nothing but audience suggestions and our own imaginations.

£7.50

Tel: 0121 200 0946 & 0845 680 1926

email:oldjointstocktheatre@fullers.co.uk
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk
or on-line at: www.oxboffice.com

ENTERTAINMENT
CANNOCK CHASE
at the Prince Of Wales, Centre

JANUARY

Sat 12th January 7.30pm

KEN DODD

The professor of Giggology and the master of applied Tickleology at Knotty Ash University promises non-stop laughter until the weesmall hours.



Wed 23rd to Sat 26th January, 7.30pm

Wed 23rd 6.30pm. Sat Mat 2.30pm

SLEEPING BEAUTY

This traditional pantomime has all the necessary ingredients for an outstanding and spectacular production of this enduring fairy story.



FEBRUARY

Sun 24th February 7.30pm

DEREK ACORAH

A new tour for 2013 starring one of the most respected Spiritualist Mediums of a generation.

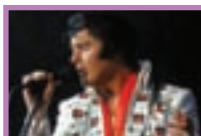


MARCH

Sat 2nd March, 7.30pm

A VISION OF ELVIS

Rob Kingsley brings you a full evening of all the classic hits, from the Early Years through to the sensational "Vegas" era.



Thurs 14th March, 7.30pm

DANIEL O'DONNELL TRIBUTE

UK's only tribute to the man. Daniel O'Connell



Fri 22nd & Sat 23rd March, 7.30pm

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Fri 29th March, 7.30pm

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The Billy Fury Years is quite simply 'The Ultimate Billy Fury show to ever hit the stage'.



Sat 30th March, 7.30pm

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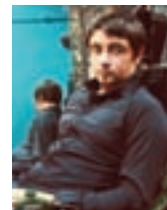
Stafford
Gatehouse
Theatre

DAMIEN O'KANE
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

CALL FOR YOUR BROCHURE TODAY

Fri 18 Jan

An evening of music with a truly exciting and creative musician and singer. Damien's banjo playing has led him to being regarded as one of the finest Irish players on the scene today and he is winning accolades as a singer, focusing on songs from his native Northern Ireland.

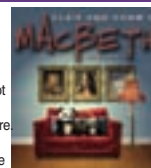


8.00pm, £12.00

ELSIE AND NORM'S MACBETH
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Thurs 24 to Sat 26 Jan

A comedy about culture! Elsie and Norm's home is not just a three-bedroom semi detached, it is a seat of culture. The neighbours have been invited round to share in Elsie and Norm's newly discovered acting talents.



7.30pm, £10 / £8 concs

CIRCUS OF HORRORS
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Thurs 30 Jan

Circus of Horrors, who stormed into the finals of Britain's Got Talent, return with a new show packed with new shocks that will take you on a whirlwind journey like a bat out of hell! The show will send a shiver down your spine and have you sitting on the edge of the seat when not falling off them with laughter



8.00pm, £20.50, £17.50 concs

THE FOUR SEASONS
MANCHESTER CAMERATA

Thurs 31 Jan

Camerata's exuberant leader Giovanni Guzzo takes centre stage as soloist and director in this stunning concert of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Followed by Piazzolla's The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires.



7.30pm, £15, £13 concs

FLOSSIE
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Fri 15 Feb

Acknowledged by Radio 2 as an upcoming talent, Flossie Malaviale showcases songs from her collection of nine albums, from well established folk songs to jazz standards, blues numbers to Edith Piaf and Jacques Brel's classics.

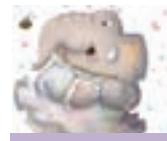


7.30pm, £12, £11 concs

THE ELEPHANT BRIDESMAID
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Thurs 21 Feb

A magical musical about weddings and wombats and the loveliest elephant in the world! Join Nessie the Elephant and her friends as they search for an outfit fancy enough (and large enough) to make her the Australian jungle's most beautiful Elephant Bridesmaid



2.30pm, £8, Family £30

BOOK ONLINE

Box Office 01785 254653
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Bedroom Farce

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 30 January - Sat 2 February

Alan Ayckbourn's ingenious comedy features four couples, three bedrooms, two celebrations, one blazing row and an illicit kiss (or two)! Trevor and Susannah's dramatically dysfunctional relationship is a comical whirlwind, not only sweeping up everybody in its path but also sparking a host of other relationship debacles during the course of one hugely fraught and incident-packed evening.

This latest Lichfield Players production follows on from the company's 2011 success with Ayckbourn's equally well-regarded Season's Greetings.



Jane Eyre

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 29 - Wed 30 January

Hull Truck Theatre are the ensemble behind this latest stage version of Charlotte Brontë's classic novel. For those not up to speed with the story, it follows the orphaned Jane as she's sent by her cruel Aunt Reed to the bleak Lowood School. On securing a position as governess at Thornfield Hall, Jane finds herself falling for the charms of enigmatic master Edward Rochester, unaware that the new object of her affection harbours a dark and terrible secret...



Birdsong

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 29 January - Sat 2 February

Sebastian Faulks' bestselling novel is set both before and during the Great War, and follows the fortunes of the young Stephen Wraysford as he embarks on a passionate and dangerous affair with the beautiful Isabelle Azaire. The stage version garnered plenty of praise when it premiered in the West End in 2010, not least after a screening on BBC1 brought it to wider public attention. This new production features Hollyoaks actress Sarah Jayne Dunn as Isabelle and Jonathan Smith as Stephen.

Blue Orange Arts presents
William Shakespeare's
Twelfth Night
 1st January - 9th February
 The Blue Orange Theatre
 Box Office 0121 212 2643
 www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk
 100 Great Hampton Street, Birmingham, B15 6AD

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 12 February - 2 March

Heather Gardner
 A version of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* by Robin French
 14 - 28 March

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THE ROSES

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What's On January/February



Beasts Of The Southern Wild (12A)
Tues 15 & Wed 16 Jan



NT Live: The Magistrate
Thurs 17 Jan 7pm



Life Of Pi (PG)
Sun 3 - Tues 12 Feb



Michaela Strachan's Really Wild Adventures
Fri 15 Feb 3.30pm



Jane Eyre
Tues 19 Feb 7.30pm



Craig Ogden
Fri 22 Feb 7.30pm



Inspector Norse
Wed 27 Feb 7.30pm



The Lock In
Thurs 28 Feb 7.30pm



Box Office: 01684 295074
www.rosestheatre.org
Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 5NX

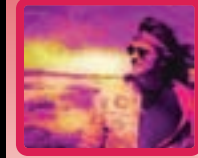
BROMSGROVE'S THEATRE, CINEMA, LIVE MUSIC AND COMEDY VENUE

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

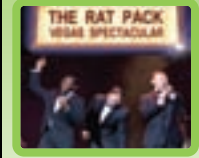
Fri 11th January
THINK FLOYD
THE DEFINITIVE PINK
FLOYD EXPERIENCE



Sat 12th January
PURPLE ZEPPELIN
WHEN GIANTS FINALLY
COME TOGETHER



Sun 13th January
**RAT PACK VEGAS
SPECTACULAR**
THE PURVEYORS OF COOL
SWING INTO BROMSGROVE



Thurs 17th January
**THE MAGISTRATE
- NT LIVE**
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Tues 29th January
FOCUS
CLASSIC ROCK DUTCH-STYLE
WITH THIJS VAN LEER



Thurs 31st January
COLIN BLUNSTONE
ICONIC SINGER FROM
THE ZOMBIES



FORTHCOMING CINEMA: Nativity 2 (U) // Great Expectations (12A)
Rust & Bone (15) // Beast Of The Southern Wild (12A) // Sightseers (15)
Private Peaceful (12A) // The Hobbit (12A) // Amour (12A)



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Feb 1 **Pete Firman, TV magician**

Feb 2 **The Twist (Great Songs Never Die)**

Feb 12 **Mark Thomas - Bravo Figaro Tour**

Feb 14 **Julian Smith - Valentine Saxophone**

Feb 20 **Farm Boy - Family drama, sequel to
Michael Morpurgo's War Horse**

Feb 22 **The Elephant Bridesmaid**

Mar 13 **Cantabile, Funny Side of the Street**

Mar 14 **Indian Takeaway with TV's funnyman-
turned cook - Hardeep Singh Kohli**

Apr 6 **MORE TAPE Boy with Tape on his face**

Apr 9 **Comedy Club 4 Kids - hugely funny**

Apr 17 **Mike Harding's Folk and Comedy**

Apr 25 **Dominic Kirwan - Ireland's finest**

Apr 26 **Swinging at the Cotton Club**

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Theatre LISTINGS

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

from
TUES 1 JAN

PUSS IN BOOTS OTFM Productions return to the Bridge House Theatre to present a festive tale which sees Puss endeavour to stop the evil Ogre, aided by Baron Von Shtinken-hoffen, as he sets about trying to destroy Panto Land forever... until Thurs 1 Jan, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

SLEEPING BEAUTY The traditional fairytale is here brought to life with stunning sets, spectacular costumes and sparkling performances, until Sat 5 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

ALADDIN Be transported to a land faraway in this traditional family pantomime, until Sat 5 Jan, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

CINDERELLA Featuring Jonathan Wilkes, until Sat 5 Jan, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL Acclaimed musical comedy based on the multi-award-winning movie starring Dolly Parton. Bonnie Langford, Natalie Casey, Jackie Clune, Amy Lennox and Ben Richards star, until Sat 5 Jan, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS Festive family pantomime, until Sun 6 Jan, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

CINDERELLA Featuring Ruth Madoc, Jamie Rickers and Emma Nowell, until Sun 6 Jan, Malvern Theatres

ALICE IN WONDERLAND THE CHRISTMAS CIRCUS MUSICAL Adaptation of Lewis Carroll's timeless story to enthral the family, until Sun 6 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Anita Dobson makes her RSC debut in Phillip Breen's version of Shakespeare's comedy, until Sat 12 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: THE ROCK 'N' ROLL PANTO The classic fairytale is given a rock 'n' roll twist, until Sat 12 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Family pantomime presented by Evolution Productions, until Sun 13 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DICK WHITTINGTON Written and directed by Malcolm Stent, who also stars as Idle Jack, until Sun 13 Jan, Solihull Arts Complex

THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD Tall Stories return with a musical stage adaptation of Julia Donaldson's award-winning story. All adults must be accompanied by a responsible child!, until Wed 16 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Dickens' Christmas classic is here adapted and directed by New Vic Artistic Director Theresa Heskins, until Sat 19 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Alan Bennett's stage adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's classic tale, until Sat 19 Jan, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Read the review page 36

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Featuring Loose Women presenter Sherrie Hewson as Lady Temple Savage, alongside Keith Harris, Orville and Cuddles, until Sun 20 Jan, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

ROBINSON CRUSOE AND THE CARIBBEAN PIRATES Birmingham Hippodrome regular Brian Conley appears alongside Birds Of A Feather actress Lesley Joseph, until Sun 27 Jan, Birmingham Hippodrome

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH Birmingham Stage Company present Roald Dahl's classic adventure for children, until Sat 2 Feb, Old Rep, Birmingham

THE ORPHAN OF ZHAO Gregory Doran directs James Fenton's acclaimed adaptation of the first Chinese play to be translated in the West, until Thurs 28 Mar, Swan Theatre,

Stratford-upon-Avon
BORIS GODUNOV Michael Boyd directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of Alexander Pushkin's political Russian drama, until Sat 30 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Limelight present their version of the classic children's tale, Wed 2 - Sat 5 Jan, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS Family pantomime presented by DE Caverswall Theatre Company, Wed 2 - Sun 6 Jan, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

SLEEPING BEAUTY Magical pantomime adventure for all the family, Thurs 3 - Sun 6 Jan, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Sat 5 Jan, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE The Arts Centre, Telford, present their version of CS Lewis' classic tale for children, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Jan, The Place, Oaklands, Telford, Shropshire

ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES Traditional pantomime fusing the very best in family entertainment, Sat 5 - Sat 26 Jan, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

HMS PINAFORE This nautical tale of romance and mistaken identities - here presented in a semi-staged concert performance - features some of Gilbert & Sullivan's wittiest characters, Sun 6 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**Week Commencing
MON 7 JAN**

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WWW.LAND Stage2 transpose Lewis Carroll's fantasy tale to a modern-day Birmingham where social media sites provide a meeting place for Alice, the White Rabbit, Dodo and Caterpillar, Wed 9 - Sat 12 Jan, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS The enchanting tale of river folk, presented by Malvern Theatre Players, Wed 9 - Sun 13 Jan, Malvern Theatres

CINDERELLA Jars Of Clay Theatre Company present their version of the timeless tale of oppression and redemption, love and forgiveness, Wed 9 Jan - Sat 12 Jan, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham



Hull Truck Theatre Company's production of Jane Eyre - Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton & The Roses, Tewksbury

production presented by The Norbury Players, Fri 11 - Sun 13 Jan, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

ALADDIN Dorren Bastable's version of the timeless family pantomime, Fri 11 - Sat 19 Jan, Oldbury Rep's Barlow Theatre

THE WIT & SONGS OF NOEL COWARD Presented by pianist & entertainer Peter Gill, Sat 12 Jan, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO The award-winning Strange Face Theatre Company present their version of Carlo Collodi's classic children's tale, Sun 13 Jan, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

**Week Commencing
MON 14 JAN**

DOUBLE TALKS Dr John Harcup discusses unique and unusual Malvern and The Jokes of Edward Elgar, Tues 15 Jan, Malvern Theatre

ABIGAIL'S PARTY Lindsay Posner's acclaimed revival of one of the most popular plays ever written, Tue 15 - Sat 19 Jan, Malvern Theatres

IN A PICKLE An Oily Cart/Royal Shakespeare Company co-production which takes young audiences through the landscapes of Shakespeare's imagination and the music of his language, Tues 15 - Sat 19 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Family pantomime presented by Solihull Society of Arts, Tues 15 - Sat 19 Jan, The Edge, Alderbrook School, Solihull

A NIGHT OF DIRTY DANCING Concert show featuring all the songs from the much-loved iconic movie, Wed 16 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE MAGISTRATE National Theatre Live screening of Arthur Wing Pinero's uproarious Victorian farce, Thurs 17 Jan, Artrix, Bromsgrove & Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK An amateur production presented by The Norbury Players, Thurs 17 - Sun 20 Jan, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

SHOWSTOPPER! THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL A brand new musical comedy is created from scratch at each performance of this award-winning production. Audience suggestions spontaneously become an all-singing, all-dancing show on the spot, with unpredictable and often hilarious results, Fri 18 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AN EVENING OF BURLLESQUE Tantalising yet tasteful, camp and colourful, this fascinating art form is brought to life following an acclaimed run in London's West End, Fri 18 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

18 - Sun 20 Jan, LG Arena, Birmingham

THE NIGHT QUEEN Children's play inspired by Mozart's The Magic Flute which blends music, mystery and adventure, Fri 18 - Sat 26 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER AlterEgo Theatre Company present their fantastically funny and ferociously physical comedy of manners, misunderstandings and mistaken identity, Sat 19 Jan, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JANE EYRE Hull Truck Theatre Company present a new version of Charlotte Bronte's classic story of love, loss and redemption... Tues 19 Feb, The Roses, Tewksbury

**Week Commencing
MON 21 JAN**

CINDERELLA Opera Warwick present their groundbreaking production, which brings Rossini's masterpiece La Cenerentola to the vibrant setting of twenty-first century Essex, Mon 21 - Wed 23 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LA BOHEME Opera UpClose present their Olivier Award-winning production of Puccini's masterpiece. Sung in English, Tue 22 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE HALF The story of a fifty-year-old actor who, down on his luck, decides to perform a one-man version of Shakespeare's Hamlet, Tues 22 Jan, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE TEMPEST: SHAKESPEARE 4 KIDZ Shakespeare's romantic comedy of revenge, a father's love for his

What's on...



Sat 26th January
**PETE FIRMAN:
HOODWINKER**
8.00pm. Tickets: £15 / £13 concs



Thurs 7th February
**ODDSOCKS PRESENTS
THE ADVENTURES
OF ROBIN HOOD**
7.30pm. Tickets: £13 / £12 concs



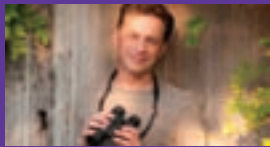
Fri 8th February
**PAUL TONKINSON:
FANCY MAN**
8.00pm. Tickets: £12 / £10 concs



Wed 6th March
**CIRCUS OF
HORRORS**
THE CURSE OF THE DEVIL DOLL
7.30pm. Tickets: £22, £18, £13 /
£19, £16 concs



Fri 8th March
**LEE HURST: TOO SCARED
TO LEAVE THE HOUSE**
8.00pm. Tickets: £15



Wed 20th March
**CHRIS PACKHAM:
WILD NIGHTS OUT**
7.30pm. Tickets: £15



Mon 8th & Tues 9th April
**WE'RE GOING ON
A BEAR HUNT**
8th 2pm, 9th 11am & 2pm. Tickets: £10
Family Ticket: £36 (2 adults, 2 children)



Sat 20th April
**SUGGS:
MY LIFE STORY**
7.30pm. Tickets: £24.50



Fri 26th April
DAVE SPIKEY
8.00pm. Tickets: £16.50

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TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY



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A Frightened Theatre -
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WED 27 FEBRUARY - SUN 3 MARCH



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Theatre LISTINGS

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

daughter and the misuse of power, Tues 22 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
COUNTRYBOY'S STRUGGLE Maxwell Golden's debut solo show, which follows the MC's journey from the cliffs of Cornwall to the streets of London, Tues 22 Jan, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire
HOLMES AND THE RIPPER Brian Clemens' gripping Victorian adventure, based on the book Jack The Ripper: The Final Solution, by Stephen Knight, Tues 22 - Sat 26 Jan, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS OFFICIALLY AMAZING SCIENCE LIVE! Brand new show, Wed 23 Jan, Malvern Theatre
CALENDAR GIRLS Amateur production of Tim Firth's much-acclaimed drama, presented by Coleshill Operatic Society, Wed 23 - Thurs 24 Jan, Solihull Arts Complex
SLEEPING BEAUTY Amateur production pre-

sented by Cannock Chase Drama Society, Wed 23 - Sat 26 Jan, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock
FOREVER MICHAEL... Described as 'the world's greatest Michael Jackson tribute', Thurs 24 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
SLEEPING BEAUTY Thurs 24 - Sun 27 Jan, Stratford Civic Hall
CIRCUS OF HORRORS: CURSE OF THE DEVIL DOLL Prepare for phantasmagoria twists and turns to send shivers down your spine as the demonic dummy takes on a life of its own, Thurs 24 Jan, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
ELSIE & NORM'S MACBETH Fed up with playing Trivial Pursuit and watching television reruns, Elsie and Norm decide to go for a bit of culture and stage some Shakespeare in their living room. Presented by Opus Theatre, Thurs 24 - Sat 26 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
JACK AND THE

BEANSTALK An amateur production presented by The Norbury Players, Thurs 24 - Sat 26 Jan, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich
PETER PAN Starlight School of Dance present JM Barrie's timeless tale of the boy who just wouldn't grow up, Thurs 24 - Sat 26 Jan, Palace Theatre, Redditch
SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS Traditional family pantomime presented by BroADS - complete with live band and local panto stars, Thurs 24 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire
CIRCUS OF HORRORS: CURSE OF THE DEVIL DOLL Fri 25 Jan, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
SING-A-LONG-A GREASE A brand new singalong version of the classic film starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta, Fri 25 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
BOX OF FROGS Birmingham's premiere improv company present a unique show, devised and improvised purely from audience suggestions, Fri 25 Jan, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
ALI BABA & HIS WONDERFUL BEANSTALK OF OZ

Phoenix Theatre fuses the scripts of four popular pantomimes to present an all-singing, all-dancing show for all the family, Fri 25 - Sat 26 Jan, The Public, West Bromwich
ALAN BENNET'S TALKING HEADS Fri 25 Jan - Sat 16 Feb, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**Week Commencing
MON 28 JAN**

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED Agatha Christie thriller packed with 'weird characters, dramatic situations and enough red-herrings to sink a trawler', Mon 28 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
THE SOUND OF MUSIC Presented by Staffordshire's Stage Productions, Mon 28 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
THE LADYKILLERS Graham Linehan's new adaptation of the celebrated Ealing comedy, Mon 28 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Fortieth anniversary production of Richard O'Brien's cult musical extravaganza,

Mon 28 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
GO BACK FOR MURDER Presented by the Agatha Christie Theatre Company, Mon 28 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, Malvern Theatre
JANE EYRE Hull Truck Theatre Company present a new version of Charlotte Bronte's classic story of love, loss and redemption... Tues 29 - Wed 30 Jan, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
BIRDSONG Critically acclaimed version of Sebastian Faulks' tale of love and war, set both before and during the Great War, Tues 29 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, Belgrade Theatre
ANIMAL FARM Guy Masterson's solo performance of George Orwell's classic satire, brought to the stage using only a wooden box, sound effects and physical and vocal dexterity, Wed 30 Jan, The Swan Theatre, Worcester
CIRCUS OF HORRORS: CURSE OF THE DEVIL DOLL Wed 30 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
DEATH OF A BEAUTY SALESWOMAN One-woman comedy from Debbie Tracey, Wed 30 Jan, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BEDROOM FARCE The Lichfield Players present Alan Ayckbourn's acclaimed comedy, Wed 30 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, Lichfield Garrick **UBU ROI** Cheek By Jowl present Alfred Jarry's menacing, petulant and wonderfully anarchic play, Wed 30 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS OFFICIALLY AMAZING SCIENCE LIVE! Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 31 January
THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE The Palace Youth Theatre present CS Lewis' fantasy adventure, Thurs 31 Jan - Sun 2 Feb, Palace Theatre, Redditch
TWELFTH NIGHT Blue Orange Arts present Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identity, transformation and deception, Thurs 31 Jan - Sat 9 Feb, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham
A LIFE OF GALILEO Bertolt Brecht's play explores the struggle between scientific discovery and religious fundamentalism, Thurs 31 Jan - Sat 30 Mar, The Swan Theatre Stratford-upon-Avon

Wed 30 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, 7:30 pm @

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	Sat 19 Jan 7.30 THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA £18 & £17 (disc)		Sat 23 Feb 7.30 SHIRLEY BASSEY A MUSICAL CELEBRATION by Carolyn Rowe £15.50 & £14.50 (disc)
	Fri 8 Feb 7.30 An Evening with THE RAT PACK OF OPERA TENORS UNLIMITED £17 & £16 (disc)		Thur 14 March 7.30 THE CHARLESTON CHASERS £15 & £14 (disc)
	SAT 9 Feb 7.30 ROCK 'n' ROLL PARADISE £19.50 & £17.50 (disc)		Sat 16 March 7.30 SING-A-LONG-A GREASE £15.00
	Wed 13 Feb 2.00 THE D-DAY DARLINGS £11		Fri 26 April 7.30 THE SEARCHERS £18.50 & £17.50 (disc)
	Fri 22 Feb 7.30 MARTY WILDE AND THE WILD CATS £18 & £17.00		Mon 29 April 7.30 AN EVENING WITH RICH HALL £15.00

GREAT COMEDY

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Here are a few of the theatre productions we reviewed from last month. For further theatre reviews, visit, www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Jack And The Beanstalk

The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

A cute green fluffy duck singing 'I Wish I Could Fly' and a risqué orang-u-tan telling us "I hate that duck" were signs that panto season had well and truly arrived at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre. Keith Harris and his two creations took centre-stage in this year's production of Jack And The Beanstalk, and proved to be a real hit - a fact verified by the volume of laughter and the enthusiasm of the audience's participation every time they took to the stage.

Loose Women regular and Benidorm actress Sherrie Hewson attempted to inject evil (but very little humour) into her role of the evil Giant's sidekick Lady Temple-Savage. The highlight of her performance came when, disguised as a milkmaid and equipped with a dubious Dutch accent, she tricked Jack into exchanging his beloved Daisy for a bag of beans. Fans of Sherrie may delight at her involvement, but for this particular reviewer there was an overkill on her Benidorm character - with the ping-ponging of her tannoy whenever she entered the stage causing great annoyance. That said, there's plenty (besides Keith, Orville and Cuddles) to recommend Jack And The Beanstalk, including the wonderfully costumed Dame Trott, aka Nigel Ellacott, who provides plenty of entertainment with his/her quick-witted repertoire. Credible turns are also given by former Coronation Street shopkeeper Ken Morley as The King and Ben James Ellis as Jack. And there's a shining performance from Tamworth's Niki Evans too, who, playing Fairy, brings plenty of vocal talent to the evening's proceedings. *Patsy Moss* ■■■■■

King Lear: Young People's Shakespeare

The Courtyard, Stratford-upon-Avon

This Young People's production of King Lear has toured schools both here and in the United States. Tim Crouch, who both directed the play and edited it down from seventeen characters to nine and from three hours-plus to just seventy five-minutes, chose to set it between Christmas Day and New Year's Eve - a time of family conflict and other festive-season negativity. Although this very effectively offered a theme on which to hang the play, it was difficult to believe that so much could happen in so short a space of time.

As you'd expect, the performances were terrific, with Paul Copley presenting a believable Lear and Tyrone Huggins a misguided Earl of Gloucester. The character of Edmund, meanwhile, whose journey took him from barman in a reindeer suit through betrayal to his tragic end, was played with memorable conviction by Ben Deery. The question is, though: Is King Lear the right play to produce as a Young People's Shakespeare production? Personally, I don't think so. The RSC's young people's productions are aimed at the novice, and for many in the audience, this will have been their first experience of a Shakespeare play. The themes and language are not only difficult to understand in the original version, but also in this edited version.

Sadly, this production's interpretation of a Shakespeare classic fails to lead to the same level of understanding offered by the company's YPS version of Hamlet. *Jan Watts* ■■■■■



The Wind In The Willows

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Twenty-two years after making its debut at the National Theatre, Alan Bennett's stage adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's classic story continues to delight audiences both young and old - as ably evidenced by this Birmingham Rep festive offering. The intimacy of the Crescent Theatre is perfect for transporting the audience to the riverbank, where we're introduced to a menagerie of beautifully-costumed riverside folk. A bushy-tailed squirrel, a prickly hedgehog with a sense of humour, and a family of fluffy-eared rabbits gently ease us into our new surroundings, where we then encounter Ratty and Mole for the first time, as they embark on a fairly civilised (and very English) picnic. It seems that wherever Ratty and Mole are, trouble is never far behind, and we soon get our first glimpse of a trio of wonderfully wicked weasels, whose slippery antics provide much of the evening's entertainment and provoke a desire to boo and hiss whenever they're on stage. The reassuring constant of simple, lighthearted humour brings a real pantomime feel to the performance, while Mathew Douglas presents all the characteristics of a Grand Dame in his portrayal of the eccentric and troublesome Toad. Engaging and utterly delightful, Wind In The Willows features a wealth of wonderful characters, not least among whom is a down-on-his luck Brummie horse named Albert (performed by Rep regular Chris Nayak). There are also some wonderfully festive elements - including carol-singing mice and snowy effects. A perfect way to get yourself in the Christmas spirit... *Reggie White* ■■■■■

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Savoy Theatre prepares for Beatlemania

Following a successful eighteen-week run at London's Prince of Wales Theatre, the critically acclaimed Beatles musical *Let It Be* is next month transferring to the Savoy Theatre. Celebrating the music of the world's greatest ever band, the production charts The Beatles' journey from their humble Cavern Club beginnings in Liverpool through to the heady heights of worldwide Beatlemania and beyond. A show packed to its rafters with the Fab Four's greatest hits, *Let It Be* runs at the Savoy Theatre from 1 February to 5 October.



Sex And The City actress to tread the boards at the Old Vic

Sex And The City star Kim Cattrall has confirmed that she's to appear in a stage production of Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird Of Youth* at London's Old Vic Theatre this summer. Cattrall will play Alexandra Del Lago, a fading Hollywood legend who seeks refuge from her troubles in drink, drugs, and the arms of an idealistic young dreamer. *Sweet Bird Of Youth* shows at the Old Vic from 1 June to 31 August.



James McAvoy with Jamie Lloyd

James McAvoy to make his mark on Whitehall

Last King Of Scotland actor James McAvoy is to take top billing in the first of four politically-charged power plays to be staged at the newly configured Trafalgar Studios in Whitehall.

Returning to the stage after an absence of three years, McAvoy will star as Macbeth in Jamie Lloyd's radical version of Shake-

speare's darkest tale, which sees proceedings being played out in a 'dystopian separatist Scotland' brutalised by war. *Macbeth* runs from 9 February to 27 April, and will be followed in the new theatre space by a further three plays produced by Lloyd, who's being aided throughout the project by designer Soutra Gilmour.

WEST END LISTINGS:

MUSICALS

BILLY ELLIOT – THE MUSICAL Victoria Palace Theatre, booking until 21 Dec 2013

BODYGUARD Adelphi Theatre booking until 27 Apr 2013

CABARET Savoy Theatre booking until 19 Jan 2013

CHORUS LINE London Palladium Theatre 5 Feb 2013 - 13 Jul 2013

DREAMBOATS AND PETTICOATS Wyndham's Theatre booking until 19 Jan 2013

JERSEY BOYS Prince Edward Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2013

KISS ME KATE Old Vic Theatre, booking until 2 Mar 2013

LES MISÉRABLES Queen's Theatre booking until 26 Oct 2013

LET IT BE Prince Of Wales Theatre, booking until 19 Jan 2013

LION KING Lyceum Theatre, booking until 30 Jun 2013

MAMMA MIA! Novello Theatre, booking until 26 Oct 2013

MIDNIGHT TANGO Phoenix Theatre, 30 Jan 2013 - 2 Mar 2013

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Her Majesty's Theatre, booking until 26 Oct 2013

ROCK OF AGES Shaftesbury Theatre, booking until 17 Feb 2013

ROOM ON THE BROOM Lyric Theatre, booking until 13 Jan 2013

SCROOGE THE MUSICAL London Palladium Theatre, booking until 12 Jan 2013

SHREK THE MUSICAL Drury Lane, Theatre Royal, booking until 24 Feb 2013

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN Palace Theatre, booking until 31 Aug 2013

SPAMALOT Playhouse Theatre, booking until 13 Apr 2013

TAYLOR-MADE MAN Arts Theatre, 13 Feb 2013 - 6 Apr 2013

THRILLER LIVE Lyric Theatre, booking until 15 Sept 2013

TOP HAT Aldwych Theatre, booking until 28 Sept 2013

VIVA FOREVER! Piccadilly Theatre, booking until 1

Jun 2013

WE WILL ROCK YOU Dominion Theatre, booking until 23 Mar 2013

WICKED Apollo Victoria Theatre, booking until 2 Nov 2013

DRAMA

CAPTAIN OF KOPENICK Almeida Theatre, 29 Jan 2013 - 4 Apr 2013

CHARIOTS OF FIRE Gielgud Theatre, booking until 2 Feb 2013

EFFECT Cottesloe National Theatre, booking until 23 Feb 2013

FEAST Young Vic Theatre, 25 Jan 2013 - 23 Feb 2013

GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM Phoenix Theatre booking until 26 Jan 2013

HANSEL AND GRETEL Cottesloe National Theatre booking until 26 Jan 2013

JUDAS KISS Duke Of York Theatre, 9 Jan 2013 - 6 Apr 2013

NO QUARTER Royal Court Theatre

(Upstairs), 11 Jan 2013 - 24 Mar 2013

PORT Lyttelton National Theatre, 22 Jan 2013 - 9 Feb 2013

QUARTERMAINE'S TERMS Wyndham's Theatre, 23 Jan 2013 - 13 Apr 2013

WAR HORSE New London Theatre, booking until 26 Oct 2013

COMEDY

39 STEPS Criterion Theatre, booking until 30 Mar 2013

MAGISTRATE Olivier National Theatre, booking until 10 Feb 2013

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS Haymarket Theatre Royal, booking until 31 Aug 2013

PRIVATES ON PARADE Noel Coward Theatre, booking until 2 Mar 2013

TWELFTH NIGHT Apollo Theatre, booking until - 9 Feb 2013

YES, PRIME MINISTER Trafalgar Studios, booking until - 12 Jan 2013




The Bodyguard - Adelphi Theatre



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From
FRI 11
JAN

Les Misérables

CERT12a (158 mins)

Starring **Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Eddie Redmayne, Sacha Baron Cohen, Helena Bonham Carter, Samantha Barks** Directed by **Tom Hooper (UK)**

Victor Hugo's epic novel of love, hate, guilt and redemption has been adapted in many forms. The operatic stage musical, launched in London in 1985, has given it a new lease of life - and now comes the film of the show. And it's magnificent. Fresh from his success as the director of *The King's Speech*, Tom Hooper now confirms that he's a filmmaker of the first rank. He's taken an extremely complex production and elevated it to the level of a rich, emotional and overpowering banquet. There are simply astonishing turns from Hugh Jackman as Jean Valjean and Anne Hathaway as Fantine (watch that Oscar), while the sets, orchestrations, harmonies, costumes, cinematography and production design are all superlative. If there is one caveat, it's that the comedy supplied by Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter is a little tiresome but otherwise this extraordinary film is what cinema is all about.



From
FRI 25
JAN

Zero Dark Thirty

CERT 15 (157 mins)

Starring **Jessica Chastain, Jason Clarke, Joel Edgerton, Jennifer Ehle, Mark Strong, James Gandolfini** Directed by **Kathryn Bigelow (USA)**

The story of the hunt for Osama bin Laden has been electrifying US critics. The film has already won a mantlepiece of awards and is tipped to sweep the Oscars next month (24 February). But how much of a story is it? The director, Kathryn Bigelow, generated far more suspense in her last film, *The Hurt Locker*, and the chain of interviews, dead-ends and wrong turns here are hardly the stuff of great drama. The film is also very long (one hundred-and-fifty-seven minutes) and Oscar contender Jessica Chastain, good as she is, is not often required to flex her thespian muscles. Dread to say it, but ordinary audiences may find it all rather dull.

TOP 5

FILM BOX OFFICE

- 1 **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (12a)
- 2 **Jack Reacher** (15)
- 3 **Life Of Pi 3D** (PG)
- 4 **Skyfall** (12a)
- 5 **Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn 2** (12a)



The Hobbit

Film NEW RELEASES

Released from Tues 1 Jan

Quartet

CERT 12a (98 mins)

Starring **Maggie Smith, Tom Courtenay, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins, Michael Gambon, Sheridan Smith**
Directed by **Dustin Hoffman (UK)**

In a retirement home for opera singers and musicians, the occupants are facing more than one kind of music... The prospect of seeing Maggie Smith, Tom Courtenay, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon interact is unquestionably enticing. Indeed, Dame Maggie snatches her laughs with comic aplomb, just as the other actors recycle wrinkly versions of their various personae. Being an adaptation of a Ronald Harwood play and being directed by Dustin Hoffman, the accent is on the thespian. But only Tom Courtenay really rises above the crowd, presenting a credible, fragile being who would be just as much at home on the bus as on stage. It's a slight, porcelain piece, but delicately inlaid and impeccably turned. A bittersweet delight.



Playing For Keeps

CERT 12a (106 mins)

Starring **Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Uma Thurman, Dennis Quaid, Judy Greer**
Directed by **Gabriele Muccino (USA)**

Originally titled *Playing The Field*, this rom-com looks eminently suited to the gruff charms of Scotland's Gerard Butler. He plays a coach for his son's soccer team, but is constantly distracted by the mothers of the other young players. And what a list of lovelies they are, too.

The Impossible

CERT 12a (114 mins)

Starring **Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor, Tom Holland, Samuel Joslin, Geraldine Chaplin**
Directed by **Juan Antonio Bayona (Spain)**

On the morning of 26 December 2004, a momentous tsunami engulfed the coast of Thailand, taking with it the lives of 227,898 people. This is the personal story of a real couple and their three children who are torn apart by nature's wrath. Naomi Watts in particular has been receiving rave reviews for her performance as the anguished mother.



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Released from Fri 4 Jan

Hors Satan

CERT 15 (110 mins)

Starring **David Dewaele, Alexandre Lematre**
Directed by **Bruno Dumont (France)**

The writer-director Bruno Dumont doesn't believe in exposition. He places his characters in barren landscapes, frames them in long shot and will then catch an inscrutable look in close-up. A single line of dialogue or an action out of the ordinary will catch our attention and help form our own interpretation of events. In *Hors Satan*, his fifth film, there's not a lot of action, and what action there is is largely conveyed in the faces of Dumont's protagonists. As the vaguely Gothic tomboy Elle, Alexandre Lematre presents a pixie-ish figure with room for wonder. The countryside, not far from the coast of Dunkirk, speckled with woods, dunes and gorse, is a character in itself, with its dark secrets, mood swings and unvarnished beauty. Indeed, Dumont builds his stories from the landscapes he encounters. But the man at the centre of the story (Dewaele) is more problematic, an outsider prone to irrational outbursts of violence - and yet not without a spiritual connection. Enigmatic is the word we're looking for here. But even though these people remain elusive, we are permitted an intimacy with them denied us by most cinematic diversions.



Hors Satan

Texas Chainsaw 3D

CERT 18 (92 mins)

Starring **Alexandra Daddario, Dan Yeager, Tremaine Neverson**
Directed by **John Luessenhop (USA)**

You just can't keep old Leatherface away. Since Tobe Hopper's nerve-shredding classic of 1974, there have been a further five films celebrating the gore-fest of the little backwater of Newt, Texas. This is the seventh episode, and follows the road trip of Heather as she travels to Newt to collect the inheritance left her by her deranged family.... Expect plenty more gore.



Texas Chainsaw

Released from Fri 11 Jan

What Richard Did

CERT 15 (88 mins)

Starring **Jack Reynor, Roisin Murphy, Sam Keeley**
Directed by **Lenny Abrahamson (Ireland)**

An understated morality tale set in the ethically ambiguous world of Dublin's more privileged teenagers, *What Richard Did* has been gathering favourable reviews. Jack Reynor plays Richard, the scion of affluent parents, who finds himself at the centre of a tragedy shortly after graduating from high school. Loosely adapted from Kevin Power's 2010 novel *Bad Day In Blackrock*.



What Richard Did

American Mary

CERT 18 (100 mins)

Starring **Katharine Isabelle, Antonio Cupo, Tristan Risk** Directed by **Jen Soska and Sylvia Soska (Canada)**

Mary Mason may be American but the film is Canadian and is directed by Jen and Sylvia Soska, twin sisters who specialise in visceral horror movies (their production company is called *Twisted Twins*). Mary herself is a medical student who finds a lucrative business in some back-room cosmetic surgery. Expect plenty of gore.

Gangster Squad

CERT 15 (113 mins)

Starring **Josh Brolin, Ryan Gosling, Nick Nolte, Emma Stone, Sean Penn, Anthony Mackie, Michael Peña**
Directed by **Ruben Fleischer (USA)**

Gangster movies have a habit of coming and going, but after *Public Enemies* - with Johnny Depp - and *Lawless* - with Tom Hardy - they are back in fashion. This one, based on a series of articles in *The LA Times*, focuses on the efforts of the LAPD in the 1940s and '50s to rid the city of East Coast hoodlums. Expect some pretty strong violence.

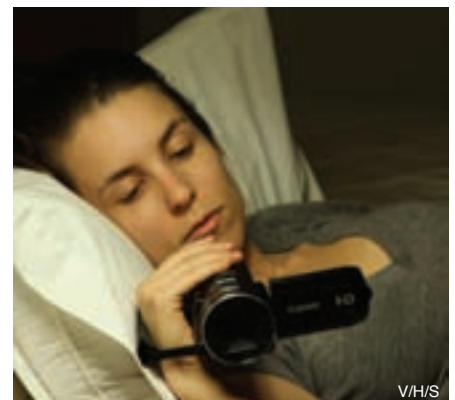
Released from Fri 18 Jan

V/H/S

CERT 18 (116 mins)

Directed by **Adam Wingard, David Bruckner, Ti West, Glenn McQuaid, Joe Swanberg and 'Radio Silence' (USA)**

The "found footage" gimmick continues apace. This time we have a series of short films all purporting to be discovered on VHS (video cassette). The connecting theme is that, like the mother of all found footage movies, *The Blair Witch Project*, they're all meant to be very, very scary.



V/H/S

2013

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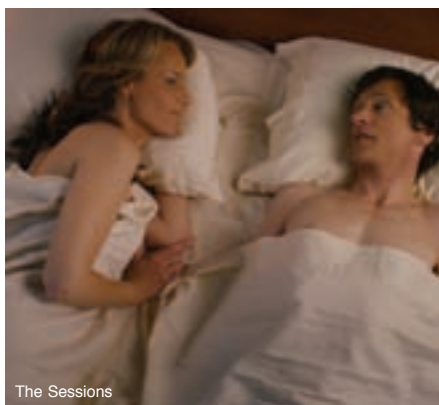
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The Sessions

CERT 15 (95 mins)

Starring **John Hawkes, Helen Hunt, William H. Macy, Moon Bloodgood, Annika Marks, Adam Arkin** Directed by **Ben Lewin** (USA)

A film as much about intimacy as it is about disability, *The Sessions* is the true story of a poet. Unlike most poets, however, Mark O'Brien (Hawkes) can only touch his companions with his words. Confined to a cumbersome iron lung since contracting polio as a child, O'Brien believes he is somewhat responsible for his condition. Then, when his local priest (Macy) gives him a "free pass" to fornication outside marriage, the thirty-eight-year-old virgin takes on a sex therapist. Sex and disability is a somewhat bittersweet cocktail for mainstream cinema, and *The Sessions* could have gone in two directions: the gross or the mawkish. As it is, the film is powered by a terrific, naked performance from Helen Hunt as the therapist and is unblinking yet humorous and compassionate in its treatment of its subject. It's a thought-provoking and touching treatment of a tricky but extremely real problem: that even the disabled need a tumble.



The Sessions

Released from Fri 25 Jan

Lincoln

CERT 12a (112mins)

Starring **Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, David Strathairn, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, James Spader, Tommy Lee Jones** Directed by **Steven Spielberg** (USA)

Long in development, Spielberg's *Lincoln* was originally to have starred Liam Neeson, but now that the Irish actor is approaching sixty (next June), he was considered too old. So Daniel Day-Lewis has donned the chin curtain beard and, at the time of going to press, has already won the best actor gong from the New York Critics' Circle. The film focuses on the sixteenth US president's last four months in office and his fight to establish the Thirteenth Amendment. Expect stovetop hatfuls of glittering prizes.



Lincoln



From
FRI 18
JAN

Movie 43

CERT tbc

Starring **Elizabeth Banks, Halle Berry, Gerard Butler, Richard Gere, Hugh Jackman, Emma Stone, Uma Thurman, Naomi Watts, Kate Winslet** Directed by **Patrik Forsberg, Peter Farrelly, Elizabeth Banks, Steven Brill, Steve Carr, Rusty Cundieff, James Duffy, Griffin Dunne, James Gunn, Bob Odenkirk, Brett Ratner** (USA)

In the tradition of the sublime *Paris, Je T'aime* (2006), *Movie 43* is an ensemble/portmanteau piece in which a number of narrative strands are loosely affiliated. This time the connective tissue is not the French capital but humour.



Movie 43

The Last Stand

CERT 15 (107mins)

Starring **Arnold Schwarzenegger, Johnny Knoxville, Forest Whitaker, Eduardo Noriega, Rodrigo Santoro, Peter Stormare** Directed by **Kim Jee-woon** (USA)

He's back. Again. This time the former Governor of California plays a former narcotics cop who's taken up the post of sheriff in a sleepy border community. But just as he's about to forget the meaning of "to terminate," a notorious drug tsar (Noriega) heads into town... The film marks the American debut of the South Korean director Kim Jee-woon (*A Tale Of Two Sisters*).

Django Unchained

CERT tbc

Starring **Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kerry Washington, Samuel L. Jackson, Don Johnson, Dennis Christopher, RZA** Directed by **Quentin Tarantino** (USA)

A new Tarantino movie is always an event and this one is getting amazing buzz. Tackling the Western genre for the first time, he casts Foxx as a slave who teams up with a German bounty hunter (Waltz) to track down some particularly unsavoury killers. As usual, Tarantino litters his film with movie stars from a bygone era (Johnson, Christopher, Bruce Dern, Franco Nero, etc) and borrows liberally from the tunes of Ennio Morricone. Incidentally, Morricone, now 84, has written a new track especially for the movie.

The Liability

CERT tbc

Starring **Tim Roth, Jack O'Connell, Peter Mullan, Talulah Riley, Kierston Wareing** Directed by **Craig Viveiros** (UK)

Few English actors do better at nasty than Tim Roth. Here he plays an ageing hitman who involves a nineteen-year-old (O'Connell) in the joys of revenge, murder and sex trafficking.



The Liability

Film A-Z LISTINGS

All films are currently on general release unless otherwise stated. For full listing information, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

A Royal Affair 15

Historical romantic drama concerning the relationship between an insane king, his young wife and her physician. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 21 Jan*

Amour 12a

Drama concerning an elderly couple whose bond of love is severely tested when one of them suffers a stroke. *Showing at The Royal, Leamington Spa, Sun 13 - Wed 16 Jan; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 18 & Sat 19 Jan; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 21 & Tues 22 Jan; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 28 Jan - Tues 5 Feb*

Argo 15

Ben Affleck directs a political thriller set around the rescue of six American diplomats during the 1979 hostage crisis in Iran. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 23, Thurs 24, Sat 26 & Thurs 31 Jan; Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 24 Jan*

The Artist pg

Multi-award-winning film fashioned in the style of the silent era of Hollywood (complete with intertitles). *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 21 Jan*

Babette's Feast u

On general release

Beasts Of The Southern Wild 12a

Acclaimed fantasy drama about Hushpuppy, a fearless six-year-old girl living with her father in 'the Bathtub', a fictitious southern Bayou community. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 4 & Sun 6 - Wed 9 Jan; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 14 - Tues 15 Jan; The Royal, Leamington Spa, Sat 26 - Thurs 31 Jan*

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel 12a

Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton & Celia Imrie star as retired Brits who descend on a hotel in Udaipur, only to find that it's not as they were led to believe. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 7 Jan*

Celeste And Jesse Forever 15

On general release

Chasing Ice 12a

Documentary which follows acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog as he travels to the Arctic, tasked with capturing images to help tell the story of Earth's changing climate. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Wed 9 - Thurs 10 Jan*

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Crime D'Amour: Love Crime 15

On general release

The Dark Knight Rises 12a

Christian Bale, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Tom Hardy star in the final film in Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 11 Jan*

Django Unchained tbc

Read the preview on page 43

End Of Watch 15

Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Pena star as two decent young LAPD cops

who are marked for death after confiscating a small cache of money and firearms from the members of a notorious cartel during a routine traffic stop. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Wed 2 & Thurs 3 Jan; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 11 - Sat 12 Jan*

False Trail 15

Subtitled Swedish film which centres around a complex murder case. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Wed 16 - Thurs 17 Jan*

Gambit 12a

Alan Rickman and Cameron Diaz star in Joel and Ethan Coen's comedy, updated from the 1966 romp of the same name starring Shirley MacLaine and Michael Caine. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 2 & Thurs 3 Jan; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Wed 2 & Thurs 3 Jan; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 Jan*

Gangster Squad 15

Read the preview on page 41

Grabbers 15

On general release

Great Expectations 12a

Ralph Fiennes and Helena Bonham Carter star in Mike Newell's ravishing adaptation of Dickens' classic. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, until Thurs 3 Jan; Malvern Theatre, until Thurs 3 Jan; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 4 - Mon 7 Jan; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 28 - Wed 30 Jan*

Headhunters 15

Norwegian thriller concerning an accomplished headhunter who risks everything to obtain a valuable painting owned by a former mercenary. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 11 Jan*

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 12a

Martin Freeman plays young Bilbo Baggins in the first of Peter Jackson's epic trilogy, a prequel to *The Lord Of The Rings*. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 Jan; Warwick Arts*

Centre, Coventry, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 Jan; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 Jan; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 20 - Thurs 24 Jan

The Hunt 15

Thomas Vinterberg's tense drama concerning a primary teacher who's ostracised from the small community in which he lives when one of his pupils accuses him of abuse. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 4 - Tues 8 Jan; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 Jan; Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 15 & Thurs 17 Jan; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 18 & Sun 20 - Mon 21 Jan; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 30 - Thurs 31 Jan*

I, Anna 15

A noir thriller told from the point of view of a femme fatale who falls for the detective in charge of a murder case. Charlotte Rampling & Gabriel Byrne star. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton*

The Impossible 12a

Read the preview on page 40

It Always Rains On Sunday pg

1948 crime drama starring Google Withers and Jack Warner. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 9 - Thurs 10 Jan*

Jack Reacher 12a

On general release

James And The Giant Peach u

Animated musical adventure based on Roald Dahl's classic story. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 5 Jan*

The King's Speech 15

Multi-award-winning drama based on the true story of Queen Elizabeth II's father and his remarkable friendship with maverick speech therapist Lionel Logue. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Sat 26 Jan*

The Last Stand 15

Read the preview on page 43



Tom Cruise as Jack Reacher

Les Miserables 12a

Read the review on page 39

Life Of Pi pg

Ang Lee's acclaimed film based on Yann Martel's fantastical novel which sees a young man hurtled into an epic journey of adventure and discovery after surviving a disaster at sea. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 Jan; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 & Sat 19 Jan; Stoke Film Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 Jan; The Royal, Leamington Spa, Fri 19 - Thurs 24 Jan*

Lincoln 12a

Read the preview on page 43

Madagascar 3 pg

Much-acclaimed sequel of a sequel which sees Alex, Marty, Gloria & Melman arrive in Europe and find the perfect cover in a travelling circus. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, until Thurs 3 Jan*

The Man Who Laughs x

A classic silent horror film directed by Paul Leni, adapted from Victor Hugo's novel. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 7 Jan*

The Man With The Iron Fists 18

On general release

The Master pg

Joaquin Phoenix plays a World War Two veteran in Paul Thomas Anderson's acclaimed drama. Unable to cope with his drunkenness and post-traumatic stress disorder, he looks for salvation in a philosophical movement known as The Cause. Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams also star. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, until Thurs 3 Jan; mac, Birmingham, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 Jan; The Royal, Leamington Spa, Wed 9 - Sat 12 Jan; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 25 & Sat 26 Jan*

Midnight's Children 12a

The long-awaited adaptation of Salman Rushdie's 1981 novel which looks at post-colonial India through the eyes of two generations. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 18 & Sun 20 - Thurs 24 Jan; mac, Birmingham, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 Jan*

Movie 43 tbc

Read the preview on page 43

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WARWICK ARTS CENTRE COVENTRY 02476 524524

Worcestershire

ARTRIX, BROMSGROVE 01527 577330
MALVERN THEATRE 0845 287 2146
WAREHOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER 01562 747773
VUE, WORCESTER 0871 224 0240

Visit whatsonlive.co.uk for venue website details

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

Nativity 2: Danger In The Manger U

Sequel which sees David Tennant play identical twin brothers teaching at rival schools who both enter their respective classes into a 'Sing a Song for Christmas' competition. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 4 - Mon 7 Jan*

Parental Guidance U
On general release

Pitch Perfect 12a
On general release

Playing For Keeps 12a
Read the preview on page 41

Private Peaceful 12a

Maxine Peake stars in Michael Morpurgo's classic rites-of-passage story concerning two brothers who fall for the same girl. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 19 Jan*

Quartet 12a

Read the preview on page 40

Ray Harryhausen:

Special Effects Titan tbc
Definitive documentary about the American visual effects and stop-motion animator who created a unique genre of fantasy films that took the world by storm. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Tues 15 - Wed 16 Jan*

Ruby Sparks 15

Paul Dano (Little Miss Sunshine) stars as a novelist struggling with writer's block whose eponymous protagonist miraculously materialises. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 28 Jan*

Rust And Bone 15

Marion Cotillard and Matthias Schoenaerts star in a powerful romantic drama adapted from a short story by Craig Davidson. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 4 - Sat 5 Jan; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 8 - Wed 9 Jan; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 11 & Mon 14 Jan; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 22 - Thurs 24 Jan*

The Sapphires PG

Feelgood movie set in Australia in 1968 which tells the story of four aboriginal sisters who become the southern hemisphere's answer to The Supremes. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 8 - Thurs 10 Jan; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 15 - Fri 18 Jan*

Seven Psychopaths 15

Colin Farrell & Woody Harrelson star in Martin McDonagh's crime comedy, which follows a struggling screenwriter who

inadvertently becomes entangled in the Los Angeles criminal underworld after his oddball friends kidnap a gangster's beloved Shih Tzu. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 11 - Tues 15 Jan; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 25 - Tues 29 Jan; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 25 - Thurs 31 Jan*

The Shining 15

Screening of Stanley Kubrick's much-acclaimed 1980 horror starring Jack Nicholson. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 30 - Thurs 31 Jan*

Sightseers 15

Steve Oram and Alice Lowe star in Ben Wheatley's black comedy. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 Jan; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 16 - Sun 20 Jan; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 18 - Sat 19 Jan*

Silver Linings Playbook 15

Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence star in David O Russell's acclaimed comedy, which is rooted in serious issues and serious people. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 3 Jan; Warwick Arts Centre,*

Coventry, Wed 2 & Thurs 3 Jan; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 9 - Thurs 10 Jan; Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 31 Jan

Singin' In The Rain u

Classic feelgood musical starring Gene Kelly. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 12 Jan*

Sister 15

Ursula Meier's social realist drama, told from the viewpoint of a neglected twelve-year-old orphan. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 22 Jan*

Skyfall 12a

Daniel Craig returns as Ian Fleming's James Bond 007 in the longest-running film franchise of all time. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 3 Jan; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 2 - Sat 5 Jan; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 5 - Tues 8 Jan*

Small Creatures

Liverpool-based Martin Wallace's debut feature - a low-budget drama of tearaway early teens. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Thurs 31 Jan*

Smashed 15

On general release

So Undercover 12a

On general release

The Source 12a

A battle of the sexes comedy/drama where women threaten to withhold sexual favours if their men refuse to fetch water from a remote well. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 25 Jan*

Stand By Me 15

Classic American coming-of-age drama, based on the novella *The Body*, by Stephen King. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton*

Starbuck 15

French/Canadian comedy concerning a fortysomething slacker on the receiving end of a class action law suit filed by one hundred-and-forty-two people whom he's fathered via artificial insemination. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 29 Jan*

Texas Chainsaw 3D 18

Read the preview on page 41

Tinkerbell And The Secret Of The Wings u

On general release

The Tramp PG

A selection of early Charlie Chaplin shorts screened in conjunction with Arch and Staffordshire Film Archives' Homeless week presentations. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 28 Jan*

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 12a

The fifth and final movie in the popular film series based on the phenomenally popular novels by Stephenie Meyer. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 12 & Mon 14 - Tues 15 Jan*

Untouchable 15

French biographical drama concerning a paraplegic aristocrat who takes on a young black man from 'the project' as his careworker. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 7 - Tues 8 Jan; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 11 - Sun 13 & Wed 16 Jan*

War Horse 12a

Steve Spielberg's acclaimed film, based on Michael Morpurgo's wartime drama. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire*

Wings A

A 1927 melodrama about fighter pilots in the First World War who fall in love with the same girl. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 14 Jan*

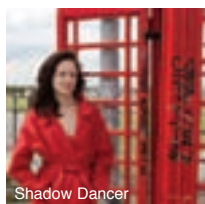
Zero Dark Thirty 15

Read the review on page 39

DVD NEW RELEASES

Shadow Dancer 15

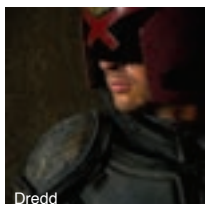
In a troubled Belfast of the 1990s, a mother, played by Andrea Riseborough, becomes an informant for MI5 in order to protect her son. Domhnall Gleeson plays her brother. **Released 14 January**



Shadow Dancer

Dredd 18

A dystopian thriller based on John Wagner and Carlos Ezquerra's 2000AD title. Dredd, the feared dispenser of justice in a future riddled by crime and dodgy new drugs, is played by Karl Urban, who starred as Bones in the new Star Trek franchise. **Released 14 January**



Dredd

Hysteria 15

This romantic comedy stars Maggie Gyllenhall as the daughter of an eminent doctor who falls for the young Dr Granville, played by Hugh Dancy, who, while researching treatments for women diagnosed with hysteria, inadvertently invents the vibrator. **Released 14 January**

Lawless 18

A gritty and violent drama set in the Great American Depression of the 1930s. It's got racketeering, moonshine and amoral law enforcers, along with some sterling performances from both Tom Hardy and Guy Pearce. **Released 14 January**



Lawless

The Campaign 15

This political farce stars Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis, who play rival candidates fighting for a seat in Congress. **Released 21 January**



Paranorman PG

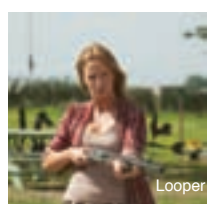
Norman Babcock is a young boy who can not only speak with the dead but has the task of protecting his town from a witch's curse. **Released 28 Jan**

The Sweeney 15

Ray Winstone plays hardened detective Jack Regan in this incarnation of the 1970s television classic of the same name. **Released 21 January**

Looper 15

Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Bruce Willis star as Joe, the time-jumping hitman whose mission is to find and kill the child who will grow up to be 'the Rainmaker'. **Released 28 January**



Looper

That's My Boy 15

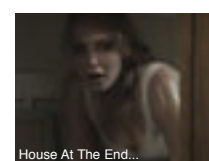
This time out, Adam Sandler plays a former single dad whose parenting skills have not improved with time. **Released 28 January**

Holy Motors 18

Leos Carax's metaphysical journey between life, love and death, featuring the extraordinary French actor Denis Lavant in a variety of roles. Kylie Minogue also stars. **Released 28 January**

House At The End Of The Street 15

Jennifer Lawrence and Elisabeth Shue play a daughter and mother who, after moving into a new house, discover that the abode next door holds a dark and grisly secret. **Released 28 January**

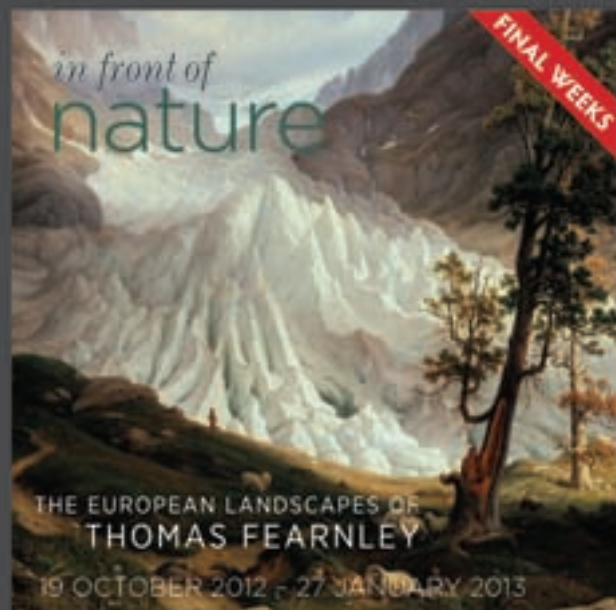


House At The End...

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EDWIN BUTLER BAYLISS
POET PAINTER OF THE BLACK COUNTRY

**WOLVERHAMPTON
ART GALLERY**

19 JANUARY – 27 APRIL 2013



An exhibition of work by Wolverhampton artist
Edwin Butler Bayliss (1874 – 1950), the painter
of the industrial Black Country landscape.

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WAVE  

Visual Arts

Telling Tales

Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford,
Sat 12 January - Sun 10 March

Storytelling, folk tales and memories of childhood form the basis for this latest craft exhibition at Stafford's Shire Hall Gallery. Anna Howarth's paper cuts, Phiona Richards' sculptures and jewellery made from the pages of old books, Laura Grain's wooden pendants and brooches, and Becky Adams' embroidered books are all featured, presented alongside a range of new pieces especially created for this show.



Jochem Hendricks

New Art Gallery, Walsall,
Fri 18 January - Sun 7 April

Conceptual artist Jochem Hendricks' intention is to encourage viewers of his work to challenge the ways in which they see the world. Utilising a wide variety of media, including sculpture, film, installation and painting, the artist has developed a reputation for producing art which is both playful and provocative, engaging on an aesthetic level yet simultaneously testing the boundaries of ethics and morality. The exhibition offers visitors the chance to view his artistic development from the late-1980s through to the present day.



Mike Nelson: M6

Eastside Projects, Digbeth, Birmingham,
Sat 12 January - Sat 2 March

Continuing with a theme in his work which has seen him wielding political histories through raw materials, the highly acclaimed Mike Nelson is here presenting his first ever major exhibition in his home region. A sculptural installation, the work directly uses materials from the nearby M6 motorway, and has been described as 'a love letter to car industries, highways departments, concrete islands and shifting economies'. The exhibition not only celebrates man's transformative abilities but also converts damaged and discarded utilitarian objects into a monument to Birmingham's historical position at the centre of the British transport system.



Edwin Butler Bayliss

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 19 January - Sat 27 April

As one of only a handful of nineteenth century painters of the industrial landscape, Edwin Butler Bayliss' importance in the history of British art is very much assured. Originally self-taught, Butler Bayliss utilised charcoal, pastel and watercolour during his career, but was primarily a prolific oil painter (he's known to have been a sculptor too, although no examples of his sculpture are known). This latest homage to his work and influence also features pieces by some of his contemporaries, as well as by numerous present-day artists. An accompanying study day entitled Art And The Black Country takes place on Saturday 23 March.

Caught In The Crossfire

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery,
Coventry,
Fri 25 January - Sun 7 July

Historical works by John Piper, Eric Kennington and Muirhead Bone here feature alongside contemporary pieces by Banksy, Peter Howson and Cornelia Parker. The overarching theme of the exhibition is the way in which artists grapple with both the brutality of war and the desire for peace. Along the way, numerous subjects come under consideration, including the role of the protest art, the aesthetics of violence, the machinery of war and the emergence of hope in the aftermath of violent conflict.



Ongoing exhibitions

Landscape To Sculpture: John Bridgeman (1916 - 2004)

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum,
Thurs 24 January - Sun 21 April

Sculptures, drawings, maquettes and paintings all feature in this exhibition of work by Birmingham School of Art's longtime Head of Sculpture (Bridgeman held the post from the mid-1950s to the early-1980s). Having originally trained as a landscape painter, Leamington-based Bridgeman's interest in sculpture eventually led to him being invited by Henry Moore to become his studio assistant, but the young artist turned down the opportunity in favour of pursuing an independent career. One of his best-known works is *Torture Wall* - an installation made up of approximately twenty cast bronze figures - a construction of which is included in this exhibition. A facsimile reproduction of an unpublished series of illustrated verses by Bridgeman and his wife, the writer and poet Irene Dancyger, is also featured.



Workplace

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Wed 9 January - Sat 9 March

The workplace as a universal experience is the theme of this major new exhibition, which presents film works by leading artists from across the globe. Political and geographical boundaries, as well as distinctions between types of industry (including the production of art), all come under the microscope. Pieces featured include a film of a frightened vulture trapped in the alien environment of an artist's studio, and a movie showing a lone worker killing time by cycling around his office, hiding behind furniture and crafting paper airplanes... The Gallery will be hosting a number of special events connected to the exhibition, including a site-specific comic performance which immerses audiences in the tense atmosphere of a waiting room prior to a job interview.



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

THE BIG DRAW: DOT TO DOT Project which pushes the boundaries on a classic childhood activity, until Sun 13 Jan, mac, Birmingham

EMPOWERED: THE ART AND HISTORY OF CEREBRAL PALSY MIDLANDS Paintings and sculpture created by artists from the Birmingham-based charity Cerebral Palsy Midlands, until Tues 1 Jan, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

DIANE GALLIVAN: WILDLIFE PAINTINGS Series of nature paintings - perfect for lovers of wildlife, until Fri 4 Jan, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

WEST MIDLANDS OPEN A biennial collaboration between Birmingham Museum's Trust and Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sat 5 Jan, W'hampton Art Gallery

LIZ MELLOR EXHIBITION Mixed media, painting and photography all feature in this selection of works from local artist Liz Mellor, until Sat 5 Jan, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

EXHIBITION OF BULGARIAN FINE ART Featuring works by Georgi Kovachev, Grishata Penka & Jani Yanush, until Sat 5 Jan, Willow Art Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

KATHRYN PETTITT RBSA Inspired by her local surroundings, Kathryn's textiles explore spiritual sustenance and nature through the lines, shapes and surface qualities of trees, until Sat 5 Jan, RBSA, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS CRAFT Annual showcase featuring contemporary jewellery, textiles, ceramics & glass, until Sun 6 Jan, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

DINOSAURS UNCOVERED Unique exhibition featuring life-size dinosaurs, real and replica fossils and holographic video presentations by wildlife expert Chris Packham, until Sun 6 Jan, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

PAINTERS AND PLAYERS Exhibition of paintings and generic scenes from the renowned Stafford-born artist John Prescott Knight (1803 - 1881), until Sun 6 Jan, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

EMMANUEL OBUOBI Emmanuel works in a unique medium of yarn collage, a technique that gives him real freedom of expression, until Sun 7 Jan, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CRAFTED FOR YOU Selling exhibition showcasing works from some of the best craft-makers in the Midlands, until Sat 12 Jan, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

MICK'S MEDIA Multi-media exhibition by a group of artists based in Shropshire and the wider Midlands, and their teacher Mick Gilmore, until Sat 12 Jan, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire

LOVE AND DEATH: VICTORIAN PAINTINGS FROM THE TATE Exclusive exhibition featuring iconic paintings from the Tate alongside related works from Birmingham's own collection, until Sun 13 Jan, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

HORROR IN HOLLYWOOD: THE JAMES WHALE STORY Featuring previously unseen cartoons, paintings and illustrations by Dudley-born film director James Whale, until Sun 13 Jan, Dudley



Portrait Of A Lady: The Life And Passions Of Lady Barber
The Barber Institute, Birmingham

Museum & Art Gallery
A DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS Exhibition which marks the anniversary year of Charles Dickens' two hundredth birthday, until Sat 13 Jan, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

MISTER VOLDER GOES TO THE CITY Taking an ambiguous short story as their starting point, artists Rebecca Hurst and Ben Pacey use simple materials and low-fi digital techniques to create compelling, atmospheric images, until Sun 13 Jan, mac, Birmingham

THROUGH OUR HANDS Exhibition featuring works from ten textile artists, national and international, who approach quilting as a contemporary art form, until Sun 13 Jan, The Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

WALSALL SOCIETY OF ARTISTS: 63RD ANNUAL EXHIBITION A range of paintings, drawings, watercolours and 3D works, until Sun 13 Jan, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

WINTERS TALE EXHIBITION Featuring works from artists exploring myth, illustration, folklore & the theme of winter, until Mon 14 Jan, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North

Shropshire
LUKE FOWLER: THE POOR STOCKINGER, THE LUD-DITE CROPPER... And The Deluded Followers Of Joanna Southcott. Luke Fowler's film focuses on the life and work of the socialist historian EP Thompson and his involvement with the Workers Education Association, until Fri 18 Jan, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

RBSA PRINTMAKERS EXHIBITION Featuring works by Hilary Paynter Hon. RBSA and Sarah Van Niekerk Hon. RBSA, until Sat 19 Jan, RBSA, Birmingham

HORSES Man's relationship with domestic horses is here explored through a series of prints and drawings from the Barber's collection, until Sun 20 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CITY OF HOME BY ALINA KISINA Photographic exhibition by the Ukraine-born artist which captures her home town of Kiev in a half-abstract, half-representational format, until Fri 25 Jan, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

PHENOMENA BY SIAN MACFARLANE until Fri 25 Jan, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

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THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 01782 232323

SHIREHALL GALLERY STAFFORD 01785 278345

STAFFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, SHUGBOROUGH
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Warwickshire

COMPTON VERNEY GALLERY
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MEAD GALLERY WARWICK
02476 524524
ROYAL PUMP ROOMS
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WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY 01905 25371

Visit whatsonlive.co.uk for venue website details

VisualArts LISTINGS

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

GILLIAN LOCKWOOD RBSA

A continuing interest in plants and seeds inspires Gillian's sculptural forms, until Sat 26 Jan, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Exhibition exploring the world-renowned glass collections and archives in the Dudley Borough, demonstrating their importance to the region's contemporary glassmakers and designers, until Sun 27 Jan, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford

IN FRONT OF NATURE

The first ever UK exhibition devoted entirely to the paintings and career of one of Scandinavia's most important painters, Thomas Fearnley, until Sun 27 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

BEAT STRUELI: NEW STREET

A portraiture of urban life presented via a series of photographs, video and digital projections, until Sun 3 Feb, Ikon, Birmingham

LIGHT UP DIGITAL

Through the creation of an optical illusion, artist Joanie Lemerrier challenges not only the viewer's senses but also their perception of space, depth and distance, until Sun 3 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

DUDLEY SOCIETY OF ARTISTS ANNUAL EXHIBITION

81st annual exhibition showing work in a variety of media, until Sat 23 Feb, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

INSPIRED BY LACE

Lady Barber's personal lace collection provides the starting point for mixed-media textile artist Jacqueline Lawrence's series of sensitively observed works, until Sun 24 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

PORTRAIT OF A LADY: THE LIFE AND PASSIONS OF LADY BARBER

Portraits of Lady Barber by her favoured artist Nestor Cambler provide the main focus of this exhibition, which explores the life and times of Dame Martha

Constance Hattie Barber and her husband Sir Henry, until Sun 24 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

LAURA KNIGHT IN THE OPEN AIR Special exhibition of works produced during Dame Laura Knight's long and distinguished career, until Sun 10 Feb, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

REVEALED: GOVERNMENT ART COLLECTION Touring exhibition featuring five groups of works being showcased together for the first time, until Sun 24 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MOON Exhibition exploring the influence of the Moon on our culture, until Sun 24 Feb, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

THE MOSQUES OF GAMBIA Acclaimed Birmingham photographer Vanley Burke showcases a body of work which depicts the environments where Islamic worship takes place in The Gambia, until Thurs 28 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham

SCOOTERMANIA

Showcase of British scooters from the '50s & '60s, until Sun 3 March, Coventry Transport Museum

BAGS: THE CRAFT OF THE CARRYING COMPANION

Exhibition showcasing the diversity of approaches contemporary craftspeople have taken to bags and accessory cases - objects where design, skilled manufacture and aesthetics meet, until Sat 9 Mar, Bilston Craft Gallery

HIS DARK MATERIALS: NEW ART BY ADIE BLUNDELL

Large-scale detailed drawings of ravens, albatrosses and other bird-like creatures feature in this exhibition, which explores our precarious position in the world, until Sun 17 Mar, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

INDUSTRIAL ARTWORK BY WELSH ARTIST FALCON HILDRED

Major exhibition of selected originals by the highly accomplished artist who's dedicated his working life to recording the buildings and landscapes of nineteenth and twentieth century industry, until Tues 30 April, Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge, Shropshire

POP HIGHLIGHTS

Chance to see key works from the gallery's Pop Collection, including pieces by Peter Blake, Richard Hamilton, Jann Haworth, Allen Jones &

Andy Warhol, until Wed 15 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

MR WATT, GRUMPY MAN OF METAL Exhibition of whimsical metal sculptures, until Sat 31 Aug, Ingenuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD: DARK AGE DISCOVERY

Featuring more than two hundred pieces from the Anglo-Saxon Hoard, until Sun 1 Sep, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

ARTIST ROOM A

A year-long exhibition featuring sculptures, paintings and prints. This display will be accompanied by a series of inspired satellite exhibitions, events and activities through the course of the year, until Sat 27 Oct, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

STRATA

Showcase of new works by recent UK fine art graduates, Sat 5 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

TIME PASSING

Gunhild Thomson documents changes taking place at particular locations in Birmingham over the period of one year, with a photo taken each month, Sat 5 Jan - Sat 2 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery

ROBERT LENKIEVICZ RETROSPECTIVE Wed 9 Jan - Sun 3 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

D'ARRELLE HARRISON

Exhibition of new work, Wed 9 Jan - Fri 8 Mar, Moseley Exchange, Alcester Rd, Birmingham

RACHEL LOWE: REVOLVING WOMEN

Video installation that uses footage of a mannequin the artist shot on analogue video tape in a shopping mall in Brazil, Sat 12 Jan - Sat 9 Mar, Eastside Projects, Digbeth, Birmingham

TALKING TEXTILES

Exhibition featuring works from eight contemporary textile artists who explore how stories are represented through their work, Sat 12 Jan - Sun 10 Mar, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

CONSTRUCTIONS & DECONSTRUCTIONS EXHIBITION

Featuring works by Malcolm Tillis & Jeremy Schrecker, Mon 14 Jan - Sat 23 Feb, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

THE FOX SKETCHBOOK

Exhibition celebrating a new addition to the art gallery's collection, Sat 19 Jan - Sat 9 Mar, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

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The Shire Hall Gallery
TALKING TEXTILES
14 January - 10 March
This exhibition features work by 8 contemporary textile artists who explore how stories are represented through their work. Using a wide range of materials, techniques and processes each artist creates unique pieces which on further inspection reveal their fascinating stories.

TELLING TALES
12 January - 10 March
A beautiful craft exhibition to begin the year, based on the theme of storytelling, folk tales and memories of childhood. If you are after a special gift or a little treat for yourself then this is an exhibition you can't miss.

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Events



Autosport International NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 January

Motorsport fans and petrol-heads feeling sluggish after a festive season's-worth of overindulgence are sure to be in need of a high-speed fix - and this hugely popular annual show once again promises to provide just that! Celebrities contributing to the event include three-time Formula One World Champion Sir Jackie Stewart, British F1 ace

Paul Di Resta, and newly-crowned FIA World Touring Car Championship winners Rob Huff and Gordon Shedden. The show also features cars from the 2012 Formula One World Championship and a five thousand-seat Live Action Arena, hosting high-octane stunts and wheel-to-wheel races.

International Netball: England vs Australia

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Sat 26 January

It doesn't matter what the sport, a visit to these shores by an Australian team always constitutes a great occasion. The Aussies may be a pale shadow of their former selves when it comes to the gentlemanly game of cricket, but there's no questioning the high quality of their international netball team, who are currently the world champions. The Diamonds, as they're known, last visited the UK in 2010, when England recorded an historic first victory over their old rivals. Fingers crossed that our 2013 squad can achieve a similarly happy outcome. This NIA fixture is the third in a series of three, meaning that there's every possibility it could prove to be a nail-biting decider of a match!



Tattoo Freeze

Telford International Centre, Telford, Shropshire, Sun 13 January

Following on from the success of previous shows, this specialist one-day event returns to the Midlands for a fourth year to entertain crowds with its array of demonstrations, workshops and family-based activities. Tattoo Freeze sees graffiti artists from around the globe come together to offer advice and run workshops for children, while UK and European BMX and skateboard champions facilitate numerous demonstrations throughout the day. This year also sees the return of live and interactive ice sculpture demonstrations and workshops, an unplugged music stage, a traditional Henna tattoo and body-painting zone, and the much-celebrated National Tattoo Photography Competition. Stalls aplenty and various activities for kids completes the line-up of attractions.

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Events PREVIEWS

Gerry Cottle's Circus

StarCity Entertainment Centre, Birmingham, until Sun 6 January

Described as 'a circus like no other', Gerry Cottle's latest offering promises high-energy entertainment for all the family, with no fewer than fifty acts performing in a one hundred-minute show. This fast-paced production showcases some of the best circus acts from around the globe, including Cottle's Crazy Comics, big-top beauties Six On Silks and international illusionists The Magical Melvilles. The show also features a new generation of remarkably talented circus kids, who've been learning the ropes at Gerry Cottle's training school in Wookey Hole, Somerset.

Historic Rally Car Register

Heritage Motor Centre, Sat 12 January

Taking centre-stage at the Historic Rally Car Register is a works-prepared example of the Hillman Imp - a revolutionary light car built by the Rootes Group as a rival to BMC's Mini - which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 2013. This year's event is also being used to launch the British Historic Rally Championship and the Clubman Series, and features a number of on-display cars.

A club shop, as well as the attendance of numerous specialist suppliers and representatives from organising clubs, ensures there's plenty to keep enthusiasts well and truly engaged throughout their visit.



Photo credit: Lisa Carpenter

Designer Vintage Bridal Show

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 20 January

The fourth such event since debuting back in February 2011, the Designer Vintage Bridal Show is the brainchild of shoe designer Rachel Simpson and boutique owner Clare Guest, and brings together an impressive selection of brands from within the bridal industry. The one-day event offers visitors the chance to meet and talk with inspirational designers, gain valuable advice from industry professionals, and enjoy regular catwalk shows and demonstrations. This is the first time that Birmingham's Town Hall will play host to this bridal emporium of hand-picked exhibitors.

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DESIGNER VINTAGE BRIDAL BOUTIQUE

On January 20th 2013, this incredible building, rising up majestically from the heart of the city centre, will open its doors to a whole line-up of bridal designers and exhibitors.

From designer gowns to beautiful and intricate accessories and jewellery, from head to toe, from vintage-inspired to vintage originals, take time out to take in every single stand. From catwalk shows to refreshments and demonstrations, the Designer Vintage Bridal Boutique is all nicely wrapped up in a truly magnificent venue, just perfect for a city-loving bride-to-be.

SUNDAY 20 JANUARY 2013
11AM-7PM • TOWN HALL BIRMINGHAM
BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE TODAY AT
WWW.DESIGNERVINTAGEBRIDAL.CO.UK

Events LISTINGS

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

Week Commencing TUES 1 JAN

WINTER TRAIL Simple, fun search around the venue which encourages children to look for objects, until Sat 5 Jan, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery & Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

MAGICAL WINTER WONDERLAND until Sun 6 Jan, Twinlakes Park, Leicester

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TRAIL Pick up the festive trail to guide you around the grounds, until Sun 6 Jan, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

FESTIVE SEASON SERVICE With the Christmas festivities over, why not blow away the cobwebs with a leisurely steam train journey, until Sun 6 Jan, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

GERRY COTTLE'S CHRISTMAS CIRCUS until Sun 6 Jan, StarCity, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS RETAIL SHOWCASE Featuring an array of locally produced wares, until Sat 12 Jan, Bilston Craft Gallery

CONSERVATION TOUR OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD Wed 2 Jan, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Let your creativity run wild while decorating your very own tile to take home, Wed 2 - Fri 4 Jan, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

WINTER NATURE WALK Thurs 3 Jan, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth

MAKE & TAKE CRAFTS Seasonal themed craft workshop suitable for all the family, Thurs 3 - Fri 4 Jan, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

EATING WITH DINOSAURS A chance to have a picnic in the shadow of a dinosaur!, Fri 4 Jan, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

APOLLO - A MOON ODYSSEY A lecture telling the story of the Apollo moon project, illustrated with images, sound and video, Fri 4 Jan, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

GUIDED TOUR An informal tour of the gallery to find out about the history of the building and Wolverhampton's world-renowned collec-

tions, Sat 5 Jan, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
NEW YEAR'S WALK Join Head Gardener Martin Gee for a guided walk around Capability Brown's landscaped parkland, Sun 6 Jan, Weston Park, Staffordshire

Week Commencing MON 7 JAN

TOUR OF BANTOCK HOUSE WITH A DICKENSIAN TWIST Anne-Marie Vukelics uses Bantock House as a backdrop for tales of Dickens' life at Gad's Hill Place, Tues 8 Jan, Bantock House, Wolverhampton

CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS Join one of the museum's friendly weekly sessions, where you and your child can enjoy a wealth of materials for sensory and creative play, Tues 8 Jan, Bilston Craft Gallery

MEMORIES IN THE MAKING A friendly way for older people and those with dementia to share memories and make new ones through arts and interesting activities, Thurs 10 Jan, Bilston Craft Gallery
THE PERFORMANCE CAR SHOW Featuring a stunning array of exotic supercars, rare and historic models, and displays from top-end manufacturers, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 Jan, NEC, Birmingham

AUTOSPORT INTERNATIONAL The largest dedicated global motorsport exhibition in Europe, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 Jan, NEC, Birmingham

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS Fri 11 Jan, Witley Court & Gardens, Worcestershire

FAMILY WASSAILING Family event where visitors are required to make plenty of noise to awaken the fruit trees and scare away evil spirits in preparation for next autumn's harvest, Sat 12 Jan, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Coventry

THE UK WEDDING SHOW A two-day wedding exhibition with over eighty exhibitors, catwalk shows and a varied display of wedding cars, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Jan, Ricoh Arena, Coventry
HISTORIC RALLY CAR REGISTER Celebrating fifty years of the

Hillman Imp, Sat 12 Jan, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
TATTOO FREEZE Firmly established as the UK's favourite family tattoo event, the Tattoo Freeze returns to the Midlands for a fourth year, Sun 13 Jan, Telford International Centre, Shropshire
BBL CUP FINAL A show-piece event in the basketball calendar, Sun 13 Jan, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

Week Commencing MON 14 JAN

MEMORIES IN THE MAKING A friendly way for older people - and those with dementia - to share memories and make new ones through arts and interesting activities, Tues 15 Jan, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

BELIEF & SUPERSTITION TOUR Discover the role of superstition and folklore in the history of Blakesley Hall, Tues 15 Jan, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

HERBERT ILLUMINATIONS: UNDERSTANDING MEDIEVAL MISERICORDS Join Dominic Russell as he explores the symbolism and meanings of carvings on Medieval Misericords, with a particular focus on those from Coventry, Tues 15 Jan, The Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

INTRODUCTION TO VICTORIAN BIRMINGHAM With History Curator Henrietta Lockhart, Tues 15 Jan, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG A chance to practise drifting in a safe and legal environment, with beginners, intermediate and advanced tracks available, Wed 16 Jan, Santapod Raceway, Northampton

NATIONAL FINE ART & ANTIQUES FAIR The most prestigious event of its kind outside London, Wed 16 - Sun 20 Jan, NEC, Birmingham

MEET THE HEAD GARDENER: WINTER WALK Fri 18 Jan, Witley Court & Gardens, Worcester

STRICTLY COME DANCING LIVE! Join a host of favourite celebrities as they dance their way into Birmingham. The 2013 line-up includes Lisa Riley, Dani Harmer and former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan, Fri 18 - Sun 20 Jan, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

MID-WINTER GHOST TOUR An eerie evening tour around the castle and gatehouse. Hear tales of dark deeds,



Eating With Dinosaurs event - The Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

ghostly apparitions and scary happenings, Fri 18 Jan, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

DROP-IN LIFE DRAWING DAY Be inspired by Lady Barber and have a go at drawing a life-model in costume in the gallery, Sat 19 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

LEATHER BELT-MAKING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS Learn how to set a buckle, make professional punched holes, finish edges and dye your own belt, with tutor David Turner, Sat 19 Jan, Walsall Leather Museum

SHAKESPEARE LIONS CHARITY DANCE Featuring the Joe Loss Orchestra & in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer & Jennifer Trust for Muscular Atrophy, Sat 19 Jan, Stratford Civic Hall

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG Public track day, Sun 20 Jan, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

DESIGNER VINTAGE BRIDAL SHOW One-day boutique-style showcase featuring exceptional brands within the bridal industry, Sun 20 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

Week Commencing MON 21 JAN

SYMPHONY HALL TOUR Take a peep behind the scenes of one of

Birmingham's most prestigious entertainment venues, Mon 21 Jan, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ARTISTS' OPEN DAY Wed 23 Jan, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

TINY TOTS EXPLORERS: ART PLAY Sensory play sessions for children aged one to three, Tues 22 - Thurs 24 Jan, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

THE HISTORY OF THE GOVERNMENT ART COLLECTION: A TALK BY JULIA TOFFOLO Thurs 24 Jan, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

BONNETS UP DAYS An opportunity for technically minded types to get under the bonnets of three of the Heritage Motor Centre's cars, Fri 25 Jan, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

PRO WRESTLING LIVE Featuring body slamming, drop kicking, power driving, professional wrestling, Fri 25 Jan, The Robin, Bilston

ALIENS LOVE UNDERPANTS Feast Of Words Festival event for the under-fives and their families, Fri 25 Jan, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

INTERNATIONAL NETBALL: ENGLAND VS AUSTRALIA Get ready for the hotly anticipated final match of the series, Sat 26 Jan, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG A chance to practise drifting in a safe and legal environment, with beginners, intermediate and advanced tracks available, Sat 26 Jan, Santapod Raceway, Northampton

VINTAGE TEA PARTY Sat 26 Jan, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

LEATHER BAG WORKSHOP Made To Make exhibitor Katherine Richmond shows different metalworking techniques which can be used to design and produce your own piece of jewellery, Sat 26 Jan, Bilston Craft Gallery

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG Public track day, Sun 27 Jan, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

Week Commencing MON 28 JAN

TINY TOT EXPLORERS: ART PLAY Taking elements of the Herbert's popular sensory play sessions, this innovative workshop for children aged one to three encourages creative learning and provides an environment where youngsters can get messy making something to take home, Tue 29 - Thurs 31 Jan, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

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What our members are up to in **January 2013**

Tuesday 1st January

- Chester and Cheshire New Year Break EXTRA NIGHT
- Latimer New Year Break - EXTRA NIGHT
- Luxury New Year in Peaks EXTRA NIGHT
- New Years Day Centre of England Ramble
- Winter Wildlife Tour of Middleton Lakes

Wednesday 2nd January

- Tamworth and Lichfield Pub Night

Thursday 3rd January

- Halesowen and Quinton Pub Night

Friday 4th January

- Quiz of 2012 and Supper

Saturday 5th January

- Balsall Common Easy Ramble and Lunch
- Sikh Gurdwara Visit

Sunday 6th January

- Napton on the Hill Easy/Moderate Ramble

Monday 7th January

- Spice Book Club

Tuesday 8th January

- Solihull Pub Night
- Ten Pin Bowling (Broadway Plaza)

Wednesday 9th January

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Badminton at NIA
- Curry and Quiz - Harborne
- Lichfield Cathedral by Candlelight
- Sutton Pub Night

Thursday 10th January

- Bowling and Adventure Golf Evening
- Pizza Making and Meal at The Radisson
- Preview Evening (MAC)
- Unihoc (Mixed Indoor Hockey)

Friday 11th January

- Ghost Hunting and Supper

Saturday 12th January

- Abseiling for the Terrified
- Hippodrome Back Stage Tour
- Planetarium Show - Dark Side Of The Moon
- Stanton Moor Moderate Ramble
- Ukulele for Fun
- Western Style Rifle Shooting Afternoon

Sunday 13th January

- Abbots Bromley Moderate Ramble

- Burlesque/Fan Dance Afternoon!
- Mind Management Workshop
- Nordic Walking Taster (Cannon Hill Park)
- Tennis for Absolute Beginners (Indoor)
- Three Parishes Ramble
- Wildfowl Prowl at Middleton Lakes

Monday 14th January

- Meditation for Beginners

Tuesday 15th January

- Kings Heath Pub Night

Wednesday 16th January

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Badminton at NIA
- Grants of Sheep Street Dinner Shuffle
- Pre Ski Meet (Zermatt)

Thursday 17th January

- Indian Fine Dining at Delhi 6
- Knowle Beer,Skittles and Supper
- Warwick / Leamington Pub Night

Friday 18th January

- Spice Hits Town at the Jam House

Saturday 19th January

- Change your thinking and get an Amazing Life!
- Kingsbury Water Park Easy Ramble
- Military Vehicle Driving Experience
- Peak Classic Caves Day
- Solihull Cinema Night
- Toboggan and Fondue Night
- Wenlock Edge Ramble

Sunday 20th January

- Camel Riding Experience in Warwickshire
- Cannock Chase Moderate Ramble
- Criminal Birmingham Walk
- Dance to the 'Best of the 80's'
- Make 2013 A Great Year
- New Members Mix and Mingle
- Tardebigge Locks + Stoke Prior Easy Ramble
- Ten Things Everyone Should Know About DIY

Monday 21st January

- Bromsgrove Pub Night

Tuesday 22nd January

- Indoor Climbing at Redpoint
- Preview Evening (Sutton)

Wednesday 23rd January

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Badminton at NIA
- Body Language The Fun Way
- Ice Skating Fun Night

Thursday 24th January

- BBC Birmingham Behind the Scenes
- Furry Fables -Stories of our British Mammals
- Quiz - Sound + Vision Quiz in Lichfield
- Unihoc (Mixed Indoor Hockey)

Friday 25th January

- Australia by Ian on Australia Day
- Indoor Shooting
- Keswick Country House Walking Wend
- Private Dining with a Celebrity Chef

Saturday 26th January

- Ballroom Dance Masterclass - Cha Cha Cha
- Caving at the Symonds Yat Caves
- Colour U Confident Workshop
- Face Reading Workshop
- Medieval Banquet at Coombe Abbey
- Pole Dancing with Pure Joy
- Saxophone for Beginners
- Vulcan Bomber Restoration Experience
- Zermatt Ski Trip - SKI CARRIAGE
- Zermatt Spice West Midlands Ski Trip 2013

Sunday 27th January

- Acrylic Painting Intro. Day
- Cadburys 'Bean to Bar' Talk + Cadbury World
- Chipping Campden Scenic Cotswolds Ramble
- Get that Job!
- Glass Art Workshop
- Hidden Kings Norton Walk
- How to Make Friends and Influence People
- Make an Impact with your Voice
- Wellesbourne and Charlecote Park Ramble

Tuesday 29th January

- Drumming Experience for Beginners
- Indoor Bouldering Taster Session

Wednesday 30th January

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Heatwave at the Jam House
- Quiz

Thursday 31st January

- Nine Steps to Happiness
- Pride and Prejudice Dance Experience
- The Rocky Horror Show

For future listings visit:
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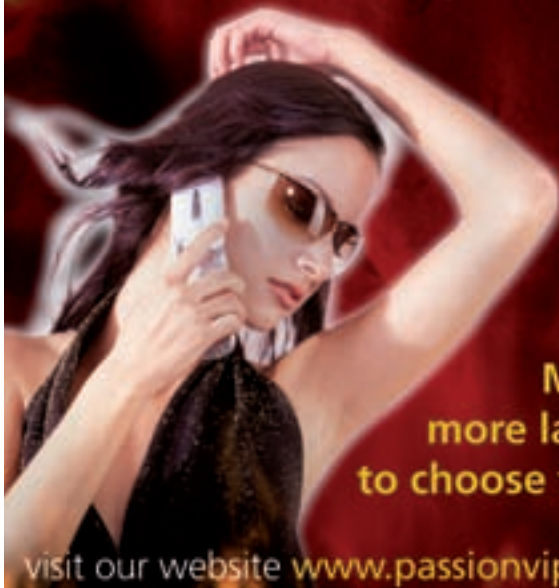
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BUTTERMARKET Howard Street, Shrewsbury Tel: 01743 281712

VELVET 13 Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury SY1 2DJ Tel: 01743 281712

FEVER 19 - 21 Hills Lane, Shrewsbury SY1 1QU Tel: 01743 247508

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Russian sensation to headline Birmingham gig

Gatecrasher, Birmingham, Sat 26 January

Russian trance DJ and producer Arty (Artyom Stolyarov) first lit up airwaves and dancefloors in 2009 with tracks such as Gentle Touch, Get On and Flip Flop. Since then he's gained international recognition for his explosive anthems, and consistently features in the sets of the world's biggest artists. In the 2011 DJ Mag Top 100 DJ Poll, Arty soared a staggering fifty-plus places to claim the twenty-fifth spot, while June 2012 saw him embark on a new partnership with Stateside radio giant Sirius XM. This much-anticipated Birmingham gig sees Arty perform alongside Dimitry Vegas, Like Mike, John OO Flemming, JFK and Simon Patterson.

Gay SCENE

Jahmene at The Gale...

It's not been long since New Year's Eve saw us all saying goodbye to 2012 and welcoming in 2013. And if you enjoyed your 31st of December so much that you wouldn't mind experiencing it all over again, Birmingham's Nightingale Club can make your dream come true later this month. The Gale's 'New Year's Eve re-run' event on 26 January features a live performance by Jahmene Douglas, who came second in the 2012 series of hit ITV1 talent show The X Factor.



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Gordon Ramsay's Healthy Appetite

By Gordon Ramsay

With Christmas a not-so-distant memory, plenty of people are turning their thoughts to the business of trying to eat healthily and get fit. Gordon Ramsay - superfit chef, marathon runner and high-energy television presenter - is a great advertisement for eating well and staying in peak condition. In this book, he's brought together over one hundred recipes for healthy breakfasts, lunches, barbecues, suppers, desserts, kids and entertaining. He also reveals how to cook in a

health-conscious way while guaranteeing optimum flavour, and offers the lowdown on his favourite healthy ingredients. Featured recipes include griddled squid with roasted peppers and cannellini beans, and wild mushroom risotto with baked courgettes and roasted peaches with vanilla and spices.

Wonders Of Life

By Brian Cox, Andrew Cohen

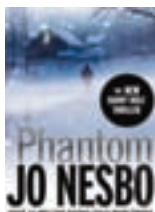
Professor Brian Cox takes readers on an incredible journey in this definitive new book that seeks to explain what life is, where it comes from, and why it ends. The story of life's diversity and adaptability is here told through the fundamental laws that govern it. Brian explains how the astonishing inventiveness of nature came about, along the way uncovering numerous milestones in the journey from the origin of life to our own modern-day existence. The book makes use of the latest advances in science - as well as the cutting-edge graphics used in The Sunday Times' bestsellers Wonders Of The Solar System and Wonders Of The Universe - to uncover the secrets of life in the most unexpected locations and the most stunning detail.



Phantom: A Harry Hole Thriller

By Jo Nesbo, Don Bartlett

For those not in the know, Jo Nesbo is a much-acclaimed Norwegian crime novelist whose works have been translated into more than forty languages, and whose creation, the detective Harry Hole, is here appearing in his eighth novel. Phantom sees Harry striking out on his own, discovering a trail of violence and mysterious disappearances apparently unnoticed by the police. At every turn, the detective is faced with a wall of silence. But Harry isn't the only person interested in the case. Someone is watching his every move. And someone wants him silenced...



TOP 5 BOOKS

- 1 **Jamie's 15-Minute Meals**
Jamie Oliver
- 2 **Is It Just Me?**
Miranda Hart
- 3 **Bradley Wiggins: My Time**
Bradley Wiggins
- 4 **A Street Cat Named Bob**
James Bowen
- 5 **Diary Of A Wimpy Kid**
Jeff Kinney



Stay in for A Great Night Out...

Brand new six-part series A Great Night Out makes its debut this month. The post-watershed hour-long comedy follows four thirtysomething Stockport mates as they meet up once a week and help each other through their respective romantic, work and family crises. In each hour-long episode we witness the constant bickering which masks the bromance which exists between the four. Written and created by Mark Bussell and Justin Sbresni, A Great Night Out stars Lee Boardman, Will Ash, Craig Parkinson and Stephen Walters, and gets its first airing at 9pm on ITV1 on 11 January.

Last Tango In Halifax commissioned for second series

The BBC has announced that it's commissioned a second series of Danny Cohen's captivating northern drama Last Tango In Halifax. Boasting an all-star cast - Derek Jacobi, Anne Reid, Sarah Lancashire and Nicola Walker - the six-part drama follows the relationship of would-be childhood sweethearts Alan and Celia, who find themselves reunited after sixty years. Last Tango In Halifax is the fifth BBC One drama series of 2012 to be recommissioned, the others being The Syndicate, Prisoners' Wives, The Paradise and Call The Midwife.



ITV announces new Miss Marple film

An all-star cast will feature alongside veteran actress Julia McKenzie when she reprises the role of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple this year. Greenshaw's Folly is the second of three Marple films to be commissioned by ITV and is currently being filmed in Hertfordshire. It also stars Kimberley Nixon (Fresh Meat, Hebburn), Fiona Shaw (Harry Potter), Jim Moir (Shooting Stars, The Smell Of Reeves And Mortimer), Robert Glenister (Hustle), Gordon Sinclair (Gregory's Girl), Julia Sawalha (Ab Fab, Larkrise To Candleford) and Rufus Jones (Holy Flying Circus).

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Eating Out

National title for Worcestershire chef...

Brockencote Hall's two-AA Rosette Head Chef Adam Brown was recently awarded the title of Visionary Chef of the Year 2012 following a cook-off headed up by Mark Sargeant of ITV's Saturday Cookbook. Brown walked away with the title after fighting off stiff competition from chefs familiar with the pressures of live TV and maintaining their Michelin stars. The winning dish - a tangerine snowball in buttermilk and carrot - was described by the judges as 'stunning on several levels'. The victory firmly establishes Brown as 'one to watch' in the world of culinary creations.



Adam Brown

New pop-up restaurant for Brum

Michelin-starred chef Adam Stokes has announced he's to open a new twenty-eight-seat pop-up restaurant in Birmingham. The aptly named Adams opens in Bennetts Hill in March, and will run for an initial eighteen months. This will be the first solo venture for Stokes, who won his Michelin star in 2011 while working at Scotland's Glennap Castle.

Shropshire chef launches private dining experience

Acclaimed chef Will Holland has seen his dream of opening a private dining and tasting room at his La Becasse restaurant in Ludlow finally come to fruition. His recently opened No1 Vault seats up to fourteen people and offers guests the chance to enjoy views of the kitchen before sampling some of Will's much-talked-about creations. For further details, contact La Becasse on 01584 872325, or visit www.labecasse.co.uk



Will Holland at No1 Vault



Balsall Heath restaurant gets the thumbs up...

REVIEW

Desi Imlees is a new Indian restaurant situated on the Moseley Road in Birmingham's Balsall Heath. It's declared itself a traditional Indian restaurant serving the finest Indian cuisine, and has plenty of competition from other Indian restaurants on that stretch of road.

So what sets it apart from the rest? Well, for a start, the restaurant is decorated to a high contemporary standard, and manages to create the feeling of a fine dining experience while at the same time maintaining a casual and relaxed ambience.

Having been shown to our table, we had an appetiser of traditional poppadoms - crisp, fresh and served with a lovely minty sauce and onion salad.

To start, I opted for the samosa chat (£2.95) - purely out of curiosity, as I'd never seen it on an Indian menu before. I certainly wasn't disappointed. The dish consisted of two

samosas layered in sour cream and red onions. It tasted delicious, with the sour cream offsetting the spiciness of the packed samosa. So simple yet so tasty.

I also sampled my partner's lasan chicken (£3.95) - succulent chicken marinated in garlic, ginger and spices before barbecuing. It was by far the best chicken I'd ever tasted in a restaurant, and was cooked to perfection. I would highly recommend this dish.

For our main, my partner went for the harra ghost (£8.95), a traditional spicy lamb dish. Although slightly on the hot side, the lamb melted in the mouth.

Again trying something a little bit different, I chose the shah-jahni (£8.95), a chicken breast stuffed with mince and served with a korma sauce and a creamy masala sauce. As a rule, I don't normally like sweet sauces, but this should be Imlees' signature dish. Again, the chicken was cooked to perfection, the minced meat inside very

moreish, and the sauces complemented each other exceptionally well.

To accompany the meals we had garlic naan (£2.50), which had an excellent and not-too-overpowering flavour, and pilau rice (£2.60)

The manager explained to us that he's created a menu featuring dishes which his mom would make at home, to ensure that customers can enjoy the experience of sampling truly traditional cuisine. All I can say is that, if the menu is reflective of the manager's mother's culinary expertise, I really wish she'd invite me round for dinner! *Eva Easthope*

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

Desi Imlees
562 - 564 Moseley Rd
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 9AD
Tel: 0121 449 4495

Restaurant **REVIEWS**

Encore for Encore...

Set opposite the canal basin in Stratford-upon-Avon, Encore is a comfortable and modern space with some theatrical influences evident in its decor. Being only a stone's throw from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, this is perfectly understandable - but Encore certainly isn't a themed restaurant.

Three of us went for an early supper. As it was between shifts, we had a number of staff serving us. All were efficient and friendly without wanting to be our new best friend. The background jazz was a little loud and slightly intrusive.

The youngest member of our party went for the scallops with salty chorizo, followed by the lamb rump with soubise sauce, asparagus, peas and chorizo dauphinoise. The main ingredients in both dishes were delicious, although we felt the dauphinoise didn't really need the chorizo. Both courses had a fashionable smearing of cauliflower puree that wasn't robust enough to stand up to the other strong flavours. Our oldest diner very much enjoyed the lamb koftas, but was puzzled by the sweet gypsy salad. This was a new dish to us, and not one we felt confident in appraising. The chicken, leek and apple-wood pie that followed boasted plenty of pleasingly hearty chunks of filling, and also contained mushroom - which perhaps should be included on the menu. The lemon and thyme mash accompaniment was tasty

and ultra smooth. I had the gambas to start - juicy and tasting of the sea - followed by a superb rare ribeye steak. I'm fussy about steak, but this one was just right. The creamy bearnaise sauce and crisp frites completed a very good main course. We were impressed by the quality of the meat. Ed, the deputy manager, explained that it was mostly sourced through Fairfax Meadow, and that, being part of Premier Country Dining - part of Mitchell and Butler - it was difficult to use local produce regularly.

Though full, we all indulged in dessert - vanilla ice cream and tangy sorbet, a divine Belgian chocolate brûlée, and ripe cheese and biscuits. We were impressed by the children's and vegetarian menus, and by a wine list that offered a lively choice of both old and new world wines. We've promised ourselves the sticky sharing-platter on our next visit, having watched the people on the next table enjoying it. We really enjoyed our meal at Encore and would highly recommend the restaurant, particularly for a special occasion.

Jan Watts

Food:
 Service:
 Ambience:
 Overall value:
OVERALL

The Encore
 Bridge Street
 Stratford-upon-Avon
 CV37 6AB
 Tel: 01789 269462



The Encore

Restaurant **LISTINGS**

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit: www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Birmingham

AALTO RESTAURANT

Hotel La Tour, Albert Street, Birmingham B5 5JT 0121 718 8000

AL FRASH 186 Ladypool Road, Sparkbrook, B12 8JS 0121 753 3120

THE ASQUITH 11 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3NY 0121 200 1588

ASHA'S 12-22 Newhall Street, B3 3LX 0121 200 2767

AZZARI TOO 204 Lightwoods Rd, B67 5AZ 0121 429 6621

BANK 4 Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 633 4466

BAR EPERNAY 171-172 Wharfside Street, The Mailbox, B1 1RL 0121 632 1430

BAR ESTILO 10-114 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B1 1RF 0121 643 3443

BARNT GREEN INN Kendal End Rd, Rednal B45 8PZ 0121 445 4949

BARAJEE 265 Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 643 6700

BELLA ITALIA 102 New St, B2 4HQ 0121 6431548

BERLIOZ Burlington Arcade, New St, B2 4JQ 0121 633 1737

BLUE MANGO Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 633 4422

BLUE GINGER 32 Poplar Road, Kings Heath, B14 7AD 0121 444 0999

BLUU Fleet St, Summer Row, B3 1JH 0121 236 9013

BRANDED BULL STEAKHOUSE 175 Broad Street, B15 1DT 0121 643 5968

BUONISSIMO 1 Albany Rd, Harborne, B17 9JX 0121 426 2444

BYZANTIUM 11 York Road, Kings Heath, B14 7SA 0121 444 5444

CAFE IKON 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 248 3226

CAFE ROUGE Brindleyplace, Broad Street, B1 2HJ 0121 643 6556

CAFE SOYA Unit 2, Upper Dean Street B5 4SG 0121 622 3888

CARLUCCIO'S The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace B1 2HP 0121 633 9262

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COTE The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587

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DEOLALI BAR RESTAURANT 23A St Mary's Row, Moseley B13 8HW 0121 442 2222

DUET CUISINE Unit 1, Fort Dunlop, B24 9FD 0121 748 1234

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HARJEES SPICES 512 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, B11 4AH 0121 773 6130

THE HORSESHOE BAR & RESTAURANT 1214 Stratford Road, B28 9BH 0121 777 2340

ITHAAS 18 Fleet St, B3 1JL 0121 212 3383

ITHAAS BRASSERIE Selfridges Food Hall, Bullring, Birmingham B5 4BP 0121 212 3383

JAMIES ITALIAN Middle Mall, Bullring Shopping Centre, B5 4BE 0121 270 3610

JIMMY SPICES Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 643 2111

JUJU'S Canal Square, B16 8EH 0121 456 3384

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LASAN 3-4 Dakota Buildings, James St, St Paul's Square, B3 1SD 0121 212 3664

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0121 643 4202

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0121 4494498

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707 8297

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0366

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0121 454 3434

THE SLUG AND LETTUCE,
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Birmingham B1 2HL
0121 633 3049

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2369444

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B1 2HL 0121 643 3993

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Brindleyplace, B1 2HL
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326 1570

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Digbeth, B5 5TH
0121 633 0261

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WOKTASTIC Paradise
Place, B3 3HJ 0121 236
3130

WONGS 5-11 Fleet St, B3
1JP 0121 212 1888

ZIZZI 183 High St,
Harborne B17 9QE
0121 428 4228 also at
The Mailbox B1 1RL
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5030

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BRAVACCIOUS 4 Upper
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WV6 8QQ 01902
756052

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1UP 01902 676754

CATELLANI'S 6 School St,
Wolverhampton, WV1
4LR 01902 428928

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Mill Way, Walsall WS2
0BP 0121 568 6664

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Farm Clive Rd,
Pattingham, WV6 7EN
01902 701888

THE CROOKED HOUSE
Coppice Hill, Himley DY3
4DA 01384 238583

THE DITCH 1 Town Hill,
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DY9 9PS 01562 883260

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Smethwick, B67 5BN
0121 429 7920

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Stourbridge DY8 1EP
01384 390940

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Kidderminster. DY11
6JU 01562 744976

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Nuvo, Birmingham

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8QQ 01902 756052

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0121 552 1752

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0PU 0121 580 9293

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Wolverhampton WV4
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THE SUMMERHOUSE 92
Gospel End Rd, Dudley
DY3 4AN 01902 676
102

THORNESCROFT
Bridgnorth Rd,
Wolverhampton, WV6
7EQ 01902 700 253

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7DG 01746 710 553

Shropshire

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01952 432055

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01939 290 523

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460662

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Passage, Wyle Cop,
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Street, Bridgnorth, WV16
4DX 01746 218 084

CHEZ MAW Best Western
Valley Hotel, Buildwas
Rd, Ironbridge, TF8 7DW
01952 432247

THE COTTAGE Tern Hill,
Market Drayton TF9 3PX
01630 638984

CROMWELLS 11 Dogpole,
Shrewsbury SY1 1EN
01743 361440

DA VINCI'S 26 High St,
Ironbridge, TF8 7AD
01952 432250

**DORRINGTON OLD HALL
PERSIAN CUISINE** Main
road, Dorrington,
Shropshire SY5 7JD
01743 719100

DRAPERS 10 St Mary's St
Shrewsbury, SY1 1DZ
01743 344679

THE FEATHERS Brockton,
Much Wenlock TF13
6JR 01746 785202

FENNELS 8 Market Place,
Shifnal TF11 9AZ
01952 463020

THE FOX INN 46 High St,
Much Wenlock TF13
6AD 01952 727292

FRANK CAFE BAR 128
Frankwell, Shrewsbury
SY3 8JX 01743 354422

THE GOLDEN CROSS 14
Princess St, Shrewsbury,
SY1 1LP 01743 362507

GRANARY BAR & GRILL
Weston Park, Weston-
under-Lizard, Nr Shifnal,
TF11 8LE 01952
852107

HADLEY PARK HOUSE
Hadley Park, Telford TF1
6QJ 01952 677269

THE HAYWARDS at The
Lion Hotel, Wyle Cop,
Shrewsbury SY1 1UY
01743 353107

HILL VALLEY HOTEL
Tarporey Road,
Whitchurch SY13 4HA
0844 879 9049

THE INN AT GRINSHILL
The High Street,
Grinshill, Shrewsbury,
SY4 3BL 01939 220410

KING & THAI Avenue Rd,
Broseley, Telford TF12
5DL 01952 882004

THE KNIGHTON HOTEL
Broad Street, Knighton,
Powys LD7 1BL 01547
520530

LA BÉCASSE 17 Corve St,
Ludlow, SY8 1DA 01584
872 325

LA DOLCE VITA 35 Hills
Lane, Shrewsbury SY1
1QU 01743 249126

LA LANTERNA The Old
Vestry, St Julian's
Church, Shrewsbury
SY1 1UH 01743 233552

LION & PHEASANT 50
Wyle Cop Shrewsbury
SY1 1XJ 01743 770345

THE LION QUAYS Moreton,
Oswestry SY11 3EN
01691 684300

LOCH FYNNE Talbot House,
Market Street,
Shrewsbury SY1 1LG
01743 277140

MAD JACKS 15 St Mary's
St, Shrewsbury, SY1
1EQ 01743 358870

THE MALTHEOUSE The
Wharfage, Ironbridge
TF8 7NH 01902 433712

MORGANS 1 Bellstone,
Shrewsbury SY1 1HU
01743 239114

MR UNDERHILLS Dinham
Weir, Ludlow Shropshire
SY8 1EH 01584 874431

THE MYTTON & MERMAID
Atcham, Shrewsbury,
SY5 6QG 01743 761220

THE OLD ORLETON INN
Holyhead Rd,
Wellington, TF1 2HA
01952 255011

**THE OLD RECTORY HOTEL
& RESTAURANT** Lowe Hill
Road, Wem, Shropshire
SY4 5UA 01939 233233

THE PEACH TREE 21
Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE
01743 355055

THE PLUME OF FEATHERS
Harley, Shrewsbury SY5
6LP 01743 727360

**THE POUND AT LEEBOT-
WOOD** Leebotwood, Nr
Church Stretton SY6
6ND 01694 751477

RENAISSANCE, 29a
Princess St, Shrewsbury,
SY11LW 01743 354289

ROMOLO Victoria Avenue,
shrewsbury SY1 1HH
01743 233244

SARACENS Shrewsbury
Rd, SY4 4AG 01939
210877

SEBASTIANS 45 Willow St,
Oswestry SY11 1AQ
01691 655444

SHALIMAR 23 Abbey
Foregate, Shrewsbury
SY2 6AE 01743 366588

SHERAZ 79 Wyle Cop,
Shrewsbury SY1 1UT
01743 242321

THE SILVERTON the Old
Dairy, 9-10 Frankwell,
Shrewsbury SY3 8JY

01743 248000
TIN TINS Wellington
Road, Telford TF2 8AJ
01952 608688

TRAITORS GATE Castle St,
Water Lane, Shrewsbury
SY1 2BX 01743 249152

THE WALLS Welsh Walls,
Oswestry SY11 1AW
01691 670970

ZIZI RISOIRANTE 39-40
High Street, Shrewsbury
SY1 1SF 01743 353232

Staffordshire

NO 5 Gaol Mews,
Stafford ST16 3AN
01785 22 9900

95 HIGH GREEN Cannock.
WS11 1BH 01543
573905

1709 THE BASSERIE 3-5
Lombard St, Lichfield.
WS13 6DP 01543
257986

BELLA ITALIA 20
Greengate St, Stafford,
ST16 2HS
01785 211968

CHANDLERS Corn
Exchange, Conduit St,
Lichfield, WS13 6JU
01543 416688

THE CORNER HOUSE
Second Avenue, Burton-
On-Trent DE14 2WF
01283 542321

CURRY KUTEER 31
Greengate Street,
Stafford ST16 2HY
01785 253279

ESSENCE OF THE ORIENT
27 Broad Eye, Stafford
ST16 2QB 01785
229988

FOUR SEASONS Swinfen
Hall Lichfield, WS14
9RE 01543 481494

THE GREEN ROOM Castle
Dyke, Lichfield WS13
6HR 01543 412121

INDIAN VILLAGE
8 Lombard St, Lichfield.
WS13 6DR 01543
253415

INDICA Virage Park,
Cannock. WS11 0HN
08712 070417

JASMINE PEKING 21 High
St, Eccleshall, Stafford
ST21 6BW 01785
851200

LA DOLCE VITA 19 Stafford
St, Stone ST15 8QW
01785 817 985

Restaurant LISTINGS

THE LODGE 24 Birmingham Road, Shenstone. WS14 0LQ 01543 483334

MALABAR 1-2 Water Street, Stafford, ST16 2AG 01785 227 500/600

MARLOES 13 London Road, Newcastle under Lyme, ST4 1LQ 01782 661983

THE MILL 1 Mill St, Stone, ST15 8BA 01785 818456

THE NAVIGATION INN Newport Road, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0BN 01785 822327

OLD VICARAGE 2 Main St, Branston, Burton, DE14 3EX 01283 533222

PASTICHE BISTRO 1 - 2 Mill Street, Stafford, ST16 2AJ 01782 263 737

THE PEARL 18 Market St, Kidsgrove, ST7 4AB 01782 788887

THE PEAR TREE Swinfen, Nr. Lichfield, WS14 9QR 01543 481807

PORTOFINO 38-40 Marsh St Stoke-On-Trent, ST1 1JD 01782 209444

THE RED ROOM 7 Newcastle Road, Congleton CW12 4HN 01260 297871

THE SWAN HOTEL 46 Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2JA 01785 258142

THORNBURY HALL, RASOI Lockwood Rd, Kingsley Holt, Stafford ST10 2DH 01538 750831

WOLSELEY ARMS Wolseley Bridge, Stafford ST17 0XS 01889 883179

Warwickshire

7 SQUARE 7 Old Square, Warwick CV34 4RA 01926 411 755

NO. 9 CHURCH STREET Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6HB 01789 415522

ART KITCHEN 7 Swan St, Warwick CV34 4BJ 01926 494303

AUBERGINE 32 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HS 01926 400 086

THE ALMANACK Abbey End North, Kenilworth CV8 1QJ 01926 353637

THE BLUEBELL 93 High Street, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, B95 5AT 01564 793049

BLUE BISTRO 21 Spon St, Coventry, CV1 3BA 024 7622 9274

BROWNS Earl St, Coventry CV1 5RU 0247 622 1100

CARLUCCIOS 13 Waterside, Stratford-Upon-Avon CV37 6BA 01789 267424

CASTLES 6 Castle St, Warwick. CV34 4BP 01926 492525

CATALAN 6 Jury St, Warwick CV34 4EW 01926 498 930

THE CHURCH STREET TOWNHOUSE 16 Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HB 01789 262222

EGO 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 864463

FINEST CATCH B'ham Rd, Henley in Arden. B95 5QR 01564 793783

FIVE RIVERS 20-22 Victoria Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 3AB 01926 431999

GEORGETOWN 23 Sheep St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6EF 01789 204445

HELP OUT MILL Heather Rd, Shakerstone, Nuneaton. CV13 0BT 01530 260666

HIGH PAVEMENT 3 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AP 01926 494725

HOGARTH'S HOTEL 4 Ashes Rd, Solihull, B93 8QE 01564 779988

HORTONS 165 High Street, Solihull B91 3ST 0121 709 3177

INDIA RED 1-2 Abbey St, Nuneaton. CV11 5BP 02476 342090

JIMMY SPICES 64-66 Station Rd, Solihull, B91 3RX 0121 709 2111

LE BISTRO PIERRE Swans Nest, Bridgford, Stratford upon Avon. CV37 7LT 01789 264804

MATRICARDIS 97 High St, Henley in Arden. B95 5AT 01564 792735

MERCHANTS Swan Street, Warwick CV34 4BJ 01926 403833

NAYA 148 High St, Henley in Arden. B95 5BS

01564 793089

NAILCOTE HALL Nailcote Lane, Berkswell, Coventry, CV7 7DE 02476 466174

NICOLINIS 14 The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4DW 01926 421620

ONE ELM 1 Guild St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6QZ 01789 404919

OSCARS 39 Chandos St, Leamington Spa, CV32 4RL 01926 452807

PEEL'S Hampton Manor, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, B92 0EN 01675 446080

PREZZO 1-3 High St, Warwick CV34 4AP 01926 475867

QUEANS RESTAURANT 15 Dorner Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA 01926 315522

RESTAURANT 23 34 Hamilton Terrace, Holly Walk Leamington Spa, CV32 4LY 01926 422422

ROBBIES 74 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HU 01926 400470

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT @ The RST, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB 01789 403449

SAFFRON GOLD Market St, Westgate House, Warwick CV34 4DE 01926 402061

THE SAXON MILL Coventry Rd, Guys Cliffe, Warwick CV34 5YN 01926 492 255

SIGNATURES @ The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, CV1 1GS 02476 846762

TAILORS 22 Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SL 01926 410590

THAI ELEPHANT 20 Regent St, Leamington Spa, Warwick CV32 5HQ 01926 886882

THE TREVELYAN Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0NR 01789 295252

WARWICK SPICE 24 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HS 01926 491736

THE VINE INN 86 - 88 West St, Warwick CV34 6AW 07873 219005

ZIZZI 85-87 Regent Square House, Parade, Leamington Spa CV 32 4NL



High Pavement, Warwick

ZORBA'S Olton Boulevard, Solihull. B27 7DP 0121 706 4709

Worcestershire

ANAKARI 47 The Tythings, Worcester. WR1 1JT 01905 21412

ANGEL CHEF 1 Angel St, Worcester WR1 3QT 01905 731131

ANUPAM 85 Church Street, Malvern. WR14 2AE 01684 573814

BACCHUS 44 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove B61 0TA 01527 877557

BENEDICTOS 34 Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HZ 01905 21444

BINDLES 55 Sidbury, Worcester. WR1 2HU 01905 611120

BRAMBLINGS Hither Green Lane, Redditch, B98 9BE 01527 406600

THE BRIDGE INN Plough Rd, Tibberton, Droitwich. WR9 7NQ 01905 345874

THE BROOK INN Elcocks Bank, Redditch. B97 5UD 01527 543209

BROWNS 24 Quay St, Worcester WR1 2JJ 01905 26263

THE CHASE INN Chase Rd, Upper Colwall, Malvern. WR13 6DQ 01684 540276

CHESTERS 51 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DL 01905 611638

CROWN & SANDYS Main Rd, Ombersley, WR9 0EW 01905 620252

EWE & LAMB Hanbury Rd, Bromsgrove. B60 4DN 01527 871929

THE FIG TREE 99 Church Street, Gt Malvern, WR14 2AE 01684 569909

FOUR SEASONS 61

Lowesmoor, Worcester WR1 2RS 01905 27026

FUSION BRASSERIE Hawbridge, Stouiton, Worcester WR7 4RJ 01905 840647

THE GARDENERS ARMS Vines Lane, Droitwich. WR9 8LU 01905 772936

THE GATE 36 Dodford Rd, Boumheath, Bromsgrove B61 9JR 01527 878169

THE INN AT STONEHALL Stonehall Common, Worcester, WR5 3QG 01905 820462

KING CHARLES II King Charles House, New St, Worcester WR1 2D 01905 22449

L'AMUSE BOUCHE 51 Graham Rd, Malvern. WR14 2HU 01684 572427

LANGTREYS 89a High St, Bromsgrove. B61 8AQ 01527 878242

LITTLE VENICE 1 - 3 St Nicholas St, Worcester WR1 1UW 01905 726126

LOTUS HOUSE 33 Ombersley St, Droitwich. WR9 8QX 01905 770079

MAEKONG THAI 12 Worcester Rd, Bromsgrove. B61 7AE 01527 578888

MASSALLA LOUNGE 35 Broad St, Worcester WR1 3NH 01905 729955

MUG HOUSE Claines Lane, Worcester WR3 7RN 01905 456649

OLD RECTIFYING HOUSE North Parade, Worcester WR1 3NN 01905 619622

ON THE ROCKS, Worcester Rd, Bromsgrove. B61 7AE 01527 882412

PORTOFINO, 6 Worcester Rd, Droitwich. WR9 8AD 01905 794799

PORTWAY ITALIAN, Alcester Rd, Redditch. B48 7HT 01564 824794

PUCCINI'S, 12 Friar St, Worcester WR12LZ 01905 27770

RAJDOOT Cutnall Green, Redditch. WR9 0PW 01299 851000

RILY'S The Quadrant, Redditch B98 8AE 01527 60544

ROSADOS'S 2 Finstall Rd, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. B60 2DZ 01527 889948

SAFFRON BISTRO 15 New St, Worcester WR1 2DP 01905 610505

SINGAPORE 29 Friar St, Worcester WR1 2NA 01905 613005

THAI GALLERY 26-32 Friar St, Worcester WR1 2LZ 01905 25451

THAI LOTUS 147 Worcester Rd, Bromsgrove. B61 7HN 01527 882606

THAI RAMA Walwyn Rd, Gt Malvern. WR13 6QX 01684 541563

THE WILDMOOR OAK Top Road, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove B61 0RB 0121 453 2696

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