THE MIDLANDS ESSENTIAL ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

MIDLANDS
What's On

www.whatsonlive.co.uk £1.80 ISSUE 315 MARCH 2012



OLIVER!
WEST END MUSICAL IN BIRMINGHAM

INSIDE:

Patrick Robinson
Waiting For Godot at the Old Rep
interview inside

Maverick Sabre
Singer/songwriter in the city...
interview inside

THE DEFINITIVE LISTINGS GUIDE
INCLUDING
BIRMINGHAM
WOLVERHAMPTON
WALSALL
DUDLEY
COVENTRY
STRATFORD
WORCESTER
REDDITCH
MALVERN
SHREWSBURY
TELFORD
STAFFORD
STOKE

Chris Addison

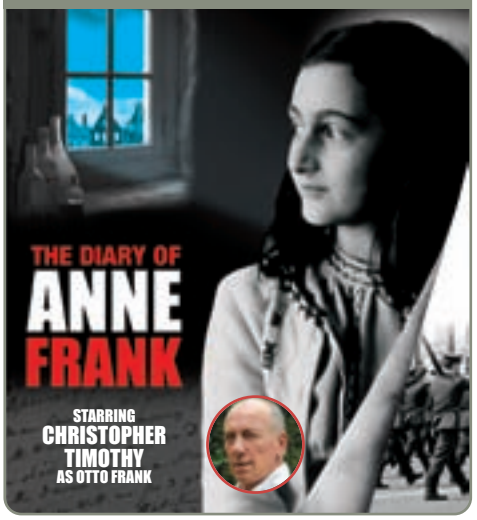
'Thinking man's comic' back in the Midlands
INTERVIEW INSIDE

What's On MAGAZINE GROUP
ISSN 1462-7035

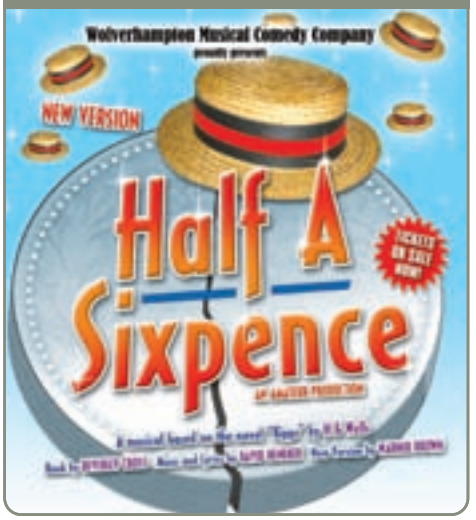
Available on the App Store

Great Shows At The **Grand!**

TUES 6 - SAT 10 MARCH



TUES 13 - SAT 17 MARCH



MON 19 - SAT 24 MARCH



TUES 27 - SAT 31 MARCH



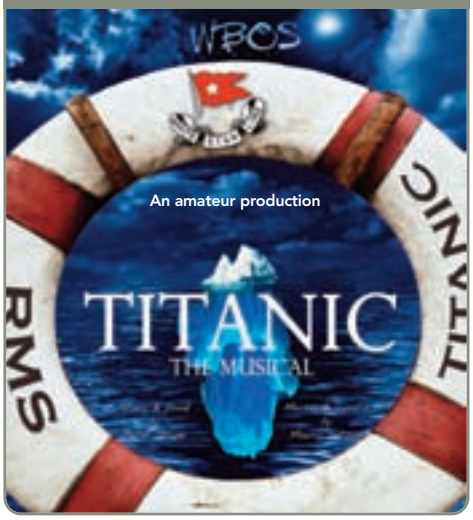
SAT 7 - SUN 8 APRIL



TUES 10 - SAT 14 APRIL



TUES 17 - SAT 21 APRIL



ALSO BOOKING

SUNDAY 18 MARCH
JIM DAVIDSON

SUNDAY 1 APRIL
THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN

MONDAY 2 APRIL
PAM AYRES

SUNDAY 22 APRIL
DES O'CONNOR

SUNDAY 29 APRIL
THE SOLID SILVER 60s SHOW

MONDAY 30 APRIL - SATURDAY 5 MAY
DERREN BROWN - SVENGALI

SUNDAY 6 MAY
PAUL MERTON - OUT OF MY HEAD

TUESDAY 8 - WEDNESDAY 9 MAY
A NIGHT AT THE MUSIC HALL

TUES 24 - SAT 28 APRIL



Follow us on **@WolvesGrand** Like us on Facebook: **Wolverhampton Grand**

WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE

Box Office 01902 42 92 12

BOOK ONLINE AT **www.grandtheatre.co.uk**

March 2012

Editor:
Davina Evans
davina@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281708

Editorial Assistant:
Lauren Wright
lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281708

Sales & Marketing:
Jon Cartwright
j.cartwright@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281703

Chris Horton
chris@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281704

Admin/Subscriptions:
Adrian Parker
adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281714

Managing Director:
Paul Oliver
paul@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281711

Publisher and CEO:
Martin Monahan
martin@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281710

P.A. to the CEO:
Jo Mercer
jo.mercer@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281701

Graphic Designers:
Lisa Wassell
Chris Atherton

Accounts Administrator
Julia Perry
julia@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281717

Website Development:
Jim Pallett

Contributors:
Graham Bostock: Theatre
Alev Dervish: Music
James Cameron-Wilson: Film
Jessica Matthews: Features

Head Office:
4/5 Dogpole, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY1 1EN
Tel: 01743 281777
Fax: 01743 281744
e-mail: info@whatsonlive.co.uk

This publication is printed on paper from a sustainable source and is produced without the use of elemental chlorine.

We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

What's On MAGAZINE GROUP



Brian Conley brings Fagin to Birmingham - p31

News p4
Music p15
Comedy p28
Theatre p31
Dance p48
Film/DVD p51
Visual Arts p59
Events p63
Clubbing/Gay p77
Books/TV p78
Eating Out p79

TO GET THE VERY LATEST LISTING INFORMATION, VISIT:
whatsonlive.co.uk
INCLUDING BOOKING ONLINE

The Midlands' most comprehensive entertainment website

Follow What's On on
twitter
twitter.com/whatsonlive

Become a fan
facebook
facebook.com/whatsonlive

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

FEATURES:

Chris Addison
interview inside p6



Maverick Sabre
interview inside p12

Waiting For Godot
interview with Patrick Robinson p10



Florence And The Machine
back in the Midlands p15



March 2012

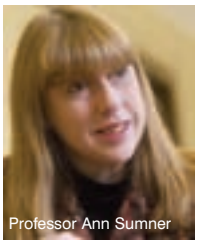
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

News

A ROUND-UP OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Director named for new Museums Trust

The newly-formed body responsible for the running of Thinktank and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery has announced the appointment of its first director.
Professor Ann Sumner, who's currently the Director at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, will assume the role on a full-time basis in May, and brings to the new post a wealth of experience, having previously worked at London's National Portrait Gallery, Manchester's Whitworth Art Gallery and Dulwich Picture Gallery. Of her appointment, Professor Sumner said: "I'm enormously honoured to have been appointed to this exciting new role. The high quality and the diversity of the collections which will be managed by the new Trust are outstanding, and hugely popular with the people of Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond."


Professor Ann Sumner

Big Apple praise for England's Second City...

A recent article in The New York Times has declared Birmingham to be "big-shouldered, friendly and fun." The article, entitled Thirty-six Hours In Birmingham, provides a whistle-stop tour of the city's heritage, and praises its lesser-known hidden gems, sprawling suburbs and cultural attractions. The city's restaurant scene also gets the thumbs-up, with local talents Aktar Islam of Lasan Restaurant and Michelin-starred chefs Glyn Purnell, Richard Turner and Luke Tipping all receiving praise for their culinary flair. In a previous New York Times article, Birmingham was named number nineteen in a Forty-five Places To Go In 2012 shortlist - the only English city other than London to be mentioned.



Severn Valley Railway welcomes BBC crews

The Severn Valley Railway Kidderminster-to-Bridgnorth line has been chosen for location filming for the second time in as many years. The 2011 box office hit Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows was part-filmed at the Midlands attraction, and now the heritage line has been selected for a new Steven Poliakoff drama to be screened on BBC Two later this year. Dancing On The Edge - a drama that follows a group of black jazz musicians as they seek fame and fortune in the higher echelons of London society - will see Severn Valley Railway's Kidderminster Town terminus double as Folkstone during the 1930s.



Open day for new library building

A new sixty million pound addition to the Worcester skyline gets its first full public airing this month, when The Hive opens its doors for a one-day preview on 24 March.
With its gold-clad roof and modern design, The Hive is undoubtedly a striking building, but it's what lies within its walls that's of real significance.
The Hive is Europe's first fully integrated Public and University Library, and will house more than twenty-six thousand records of historic sites and buildings, twelve miles of original documents, a children's library and creative space, performance areas, conferencing facilities and informal meeting places. The shared space will also provide a first point of contact for council services across Worcestershire, and is seen as an important element of the regeneration of the city centre. The late-March 'taster day' features music, promenade performances, exhibitions and films. And if you're up for some illuminated evening entertainment, catch the son et lumiere performance under the city's Croft Road railway arches. Read more on page 48.

Birmingham Opera Company announce world premiere

Twenty-five years of producing innovative opera productions is celebrated by Birmingham Opera Company this month, as Graham Vick joins the ensemble to premiere a brand new production at the Argyle Works in Digbeth on 21 March. Commissioned from leading British composer Jonathan Dove and writer Alasdair Middleton, Life Is A Dream features an international cast that includes American baritone Eric Green. The opera tells the story of royal son Segismund, who's imprisoned from birth by his father, King Basil, after the king prophesizes that one day his son will kill him and wreak havoc on his kingdom. For further information, visit www.birmingham-opera.org.uk


Eric Green

No name, but big voices!

A choir for Birmingham's homeless men and women this month joins forces with their London counterparts to present an evening of Olympic-themed music. The two choirs - both named Choir With No Name - perform as part of the BBC's Music Nation - a national initiative that acts as a countdown event for the forthcoming London 2012 Festival. The performance takes place at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham, on 3 March.

Big Brother winner on her way to Brum

Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre has announced that Celebrity Big Brother winner Denise Welch is to appear in a new production of Steel Magnolias, showing at the venue from 21 to 26 May. Denise, whose previous acting credits include Coronation Street, Holby City, The Bill and, more recently, Waterloo Road, is joined in Robert Harling's bitter-sweet comedy by a host of other well-known faces, including Kacey Ainsworth, Isla Blair and Cherie Lunghi.

Birmingham's latest hotel set to open its doors

This month sees the opening of a new-concept four-star hotel in the heart of Birmingham, the first of five to be rolled out across the UK in the next five years. The one hundred-and-seventy-four bedroomed Hotel La Tour offers contemporary and affordable accommodation, as well as dedicated conferencing facilities. The hotel will also house the stylish Aalto Restaurant, which, inspired by Michelin-starred Chef Marcus Wareing, will offer a menu that brings a modern twist to English classics. For further information, visit www.hotel-latour.co.uk/



The Prince's Trust announces new route for popular event

An annual fundraising event which attracts thousands of people has been given a second route for 2012. Every year, three thousand cyclists embark on a forty-five mile cycle ride from Buckingham Palace to Windsor Castle to raise funds for The Prince's Trust. Now organisers have come up with a second route that will take participants through the beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Starting off and finishing at Warwick Castle, the forty-five mile route will take cyclists through numerous picturesque Warwickshire villages, passing another of the region's main attractions - Kenilworth Castle - along the way.

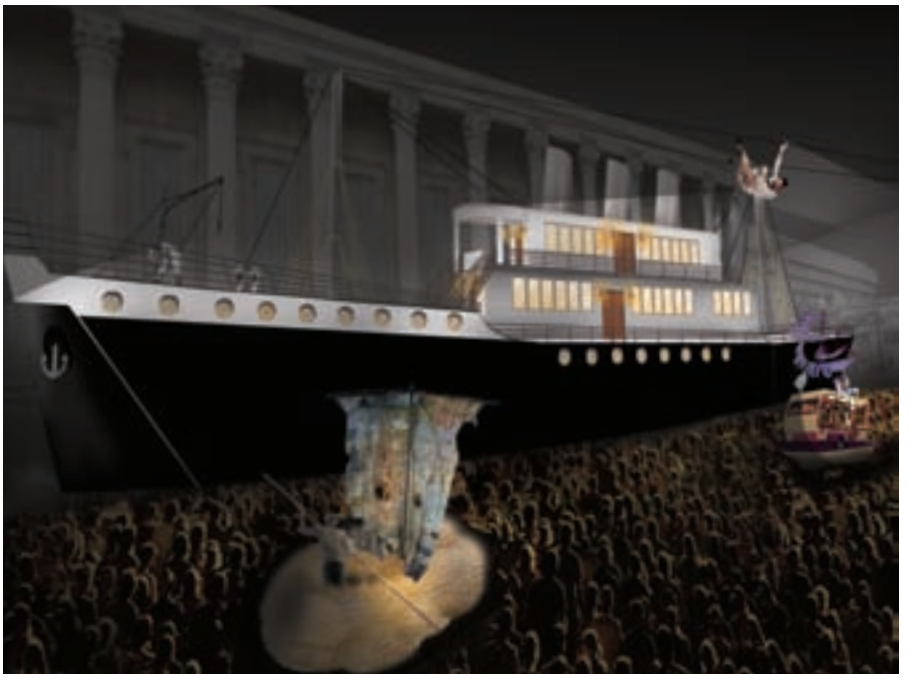
All money raised from the event will help disadvantaged children across the West Midlands. To find out more, visit, www.princes-trust.org.uk

Celebrating Michael Jackson at the O2 Arena

A new show celebrating the spirt and passion of Michael Jackson has been produced by the internationally acclaimed Cirque du Soleil. Written and directed by Jamie King, Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour features sixty-four dancers, musicians and acrobats in a production that underpins the artist's global messages of love, peace and unity.

Michael Jackson The Immortal World Tour performs at London's O2 Arena on 12 October.





Voyage to set sail in the city

A major cultural project which is set to play a significant part in Birmingham's celebrations for the London 2012 Festival has been unveiled. During July and August, people from all over the world will descend on London in pursuit of achieving their sporting goals - and in recognition of the journeys they'll be making, an enormous passenger liner is to be constructed in Victoria Square, providing a base for four evenings of unique artistic celebration from 21 to 24 June. Produced by Birmingham Hippodrome, and created by Motionhouse Dance in collaboration with the innovative Australian theatre company Legs On The Wall, The Voyage will see the passenger liner transformed into a live set, where one hundred-and-seventy cast members will showcase aerial acrobatics, massive projections, and plenty of song and dance.

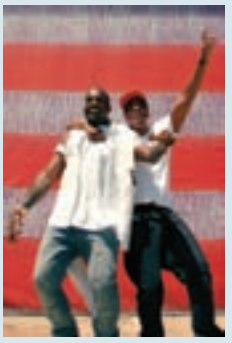
IN BRIEF

Jay Z and Kanye announce Birmingham date

Following hot on the heels of their success at the recent Grammy Awards - where they scooped the Best Rap Performance for their track Otis - Jay Z and Kanye West bring their Watch The Throne tour to the Midlands as part of a European tour.

The long-time friends have often supported each other on stage in the past, but this is the first time the duo have collaborated for a full-blown show.

Jay Z and Kanye stop off at Birmingham's LG Arena on 13 June.



Ironbridge Gorge Museum awarded major Arts Council funding

There's plenty of reason for celebration at a Shropshire World Heritage Site, after it secured a major share of a £20million Major Grants funding stream from Arts Council England.

The Ironbridge Museum Trust is one of sixteen leading museums and museum consortia across England to be granted funds as part of the Arts Council's Renaissance programme for leading regional museums.

The news provides a significant boost for the Trust's charitable vision. It's hoped that the grant will help secure an increase in the number of visitors to the ten Ironbridge museums, build new cultural partnerships, and further develop the award-winning work which is already being undertaken.



Blists Hill Victoria Town, Ironbridge

Professional Association of Alexander Teachers

Recreational Course in the Alexander Technique Starting Early May 2012

If you have had lessons in the Alexander Technique for about a year or attended an Introductory Evening Class, or a module in the Alexander Technique at a university or equivalent then you are eligible to join the PAAT Recreational Course. The Recreational Course will offer guidance in deepening your understanding, knowledge and application of the Technique – and you get to do it in company. The 12-week course is held in Birmingham.

For an application form, please contact the PAAT Secretary on 01743 236195 or email rec@paat.org.uk

www.paat.org.uk



Chris Addison

'Thinking man's comic' back in the Midlands...

"Mock The Week had a reputation amongst comics as being a bit of a bear pit, and I thought "Oh, I don't want to do that!"

Whether via his stand-up, his acting or his writing, Chris Addison - the fresh-faced comedian from Manchester - never fails to entertain. A regular face on Mock The Week, and having received much acclaim for his roles in The Thick Of It and Skins, Chris this month returns to the Midlands as part of his current stand-up tour. What's On recently caught up with the man who never seems to be too far away from our TV screens.

What's your starting point when writing new material?
Panic! 'Panic' is my start and end point, then, somewhere in the middle, I achieve 'pure panic'. I really wish I was the kind of person who could sit down and be organised, and write things many months in advance. But I don't. A couple of months before I tour, I sit down and have a quick panic attack, then I breathe into a bag, then I get a piece of paper, then I breathe into a bag again. There's a lot of breathing in the bag! What I should do, I guess, is take a pen and notepad with me when I'm out and about; then, when hilarious things occur - to me, or another - I should write them down. But that would be bloody weird, wouldn't it?

So was it easier when your gigs had a theme?
Yeah, definitely. Loads easier. If you choose not to have a theme, then anything's up for grabs and that's a nightmare. It's always better to have less choice really, most of the time. If you've scored off some lines around the edge of the paper, then that definitely, definitely helps. It's a bit like I imagine a woman's brain plays tricks on them after they've given birth. It's such an unpleasant process writing a stand-up show that we don't allow you to think about what has just happened, in the hope that you'll manage to do it again some time in the future. I do find myself going "aargh!", and my partner responds with "it's always like this!"

You gained the title of being 'the thinking man's comic' with your earlier material. Is this a title that you're still worthy of?
I dunno - that's a proper double-edged sword, that. It's my own fault, frankly, because what I did was to write some shows that were just big comedy shows, but I made it look like they were about evolution and so on, and that's all that people see. I sort of painted myself into a corner a bit with it, but what's so depressing with being given titles like this is that it implies there are audiences out there who are too dumb to cope with a particular type of comedy, which is nonsense, absolute nonsense! Bill Bailey's a perfect example, right? He does super-smart comedy, with proper highbrow references and that kind of thing, which I don't necessarily have, but, because he doesn't draw attention to the fact, nobody's ever noticed. It's properly smart covered in utter daftness, and that's my favourite type of comedy. A principle that I always try to stick to is that most people are far smarter than the media ever, ever gives them credit for.

How much has your comedy changed since you've become a parent?
I try not to bring parenting into my comedy, because I think it's very boring for members of the audience who aren't parents. I think it can really split a room, but I'd love to do a show that was for parents about parenting, and maybe I will.
I think my shows have always been personal, but they were never very open. Now I'm much more prepared to be open about my fears and failings, and I've done that a lot in my last two shows, whereas I would never have done anything like that beforehand.
Being a parent has changed me in different ways. I don't really care what people think of me now, but that's just one of the things that happens when you become a parent. There's a weird self-validation that allows you not to be so concerned about the views of rest of the world, for good or bad.

How did your foray into acting and the TV series The Thick Of It come about?
Like most of my career, by accident. The short version of a very long story is that Armando Iannucci saw me do some stand-up at a political comedy night in which I was playing in character. It was the first and only time I'd done character in stand-up on stage, but it was also the first time that Armando had seen me in comedy, and so he thought that was what I did. Then, about eighteen months later. we appeared on The News Quiz together in Portsmouth, and that evening he talked about doing an updated, more modern version of what he considered to be the best British sitcom ever, Yes, Prime Minister. He said I should get in touch to talk about being part of it. Then, some months later, I had a call asking me to go along and do a casting, and then got a call saying that I was in. It was a very odd process - more like a series of odd coincidences.

You're talked about as being a really nice guy, but are there any similarities between you and your not-so-nice character, Oliver Reeder ?
Yeah! My first day in rehearsals with Armando, Chris Langham and Peter Capaldi - three men I'd admired for years - was pretty daunting. And at the end of maybe the first or second day, I was really panicking and didn't think that I'd be able to do it. Later, when I got a lift home with my wife, I was explaining this panic that I'd had, and she said, "well, what's Oliver like?" and I started explaining that he was a bit bumptious; he thinks he's a bit of a player, but he isn't really; he thinks that he's a big fish in a little pond, when he isn't; and he's a bit of a prick who puts his foot in this mouth a lot. The more I went on, the more I thought, aargh! the little bastard. So essentially, Ollie is me...

Is it true that you're about to start shooting a new series this month?
Yes, we start rehearsals this month, and I think it'll be on our screens some time later this year.

How long does it take you to shoot a series?
Not long, actually. The Thick Of It works at an extraordinary pace. I didn't realise, because I'd never done anything like it before, but most comedies or dramas tend to shoot about five, maybe six, pages of script a day, because they're fiddling with setting up and re-lighting and various other things. But with The Thick Of It, it's just two cameras and the lighting is all completely universal, so we shoot upwards of twenty pages a day from what are very long scripts. The first cut of an episode is about an hour long.

Did appearing in In The Loop whet your appetite for more film work in the future?
Well, it was funny, because it just felt like making a really long episode of The Thick Of It, and most of it was done over here. It was only right at the end of the process, when Tom Hollander and I were in Washington shooting down Constitution Avenue in a limo, with police outriders, that we actually felt like we were in a film. But it was great fun and I'd really love to do more of it...

Apart from Skins, did your role in The Thick Of It see an influx of offers from other directors?
Well, I turned down The Artist. No, not really.

Long-term, what will take priority - acting or stand-up?
I don't know, I've never had a big game plan. I think the reason I've ended up doing such varied stuff is that I've never had this one thing that I was going towards, so I guess it depends. I can't do the acting thing unless somebody asks me to do it. However, what I really love about acting is that it's great to do something in a gang, as comedy can be a very solitary existence. So we'll have to wait and see...

Stand-up, acting, commercials - you're on the box all the time. Do you ever worry that people will tire of you?
I hadn't before, but maybe I will now.

Is there a downside to so much exposure?
I don't get hassled but I do get people coming up to me on the street, which never happened before. It all started to happen around the last series of The Thick Of It, and now that I'm a regular on Mock The Week, I get approached a lot more. I don't mind it so much when I'm on my own, but when I'm with my family it can be a bit much. The thing to remember is that, mostly, people are very lovely, and they're excited, and they tend to come up to you because they like what you do. You don't get people coming up to you saying, "Oy, you're in that thing, and I think you're shit!". Well, not so far. What you have to do is be respectful about it, and not be an arsehole.

Some people would see being so openly involved in TV advertising as 'selling out'. What are your views on this?
I've never considered it in those terms. I think the phrase 'selling out' is a


Save the date
The NATIONAL WEDDING Show
24-26 FEBRUARY
LONDON OLYMPIA 2012
16-18 MARCH 2012
BIRMINGHAM NEC
THE UK'S BIGGEST WEDDING EVENT
OVER 250 EXHIBITORS
1000'S OF INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS
1 GREAT SHOW
CATWALK SHOWS * INSPIRATIONAL FEATURES
TICKET HOTLINE 0844 581 1404
Create your perfect day at nationalweddingshow.co.uk

meaningless phrase, with no back-end to it. All my life I've enjoyed watching comics in adverts, so I've never got this argument - it always seems a bit silly to me. When I was a kid, I loved it when Fry & Laurie turned up in the Alliance & Leicester ads, and the Rowan Atkinson and Jack Dee adverts. I was always obsessed with comedy, but we didn't get to see too many comedians - we didn't have YouTube in those days - so the ads provided a little bonus for me. I think if they're good adverts, then it's okay. They're certainly great fun to do. I did it essentially because I wanted to work with Alexander Armstrong, Graham Linehan and Amelia Bullmore, but it's grown from there, and it's brilliant fun...

Is it true that you were a little sceptical about appearing on Mock The Week initially?
Yeah, I said no for years. I wasn't sceptical - that makes it sound as though I thought it was an awful show. It was more a personal fear. Mock The Week had a reputation amongst comics as being a bit of a bear pit, and I thought "Oh, I don't want to do that!". Then, finally, I bit the bullet, and it was amazingly good fun, and they had me back again. Then eventually they gave me a regular slot. The whole experience is thoroughly enjoyable.

What's been your biggest star-struck moment?
A few years ago I was on The Jonathan Ross Show and Meryl Streep was on at the same time. We were expecting our first child at the time (my wife and I, not Meryl!), and Jonathan had talked about this in the show. Later, in the Green Room, Meryl gave me a huge hug and wished me the best of luck with the birth. I think that's the moment when I've been the most star-struck. I really like it when you come across big people and they're so utterly lovely!

So what else is in the pipeline for 2012?
There's more Mock The Week and The Thick Of It, then I'm going to have a nice sit down for as long as I can. I'm hopefully going to keep the summer free, if I can, but things usually crop up. Then, next year, I think I'd like to add more dates to the tour.

Chris Addison appears at **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham** Thurs 15 March & **Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury** Sun 18 March





Roxana Silbert

talks about the World Shakespeare Festival...

Currently Associate Director with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Roxana Silbert has an impressive repertoire of productions under her belt. This month sees the opening of the company's Nations At War series, with Roxana at the helm for two of the three plays. What's On caught up with her to find out more...

You're currently working on Richard III, which opens at the RSC next month. What can audiences expect from this new production?
It's a brilliant play, so really I'm just trying to tell the story as best I can. It's a contemporary production that's still set in a medieval period, so it's a world where there are sword fights and not mobile phones. I suppose I wanted to bring the action close to the audience in order to bring out what is still resonant and contemporary about it, without reducing it by saying, "Oh, it's a play about a particular person", because it's got a sort of timeless quality and it's that which makes it so extraordinary.

You're also directing A Soldier In Every Son, which will show in June. Has that production been cast yet?
Well, it's the same. We've got twenty actors who are doing three shows. They're doing Richard III, King John and A Soldier In Every Son.
A Soldier... is a co-production with The National Theatre of Mexico, so six actors from there, who have a very similar set-up to the RSC, are coming to join the company on that production.

Why was A Soldier In Every Son chosen to be part of The World Shakespeare Festival?
The brief of The World Shakespeare Festival was to include international artists inspired by Shakespeare. And Luis Mario Moncada, who's written the play, is a writer who has a great passion for Shakespeare, and who really wanted to do for Mexico what The Histories had done for the UK, which was to give a popular, general knowledge of the country's history. There isn't anything in Mexico in playwriting that tells the story of Mexico before colonisation. Even in schools, people don't start learning about the history of Mexico until the Spanish arrived. So he was very interested to write a play, inspired by the Shakespeare Histories, which tackles the history of his own country and its first empire to be established, which was the Aztec empire.

What are you personally most looking forward to in The World Shakespeare Festival programme?
It's going to be a really exciting time, and for me it'll be about seeing all the international perspectives. King John is being directed by a Swedish director, Maria Aberg, who's done a fairly radical version of the play, and then there's The Wooster Group's Troilus And Cressida, and a fantastic Brazilian Circus troupe. I think in the UK we have a strong sense of Shakespeare, its tradition and its performance history. So to work with international artists who have a much freer attitude towards Shakespeare, and seeing what they can produce as a result of that, is going to be really exciting.

You're taking over the role of Artistic Director at the Birmingham Rep in July.

What plans have you got in place for your new role?
The building doesn't re-open until September 2013, but The Rep's centenary is in February of that year, so we're going to open with a programme of three plays in February at the Old Rep to celebrate in advance of opening the new theatre. The really exciting thing about taking The Rep on at the moment is that it keeps its eight hundred-seater auditorium and The Door, but we'll also have the addition of this wonderful three hundred-seater to play with, which is a brilliant size for new work.

You're talking about the space that's part of the new Birmingham Library?
That's right, and, of course, it's this incredible shared public space. The Rep has an extraordinary reputation for contemporary work, and for having an audience for new work, which is quite unusual in national theatres. The three hundred-seater space is going to allow us to do a lot more new work, and more participative work, in the public spaces.

What do you think that The Rep's connection to Shakespeare should be in the future?
Well, it's ongoing. Stratford is very near to Birmingham, so there's an argument that it's difficult to do straight Shakespeare at The Rep because that audience would go to Stratford. But I do think that there are a lot of companies who are approaching Shakespeare in very innovative and contemporary ways, like Filter and Told By An Idiot, who are doing a fantastic version of King Lear. Basically, my mission for The Rep is to facilitate new work, but also classical work through the eyes of contemporary artists.

Do you think people's tastes have changed in terms of theatre?
My background is new plays, and when I began working in that field there was a minority interest. The Royal Court, where I started my career, closed for six months a year at one point because they had neither the funding nor the audience to open, and most regional theatres and national institutions didn't do new plays. Now new plays are part and parcel of the repertoire. So I think that's changed a lot, and it means that now there's a dialogue between new work and classical work that didn't really exist before. I also think that there's a huge hunger for quite theatrical pieces that use the language of theatre rather than work that's more audio.

So are people nowadays more prepared to take risks with what they choose to see?
They had been, but I think that the recession has put a stop to it. Audiences were becoming much more risk-tasking, but finance means that they need to be sure that it's worth their investment.

How did you get started in directing?
I started life as a community arts worker and decided that I really wanted to do more professional work, so I did a postgraduate directing course. The woman who was my movement tutor on that course took over Paines Plough as Artistic Director the year that I left, so I went to be her assistant.

If you weren't a director, what would you be?
Oh, I don't know - I'd probably run a bookshop. I dream about running a little shop along a country lane somewhere, but I think it's just a pipe dream.

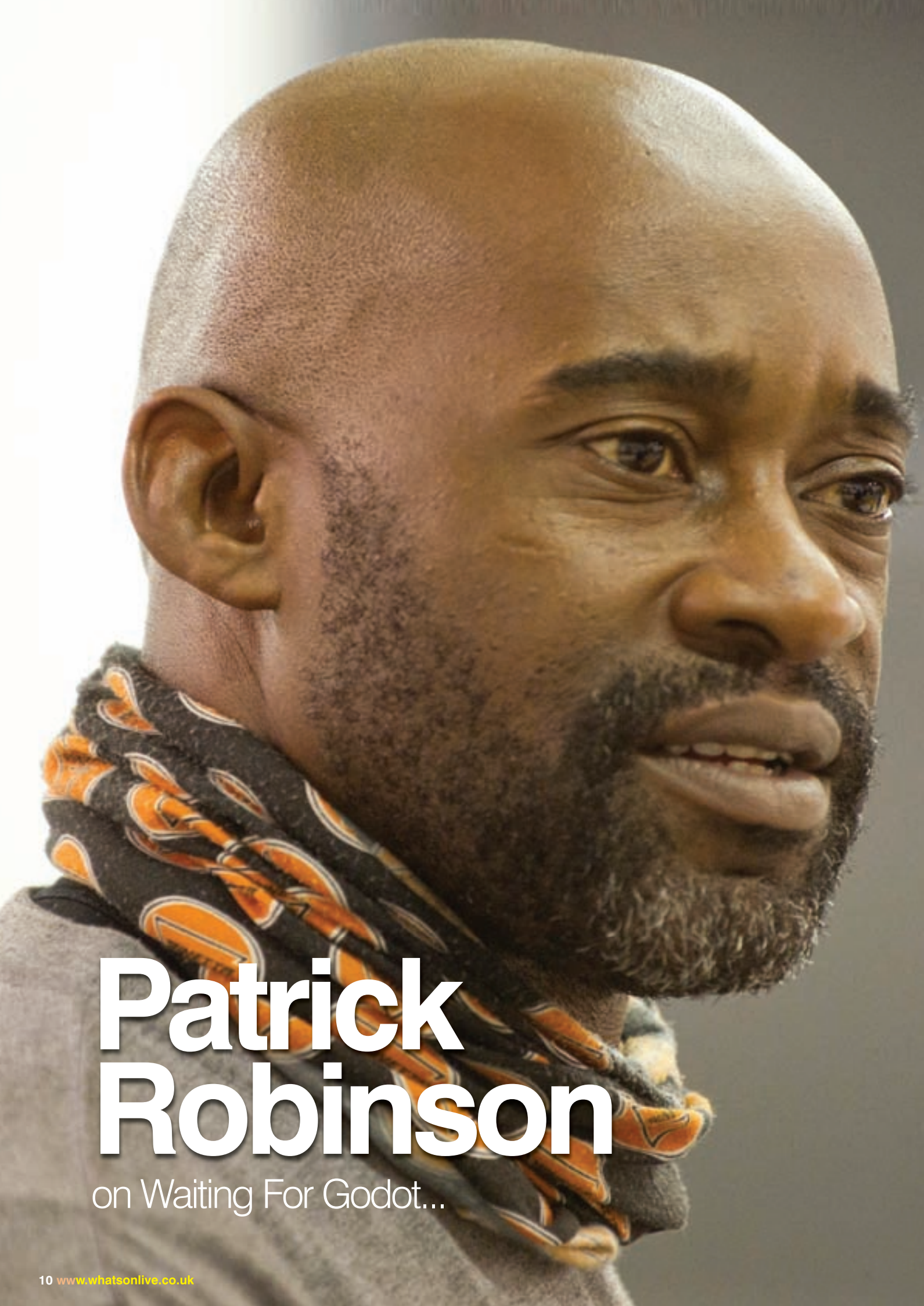
If you could direct anything, what would you choose?
You want to direct everything! I mean, as soon as you direct a tragedy, you want to direct a comedy; and when you've finished a comedy, you want to get your hands on something really dark. When you've done two Shakespeares in a row, you become desperate to do a new play. You always want to keep moving forward.

You're held in high regard for championing new talent...
One of the great things about Paines Plough was the ability to launch playwrights. I left Paines Plough in 2009, and a lot of the people who came through the young writers' initiative are now writing for main stages around the country, and that's a very satisfying feeling. Certainly one of the main things that I want to do at Birmingham is to work to create stepping stones for genuine local talent, so that emerging talent has a voice and a pathway through to professional.

Your new role at The Rep sounds as though it's going to be very community-based. How do you propose to provide a platform for emerging talent?
We're talking about setting up a series of initiatives. There are strands of programmes that are about open access for anybody who wants to join in, but we're also trying to create programmes of work which are for people who don't just want to participate for fun, but who want to become professional. There's an incredibly active learning and participation unit already in place, with lots of projects, so I think it's now about finding the route into theatre.

And how do you think Birmingham will compare to other cities in which you've worked?
Birmingham, to me, is a proper diverse city, which is very different to somewhere like Stratford, where there's a particular demography. It's the second city, it's very active and it's very lively. It's full of cultural potential, which is extremely exciting.

Roxana Silbert directs Richard III which shows at the **Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,** from Thurs 22 March to Sat 15 December.
www.worldshakespearefestival.org.uk



Patrick Robinson

on Waiting For Godot...

British actor Patrick Robinson has worked extensively in theatre, film, radio and television. Having most recently appeared in War Horse in the West End, Patrick this month visits Birmingham to star in a new production of Samuel Beckett's Waiting For Godot. What's On caught up with him to find out more...

Waiting For Godot is often described as a play in which nothing happens. Is this fair?
Obviously there are lots of opinions about it, and I don't think that any opinion is wrong. Initially, that was my opinion too, but not now, having gone through the play in detail and realised that there's so much going on with the human condition. We do spend a lot of our time just waiting - whether it be for someone to turn up, for a child to be born, for Christmas to come. There are a whole raft of scenarios where we're just waiting, and what do you do while you're waiting? Well, that's the human condition.

Why do you think the play has continued to be so widely performed, given its quirky nature?
I don't know that it's that popular, but my view on it is that there are so many different things that you can find within it - there are so many areas to delve into. And, of course, Samuel Beckett's point of view, when asked what it was all about, said, "I don't know, it's up to you". To me, that's fantastic, because he meant for everyone to have their very own opinion about it.

This is a landmark production because it's the first time it's been produced with an all-Black British cast. Beyond that straightforward fact, in what way is this significant?
I think because we are doing it as actors. It's just a classic piece that we're doing. If you try to sell it too much on an all-Black cast, people may have greater expectations. But I do think that it's an interesting way of looking at it, and it's a play that can be transposed in terms of different people doing it. It's interesting that they didn't want an all-female production of this, and they wouldn't sanction that. In one way, I think it's great that it's seen as a landmark production, but the one thing that I've always maintained is that first and foremost I'm an actor. I may be West Indian, I may have dark skin, but I'm an actor!

Do you feel that there are enough opportunities and openings for Black actors in the UK?
I've been criticised for being outspoken about the lack of Black actors. It's got better, but it's still not good enough. It's no surprise to me that a lot of my contemporaries - actors in their mid-to-late forties, black British actors, have gone to the US. When do you ever see a leading actor who's Black on ITV? You know, that's where I'm from - seeing who the pioneers are. You look up to those people and think "wow, they've done it, so it's possible for me". What you don't really see is that there's still that very same glass ceiling there, which has invariably been there for all of my twenty-five years in the profession. It's a very tricky game, and it's no surprise to me that they all go to the US, to a bigger industry where there's substantially more work for actors who are Black. The one way that I always measure this is to ask a lay person who watches a lot of TV to name me five Black actors who are British - not just to reference them as the Black guy who was in this, or the character who was in that, but to give me their names. I guarantee that they can't do it. If you can't do that in this country, what does that tell you in 2012?

Do you feel that you can be proactive in moving forward with this in any way?
It's a sort of chicken-and-egg scenario, and at the end of the day you need to make a living. Ultimately, if part of your earning potential has been curtailed by an executive who doesn't like you because you've made a comment in the press, they can use their power to make things difficult, and that's what's occurred. So ultimately, you don't have enough of a voice to balance it out and make a point about stuff. And, of course, we're still in the process where, as I call them, the brothers in this country, are still trying to get their own thing going, rather than trying to get something collective. In the US there's definitely more of a collective thing happening. And let's face it, that's where a lot of 'the brothers' then end up going, because they can't fight the system over here - it's all very subtle. In the States, they have positive discrimination, where they have their quota of Asian, Hispanic and Black actors in various dramas. In one way, that's how they've got over it, and that's accepted to a certain extent. Over here they pretend that there's no quota, but as far as I'm concerned, and from what I've seen, there's always a quota but it's not spoken about. And as the new breed of producers and executive producers come through the ranks, they want to make their mark and don't want to upset things.

You started life as an actor working at the RSC - what did that teach you?
I went straight from drama school to the RSC and was there for four years; it was an opportunity for me to be nurtured. I saw how egos can come into play, and I realised that one of the things I considered a lead-in to becoming a good actor was to do the classics. Shakespeare is one of those playwrights that most actors want to say that they've 'done', and for me that was certainly the key. I always wanted to become accomplished in doing the classics, and working for the Royal Shakespeare Company - well, you can't get any better than that. So starting off that way was great, and even now, when I get the opportunity to work for the RSC, I will.

Do you think that doing the classics first is a better route into the profession, as opposed to the other way round?
Yeah, for me definitely. I wanted to get good grounding in theatre, and everything can stem from your foundation of being a classical actor. You can then go on to do the modern stuff, because you're living in the modern time and it's easier to get into a character. So doing the classics - knowing the language, which can be very intense - was the way in which I wanted to become established. I didn't want to go straight into TV. I think when you've done the classics, you're looked upon differently. So it's not a case of me selling me, it's more a case of the work that I've done selling me. So by having been cast in so many Shakespeare productions, people will see me as an accomplished actor. There are a lot of actors in EastEnders and the various soaps who don't know how to do the eight shows a week, but I've done my foundation, as it were. For me, it's always been about the craft, and it's a vocation. It's never been about wanting to be famous, and I've certainly never been interested in the celebrity side of the profession.

Is it a different discipline working in classical rather than contemporary theatre?
To a certain extent. I believe that there's a lot more work that you have to do with the classical stuff - you have to do a lot more homework too. In one way, it's swings and roundabouts, depending on what the piece is. With Waiting For Godot, which is a modern classic, there are so many references to so many worldly things which Samuel Beckett has written in that you kind of go 'wow, he's got everything in there'. So the research, in terms of making sure that you've got all the references, that we know them and we're in tune with them, is important. So yeah, it depends on the play that you're doing.

Which do you prefer and why - theatre or television?
Definitely theatre. I like the journey - the beginning and the end. Of course, I know that as I get older, doing eight shows a week will take its toll. I don't relish being in the West End doing eight to ten months on a play, as I did with War Horse recently. I don't particularly like the West End. It's full of people and madness. People think it's glamorous, but you try working in the middle of the West End for ten months when you can't park your car if you want to go anywhere. But in terms of the theatre, I love everything about it. I think that the only other way you can get the theatrical experience is to work on a film. Yeah, maybe working on a film for three to eight months, if you're lucky enough to be involved substantially on a particular movie, gives you your beginning, your middle and your end.

So is this something that you'd like to pursue further?
That's pretty much where I'd like to go. I've already written a couple of things and I've directed my own short film. It's not just about me being in it either - I don't need to be the star! The whole process of being involved was fantastic, and I'd certainly like more of that.

You mentioned artists moving to the States. Is this something that you feel you'll inevitably have to do in the future?
Yeah. Initially I went over there in 2001 and met a couple of agents and managers. I was

OSIM
BWF WORLD SUPERSERIES
PREMIER

YONEX ALL ENGLAND OPEN

Badminton Championships



6th-11th MARCH 2012
National Indoor Arena
Birmingham

BOX OFFICE
0844 444 9994
www.allenglandbadminton.com

YONEX ALL ENGLAND OPEN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS
102ND CHAMPIONSHIPS

BWF OSIM BADMINTON ENGLAND Play it. Love it. Live it. the nia birmingham YONEX World #1 in badminton.

told that I could probably get work in some very good hour-long dramas, and that I should sort out a green card. I was over there for a month but they said that I'd need to be there for at least six months to a year for something to happen. My children at the time were very young and they were my priority, so It wasn't a good time. Now that they're twenty and eighteen, and are stable enough in their own being, I feel that my time has come. If I go back over there and get offered something, then that's all well and good. There's definitely a lot more work over there.

So is this something that you'd like to pursue further?
That's pretty much where I'd like to go. I've already written a couple of things and I've directed my own short film. It's not just about me being in it either - I don't need to be the star! The whole process of being involved was fantastic, and I'd certainly like more of that.

Do you worry about the insecurity of the profession?
I've been very lucky. During the twenty-five years I've been an actor, I think the longest period I've been out of work is about six or seven months. I've worked every year, so I pat myself on the back for that, but given the choice there's obviously stuff that I'd have preferred not to do. There's an insecurity, and you don't know when the next job is coming. I was planning to go to America this January if nothing had happened before Christmas, because I couldn't see any scope for doing what I wanted to do, and I feel that there are a lot more opportunities in America for a classical actor to get a substantial gig. The business over here is dwindling drastically. They're paying less and less across the board and you're getting to see a lot of what I'd call classy, established actors in things where you think "gosh! I wouldn't expect to see them in that". I certainly don't know where the next gig is coming from when I finish this tour, and I know I have to make contingency plans for that.

You mentioned earlier that you weren't interested in celebrity, but isn't this something that would come hand-in-hand with being an actor in the States?
It is to a certain degree, but over there, it's business - that's the way they see it. You've got to have something under your belt before you can be seen as some sort of celebrity in the States, as opposed to over here, where someone can get celebrity status for sleeping with a footballer and then get offered a Reality TV show.

To many, you're best recognised for playing Ash in Casualty - is it true that you hate hospitals?
Oh yeah, there's a lot of sick people in hospitals and I certainly don't relish being in them. Don't get me wrong, I'm not ill at the sight of blood or anything, but I am squeamish about seeing procedures being done. Some people love it, don't they? They love the hospital dramas and all the gore when the surgeons get the scalpels out. I can't stand that, and I can't really watch it. If I have to play a character, then I'll do it, I'll apply myself, obviously knowing that it's not real.

You did six-and-a-half years on the show. Was it a difficult decision to leave?
No, I was ready to leave after three series, but personal circumstances dictated otherwise.

You're a keen footballer and you're a cousin of ex-Arsenal star Ian Wright. Was becoming a professional footballer ever on the cards?
I was semi-pro when I was nineteen and I played for Welling, who were in what's now called the Vauxhall Conference League, but prior to that, at about the age of fifteen, I was invited to train with the apprentices at Southampton. I was going to go along, but it fell on the same day as my drama group, so I said I couldn't make it. I didn't really know what I wanted to do long-term at that stage, but I did know that I didn't want to miss my drama, and I was always aware that a career in football would be over by the age of about thirty-five.

What single piece of advice would you give someone wanting a career on the stage?
I say to people, "I don't like drama, I love it!". So if you have the passion, go for it. If you don't have the passion, forget it

Patrick Robinson appears in Waiting For Godot at the **Old Rep, Birmingham,** from Tues 13 to Sat 17 March.


Patrick Robinson with Jeffery Kissoon



> *"Music's about unity, positivity, love. That's what I want my music to be about. I want it to break down boxes, walls. I want my shows to have people of different races, different ages."*

Maverick Sabre

Lonely Are The Brave in the Midlands...

With debut album Lonely Are The Brave having hit top spot on the iTunes chart, and with a second-place finish to his name in the Critics' Choice category at the recent Brit Awards, Maverick Sabre's star is very much in the ascendant. Having previously toured with Plan B and Cee Lo Green, Maverick's about to embark on his first headlining tour, stopping off in Birmingham along the way...

What have you been up to lately, Maverick?
I've been doing promo for the album. I started promoting it in Ireland and then came over here. Basically, any newspaper or radio show that'll take me, I'm happy to talk about the album.

People are really interested in this album. You must be happy with that?
Definitely. Firstly I make music to express myself, but secondly to connect with people. So the more people that write about it, the more people that hear it, the more people connect with it. That's the aim of my music.

Lonely Are The Brave is a really accomplished album. You can tell that a lot of work has gone into it, it's a very polished, strong production. Did it take you a long time to get there?
Yeah, some of it took a long time. There's a song on there called Sometimes that I recorded back in Ireland when I was seventeen. There's a one-string violin on there that I grabbed from upstairs. It was my granddad's violin that he never re-stringed. Then there are other tracks on there that are more recent that have full bands and full strings on them. There's a lot of years that it took to make the album - you can see the growth on there. I feel like it kind of represents a large part of my life. It's the first time you put yourself out there properly, the first time people get to bring a piece of you home. So it's the first time you get a chance to explain yourself and say 'Look, this is who I am - so you're gonna be a fan of the music or not'.

There's a lot of depth in the samples and different instruments you've used.
There's a lot of different genres in there, and a lot of different topics, and a lot of different influences. I'm influenced by music in general. I didn't want anyone to listen to it and go 'I can't listen to it.' Music's so segregated now - people feel that you have to be a certain age or be from a certain background to listen to certain types of music. I look like the kind of lad that can sit in the corner of your pub on a Saturday, but I sing soul music. I love hip hop.

You mention influences - who are the people that influenced the album and influenced you?
Each song is influenced by different people. Overall my Dad was a big influence - he loved music. He did it himself for years, just for love. Acts like Bob Marley, Bob Dylan, John Lennon, Tupac, Johnny Cash, they did it for love. People like Lauren Hill, Erykah Badu, Bon Iver influenced me. Reggae in general, soul in general and hip hop: Pete Rock.

Hip hop draws on so many influences itself, right?
Yeah that's what it does - jazz, soul. It's a melting pot. But what really drew me into hip hop was the directness. There was no dilly-dallying about. You got it in one line. You felt that straight away. If someone wanted to say something, they said it. You felt that.

You're from Stoke Newington in London and grew up in Ireland. Do you think either affected you and your music?
Definitely. When I was four or five, we moved over to Ireland. I moved back to London by myself when I was about seventeen. Then again properly when I was about nineteen. It kept me open-minded. That moulded my music. Being influenced by traditional Irish music, the blues, the soul from my dad.

Do you think the variety in where you've lived and the different cultures have given you a wider outlook?
Yeah, you can tell people who've lived in different places because they have that universal outlook, they can talk on different levels, adapt in conversations. Well, most people can - you do meet people who've travelled who are pr*cks!

Have you worked with a lot of those Hackney hip hop guys?
Yeah, I've worked with Pro Green; Klashnikov's a big influence on me. Skinnyman, Taskforce - UK hip hop is a big influence on me. Almost more so [than American hip-hop]. They were talking in English accents about places I'd been - Finsbury Park, Hackney, Stoke Newington. They were talking about things I could connect with.

They're big stars now. Do you think there's an appetite for this kind of music, with people like Plan B, Wretch 32, Pro Green all doing so well right now?
I feel like hopefully it'll expand even more. UK hip hop was trying to be American, but then people started to accept British accents much more, like Mike Skinner – that combination of the Birmingham accent and the South London accent. He made hip hop almost like folk hip hop, to appeal to a wide audience.

Any plans to tour in the US soon?
Actually yes. It's just getting confirmed, but I'm touring to SXSW in Austin. Big Festival. I did it about two years ago and met my American ex-girlfriend there, actually. American women are lovely! So hopefully we'll have a little show in New York before we go down there. The track I Need got played on a show on VH1 recently. My friend called me the other day and he said, 'Mick, I Need is on the jukebox in this little bar in Pennsylvania'. My ex rang me the other day and said she heard it playing in a department store in Chicago.

What are your hopes for the album? Do you just want to go and play it live?
I get the immediate reaction of people when I play it live, you know? Not everyone can hear exactly every word I sing because of the way I sing it. So I made sure to stay up all night writing all the lyrics out so they could put them in the booklet. Now people know what I'm saying and can connect with me as a person, we can all be on a level. I'm looking forward to finding out what people like, what songs and lyrics, the different vibes. Then I can take it on into the next record.

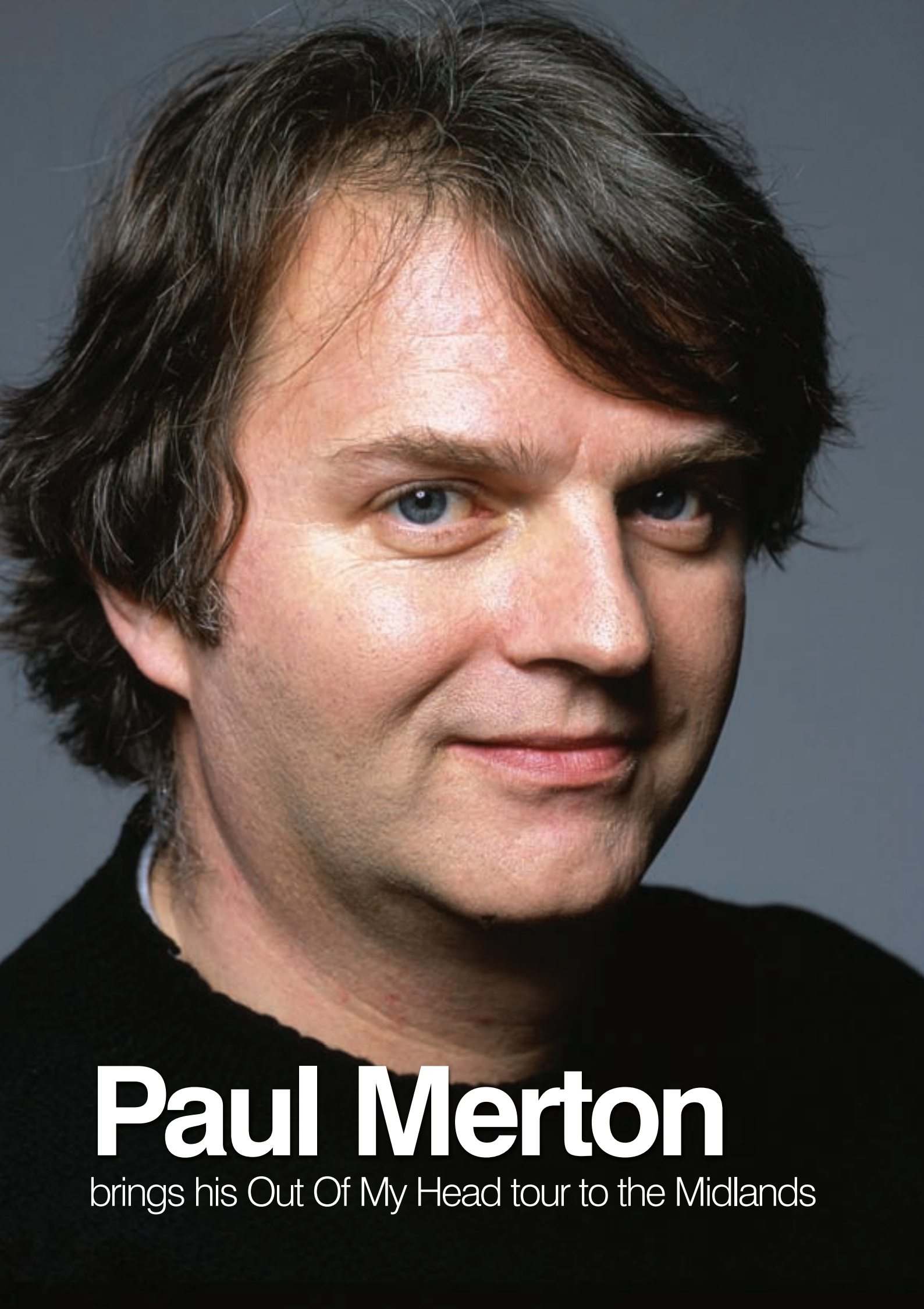
You're doing summer festivals like Benicassim. How do you plan to develop the live show for the bigger gigs?
Yeah, I'm doing Snowbombing as well. That is a heavy, heavy festival! We did a tour in October, the London date was at Koko. I've got a five piece band - we're pretty much keeping it the same for this tour, maybe adding a backing vocalist or two. I'm pretty happy with the set up - we've all gelled together so well musically. I feel comfortable with them behind me. I try and keep it as simple as possible. I make simple music. I'm not coming on in a massive hat or anything. Sometimes I get into it so much I forget to sing! There's a song of mine called I Can Never Be, and when my guitarist does his solo, I sometimes go into my own world and forget to start singing again.

You seem to achieve a real connection with the emotion of the crowd.
Music's about unity, positivity, love. That's what I want my music to be about. I want it to break down boxes, walls. I want my shows to have people of different races, different ages. Everybody's there - enjoying it. Like with Bob Marley - everyone in the world can listen to him. I've never heard anyone say 'Bob Marley's sh*t.' And that, for me, is what music's all about. I was doing the dishes the other night - feeling a bit down. I put on No Woman No Cry and it made me feel better.

Songs bring people together don't they?
That's why I did Wonderwall on the Chris Moyles show. People loved it! Chris Moyles and Mistajam were singing it. They were singing Wonderwall with me. Music's about bringing people together. That was actually inspired by when I saw Oasis play at Slain in Ireland, and everyone was singing along to Wonderwall, everyone on a level. I'd lost my shirt, someone gave me a can. I was pissed. But it was that moment as the sun was going down. Everyone on a level.

Finally, what's next for Maverick Sabre?
More music, more shows. Pushing my music. So as many people as possible before the day that I die can hear my music. And that's it. I do as much as I can everyday. For me, music's about being timeless. I want my music to be timeless.

Maverick Sabre performs at the **HMV Institute, Birmingham** Tues 6 March



Paul Merton

brings his Out Of My Head tour to the Midlands

It's been a while, but we're all delighted to see him back. Paul Merton is returning to stand-up for the first time this century. With a little help from his friends.
One of the best-loved comedians in the country, Paul is taking Out Of My Head – his first new written show since 1998 - on a fifty-date tour of the UK this spring, in the company of his highly talented pals Lee Simpson, Richard Vranch and Suki Webster.

The new show will give us an unprecedented insight into the wondrous workings of Paul's mind. Coming out from behind the Have I Got News For You desk, where he's been sitting for the past twenty-two years, the comedian will also prove that he's actually got legs!
In Out Of My Head, we can look forward to a hugely entertaining evening of stand-up, interspersed with sketches, music, magic, variety and dancing girls (although two of them aren't, in fact, girls!). All in all, it promises to be a rattling good night out.
I'm meeting Paul at a central London theatre during rehearsals for Out Of My Head. Sipping coffee in the stalls, he discusses his delight about the forthcoming show: "We're having such a great time," beams the comedian. "It's about taking the plunge and devising a show that's fully scripted. It has stand-up, sketches, interaction with the audience, and a few things that will startle people. Working on a tour that starts off as a mere jotting on the back of a fag packet and develops into a spectacular show is a sheer joy!"
Having been a key member of the country's most famous improvisational troupe, The Comedy Store Players, since its formation in 1985, Paul is a wonderfully charismatic performer. He particularly relishes his connection with the audience. "I get such a buzz from performing live, it's just the best rush in the world, better than anything else you can think of! If you're trying to convince a TV producer that something is funny, it can take ages. But if you have a good idea with The Comedy Store Players, you can just say it there and then. You don't have to take it to a commissioning editor, or get a budget and have the comedy kicked out of it by a committee. And you immediately know whether it's funny because you'll hear the sound of laughter - or not!
"It's so inspiring. You just ride the wave of laughter, and then you might come up with something equally funny. Ralph Richardson used to talk about pushing a huge ball up a hill to the point where it suddenly gains momentum and starts rolling down the other side. That's what live comedy is like. The only snag is, you have to do it while trying to look completely relaxed!"
The comedian stays 'in the zone' by performing every week with The Comedy Store Players. "That feeds into everything else I do," reflects Paul, who's also had enormous success with his Impro Chums show. "When Have I Got News For You comes around, I don't think, 'Oh no, I'm a bit rusty". Doing The Comedy Store Players every Sunday, you're match-fit all the time. It's a performance muscle. If it's not getting flexed, it gets flabby. That's why people who haven't been on stage for a while struggle when they go back to the theatre, because it's a completely different discipline."
Paul and the team have revelled in the rehearsal process for Out Of My Head. "We all love impro," enthuses Paul, who works with Lee, Richard and Suki in both the Comedy Store Players and Paul Merton's Impro Chums. "It's great to have no rehearsals, lighting design or costume fittings. And, of course, it's fantastic not to have to learn any lines! We go to Edinburgh every year with no preparation apart from turning up sober! Sometimes we have to borrow a pen and paper from the barman to write down the order of the impro games."
However, Out Of My Head is a great opportunity to refine brilliant material. "With this show," Paul continues, "we get to repeat moments we really enjoy. In impro, you can't go back and do it again, but here you can say, 'What if I delay my entrance tonight by five seconds to build up the tension? Will that make it funnier?'
"Here, you get the chance to create a show over a sustained period of rehearsal - and that's wonderful! This is about the art of creation over a good while, rather than merely saying the first thing that comes into your head. In Out Of My Head, we have the opportunity and the time to fit together all the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle, and to throw out lines that will never be said again."
What Paul has adored above all is the collaboration that Out Of My Head encourages. "Having spent so many years working with other people, when I did a stand-up tour on my own in 1998, I really didn't enjoy sitting on my own in the dressing room during the interval. I used to beg Lee to come along as the director, and he would say, 'No, I've been along far more than any other director. I'm not coming to Newcastle again!'
"Everything I do is team stuff. It's much more fun if you're not twiddling your thumbs on your own. All the same, I'm sure I'll be sitting there on this tour thinking, 'Why did I bring those guys along?'"
Out Of My Head will cover a variety of themes, including the class system and the spell Paul spent in hospital after falling ill from anti-malaria tablets.
The overriding theme of the show, though, is imagination. Paul recollects: "I went to a Catholic school. When I was ten, I wrote an essay which the nun who was teaching me really didn't like because it was imaginative. She didn't like imagination. It was one of those things which you know, as the child, is desperately unfair, but you can't do anything about it because you're only ten.
"According to her, if you wrote something untrue, then it was a problem. At the time, it felt very humiliating to stand up in front of the class and have to explain why I wrote that.
"For years I hated that nun, but now I realise that the experience was very good for me. I had never bought into the Catholic Church that much. But because that nun was so against imagination and I was so into it - I was already reading Spike Milligan - I just knew she was wrong. So I began thinking, 'A nun who is wrong about something so fundamental might well be wrong about other stuff, too...'. Imagination has built my entire career. Out Of My Head is a celebration of imagination.
"I know that doing this show every night is going to be great fun. The rehearsal process is stressful at the beginning, but if and when you pull it off, there's a deeper degree of satisfaction because you've worked on it for six months. The idea of honing something till you're really happy with it is very, very rewarding. I just can't wait to get out there and start doing the show!"

Paul Merton performs at **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,** Sat 7 April; **Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,** Sun 6 May; **Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,** Fri 18 May, **Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,** Sun 20 May



THE EASY WAY TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS ONLINE

whatsonlive.co.uk

The most comprehensive what's on listings website
for Birmingham and the West Midlands



Kurt Hentschlager

brings his latest installation to the Midlands...

Chicago-based Austrian artist Kurt Hentschlager is internationally recognised for his emotive audiovisual performances and installations, which aim to transport viewers to another place. This month sees Core, Kurt's latest work, commissioned as part of Cultural Olympiad 2012, being presented at Shropshire's World Heritage site in Ironbridge. What's On recently caught up with him to find out more about his work...

How would you best describe your art form to those not familiar with your work?
I think the best term is 'audiovisual installation', a work that has both a visual component, most often via video (projection), and also an equally important sound component. Both video and sound are designed as one synchronous audiovisual impression.

And Core...?
Is an installation for five groups of 3D animated human bodies in a zero gravity environment, all of which create sound while interacting with each other. In total, one hundred-and-fifty virtual bodies, and thus one hundred-and-fifty sounding voices.

What was the inspiration behind Core?
Core is a reflection on the contemporary human body, specifically in an era of technological enhancements and our desire for omnipotence.

How long did the process take, from concept to final product?
Too long! I started this body of work in 2004 originally. Core by itself took three years to make. It's quite a complex amalgam of software, the majority of it developed specifically by and for me for this work.

How much of yourself have you had to give over to this particular project?
Let's say a project of this type does not leave much room for sleep...

How would you sell Core as a concept to someone new to this particular media?
Media itself means nothing, other than realising ideas with it. At the end of the day, it's ideas, concepts and emotive expression that make for meaningful experiences. I like to be immersed and transported to somewhere else when looking/listening to art. Core is just such an artwork - at least that's my intention.

What does it mean to you as an artist to be commissioned as part of the Cultural Olympiad 2012?
It's a fantastic opportunity to be part of this, and I'm nothing but thrilled to work with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and everybody there. The level of enthusiasm and dedication showered on me is incredible, so despite the pressure that comes with a project like this, it's been bliss to work on!

Is it true that you were an architect before moving into the world of digital art installations?
I started as an architect before switching to the Arts Academy in Vienna. It's still a passion of mine, so my focus and work continues to be informed by concepts of space, perception and navigation.

How did the transition come about?
Architecture seemed stuck back then compared with the arts, which, in early-1980s Vienna, boasted quite a vibrant scene. Also, my family wanted me to become a serious person, so I had to counteract that!

Who or what has been your biggest influence?
Oh, there are many. As far as UK artists go, I love the work of Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud. Both, in aspects, would work as contextual references for Core.

What's the biggest accolade you could ever receive?
I don't know. The arts are highly unpredictable - part of what keeps one on the edge. As an artist, I first of all work for my own pleasure. But a commission like this one is definitely something to look forward to.

You've produced many installations since your first exhibition in 1983. Do you have a personal favourite?
I have personal favourites indeed, but I can't reveal them.

Kurt Hentschlager's Core exhibits at **Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire,** from Fri 23 March - Sun 30 September



Bonnie Langford

on becoming the Lady Of The Lake...

Since she first appeared on our TV screens in Opportunity Knocks in the 1970s, Bonnie Langford has gone on to enjoy a career that's taken in theatre, television, film and radio, both here and in the States. This month sees her making her debut at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, where she'll be playing the Lady of the Lake in the highly acclaimed musical, Monty Python's Spamalot. What's On caught up with Bonnie to find out more...

How are you enjoying being part of the Spamalot team?
Fabulous! It's hysterical - a really great show with a fab company, and I'm having a really great time.

What can audiences expect from your Lady of the Lake?
Well, she's short and she's definitely a 'Lady', but she's also ever so slightly nuts.

Do you find the comedy angle an easy gig?
I think comedy always has to come from a place of truth. The reason the show works so well is because it's done with a certain amount of integrity, as bizarre as that may sound. It's a kind of comedy that's really quite sweet and charming, because it's a type of fairytale, albeit dressed up in a peculiar fashion.

How long are you with the tour?
Until the end of May.

Are you a big Monty Python fan?
Not as such, but it's certainly something that I enjoy. It's part of the British heritage, and I certainly love this incarnation of it. It's got that wonderful English eccentricity, where nothing is dragged on too long. It's a case of, we do what's there, we do the sketches verbatim, and then we move straight on to something else.

Were you familiar with Monty Python's Holy Grail when you were younger?
Oh yeah, but I hadn't seen Spamalot until about a week before I joined the cast. I accepted the role before I'd seen the show, although I'd seen a few clips and thought it was hilarious.

You made your stage debut at the tender age of seven, and have enjoyed an extremely varied career. To what do you attribute your continued success?
The funny thing is that both Todd Carty and I - and, in fact, Steven Pacey, who's playing Arthur - all started as young actors and are still here. I think it's basically because we love what we're doing, and I don't think any of us have done too much crazy stuff. We're all pretty grounded and down-to-earth, and haven't seen a need to go AWOL at any point. Ultimately, I think what keeps you going is the enjoyment and the interest in the job. If you can keep that going, remember why you're doing something and still get a buzz out of it, then you kind of work through everything else.

You're a versatile performer. Does moving between TV, films and stage help keep it all fresh?
Yeah, but ultimately we all have to pay our bills. I've been extremely fortunate to be able to continue at a certain standard and work with great people. That's been an absolute blessing and a real joy. I've been very, very lucky. But I still like to work at my job, and hopefully my level of commitment will mean that producers continue to want to employ me.

To a generation you're probably still best remembered as Violet Elizabeth in Just William. Do you think you were stereotyped as a result of this?
The thing to remember is that I was only a kid at the time. I wasn't that child, I was only playing a part. The thing that's always a bit tricky is that when you're convincing in a role, people don't think you're acting! But when you're young, first impressions are very lasting impressions, and they can sometimes be difficult to overcome. You just have to keep plugging away. Yeah, there have been times when I've wished people had had a different first impression of me, but it's my job to change that perception - and when I do, it's actually much more rewarding.

As a parent, what advice would you give someone wishing to push their children into the limelight?
I don't think you can push your child into anything. I think anyone, even down to a child eating their greens, won't do anything that they don't really want to do. All you can do as a parent is encourage your child to do their best at whatever they feel they enjoy the most. If they're enjoying something, then they'll ultimately do it well.

What about the negative side of performing at a young age?
Young people have a very different view to the one that I had as a youngster. It's very important these days to be very rich and famous. That doesn't necessarily go hand-in-glove, though, and you really need to be able to do something. I think that, today, many youngsters wishing to enter this line of work are sold a package that doesn't exist. In numerous cases, it's all a little bit fast-track, and therefore it's a fast fall too. You've got to have a skill, and that could be the skill of doing eight shows a week and hoping that the Monday night is the same as the Saturday night. You have to do it because you love the art, not because you want all the trappings that you believe to be part and parcel of the profession. To be honest, for the majority, those trappings don't exist.

What criteria do you go by when choosing a role?
You've got to have a balance - it's a bit about the role, but it's also about the money. It's great being able to do things that you really want to do, but sometimes you have to do things that you'd perhaps prefer not to because you have a gas bill to pay. I try and do stuff that I like to do, but I also have to be able to work it out with my family, which can sometimes be quite difficult because we can't leave our daughter home alone. It's just a juggling act, which is what most working parents have to deal with.

What's been the biggest error of judgement that you've made in your career?
There are loads of them, but nothing too drastic. Just stuff where you think after, "why did I do that, it was a load of old nonsense and rubbish". You always hope that it'll work, but you never know. You can put all the right ingredients into a bowl but the cake still doesn't rise.

Which role has provided the biggest challenge?
It was more of a skill than a role, and I think it was when I did Dancing On Ice. That was quite a big challenge, mainly because it wasn't on my list of things to do. If I'd known too much about it beforehand, I probably wouldn't have done it. So I'm glad that I didn't!

You got through to the finals. What did you learn from the experience?
I learned that it's okay to fall over, and that you have to face your fears. It's very frightening to do something that you know nothing about, but it's okay to be a beginner.

Were you a total beginner?
Oh God, one hundred percent! I'd never ever put an ice skate on my foot. I wasn't allowed. I was a dancer; you don't ice skate when you're a dancer. You don't ice skate and you don't ride horses. It's just not done.

Do you still skate?
A little bit, but I haven't done for ages. I've got some skates and I started doing it again with a couple of tours, but it was really intense and just a bit too hard. I got very injured and it took the fun out of it a bit. I've spent the last couple of years in New York, so I took my skates over there and skated with my daughter a bit, which was lots of fun. It's a fabulous form of exercise, and I think it was important to bring some fun back into it.

You cross the pond quite often. Where do you prefer to perform, Broadway or the West End?
I like both, and I think it's great to have a combination. It's a different kind of attitude over there and I really enjoy it, but there are some great people in this country too. I think it's really good to get out of the box every now and again, as it makes you see your own place in a different light and it opens your eyes a little bit.

Are there different disciplines that you have to adopt for each?
Yeah, on Broadway they have a little bit more confidence and a bit more attack. You have to be a bit more positive.

Bonnie Langford appears in Spamalot at the **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham** from Mon 26 to Sat 31 March

BOX OFFICE
0121 345 0602
www.thsh.co.uk

THSH
TOWN HALL BIRMINGHAM
SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM

HIGHLIGHTS



Thursday 8 – Sunday 11 March
BACH: A BEAUTIFUL MIND WEEKEND
Featuring Angela Hewitt, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the composer's very own Thomanerchor.
BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SEASON



Friday 9 March
7.30pm, Town Hall
FAIRPORT CONVENTION
Plus support Kieran Goss
£23*



Wednesday 14 March
7.30pm, Town Hall
JOHN WILLIAMS AND JOHN ETHERIDGE
£12.50 - £20*



Friday 16 March
7.30pm, Symphony Hall
HMS PINAFORE
By Gilbert & Sullivan
£12.50 - £36*



Tuesday 20 – Sunday 25 March
Symphony Hall
21st
LORD OF THE DANCE
Created by Michael Flatley
£25 - £38.50*



Friday 23 March
8pm, Town Hall
THE BJÖRN AGAIN SPRING TOUR
Plus special guest Stavros Flatley
£18.50, £16.50* for groups of 10 or more



Sunday 1 April
7.30pm, Town Hall
ROBERTO FONSECA
Plus support Ayanna
£15, £17.50*



Wednesday 4 April
7.30pm, Symphony Hall
KAILASH KHER WITH HIS BAND KAILASA
£25 - £75*

search 'Town Hall Symphony Hall' @THSHBirmingham

Find us on Spotify, search 'Spotify:user:townhallsymphonyhall'

Supported by Birmingham City Council

Town Hall renovation also funded by

* £2 fee per transaction (£2.50 after 1 April 2012) will be charged on all bookings except purchases made in person at Town Hall or Symphony Hall Box Office

Music

Enter Shikari

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Tues 20 March

Fresh from playing to over twenty-five thousand fans on their self-promoted, sold-out autumn UK tour, Enter Shikari embark on a special six-date tour to coincide with the recent release of third album, A Flash Flood Of Colour. The British band are known for experimenting with a range of heavy metal sounds, including metalcore, alternative metal and electronicore. Their most recent sound could be described as merging drum and bass, dubstep and post-hardcore, and single Arguing With Thermometers has been debuted by Zane Lowe on Radio One. Special guests are UK rock band Young Guns and Tek-One.



Spaghetti Western Orchestra

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 1 March; Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 3 March; Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 16 March

Cunningly named, Spaghetti Western Orchestra is a quintet of musicians who have been performing works from Spaghetti Westerns since 2004. Paying particular attention to music from composer Ennio Morricone and performing with over one hundred instruments, the ensemble has played venues including The Studio in Sydney and Edinburgh Festival. Playing music from classics such as The Good, The Bad And The Ugly and For A Few Dollars More, the show is unmissable for any Clint Eastwood fan.



Laura Marling

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 2 March; Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 11 March

Multi-award-winning poster girl for nu-folk, Laura Marling has been nominated for a Mercury Music Prize twice and won Best Female Solo Artist at the 2011 Brit Awards. Part of the original line-up of Noah And The Whale, she has collaborated with Mystery Jets and The Rakes and was personally invited to tour with Jamie T before she'd even released an EP. Having once toured the UK's cathedrals on her When The Bell Tolls tour, the twenty-two-year-old plays eleven UK dates before heading off to Europe and beyond for the summer festivals.





Florence And The Machine

LG Arena, Birmingham, Tues 13 March

Selling over a million copies of latest album Ceremonials in the two weeks before it was released and making it to Number One, Florence & The Machine are back from a hiatus with a bigger, stronger and darker sound. Rising to fame in 2009 with debut album Lungs, their songs (including Kiss With A Fist and Dog Days Are Over) were used extensively in TV shows and commercials such as 90210, Gossip Girl and Glee, making the band a huge hit on both sides of the pond. English punk act The Horrors support, along with Spector, on this sold-out eleven-date tour.

The Wanted

LG Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 1 March

The Wanted are riding high on the crest of a wave at the moment, and stop off in Birmingham as part of their first ever arena tour. The band burst onto the scene in a blaze of glory, quickly racking up Number Ones, top-fives, award nominations and YouTube hits as though they were going out of fashion. With their star very much in the ascendant, Jay, Max, Nathan, Siva and Tom had no trouble persuading some of the biggest names in the industry to work with them, with Steve Mac, Wayne Hector and Ed Drewett all on board for the boys' second album, the recently released Battleground. Expect this gig to include all the favourites from their still-burgeoning career, including All Time Low, Glad You Came, Heart Vacancy and Gold Forever.




www.acousticfestival.co.uk
May
25 26 27
Uttoxeter
Staffordshire
Acoustic
Festival of Britain
Joan Armatrading
The ANIMALS
KATRINA ex The Waves
Danny + Ben THUNDER
Glenn Tilbrook John Cooper Clarke Mike Peters
Ian McNabb Joolie Wicks Justin Sullivan & Dean White - New Model Army
Gandalf Murphy + Slamboyan Circus KING Hammond SKA T-Bertary
Dogs D'Amour Tir Na Nog Quill Robin Williamson Stackridge Rusty Shackle
The Move
"the cleanest, best kept festival in UK" The Guardian
Swans In Flight Re-Entrants Maniere Des Bohemiens WeeBag Band Tuttle Sisters
Patsy Matheson + Becky Mills PressGang Outcast Band Pig Earth Fake Thackery
Grassoline Joe O'Donnell Radio Mary Shamus O'Bilvion Freds House Adrian Nation
CHRIS CROSS Black Pig Border Biker Urban Morris T J Murphy
Dance troups - Poets Corner - posh loos - camping - kids area
The Acoustic Festival of Britain 2012
Gordon Giltrap Ulf Jon Roth AZIZ
Rodney Branigan Gwyn Ashton Chris Woods Cole Stacey
Stewart Garry The Celtorian
Steve Hicks Jack Blackman
ACOUSTIC GUITAR FEAST
R2
info + tickets tel:- 0333 9000 919 www.acousticfestival.co.uk


Birmingham Contemporary Music Group
Tickets: £20
www.bcmg.org.uk
Ticket line:
0121 780 3333
"The opera is hysterically funny. The score is highly sophisticated and indescribably zany. The world now has something rare: a new genuinely comic opera..."
Los Angeles Times
The Importance of Being Earnest
Saturday 28 April 2012 7pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Opera in Three Acts
(Concert Performance)
by Gerald Barry
Libretto by the composer
based on the text by Oscar Wilde
Conductor: Thomas Adès
Birmingham Contemporary Music Group
Barbara Hannigan: Cecily Cardew
Peter Tantsits: John Worthing
Joshua Bloom: Algernon Moncrieff
Katalin Karolyi: Gwendolen Fairfax
Hilary Summers: Miss Prism
Alan Ewing: Lady Bracknell
Benjamin Bevan: Lane / Merriman
Supported by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
SUPPORTED BY Birmingham City Council


CHELTENHAMFESTIVALS
JAZZ12
in association with BBC RADIO 2
WEEKEND MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
JAMIE CULLUM
PALOMA FAITH
MARCUS MILLER
MELODY GARDOT
BILL FRISELL
GREGORY PORTER
CANDI STATON
IMELDA MAY
AND MANY MORE...
6 DAYS OF BEAUTIFUL, BOLD, BRILLIANT JAZZ
BOOK NOW!
2–7 MAY 2012
BOX OFFICE 0844 880 8094
cheltenhamfestivals.com
@cheltfestivals
#cheltjazzfest
/cheltenhamfestivals
Charity No. 251765

Music PREVIEWS

The Osmonds

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 27 March; Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 28 March; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 29 March; Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Wed 11 April; Malvern Theatres, Thurs 12 April

Yep, that's right; The Osmonds are coming to town. Well, some of them are, anyway! Back in the day, the band sold more than seventy-five million records, and their concert appearances were legendary. They're a heck of a lot older now, of course, but have lost none of their edge, it seems. It's a fair bet that the set will include many of their most successful hits, such as Crazy Horses, Love Me For A Reason, One Bad Apple, Down By The Lazy River, Let Me In - and the unforgettable 'Little Jimmy Osmond' classic, Long Haired Lover From Liverpool.



McFly

Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent; Sun 18 March; O2 Academy, Birmingham, Fri 30 March & Thurs 19 April

Bursting onto the scene a fair few years ago now, McFly appeared to be the modern (British) equivalent of the Beach Boys. With their artfully tousled hair, impish expressions and the sheer joie de vivre with which they invested their sunny, catchy pop, they were difficult to dislike...

Not really all that much has changed since those heady early days - even if the boys have maybe developed the odd faint wrinkle here and there (nah, they're still too young for that!)! They play the Midlands as part of a twenty-six-date tour, selecting venues that offer them the chance to get 'more up close and personal' with their fans.

Black Stone Cherry

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Wed 14 March

Fresh from a headlining US tour, Kentucky rock band Black Stone Cherry are heading over to the UK to complete a fourteen date tour in support of third album, Between The Devil And The Deep Blue Sea. Released in May last year, the album was named one of the most important of 2011 by Classic Rock magazine and spawned hits White Trash Millionaire and Blame It On The Boom Boom. Supporting will be American blues-rockers Rival Sons.





JLS

LG Arena, Fri 16 & Sat 17 March; Tues 17 April

They may have been beaten by Alexandra Burke in the final of the 2008 series, but there's no doubting the fact that JLS do indeed have the X Factor! Oritsé, JB, Aston and Marvin give the impression of being four unassuming guys who're maybe just a little bit taken aback by their own success and popularity. With that kind of modesty and an enormous and irrefutable talent in their favour, there's little wonder the guys continue to make such an enormous splash in the dog-eat-dog world of the music industry. They appear at the LG as part of their Fourth Dimensions tour, in support of their recently released third album, Jukebox.

Joan Baez

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 13 March

Joan Baez made a name for herself through other people's songs, but in her case, this was no bad thing. Starting out in the 1960s with reinterpretations of songs by the likes of Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash and Woody Guthrie, her music became increasingly intertwined with social activism. Singing about freedom and civil rights, she became the conscience of a generation. A dab hand at turning the world's attention towards important historical and social events, her eye for the musical zeitgeist is as sharp as ever it was. Although essentially a traditional folk singer, Joan's certainly not afraid to mix the old with the new to ensure her message reaches as wide an audience as possible.



The Selecter

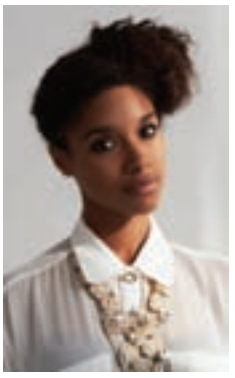
The Assembly, Leamington Spa; The Robin, Bilston, Fri 30 March

Spearheading the 2-tone label alongside The Specials, Madness and The Beat., The Selecter made their mark in the early-1980s, courtesy of a string of hits that included the albums Too Much Pressure and Dance Craze. They were led during this golden period by vocalist Pauline Black, who's gone on to forge a considerable reputation for herself through singing, songwriting and acting. Her latest album, the September 2011-released Made In Britain, featured numbers as diverse as a cover of Amy Winehouse's Back To Black and an anti-racist ska/reggae re-working of Woody Guthrie's All You Fascists Bound To Lose, reinvented as Big In The Body-Small In The Mind.

Lianne La Havas

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Mon 12 March

Fast becoming one to watch, Lianne La Havas's big break came when she performed on Later With Jools Holland in October last year. Although she's been signed to Warner Bros for two years, she's been busy working behind the scenes in preparation for her big break, although did do a stint as backing vocals for Paloma Faith. She's been compared to Erykah Badu, Jill Scott, Mary J Blige, Lauryn Hill and Nina Simone, and promises an intimate and soulful evening at The Glee Club.



hmv institute


EYES SET TO KILL
Monday 27 February


SBTRKT
Wednesday 29 February


TYLER WARD
Thursday 1 March


MELANIE C
Friday 2 March

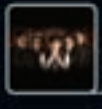

CAST OF CHEERS
Saturday 3 March


MAVERICK SABRE, MS. DYNAMITE
Tuesday 6 March


HOBBIE STUART
Tuesday 6 March


CHIDDY BANG
Wednesday 7 March


SHARON JONES & THE DAP-KINGS
Thursday 8 March


KILL HANNAH
Friday 9 March


GRAEME CLARK (WET WET WET)
Saturday 10 March


DESTROYERS OF THE FAITH
Sunday 11 March

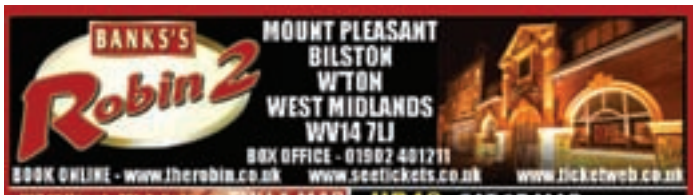

MARK LANEGAN BAND
Monday 12 March


CIVIL WARS
Tuesday 13 March


VAIN, STALA & SO, ANCARA
Saturday 17 March

BOOK ONLINE
hmvtickets.com
24HR TICKET HOTLINE
0844 248 5037 | ticketweb.co.uk
BOOK ONLINE
theticketsellers.co.uk | 0844 870 0000 (24 hours)
VENUE WEBSITE ADDRESS
hmvinstitute.com
VENUE ADDRESS
78 Digbeth High St, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY

BIRMINGHAM'S PREMIER LIVE MUSIC AND CLUB VENUE











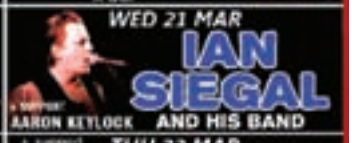








































Lichfield arts

LICHFIELD GUILDHALL

MARCH

Sat 3rd Mar 8.00pm
THE JIVE ACES
£14 / £13 concs / £12 members / £10 students

Wed 7th Mar 8.30pm
PHILIP CLOUTS QUARTET
£12 / £11 concs / £10 members / £6 students

Fri 9th Mar 8.30pm
BEVERLEY CRAVEN
£17 / £16 concs / £15 members / £9 students

Sun 18th Mar 8.00pm
ALY BAIN & PHIL CUNNINGHAM
£16 / £15 concs / £14 members / £8 students

Wed 21st Mar 8.30pm
LITTLE JOHNNY ENGLAND
£12 / £11 concs / £10 members / £6 students

Sun 25th Mar 8.00pm
PAUL JONES & DAVE KELLY
£16 / £15 concs / £14 members / £8 students

Fri 30th Mar 8.30pm
URBAN FOLK QUARTET
£12 / £11 concs / £10 members / £6 students

Sat 31st Mar 8.00pm
COOPE, BOYES & SIMPSON
£12 / £11 concs / £10 members / £6 students

APRIL

Wed 4th Apr 8.30pm
MARTIN TAYLOR
£15 / £14 concs / £13 members / £8 students

Wed 11th Apr 8.00pm
FEAST OF FIDDLES
£19 / £18 concs / £17 members / £10 students

Sun 15th Apr 8.00pm
SARAH GILLESPIE QUARTET
£14 / £13 concs / £12 members / £7 students

Sun 22nd Apr
PHOENIX RISING
£11 / £10 concs / £9 members / £6 students

For a programme or further information contact:
Donegal House, Bore Street, Lichfield. WS13 6LU
BOX OFFICE 01543 262223
www.lichfieldarts.org.uk
You can now book on-line www.lichfieldarts.org.uk

Music PREVIEWS

Noah And The Whale

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Thurs 29 March

Named after a combination of the title and director of one of the band's favourite films, The Squid And The Whale, Noah & The Whale formed in 2006. Three albums later, the band are playing eleven shows prior to their festival appearances at Parklife, Rockness and Apple Cart. Finding success with debut Peaceful, The World Lays Me Down, follow-up and break-up album The First Days Of Spring was written after the demise of Charlie Fink and Laura Marling's relationship. Latest release Last Night On Earth moves away from their nu-folk sound towards a more retro rock'n'roll feel.



The Australian Pink Floyd

Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 12 March; National Indoor Arena, Wed 21 March

Nobody's claiming a tribute act's as good as the real thing, of course, but if you never caught the likes of Pink Floyd live, then these kind of acts at least give you the chance to get a 'feel' of what it must have been like to be in the presence of greatness. The band has been around for almost a quarter-century now, and have played to over three million fans worldwide. Their latest tour, Exposed In The Light, takes its title from the lyrics of the Floyd classic Shine On You Crazy Diamond. If you love Pink Floyd, you'll love these homage-paying imposters too.



Killing Joke

Wulfrun Hall, Wed 14 March

Formed at the end of the '70s in Notting Hill, this post-punk band is credited with influencing the development of industrial rock. Inspiring bands including Nirvana, Rammstein, Korn and Foo Fighters, to name but a few, they were championed by DJ John Peel and became famous for their controversial imagery on stage and on records. The band has just announced the release of their fifteenth album, 2012, said to be inspired by end of the world predictions and described as 'an avalanche of sound'.





Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds

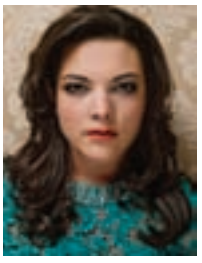
National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 1 March

Created in 2010 by the former Oasis guitarist, the band includes ex-Oasis session pianist Mike Rowe, drummer Jeremy Stacey of The Lemon Trees, The Zutons' bassist Russell Pritchard and guitarist Tim Smith. Splitting from Oasis in August 2009 following an argument with brother Liam and a statement that he simply 'could not go on working' with him 'a day longer', Noel has since had to endure his brother referring to his music as 'boring' and having 'no attitude'. With his debut album hitting the UK chart at Number One, the follow-up has been compared to Pink Floyd's Dark Side Of The Moon.

Caro Emerald

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 15 March

Dutch pop, swing and jazz musician Caroline Esmeralda van der Leeuw may only have graduated from the Amsterdam Conservatory seven short years ago, but she's nonetheless made history by spending a record-breaking thirty weeks at Number One in the Dutch album charts, beating Michael Jackson's Thriller by one week. Vocally influenced by The Andrew Sisters, Billie Holiday and Sarah Vaughan, Caro blended 1940s and '50s jazz with easy listening and orchestral Latin to create a unique sound for her debut single, Back It Up.



The Urban Folk Quartet

Lichfield Guildhall, Fri 30 March

Hailing from Birmingham, The Urban Folk Quartet fuses traditional English and Spanish folk music. Playing gigs in the UK, Italy, Belgium and Spain in their first three months together, they won the Spanish International Folk Competition in Plasencia at only their fourth concert. Comprising four hugely talented musicians, twelve instruments and four voices, the band plays energetic, globally influenced folk music to take your breath away.

The X Factor Tour

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sun 25 March

With yet another series of X Factor proving to be compulsive viewing for millions of Saturday night teatime telly-watchers, it's no surprise to find the Class of 2011 hitting the road for the latest version of what has now become an annual live tour. This year's winner Little Mix is joined by Janet Devlin, Marcus Collins, Johnny Robinson, Craig Colton, Misha B, The Risk, Kitty Brucknell and comeback girl Amelia Lily.

So if you enjoy the TV show, get yourself along to this Live version and find out how the contestants fair once they're away from the TV cameras and those nasty judges!





Warwick CAVERN

Presents

1st March	THE BLUES CLUB - TREVOR BURTON
2nd March	INDIE KINGS
3rd March	UNDERCOCKS
8th March	THE BLUES CLUB - JAY TAMKIN BAND
9th March	REWIND
10th March	SOULVILLE
15th March	QUILL ACOUSTIC
16th March	THE SUBTERRANEANS
17th March	VIPER LOUNGE
22nd March	THE BLUES CLUB - CRISIS BLUES BAND
23rd March	THE ESTABLISHMENT
24th March	1215
29th March	THE BLUES CLUB - GWYN ASHTONS TWO MEN BLUES ARMY
30th March	KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS
31st March	THE MOONSHAKERS
5th April	THE BLUES CLUB - STEVE GIBBONS
6th April	THE ESTABLISHMENT
7th April	JUMPP
12th April	ALVIN STARDUST
13th April	THE REAL THING
14th April	TRAVELLING PILBURYS
19th April	THE BLUES CLUB - THE COHEN BROTHERS
20th April	THE ESTABLISHMENT
21st April	DAN SEALEY and ANDY BENNETT of Ocean Colour Scene
26th April	THE BLUES CLUB - RICKY COOL & THE HOOLA HOOLA BOYS
27th April	KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS
28th April	CoSTARS
3rd May	THE BLUES CLUB - TREVOR BURTON
4th May	FABULOUS BOOGIE BOYS
5th May	MOTHER POPCORN
10th May	THE BLUES CLUB - LARRY MILLER
24th May	THE MOVE with Bev Bevan & Trevor Burton
31st May	THE BLUES CLUB - ZOOT MONEY
21st June	THE FOUNDATIONS
5th July	THE SEARCHERS
4th October	THE ZOMBIES

Welton Road, Warwick, Warwickshire CV34 5PZ
Tel: 01926 494600 www.warwickcavern.com
facebook.com/warwickcavern

Music GIG REVIEWS

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

Olly Murs

LG Arena, Birmingham

Since coming runner-up on X Factor back in 2009, it's safe to say that the 'cheeky chappy' from Essex has done exceptionally well for himself. Olly's first solo single topped the charts, and his second album, In Case You Didn't Know, went straight to Number One. His spell on X Factor saw him categorised as an 'all-round entertainer' - a title of which he's still worthy if this LG Arena gig is anything to go by. Show opener Anywhere Else (from his new album) was met with piercing screams from the enthusiastic audience, and was immediately followed by a selection of much-loved tracks, including chart favourites Dance With Me Tonight and Please Don't Let Me Go. There was also a sneak preview of new single Oh, My Goodness, which went down a storm. These were intertwined with some impressive covers, including I Need A Dollar, It Must Be Love, and a credible medley of James Brown classics. The evening was brought to a perfect end with an energetic encore of Heart Skips A Beat, accompanied by indoor fireworks. With vocals on top form throughout, some friendly banter with the audience and some great dance moves, Olly Murs certainly knows how to give his adoring fans a night to remember. **Lauren Wright** ■■■■■

Alfie Boe

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

With his powerful vocals and witty banter - not to mention affable charm and good looks - it's easy to see why tenor Alfie Boe is such a hit with his growing legion of fans.
Returning to Birmingham's Symphony Hall for the second time in a month, Alfie was on top form, indulging in plenty of tomfoolery with both his band and the audience as he presented a highly entertaining evening of songs which perfectly showcased his versatility. Numbers from albums Alfie and Bring Him Home were joined by an array of popular tunes from the stage and screen - Tell Me It's Not True, Maria, and a medley of Bond Classics - while a poignant cover of The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face and the much-loved Bring Him Home provided the evening's highlights. **Reggie White** ■■■■■

Music Venues Box Office

Birmingham

02 ACADEMY
08444 77 2000

ADRIAN BOULT HALL
0121 331 5901

THE ASYLUM
0121 233 1109

THE BALLROOM, DALE END
0121 448 0797

THE BARBER INSTITUTE
0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL
0121 780 3333

CBSO CENTRE
0121 780 3333

CUSTARD FACTORY,
0121 224 7777

FLAPPER 0121 236 2421

HARE & HOUNDS
0121 444 2081

HMV INSTITUTE
0844 248 5037

ISLAND BAR
0121 632 5296

THE JAM HOUSE
0121 200 3030

LG ARENA
0844 338 8000

NIA 0844 338 8000

THE RAINBOW
0121 772 8174

RED LION FOLK CLUB
0121 441 6941

THE ROADHOUSE
0121 459 5660

SYMPHONY HALL
0121 780 3333

THE GLEE CLUB
0871 472 0400

THE YARDBIRD
0121 212 2524

Black Country

CIVIC HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000

DUDLEY CONCERT HALL
01384 815577

NEWHAMPTON ARTS CENTRE
01902 572090

THE PUBLIC, WEST BROMWICH
0121 533 7161

ROBIN 2, BILSTON
01902 401211

STOURBRIDGE TOWN HALL
01384 812812

THE VARSITY, WOLVERHAMPTON
01902 711166

WULFRUN HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000

Shropshire

THE EDGE ARTS CENTRE, MUCH WENLOCK
01952 728911

THE HIVE, SHREWSBURY
01743 234970

THE IRONWORKS, OSWESTRY
01691 679123

THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY 01743 281281

THE PLACE, OAKENGATES, TELFORD 01952 382382

WEM TOWN HALL
01939 232299

Staffordshire

LICHFIELD GUILDHALL
01543 262223

THE SUGAR MILL, HANLEY STOKE-ON-TRENT
01159 454 593

TAMWORTH ASSEMBLY ROOMS
01827 709618

VICTORIA HALL, HANLEY
0844 871 7649

STAFFORD GATEHOUSE
01785 254653

Warwickshire

COX'S YARD, STRATFORD
01789 404600

THE ASSEMBLY, LEAMINGTON
01926 311311

THE KASBAH, COVENTRY
02476 554473

NAILCOTE HALL, BERKSWELL 02476 46 6174

STRATFORD CIVIC HALL
01789 207100

TAYLOR JOHN'S HOUSE, COVENTRY
024 7623 0699

Worcestershire

HUNTINGDON HALL / SWAN THEATRE 01905 611427

MARR'S BAR, WORCESTER
01905 613336

THE RIVER ROOMS, STOURBRIDGE
01384 397177

Music LISTINGS

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

THUR 1 MAR

SPAGHETTI WESTERN ORCHESTRA Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
MARGARET PREECE PRESENTS RULE BRITANNIA! An evening of musical highlights ro celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Solihull Arts Complex
REBECCA FERGUSON Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CARA DILLON The Robin, Bilston
THE ELO EXPERIENCE The Swan Theatre, Worcester
THE SOUTH 02 Academy, Birmingham
CLIVE CARROLL Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
NOEL GALLAGHER'S HIGH FLYING BIRDS National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE Malvern Theatres
CREAM OF CLAPTON Lichfield Garrick
SIERRA MAESTRAE Birmingham Town Hall
ASHLEY HUTCHINGS AND KEN NICOL The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
THE WANTED LG Arena, Birmingham
THE JOHNNY CASH STORY Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
OFELIADORME Taylor John's House, Coventry
KING CHARLES The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
PHANTOM LIMB Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
TO KILL A KING The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
TYLER WARD HMV Institute, Birmingham
BEHOLDER, UNDER BLACKENED SKIES & ADUST The Roadhouse, Birmingham
KIM RICHEY The Glee Club, Birmingham
DAVE SHARPE The Ironworks, Oswestry, Shropshire

FRI 2 MAR

THE NOTORIOUS BROTHERS The Roadhouse, Birmingham
SHAUN RYDER O2 Academy, Birmingham
MASTERS IN FRANCE, SOLDIER, NEW KILLER SHOES, I AM RYAN & JOSEPH HICKLIN The Ballroom, Birmingham
MELANIE C HMV Institute, Birmingham
FLEETWOOD BAC The River Rooms, Stourbridge
SOLID SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
GIRLSCHOOL The Assembly, Leamington Spa
MAX RAPTOR & HILDAMAY Kasbah, Coventry
THE WORLD'S GREATEST MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE CONCERT Crewe Lyceum
THE JIVE ACES Solihull Arts Complex
THE HUBBARDS & JIYA The Rainbow, Birmingham
TIME GENTLEMEN PLEASE Birmingham Town Hall
MAWA & THE MELO-D & ETHAN ASH Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL Lichfield Garrick
MORAG MCLAREN Lichfield Garrick
THE GET ALONGS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
NICK LOWE Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
BAND OF SKULLS Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
THE SILVER SEAS 02 Academy, Birmingham
ROGER DEAN SINGS THE JOHNNY CASH STORY New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
THINK FLOYD The Robin, Bilston
GUILTY SKIES, YES SUNSHINE, DEAD ACTORS & MOTHERLESS Taylor John's House, Coventry
LAURA MARLING Symphony Hall, Birmingham
THE STONES Palace Theatre, Redditch
COUNTRY ROADS - A CELEBRATION OF JOHN DENVER The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
BIRMINGHAM JAZZ ENSEMBLE Symphony Hall, Birmingham
REGGAEBABY LOUNGE The Drum, Birmingham

SAT 3 MAR

SPAGHETTI WESTERN ORCHESTRA Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
CLASSIC CLAPTON Palace Theatre, Redditch
KEITH WAITHE & THE MACUSI PLAYERS Artrix, Bromsgrove
BLUES HOUSE PARTY FEATURING MICHAEL ROACH, JOHN MILLER, EDDIE MARTIN & SONNY BLACK Artrix, Bromsgrove
PAUL CARRACK The Robin, Bilston
PROTEST THE HERO, LONG DISTANCE CALLING, BLOOD COMMAND & UNEVEN STRUCTURE 02 Academy, Birmingham
EMMA SCOTT PRESENTS PAGE 44 PLUS JESTER, BREAKING TIES. FAKE OBSESSION, REACHBACK 02 Academy, Birmingham
APART FROM ROD Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
NIA LYNN Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ZARA MCFARLANE The Drum, Birmingham
THE 'ELVIS' VEGAS SHOW WITH KEVIN PAUL Nailcote Hall, Berkswell
THE JIVE ACES Lichfield Guildhall
ABEL'S LAST STAND The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
RICHARD LEACH'S 7 STARS OF JAZZ Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE Lichfield Garrick
BOTOWN Bedworth Civic Hall
NICK LOWE Birmingham Town Hall
LIMEHOUSE LIZZY Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
DAKOTA BEATS The Slade Rooms
THE PHENOMENAL HANDCLAP BAND Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ULTRA 90S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE CAST OF CHEERS & THEME PARK HMV Institute, Birmingham
YOUFO The Roadhouse, Birmingham
PARTIKEL The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire
PASSION, KRYSTAL ROXX, SAMMY SUGAR, DJ K, JAY LOWE & RANIER HMV Institute, Birmingham

SUN 4 MAR

MEST, THE HUMAN PROJECT, OUT COLD & MAYCOMB The Ballroom, Birmingham
SMOKE FEATHERS The Marr's Bar, Worcester
AN AFTERNOON WITH JESS CONRAD Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
LOUISE JORDAN Lichfield Guildhall
TIR NA NOG The Robin, Bilston
SEX DEPARTMENT The Roadhouse, Birmingham
NORTH SEA GAS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

MON 5 MAR

INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT WITH LULO REINHARDT, ADRIAN LEGG AND BRIAN GORE Artrix, Bromsgrove
MATT CARDLE Symphony Hall
OVER THE RAINBOW - THE EVA CASSIDY STORY Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
RAE MORRIS The Glee Club, Birmingham
TOY HORSES PLUS THE RIPPS, THE DIRTY MINUTES, THE MAKING & DALE HANSON The Ballroom, Birmingham

TUE 6 MAR

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE The Jam House, Birmingham
ALICE GOLD, THE ROBERT LANE BAND & TARA Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
MONUMENT VALLEY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
HOBBIE STUART HMV, Birmingham
MAVERICK SABRE & MS DYNAMITE HMV Institute, Birmingham

The biggest charity LGBT ball in the UK - over 1000 diners

The Birmingham Pride Ball 2012

Friday 23 March 2012

at the highly prestigious

International Convention Centre

Birmingham

A glittering night of action-packed entertainment including...

Queen of the Jungle - ITV1's I'm A Celebrity / X Factor Finalist

STACEY SOLOMON

An exclusive performance of 'It Does Get Better'

THE L PROJECT

80's pop sensation - 'So Macho' 'Toyboy' / ITV1's I'm A Celebrity

SINITTA

Award-winning tribute artist

VICKY JACKSON

The UK's No.1 NEW boyband

FTW

plus many more special guests still to be announced!





Tickets inclusive of 3 course meal, live entertainment and disco
Dress code: Smart lounge suits, black tie, ball gowns and frocks!

FOR FULL DETAILS AND TICKET/TABLE PRICES VISIT: www.prideball.co.uk

This is THE LGBT party of the year!

Midlands Zone · Hyatt Regency · the icc birmingham · Harvey Nichols Birmingham · Sarah Raven Florist · the nec group birmingham

Music LISTINGS

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

RICHIE KOTZEN The Robin, Bilston
L.A GUNS The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE ALBION BAND Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
JUSTIN FURSTENFELD 02 Academy, Birmingham

WED 7 MAR

RISE TO REMAIN PLUS BLEED FROM WITHIN AND THE SAFETY FIRE 02 Academy, Birmingham
PHILIP CLOUTS QUARTET Lichfield Guildhall
GRETCHEN PETERS The Robin, Bilston
DAVE HOLLAND PRESENTS Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire
FINGERSNAP: DAVID MCALMONT & GUY DAVIES Artrix, Bromsgrove
BRENDAN SHINE Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
PORTICO QUARTET Birmingham Town Hall
FUNERAL SUITS, THE HOLE IN THE HEAD GANG The Rainbow, Birmingham
THE ALBION BAND The Roses, Tewksbury
CHIDDY BANG HMV, Birmingham
MARTHA TILSTON Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

THU 8 MAR

GABRIELLE APLIN & HUDSON TAYLOR The Rainbow, Birmingham
THE ALBION BAND Lichfield Garrick
SHARON JONES & THE DAP-KINGS HMV Institute
THE SELECTER The Assembly, Leamington Spa
CHARLIE LANDSBOROUGH The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
THE ARISTOCRATS FEATURING GUTHRIE GOVAN, BRYAN BELLER & MARCO MINNEMANN The Robin, Bilston
POST DESCARTES, THE BLACK SHEEP FAMILY, KISSING LIEUTENANT, HALLWAY DISTRICT & PYROTIC The Ballroom, Birmingham
THE HOLLIES Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FRI 9 MAR

CLUB SMITH PLUS EMPIRE, BLOOM & OPEN TO FIRE The Ballroom, Birmingham
SKABUCKS The Roadhouse, Birmingham
GLORY DAYS - BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTE The Robin, Bilston
BEVERLEY CRAVEN Lichfield Guildhall
JANI LANG BAND Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
CLOCKWORK OWLS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
DAVID REES-WILLIAMS TRIO Symphony Hall
A 60S NIGHT OUT 2012 FEATURING DAVE BERRY, CHRIS FARLOWE, TONY CRANE AND THE NEW AMEN CORNEr Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
BOOTS ELECTRIC 02 Academy, Birmingham
SILENT FILTER FT. REBECCA & THE ROSES PLUS JUPITER ATE, SCARLET AND LOTTIE PHAZEY 02 Academy, Birmingham
THE BRYAN ADAMS EXPERIENCE The Assembly, Leamington Spa
DETROIT SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
DAME SHIRLEY BASSEY - A MUSICAL CELEBRATION Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
ULTIMATE MADNESS VS ULTIMATE SPECIALS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
KILL HANNAH & DEAR SUPERSTAR HMV Institute, Birmingham
GYPSY FIRE Lichfield Garrick
THE SPEECH PROJECT Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
ELO EXPERIENCE Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
FAIRPORT CONVENTION Birmingham Town Hall

SAT 10 MAR

AC/DC TRIBUTE - HELLS BELLS Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
DETROIT SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
J J WHEELER Quintet The Hive, Shrewsbury
EZIO Lichfield Garrick
REACH OUT TO MOTOWN ROY G HEMMINGS Tamworth Assembly Rooms
CAVE PAINTING The Rainbow, Birmingham
NANCI GRIFFITHS Birmingham Town Hall
MAETLOAF The River Rooms, Stourbridge
GRAEME CLARK (EX WET WET WET) HMV Institute, Birmingham
WHOLE LOTTA LED The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
MANIFEST LIVE FT. JIMMY DAVIS PLUS R.T, IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO AND QUARRY 02 Academy
THE STRANGLERS 02 Academy, Birmingham
CLIVE JOHN AND THE SPIRIT BAND Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE ANSWER & THE UNION Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
THE JAMM The Robin, Bilston
GLAMBA Artrix, Bromsgrove
JOE BROWN Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
PURPLE ZEPPELIN The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE MASTERS OF THE HOUSE - HITS FROM THE WEST END The Roses, Tewksbury
THE SCOTTISH FIDDLE ORCHESTRA Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ARUN GOSH Symphony Hall, Birmingham
TUSSK The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
HEARTBREAKER - PAUL RODGERS TRIBUTE The Ironworks, Oswestry

SUN 11 MAR

MORE THAN LIFE PLUS DAYLIGHT & GUESTS The Ballroom, Birmingham
LAURA MARLING Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
SLIM CHANCE PERFORM THE MUSIC OF RONNIE LANE The Robin, Bilston
MAX RAPTOR & HILDAMAY 02 Academy, Birmingham
DESTROYERS OF THE FAITH, CANNIBAL CORPSE, TRIPTYKON, ENSLAVED & JOB FOR A COWBOY HMV Institute, Birmingham
STUART MCCALLUM Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
LLOYD COLE The Glee Club, Birmingham
FINGERSNAP: DAVID MCALMONT & GUY DAVIES Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE METAL BALL The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE RE-ENTRANTS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

MON 12 MAR

MARK LANEGAN BAND & CREATURE WITH THE ATOM BRAIN HMV Institute, Birmingham
KASSIDY O2 Academy, Birmingham
3 DOORS DOWN 02 Academy, Birmingham
THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
BRENDAN SHINE Solihull Arts Complex
LIANNE LA HAVAS The Glee Club, Birmingham

TUE 13 MAR

RACHEL HARRINGTON & HER ALL-GIRL HONKY-TONK BAND The Robin, Bilston
JOAN BAEZ Symphony Hall
THE CIVIL WARS HMV Institute, Birmingham
ITCHYFEET The Jam House, Birmingham
THE MEGAPHONIC THRIFT


Zoe Rahman - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

The Rainbow, Birmingham
MAD DOG MCREA Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE LG Arena, Birmingham

WED 14 MAR

MARY COUGHLAN Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
SUMMER CAMP & FIXERS The Rainbow, Birmingham
THE THREE DEGREES The Jam House, Birmingham
THE FELICE BROTHERS & CRAIG FINN HMV Institute, Birmingham
WALTER TROUT The Robin, Bilston
MISSING ANDY 02 Academy, Birmingham
THE SOLID SILVER 60S SHOW FEATURING THE SEARCHERS, MERSEYBEATS, WAYNE FONTANA, JOHN WALKER & THE DAKOTAS New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
BLACK STONE CHERRY 02 Academy, Birmingham
KILLING JOKE Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
JOHN WILLIAMS & JOHN ETHERIDGE Birmingham Town Hall

THU 15 MAR

TAKE FAT The Robin, Bilston
BAD FOR LAZURAS, SLIPSTREAM & THE SINFUL DIGITAL The Roadhouse, Birmingham
CARO EMERALD Symphony Hall, Birmingham
RUSSIAN SPECTACULAR Stratford Civic Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon
ZOE RAHMAN Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
(HED) P.E. The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE HAMSTERS Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
JOE SUMMERS Symphony Hall, Birmingham
KIT DOWNES & LESLEY BARNES Birmingham Midlands Institute
LLOYD, BLUEY ROBINSON HMV, Birmingham
AMY WADGE The Ironworks, Oswestry

FRI 16 MAR

THE GUNS N' ROSES EXPERIENCE Crewe Lyceum
JLS LG Arena, Birmingham
ZICO CHAIN Kasbah, Coventry
NIGEL JOHN LEADING TRIBUTE TO SIR ELTON JOHN Lichfield Garrick
POP WILL EAT ITSELF The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
ROCKET ROCK The Jam House, Birmingham
NOW THAT'S 80S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
SPAGHETTI WESTERN ORCHESTRA Birminghan Town Hall
JOHN KEARNEY & LUCY FARRELL Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
BOOTLEG BEATLES Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
JJ WHELLER QUINTET Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CLEO LAINE AND FRIENDS Malvern Theatres
LIMEHOUSE LIZZY The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
KAST OFF KINKS The Robin, Bilston
AMON AMARTH Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
SEASONS OF THE HEART - A TRIBUTE TO JOHN DENVER Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
SILENT FILTER FT. BLOOM PLUS BONNYLOU, FARISLE AND SEARCHING SKYLINES 02 Academy, Birmingham
EMMA SCOTT PRESENTS FURY PLUS HURTSEASON 02 Academy, Birmingham
SPRING OFFENSIVE PLUS THE SCHOLARS The Ballroom, Birmingham
ROCKSTAR The Roadhouse, Birmingham
CLARE TEAL The Roses, Tewksbury
JAMES BOURNE O2 Academy, Birmingham
SHAPES, BLACKLISTERS & THEM WOLVES The Rainbow, Birmingham
O.K CORRAL The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

SAT 17 MAR

GUNS 2 ROSES The Roadhouse, Birmingham
EMMA SCOTT PRESENTS FOLLOW THE FALLEN PLUS ARCANE RAGE, EVERYBODY LOOKS FAMOUS AND GRACE THE SKIES 02 Academy, Birmingham
THE BOHEMIANS - A NIGHT OF QUEEN 02 Academy, Birmingham
JLS LG Arena, Birmingham
TOMMY FLEMING: THE VOICE OF IRELAND New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
4 POOFS AND A PIANO Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
NIGEL JOHN - LEADING TRIBUTE TO SIR ELTON JOHN Lichfield Garrick
THE FLOYD EXPERIENCE Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
THE SPEECH PROJECT Sat 17 Mar, mac, Birmingham
ANDY HAMILTON & THE BLUE NOTES Symphony Hall, Birmingham
JOHNNY 2 BAD The Robin, Bilston
CAMERON PIERRE The Drum, Birmingham
KIT HOLMES TRIO Artrix, Bromsgrove
ST PATRICKS DAY PARTY FEAT PARTY CELTICA Sat 17 Mar, The River Rooms, Stourbridge
VAIN, STALA & SO & ANCARA HMV Institute, Birmingham
CHIMAIRA The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE MILK The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
THE DUBLINERS Birmingham Town Hall
C'MON EVERYBODY Tamworth Assembly Rooms
THE FATHER TEDS The Public, West Bromwich
KEITH JAMES - THE SONGS OF LEONARD COHEN Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SUN 18 MAR

ANDY CUTTING The Hive, Shrewsbury

the Gadget Show LIVE

See, try and buy the hottest new technology at the UK's best consumer event* **11-15 April 2012, NEC BIRMINGHAM**









Shop for the best new technology around, try out everything from guitars to gaming PCs and see futuristic concepts never before seen in the UK.

What's more you can see the Gadget Show presenters on stage for an hour of high octane entertainment in the Super Theatre.

Ticket availability is already limited so book yours today at

www.gadgetshowlive.net/on

* The Gadget Show Live won Best Consumer Exhibition at both the AEO Excellence Awards 2011 and Exhibition News Awards

In association with:

iJobs

Absolute Radio

Organised by:

UPPER STREET EVENTS

5

NORTH ONE TELEVISION

Music LISTINGS

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

ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT featuring members of the original TCB Band and singers with a full orchestra, LG Arena, Birmingham
THE MILK & SYLVIA The Rainbow, Birmingham
GRETCHEN PETERS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
RAYMOND FROGGATT The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
NERO HMV Institute, Birmingham
MCFLY Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
THE DOLLY PARTON STORY The Robin, Bilston
ALY BAIN & PHIL CUNNINGHAM Lichfield Guildhall
YASHIN PLUS JODY HAS A HITLIST, WITH ONE LAST BREATH AND TANTRUM TOO BLIND 02 Academy
THE MACCABEES Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
LEVI FRENCH TRIO Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

MON 19 MAR

STIFF LITTLE FINGERS The Robin, Bilston
THE STRANGLERS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire
THE SAFETY FIRE & JAMES CLEAVER QUINTET O2 Academy, Birmingham

TUE 20 MAR

TORD GUSTAVSEN ENSEMBLE The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire
ENTER SHIKARI Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire
THE LIBERTINES 02 Academy, Birmingham
KULVINDER GHIR LIVE! Birmingham Town Hall
THE MORNING AFTER The Roadhouse, B'ham
RACHEL HARRINGTON The Ironworks, Oswestry

WED 21 MAR

LITTLE JOHNNY ENGLAND Lichfield Guildhall
AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
IAN SIEGAL & HIS BAND The Robin, Bilston
D-DAY DARLINGS: THE SONGS THAT WON THE WAR Palace Theatre, Redditch
SOUND OF GUNS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
I AM BEYONCE Lichfield Garrick
HUFFY & MATT PARSONS Taylor John's, Warwick
SOUNDS OF GUNS & CAPITAL SUN Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THU 22 MAR

MIDGE URE Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
ALEX WINSTON Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE PARIS 1940S The Jam House, Birmingham
INSPIRAL CARPETS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
MARTIN TURNER'S WISHBONE ASH The Robin, Bilston
THE FOUR TOPS & THE TEMPTATIONS National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
CRAOBH RUA Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
LIZ GREEN The Glee Club, Birmingham
SPIRO WITH SUPPORT FROM CLIFF STAPLETON mac, Birmingham
SOUNDS OF SIMON - OLD FRIENDS DUO TOUR The Ironworks, Oswestry

FRI 23 MAR

KAST OFF KINKS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
SILENT FILTER FT. MISS HANNAH O PLUS ASK ALFIE, FOUADSYMPHONICS AND OMP 02 Academy, Birmingham
PIAF - THE SONGS The Swan Theatre, Worcester
THE REAL THING The Robin, Bilston
TALON - THE BEST OF THE EAGLES Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
THE SEARCHERS Palace Theatre, Redditch
THE BOOTLEG BEATLES Malvern Theatres
URBAN INTRO The Jam House, Birmingham
SYLEENA JOHNSON Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
TOUCHE AMORE HMV Institute, Birmingham
LIVEWIRE - TRIBUTE TO AC/DC The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
ROOM 94 HMV Institute, Birmingham
LABOUR OF LOVE - UB40 TRIBUTE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
RUSSIAN SPECTACULAR Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
MARTIN TURNER'S WISHBONE ASH Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
WHOLE LOTTA LED The Ballroom, Birmingham
ZERO AMIGO PLUS THE LIEUTENANTS, THE VAN CORTLANDT RANGERS, THE FORMULA, ARCADE PARADE The Ballroom, Birmingham
CAROLE WESTWOOD QUARTET Symphony Hall, Birmingham
THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE The Roses, Tewksbury
BJORN AGAIN Birmingham Town Hall
DAVE SWARBRICK Newhampton Arts Centre. Wolverhampton
DAKESIS The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE CHAKRAS & THE VOUCH The Rainbow, Birmingham
SWORN TO OATH The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

SAT 24 MAR

THE STRANGE DOORS The Roadhouse, Birmingham
DISCHARGE WITH ENGLISH DOGS, POLICE BASTARD, SELFLESS CRYO-GENICS AND THE FIEND The Ballroom, Birmingham
I FEEL GOOD - THE MAGIC OF SOUL & MOTOWN Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
URBAN INTRO The Jam House, Birmingham
MORGAN PERKINS The Basement Restaurant, Leamington Spa
THE SOUL SURVIVORS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
JAGUAR SKILLS HMV Institute, Birmingham
SETH LAKEMAN The Assembly, Leamington Spa
THE ACOUSTIC STRAWBS Artrix, Bromsgrove
THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
NAZARETH "BIG DOGZ" TOUR PLUS THE DEBORAH BONHAM BAND The Robin, Bilston
MY GENERATION The Swan Theatre, Worcester
BLACK VEIL BRIDES Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
CHARLIE SIMPSON 02 Academy, Birmingham
MATT LONSDALE 02 Academy, Birmingham
ALL THE YOUNGS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

SUN 25 MAR

PAUL JONES & DAVE KELLY Lichfield Guildhall
THE CHARLESTON CHASERS The Roses, Tewksbury
ALL THE YOUNG 02 Academy, Birmingham
PAUL MENEL BAND & MANNING (FULL ELECTRIC) The Robin, Bilston
STEVE KING BIG BAND Artrix, Bromsgrove
GRAVEYARD The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
GILBERT O'SULLIVAN Birmingham Town Hall
THE X FACTOR LIVE TOUR LG Arena, Birmingham
THE ABBEY EXPERIENCE The Roadhouse, B'ham



Inme - Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent & HMV Institute, Birmingham

ANDY HAMILTON SESSIONS The Drum, Birmingham
BJORN AGAIN Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
LOUISE JORDAN KItchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

MON 26 MAR

INME The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
GEHTIKA The Robin, Bilston
KORN 02 Academy, Birmingham
DAVID SYLVIAN Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TUE 27 MAR

STEEL PANTHER The Robin, Bilston
STIFF LITTLE FINGERS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
WILEY HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE OSMONDS Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
THE BOOTLEG SIXTIES Crewe Lyceum
WE'LL MEET AGAIN Lichfield Garrick
BULLETS & OCTANE The Ballroom, Birmingham
BROOKE WILLIAMS The Roses, Tewksbury
SHARKS, CROWNS & THE CATHARSIS The Rainbow, Birmingham

WED 28 MAR

WILEY Kasbah, Coventry
INME HMV Institute, Birmingham
WALE VICTOR FOLARIN HMV Institute, Birmingham
ATLUM SCHEMA Taylor John's, Coventry
BILL "WATERMELON SLIM" HOMANS The Robin, Bilston
THE OSMONDS Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
THE MINUTES 02 Academy, Birmingham
OFWGKTA 02 Academy, Birmingham
THE BLUES BAND RHYTHM & BLUES Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THU 29 MAR

THE BOOTLEG SIXTIES The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
NOAH AND THE WHALE Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
JACK BRUCE BIG BLUES BAND 02 Academy, Birmingham
THE PRODUCERS The Robin, Bilston
THE CLAPTON EXPERIENCE The Roadhouse, Birmingham
DEL CAMINO The Jam House, Birmingham
MUSIC FOR LIFE Crewe Lyceum
THE SEARCHERS Lichfield Garrick
THE OSMONDS Symphony Hall, Birmingham
IMPERIAL LEISURE, MIKE ONLY (EX-KING BLUES) & SICK CITY CLUB HMV, Birmingham

FRI 30 MAR

PHIL SAYER The Basement Restaurant, Leamington Spa
ABBA - THE SHOW Bedworth Civic Hall
SHOWADDYWADDY Tamworth Assembly Rooms
KATHLEEN TURNER OVERDRIVE Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, Birmingham
DIRTY LITTLE LIES The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
ALKINOOS IOANNIDIS HMV Institute, Birmingham
DEFINITELY MIGHT BE & ADORED The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE SKYNYRD EXPERIENCE The Marr's Bar, Stourbridge
THE SELECTER The Robin, Bilston
KIT DOWNES QUINTET Symphony Hall, B'ham
SIXTIES NIGHT OUT 2012 FEATURING DAVE BERRY, CHIP HAWKES, AND CHRIS FARLOWE Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
MCFLY 02 Academy, Birmingham
COLD STONE PLUS GREENWOOD PARK, NEW CHAPTER AND THE NEW REVOLUTION 02 Academy, Birmingham
BOWLING FOR SOUP 02 Academy, Birmingham
THE URBAN FOLK QUARTET Lichfield Guildhall
O'HOOLEY AND TIDOW BELINDA Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
JACQUI MCSHEE'S PENTANGLE Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
MARSEILLE & HANG FIRE The Roadhouse, Birmingham
GYPSY FIRE The Roses, Tewksbury

SAT 31 MAR

HELLS BELLS AC/DC TRIBUTE The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, Birmingham
COOPE, BOYES & SIMPSON Lichfield Guildhall
JOE BONAMASSA National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
UFO Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
MY GREAT AFFLICTION 02 Academy, Birmingham
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
BON GIOVI The Robin, Bilston
JOHNNY 2 BAD The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
MENTALLICA - A TRIBUTE TO ROCK The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
JIM MORAY The Hive, Shrewsbury
THE BUSBY BABES CHARITY CONCERT The Public, West Bromwich
ELKIE BROOKS Tamworth Assembly Rooms
4 POOFS AND A PIANO Lichfield Garrick
SOUMIK DATTA mac, Birmingham
SHERRY COUNSELLORS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

Classical Music PREVIEWS



Welsh National Opera

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 6 - Sat 10 March

The ever-popular Welsh National Opera return to their Midlands home of the Birmingham Hippodrome to present another season of memorable works.
On this occasion they're performing three much-loved pieces, beginning with Verdi's La traviata, the story of a nineteenth century Parisian courtesan who dreams of a better life, and the man who may finally make her dreams come true... WNO's second show is the Berlioz classic Beatrice & Benedict, the composer's final opera, presenting a highly entertaining adaptation of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing. The third offering is Mozart's The Marriage Of Figaro, blending cases of mistaken identity with surprise revelations and unlikely interventions to magical effect.

St Petersburg Philharmonic

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 27 March

Founded in 1882, the St Petersburg Philharmonic is Russia's oldest symphonic ensemble and is regarded by many to be one of the best orchestras in the world. Arriving in Birmingham as part of a six-date UK tour, the Philharmonic present an all-Russian programme of works from three of the nation's most iconic composers. Under the direction of composer Yuri Temirkanov, and accompanied by accomplished Macedonian pianist Simon Trpceski - one of the most remarkable musicians to have emerged in recent years - the orchestra performs Prokofiev's Classical Symphony, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 and Shostakovich's Symphony No 5.





BCMG Chamber Players

BCMG, Birmingham, Fri 2 March

This special BCMG concert comprises chamber music gems from the past thirty years, and is just one of the attractions on offer during a weekend of celebratory concerts from the BBC-inspired Music Nation, an initiative which forms part of the countdown celebrations for London 2012. The eleven-work programme includes Oliver Knussen's Upon One Note, an orchestration that distorts the rhythms and pitches of Purcell's five-part fantasia, and a performance of Aldo Clementi's Berceuse, presented as a tribute to the Italian composer, who died in 2011.

Doric Quartet

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 30 March

Acclaimed as 'one of the finest young string quartets' by no less an authority than Gramophone Magazine, the award-winning and well-travelled Doric Quartet consists of Alex Redington, Jonathan Stone and Simon Tandree on violins and John Myerscough on cello. Having previously collaborated with an array of well-respected international artists, the quartet this month return to the Midlands to present Haydn's Quartet in D major, op 20 - 4 Chausson's Quartet op 35 and Beethoven's Quartet in A major op 18 - 5.

City Of Birmingham Choir: Equinox Cultures In Harmony

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 17 March

The cultural diversity of the West Midlands is here celebrated in a special concert that brings no fewer than three hundred-and-fifty performers to the Symphony Hall stage. The City of Birmingham Choir joins forces with Black Voices, the Town Hall Gospel Choir, World Music Youth Choir, Echo Doliny Polish Choir and Bournville Young Singers to present Equinox - a musical extravaganza with an international feel. The concert is one of the many Cultural Olympiad projects taking place in the West Midlands during the forthcoming months. Equinox also includes contributions from three local percussion groups, and features the world premiere of a specially commissioned piece by composer Christopher Long which includes text in Hindi, Mandarin, Chinese, Arabic, Swahili, Polish and Latin.



Classical LISTINGS

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

PAULA SIDES (SOPRANO) & JONATHAN GALE (PIANO) Free lunchtime concert, Thurs 1 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BBC PHILHARMONIC: EAST MEETS WEST Programme to include works by Copland, Chopin & Bernstein, Fri 2 Mar, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

UNIVERSITY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Featuring Sophie Williamson & Jack Lovell (conductors). Programme to include works by Elgar, Beethoven & Haydn, Fri 2 Mar, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

VIDA GUITAR QUARTET Fri 2 Mar, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

BCMG CHAMBER PLAYERS Fri 2 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

PAUL LEWIS: GERMAN DANCES Programme to include works by Schubert, Fri 2 Mar, Malvern Theatres

JACK MCNEILL CLARINET RECITAL Fri 2 Mar, Birmingham Cathedral

WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme to include works by Britten, Dvorak, Copland and Barber, Sat 3 Mar, Guy Nelson Hall, Warwick School

ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC Sat 3 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms

NELSONS CONDUCTS TRISTAN & ISOLDE Featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor), the City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra & Lioba Braun as Isolde, Sat 3 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SINFONIA OF BIRMINGHAM Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) & Zoe Beyers (violin). Programme to include works by Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Sibelius & Nielsen, Sun 4 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE Sun 4 Mar, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Verdi's Requiem featuring Tinuke Olafimihan, Gaynor Keeble, Jesus Leon, Piotr Lempa & Lucy Griffiths, Sun 4 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

NORTHERN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WITH RAPHAEL WALLFISCH Sun 4 Mar, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL CONCERT Featuring John Moore (conductor). Programme to include works by Brahms, Dvorak & Parry, Sun 4 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

MIDLAND SINFONIA YOUTH SHOWCASE Sun 4 Mar, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch, Worcs

THOMAS TROTTER: FOUR WEDDINGS & A FUNERAL Programme includes works by Wagner, Saint-Saens, Guilmant, Grieg & Mendelssohn, Mon 5 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

THE NAVIGATOR WITH ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT FROM STEVE TOVEY Tues 6 Mar, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

LA TRAVIATA Welsh National Opera present Verdi's tragic opera. Joyce El-Khoury & Carlos Osuna star, Tue 6 - Fri 9 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

CBSO: ANDRIS NELSONS & JONAS KAUFMANN Programme to include works by Britten, Mahler, Strauss & Debussy, Wed 7 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO CENTRE STAGE Featuring Zoe Beyers (violin), David Powell (cello) & Robert Markham (piano). Programme to include works by Haydn & Joubert, Wed 7 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO Welsh National Opera perform a new production of Mozart's best-loved opera. Cast includes David Soar, Elizabeth Watts, Rebecca Evans & Darlo Solari. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor) and Rudolf Buchbinder (piano). Programme to include works by Ravel, Beethoven & Sibelius, Thurs 8 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JESSICA KERR (CELLO) & FERGUS KERR (HORN) Thurs 8 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

EX CATHEDRA - BACH: A BEAUTIFUL MIND Thurs 8 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

EUROPEAN UNION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WITH JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER AND CATRIN FINCH Fri 9 Mar, Malvern Theatres

CHAMBER CHOIR Featuring arrangements of songs by Rihanna, Toploader and Queen!, Fri 9 Mar, St George's Church, Edgbaston

LEIPZIG GEWANDHAUS ORCHESTRA Programme includes JS Bach's St Matthew's Passion, Fri 9 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BARBER LUNCHTIME CONCERT Featuring Andrew Kirkham (violin) & David Quigley (piano), Fri 9 Mar, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

ELIJAH WITH BIRMINGHAM CHORAL UNION Sat 10 Mar, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

NIGEL MORLEY PIANO RECITAL Programme features works by Bach, Schubert & Schumann, Sat 10 Mar, St. Laurence Church, Alvechurch, Worcs

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT Featuring Laurence Cummings (director) Matthew Truscott (violin) & Lisa Beznosiuk (flute). Programme includes J S Bach's Orchestra Suite No 3 in D, Violin Concerto in E, Brandenburg Concerto No 5 & Orchestral Suite No 4 in D, Sat 10 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

ANGELA HEWITT: BACH AT THE PIANO Programme includes JS Bach's French Suite No1 in D minor, Toccata in D major BWV 912, French Suite No 2 in C minor, Fifteen Two-Part Inventions and English Suite No 2 in A minor, Sun 11 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme to include Stravinksky's Symphony in C, Sun 11 Mar, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

ICARUS VOCAL ENSEMBLE Featuring Naomi Sullivan & Daniel Hayward, Mon 12 Mar, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

STILE ANTICO: TREASURES OF THE RENAISSANCE Tue 13 Mar, St Mary's Church, Warwick

MOZART'S CLARINET CONCERTO WITH EMMA JOHNSON Featuring the Orchestra Of The Swan. Programme to include works by Mozart & Tchaikovsky, Tues 13 Mar, Stratford Civic Hall

MOZART'S CLARINET CONCERTO WITH EMMA JOHNSON Featuring the Orchestra Of The Swan. Programme to include works by Mozart & Tchaikovsky, Wed 14 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

A LONDON SYMPHONY WITH THE HALLE Featuring Sir Mark Elder & Andrew Gourley (conductors) & Imogen Cooper (piano). Programme includes works by Strauss, Mozart & Vaughan Williams, Wed 14 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BARBER EVENING CONCERT WITH DAVID PYATT Featuring Lucy Gould (violin) & Leon McCawley (piano). Programme to include works by Beethoven, Liszt, Debussy, Schumann & Brahms, Wed 14 Mar, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

VOLANTE ENSEMBLE Free lunchtime concert, Thurs 15 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

RUSSIAN SPECTACULAR Thurs 15 Mar, Stratford Civic Hall

HMS PINAFORE A special concert performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's nautical comedy. Riccardo Simonetti features as Captain Corcoran, Fri 16 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GREG ABRAHAMS ORGAN RECITAL Fri 16 Mar, Birmingham Cathedral

JACK ANSCOMB (PIANO) & LAURA HUDSON (FLUTE) Final year recitalists concert, Fri 16 Mar, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CANOLDIR MALE CHOIR Featuring Grace Farrell (soprano) & Jody Smith (violin), Fri 16 Mar, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

BARBIROLLI QUARTET Programme includes work by Haydn, Bartok & Verdi, Fri 16 Mar, The Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

BARNT GREEN CHORAL - 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT Sat 17 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR: EQUINOX CULTURES IN HARMONY Sat 17 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE ENESCO QUARTET Programme to feature works by Haydn, John Joubert & Dvorak, Sat 17 Mar, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONIC WINDS Sat 17 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

HALESOWEN ORCHESTRA Featuring Adelaide Yue (piano) & Martin Leigh (conductor). Programme to include works by Mozart, Beethoven & Brahms, Sat 17 Mar, Cornbow Hall, Halesowen

CALEFAX REED QUINTET Featuring Oliver Boekhoorn (oboe), Ivor Berix (clarinet), Raaf Hekkema (saxophone), Jelte Althius (bass clarinet) and Alban Wesly (bassoon), Sun 18 Mar, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Sun 18 Mar, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Presenter Jeremy Nicholas features as narrator, Mon 19 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

THE MERRY WIDOW Opera Della present a new production of Franz Lehar's classic operetta, Mon 19 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE SPRING CONCERT Music for all that features a performance of Oxonia, written and conducted by John Traill, Mon 19 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BARBER LUNCHTIME CONCERT Featuring Becky Copping (piano) & Clare Potter (saxophone), Fri 23 Mar, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

ROSE WIND TRIO Fri 23 Mar, Berrington Church, Nr Shrewsbury

ANDREW WYATT ORGAN RECITAL Fri 23 Mar, Birmingham Cathedral

THALLEIN ENSEMBLE Programme includes works by Heiner Goebbels, Michael Wolters & Ryan Latimer, Fri 23 Mar, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

MIDLAND CHAMBER PLAYERS Programme includes works by Mozart & Arensky, Fri 23 Mar, Birmingham & Midland Institute

BROMSGROVE SCHOOL CHORAL SOCIETY & REGENCY SINFONIA Programme includes works by Handel, Vivaldi & Bach, Sat 24 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

WORCESTER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme to include works by Strauss, Bruch & Rachmaninoff, Sat 24 Mar, St George's Church, Worcester

JUNIOR CONSERVATOIRE END OF TERM CONCERT Sat 24 Mar, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR Featuring Paul Spicer (conductor), James Longford & Lindy Tennant-Brown (piano), Kirsty Stokes (soprano) & Alistair Ollerenshaw (baritone). Programme to include works by Durufle, Chabrier, Faure & Brahms, Sat 24 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

CHANDOS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Arnold, Barber, Elgar & Walton, Sun 25 Mar, Malvern Theatres

THE CORELLI ENSEMBLE Sun 25 Mar. Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Sun 25 Mar, Stratford Civic Hall

ST PETERSBURG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Yuri Temirkanov - conductor & Simon Trpceski - piano. Programme to include works by Prokofiev, Rachmaninov & Shostakovich, Tue 27 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LEIF OVE ANDSNES PLAYS CHOPIN & DEBUSSY Programme includes works by Chopin & Debussy, Wed 28 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE MERRY WIDOW Opera Della Luna present a new production of Franz Lehar's classic operetta, Wed 28 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

NELSONS CONDUCTS SIBELIUS Featuring the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Andris Nelsons (conductor) & Anna Vinnitskaya (piano). Programme to include works by Wagner, Beethoven & Sibelius, Fri 30 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DORIC QUARTET Programme to include works by Haydn, Britten & Beethoven, Fri 30 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MARCUS HUXLEY Fri 30 Mar, Birmingham Cathedral

ARMONICO CONSORT & ORCHESTRA Featuring Nicola Benedetti (violin) and Elin Manahan Thomas (soprano) Sat 31 Mar, Malvern Theatres

THE FORDANTE ENSEMBLE Sat 31 Mar, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

CBSO STRING QUARTET Sat 31 Mar, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY Programme includes works by Ellis Pehkonen, Ralph Vaughan Williams & Herbert Howells, Sat 31 Mar, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

Classical Box Office

ADRIAN BOULT HALL, B'HAM
0121 331 5901

ARTRIX, BROMSGROVE
01527 577330

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE
0121 331 5901/2

BARBER INSTITUTE, BIRMINGHAM
0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL
0121 780 3333

CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM
0121 780 3333

CREWE LYCEUM
01270 537333

LICHFIELD GARRICK
01543 412121

MALVERN THEATRE
0845 287 2146

STRATFORD CIVIC HALL
01789 207100

SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM
0121 780 3333

THEATRE SEVERN SHREWSBURY
01743 281 281

VICTORIA HALL STOKE-ON-TRENT
0844 871 7649

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE
02476 524524

Comedy

Kulvinder Ghir

Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Sat 17 March; Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 20 March

A show offering 'Bollywood, Bhangra, side-splitting comedy sketches and a memorable evening for all the family' is being promised by Goodness Gracious Me star Kulvinder Ghir when he showcases brand new material in his first ever one-man comedy show.



Jimeoin

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 8 March; Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Wed 21 March; Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 22 March

Fancy a straightforward comedy night with a straight-talking - well, actually, a bit of a rambling - comedian? If so, then the sublime Jimeoin is the man for you. A gimmick-free one-man comedy machine, Jimeoin's proved he's got what it takes on all manner of top TV shows, including Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, Jason Manford's Comedy Rocks, Just For Laughs and Best Of Edinburgh Comedy Festival. Check him out.



Steve Hughes

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 28 March

Boasting a reputation for hard-edged social commentary, not to mention a big beard, Aussie funnyman and ex-heavy metal drummer Steve Hughes stops off in the Midlands as part of his debut comedy tour. Steve's built up a loyal UK following thanks to storming sets on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow (BBC1), Stand Up For The Week (Channel 4) and One Night Stand (Dave), and promises to offer a thought-provoking and decidedly amusing night out.





Jimmy Carr

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 9 March; The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Sat 10 March, Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 11 March; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 3 May; Dudley Concert Hall, Fri 18 May; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 24 August; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 16 October & Fri 30 November

While it's generally fair to say that there tends to be no middle ground when it comes to comedians - people either love 'em or hate 'em - this would appear to be particularly true in the case of Jimmy Carr. That said, judging by his regular presence on all manner of TV comedy programmes, it would seem there's a considerably greater number of people in the 'for' camp than there are in the 'against' one. Carr is high-profile enough nowadays to mean that most people will have made up their minds about him well in advance of this particular gig, so if you've got yourself a ticket for the show, it's reasonable to assume you know what you're in for and are going to have one heck of a good time!

Stewart Lee

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 30 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 26 April; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 24 May; Malvern Theatre, Sat 26 May

When you've been voted the forty-first Best Ever Stand-up Comedian, you know you've arrived - well, kind of! Stewart Lee shot to fame courtesy of his partnership with Richard Herring, and has continued to press all the right buttons as a solo entity too, scoring a hit with Jerry Springer The Opera. His style of comedy won't make for the most comfortable ride, but he's thought-provoking, funny and memorable, so suffering the odd moment that makes you awkward is a small price to pay...



Comedy Box Office

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM
0844 871 3011

ARTRIX, BROMSGROVE
01527 577330

BEDWORTH CIVIC HALL
02476 376707

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL
0121 780 3333

COX'S YARD
01789 404600

THE DRUM, BIRMINGHAM
0121 333 2444

DUDLEY CONCERT HALL
01384 815 577

GLEE CLUB, BIRMINGHAM
0871 4720400

HIGHLIGHT, BIRMINGHAM,
0844 844 0044

HUNTINGDON HALL, WORCESTER,
01905 611427

THE JAM HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM
0121 200 3030

KITCHEN GARDEN CAFE, BIRMINGHAM
0121 443 4725

LG ARENA, BIRMINGHAM
0844 338 8000

LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS
01584 878141

MAC, BIRMINGHAM
0121 446 3232

PALACE THEATRE, REDDITCH
01527 65203

THE PUBLIC, WEST BROMWICH
0121 533 7161

REGENT THEATRE, STOKE-ON-TRENT
0844 871 7649

RICOH ARENA, COVENTRY
0844 873 6565

THE ROSE THEATRE, 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

SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM
0121 780 3333

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

SEAN WALSH & JOSH WIDDICOMBE Thurs 1 Mar, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
IAN COGNITO, JUNIOR SIMPSON & MATT REED Thurs 1 - Sat 3 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
DAN ANTOPOLSKI Fri 2 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
KILL FOR A SEAT COMEDY CLUB FEATURING ELIS JAMES, DANE MITCHELL & SILKY Fri 2 Mar, mac, Birmingham
JOSH WIDDICOMBE Fri 2 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
SISTERS WID GAGS All-female comedy special featuring Donna Spence, Glenda Jaxson, Susan Murray & Kayleigh Lewis, Fri 2 Mar, The Drum, Birmingham
MIKE GUNN & SEAN COLLINS Fri 2 Mar, The Public, West Bromwich
LAUGH OUT LOUD COMEDY CLUB FEATURING STEVE HALL, BILL WOOLAND & DAVE GIBSON Fri 2 Mar, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
SIMON CLAYTON, MARK NELSON, BARRY DODDS & ADAM CROW Fri 2 - Sat 3 Mar, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham
BILLY CONNOLLY - THE MAN LIVE Fri 2 - Sat 3 Mar, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
MITCH BENN AND THE DISTRACTIONS Sat 3 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
THE BOY WITH TAPE ON HIS FACE Sun 4 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
RICHARD HERRING Sun 4 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
JON RICHARDSON Tue 6 Mar, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
BARNSTORMERS COMEDY Acts tbc, Tues 6 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
SARAH MILLICAN: THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLICAN Wed 7 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
JIMEOIN Thurs 8 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
HENNING WEHN - NO SURRENDER Thurs 8 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
PHIL COOL Thurs 8 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Worcester
NATHAN CATON Thurs 8 Mar, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE INVISIBLE DOT COMEDY TOUR Thurs 8 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
PIERRE HOLLINS, STEVE HARRIS & PHIL NICHOL Thurs 8 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JIMMY CARR Fri 9 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
JON RICHARDON Fri 9 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse
RAYMOND MEARNS, RON VAUDRY, MARK MAIER & ANDY ASKINS Fri 9 & Sat 10 Mar, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham
PIERRE HOLLINS, STEVE HARRIS, PHIL NICHOL & DAN THOMAS Fri 9 & Sat 10 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JIMMY CARR Sat 10 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
PETE FIRMAN Sat 10 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
FASCINATING AIDA Sat 10 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
NATHAN CATON Sun 11 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
JIMMY CARR Sun 11 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove
HALF MOON COMEDY NIGHT FEATURING MARK ROUGH, HARRIET DYER, RACHEL SAMBROOKS, AARON TWITCHEN & CRAIG DEELEY Mon 12 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
BARRY CRYER - BUTTERFLY BRAIN Tue 13 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch
DOUG STANHOPE Tue 13 Mar, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
BOOTHBY GRAFFOE & NICK PYNN Tues 13 Mar, mac, Birmingham
KEN DODD Wed 14 Mar, Bedworth Civic Hall
RICH HALL Wed 14 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
LAUGHING COWS COMEDY FEATURING MAUREEN YOUNGER, ROSIE WILBY, IVY DEXTROSE & ISMA ALMAS Wed 14 Mar, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
MARK STEEL Thurs 15 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
CAREY MARX, ANDY ASKINS & JARRED CHRISTMAS Thurs 15 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
CHRIS ADDISON Thurs 15 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
PHIL ELLIS, GARY DELANEY, STEVE HARRIS & MARK WALKER Fri 16 & Sat 17 Mar, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham
CAREY MARX, ANDY ASKINS, JARRED CHRISTMAS & NOEL JAMES Fri 16 & Sat 17 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
KEN DODD Sat 17 Mar, Dudley Concert Hall
KULVINDER GHIR Sat 17 Mar, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
COMEDY AT THE MET Sat 17 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse
JIM DAVIDSON Sun 18 Mar, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
CHRIS ADDISON Sun 18 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
KULVINDER GHIR Tue 20 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall
JIMEOIN Wed 21 Mar, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
DOUG STANHOPE Wed 21 Mar, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
ROBIN INCE Wed 21 Mar, mac, Birmingham
ELIS JAMES Thurs 22 Mar, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
DAVE SPIKEY - WORDS DON'T COME EASY Thurs 22 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
JIMEOIN Thurs 22 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall
SIMON MUNNERY Fri 23 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
STU WHO?, QUINCY, PAUL TONKINSON & PETE JOHANSON Fri 23 Mar, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham
DAN NIGHTINGALE, GAVIN WEBSTER & ROB COLLINS Thurs 22 & Sat 24 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
LIAM MULLONE Sat 24 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove
STU WHO?, ADDY VAN DER BORGH, PAUL TONKINSON & PETE JOHANSSON Sat 24 Mar, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham
LEE NELSON'S WELL NEW TOUR Sat 24 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
MITCH BENN & THE DISTRACTIONS Sat 24 Mar, mac, Birmingham
PETE FIRMAN - JIGGERY POKERY Wed 28 Mar, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
STEVE HUGHES Wed 28 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JACK DEE Thurs 29 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse
DAVE JOHNS, LLOYD LANGFORD, GAR MURRAN & DOC BROWN Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
STEWART LEE Fri 30 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
MARTIN MOR, PHIL WALKER, GEOFF BOYZ & THE NOISE NEXT DOOR Fri 30 & Sat 31 Mar, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham
FASCINATING AIDA Sat 31 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse



Birmingham Hippodrome

BOOK ONLINE!

TICKET SALES: **0844 338 5000** GROUP SALES: **0844 338 7000**

www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Phone calls cost from 5p per min, 5% transaction fee applies.





















Theatre





Oliver!

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 13 March - Sat 21 April

Cameron Mackintosh's new production of Lionel Bart's masterpiece stars first Neil Morrissey and then Brian Conley in the to-die-for role of the morally bankrupt old pickpocket Fagin. Bringing to life the Dickens classic about the boy who dared to ask for more, Bart's brilliant musical celebrated fifty glorious years in 2010, with this particular version having recently completed a hugely successful two-year run at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

So if you like your musicals big on gruel, grimy street urchins and magnificently memorable musical numbers - including Food Glorious Food and You've Got To Pick-a-Pocket Or Two - then this is the show for you.

Oh, and on this occasion, it would definitely be acceptable if you fancied a second helping!



WIN TICKETS whatsonlive.co.uk to enter

Waiting For Godot

Old Rep, Birmingham, Tues 13 - Sat 17 March

There are those for whom putting a revolver to their own head would almost seem preferable to watching a production of Waiting For Godot. For others, the play is one of the twentieth century's greatest masterpieces. Two homeless men, Vladimir and Estragon, wait on a bare road with a single tree. They're waiting for Godot, who never arrives. While they wait, they argue, get bored, clown around, repeat themselves and contemplate death... Ian Brown directs an all Black cast - Jeffery Kissoon and Patrick Robinon - in this brand new production of Samuel Beckett's love-it-or-hate-it offering.

Read our interview with Patrick Robinson on page 8

Chicago

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 5 - Sat 10 March

Chicago's debauched glamour makes it a musical with a difference, and its jazz-tinged score and smouldering dance numbers give it a touch of old-Broadway style decadence. It's an astonishingly accurate satire on the shallow, media-obsessed world of the twenty-first century, so it's almost impossible to believe it was first conceived over forty years ago. It also has the considerable lure of choreography by Broadway legend Bob Fosse, and he's the reason the show was re-conceived in 1996.

Set in the Chicago of the roaring '20s, the action takes place in a jailhouse, as two ambitious and sexy 'cons battle it out to be the most notorious murderer, guaranteeing them a ticket to celebrity when they win their appeals. Supposedly helping them to do this is slippery lawyer Billy Flynn, who, on this occasion, is played by ex-Eastender Stefan Booth. Ali Bastian, Tupele Dorgu and Bernie Nolan also star.



Belgrade Theatre Coventry

Experience more... ...at the Belgrade

Save £s book online

Close secure car parking • Signatures Café Bar & Restaurant 024 7684 6762



Tues 6 – Sat 10 March
£17.25 – £29.25
20% off



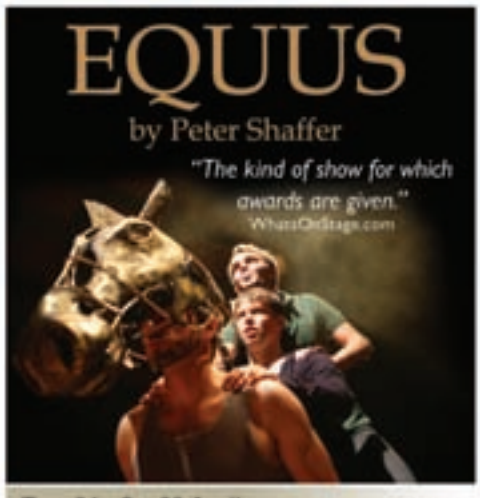
Sat 17 March – Sat 7 April
£8.25 – £19.25
2
20% off



Sat 31 March – Sat 14 April
£15.25 – £28.75
20% off



Tues 17 – Sat 21 April
£13.25 – £17.75 Children from £9
20% off



Tues 24 – Sat 28 April
£8.25 – £19.25
20% off



Tues 1 – Sat 5 May
£8.25 – £19.25
20% off



Tues 8 – Sat 26 May
£15.25 – £28.75
2
20% off



Mon 14 – Sat 19 May
£15.25 – £28.75
20% off



Mon 28 May – Sat 2 June
£20.50 – £30.25
20% off

Save 20% off of 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

Theatre PREVIEWS

Bette And Joan: The Final Curtain

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 13 - Wed 14 March

Movie legends Joan Crawford and Bette Davis hated each other with a passion, even as their careers entered freefall and the ageing stars were brought together for the classic 1960s movie Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?. Years later, with Crawford long gone, Davis lies on her death bed, confronted by visions of a traumatic past - a past comprising not only violent relationships, spiteful children and her battle to retain a fragile stardom, but also her toxic relationship with Crawford. And as Davis moves towards her final curtain, the fast-fading star finds her long-time foe a little more in evidence than a dead person should be...



Old Herbaceous

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 10 - Sun 11 March

Old Herbaceous traces the relationship between Head Gardener Herbert Pinnegar and his employer Mrs Charteris, a relationship that was to span nearly seventy years as he tended the garden of her country manor house somewhere in Gloucestershire. As Bert potters around his plant pots and gardening tools, he tells plenty of tales of his life as a gardener...

The Father

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Sat 31 March - Sat 14 April

August Strindberg's highly charged response to Ibsen's A Doll's House, The Father presents a similar power struggle between a married couple, but one which has a radically different outcome. The Captain and his wife, Laura, have an uneasy relationship at best, but when they disagree over the future of their daughter, Laura sets in motion a chain of events that will lead to an all-out war. The Father is being presented at the Belgrade alongside Nora, Ingmar Bergman's adaptation of A Doll's House, and follows on from the theatre's previous productions of Uncle Vanya and Scenes From A Marriage, both of which also examined the timeless theme of 'holy wedlock'.

For Once

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 9 - Sat 10 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 14 - Thurs 15 March; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 23 - Sat 24 March

Inspired by a week which he spent in a Welsh borders market town, Welsh playwright Tim Price here presents a darkly comic new play about life, love and loss in a picture-postcard town. Cutting to the heart of a family and a community turned upside-down by tragedy, this multi-award-winning work takes the form of a series of intertwining accounts.



South Pacific

Regent Theatre, Tues 6 - Sat 10 March

Rebecca Thornhill and Alex Ferns star in Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical. The story of two love affairs on a Pacific island during World War Two, the show has no fewer than seven Tony awards - not to mention two sell-out years on Broadway - under its belt. It also boasts a veritable raft of memorable songs, including Younger Than Springtime, There Is Nothing Like A Dame and Some Enchanted Evening.



Go And Play Up Your Own End

Solihull Arts Complex, Tues 13 - Wed 14 March; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Fri 16 - Sat 17 March; The Swan Theatre, Worcester, Tues 20 March; Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 March

Local laughter merchants join forces for this nostalgic trip down memory lane. Malcolm Stent is the fella who's penned this oft-touring and always popular show, recalling 'the way things were' in Birmingham and the Black Country during the 1950s. Music and lyrics are by another well-known Midlands lad, Harvey Andrews.

Haunted

Crewe Lyceum, Tues 6 - Sat 10 March

Taking its audience on a journey through the mind of a double murderer, Ron Aldridge's supernatural thriller blends comedy with the erotic, and is suitable for people aged four teen and older. When a man convinces the courts that the two deaths for which he's been placed on trial were both accidents, it becomes obvious that the only way to ensure justice is done is to get him to confess to his heinous crimes. Cue, two 'avengers' - both hell-bent on ensuring the murderer pays the price for his callous disregard for human life...



Hormonal Housewives

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 2 March; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 13 March; Malvern Theatre, Wed 28 March; Lichfield Garrick, Tues 17 - Wed 18 April; Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 5 May

A sell-out tour in Scotland has seen this Julie Coombe comedy heading south to garner even more plaudits. The show is pretty much about what it says on the tin, so to speak, presenting the joys of being a twenty-first century girl at a challenging time of life. So if you can relate to subjects such as weight gain, weight loss, mood swings, wine, PMS, men, going to the gym, waxing, stretch marks, chocolate and upper-lip hair, this is the show for you! Margi Clarke stars.



Tuesday 13th March, 7.30pm
Wednesday 14th March at 1.30 & 7.30pm



Bette & Joan
The Final Curtain

Tickets £9 Full Price, £7 Concs
All Matinee tickets £5

Wednesday 21st March at 7.30pm



The Dumb Waiter & The Lover

Tickets £10 Full Price, £8 Concs

Wednesday 28th March at 2pm & 7.30pm



I, Bertolt Brecht

Tickets £12 Full Price, £10 Concs
All Matinee tickets £5

ARENA THEATRE

Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1SE

Box Office 01902 321 321

www.arenatheatre.info

Cannock Chase Council

ENTERTAINMENT CANNOCK CHASE

At The Prince of Wales Centre

Saturday 3rd March, 7.30pm
ROCK 'N' ROLL PARADISE
PREPARE TO ROCK YOUR SOCKS OFF



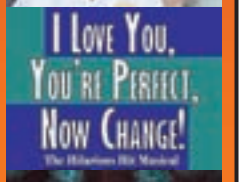
Wednesday 7th March, 7.30pm
BRENDAN SHINE
BECOME PART OF THE SHINE PARTY



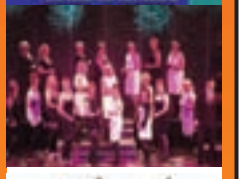
Friday 9th March, 7.30pm
STARS OF BENIDORM LIVE
STARS FROM THE TV SHOW BENIDORM LIVE ON STAGE



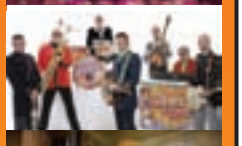
Thursday 15th - Saturday 17th March, 7.30pm
I LOVE YOU. YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE
PRESENTED BY BACKSTREET THEATRE COMPANY



Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th March, 7.30pm
A WICKED SWITCH TO THE WEST
PRESENTED BY CHASE HARMONY



Friday 30th March, 7.30pm
SIXTIES NIGHT OUT
FEAT. DAVE BERRY, CHIP HAWKINS AND CHRIS FARLOW



Saturday 31st March, 8pm
KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS
MORE THAN A SWING BAND, SIMPLY AN INSTITUTION!



Sunday 1st & Monday 2nd April, 7.30pm
FREDDIE STARR



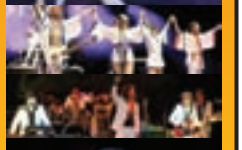
Saturday 7th April, 2.00pm
RUMPLESTILTSKIN



Thursday 12th April, 7.30pm
SLEEPING BEAUTY
PRESENTED BY BALLET UK



Saturday 14th April, 7.30pm
GIMME GIMME NIGHT FEVER



Friday 20th April, 7.30pm
DENNIS LOCORRIERE



Tuesday 24th April, 7.30pm
STRICTLY COME DANCING
FEAT. KATYA VIRSHILAS & PARSHA KOVALEV



Book now! Box Office: 01543 578762
www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/princeofwales

Theatre PREVIEWS

Great Gran's Great Games

Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 3 March

Ollie's Great Gran might not seem to serve any useful purpose, what with her complete inability to run, jump and skate (she finds standing up quite tricky too), but the young lad is soon to learn that you should never judge a dusty old book by its dusty old cover. Ollie's Great Gran, y'see, can swim like a fish! Well, used to be able to swim like a fish, to be more accurate - and indeed did, at the London Olympic Games of 1948, in fact... Pied Piper Theatre Company are the ensemble behind this splendid yarn from the pen of Mike Kelly.



Monty Python's Spamalot

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 26 March - Sat 31 March

Monty Python's Tony Award-winning stage show returns to the region. The brainchild of John DuPrez and former Python star Eric Idle, the show blends funny songs with funny gags and routines, all presented in the quirky, off-the-wall style you've come to expect from a Monty Python-endorsed product. If you love Python, you'll love this latest dose of silly mayhem too. If, on the other hand, the boys have repeatedly failed to float your boat these last forty-odd years, Spamalot is unlikely to do much to change your opinion.



Disney On Ice: Princesses And Heroes

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Wed 14 - Sun 18 March

Get your skates on for the return of Disney's ever-popular ice spectacular, complete with high-energy music, glittering sets and dramatic choreography! This year's show features some of the Mouse House's most famous characters, including Prince Philip (no, not that prince Phillip!) as he defeats the evil Maleficent, who magically transforms into a fire-breathing dragon in a race against time to rescue Sleeping Beauty's Aurora. Prince Eric puts in an appearance too, breaking Ursula's slithering spell to reclaim his one true love, while the dreams of Cinderella, Belle, Snow White, Rapunzel and Tiana are also brought magically to life before the sure-to-be-enraptured young audience's very eyes.



Birds Of A Feather

The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 19 - Sat 24 March; Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 2 - Sat 7 April; Malvern Theatre, Mon 7 Sat 12 May; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 14 - Sat 19 May

A trend over the last couple of years has seen numerous popular TV sitcoms being transformed into stage productions. Think Porridge, Dad's Army and Dinnerladies. The notable difference with this latest telly-to-theatre transformation is that it's brought the original main cast members along for the ride!

Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph here reunite for a new tour, reprisng their respective roles as sisters Sharon Theodopolopoudos and Tracy Stubbs (Quirke and Robson) and sex-mad neighbour Dorien Green (Joseph). If you fancy checking out whether the old chemistry still exists between the three of them, you'd better book your ticket asap - they're all so busy with other work commitments, this tour will be over in the proverbial blink of an eye!

Murder On The Nile

Malvern Theatre, Mon 26 - Sat 31 March

An Agatha Christie tale in which the sleuthing is done by somebody other than Miss Marple or Hercule Poirot, Murder On The Nile sees holidaying cleric Canon Pennefather being drawn deep into a web of intrigue and deceit, as he finds himself on the trail of a ruthless murderer... The much-admired Agatha Christie Theatre Company are the ensemble behind this latest version of the Queen of Crime's famous tale, with the cast including familiar television face Kate O'Mara.



Lady Windermere's Fan

The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 1 - Sat 10 March

Oscar Wilde's oft-produced work boasts plenty of the playwright's legendary satirical humour, and explores the way in which marriage and social status can mask the dark secrets hidden away in people's past lives. Wilde's first major move into the genre of comedy writing, Lady Windermere's Fan is here performed by eight actors taking an ensemble approach to the challenges of the play, presenting the production in the round and making use of both multi-rolling and mask.

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 6 - Sat 10 March

Any Dream Will Do finalist Keith Jack makes a welcome return to this ever-popular show. Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's classic musical tells the story of a boy driven into slavery by his calculating brothers, who're all envious of his coat of many colours.

Joseph's ability to predict the future from his dreams, however, ultimately frees him and wins him a place among the highest in the land...

This long-time hit show is an ensemble triumph, with terrific energy put in by all concerned.



WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT



BOB'S BIG THEATRE BUILD
BOB THE BUILDER
SUN 18 MAR



'THE BEST MUSICAL OF THE DECADE' SUNDAY TIMES
AVENUE Q
TUE 20 - SAT 24 MAR



FEATURING
STAVROS FLATLEY
BJÖRN AGAIN
SUN 25 MAR



NEW PRODUCTION YIN YANG
CHINESE STATE CIRCUS
MON 26 & TUE 27 MAR



PERFECT EASTER TREAT FOR ALL THE FAMILY
HORRIBLE HISTORIES
THU 29 MAR - SUN 1 APR



THE ORIGINAL CAST STAR IN THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
MON 2 - SAT 7 APR



THE CARPENTERS' STORY
RAINY DAYS AND MONDAYS
SUN 15 APR

R

ATG TICKETS
0844 871 7649 (fees apply)
REGENT THEATRE
STOKE-ON-TRENT
www.atgtickets.com/stoke (fees apply)

CREWE LYCEUM
Cheshire's Edwardian Theatre

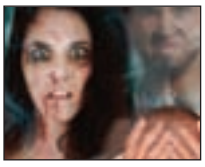
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT

March - April 2012

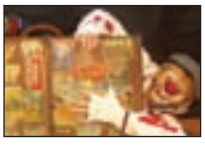
Fri 2nd March, 7.30pm
THE WORLD'S GREATEST MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE
Tickets from £16.50/17.50



Tue 6th - Sat 10th March, 7.30pm, Sat Mat 2.30pm
Ian Dickens Productions presents Ron Aldridge's Psychological, Supernatural Thriller
HAUNTED featuring a Star Cast
Tickets from £10.50 C



Tues 13th March, 8pm & Wed 14th March 5pm & 8pm
THE MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS presents **BABUSHKIN SEKRET**
Tickets from £14



Fri 16th March, 7.30pm
THE GUNS 'N' ROSES EXPERIENCE
Tickets from £16.50



Tue 27th March, 7.30pm
THE BOOTLEG SIXTIES
Tickets from £17.50



Sat 31st March, 7.30pm (16+)
THE BURLESQUE SHOW
Tickets from £18.50



Wed 4th Apr, 7.30pm
THE DOLLY PARTON STORY
Tickets from £16.50 C



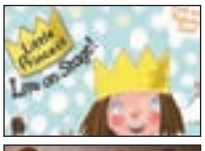
Wed 11th Apr, 7.30pm
FREDDIE STARR
BACK FROM THE JUNGLE TOUR
Tickets from £20.00



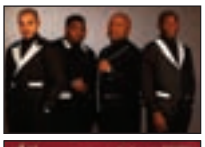
Sat 14th Apr, 3pm
THE KIDZ CONCERT
Tickets from £13.00



Tue 17th Apr, 12.00am & 2pm &
Wed 18th Apr, 10.30am & 12.30pm
LITTLE PRINCESS
Tickets £12.00, Child £10, £8.50, Fam £36



Sat 21st Apr, 7.30pm
THE DRIFTERS IN CONCERT
Tickets from £25.00



Tue 24th - Sat 28th Apr, 7.30pm, Sat Mat 2.30pm
AN ELIGIBLE MAN
Tickets from £12.00 - £18.50



CREWE LYCEUM I HEATH STREET I CREWE I CW1 2DA
01270 686 777 www.lyceumtheatre.net

Theatre PREVIEWS

Avenue Q

Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 20 - Sat 24 March

Described by no less an authority than The Times as 'the best musical of the decade', the Tony Award-winning Avenue Q arrives in Stoke following a hugely successful five-year stint in the West End. Focusing on subjects such as dating, racism, being gay and finding your purpose in life, it tells the story of Princeton, a bright-eyed college graduate with a tiny bank balance, the distraction of a busty blonde, and a variety of weird and wonderful friends, as he sets out on a journey towards self-discovery.





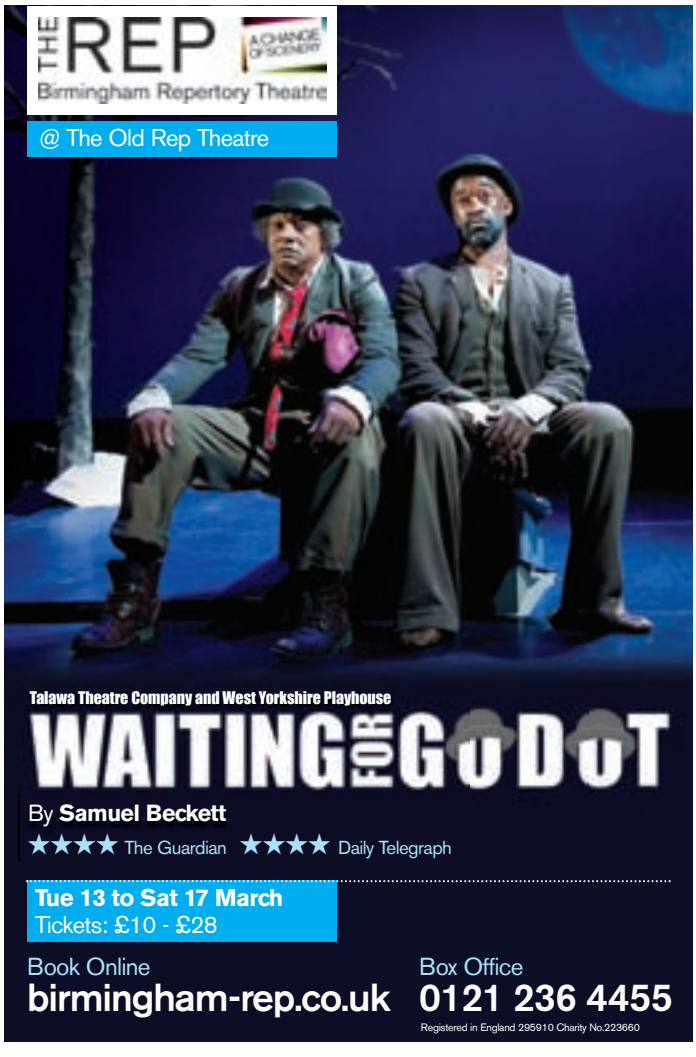
WIN TICKETS whatsonlive.co.uk to enter

The Comedy Of Errors

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 16 March - Mon 14 May

The Comedy Of Errors, Shakespeare's fore-runner to modern farce, is a superbly crafted catalogue of mistaken identity, adulterous liaisons and slapstick humour. Two sets of identical twins are separated during infancy, and when their paths cross again in later life, all manner of confusions occur. Matters are further complicated by an irate courtesan, an insistent jeweller and a mad exorcist.

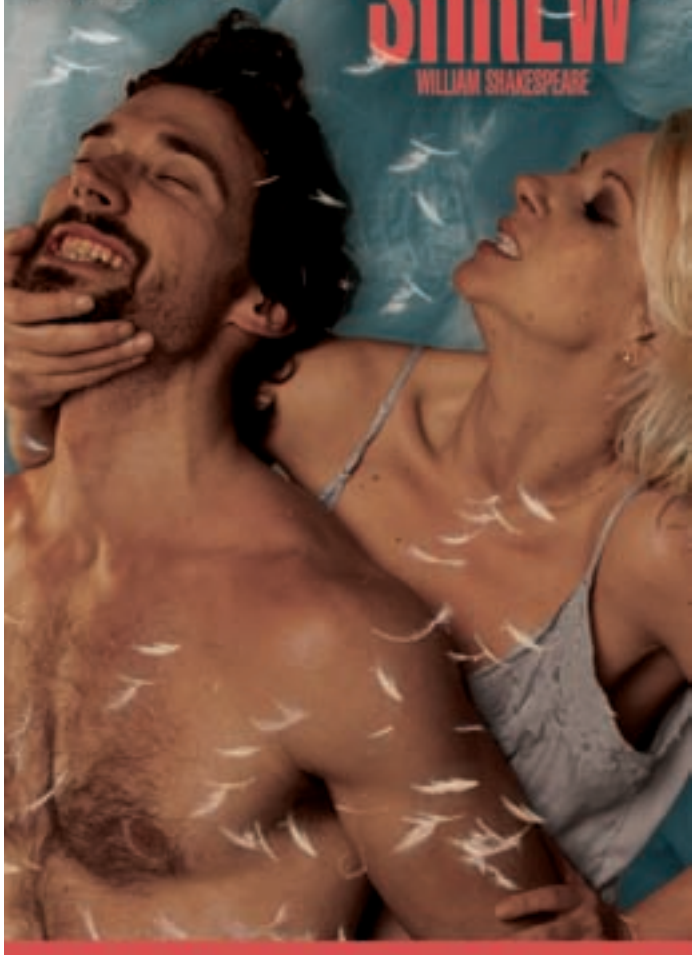




RSC
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
19 JAN – 18 FEB 2012
0844 800 1110



NATIONAL TOUR

NEWCASTLE THEATRE ROYAL
23 FEBRUARY – 3 MARCH
08448 11 21 21

RICHMOND THEATRE
20 – 24 MARCH
0844 871 7651 (BKG FEE)

MILTON KEYNES THEATRE
6 – 10 MARCH
0844 871 7652 (BKG FEE)

THEATRE ROYAL BATH
27 – 31 MARCH
01225 448844

THEATRE ROYAL NOTTINGHAM
13 – 17 MARCH
0115 989 5555

WWW.RSC.ORG.UK/SHREW

Supported by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Brain Yeates Associates Ltd presents

Go and Play Up your Own End

Starring: Don Maclean, Malcolm Stent, Lizzie wiggin, Dave Sealey & full supporting cast



NOW BOOKING AT THE FOLLOWING

Tues 13th & Wed 14th March SOLD OUT
Matinee performance - Sat 24th
ARTS COMPLEX SOLIHULL
0121 704 6962

Fri 16th & Sat 17th March
PALACE THEATRE, REDDITCH
01527 65203

Tues 20th March
SWAN THEATRE, WORCESTER
01905 611427

Tues 21st March
TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM
0121 780 3333

Thurs 22nd - Sat 24th March
Matinee performance - Sat 24th
GARRICK THEATRE, LICHFIELD
01543 412121

Brain Yeates Associates Ltd presents

A Psychic Night Out



Featuring:

Jenny Ann – Psychic Artist
Stephen Howe – Clairaudient Palmist
Clairvoyant Cousins – Psychic Medium

" Entertaining and insightful...
... a Psychic Show with a difference!"

Sat 24th March
PALACE THEATRE, REDDITCH
01527 65203

Thurs 19th April
SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX
01527 65203

Theatre LISTINGS

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

From WED 1 MAR

SCRUMDIDLYUMPTIOUS A performance piece for children that celebrates the wonderful world of Roald Dahl, until Sat 3 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
WRITTEN ON THE HEART A new play by David Edgar, until Sat 10 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
MEASURE FOR MEASURE Roxana Silbert directs Shakespeare's dark exploration of virtue as a political currency, until Sat 10 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE HERESY OF LOVE Nancy Meckler directs a new play by Helen Edmundson, until Fri 9 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
ALFIE Bill Naughton's acclaimed play that centres around a working class Don Juan in London's East End, until Sat 17 Mar, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
GRAVITY Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company present a contemporary and dynamic new play about provocation, until Sat 3 Mar, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
THE CRUCIBLE The Crescent Theatre Company present Arthur Miller's modern classic, until Sat 3 Mar, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
OLEANNA Amateur production of David Mamet's play, Sat 3 Mar, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield
MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT Eric Idle and John Du Prez provide the musical score to this much-acclaimed musical that tells the legendary tale of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table. Bonnie Langford and Todd Carty star, until Sat 3 Mar, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
STAR QUALITY Noel Coward's final play which takes us behind the scenes of a new West End production, until Sat 3 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
AVENUE Q Tony Award-winning musical that centres on a group of loveable yet hopeless characters on a downtown New York street, until Sat 3 Mar, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
ME AND MY GIRL North Bromsgrove High School present an amateur production of the classic rags to riches story, until Fri 2 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove
SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS The Children's Touring Partnership present a new musical that's based on Arthur Ransome's tale of adventure and youthful imagination, until Sat 3 Mar, Malvern Theatres
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS Live Broadcast from The National Theatre that sees Dominic Cooke direct Shakespeare's furiously paced comedy. Lenny Henry stars, Thurs 1 Mar, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire & Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
HOLMES ALONE A promenade performance by the 'Don't Go Into The Cellar' theatre company, Thurs 1 Mar, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton
DOUBLE ACT A comedy drama that takes a backstage look into the lives of a fictional duo called Douglas & Adams, Thurs 1 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
AN EVENING OF MEDIUMSHIP WITH TONY STOCKWELL Thurs 1 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN Oscar Wilde's acclaimed four-act comedy, Thurs 1 - Sat 10 Mar, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham
CELTIC DREAM Fusion of music, song and dance, Fri 2 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Worcester
HORMONAL HOUSEWIVES Margi Clarke & Laura Checkley star in Julie Coombe & John McIsaac's acclaimed comedy, Fri 2 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
MAD GYMS AND KITCHENS Bobby Baker demonstrates how to achieve the ultimate wellbeing factor, Fri 2 Mar, The Public, West Bromwich
PSYCHIC NIGHT A spiritual adventure in mediumship, clairvoyance and psychic art, Fri 2 Mar, Tamworth Assembly Rooms
GREAT GRAN'S GREAT GAMES A play for the Cultural Olympiad presented by the Pied Piper Theatre Company, Sat 3 Mar, Old Rep, Birmingham
THE OWL WHO WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK Children's theatre production that's based on Jill Tomlinson's much-loved book of the same name, Sat 3 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
MACBETH The Nonentities Youth Theatre present an amateur production of Shakespeare's bloodiest play, Sat 3 Mar, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
GET THE SACK Children's theatre production from Angela Lanyon, Sat 3 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Worcester
ROCK 'N' ROLL PARADISE A rock 'n' roll show where the music plays the leading role, Sat 3 Mar, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
GABRIEL Moira Buffini's contemporary play that questions how conflict and occupation test human survival instincts, Sat 3 - Sat 10 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
ONE LITTLE WORD M6 Theatre Company present a gentle story of friendship, power struggles and creative play, Sun 4 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
CHRIS & PUI Interactive children's show packed with songs, games and a few surprises! Sun 4 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
DISCO INFERNO The Adlib Theatre Company present a foot stomping musical celebration of the decade that brought us flared trousers, platform shoes and more glitter than Liberace's wardrobe!, Sun 4 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

Week Commencing MON 5 MAR

CAROUSEL Knowle Operatic Society present their fiftieth anniversary year with one of Rodgers & Hammerstein's most popular musicals, Mon 5 - Sat 10 Mar, Solihull Arts Complex
BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS Steve Smith directs Dennis Potter's acclaimed play, Mon 5 - Sat 10 Mar, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth
BLOOD BROTHERS Maureen Nolan adopts the role of Mrs Johnstone in Willy Russell's acclaimed musical that's set in his native Liverpool, Mon 5 - Sat 17 Mar, Malvern Theatres
CHICAGO Kander and Ebb's acclaimed musical that's based on real life events in the 1920s. Stefan Booth, Tupele Dorgu & Bernie Nolan star, Mon 5 - Sat 10 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham


The Forest - mac, Birmingham

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK Christopher Timothy stars as Otto Frank in a brand new stage adaptation of the most-read memoir to come from World War II, Tue 6 - Sat 10 Mar, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
7 DAY DRUNK New one-woman show that investigates the historical links between artists and mind-enhancing drugs, Tue 6 - Wed 7 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE Astwood Bank Operatic Society present Gilbert & Sullivan's two-part operatic farce that concerns sentimental pirates, bumbling policemen, romantic young lovers, dewy-eyed daughters and an eccentric Major-General, Tue 6 - Sat 10 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch
SOUTH PACIFIC Lincoln Center Theater production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific, directed by Bartlett Sher, Tue 6 - Sat 17 Mar, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Keith Jack takes the lead in this Bill Kenwright production of the much acclaimed Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, Tue 6 - Sat 10 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
HAUNTED Ian Dickens Productions present Ron Aldridge's psychological, erotic thriller, Tue 6 - Sat 10 Mar, Crewe Lyceum
ELEPHANT MAN New play by Adrian Jarvis that places an exciting new slant on the familiar story, Wed 7 - Fri 9 Mar, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick
THOSE WERE THE DAYS Celebration of the 'diamond years of popular entertainment', Wed 7 Mar, Tamworth Assembly Rooms
SHEER Extant Theatre fuse burlesque, horror, comedy and magic to create a unique theatrical experience that takes place in complete darkness, Wed 7 - Sat 10 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
BEATRICE AND BENEDICT Welsh National Opera present Berlioz's final opera that adapts Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing into a comic opera filled with charming music, Wed 7 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome
LITE Marlane Theatre and Sampad present an acclaimed and far-reaching exploration of skin lightening, Wed 7 Mar, mac, Birmingham
THE FOREST Fevered Sheep present a theatrical adventure for children over five, Wed 7 - Sun 11 Mar, mac, Birmingham
SCIENCE MUSEUM LIVE ON TOUR! London's world-famous Science Museum takes to the road to present a brand new live show that's set to challenge the brains of children aged seven and above, Thurs 8 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
ROSE COTTAGE Sharon Foster and Next Page Productions present an unusual comedy that's based in a hospital mortuary, Thurs 8 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove
STREET SCENE The Birmingham Conservatoire present Elmer Rice's 'American opera' that charts the love, laughter and loss of a group of families living in a New York brownstone during the summer heatwave of 1947, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
CALAMITY JANE Amateur production presented by Kidderminster Operatic and Dramatic Society, Thurs 8 - Sat 17 Mar, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
LUNA Pretty Good Girl Dance Theatre fuse storytelling, dance, film and physical theatre to explore themes of identity, belonging and acceptance, Thurs 8 Mar, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire
TWELFTH NIGHT David Farr directs Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identity, cross-dressing and unrequited love, Thurs 8 Mar - Tues 15 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
MUMMY MAFIA Comedy that centres on parental competitiveness. Written and performed by Rachael Young, Leah Chillery and Natalya Brown, Fri 9 Mar, The Drum, Birmingham
THE CHINESE STATE CIRCUS Fri 9 - Sat 10 Mar, Lichfield Garrick
SCIENCE MUSEUM LIVE ON TOUR! London's world-famous Science Museum takes to the road to present a brand new live show that's set to challenge the brains of children aged seven and above, Fri 9 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove
FOR ONCE Darkly comic new play from acclaimed Welsh playwright Tim Price, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
STARS OF BENIDORM LIVE An evening of comedy and music, combined with an audience meet-and-greet. Note - this show contains adult material, Fri 9 Mar, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
FASCINATING AIDA Dillie Keane, Liza Pulman & Adele Anderson return to the Midlands to present their unique form of entertainment, Fri 9 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
AN INSTINCT FOR KINDNESS A moving, bittersweet tale that's based on a true story and explores the wider ethical issues of assisted suicide, Sat 10 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
OLD HERBACEOUS A one-man show that's adapted from Reginald Arkell's book, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove
WIFE AFTER DEATH Witty comedy from Rising

THE PUBLIC

MARCH - MAY HIGHLIGHTS NEW STREET WEST BROMWICH B70 7PG

COMEDY

FRIDAY 2 MARCH

MIKE GUNN & SEAN COLLINS



Two stars of Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow perform on a special double bill

Starts 8pm | £12 (£10 concessions)

THEATRE

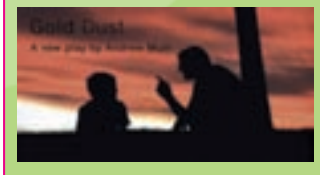
SATURDAY 24 MARCH

DEAFINITELY THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS:

GOLD DUST

Inspired by the lives of deaf people in Birmingham and the Black Country. A play about a deaf father and his son, who found it difficult to communicate.

Starts 8.30pm | £10 (£8 concessions)



DANCE

SATURDAY 24 AND SUNDAY 25 MARCH

GET ACTIVE AND DANCE 3 WITH CULTURAL DANCE FEST

Help create the ultimate dance fest explosion fusing all types of dance from Street and Bollywood to Hip-Hop. Dance activities and performances for the whole family.

£5 weekend pass, £3 per day |10am - 6pm

COMEDY

WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL

THE LAUGHING SOLE

FEATURING ISY SUTTIE



Star of Channel 4's Peep Show, Isy Suttie, headlines a new comedy night.

Compered by Barbara Nice.

Starts 8pm | £8.50 adv, £9.50 on the door

MUSIC

SATURDAY 7 AND SUNDAY 8 APRIL

NOW WE ARE WEEKENDER

A new independent music festival celebrating the thrills, spills and bellyaches of indie-pop 'n rock. Over 32 bands feature including Misty's Big Adventure, Art Brut and The Lovely Eggs.

£15 weekend pass, £10 day ticket, £5 children under 13, Under 5s free | 1pm - 2am



MUSIC

SATURDAY 28 APRIL

KINGS OV LEON

Kings of Leon tribute act performing hits including 'Use Somebody', 'Closer', 'Bucket' and the sublime 'Sex On Fire'.

Starts 8.30pm | £8 adv, £10 on the door



THEATRE

FRIDAY 11 MAY

THE FOUNDRY GROUP PRESENTS:

BIG DADDY VS GIANT HAYSTACKS

A British heavyweight champion comedy bringing back the grunting and grappling life of the famous feuding wrestlers.

Starts 7.45pm | £10 (£8 concessions)



MONDAY 2 - SATURDAY 14 APRIL

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Check out our family friendly creative workshops themed around our Art of Architecture exhibition including, The Creative Construction Zone and Animating Architecture! **Visit www.thepublic.com for details**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LATEST EVENTS

VISIT WWW.THEPUBLIC.COM

OR CALL THE PUBLIC BOX OFFICE ON 0121 533 7161

ALL MAJOR CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED

facebook.com/thepublicwestbromwich twitter.com/_the_public

FUNDED BY

SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX

www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk

Thurs 1 March Tickets £15

Margaret Preece

Rule Britannia!

Musical highlights from six decades. From Elgar to the Beatles, incl. Lloyd Webber and more wonderful songs





Friday 9 March Tickets £14

Guitar Duo - EZIO

Great Latin, alternative, country music, electrifying live gig in the intimate Studio

Monday 12 March Tickets £17

Brendan Shine



29 & 30 March Tickets £10 Adv/£12 door

Old Herbaceous

Gentle one-man play brings to life a rural garden via potting shed reminiscences.



Sat 7 April Tickets £15

Maddy Prior & Friends

In concert with Giles Lewin & Hannah James. Enjoy unusual collaborations, varied perpectives, great music, experience, youth & warm humour

Thursday 12 April Tickets £17

Dominic Kirwan - Live & Personal

www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk

Box Office: 0121 704 6962

Solihull METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

FRI 2ND - SUN 4TH MARCH

ACOUSTIC BLUES WEEKEND

EUROBLUES PROMOTIONS BLUES WEEKEND WITH JOHN MILLER, SONNY BLACK & EDDIE MARTIN



WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH

FINGERSNAP

FINGERSNAP IS THE CREATIVE COUPLING OF ARTIST DAVID MCALMONT AND MUSICAL TOUR DE FORCE GUY DAVIES.



FRIDAY 9TH MARCH

SCIENCE MUSEUM - LIVE ON TOUR

PROPELS YOU ON AN EXPLORATORY THEATRICAL ADVENTURE INTO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SCIENCE.



SATURDAY 10TH MARCH

GLAMBA

GLAMBA RETURNS TO ARTRIX WITH A SPECTACULAR SHOW FOR ALL AGES, AS PART OF ITS ILLUMINATE TOUR.



THURSDAY 15TH MARCH

AT SWIM TWO BOYS- EARTHFALL DANCE

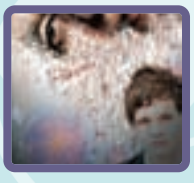
EARTHFALL REVIVE THEIR AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTION WITH A UK WIDE TOUR.



THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

GRAVITY - BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE

THE SIR BARRY JACKSON TRUST COMMUNITY TOUR GRAVITY BY ARZHANG PEZHMAN



Forthcoming Cinema: Hugo (U) // The Descendents (15) // Carnage (15) Martha Marcy May Marlene (15) // Manhattan (12A) // The Muppets (U) // War Horse (12A) A Monster In Paris (U) // The Artist (PG) // Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12A) // Coriolanus (15)

The new **Artrix brochure** is available to download on **www.artrix.co.uk**

For bookings & full details log onto **www.artrix.co.uk** or phone **01527 577330**

Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove B60 1PQ Free parking on-site

artrix

Theatre LISTINGS

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

Damp writer Eric Chappell that centres around the funeral of deceased comedy star Dave Thursby, Sat 10 - Sat 17 Mar, Oldbury Rep - Barlow Theatre

Week Commencing MON 12 MAR

AN EVENING WITH ANDY KERSHAW Tue 13 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF Walsall Operatic Society presents an amateur production of the Tony Award-winning musical, Tue 13 - Sat 17 Mar, Lichfield Garrick
WAITING FOR GODOT Birmingham Repertory Theatre present a new production of Samuel Beckett's funny and poetic masterpiece, Tue 13 - Sat 17 Mar, Old Rep, Birmingham
MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS Tue 13 - Wed 14 Mar, Crewe Lyceum
BARRY CRYER - BUTTERFLY BRAIN Tue 13 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch
THE ETHICS OF PROGRESS Theoretical physics are pushed into real life situations to imagine the world as it might be in the not-too-distant future, Tue 13 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
BETTE AND JOAN: THE FINAL CURTAIN Foursight Theatre present a wry and irreverent look at the lives of two of Hollywood's best-known bitches, Tue 13 - Wed 14 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
GO AND PLAY UP YOUR OWN END Malcolm Stent's Brummie tale of growing up in Saltley, Tue 13 - Wed 14 Mar, Solihull Arts Complex
OLIVER! Cameron Mackintosh presents a new production of Lionel Bart's smash-hit musical that will see both Neil Morrissey and Brian Conley take on the role of Fagin during a six-week run, Tue 13 Mar - Sat 21 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome
HALF A SIXPENCE Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company present an amateur performance of the heartwarming rags to riches story, Tue 13 - Sat 17 Mar, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
HORMONAL HOUSEWIVES Tue 13 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
DISNEY ON ICE PRINCESSES & HEROES Ice spectacular that recreates the moments where eight of Disney's princesses see their wishes come true during an evening hosted by Tinkerbell, Wed 14 - Sun 18 Mar, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
MISSING Gecko present a brand new piece of theatre with a twist - the work is unfinished and audience members are invited to help shape its future, Wed 14 - Sat 17 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
FOR ONCE Darkly comic new play from acclaimed Welsh playwright Tim Price, Wed 14 - Thurs 15 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
TITANIC: THE MUSICAL Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society present their adaptation of one of the greatest maritime disasters of all time, Wed 14 - Sat 17 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
RUSSIAN SPECTACULAR A music and dance extravaganza featuring the White Russian Central Band, special guest soloists from The Bolshoi and dancers from The Belarussian National Folk Dance Academy, Thurs 15 Mar, Stratford Civic Hall
ROSE COTTAGE Sharon Foster and Next Page Productions present an unusual comedy based in a hospital mortuary, Thurs 15 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
"I LOVE YOU. YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE" A musical comedy paying tribute to those who have loved and lost, those who've fallen on their face at the portal of romance, and those who've dared to ask "what are you doing tonight?", Thurs 15 - Sat 17 Mar, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
A MOMENT OF MISHEARING Literature to a beat by Amit Chaudhuri, Fri 16 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
GO AND PLAY UP YOUR OWN END Malcolm Stent's Brummie tale of growing up in Saltley, Fri 16 - Sat 17 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch
PADDY ASHDOWN - A FORTUNATE LIFE An evening that will see the ex-Lib Dem leader talk about his long career in both the armed forces and politics, Fri 16 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
THE DREAMBOYS FULL FRONTAL 2012 TOUR Male glamour show, Fri 16 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
SING-A-LONG-A GREASE A brand new sing-a-long version of the classic film starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta, Fri 16 Mar, Solihull Arts Complex
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS Amir Nizar Zuabi directs a new version of Shakespeare's joyful comedy of mistaken identity, Fri 16 Mar - mon 14 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
CHILDREN'S THEATRE The Norbury Players present an amateur production especially for children, Sat 17 Mar, The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich
AESOPS FABLES A mouse, a lion and a tortoise put their own quirky spin on some of history's most famous tales, Sat 17 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse
FOR ONCE Darkly comic new play from acclaimed Welsh playwright Tim Price, The Roses, Tewksbury
A MOMENT OF MISHEARING Tara Arts present a story of memory, chance, music and the city, Sat 17 Mar, The Drum, Birmingham
STARS IN THE MORNING SKY Chris Hannan's new adaptation of Alexander Galin's Moscow Olympics drama, Sat 17 Mar - Sat 7 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
BOB THE BUILDER: BOB'S BIG THEATRE BUILD Children's theatre that sees the world-famous builder return to the stage with a brand new show, Sun 18 Mar, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
AESOP'S FABLES Theatre Na n'Og present a multitude of fables involving wily wolves, dopey dogs, haring hares, flattering foxes & the odd silly human, Sun 18 Mar, mac, Birmingham

Week Commencing MON 19 MAR

BIRDS OF A FEATHER The Comedy Theatre Company present a stage adaptation of the much-loved TV sitcom. Pauline Quirke, Linda Robinson and Lesley Joseph star, Mon 19 - Sat 24 Mar, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
THE MERRY WIDOW Opera della Luna return to the Midlands with a new production of Lehar's classic operetta, Mon 19 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
GO AND PLAY UP YOUR


Stars In The Morning Sky - Belgrade Theatre

OWN END Malcolm Stent's Brummie tale of growing up in Saltley, Tue 20 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Worcester
ALL OUR YESTERDAYS A musical journey from the good old days of Music Hall, through the 40s, 50s, 60s & 70s, Tue 20 Mar, Dudley Concert Hall
ME, MYSELF & MS. GIBBS Francesca Millican-Slater returns to Birmingham to take the audience on an amusing journey as she investigates the history behind a postcard she found, dated 1910, Tue 20 - Thu 22 Mar, mac, Birmingham
ANNE BOLEYN English Touring Theatre present the Shakespeare's Globe production of the great English heroine, Anne Boleyn, Tue 20 - Sat 24 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE The Birmingham Savoyguards present one of Gilbert & Sullivan's best known operettas, Tue 20 - Sat 24 Mar, Old Rep, Birmingham
ME & MY GIRL Amateur production presented by the Peterbrook Players, Tue 20 - Sat 24 Mar, Solihull Arts Complex
DUETS Peter Quilter's witty comedy that pays tribute to the strength and madness of the human heart, Tue 20 - Tue 27 Mar, Lichfield Garrick
AVENUE Q Tony Award-winning musical that centres on a group of loveable yet hopeless characters on a downtown New York street, Tue 20 - Sat 24 Mar, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
SWEET CHARITY Crewe Amateur Musical Society present the hit 60's musical, Tue 20 - Sun 25 Mar, Crewe Lyceum
HUMBLE BOY Charlotte Jones' comedy which



Wem Town Hall

Music

Sat 31st Mar, 7.30pm
Foradante
Movie Music Classics



Fri 20th Apr, 7.30pm
Stu Brown Sextet: Twisted Toons
The Music of Raymond Scott

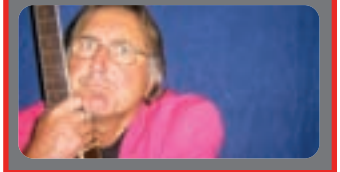


Fri 4th May, 8pm
An Intimate Evening with
The Unthanks
with support from Jonny Kearney and Lucy Farrell



Theatre

Fri 18th May, 8pm
A Second Helping of Mervyn Stutter



National Theatre Live via satellite

Thurs 29th Mar, 7pm
She Stoops to Conquer



Thurs 14th June, 7pm and
Fri 13th July, 7pm
Frankenstein Encore Screenings
Cumberbatch/Miller in alternating roles



INFO/TICKETS:
01939 238 279

www.wemtownhall.co.uk
Wem Town Hall, High Street, Wem, SY4 5DG
Book Online

NEW STAR JUST ANNOUNCED: MIKE THE KNIGHT



Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ELKIE BROOKS
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

CALL FOR YOUR BROCHURE TODAY

Sat 10 March
Performing some of her classic hits, blues, jazz and songs from her new album 'Power-less', an electric evening with Elkie is guaranteed to leave you begging for more.



7.30pm, £22.00 - £25.00

ECHOES OF WAR
MANCHESTER CAMERATA



7.30pm, £15, £13 conc

Wed 14 March
Manchester Camerata bring you Ravel's light-hearted Tombeau de Couperin, and Strauss' beautifully intense and mournful Metamorphosen, separating these two works is Mozart's Piano Concerto no.2.

AESOPS FABLES
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Sat 17 March
A Mouse, a Lion and a Tortoise are thrown together and tell some of the most famous moral tales in history with their own rather quirky spin. Theatr na n'Óg's production will make you laugh out loud!



1pm, £7.50 - £6.00 conc

MIKE HARDING
ME, A GUITAR AND SOME DAFT STUFF (12+)



7.30pm, £16.50, £15 conc

Fri 30 March
He's been described by Billy Connolly as "the funniest man in England" and widely acknowledged as "the grandfather of alternative comedy". And now, after 15 years Mike Harding is back on the road.

FASCINATING AIDA
CHEAP FLIGHTS TOUR

Sat 31 March
Continuing their smash-hit. sell-out 2011 tour, three times Olivier Award nominated and now a global internet sensation, Fascinating Aïda are still Britain's best comedy cabaret trio.



7.30pm, £19.50

THE LITTLE BIG CLUB
LIVE IN CONCERT

Fri 6 April
This production features the world's leading preschool brand Thomas the Tank Engine™ as well as favourites Bob The Builder™, Fireman Sam™, Barney the Dinosaur ™, Angelina Ballerina™, and Pingu™.

1pm, £12.00, £10 conc

BOOKONLINE
Stafford Borough Council Leisure and Culture
Box Office 01785 254653
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Theatre LISTINGS

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

centres on broken vows, failed hopes and the joys of bee-keeping, Tues 20 - Sat 31 Mar, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield

AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE WITH JACQUI ROGERS Tue 20 Mar, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

WEEKEND BREAKS John Godber's perceptive comedy about culture clashes, wine, wit and Whitby, Tue 20 - Sat 31 Mar, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

MUSIC AND DANCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD Presented by Concord College, Tue 20 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THAT'LL BE THE DAY! 2012 TOUR Award-winning entertainment show that offers a unique mixture of 50s, 60s & 70s rock 'n' roll, Wed 21 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

GO AND PLAY UP YOUR OWN END Malcolm Stent's Brummie tale of growing up in Saltley, Wed 21 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

GRAVITY Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company present a contemporary and dynamic new play about provocation, Wed 21 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE DUMB WAITER & THE LOVER European Arts Company present a double-bill of Harold Pinter's classic black comedies, Wed 21 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

UNDERNEATH THE FLOORBOARDS Dance show for under-fives that takes the audience into a strange and magical world, Wed 21 Mar, Malvern Theatres

GRAVITY Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company present a contemporary and dynamic new play about provocation, Thurs 22 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

GREAT EXPECTATIONS Crescent Youth Theatre present their version of the Dickens classic, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

AN AUDIENCE WITH PAM AYRES Thurs 22 Mar, Malvern Theatres

MURDERED TO DEATH The Once Removed Theatre Company present an amateur production of Peter Gordon's murder-mystery spoof, Thu 22 - Sat 24 Mar, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

GO AND PLAY UP YOUR OWN END Malcolm Stent's Brummie tale of growing up in Saltley, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

RICHARD III Roxana Silbert directs a new version of Shakespeare's expose of one of history's most infamous monarchs, Thurs 22 Mar - Sat 15 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE Shrewsbury Youth Theatre present their version of the Bertolt Brecht classic, Fri 23 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

RUSSIAN SPECTACULAR A music and dance extravaganza featuring the White Russian Central Band, special guest soloists from The Bolshoi, and dancers from The Belarussian National Folk Dance Academy, Fri 23 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

FOR ONCE Darkly comic new play from



Gravity - Artrix, Bromsgrove & Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

acclaimed Welsh playwright Tim Price, Fri 23 - Sat 24 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms

AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE WITH TONY STOCKWELL Fri 23 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

MONKEY POET A double-bill of critically acclaimed shows, including Welcome To Afghanistan - a play adapted from Lt. Greenwood's memoir of 1844, Fri 23 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

GOLD DUST Definitely Theatre present a play that's inspired by the history and lives of deaf people in Birmingham and the Black Country, Fri 23 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

PSYCHIC NIGHT A spiritual adventure in mediumship, clairvoyance and psychic art, Sat 24 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

FAGIN'S LAST HOUR Charles Dickens' classic tale of crime and punishment is re-imagined in a powerful new stage adaptation - told from the point of view of Fagin the Miser, one hour before his execution, Sat 24 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

LISA WILLIAMS: MESSAGES FROM BEYOND Medium Lisa Williams presents a three-hour live reading session, Sat 24 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SECRET GARDEN Angel Exit present their version of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic family tale, Sat 24 Mar, The Roses, Tewksbury

GOLD DUST Definitely Theatre present a play that's inspired by the history and lives of deaf people in Birmingham and the Black Country, Sat 24 Mar, The Public, West Bromwich

BJORN AGAIN AND STAVROS FLATLEY Sun 25 Mar, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

CHRIS & PUI Children's show packed with songs, games and a few surprises!, Sun 25 Mar, Lichfield Garrick





What's on...

TELFORD



Fri 16th March
LIMEHOUSE LIZZY
presents The Greatest Hits of Phil Lynott and Thin lizzy
7.30pm. Tickets £15, £14 concs



Fri 23rd March
TONY STOCKWELL: PSYCHIC MEDIUM
7.30pm. Tickets £18.50



Thurs 29th March
THE BOOTLEG SIXTIES
7.30pm. Tickets £17.50



Wed 18th April
Vienna Festival Ballet presents
SWAN LAKE
7.00pm. Tickets £19.50, £17.50 concs



Thu 19th April
LIKE A VIRGIN
7.30pm. Tickets £10, £8 concs



Fri 20th April
RICH HALL
8.00pm. Tickets £15



Mon 23rd April
THE ULTIMATE EAGLES
7.30pm. Tickets £17, £16 concs



Thu 26th April
SOLDIER I
An evening with an SAS legend
7.30pm. Tickets £18, £17.50 concs



Fri 27th April
THE BURLESQUE SHOW
7.30pm. Tickets £18.50

01952 382382
www.theplacetelford.com

Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL

Shropshire Council

COMING SOON TO THEATRE SEVERN

WED 14 - THU 15 MARCH



The award winning **Pentabus Theatre** in association with **Sherman Cymru** present the acclaimed

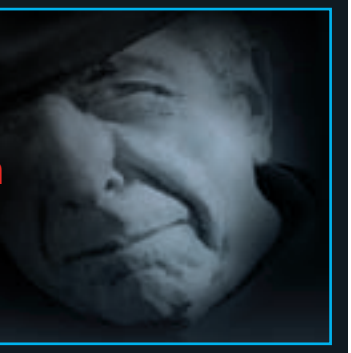
FOR ONCE
by Tim Rice

In a place where everyone knows your name you can't forget who you are.

SAT 17 MARCH

Keith James in concert with special guest **Louise Spencer**

The songs of Leonard Cohen



Keith James gives a concert of this amazing material. Each song stripped bakc - desolate, naked and sensual

THU 22 MARCH



Get Redy for the smash hit concert show from the States

Authentically recreating the harmonies, slick moves, stylish looks and legendary musicianship that were the making of Motown.

FRI 23 MARCH

A music and dance extravaganza featuring one of the finest musical ensembles in the world,
The White Russian Central Band with special guest soloists from **The Bolshoi** and dancers from **The Belarussian National Folk Dance Academy.**



SHREWSBURY theatresevern

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW MORE SHOWS!

Box Office **01743 281 281**
Book Online **www.theatresevern.co.uk**

Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 8FT

Theatre LISTINGS

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

Week Commencing MON 26 MAR

MURDER ON THE NILE The Agatha Christie Theatre Company present their latest production. Kate O'Mara stars, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Mar, Malvern Theatres
THE CHINESE STATE CIRCUS Mon 26 Mar, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
PROOF The Nonentities present their version of David Auburn's award-winning play, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Mar, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT Eric Idle and John Du Prez provide the musical score to a much-acclaimed musical that tells the legendary tale of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table.Bonnie Langford and Todd Carty star, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE The GWOS present one of Gilbert & Sullivan's best known operettas, Tue 27 - Sat 31 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Worcester
THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE Leamington & Warwick Musical Society present an amateur version of the award-winning musical, Tue 27 - Sat 31 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
THE TRIAL Blackfeet Theatre present Steven Berkoff's adaptation of Franz Kafka's twentieth century masterpiece, Tue 27 Mar, Malvern Theatres
FOR ONCE Darkly comic new play from acclaimed Welsh playwright Tim Price, Tues 27 - Thurs 29 Mar, mac, Birmingham
ALICE Foundation Youth Theatre present their version of the Lewis Carroll classic, Tue 27 - Wed 28 Mar, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick
HORMONAL HOUSEWIVES Wed 28 Mar, Malvern Theatres
THE MERRY WIDOW Opera della Luna return to the Midlands with a new production of Lehar's classic operetta, Wed 28 Mar, Lichfield Garrick
SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Chapterhouse Theatre present a brand new adaptation of Jane Austen's classic family saga, Wed 28 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
SENSUALIZE SMASH present some of Dr Seuss's famous characters in a musical for all ages, Wed 28 - Sat 31 Mar, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
A TASTE OF HONEY Amateur production of Sheila Delaney's powerful drama the provides a stark look at working class life in 1950s Britain, Wed 28 - Sat 31 Mar, Oldbury Rep - Barlow Theatre
ARSENIC AND OLD LACE A farcical black comedy by Joseph Kesselring, Wed 28 - Sat 31 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER National Theatre Live production of Oliver Goldsmith's celebration of chaos, courtship and the dysfunctional family, Thurs 29 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
TALES FROM A SEA JOURNEY A fusion of storytelling, physical theatre & live music from the award-winning NIE Theatre Company, Thurs 29 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove
COFFIN UP Critically acclaimed mask theatre company Village Idiots present a fast-paced farcical comedy that tells the story of a dastardly undertaker and his attempt to make money - whatever the consequences, Thurs 29 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
MAN Evening of comedy, storytelling, performance and projection that charts the story of Dan and Nathan's lives, from conception to their inevitable demise, Thu 29 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham
OLD HERBACEOUS A one-man show that's adapted from Reginald Arkell's book, Thurs 29 - Fri 30 Mar, Solihull Arts Complex
HORRIBLE HISTORIES - THE TERRIBLE TUDORS & VILE VICTORIANS Historical figures come to life with two live stage shows for children, Thurs 29 Mar - Sun 1 Apr, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
EQUUS Peter Shaffer's unique psychological thriller that explores the complex relationships between worship, myth and sexuality, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
YOUTH THEATRE PRESENT A double-bill, including their version of David Copperfield & Molly Davies' Shooting Truth, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Mar, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth
THE BURLESQUE SHOW An evening of sophisticated tease, wonderful comedy, magic and music, Fri 30 Mar, Lichfield Garrick
THE THREEPENNY OPERA Presented by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
TIME HAS FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE AFTERNOON SUNSHINE Birmingham Repertory Theatre, together with Fierce Festival, present the UK premiere of Mette Edvardsen's intimate scenario that's inspired by Ray Bradbury's sci-fi novel Fahrenheit 451, Fri 30 Mar - Sat 7 Apr, Birmingham Central Library
THE TEMPEST David Farr directs a new version of the Bard's final masterpiece, Fri 30 Mar - Sat 19 May, The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE TRIAL Blackeyed Theatre present an adaptation of Franz Kafka's twentieth century masterpiece, Sat 31 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
MIKE HARDING - ME, A GUITAR AND SOME DAFT STUFF An evening of songs, daft stories and monologues, Sat 31 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
LULLABIES OF BROADWAY The Old Joint Stock Musical Theatre Company present a collection of musical highlights, including Chess, Les Miserables, Phantom Of The Opera, Sister Act, and many more..., Sat 31 Mar - Sun 1 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham
ENCHANTED BURLESQUE Sat 31 Mar, Old Rep, Birmingham
THE FATHER Brand new version of August Strindberg's compelling drama, Sat 31 Mar - Sat 14 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
THE BURLESQUE SHOW An evening of sophisticated tease, wonderful comedy, magic and music, Sat 31 Mar, Crewe Lyceum
OH WHAT A NIGHT! The Arcadians present an evening of song from the musicals, Sat 31 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
THE PILLOWMAN The Crescent Theatre Company present Martin McDonagh's award-winning drama, Sat 31 Mar - Sat 7 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
FASCINATING AIDA - THE CHEAP FLIGHTS TOUR Sat 31 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre


Equus - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Theatre Box Office

Birmingham
ALEXANDRA THEATRE 0844 871 3011
BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME 0844 338 5000
BIRMINGHAM REP 0121 236 4455
THE BLUE ORANGE THEATRE 0121 212 2643
CRESCENT THEATRE 0121 643 5858
DOVEHOUSE THEATRE 0121 706 7139
THE DRUM 0121 333 2444
MAC 0121 446 3232
OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE 0121 200 0946
OLD REP 0121 245 4455
SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX 0121 704 6962

Black Country
ARENA THEATRE WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 321321
BLOXWICH THEATRE 01922 653183
DUDLEY CONCERT HALL 01384 812812
GRAND THEATRE, 01902 429212
OLDBURY REP, OLDBURY 0121 552 2761
THE PUBLIC, WEST BROMWICH 0121 533 7161

Shropshire
LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS 01584 878141
THE PLACE, OAKENGATES, TELFORD 01952 382382
THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY 01743 281281

Staffordshire
LICHFIELD GARRICK 01543 412121
NEW VIC 01782 717962
PRINCE OF WALES CENTRE, CANNOCK 01543 578762
REGENT THEATRE, STOKE 0870 060 6649
STAFFORD GATEHOUSE 01785 254653

Warwickshire
BEDWORTH CIVIC HALL 024 7637 6707
BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY 024 7655 3055
BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE, WARWICK 01926 776438
THE DREAM FACTORY 01926 419555
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON 0844 800 1110
ROYAL SPA CENTRE LEAMINGTON 01926 334418
WARWICK ARTS CENTRE COVENTRY 02476 524524

Worcestershire
ARTRIX ARTS CENTRE, BROMSGROVE 01527 577330
HUNTINGDON HALL, WORCESTER 01905 611427
MALVERN THEATRE 01684 892277
NORBURY THEATRE, DROITWICH 01905 770154
PALACE THEATRE REDDITCH 01527 65203
ROSE THEATRE, 01562 743745
SWAN THEATRE, WORCESTER 01905 611427



Theatre REVIEWS

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

Sister Act

The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

There's always a fear that something significant may be lost in a transition from screen to stage, especially with a show as iconic as Sister Act. But I'm pleased to report that this most certainly wasn't the case with this reworked version of Whoopi Goldberg's West End triumph. In fact, I actually enjoyed it more than the movie.

A notable absence from the stage show is the original score, but get over this and you're left with a fast-paced, upbeat musical that's bursting at the seams with holy joy, not to mention some of the best one-liners ever.

As for the cast, it was a case of faultless performances throughout. Relative newcomer Cynthia Eviro was triumphant as high-spirited disco diva Delores, who, while hiding from mobsters in a convent, gives the tone-deaf sisters a real sense of soul. Denise Black's portrayal of the



'stiff' Mother Superior was every bit as heavenly as Michael Starke's Father O'Hara was saintly. But the award for comic delivery and value-for-money entertainment has got to go to Jacqueline Clarke, who made the hyperactive Sister Mary Lazarus' comic antics far funnier than they were in the film. Hats (or should that be wimples?) off also to Gavin Alex, Daniel Stockton and Tyrone Huntley, all of whom were hilarious as gangsta Curtis' inept sidekicks. Add to the mix some funky choreography, colourful costumes, hand-clapping tunes and a real 'cool dude' of a policeman, and you've got yourself one hell of a show. Praise be the Lord!

Davina Evans ■■■■■

South Pacific

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

The lush, tropical backdrop to Rodgers and Hammerstein's hit musical South Pacific was a welcome addition to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on a cold February evening. Set on a US naval base within the Polynesian islands during World War Two, the much-loved musical focuses on the blossoming but complex relationship between American nurse Nellie Forbush and French plantation owner Emile De Becque, and the rather more ill-fated interaction of Lieutenant Cable and native islander Liat.

The role of small-town girl Nellie was earmarked for Samantha Womack. Having become so accustomed to seeing the actress as EastEnders' feisty Ronnie Mitchell, I was looking forward to Womack's return to the stage. But illness saw understudy Carly Anderson treading the boards instead. While Anderson delivered a pretty convincing Southern drawl, she failed to hit the mark when singing big numbers such as I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair.



Also absent was Womack's fellow former EastEnder Alex Ferns, due to play loveable rogue Luther Billis. Understudy Cameron Jack was, however, a joy to watch.

This reincarnation of South Pacific remained faithful to the original (which debuted on Broadway over half a century ago), impressively showcasing that always-winning combination of powerful voices and talented orchestra. However, with Act One nearly two hours in length, a little modern-day editing wouldn't have gone amiss. *Claire Lloyd* ■■■■■

Steven Berkoff In Shakespeare's Villains

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

The 'bad boy of theatre' may be a veteran performer nowadays, clocking up his seventy-fifth year, but in Shakespeare's Villains Steven Berkoff delightedly exploits the fact that our fascination with evil and its perpetrators is ageless. Shakespeare's most unpleasant characters are all present-and-correct in this ninety minute one-man performance - think Iago and Richard III, for example - and are joined by some perhaps less obvious 'baddies' - Hamlet ('the student who becomes a serial killer') and the lustful, scheming Oberon. All are portrayed and dissected with an unsettling mixture of humour and outrage. While Berkoff's menacing presence suppresses any temptation to boo the villain panto-style, his gift for mimicry and grotesque characterisation make laughter a constant counterpoint to the audience's discomfort. Throw in comic asides about some honoured thespian rivals (not to mention critics), the politics of Hollywood villains and the universal villainy of politicians, and the experience is complete. Not simply a masterclass but also a riotous celebration of the art of performance, presented by one of theatre's most astonishing practitioners.

David Barron ■■■■■

Nora

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

You've got to applaud the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. Staging Nora, Ingmar Bergman's adaptation of Ibsen's A Doll's House, is certainly a brave choice in an age of arts cuts. Dealing with a mother's decision to turn her back on her husband and children, the original play caused an outcry when it was first presented back in 1879. And although we may still live in a sexist world, director Patricia Benecke's decision to update the play's setting to the twenty-first century seems to diminish the power of the piece. Another problem is that Benecke's version doesn't feature Nora's children, which makes the impact of deciding to leave them for a new life far less shocking.

That said, there's some great acting on display, especially from Penny Layden in the title role, and it's always a pleasure to experience such intense drama in B2, the Belgrade's studio space. So although this production doesn't quite hit the mark, it most definitely gets an A for effort. *Jack Rolfe* ■■■■■



Theatre Box Office

Birmingham

ALEXANDRA THEATRE 0844 871 3011

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME 0844 338 5000

BIRMINGHAM REP 0121 236 4455

THE BLUE ORANGE THEATRE 0121 212 2643

CRESCENT THEATRE 0121 643 5858

DOVEHOUSE THEATRE 0121 706 7139

THE DRUM 0121 333 2444

MAC 0121 446 3232

OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE 0121 200 0946

OLD REP 0121 245 4455

SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX 0121 704 6962

Black Country

ARENA THEATRE WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 321321

BLOXWICH THEATRE 01922 653183

DUDLEY CONCERT HALL 01384 812812

GRAND THEATRE, 01902 429212

OLDBURY REP, OLDBURY 0121 552 2761

THE PUBLIC, WEST BROMWICH 0121 533 7161

Shropshire

LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS 01584 878141

THE PLACE, OAKENGATES, TELFORD 01952 382382

THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY 01743 281281

Staffordshire

LICHFIELD GARRICK 01543 412121

NEW VIC 01782 717962

PRINCE OF WALES CENTRE, CANNOCK 01543 578762

REGENT THEATRE, STOKE 0870 060 6649

STAFFORD GATEHOUSE 01785 254653

Warwickshire

BEDWORTH CIVIC HALL 024 7637 6707

BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY 024 7655 3055

BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE, WARWICK 01926 776438

THE DREAM FACTORY 01926 419555

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON 0844 800 1110

ROYAL SPA CENTRE LEAMINGTON 01926 334418

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE COVENTRY 02476 524524

Worcestershire

ARTRIX ARTS CENTRE, BROMSGROVE 01527 577330

HUNTINGDON HALL, WORCESTER 01905 611427

MALVERN THEATRE 01684 892277

NORBURY THEATRE, DROITWICH 01905 770154

PALACE THEATRE REDDITCH 01527 65203

ROSE THEATRE, 01562 743745

SWAN THEATRE, WORCESTER 01905 611427

Anna Chancellor to return to the West End...



Best known for her performance as Duckface in Four Weddings And A Funeral, and, more recently, as Lix Storm in The Hour, British actress Anna Chancellor has announced that she's to reprise her role in a Chichester Festival Theatre double-bill when it transfers to the Harold Pinter Theatre on 19 April. Anna will star opposite The Iron Lady actor Nicholas Farrell in both David Hare's South Downs and Terence Rattigan's The Browning Version - two plays that explore life in a boarding school, with the playwrights' educational experiences providing the backdrop.

New musical to celebrate Dickens' birthday

Actor and director Paul Nicholas has confirmed that he's to bring a new musical version of the Dickens' classic A Tale Of Two Cities to the London stage. In a year that celebrates the two hundredth anniversary of the esteemed novelist's birth, Nicholas will pay homage with a dramatic staging of the classic story of love and sacrifice.
Casting is yet to be announced for the production, which features music by David Pomeranz and lyrics by Steven Horwich.
A Tale Of Two Cities runs at Charing Cross Theatre from 5 April to 12 May.



Stars of the West End announced for charity fundraiser

Some of the West End's most talented vocalists have signed up to perform at this year's The Night Of 1000 Voices - an annual fundraising event that aims to raise much-needed funds for the blood cancer charity Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.
Hosted by former I'm A Celebrity winner Christopher Biggins, and showcasing performances from Kerry Ellis, Bonnie Langford, Ricardo Afonso, Daniel Boys and Peter Polycarpou, The Night Of 1000 Voices features scenes and tunes from numerous iconic British musicals, including Evita, The Lion King, Les Miserables, Jesus Christ Superstar and, new for 2012, Miss Saigon.
Distinguished West End conductors Stuart Morley and David Firman steer the event, which takes place at the Royal Albert Hall on 6 May.

WEST END LISTINGS:

MUSICALS

BILLY ELLIOT – THE MUSICAL Victoria Palace Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

BLOOD BROTHERS Phoenix Theatre booking until 24 Nov 2012

CHICAGO Garrick Theatre booking until 26 Jan 2013

CRAZY FOR YOU Novello Theatre booking until 17 March 2012

DREAMBOATS & PETTICOATS Playhouse Theatre, booking until 24 Nov 2012

GHOST THE MUSICAL Piccadilly Theatre, booking until 13 Oct 2012

JERSEY BOYS Prince Edward Theatre, booking until 21 Oct 2012

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL Savoy Theatre, booking until 7 April 2012

LES MISÉRABLES Queen's Theatre booking until 27 Oct 2012

LION KING Lyceum Theatre, booking until 9 Sept 2012

MAMMA MIA! Prince of Wales Theatre, booking until 13 Apr 2013

MATILDA THE MUSICAL Cambridge Theatre, booking until 21 Oct 2012

MIDNIGHT TANGO Aldwych Theatre, booking until 31 March 2012

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Her Majesty's Theatre, booking until 27 Oct 2012

ROCK OF AGES Shaftesbury Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012

SHREK THE MUSICAL Drury Lane, Theatre Royal, booking until 21 Oct 2012

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN PalaceTheatre, booking until 29 Sept 2012

STOMP Ambassadors Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

SWEENEY TODD - THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET Adelphi Theatre, 10 Mar 2012 - 22 Sept

THRILLER LIVE Lyric Theatre, booking until 23 Sept 2012

TOP HAT Aldwych Theatre, 19 Apr 2012 - 26 Jan 2013

WE WILL ROCK YOU Dominion Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012

WICKED Apollo Victoria Theatre, booking until 27 Apr 2013

WIZARD OF OZ London Palladium Theatre, booking until 28 Oct 2012

DRAMA

AFTER MISS JULIE Young Vic Theatre (maria studio), 15 Mar 2012 - 7 Apr 2012

BEING SHAKESPEARE Trafalgar Studio 1 Theatre, 7 Mar 2012 - 31 Mar 2012

BELONG Royal Court Theatre, 26 Apr 2012 - 26 May 2012

BINGO Young Vic Theatre, booking until 31 Mar 2012

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS? Lyttelton National Theatre, 9 Mar 2012 - 28 Mar 2012

CHILDREN'S CHILDREN Almeida Theatre, 17 May 2012 - 30 June 2012

COLLABORATORS Olivier National Theatre, 30 Apr 2012 - 30 May 2012

DUCHESS OF MALFI Old Vic Theatre, 17 Mar 2012 - 9 June 2012

FILUMENA Almeida Theatre, 15 Mar 2012 - 12 May 2012

GOING DARK Young Vic Theatre, 6 Mar 2012 - 24 Mar 2012

HENRY V Shakespeare Globe Theatre, 7 June 2012 - 26 Aug 2012

HORRIBLE HISTORIES - BARMY BRITAIN Garrick Theatre, booking until 1 Sept 2012

KINGS SPEECH Wyndham's Theatre, 22 Mar 2012 - 21 July 2012

LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT Apollo Theatre, 2 Apr 2012 - 18 Aug 2012

MASTERCLASS Vaudeville Theatre, booking until 28 Apr 2012

MOON ON A RAINBOW SHAWL Cottesloe National Theatre, 7 Mar 2012 - 27 Mar 2012

MOUSETRAP St Martins Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

PITMAN PAINTERS Duchess Theatre, booking until 14 Apr 2012

RECRUITING OFFICER Donmar Warehouse, booking until 14 Apr 2012

WILD SWANS Young Vic Theatre, 13 Apr 2012 - 13 May 2012

WOMAN IN BLACK Fortune Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

COMEDY

39 STEPS Criterion Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012

ABSENT FRIENDS Harold Pinter Theatre, booking until 14 Apr 2012

ALL NEW PEOPLE Duke Of York's Theatre, booking until 28 Apr 2012

AWKWARD SQUAD Arts Theatre, 6 Mar 2012 - 7 Apr 2012

COMEDY OF ERRORS Olivier National Theatre, booking until 1 Apr 2012

HAYFEVER Noel Coward Theatre, booking until 2 June 2012

JACKIE MASON - FEARLESS Wyndham's Theatre, booking until 17 Mar 2012

LADY KILLERS Gielgud Theatre, booking until 14 Apr 2012

NOISES OFF Old Vic Theatre, booking until 10 Mar 2012

SHE STEPS TO CONQUER Olivier National Theatre, booking until 29 Mar 2012



Lady Killers, Geilgud Theatre

Dance



Blanca Li Dance Company: Elektro Kif

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 6 - Wed 7 March

Comprising an all-male cast of eight young dancers, Elektro Kif combines various physical forms to deliver an urban production that explores the hopes and fears, friendships, fights and rivalries that face students during a typical day at college. Fast-paced, colourful and humorous, this often-anarchic piece also features a musical composition from Tao Gutierrez, blending techno with electro house, afrobeat, sampling and classical music to impressive effect.

Lord Of The Dance **Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 20 - Sun 25 March**

Since it was first previewed in Dublin back in 1996, Michael Flatley's choreographed adventure has become an international phenomenon, breaking records worldwide as the biggest grossing tour in the history of entertainment. Recognised for catapulting Irish music into the limelight, Lord Of The Dance presents a tale of good versus evil, and combines precision dancing with state-of-the-art lighting and pyrotechnics. For those who're interested in the story as well as the dancing, it recounts the journey of the Lord Of The Dance as he travels through a mythical universe of love, danger and desire to protect his people from the evil powers of Don Dorcha, the Dark Lord.



12 Moves: After Dark

Croft Rd Railway Arches, Worcester, Sat 24 March

A project that's been three years in the making, 12 Moves: After Dark is set to light up the Worcester skyline this month. The event, which is packed with dance-related activities in which visitors can participate, is part of the Cultural Olympiad's Dancing For The Games initiative, and climaxes with an evening performance by dance development organisation Dancefest. In partnership with digital artists SDNA, Dancefest will transform the city's railway arches into a giant cinema screen, upon which they'll project footage of performances by the hundreds of Worcestershire dancers who've taken part in workshops and projects over the past three years. During the screening, dancers will pop up in and around the audience, performing to live music from renowned composer Mira Calix.



Shobana Jeyasingh Dance: Classic Cut

mac, Birmingham, Tues 20 March

By fusing movements from her South Asian roots with traditional ballet and other modern forms of dance, acclaimed choreographer Shobana Jeyasingh devises easily identifiable contemporary works that are recognised on an international level. This Birmingham performance sees her company presenting a double-bill comprising the troupe's 1989 production Configurations - a modern British take on classic Indian dance - and a new (as yet untitled) piece featuring newly commissioned music from Indian composer Niraj Chag.



Dance LISTINGS

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

SPRING PASSIONS Birmingham Royal Ballet perform two uplifting stories of survival and young love, including Daphnis and Chloe, a fantastical tale set on an island paradise in ancient Greece, and Frederick Ashton's poignant Parisian idyll The Two Pigeons, until Sat 3 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

SWAN LAKE Presented by Moscow Ballet La Classique, Thurs 1 - Sat 3 Mar, Belgrade Theatre

CELTIC DREAM A breathtaking journey of music, song and dance, Fri 2 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

SWAN LAKE Presented by Moscow Ballet La Classique, Thurs 8 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LUNA Pretty Good Girl Dance Theatre fuse storytelling, dance, film and physical theatre to explore themes of identity, belonging and acceptance, Thurs 8 Mar, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

RICHARD ALSTON DANCE COMPANY This year, the company's programme is danced to music spanning four centuries, from Mozart to Benjamin Britten and Steve Reich, Tue 13 - Wed 14 Mar, Malvern Theatres

AT SWIM TWO BOYS Earthfall revive their award-winning production that's set entirely in water. Based in Ireland in 1916, the story follows a developing relationship between two young men against a backdrop of political turmoil, Thurs 15 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SWAN LAKE Vienna Festival Ballet present a lavish production of one of the best known love stories of all time, set to Tchaikovsky's enchanting score, Fri 16 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SLEEPING BEAUTY Midlands Theatre Ballet present their version of the classic fairytale, Fri 16 - Sat 17 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ANTON & ERIN LET'S DO IT Anton du Beke and Erin Boag return with a sensational new show, Sun 18 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CLASSIC CUT New show from acclaimed choreographer Shobana Jeyasingh that revisits the past and takes a bold step into the new, Tues 20 Mar, mac, Birmingham

LORD OF THE DANCE Since its 1996 preview in Dublin, Michael Flatley's choreographed adventure - based on ancient Irish folklore - has gone on to become the most successful touring show in entertainment history, Tue 20 - Sun 25 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GET ACTIVE AND DANCE 3 Featuring a fusion of all types of dance, from Street dance and Bollywood, to Hip-Hop and much more, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, The Public, West Bromwich

ACE DANCE AND MUSIC EASTER GALA PERFORMANCE Sat 31 Mar, The Drum, Birmingham

Dance Box Office

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM
0844 871 3011

BEDWORTH CIVIC HALL
024 7637 6707

BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY 024 7655 3055

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME
0844 338 5000

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL
0121 780 3333

GRAND THEATRE,
01902 429212

MALVERN THEATRE
01684 892277

THE PLACE, TELFORD
01952 382382

REGENT THEATRE, STOKE-ON-TRENT
0870 060 6649

SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX
0121 704 6962

THE SWAN THEATRE, WORCESTER
01905 611427

THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY
01743 281281

VICTORIA HALL, STOKE-ON-TRENT
0844 871 7649

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE, COVENTRY
02476 524524



THE giant screen

at Millennium Point

NEW CINEMA EXPERIENCE



John Carter 3D

Opens 9 March



Titanic 3D

Opens 6 April



Avengers

Opens 27 April

With its stunning, digitally presented clarity, its massive screen and sophisticated sound system, The Giant Screen Cinema at Millennium Point offers the ultimate entertainment experience. The newly refurbished auditorium gives you the best seat in the house every time.



See it big

www.giantscreencinema.co.uk

0121 202 2222

Millennium Point,
Birmingham B4 7XG

/giantscreen

Film

TO WATCH THE LATEST MOVIE TRAILERS, VISIT: www.whatsonlive.co.uk



The Pirates! In An Adventure With Scientists

CERT **U** (88 mins)

Featuring the voices of **Hugh Grant, Salma Hayek, Jeremy Piven, Imelda Staunton, David Tennant, Martin Freeman, Lenny Henry, Brendan Gleeson** Directed by **Peter Lord and Jeff Newitt (UK/USA)**

While Sony and Aardman's Arthur Christmas had its share of charm and invention, it lacked the homemade texture of the Wallis and Gromit films. Here, Aardman and Sony Pictures team up on a rollicking adaptation of the first two volumes of Gideon Defoe's pirate quintet aimed squarely at the funny bone. The good news is that the film, while presented in 3D, is handcrafted in the painstaking stop-motion tradition, and is directed by Peter Lord, he who brought us the wonderful Chicken Run. And the trailer promises a very special treat indeed.



We Bought A Zoo

CERT **PG** (124 mins)

Starring **Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church, Patrick Fugit, Colin Ford, Elle Fanning, Maggie Elizabeth Jones, Angus Macfadyen, Peter Riegert, John Michael Higgins** Directed by **Cameron Crowe (USA)**

Matt Damon is not having much luck with his wives of late (cf. Contagion). Here, he plays a recent widower who decides to take on an abandoned zoo in order to escape his past. Damon plays Benjamin Mee, on whose memoir the film is based, and the subject is something of a departure for the director Cameron Crowe. Crowe was previously responsible for such cutting-edge films as Jerry Maguire, Almost Famous and Vanilla Sky.

TOP 5
FILM BOX OFFICE

1. **The Woman In Black (12a)**
2. **The Muppets (U)**
3. **Star Wars: Episode 1 - Phantom Menace (U)**
4. **The Vow (12a)**
5. **Chronicle (12a)**


The Woman In Black

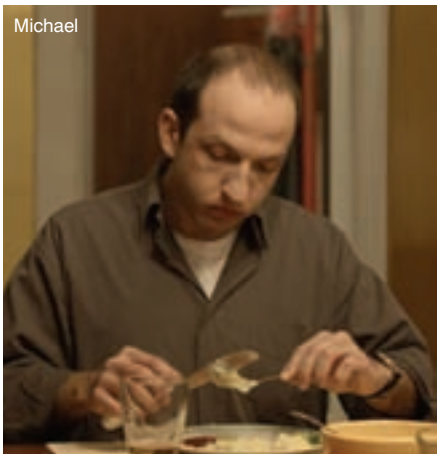
Film NEW RELEASES

Released from Fri 2 March

Michael CERT 18 (96 mins)

Starring **Michael Fuith, David Rauchenberger, Christine Kain** Directed by **Markus Schleinzer (Austria)**

After being held captive for eight years, the Viennese teenager Natascha Kampusch escaped her kidnapper on 23 August 2006. Can it really be that long ago? Hollywood came calling but the first film out of the gate is this Austrian production inspired by the Kampusch story. First-time director Schleinzer has changed the victim to a ten-year-old boy but the song remains the same. The film's reception at Cannes was both hostile and adulatory.



Michael



Wanderlust

Hunky Dory CERT 15 (110 mins)

Starring **Minnie Driver, Aneurin Barnard, George Mackay, Tom Harries, Kimberly Nixon** Directed by **Marc Evans (Wales)**

Marc Evans is unequivocally the greatest living director to come out of Wales. Having dabbled with everything from drama to horror, Evans now turns to something a little more uplifting. Here, he charts the obstacles thrown in the path of an idealistic Swansea secondary school teacher (Driver) who attempts to mount a musical version of The Tempest.

Wanderlust CERT 15 (98 mins)

Starring **Paul Rudd, Jennifer Aniston, Justin Theroux, Malin Åkerman, Alan Alda, Ray Liotta** Directed by **David Wain (USA)**

When a Manhattanite (Rudd) loses his job, he and his wife decide to leave the Big City. On the way to stay with his family in rural Georgia, George and Linda decide to move into a hippie commune. Rudd and Aniston, both enormously engaging romantic leads, last appeared together in the 1988 romcom The Object Of My Affection.





Released from Fri 9 March

Cleanskin CERT **15** (108 mins)

Starring **Sean Bean, Charlotte Rampling, Abhin Galeya, James Fox, Michelle Ryan**
Directed by **Hadi Hajaig (UK)**

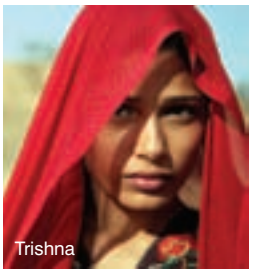
It may sound like an extended ad for Clearasil but this is actually a terrorist thriller. Sean Bean plays a Secret Service agent assigned to wipe out a terrorist cell, while his prey (Galeya) wrestles with his own moral conscience. Filmed in and around London.


Cleanskin

Trishna CERT **15** (113 mins)

Starring **Freida Pinto, Riz Ahmed, Roshan Seth, Kalki Koechlin**
Directed by **Michael Winterbottom (UK)**

Michael Winterbottom, director of A Mighty Heart and The Killer Inside Me, has dabbled with the works of Thomas Hardy on two previous occasions, with Jude and The Claim (the latter adapted from The Mayor Of Casterbridge). Now he takes Hardy's 1891 novel Tess Of The D'Urbevilles and transplants it to contemporary India, where Freida Pinto (Slumdog Millionaire) plays the daughter of an auto rickshaw driver.


Trishna

John Carter CERT **12a** (132 mins)

Starring **Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins, Willem Dafoe, Thomas Haden Church, Samantha Morton, Mark Strong**
Directed by **Andrew Stanton (USA)**

Boasting a $250 million budget, this is a truly epic adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novel A Princess Of Mars (1911), the first of his eleven-volume Barsoom series. The Canadian actor-model Taylor Kitsch (X-Men Origins: Wolverine) has been cast in the plum role of Carter, a former Confederate soldier who ends up on Mars defending its inhabitants from various monstrous creatures. Naturally, the film will be released in 3D.

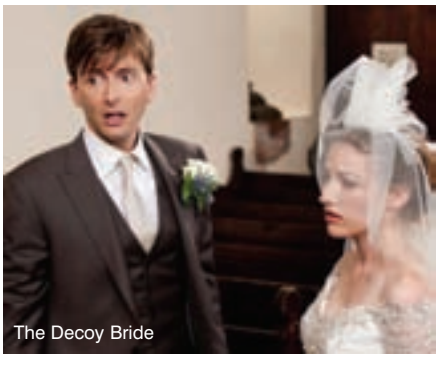

John Carter


Bel Ami

The Decoy Bride CERT **12a** (89 mins)

Starring **Kelly Macdonald, David Tennant, Alice Eve, Sally Phillips, Dylan Moran**
Directed by **Sheree Folkson (UK)**

Sally Phillips is best known as a comedienne but changes her spots here to direct this homegrown romantic comedy. Alice Eve – daughter of Trevor – plays Lara Tyler, a world-class movie star who is preparing to marry her fiancé (Tennant) on a remote Scottish island. However, to outwit the paparazzi, they hire a local girl (Macdonald) to impersonate the star.


The Decoy Bride

The Raven CERT **15** (111 mins)

Starring **John Cusack, Alice Eve, Oliver Jackson-Cohen, Luke Evans, Kevin McNally, Pam Ferris** Directed by **James McTeigue (USA/Hungary/Spain)**

The macabre writer Edgar Allan Poe will always be associated with his 1845 narrative poem The Raven. Here, John Cusack (already five years older than Poe at the time of his death) plays the American poet on the trail of a serial killer who is re-enacting scenes from the author's work. The director previously brought us V For Vendetta.



Bel Ami

CERT **15** (103 mins)

Starring **Robert Pattinson, Christina Ricci, Uma Thurman, Kristin Scott Thomas, Colm Meaney** Directed by **Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod (UK/France/Italy)**

The great unwashed will be clamouring to see this because of Robert Pattinson - but they may be in for a surprise. This is, in fact, a costume drama adapted from the 1885 French novel by Guy de Maupassant - and is directed by the co-founders of the Cheek By Jowl theatre company. Still, women will be seduced (at least, on screen).

Released from Fri 16 March

In Darkness CERT **15** (144 mins)

Starring **Robert Wieckiewicz, Benno Fürmann, Agnieszka Grochowska, Maria Schrader**
Directed by **Agnieszka Holland (Poland)**

Nominated for the Oscar as best foreign language feature, this is the true story of a sewage worker who enters into a contract with escaping Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland. From the acclaimed director of Europa Europa, Olivier, and The Secret Garden.


In Darkness

DOWNLOAD YOUR ESSENTIAL ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE DIRECT TO YOUR iPHONE AND iPAD



AVAILABLE NOW! ON THE APP STORE

INCLUDING BACK ISSUES









GET IT NOW!

SCAN HERE

What's On

Powered by pocketmags.com

Available on PC & Mac

Available on the App Store



The Hunger Games

The Hunger Games CERT tbc

Starring **Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Donald Sutherland** Directed by **Gary Ross (USA)**

Translated into twenty-six different languages and the inspiration for a number of parodies, Suzanne Collins' sci-fi novel is something of a publishing phenomenon. Set in a post-apocalyptic future in a land called Panem - where North America used to be - the story follows the travails of Katniss Everdeen (Lawrence) as she competes in a game to the death on live TV. Three sequels are already in pre-production.

21 Jump Street CERT 15 (109 mins)

Starring **Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum, Brie Larson, Ice Cube, Johnny Depp**
Directed by **Phil Lord and Chris Miller (USA)**

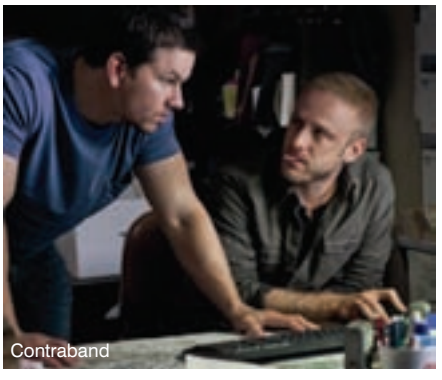
The 1987 to 1991 TV police series 21 Jump Street launched the careers of Johnny Depp and Richard Grieco, one of whom went on to become a very big star indeed. Oscar nominee Jonah Hill (Moneyball) takes on the movie adaptation as co-writer, executive producer and star, playing an undercover cop who infiltrates a high school in order to expose a synthetic drug ring. Johnny Depp recreates his original role in a cameo.


21 Jump Street

Contraband CERT 15 (110 mins)

Starring **Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale, Ben Foster, Giovanni Ribisi, J.K. Simmons, Lukas Haas** Directed by **Baltasar Kormákur (USA/UK/France)**

Mark Wahlberg plays a former smuggler who is forced to return to his old ways when his family is threatened by an implacable gangster (Ribisi). A remake of the 2008 Icelandic thriller Reykjavík-Rotterdam, Contraband is directed by the former film's star Kormákur, who is equally proficient on both sides of the camera. Filmed in New Orleans and Panama.


Contraband

Released from Fri 30 March

Streetdance 2 CERT tbc

Starring **Falk Hentschel, Sofia Boutella, George Sampson, Flawless, Tom Conti**
Directed by **Max Giwa and Dania Pasquini (UK)**

The streets of London can no longer contain the moves of Eddie (George Sampson), and so he and his new best friend Ash (Falk Hentschel) travel round Europe looking for new dancers to compete against the awesome dance crew Invincible. Locations include Paris, Berlin, Rome and Trafalgar Square, and there's a Latin twist thrown in for good measure.

Wrath Of The Titans CERT tbc

Starring **Sam Worthington, Rosamund Pike, Bill Nighy, Édgar Ramírez, Ralph Fiennes, Liam Neeson**
Directed by **Jonathan Liebesman (USA)**

For those who lapped up the digitally constructed histrionics of Clash Of The Titans and Immortals, there's plenty more where that came from. Here, Perseus (Mr Worthington) finds himself in the company of Zeus, Hades, Poseidon and all kinds of colossal beasties. But it's Rosamund Pike as the warrior queen Andromeda who should cut the most striking figure. We think.


Wrath Of The Titans

Wild Bill CERT 15 (98 mins)

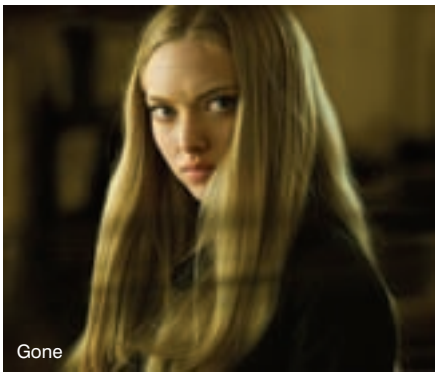
Starring **Charlie Creed-Miles, Will Poulter, Sammy Williams, Leo Gregory, Liz White, Andy Serkis** Directed by **Dexter Fletcher (UK)**

After eight years in prison, Bill Hayward has put his wilder days behind him. But when he returns home to East London, he finds his wife gone and his two sons, aged eleven and fifteen, fending for themselves. And they are none too happy to see him… Dexter Fletcher, who played 'Soap' in Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels, has chosen a familiar milieu for his directorial debut. Yet he's given it a freshness, charm and heart that is at once surprising and completely engaging. And, being an actor, he's elicited a raft of outstanding performances, particularly from the younger members of his cast. Will Poulter, from Son Of Rambow and The Voyage Of The Dawn Treader, is especially a revelation as an embittered teenager now employed as a construction worker on the Olympic Stadium. All round, then, this is an accomplished and gripping, funny film.

Gone CERT tbc

Starring **Amanda Seyfried, Daniel Sunjata, Jennifer Carpenter, Wes Bentley**
Directed by **Heitor Dhalia (USA)**

Filmed in and around Portland, Oregon, this thriller stars Amanda Seyfried as a woman still recovering from the trauma of being kidnapped by a serial killer. And then her sister goes missing… Definitely one for Amanda Seyfried completists.


Gone

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

21 Jump Street 15
See Preview Page 55

A Dangerous Method 15
Michael Fassbender and Keira Knightley star in David Cronenberg's drama that's based on the turbulent relationship between Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 1 Mar; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Mar; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Mar; mac, Birmingham, Fri 9 - Thurs 15 Mar*

The Age Of Stupid 12a
A drama-documentary-animation hybrid starring Pete Postlethwaite as a man living in the devastated world of 2055, watching archive footage to try and understand why humankind failed to address climate change. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sun 11 Mar*

The Artist PG
Multi-Oscar-winning romantic drama that pays homage to Hollywood's golden age. *Showing at The Royal, Leamington Spa, Thurs 1 Mar; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Mar & Fri 23 Mar - Thurs 19 Apr; Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 6 - Thurs 8 Mar & Fri 23 - Sat 24 Mar; mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 8 Mar*

L'Atalante PG
Jean Vigo's timeless romantic masterpiece that's regarded by many as one of the greatest films ever made. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 9 - Sun 11 Mar*

The Beat Is The Law - Fanfare For The Common People
Eve Wood's documentary that follows the story of seminal pop misfits Pulp, from their Sheffield roots, through to their place at the forefront of the Britpop movement. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Thurs 29 Mar*

Bel Ami 15
See Preview Page 53

WATCH THE FILM TRAILERS AT whatsonlive.co.uk

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel 12a
Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton & Celia Imrie star as a group of retired Brits who descend on a hotel in Udaipur, only to find that it's not at all as they'd been led to believe. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, until Thurs 8 Mar; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 9 - Thurs 29 Mar; mac, Birmingham, Fri 16 - Thurs 22 Mar; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 16 - Wed 28 Mar*

Bill Cunningham New York 12a
Richard Press' acclaimed documentary that provides an insight into the life of the legendary photographer who has inventively chronicled fashion trends for decades. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Wed 28 - Fri 30 Mar*

Blank City 12a
Celine Danhier's documentary that paints a unique portrait of New York in the mid-70s and 1980s. *Showing at Birmingham Midland Institute, Thurs 15 Mar*

Blood In The Mobile 12a
Frank Poulsen's disturbing documentary that explores the link between the production of mobile phones and the Congo's brutal civil war. *Showing at Library Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 6 Mar*

Carnage 15
Jodie Foster and Kate Winslet star alongside John C. Reilly and Christopher Waltz in Roman Polanski's adaptation of Yasmina Reza's play The God Of Carnage. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Mar; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 18 - Tues 20 Mar*

Cleanskin 15
See Preview Page 53

Colossal Youth 15
Pedro Costa's epic final film that's set in a slum district of Lisbon. *Showing at Library Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 6 Mar*

Contraband 15
See Preview Page 55

Coriolanus 15
Ralph Fiennes' contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's play of political power and intrigue. Gerard Butler stars. *Showing at The Royal, Leamington Spa, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Mar; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 23 - Thurs 29 Mar*

The Descendants 15
George Clooney stars in Alexander Payne's acclaimed drama that blends comedy and tragedy while exploring a father's journey to re-examine his past and embrace his future. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Mar; The Royal, Leamington Spa, Sat 10 - Thurs 15 Mar; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 12 - Wed 14 Mar*

Extremely Loud And Incredibly Close 12a
Tom Hanks & Sandra Bullock star in Stephen Daldry's drama that's based on the 2005 novel by Jonathan Safran Foer. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 16 - Thurs 22 Mar; mac, Birmingham, Fri 30 Mar - Thurs 5 Apr*

Gone tbc
See Preview Page 55

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo 18
Adaptation of the first novel in Stieg Larsson's literary blockbuster, The Millennium Trilogy. Daniel Craig and Christopher Plummer star. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Mar; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Mar*

Hail The Conquering Hero U
Preston Sturges' 1944 comedy that stars Eddie Bracken as a man discharged from the marines due to chronic hay fever. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 5 Mar*

Hell And Back Again 15
Danfung Dennis' unique action documentary that questions the effects of the war in Afghanistan on soldiers on the frontline. *Showing at Birmingham Library Theatre, Tues 20 Mar*

House Of Tolerance 18
Bertrand Bonello's drama that follows the day-to-day existence of a group of prostitutes in early twentieth century Paris. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 27 - Wed 28 Mar*

Hugo U
Martin Scorsese's acclaimed family drama that features an all-star cast, including Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Ray Winstone, Jude Law, Christopher Lee & Johnny Depp. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 4 - Tues 6 Mar*

The Hunger Games tbc
See Preview Page 55

In Darkness 15
See Preview Page 53

Into The West PG
Mike Newell's family adventure that concerns a Traveller grandfather, his two grandchildren and a gigantic white stallion with magical powers. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 17 Mar*

The Iron Lady 12a
Meryl Streep stars as Margaret Thatcher in Abi Morgan's compelling story that paints an intimate portrait of Britain's first-ever female Prime Minister. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Mar; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Thurs 8 Mar; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 16 - Sat 17 Mar*

J Edgar 15
Leonardo Di Caprio & Naomi Watts star in Clint Eastwood's exploration of the public and private life of one of the most powerful, controversial and enigmatic figures of the twentieth century. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 30 Mar - Sun 1 Apr*

John Carter tbc
See Preview Page 53

Junkhearts 15
A multi-stranded psychological thriller that's set in inner city London and follows the story of a vulnerable ex-soldier suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. *Showing at Library Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 20 Mar*

The Lady tbc
Luc Beeson presents the extraordinary story of pro-democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent more than a decade under house arrest. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 30 Mar - Mon 2 Apr*

Lawrence Of Belgravia
Affectionate documentary portrait of Lawrence (Felt, Denim), the Birmingham-born pop mastermind who never quite hit the big time. *Showing at mac, Birmingham as part of the city's Flatpack Festival, Fri 16 Mar*

Le Havre
Deadpan tale that's set in the French city port and follows an ageing shoe shiner who takes pity on an African boy who arrives in the city by cargo ship. *Showing at mac, Birmingham as part of the city's Flatpack Festival, Thurs 15 Mar*

Hunky Dory 15
See Preview Page 52

Like Crazy PG
Independent American romance that's based on the director Drake Doremus' experiences when his girlfriend was forbidden from entering the US because of visa problems. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Mon 12 - Thurs 15 Mar*

Los Bastardys 18
Crime thriller that follows twenty-four hours in the lives of Fausto and Jesus, two undocumented Mexican day-labourers in L.A. *Showing at Birmingham Library Theatre, Tues 27 Mar*

Manhattan 12a
Woody Allen's acclaimed 1979 romantic comedy that stars Diane Keaton, Meryl Streep and Mariel Hemingway. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 31 Mar*

Margin Call 15
Kevin Spacey stars alongside Demi Moore, Jeremy Irons and Stanley Tucci in a thriller that's set in an investment bank during the early stages of the economic downtown - aka the Great Recession. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 5 - Thurs 8 Mar*

Martha Macy May Marlene 15
Elizabeth Olsen stars in a psychological thriller about a young woman who struggles to re-connect with her family, and life, after her escape from the confines of a cult-like farming community. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 1 Mar; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 10 - Thurs 15 Mar; mac, Birmingham, Mon 19 - Thurs 22 Mar; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 23 - Mon 26 Mar*

CINEMA Box Office

Birmingham
AMC Broadway Plaza, Five Ways 0121 450 6800
CINEWORLD Broad St, B'ham 0871 200 2000
CINEWORLD Solihull 0871 200 2000
ELECTRIC, B'ham 0121 643 7879
EMPIRE 0871 471 4714
THE GIANT SCREEN AT MILLENNIUM POINT 0121 202 2222
LIBRARY THEATRE 0121 303 2868
MAC 0121 446 3232
ODEON 0871 224 4007
REEL Quinton 0121 421 5316
SHOWCASE 0871 220 1000
VUE CINEMA Star City 08712 240 240

Black Country
CINEWORLD WOLVERHAMPTON 0871 200 2000
LIGHT HOUSE MEDIA CENTRE, WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 716055
ODEON MERRY HILL, DUDLEY 0871 22 44007
SHOWCASE, DUDLEY 0871 220 1000
SHOWCASE, WALSALL 0871 220 1000

Shropshire
OMH SHREWSBURY 01743 281281
CINEWORLD, SHREWSBURY 0871 200 2000
MAJESTIC, BRIDGNORTH 01746 761815
ODEON TELFORD 0871 224 4007
OAKENGATES PICTURE HOUSE 01952 615607
WEM TOWN HALL 01939 232299

Staffordshire
APOLLO, STAFFORD 0871 220 6000
CINEWORLD, BURTON-UPON-TRENT 0871 200 2000
STOKE FILM THEATRE, 01782 411188
ODEON TAMWORTH 0871 224 4007

Warwickshire
ODEON, COVENTRY 0871 224 4007
ODEON, NUNEATON 0871 224 4007
SHOWCASE, COVENTRY 0871 220 1000
APOLLO 4, LEAMINGTON SPA 01926 427 448
ROYAL, LEAMINGTON SPA 01926 334418
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

Michael 18
See Preview Page 52

Midnight In Paris 12a
Woody Allen sitcom that sees Owen Wilson cutting it up with Carla Bruni on the boulevards of the city of lights. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 12 Mar*

Orphee
Jean Cocteau's magical retelling of the Orpheus myth. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, as part of the city's Flatpack Festival, Sun 18 Mar*

The Pirates! In An Adventure With Scientists tbc
See Preview Page 51

Post Mortem 15
Drama set in Chile in 1973 that concerns an employee at a Morgue's recording office who falls for a burlesque dancer who subsequently disappears. *Showing at Library Theatre, Birmingham*

Potiche 15
French/Belgian comedy starring Catherine Deneuve and Gerard Depardieu that tells of a submissive wife who gets to run her husband's umbrella factory when the workers revolt. *Showing at Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire*

Pray The Devil Back To Hell E
A remarkable story that tells of how Christian, Muslim and other women of Liberia joined forces in a peace movements to protest and end the country's savage civil war. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 8 Mar*

Putting It Together
A tribute to composer/songwriter Stephen Sondheim that features songs from his Broadway productions. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sun 25 Mar*

Rampart 15
Woody Harrelson, Ben Foster and Sigourney Weaver star in Oren Moverman's directorial debut that explores the dirty underbelly of the Los Angeles Police Department. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Mar; mac, Birmingham, Fri 23 - Sun 25 Mar*

The Raven 15
See Preview Page 53

Resistance PG
Amit Gupta's drama thriller that's set in an isolated Welsh village where a group of women wake to find that their husbands have mysteriously vanished. Michael Sheen and Andrea Riseborough star. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Mon 5 - Thurs 8 Mar*

Romeo & Juliet Live From The Royal Ballet
Featuring Sergei Polunin as Romeo and Lauren Cuthbertson as Juliet. *Showing at The Giant Screen, Millennium Point, Birmingham, Thurs 22 Mar*

Steven Sondheim's Company tbc
Screening of the Tony award-winning musical that follows the bittersweet story of Robert - a single man unable to commit fully to a steady relationship. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sun 18 Mar*

StreetDance 2 tbc
See Preview Page 55

This Is Not A Film
A compelling self-portrait made by Iranian director Jafar Panahi while under house arrest in his apartment. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 17 Mar*

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy 15
Award-winning adaptation of John Le Carre's Cold War spy classic. Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, John Hurt and Mark Strong star. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 19 Mar*

Trishna 15
See Preview Page 53

Turbulence tbc
Birmingham-based comedy that follows six young, gifted and clueless twenty-somethings struggling with the realities of adult life. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Thurs 22 Mar*

Two Years At Sea
Debut feature from a rising UK cinema talent, who beautifully explores the world of a man living a self-sufficient existence in the wilds of Scotland. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, as part of the city's Flatpack Festival, Sat 17 Mar*

Wanderlust 15
See Preview Page 52

War Horse PG
Emily Watson, Jeremy Irvine, Peter Mullan & Benedict Cumberbatch star in Steve Spielberg's blockbuster tale of loyalty, hope & tenacity, set during the First World War. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 1 Mar; mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 8 Mar; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Thurs 22 Mar*

W.E 15
Madonna's acclaimed drama that concerns Wally Winthrop, a woman in 1998 Manhattan who becomes obsessed with the love story between King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 9 - Sun 11 Mar; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 23 - Thurs 29 Mar*

Wild Bill 15
See Preview Page 55

We Bought A Zoo PG
See Preview Page 51

We Need To Talk About Kevin 15
Emotional thriller starring Tilda Swinton as a mother trying to deal with her grief after her teenage son commits an unforgiveable crime. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 26 Mar*

The Woman In Black 12a
Acclaimed thriller that sees Daniel Radcliffe star as a young lawyer who travels to a remote village to settle the affairs of the recently deceased Alice Drablow. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 9 - Thurs 15 Mar; mac, Birmingham, Fri 23 - Thurs 27 Mar; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 30 Mar - Thurs 5 Apr*

The Woman In The Fifth 15
Ethan Hawke, Kristin Scott Thomas & Joanna Kulig star in Pawel Pawlikowski's thriller. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 16 - Thurs 22 Mar; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 23 - Mon 26 Mar; mac, Birmingham, Mon 26 - Thurs 29 Mar*

Wrath Of The Titans tbc
See Preview Page 51

Wuthering Heights 15
A stripped-down tale of youthful passion. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 5 Mar*

Young Adult 15
Charlize Theron stars as a successful writer of teen literature who returns to her hometown with a very specific agenda. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 9 - Thurs 15 Mar; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 9 - Thurs 15 Mar*

DVD NEW RELEASES

The Ides Of March 15
George Clooney stars and directs in a story that focuses on an idealistic press secretary who's forced to take a crash course in corruption in order to serve his boss.
Released 5 March



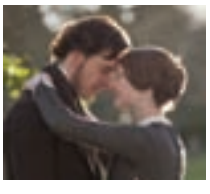
The Rum Diary 15
Johnny Depp stars as American journalist Paul Kemp in an adaptation of Hunter S Thompson's 1961 novel.
Released 5 March

Anonymous 12a
Rafe Spall, son of Timothy, plays the Bard in a drama that focuses on the life and times of William Shakespeare.
Released 5 March



My Week With Marilyn tbc
Michelle Williams stars as Marilyn Monroe in an acclaimed drama that follows the sex symbol's sojourn to Britain to film The Prince And The Showgirl opposite Laurence Olivier.
Released 12 March

Jane Eyre PG
Mia Wasikowska and Michael Fassbender star in a contemporary take on the Charlotte Bronte classic.
Released 12 March



The Help 12a
Award-winning drama that's set against the backdrop of the 1960s American civil rights movement.
Released 12 March

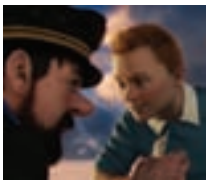
Moneyball 12a
Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill and Philip Seymour Hoffman star in a sporting drama that's based on a true story.
Released 19 March



The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn 12a
Two-part romantic fantasy that's based on Stephenie Meyer's novel of the same name. Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart star.
Released 12 March

Machine Gun Preacher
Gerard Butler stars in an action biopic of the one-time drug-dealing LA biker Sam Childers.
Released 19 March

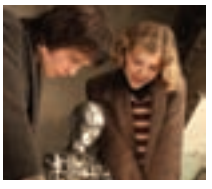
The Adventures Of Tin Tin: The Secret Of The Unicorn PG
Daniel Craig and Simon Pegg lend their voices to this much-hyped film that's based on stories from three of Herge's original comic books.
Released 19 March



The Thing
Sci-fi horror prequel that's set three days before the action of John Carpenter's 1982 cult classic of the same name.
Released 26 March

50/50 15
A comedy drama that's inspired by a true story and focuses on a twenty-seven-year-old diagnosed with cancer and his battle to beat the disease.
Released 26 March

Hugo U
Martin Scorsese's acclaimed family drama that features an all-star cast, including Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Ray Winstone, Jude Law, Christopher Lee & Johnny Depp.
Released 26 March



museums in dudley exhibitions & events 2012

Broadfield House Glass Museum

Compton Drive, Kingswinford, DY6 9NS **Tel: 01384 812745**

BLOOD AND BONES

3 March - 5 August

Solo exhibition by Patricia Niemann featuring work in precious metals, glass, textiles and drawings, inspired by the human body, archaeology and wild landscapes.



TAKE A LOOK AROUND OUR GIFT SHOP

Looking for beautiful and unusual gifts? The museum's gift shop is now stocking new ranges of handmade glass gifts and jewellery as well as cards and books.

Red House Glass Cone

High Street, Wordsley, DY8 4AZ **Tel: 01384 812750**

BRIERLEY HILL SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

Until 1 April

An exhibition by local artists working in a range of media including watercolours, oils, pastels and acrylics.

Craft studios open Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

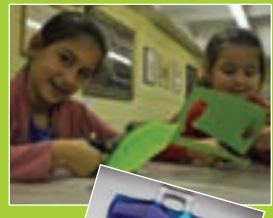
Gift shop and tearoom open daily

Glass making demonstrations weekends

Easter Workshops with Juniors at museums

All sessions must be booked in advance on 01384 815571

BROADFIELD HOUSE



Story & Craft £1.90 per child
4 April, 1.30-2.30pm, 2.45-3.45pm

Kiln Fused Glass Pendant £3.75 per pendant
11 April, 12-3pm

Kiln Fused Tile or Wall Hanging £5.25 per tile
11 April, 12-3pm



RED HOUSE GLASS CONE

All At Sea £3.75 per child
4 & 5 April: 10.30am – 12.30pm or 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Funky Farm Critters £3.75 per child
10 & 11 April: 10.30am – 12.30pm or 1.30pm – 3.30pm

We also offer a great programme of activities for adults at Broadfield House Glass Museum and Red House Glass Cone, including craft classes, tea and talk sessions and kiln fused glass workshops. For more information please call 01384 815571 or visit the website.

ADMISSION FREE

For more information about the museums visit **www.dudley.gov.uk/museums**

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

The New Art Gallery Walsall

Exhibitions

There is a Place.....
Until 14 April 2012

Zarina Bhimji
Yellow Patch
Until 14 April 2012

Blue skies, nothing but blue skies.....
Until 12 May 2012

Martin Parr
Black Country Stories
Until 7 April 2012

Garman Ryan Collection and Exhibitions

Garman Ryan Collection
on display all year round

Epstein's Rima:
'A Travesty of Nature'
Until 2 June 2012

Make Room2
Interventions into the Garman Ryan Collection
Until 22 September 2012

Free Regular Events

Art Start
Wednesday 7 March, 11am-12noon
Sessions for pre-school children 1 year old upwards with their carer.

Baby Palace
Friday 30 March 2012
10.30-11.30am, 12-1pm, 2-3pm

Events

Young People's Days:
What is a Gallery?
Saturday 3 March, 11am-4pm

Audio Described Tour
Saturday 3 March, 2pm
Join us for a free audio described talk on the artworks featured in the There is a Place ... exhibition

In Conversation
Saturday 17 March, 2pm
Join Helen Jones and artist Graham Chorlton for an informal tour of the There is a Place...exhibition.

There is Another Place ...
Saturday 17 March, 2pm-5pm

Peregrine Watch
Friday 30 March, 10am-3pm

Free Adult workshops

Creative Writing
Saturday 10 March, 1-4pm
This is an opportunity to work with a creative writer and artist.

For a full list of exhibitions and events
thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk

The New Art Gallery Walsall, Gallery Square, Walsall WS2 8LG | 01922 654400

FREE ADMISSION Walsall Council ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Visual Arts

Epstein's Rima: 'A Travesty Of Nature'

New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sat 2 June

This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to explore some of Jacob Epstein's creative preparatory drawings, produced ahead of the creation of his memorial sculpture of writer WH Hudson in 1925. The sculpture, which is housed in London's Hyde Park, is recognised as Epstein's most controversial work, and became the subject of heated debate at the time.
The designs and drawings featured in Epstein's Rima have, until recently, remained virtually unknown to the wider public, but offer a fascinating insight into the imagination of one of the twentieth century's most pioneering artists.



Reggie's Roller Palace

**Shirehall Gallery, Stafford,
Sat 31 March - Sun 13 May**

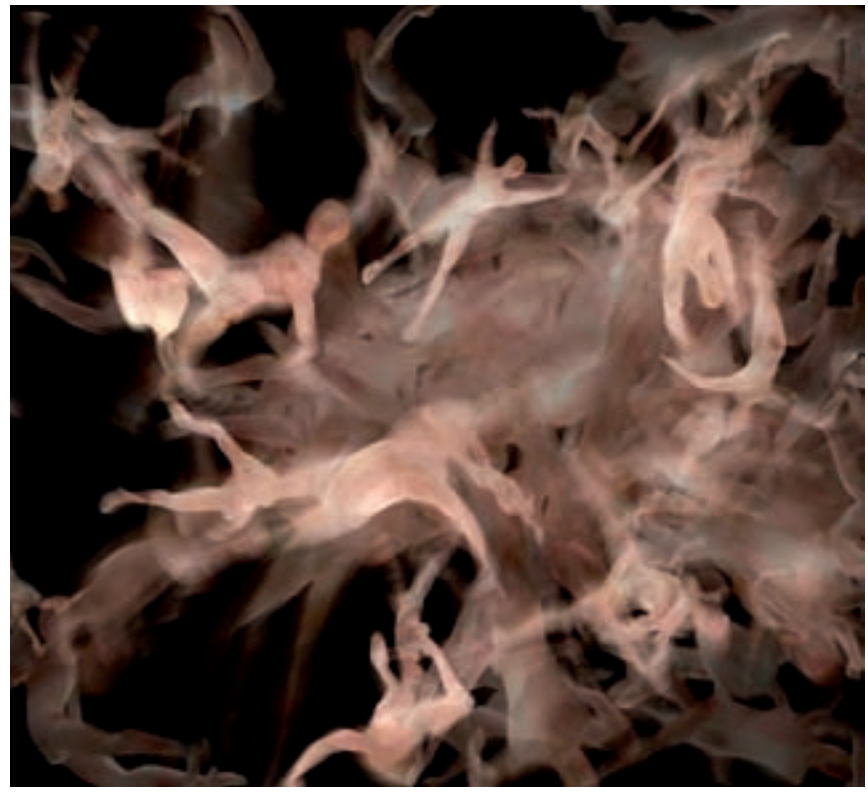
Described as her biggest installation to date, Olivia Brown's Reggie's Roller Palace features over one hundred-and-twenty handmade sculptures, specially commissioned neon lighting and a music collaboration with Andrew Lawes. The Manchester University graduate has become renowned in the art world for her ceramic sculptures of dogs and animals - including Elvis The Whippet, who'll assume the role of celebrity judge at the Grand Finale of the annual Canine Roller Dance, hosted by Reggie.

Children's Lives

**The Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,
Sat 24 March - Sun 10 April**

Materials and artefacts held by Birmingham Archives & Heritage, BMAG and the Media Archive of Central England form the centrepiece of this major new project that focuses on children's experiences from the eighteenth century to the present day. All aspects of childhood are explored, from children's relationships with their families, peers and teachers through to experiences with various welfare institutions.
Children's Lives also includes input from students at two Birmingham secondary schools, responding to children's experiences in the past.





CORE - A Digital Art Installation

Enginuity, Ironbridge, Fri 23 March - Sun 30 September

Designed by prestigious international artist Kurt Hentschlager and premiering at the museum's Engine Shop, this digital installation uses a series of windows to provide an insight into a weightless world of 'virtual aquariums', each containing computer-generated humanoid figures that motion in a choreographed style. The exhibition forms part of the nationwide Cultural Olympiad project, and features a number of ever-changing, interlinked projections and multi-channel sounds. It joins the museum's other Olympiad-related exhibition, My Sporting Life, The Science Of Sport. Read the interview with Kurt Hentschlager online at www.whatsonlive.co.uk

The Royal Photographic Society 154th Exhibition

**Wolverhampton Art Gallery &
Wolverhampton University,
Sat 17 March - Sat 19 May**

A highlight in the Royal Photographic Society's calendar, the International Print Exhibition (IPE) provides a platform for some of the world's most talented and emerging photographers to showcase their works. Established in 1853, the IPE offers visitors the chance to enjoy innovative, cutting-edge works positioned alongside more traditional prints.
A selection from the 2011 exhibition features in displays at both the Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Wolverhampton University, including the Gold Award-winning entry Nell, by Justyna Neryng (pictured).



VisualArts PREVIEWS

Ongoing exhibitions

Postcards From Japan: A Message From Tohoku Artists

Ikon Gallery, until Sun 22 April

Marking the anniversary of the devastating earthquake that hit north east Japan last year, this collection of A5 artwork postcards provides an insight into the resilience of the Japanese spirit in the aftermath of the natural disaster. After the earthquake struck, usual means of electronic communication became obsolete, forcing survivors to adopt more traditional methods - including the sending of postcards - to inform loved ones of their safety. Works from twenty-two Japanese artists feature in Postcards From Japan, just one of many international exhibitions curated by Kate Thomson and Hironori Katagiri in support of the ongoing recovery of the country's Tohoku region.



Into The Light: French And British Painting

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Sat 31 March - Sun 10 June

Paintings by Boudin, Cezanne, Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Sisley and Walter Sickert are featured in this new exhibition at Warwickshire's Compton Verney Gallery. Into The Light explores how paintings were produced on both sides of the English Channel during the early part of the twentieth century - an innovative period in the history of modern European art that saw artists adopt new methods to represent and interpret light.



Andy Day: Parkour Photography

The Public, West Bromwich, until Sun 20 May

For the past ten years, British photographer Andy Day has documented the steady rise of parkour - a non-competitive sport of moving through urban landscapes - via its communities in London, France, Nicaragua and India. This, Day's first solo work, is just one in a series of six exhibitions being shown at The Public under the umbrella title of The Art Of Architecture.

VisualArts LISTINGS

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

CHANGING TIMES Machines and gadgets that have been used through the ages to write, send messages, play music and make recordings are the subject of this intriguing and educational permanent exhibition, Thinktank, Birmingham

PER FORMS Exhibition from artist, architect and street-jazz dancer Saranjit Birdi that features videos, photography and action paintings to explore issues of freedom, territoriality and stereotypes, until Fri 2 March, The Drum, Birmingham

A LIFE IN PRINTS: THE TESSA SIDLEY BEQUEST Featuring works from Josef Albers, Patrick Caulfield, Richard Long and Gilbert Spencer, until Sun 4 March, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED Exhibition that illustrates the political, social and cultural heritage of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community, and the experiences of local people contributing to and living through times of great change, until Sun 4 March, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LANDSCAPE BY GERRY MAHONY Exhibition by Irish-born artist Gerry Mahoney that features paintings of places that he's travelled to and worked in over the last few years, until Sat 10 Mar, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

CRAFT SHOP NEW YEAR SHOWCASE Featuring an array of beautiful handmade craft, including works by Nick Ozanne, Alys Power and Rowan Bailey, until Sat 10 Mar, Bilston Craft Gallery

THE INDISCIPLINE OF PAINTING This exhibition features works from forty-nine artists from the 1960s to now and explores why abstraction remains a source of inspiration for artists, until Sat 10 Mar, The Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

GEORGE SHAW: I WOZ ERE Turner Prize nominee George Shaw returns to the Midlands to showcase his first major exhibition in his hometown of Coventry, until Sun 11 March, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

THE NORTHERN IRELAND COLLECTION Powerful display of work that addresses the political situation and history of conflict in Northern Ireland, taken from the only collection of its kind in the UK, until Sat 17 March, W'hampton Art Gallery

WHEELS & WAVES A specially designed seaside set - complete with surf shack and sand dunes - provides the backdrop for this new exhibition that celebrates the ever-popular sport of surfing, until Sun 18 March, Coventry Transport Museum

WORCESTERSHIRE CINEMA THROUGH THE AGES Worcester's cinematic history is here explored through a collection of historic artefacts and contemporary images from local photographers, until Sat 24 March, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

ARCHITECTURE Contemporary artists influenced by buildings and various elements of architecture feature in this exhibition. Works include paintings by Mark Lippett, Rob Pointon and David Jones, until Sun 25 Mar, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

TEN DRAWINGS BY LEONARDO DA VINCI: A DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION Exhibition that showcases the extraordinary scope of the artist's interests, until Sun 25 March, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

DAN WRIGHT EXHIBITION This exhibition by Staffordshire maker Dan Wright features an array of handmade earthenware alongside original line drawings, on show for the very first time, until Sun 25 March, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

VERSATILITY Selling exhibition by The Ironbridge Society of Artists that showcases their talents in a variety of media, until Sat 31 March, The Place, Oakengates, Telford

THE WORKS OF RITA GABROWSKA Exhibition that explores the artist's fascination for geometric and organic abstract forms, and their relationship to each other, until Sat 31 Mar, Kenilworth Wines

TOM HUNTER EXHIBITION Acclaimed artist Tom Hunter presents a new series of photographs inspired by Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and the paintings of the Romantic artist Henry Fuseli, until Sun 1 Apr, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

VICTORIAN ENTERTAINMENTS An exhibition of entertainments posters reproduced from the collections at Shropshire Archives, until Sat 7 Apr, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

WE ENGLISH Portfolio of large-format, tableaux photographs of the English at leisure, until Fri 13 Apr, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

THERE IS A PLACE Our psychic connectivity to landscape is explored in this exhibition of drawings, paintings and prints, until Sat 14 April, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

THE SUPER VIVERE BY SUSIE REA A series of photographic portraits that explore the lives of brothers and sisters in the UK and Europe who are over the age of ninety, until Sat 14 April, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

MARTIN PARR: BLACK COUNTRY STORIES Produced by Multistory, a community arts organisation based in West Bromwich, Black Country Stories presents the results so far of renowned Magnun 'snapper' Martin Parr's photographic journey across the region, until Sat 14 Apr, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

ZARINA BHIMJI: YELLOW PATCH World premiere of Zarina Bhimji's latest film that - while shot on location in Mumbai, Kutch and Gujarat - provides an evocative exploration of space, until Sat 14 April, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

ARTISTS AND PRINTMAKERS Exhibition featuring works from a group of artists known as the Senefelder Group, active from 1910 to 1930, until Sun 15 April, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

ME, YOU AND EVERYTHING ELSE A photographic project that looks at life in Castle Vale as it is lived today, until Sun 15 April, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MADE IN THE MIDDLE: CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FROM ACROSS THE MIDLANDS Touring exhibition featuring works from thirty-five of the best contemporary craft makers from the East and West Midlands, until Sun 15 April, mac, Birmingham

HENRY MOORE IN THE ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION This Arts Council touring exhibition focuses on the works of one of Britain's most celebrated modern artists, until Sun 15 Apr, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

THE JOY OF MAKING A display that celebrates

Museums & Art Galleries

Birmingham

ARTIFEX Sutton Coldfield 0121 323 3776

BARBER INSTITUTE 0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 0121 303 2834

THE BURROWS GALLERY, THE CUSTARD FACTORY 0121 224 7344

CASTLE GALLERIES 0121 633 0015

IKON GALLERY 0121 248 0708

NUMBER NINE THE GALLERY 0121 643 9099

RBSA GALLERY 0121236 4353

THREE WHITE WALLS GALLERY 0121 643 0078

Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 552195

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY 01902 552507

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, DUDLEY 01384 812745

DUDLEY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 01384 815575

LIGHT HOUSE MEDIA CENTRE WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 716055

THE NEW ART GALLERY WALSALL 01922 654400

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE 01384 812750

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY 01902 552055

Staffordshire

THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 01782 232323

SHIREHALL GALLERY STAFFORD 01785 278345

STAFFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, SHUGBOROUGH 01889 881388

Warwickshire

COMPTON VERNEY GALLERY 01926 645500

HERBERT ART GALLERY COVENTRY 02476 832386

MEAD GALLERY WARWICK 02476 524524

ROYAL PUMP ROOMS 01926 742700

Worcestershire

WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY 01905 25371

Visit whatsonlive.co.uk for venue website details

and explores traditional hand making processes in the art of craft, until Tues 15 Apr, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

LOCALITY A collection of works from three of Birmingham's foremost realist painters, until Sat 21 April, Solihull Arts Complex

SARAH BROWN EXHIBITION First solo exhibition from Dublin-born artist Sarah Brown, whose artistic practice explores forms of non-market exchange within communities, until Sun 22 Apr, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

UNSEEN: TREASURES FROM THE RESERVE COLLECTION An exhibition featuring some of the Barber's 'forgotten' paintings, until Sun 22 April, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

HAMISH FULTON EXHIBITION This major collaboration between Ikon and Turner Contemporary, Margate, features wall drawings with text to expose a range of non-art issues that preoccupy the artist, until Sun 22 Apr, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

OLYMPIC POP Celebrating the run-up to the 2012 Olympics, this exhibition features a selection of posters designed by a variety of Pop artists, including David Hockney, Allen Jones and Tom Weyermann, until Sat 28 April, W'hampton Art Gallery

KITCHEN GARDEN Themed exhibition featuring an array of crafts, from sleek and functional to rustic and decorative, until Sat 28 April, Bilston Craft Gallery

GEORGE CHAKRAVARTHI: THIRTEEN Newly commissioned photographic installation that features thirteen of Shakespeare's tragic characters, all of whom meet their ends through suicide, until Sun 29 April, 2012, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

IF WARDS COULD TALK A people's history display that features the stories of former patients, current and retired nurses, doctors and support workers, until Mon 7 May, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

PICTURING THE POTTERIES An evocative exhibition that explores how artists and photographers have created striking images of the local area, until Mon 7 May, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

BLUE SKIES, NOTHING BUT BLUE SKIES... A wide range of media and styles are here used to depict the power of the sky. All exhibits form part of Walsall's collections, until Sat 12 May, The New Arts Gallery, Walsall

WILL ALSOP - A BOX OF DELIGHTS The Stirling Prize-winning architect creates an environment designed to make us think about architecture and how it makes us feel, until Sun 20 May, The Public, West Bromwich

JOHN WOOD AND PAUL HARRISON A series of twenty-six short films that explore rhythm and synergy within different surroundings, until Sun 20 May, The Public, West Bromwich

CONTEMPORARY COLLECTION An insight into the artworks that feature in Wolverhampton's contemporary collections, until Sat 9 June, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

PUGIN, DURER AND THE GOTHIC Display that showcases eight prints and a single drawing by the well-known Renaissance artist Albrecht Durer, together with two stained-glass designs by 16th century German artists, Hans Holbein and Abel Stimmer, until Thurs 21 June, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

THE AGE OF LEONARDO A special collection display that features ten works from some of the greatest 16th century Italian print-makers, until Thurs 21 June, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

WONDERFUL WATERCOLOURS: VIEWS OF COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE Showcase of some of the gallery's watercolour collection - including works by Paul Sandby, David Cox & Thomas Girtin, until Sun 22 July, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

CRAFTSENSE Exhibition that celebrates the links between eighteenth century industry and modern craft practices, until Sat 1 Sep, Bilston Craft Gallery

OUR SPORTING LIFE: THE SCIENCE OF SPORT EXHIBITION Exhibition that focuses on the relationship between science & sport, in particular how technological advancements have shaped achievements and performance in the elite sporting world, until Sun 9 Sept, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

ALLOTMENT An innovative programme that sees mac's Arena Gallery divided into plots and tended by independent curators and artists, until Sun 9 Sep, mac, Birmingham

BETH FLETCHER EXHIBITION Selling exhibition featuring dramatic sea and landscape paintings, Thurs 1 - Fri 30 Mar, The Granary Art Gallery, Weston Park, Staffs

NICHOLAS ST JOHN ROSSE - EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL PAINTINGS Thurs 1 - Sat 31 Mar, Artifex Gallery, Sutton Coldfield

16 COWRIES - ERINDINLOGUN Showcase of work from the award-winning Nigerian artist Taiwo Abiodun Adediran that features sixteen vibrantly painted batik textiles, Mon 5 Mar - Sat 5 May, The Drum, Birmingham

THE DIG! Exhibition showcasing the archaeological finds uncovered so far, Fri 16 March - Mon 31 Dec, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

MUSCLES, BALLS & BOWLS Exhibition that explores the history of sport in Shakespeare's time, Mon 19 Mar - Sun 4 Nov, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

CATHERINE DE BARNES ART SOCIETY EXHIBITION Exhibition of paintings and pottery in a variety of media by amateur and semi-professional artists, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Mar, Solihull Arts Complex

ANTHEA SIDWELL EXHIBITION A display of nudes, landscapes, animals and still life in a wide variety of media. Fri 30 Mar - Fri 11 May, Ludlow Assembly Room, Ludow, South Shropshire

GAINSBOROUGH'S LANDSCAPES: THEMES & VARIATIONS This, the first exhibition solely devoted to the landscapes of Thomas Gainsborough, brings together paintings and drawings from both public and private collections that span the artist's career, Sat 31 Mar - Sun 10 June, Compton Verney Gallery, Warwickshire

STYLE AFRICA Exhibition that explores the changing traditions of woven, embroidered, printed and dyed clothing and textiles, from the early 20th century through to 2011, Sat 31 Mar - Sun 2 Sept, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Is your family the face of Birmingham?

Ikon Gallery and Birmingham-born artist Gillian Wearing are on a quest to find a 'real' Birmingham family. Nominate your family and you could be chosen to model for a life-size bronze statue located permanently near the new Library of Birmingham from 2013. It's free, anyone can enter and a family can be whatever you think it is.

Nominate your family online at www.arealbirminghamfamily.com
Closes 31 March 2012

Visit Central Library 19–31 March, have your photograph taken and nominate your family.

Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.co.uk
Open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–6pm, free entry

IKON

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon
Registered charity no. 528892
Ikon is supported by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council



THE UK'S COMIC CON SHOWS

MCM

Birmingham Comic Con - NEC
31st March - 1st April 2012
London Comic Con - ExCeL
25th - 27th May 2012
Manchester Comic Con - Manchester Central
21st July 2012
London Comic Con - ExCeL
26th - 28th October 2012

Games - Movies - Comics
Sci Fi - Fantasy - Anime
Cosplay - Manga - Steampunk



FROM THE PRODUCER OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND

SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN

JUNE 1

MCM LONDON GAMES STAGE
HOSTED BY
GAMESPOT UK

follow us @ mcmexpo

KIDS GO FREE!

BUY TICKETS ONLINE

WWW.MCMEXPO.NET

KIDS 10 and under GO FREE* Children (10 years & under) gain 'FREE GENERAL ENTRY' if accompanied by a full paying adult (restricted to 2 children per full paying adult). Images used herein for publicity purposes only

Events



The National Wedding Show NEC, Birmingham, Fri 16 - Sun 18 March

Promising a one-stop shop for all your wedding needs, The National Wedding Show provides a platform for the industry's best to showcase the latest trends alongside the more traditional. New for 2012 - and in keeping with the current hunger for anything vintage - is a dedicated area featuring a handpicked selection of vintage and vintage-inspired designers and brands, as well as an English tearoom-style cafe for refreshments. This sure-to-be-popular section will be in addition to the usual show attractions - including the catwalk fashion show, the How To Look Good Show - hosted by regulars Caryn Frank and Jane Galpin - Bridal Coaching sessions from Britain's Next Top Model judge Michelle Paradise, and live seminars from cult bridal bloggers Rock My Wedding.

And when you're done with all the perusing, why not take a trip to the Chambord and Champagne Bar for some well-deserved relaxation...

Day Out With Thomas

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster, Sat 31 March - Sun 1 April

Children's favourite Thomas The Tank Engine is chugging into Kidderminster this month, much to the delight of the region's youngsters. A series of themed activities is planned for the day-long event, including a photo opportunity with the Fat Controller Sir Topham Hatt. Visitors can also take a trip on a fifteen-ton replica of Thomas to the Severn Valley Imagination Station, where some of Thomas' friends will reside. Once there, children will be able to enjoy the adventure play area, watch a magic show and visit the Day Out With Thomas Cinema.


Generic Severn Valley Railway pic



The Harlem Globetrotters LG Arena, Birmingham, Tues 27 March

The Harlem Globetrotters have been playing exhibition basketball games, combining athleticism and comedy, for the best part of a century, and have earned themselves some high-profile fans along the way, including US President Barack Obama.

This month sees the boys returning to the Midlands as part of a nine-date UK tour, presenting a brand new family show that blends tricks, aerial displays and incredible basketball skills from both veteran and new team members (including Britain's Paul 'Tiny' Sturgess, who, at 7'8" is the tallest Globetrotter ever!).

So if you fancy some slam-dunkin' magic courtesy of the world's most famous basketball team, this is the gig for you!

THE UK'S BIGGEST CRAFT SPECTACULAR

3 SHOWS FOR THE PRICE OF 1

Sewing for pleasure

HOBBY CRAFTS

Fashion Embroidery & Stitch

Inspirational displays, supplies, demonstrations, talks & workshops for all creative crafters

Thurs 22 - Sun 25 March

the nec Birmingham, B40 1NT

Open 9.30am - 5.30pm (Sun 5pm)



SPECIAL FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Downton Abbey Costumes
- Prima Craft Theatre
- Catwalk Fashion Shows
- Crafting with Stephanie Weightman
- Knitting Lounge
- Sewing Machine Clinic
- Stitch Diva's Den
- International Pergamano Exhibition
- Dressmakers' Pattern Bar
- Madeira Embroidery Competition
- Over 300 Exhibitors
- FREE Workshops, Talks & Demonstrations

Buy tickets on-line **www.ichf.co.uk**

or phone Ticket Hotline **01425 277988**

Tickets: Adults £11.50. Seniors £10.50. Children under 16 FREE if acc by parent. ***Tickets available to buy at the door.***

SAVE £2 OFF EACH ADULT & SENIOR TICKET ORDEREDBY 5PM ON MON 19 MARCH

Tractor World

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, Sat 3 - Sun 4 March

A series of special displays are promised during this two-day event that marks one hundred years of the International tractor and fifty years of the iconic Massey-Ferguson 35X.

The event also sees the arrival of a new attraction - the Old Sodbury Sortout. Described as a giant treasure hunt, it offers enthusiasts the chance to turn unwanted clutter into cash, whilst buyers get to rummage among various tractor bits and other agricultural bygones.

Tractor World also offers numerous practical demonstrations, a Build-a-Fergie challenge, and an auction and road run.



British Alpaca Futurity 2012

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 16 - Sat 17 March

All things alpaca are celebrated at this unique two-day event, which brings together some of the country's top breeders, alpaca crafters and manufacturers.

More than three hundred animals will be in attendance, while the international fleece show, presentations, trade stands, workshops and seminars are sure to be of interest to enthusiasts. A Fibre Arts Village is a new feature for 2012, enabling spinners, weavers, knitters and crochet artists to display and sell their products.



Handmade And Vintage Wedding Fair

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 31 March

This new one-day event caters for all those wishing to host a bespoke vintage wedding. Including Andy Warhol Pop Art and exhibits from the museum's collections, the show features makers and services from across the UK who'll be promoting various vintage products, including jewellery, millinery, stationary and decorations.

A fashion show provides a focus throughout the day, as does a vintage hair salon in which brides-to-be can get tips on how to achieve the right look. And when you're ready to rest those weary feet, why not take a trip to the museum's cafe, where afternoon tea will be served against a backdrop of authentic music played by a Gramophone DJ, all in true vintage style...



The National Homebuilding And Renovating Show

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 29 March - Sun 1 April

Described as the UK's number one self-build and renovation event, the National Homebuilding and Renovating Show provides an ideal setting in which to garner creative ideas for building a new home or renovating a current dwelling. This year, the show celebrates its twenty-first birthday, and promises to be bigger and better than ever before. In addition to the four hundred-and-fifty specialist companies who'll be on hand to offer advice, the show also boasts new attractions - feature areas with practical demonstrations; an Eco Home Theatre, which focuses on the best sustainable energy suited to your needs; and a Construction Systems Showcase, to demonstrate the very latest structural features on offer.



Surfing Safari Weekend

Coventry Transport Museum, Sat 24 - Sun 25 March

Working in conjunction with the Wheels & Waves exhibition - a display of vehicles and memorabilia relating to British surfers from the 1950s onwards - the Coventry Transport Museum has devised an array of events to keep visitors entertained throughout the holiday period. After exploring the exhibition, and taking part in the museum's Surfing Safari activity trail, visitors will be able to create their very own surfboard collage to take home. This weekend also sees the museum host its annual Spring Craft Fair, showcasing some of the region's finest talents.



Oswestry Literary Festival

Various locations in and around Oswestry, North Shropshire, Sat 10 - Tues 20 March

Welsh Poet Laureate Gillian Clarke headlines an impressive line-up of writers, performance artists and poets at this, the third Oswestry Festival of the Word - an event which promises to offer something of interest for everyone, courtesy of a diverse programme of readings and performances. Other writers booked to appear include Suzannah Dunn - author of the celebrated The Confessions Of Katherine Howard - American novelist Vanessa Diffenbaugh, crime fiction writer Peter James and Reginald Perrin creator David Nobbs. For further information on what's taking place at the ten-day festival, visit www.oswestrylitfest.co.uk



Gillian Clarke

American Civil War Sharpshooters Training

Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Sat 31 March - Sun 1 April

The Company E 1st Regiment US Sharpshooters descend on Avoncroft for a weekend of basic training, allowing visitors to the living history site to witness the group's fire-arms skills. Living as soldiers would have done during the American Civil War, the troops will spend a night under canvas along a street of twelve tents.





COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM

FREE ENTRY

A fantastic family day out

Home of the fastest car on Earth!



Whats On

Until Sunday 18 March
Wheels & Waves
Don't miss your last chance to see this smashing exhibition of vehicles used by British surfers.

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 March
Mother's Day Card Making
A great excuse for dads to bring the kids to the Museum for the day - as if you needed one!

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 March
Spring Craft Fair
Gorgeous gifts and a fabulous day out - admission FREE.

Friday 6 April to Sunday 10 June
Royalty On The Road
We're celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with an exhibition of cars used by Royalty.

www.transport-museum.com
Tel: 024 7623 4270

Coventry TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Sewing For Pleasure

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 22 - Sun 25 March

Recognised as Britain's biggest and best event of its kind, this four-day attraction brings three distinct shows - Sewing For Pleasure, Hobbycrafts, and Fashion, Embroidery & Stitch - together under one roof, with more than one hundred-and-fifty exhibitors on hand to showcase the latest trends and offer expert advice.

This year's show sees the introduction of a Sewing Hub, which, based on the growing trend to 'make do and mend', sees professionals facilitate demonstrations on how to tackle textile restoration. Other attractions include the Sewing Machine Clinic, Stitch Diva's Den, the Dressmaker's Pattern Bar and the Knitting Lounge, while an exhibition of pop culture-inspired amateur embroidery from around the world is hosted by Kirstie's Handmade Britain star Jamie Chalmers, aka Mr X Stitch.



St Patrick's Day Celebrations

The Public, West Bromwich, Sat 17 March

As part of nationwide celebrations to mark St Patrick's Day, Sandwell's Irish community has organised a day-long programme of family events.

A variety of Irish craft and music workshops, face-painting, Irish badge-making and food-tasting are available throughout the day, while performers from local schools, community groups and clubs showcase their dancing and singing skills. Celebrations culminate in an evening performance at The Public from contemporary Irish pop and rock band The Father Teds. The latter is a ticketed event, and further information can be obtained by visiting www.thepublic.com



Memorabilia

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 31 March - Sun 1 April

This, the longest-running memorabilia collectors' show in the UK, boasts hundreds of costume characters, plenty of celebrity and sports guests, and all manner of collectibles, featuring everything from Doctor Who to Star Wars. Show features include a comic village, corporate stand, robot wars, and a guest area where fans can meet and purchase autographs from some of TV's most iconic stars, including Julian Glover, Kevin Sorbo, Val Lehman, Robin Askwith, Louis Jameson and Pamela Salem.



Tile Decorating Workshops

Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Tues 6, 13, 20 & 27 March

These creative sessions are ideal for adults and children alike, and are a great way to while away a couple of hours during the school holidays - with the added bonus being that you end up with a beautiful 6x6inch tile to take home!

Visitors to these informal sessions can either create their own design, or select one from the on-site stock of pictures. The process of tube lining is used to incorporate the selected image onto a tile. It's easy to do and it's fun - oh, and there's plenty of help at hand, should you feel that you need it!





Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Tues 6 - Sun 11 March

The Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships is recognised as being the most prestigious event in the worldwide badminton calendar, and showcases some of the sport's finest international talent. The six-day championship allows fans to witness performances from Olympic hopefuls - and current World and Olympic Champion Lin Dan - ahead of London 2012 in the summer. Olympic silver medalist Nathan Robertson says of the event, "I look forward to the All England every year, as it holds fond memories for me. We don't often get a chance to play in front of the English public, so I always try to make the most of it."

Spring In The Gardens

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham, throughout March

March is always a beautiful time to visit Birmingham's prestigious Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses, as the first green shoots appear amongst the shrubs.

The hidden oasis, with its fifteen acres of landscaped gardens and four glasshouses, provides an ideal location for families to take a relaxing break, while horticulture enthusiasts can indulge their passion throughout the year, courtesy of numerous specialist events. The children's playground is always a pull for families, as is the Growing Schools Garden. As Sunday 17 March is Mothering Sunday, kids are being invited to take their mums along, with the mothers being admitted free alongside paying children. What a treat!



Crufts

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 8 - Sun 11 March

A real highlight for dog lovers everywhere, Crufts offers an opportunity to partake in the world's greatest canine event. With more than twenty-two thousand dogs competing for the Best In Show title, a packed programme of arena events, and over four hundred trade stands around which to browse, this is an event that the whole family can enjoy. In fact, it's fair to say that dog lovers would have to be barking mad not to attend!

Ironbridge Gorge Museums

Meet the Victorians at Blists Hill Victorian Town and join in the fantastic Easter activities. Come back again and again with the **Annual Passport Ticket.**

Tel 01952 433424 www.ironbridge.org.uk



Great value days out

Ironbridge
BIRTHPLACE OF INDUSTRY

Easter Holidays

iceSk8

Daytime Sessions

Monday 2 April – Friday 13 April 2012
Morning 10.30am – 12.45pm
Afternoon 1.30pm – 3.45pm
Weekdays only

Telford Ice Rink, St. Quentin Gate
Town Centre, Telford TF3 4JQ
Tel: 0845 155 0666
Email: telfordicerink@telford.gov.uk
Web: www.telford.gov.uk/icerink

Due to popular demand, queues may form. For Health & Safety reasons, it is necessary to limit the numbers admitted. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee your entry into these sessions.

Scan with your smartphone

Find us on facebook at Telford Ice Rink



TELFORD ICE RINK

Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL



Events LISTINGS

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

From THUR 1 MAR

TITANIC TRAIL Follow the Titanic trail around the museum and discover the city's links with the doomed ocean liner, until Mon 31 Dec, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
TEA AND TALK: IVORY PUZZLE BALL Chance to explore some of the gallery's diverse collections in the museum's cafe area, Thurs 1 Mar, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
WINTER GARDEN WALK Fri 2 Mar, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
CLUB EXPO Advice and tips for motoring enthusiasts, Sat 3 Mar, Heritage Motor Centre, Warwickshire
STAFFORDSHIRE ON FILM Ray Johnson MBE presents footage from the Staffordshire Film Archive, Sat 3 Mar, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford
A TOUCH OF GLASS A whistle-stop introduction to stained glass with Jenny Newall, Sat 3 Mar, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford
GALLERY TOUR Sat 3 Mar, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
DRUM & BASS AWARDS 2012 Arenas include an outdoor Marquee area plus outdoor food & merchandise stalls. For full line-up visit www.drumandbassawards.co.uk4, Sat 3 Mar, The Ballroom, Birmingham
NO HOLDS BARD! TOUR WITH WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Sat 3 Mar, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon
BIRMINGHAM VINTAGE, PRE-LOVED & CRAFTS EXTRAVAGANZA Opportunity to purchase vintage clothing and handmade crafts, listen to The Rockettes live on stage and indulge in some refreshments in a retro vintage coffee bar, Sat 3 Mar, Aston University Guild Of Students, Birmingham
BBC FLOG IT! Valuation day from the team behind the popular BBC2 antiques series, Sat 3 Mar, Coventry Transport Museum
2012 POKEMON VIDEO GAMES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS Sat 3 Mar, NEC, Birmingham
SHUGBOROUGH GAME FAIR Family event featuring an abundance of country sports and exhibits, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Mar, Shugborough Hall, Staffordshire
FAMILY WILDLIFE FUN Wildlife games and activities for all the family, Sun 4 Mar, The Stiperstones National Trust Reserve, South Shropshire

Week Commencing MON 5 MAR

LUNCHTIME TALK WITH BANKS'S BREWERY Learn about one hundred-and-forty years of brewing at the region's Banks's Brewery, Tue 6 Mar, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton
LUDLOW LECTURES Series of six lectures on the history and landscape of Ludlow and the Marches, Tue 6 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
TILE DECORATING WORKSHOP Fun, hands-on activities for children and adults alike, Tue 6 Mar, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
YONEX ALL ENGLAND OPEN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS Tue 6 - Sun 11 Mar, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG Chance to learn or practise drifting in a safe & legal environment, Wed 7 Mar, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
CONSERVATION TOUR OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD Led by the museum's experts, Wed 7 Mar, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
WINTER GUIDED TOUR Wed 7 Mar, Aston Hall, Birmingham
CRUFTS 2012 A celebration of dogs from all over the world, Thurs 8 - Sun 11 Mar, NEC, Birmingham
TODDLER THURSDAY Opportunity for youngsters to make their very own 'crafty' creation and enjoy story time, Thurs 8 Mar, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
EASTERN EUROPEAN MUSIC WORKSHOP An introduction to this style of music with the Jani Lang Band, Fri 9 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire
WINTER GARDEN WALKS Fri 9 Mar, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
BACH DISCOVERY DAY A day-long series of talks by guest speakers, as well as discussions and live music that provides a deeper insight into the mind of the great composer, Sat 10 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall
ADULT LEATHER CARVING WORKSHOP A rare opportunity to learn the intricate skills involved with leather carving, Sat 10 Mar, Walsall Leather Museum
MURDER MYSTERY DINNER EXPERIENCE An evening of tongue-in-cheek suspense & drama, accompanied by a three-course dinner & glass of wine, Sat 10 Mar, Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire
SANDWELL YOUNG PEOPLES LIFESTYLE & CREATIVITY SHOW Featuring fashion, hair and beauty, performing arts, singing, health and wellbeing workshops, together with a job fair zone and talent show, Sat 10 Mar, The Public, West Bromwich
DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS Find out about the history of inventions from Pre-Roman times through to the Victorian era, Sat 10 Mar, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
EXPLORING LEONARDO: STUDY DAY Sat 10 Mar, Birmingham Museum
HERITAGE WEEKEND Sat 10 - Sun 11 Mar, Cadbury World, Birmingham
OSWESTRY FESTIVAL OF THE WORD Featuring well-known authors, poets and performers. Sat 10 - Fri 30 Mar, various locations in and around Oswestry, North Shropshire
WENLOCK OLYMPIAN LIVE ARTS DANCE FESTIVAL Sun 11 Mar, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire
MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT MAKING Sun 11 Mar, Croome Park, Warwickshire
ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR Sat 11 Mar, Three Counties Showground, Malvern
TUDOR ALCHEMIST As part of National Science Week, discover the latest scientific advances and theories from the 17th century, Sun 11 Mar, Ford Green Hall, Stoke-on-Trent
RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY Chance to take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sun 11 Mar, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton







HANDMADE & VINTAGE

Wedding Fair

Wolverhampton Art Gallery
31 March 11am – 4pm
www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk
Free entry

~ Handmade and vintage products & services ~
~ Fashion show ~
~ Vintage hair demonstrations ~
~ Afternoon tea ~

Wolverhampton City Council

Supported by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Oswestry Festival of the WORD

10-20 March - Book now!



Call Booka 01691-662244

UK's fastest growing Lit Fest

thebestofoswestry booka Shropshire Jools Payne

info: oswestrylitfest.co.uk

Poetry Festival enlock

Wenlock Poetry Festival

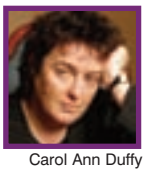
13th - 15th April 2012

'...the perfect place for poetry' *Carol Ann Duffy*




Nick Drake


Pauline Prior-Pitt


Carol Ann Duffy


Sarah Gillespie

An exciting mix of poetry readings, performances and workshops for adults and children with some of the very best poets writing today

www.wenlockpoetryfestival.org

Events LISTINGS

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

Week Commencing MON 12 MAR

MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS Tue 13 - Wed 14 Mar, Crewe Lyceum
TILE DECORATING WORKSHOP Fun, hands-on activities for children and adults alike, Tue 13 Mar, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
APF EXHIBITION 2012 The UK's largest exhibition for woodland, forestry, arboriculture and fencing, Tue 13 - Thu 15 Mar, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
'IT'S GOOD TO TALK... Conversation Club led by Sue Vaughan, Wed 14 Mar, Walsall Leather Museum
WENLOCK OLYMPIAN SOCIETY LIVE ARTS FESTIVAL Wed 14 - Sat 17 Mar. The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire
THE BIG BANG: UK YOUNG SCIENTISTS & ENGINEERS FAIR The UK's biggest single celebration of science and engineering for young people - a show that aims to inspire through engaging and interactive activities, workshops and shows, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 Mar, NEC, Birmingham
WEST BROMWICH WRITER'S GROUP Regular meeting that covers all aspects of creative writing, supporting local creative writers in and around Sandwell, Thurs 15 Mar, The Public, West Bromwich
WINTER GUIDED TOUR Thurs 15 Mar, Soho House, Birmingham
AN AUDIENCE WITH NICK BAKER Join Nick as he shares stories about discovering, meeting and filming some of his favourite weird creatures, Fri 16 Mar, Tamworth Assembly Rooms
TUDOR GAME PREPARATION A workshop that provides an insight into the use of game in the Tudor period, together with a brief introduction to Tudor cookery, Fri 16 Mar, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire
WINTER GARDEN WALKS Fri 16 Mar, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW Hints, tips and ideas galore for that 'Big Day', Fri 16 - Sun 18 Mar, NEC, Birmingham
BRITISH ALPACA FUTURITY 2012 A celebration of all things alpaca, Fri 16 - Sat 17 Mar, NEC, Birmingham
EDIBLE GARDEN SHOW Two-day event that becomes a temporary home to celebrity gardeners, chefs and various associated experts, Fri 16 - Sun 18 Mar, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS Five hours of exciting Irish and contemporary music, singing and dancing, as well as craft and music workshops, food tasting, face painting displays and much more... Sat 17 Mar, The Public, West Bromwich
THE MAYOR'S BIG CHARITY SHOW Featuring both established and emerging local talent - from comedians and singers, to Black Country poets, Sat 17 Mar, The Public, West Bromwich
MINIATURA - THE INTERNATIONAL DOLL'S HOUSE SHOW Featuring over two hundred-and-fifty selected exhibitors, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Mar, NEC, Birmingham
BIG TIME AMERICAN WRESTLING Featuring a brand new line-up for 2012, Sat 17 Mar, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
KANTHA STITCHES EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP A chance to learn the ancient skill of Kantha, Sat 17 Mar, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
CHARITY ABSEILING In aid of Midlands Air Ambulance, Sat 17 Mar, RAF Cosford, Shropshire
MAGICAL GHOST CRUISES Take a gentle trip along the River Avon and listen to chilling stories along the way, Sat 17 Mar, Bancroft Cruisers, Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon
NO HOLDS BARD! TOUR WITH WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Sat 17 Mar, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon
DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG Chance to learn or practise drifting in a safe & legal environment, Sat 17 Mar, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
ADULT WORKSHOP: DECORATIVE ENAMELS Sat 17 Mar, Bilston Craft Gallery
LAMBING TIME AT HOO FARM With the onset of spring, watch lambs being born every day - you may even get a chance to bottle-feed them! Sat 17 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford, Shropshire
TITANIC SCIENCE Explore the science behind the sinking of the Titanic, Sat 17 Mar, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
CLASSIC & COMMERCIAL ENTHUSIASTS SHOW AND AUCTION Sat 17 - Sun 18 Mar, Three Counties Showground, Malvern
MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND A range of themed events aimed at treating that very special person... Sat 17 - Sun 18 Mar, Cadbury World, Birmingham
MOTHERS' DAY AFTERNOON TEA Enjoy a visit around the museum before treating your mum to a special afternoon tea, Sun 18 Mar, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
MOTHERING SUNDAY SPECIAL Treat your mum this Mother's Day with all mums admitted free of charge with every paying child, Sun 18 Mar, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
STRAITLINERS Bike only Ride What Ya Brung that includes Round One of the straightliners Championships, Sun 18 Mar, Santa Pod, Northampton
TABLETOP SALE Hassle-free way to sell surplus items and unwanted gifts, Sun 18 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire

Week Commencing MON 19 MAR

TILE DECORATING WORKSHOP Fun, hands-on activities for children and adults alike, Tue 20 Mar, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
CHILDREN'S POETRY EVENT Children from the city's Young Writers' Groups entertain visitors with their work, Wed 21 Mar, Central Children's Library, Wolverhampton
WINTER GUIDED TOUR Wed 21 Mar, Aston Hall, Birmingham
MEET THE BUILDERS A guided tour of Wroxeter Roman Town House with two of the builders - Tim the plasterer and Ben the labourer, Thurs 22 Mar, Wroxter Roman Village, Shropshire
SEWING FOR PLEASURE/FASHION & EMBROIDERY Featuring cat walk shows, dressmakers' workshops, media hub, quilting displays, textile artists, sewing experts, pattern bar and free workshops, Thurs 22 - Sun 25 Mar, NEC, Birmingham
BEAR GRYLLS: MUD, SWEAT AND TEARS TOUR The star of Man vs Wild, one of the most watched TV shows across the world, arrives in Birmingham to host what promises to be an inspirational evening packed full of exhilarating stories suitable for the whole family, Fri 23 Mar, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
AUTHOR DEBATE English Heritage teams up with the Historical Writers Association to offer a unique opportunity to meet the author, Fri 23 Mar, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire
'STEAM RAILWAY MAGAZINE' SPRING GALA Annual gala event, Fri 23 - Sun 25 Mar, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Kidderminster
WINTER GARDEN WALK Fri 23 Mar, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
A JOURNEY THROUGH THE POTTERIES In conjunction with 'Picturing the Potteries' exhibition, local historian Andrew Dobraszczyc will take his audience on a journey through Stoke's historic landscape, Sat 24 Mar, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
NO HOLDS BARD! TOUR WITH WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Sat 24 Mar, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon
AMERICAN SUPERSLAM WRESTLING Two hours of non-stop action from the best of British & American wrestling stars, Sat 24 Mar, Bedworth Civic Hall
JIMMY MULLEN 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT Sat 24 Mar, Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton
LEATHER BABY SHOE WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS Sat 24 Mar, Walsall Leather Museum
BAMMA 9 Leading martial arts event, Sat 24 Mar, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION Sat 24 Mar, National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham
RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY Chance to take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sat 24 Mar, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
GET ACTIVE AND DANCE 3 WITH CULTURAL DANCE FEST Experience the ultimate dance fest explosion that fuses all types of dance, from Street Dance and Bollywood to Hip-Hop, and much more... Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, The Public, West Bromwich
THE YOUNG TUDORS LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND Enjoy interactive demonstrations and living history in the Merchant's House with pupils from King Edward's School, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
PAVILLIONS ASIAN WEDDING FAIR Specialist event featuring everything from make-up and Mehndi to food and favours, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, The Pavillions Shopping Centre, Birmingham
SURFING SAFARI WEEKEND Two-days of craft activities themed around the museum's Wheels & Waves exhibition, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, Coventry Transport Museum
SPRING CRAFT FAIR Featuring one-off jewellery pieces, toys, paintings, photographs, artisan food products and cards from some of the region's finest crafters, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, Coventry Transport Museum
CAPTAIN SMITH'S FELLOW TRAVELLERS A talk by Gary Cooper, author of 'Titanic Captain: The Life of Edward John Smith', Sun 25 Mar, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
BRITISH SHOW PONIES SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS Sat 25 Mar, Three Counties Showground, Malvern
ORCHID SHOW A showcase of exotic blooms from around the world, Sun 25 Mar, Birmingham Botanical

What's On in Walsall

Walsall Leather Museum



A WORKING MUSEUM
DEMONSTRATIONS
ATTRACTIVE GARDENS & PICNIC AREA
SADDLE ROOM CAFÉ
LEATHERGOODS SHOP

COMING SOON

24 March
10.30am - 3.30pm
Leather Baby Shoes Worksop for Adults
£17.50 (including materials), Booking essential

3 April
10.30am-12.30pm 5-7s (must be accompanied)
1.30pm-3.30pm 8-12s
Woogie Wonderland
Create your own textile creature
£1.50 Booking essential.

9 April
10.30am-3.30pm
Easter Family Fun Day
Top quality free family entertainment

11 April
10.30am-12.30pm 5-7s (must be accompanied)
1.30pm-3.30pm 8-12s
Pirate Puppets
Create your own pirate puppet
£1.50 Booking essential.

FREE ENTRY

Tel: 01922 721153
www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk
Open Tues-Sat, 10am-4pm
Walsall Leather Museum
Littleton Street West, Walsall

Walsall Council

WALFORD & NORTH Shropshire COLLEGE

SPRING LAMBING DAY

WALFORD CAMPUS, BASCHURCH

SUNDAY 11TH MARCH
11.00 am - 4.00 pm



FREE! TRACTOR AND TRAILER RIDE

A Family Fun Day

Here is a taste of what's on offer...

New-born Lambs - you may even see a lamb being born if you are lucky! Come and see our animals, we have over 90 species from Snakes and Chinchillas to Meerkats and Alpacas!

We also have a Climbing Wall, Superzorbs, Dog Agility Display, Chicks Hatching, Equine Display, Treasure Hunt, Face Painting, Vintage Machinery and much, much more.

Just £9.00 per car!

for directions, see our website:
www.wnsc.ac.uk | Tel: **01939 262 100**

shire hall gallery



31 March - 13 May 2012

Join Elvis the Whippet at the Grande Finale of the Canine Roller Dance!

The latest creation from Olivia Brown, this show features over one hundred ceramic animals including audience members, rollerskating canines and a formation team called 'Kenny and the Keneavils'!

Staffordshire County Council

Shire Hall Gallery, Market Square, Stafford, ST16 2LD
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/shirehallgallery

AUTO TRADER

EASTER THUNDERBALL

SANTA POD RACEWAY

MONSTER TRUCK MADNESS ON EASTER MONDAY WITH FOUR TRUCK JUMP OFF

DAY TICKETS FROM £21 in adv (Sat, Sun & Mon) inc. paddock access & parking



FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

6th - 9th APRIL 2012, SANTA POD RACEWAY

High Octane action & Pro Fuel shootout with Top Fuel Dragsters & Funny Cars!
Explosive Jet Cars & Live Action Arena antics with Monster Trucks & stunts! (Sat/Sun/Mon)

KIDS UNDER 16 GO FREE! (max 3 per adult)

Auto Trader

WWW.SANTAPOD.COM

Santa Pod Raceway

Santa Pod Raceway, Airfield Road, Podington, Nr. Wellingborough, Northants NN29 7XA. Signposted from J14/15 M1. Tel: 01234 782828

Events LISTINGS

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

Gardens
MILITARIA Sun 25 Mar, Three Counties Showground, Malvern
STAFFORD SCHOOL AND FAMILY FUN RUN A one-mile run that starts off at Stafford's Market Square and takes participants around the town centre, Sun 25 Mar, Stafford Town Centre
WRAP UP AND RUN 10K Fundraising event in aid of Age UK's Spread The Warmth campaign, Sun 25 Mar, War Memorial Park, Coventry
THE FAST SHOW Season opening show for all performance & modified car enthusiasts, Sun 25 Mar, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

Week Commencing MON 26 MAR

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS Tue 27 Mar, LG Arena, Birmingham
TILE DECORATING WORKSHOP Fun, hands-on activities for children and adults alike, Tue 27 Mar, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS SHOW 2012 Tue 27 Mar, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
THE LUDLOW PUDDING EXPERIENCE Wed 28 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire
ORIGINS OF MIDDLE EARTH Wed 28 Mar, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham
SUPER VIVERE EXHIBITION TOUR Wed 28 Mar, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
WINTER GUIDED TOUR Wed 28 Mar, Aston Hall, Birmingham
THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATION SHOW Thurs 29 Mar - Sun 1 Apr, NEC, Birmingham
VALUATION DAY: FINE ART & ANTIQUES Facilitated by Fieldings Auctioneers, Thurs 29 Mar, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton
FIERCE FESTIVAL Birmingham's international festival of live art, Thurs 29 Mar - Sun 8 Apr, various locations in and around Birmingham. For further info, visit, www.weare-fierce.org
WINTER GARDEN WALK Fri 30 Mar, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
RAG RUG WORKSHOP Learn about the history of the craft with specialist Jessie Lindon, Fri 30 Mar, The Back to Backs, Birmingham
BERLIN LOVE TOUR A guided tour of Berlin on the streets of Birmingham that features stories of tragedy and lost love. Presented by Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Fierce Festival, Fri 30 Mar - Sun 8 Apr, Birmingham City Centre
HANDMADE & VINTAGE WEDDING FAIR Sat 31 Mar, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SHARPSHOOTERS TRAINING Sat 31 Mar - Sun 1 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
BLOSSOM TRAIL Take a walk around the museum grounds and discover over twenty different varieties of blossoming shrubs and trees, Sat 31 Mar - Sat 14 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
HUMPTY DUMPTY EASTER EGG HUNT Follow the egg-citing trail round the museum and work out the elusive clues to get to the finish and claim your chocolate egg prize, Sat 31 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
'RECORD BREAKING EASTER' Eggciting fun where you can make and race your own egg car, as well as take part in quizzes and other crafts and activities, Sat 31 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
DAY OUT WITH THOMAS Sat 31 Mar - Sun 1 Apr, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Kidderminster
THE FAMOUS SHEEP STEEPLECHASE Sat 31 Mar - Sun 2 Sep, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford, Shropshire
EASTER EGG AND BUNNY HUNT Follow the clues to search out the eggs and bunnies. Craft activities also available, Sat 31 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge; Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley & Dudley Museum & Art Gallery
EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA Sat 31 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Cadbury World, Birmingham
FLOAT A BOAT Design and make a sailing boat then test it on the Enginuity pool, Sat 31 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Telford
THE MEMORABILIA SHOW Sat 31 Mar - Sun 1 Apr, NEC, Birmingham
GOING DIGITAL A one-day photography workshop to help you make the most of your digital SLR or compact camera, Sat 31 Mar, Etruria Industrial Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY Sat 31 Mar, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
MIND BODY SPIRIT EVENT Featuring stage act & workshops, Sat 31 Mar - Sun 1 Apr, Nantwich Civic Hall, Cheshire







Variety is the Life Of Spice..







Come out to play with a huge network of new friends. A warm welcome awaits you!

Wouldn't you love to be invited to join a thriving club of 3000 friends in the West Midlands (and 15,000 nationally!) who really know how to enjoy themselves?

Well here's your chance. We're a friendly, local action, adventure and social group offering a wide variety of opportunities for our members to have fun together.

There's literally something for everyone; be it the latest adrenaline pumping outdoor activities… weekends & holidays… sports nights… workshops on fascinating subjects… or social nights including theatre, parties and 'behind the scenes' visits to all sorts of unusual places you've always wanted to go. Events take place at locations across the West Midlands. Lots of our members are single and come along on there own, but we also welcome couples and groups of friends. There's no hidden agenda – we're just one happy family of friends. Members are all ages (18–80!) and from all walks of life.

The one unifying factor of anyone joining Spice is that they want to live life to the full.

Membership is equivalent to the cost of just a pint of beer a week. In fact, our money back promise means that satisfaction is guaranteed.

Get your FREE comprehensive information pack today call:

0121 353 6161 (24 hours)

email claire@spicebham.com

or visit www.spicebham.com

Spice Live your dream

So what will you be doing tomorrow?








"It's an opportunity to get to do lots of things you wouldn't otherwise do

What our members are up to in **March 2012**

Thursday 1st March

- Dinner at Genting Casino
- Halesowen and Quinton Pub Night
- Istanbul Experience
- Spaghetti Western Orchestra

Friday 2nd March

- Cotswold's Walking Weekend
- Hathersage YHA Weekend
- Lady Windermere's Fan
- Skills for the Hills (Navigation Awards)

Saturday 3rd March

- Barn Dance and Supper
- Beyonce's 'Single Ladies' Dance Workshop
- Chatsworth Estate Ramble
- Meeting your True Soul Mate
- Night in the Trenches
- UK Pink Floyd Show
- Western Style Rifle Shooting Afternoon

Sunday 4th March

- Birmingham City Afternoon Walk
- Birmingham Museum Building - Tea and Tour
- Chadwick End Easy Ramble
- Fire Fighter for a Day
- Fun Run Preview Walk
- Glass Art Workshop

Monday 5th March

- Spice Book Club

Tuesday 6th March

- Ten Pin Bowling (Broadway Plaza)

Wednesday 7th March

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Drumming Experience for Beginners
- Tamworth and Lichfield Pub Night

Thursday 8th March

- Indoor Climbing at Redpoint
- Knowle Beer,Skittles and Curry Night

Friday 9th March

- Blues Jam Factory!
- Cairngorms Winter Skills Training Weekend
- Cairngorms Winter Wonderland Walking Weekend
- Howgills and Dales Walking Weekend
- Mid Wales Hill Walking Weekend

Saturday 10th March

- Aston Villa VIP and Match Experience Day
- Canadian Canoe Adventure
- Caving for the Terrified
- Pole Dancing with Pure Joy
- Polesworth Easy Ramble
- Stanton Moor Moderate Ramble
- Stratford as you've never seen it before
- What to Wear Workshop
- Wildlife Walk in the Malverns

Sunday 11th March

- Abseiling for the Terrified
- Advanced Poker Skills Workshop
- Beginners Horse Trek
- Bewdley + Arley Moderate Ramble
- Clay Pigeon Shooting
- Hindu Temple Visit
- St Patricks Parade Breakfast

Monday 12th March

- Spice Book Club

Tuesday 13th March

- Badminton at NIA
- Preview Evening (Sutton)
- Solihull Pub Night
- Westfield Cars Visit

Wednesday 14th March

- Curry and Quiz - Harborne
- Sutton Pub Night
- The 3 Degrees at the Jam House

Thursday 15th March

- Boathouse at Bracebridge
- Oliver
- Stafford Pub Night
- Warwick / Leamington Pub Night

Friday 16th March

- Bideford and North Devon Walking Weekend
- Inspirational Weekend - Your Personal Inner Discovery
- Irish Party Night
- Tennis Evening (Indoor)

Saturday 17th March

- Cannock Chase Mountain Biking
- Flirting Safari (Morning or Afternoon)
- Hay Bluff Challenge Walk
- Lamborghini Thrill
- Saxophone for Beginners
- StageSide Dinner Shuffle
- Windsor Experience Day by Coach

Sunday 18th March

- Balloon Flight -Shugborough
- Birmingham Museum - Analyse Paintings Tour
- Cannock Chase Easy Ramble
- SWAT Training Mission
- Thornton Reservoir Ramble
- White Knight and Good Fairy Fortnight

Monday 19th March

- Badminton at NIA
- Bromsgrove Pub Night

Tuesday 20th March

- Kings Heath Pub Night
- Lasan Indian Banquet
- Unihoc (Mixed Indoor Hockey)

Wednesday 21st March

- Fencing for Beginners
- Ghost Hunting and Supper
- Humble Boy

Thursday 22nd March

- Boxercise Session
- Quiz - Sound + Vision Quiz in Lichfield

Friday 23rd March

- Indoor Shooting
- Malham Walking and Social Weekend
- New Members Easy Walking Weekend
- Spice Hits Town at the Jam House

Saturday 24th March

- Ballroom Dance Masterclass - Quickstep!
- Corvedale Valley Ramble
- Flirting for Fun (at Lea Marston Hotel)
- Museum Curators Challenge
- Rally Driving Lesson
- Symonds Yat Adventure Mission

Sunday 25th March

- Adventure Trekking Day
- Indian Head Massage Workshop (Arden Hotel)
- Monsall Trail Adventure Ride
- Prokart Indoor Superprix Afternoon
- Sheep Dog Experience
- Stafford Town Walk
- Wooton Wawen Easy Ramble

Monday 26th March

- Astronomy Evening

Tuesday 27th March

- Badminton at NIA
- Spamalot
- Wine Tasting - The Classic Grape Varieties

Wednesday 28th March

- Harborne Pub Treasure Trail
- Quiz

Thursday 29th March

- Syriana Syrian/ Lebanese Dinner Shuffle

Friday 30th March

- Big Kidz Night
- Friday Fish and Chips Race Night
- Outdoor Digital Photography Weekend

Saturday 31st March

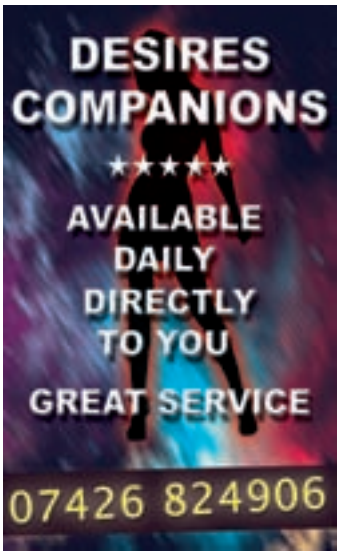
- Adventure Activities Camping Weekend
- BBC Birmingham Behind the Scenes
- Carriage Driving Experience
- Chaddesley Corbett Easy Ramble
- Fine Art Encounters - British Watercolours
- Kayak River Adventure Day
- Lightning Cockpit Experience
- Quad Bike Trekking at Garlands
- Sutton Park Discovery Walk

For future listings visit:
www.spicebham.com

...and meet lots of people you wouldn't otherwise meet". Jamie, Spice member

classifieds











To advertise on the Classified page

Call: Chris Horton on 01743 281704

chris@whatsonlive.co.uk

or: Jon Cartwright on 01743 281703

j.cartwright @whatsonlive.co.uk

It's probably less than you think!

Clubbing

BIRMINGHAM

AIR Heath Mill Lane, Digbeth, B9 4AL. Tel: 0121 766 6646

BAMBU Kottwall House, Wrottesley Street, B5 4BN Tel: 0121 6224124

BUSHWACKERS 103 Edmund St, B3 2HZ Tel: 0121 236 4994

FLARES NIGHTCLUB 55 Broad St, B15 1AY Tel: 0121 252 3100

GATECRASHER 183 Broad St, B15 1DA Tel: 0121 525 1300

02 ACADEMY 16-18 Horsefair, Bristol St, B1 1DB Tel: 0121 622 8250

OCEANA BIRMINGHAM Hurst St, B4 4EH Tel: 0845 4025390

REFLEX 36-37 Broad St, B1 2DY Tel: 0121 643 0444

SNOBS NIGHTCLUB 29 Paradise Circus, Queensway, B1 2BJ Tel: 0121 643 5551

BLACK COUNTRY

INSOMNIA NIGHTCLUB 2 Bradford Place, Walsall WS1 1PL Tel: 01922 614300

OCEANA WOLVERHAMPTON Bilston Rd, Wolverhampton Tel: 0845 402 5290

SHROPSHIRE

C:21 NIGHTCLUB 21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 271821

EDEN LOUNGE 13 Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury SY1 2DJ Tel: 01743 359020

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

THE OFFICE 27a Market Street, Oakengates TF2 6EN Tel:01952 616536

ONYX & BLU Raven Meadows, Shrewsbury SY1 1PL. Tel: 01743 289063

PUSSYCATS NIGHT CLUB 17 Tan Bank, Wellington, TF2 6EJ Tel: 01952 224260

SPIRIT NIGHTCLUB 18 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 355055

STAFFORDSHIRE

COURTURE & NOIRE ET BLANC 139 Newport Rd, Stafford, ST16 2EZ Tel: 01785 244755

LIQUID Brunswick St, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR Tel: 01782 284333

REFLEX 3-5 Brockley Square, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5LY Tel: 01782 206170

TRINITY NIGHTCLUB Spinning School Lane, Tamworth,ST1 1DR Tel: 01827 58772

WARWICKSHIRE

CAREYS NIGHTCLUB Hereford Place, Coventry CV1 3JZ Tel: 02476 227 397

EVOLVE NIGHTCLUB 2 Spencer Street, Leamington Spa, Coventry CV31 3NF Tel: 01926 435310

JJ'S Skydome Leisure Park, Croft Rd, Coventry CV1 3AZ. Tel: 02476 555913

LIQUID & ENVY Leicester Road, Nuneaton CV11 4B. Tel: 02476 344216

REFLEX Church St, Nuneaton, CV11 4BW Tel: 02476 344216

WORCESTERSHIRE

BUSHWACKERS Trinity St, Worcester WR1 2PW Tel: 01905 26878

TRAMPS Angel Place, Worcester WR1 3QN Tel: 019905 26936

VELVET LOUNGE Angel Place, Worcester WR1 3QN. Tel: 019905 619966



Exciting line-up for Birmingham's latest clubbing venue

LAB11, Digbeth, Birmingham

Some of the biggest names in house and techno will take to the decks when a new club venue opens in Birmingham's Digbeth district on 31 March. Lab11 is the brainchild of TRMNL, the team behind the short-lived TRMNL Club, which was closed down by Birmingham City Council in 2008. The new one thousand-capacity club, which will open till 6am, is initially scheduling acts for Saturday evenings only, but it's hoped that programming will expand to include other weekend evenings in the near future. The official public opening will feature sets from Radio Slave and Mark Henning, while a line-up of other underground acts are booked for subsequent nights during the eight-week launch season. By hosting 'the ultimate entertainment experience', it's hoped that Lab11 will spearhead the regeneration of the Digbeth area.

Gay SCENE

Stars set to dazzle at Birmingham's annual Pride Ball...

Organisers of Birmingham Pride Ball have announced that the L Project will perform their LGBT anti-bullying charity single It Does Get Better at this year's event. The L Project is the latest name to be added to an already impressive line-up which includes '80s pop sensation Sinitta, I'm A Celebrity winner Stacey Solomon, boyband FTW and pop chameleon Vicky Jackson. The Pride Ball, which raises funds for various LGBT charities (previous beneficiaries include the Terrence Higgins Trust, Freshwinds and ABplus), takes place at Birmingham's International Convention Centre on Friday 23 March. For further information or to book tickets, visit prideball.co.uk



Stacey Solomon

GAY NIGHTCLUBS

BIRMINGHAM

I HOST (FORMERLEY DV8) Essex St, B5 6SN Tel: 0121 666 6366

CLUB CHIC 28 Horsefair, B1 1DD. Tel: 0121 666 6808

THE CORE Sherlock Street, B5 6NB Tel: 0121 622 2797

THE NIGHTINGALE Kent St, B5 6RD Tel: 0121 622 1718

THE VILLAGE INN & UNDERGROUND 152 Hurst St, B5 6RY Tel: 0121 622 4742

BLACK COUNTRY

THE LION Birchills St, Walsall, WS2 8NG Tel: 01922 610977

GORGEOUS Salop St Wolverhampton, WV3 0SR Tel: 0844 357 8570

SHROPSHIRE

C21 18-21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 271821 (MON ONLY)

SPIRIT 22 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 355055 (MON ONLY)

THREE FURNACES 30 Bridgnorth Road, Madeley TF7 4JB Tel: 01952 588521

STAFFORDSHIRE

THE FACTORY Bryan St, Hanley, Stoke-On-Trent, ST1 2AA Tel: 01782 478799

WARWICKSHIRE

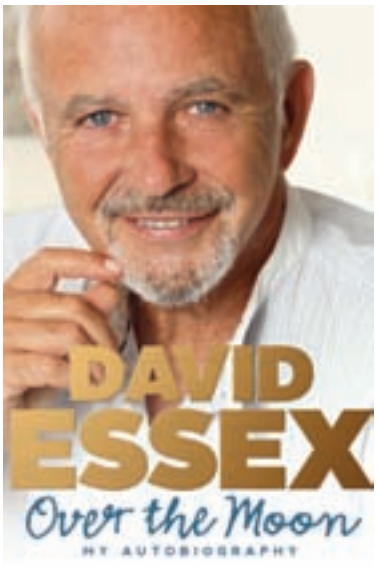
RAINBOWS Short St, Coventry CV1. Tel: 02476 551738

WORCESTERSHIRE

VELVET CLUB Angel Row, Worcester, WR1 3QN Tel: 01905 20218

Books TV

David Essex: Over The Moon



By David Essex

Musician, actor, producer and director David Essex has certainly spent his fair share of time in the spotlight during his forty-year career, most recently as a result of playing Eddie Moon in EastEnders.

His acting debut, as Jesus in the smash-hit musical Godspell in 1971, marked the launch of a professional journey that's seen him perform an array of top musical roles, enter the Top Thirty singles charts more than twenty times, direct his own productions and make numerous film and TV appearances, all of which has earned him an army of devoted female followers along the way.

Now, for the first time, fans of the 'cockney charmer' can gain a candid insight into his life and career, as he shares his memories of an East End childhood and a stellar career as one of the UK's brightest and best-loved performers.



Charles Dickens And The Great Theatre Of The World

By Simon Callow

In a year that celebrates the bicentenary of Charles Dickens' birth, one of Britain's most forthright classical actors has fittingly penned an entertaining biography exploring the novelist's life. Considered by many to be the greatest storyteller in the English language, Dickens was obsessed with the stage from an early age, when he was a child performer in Portsmouth. His subsequent readings and performances in Britain and America attracted thousands of fans, and led to him being hailed as the original 'celebrity' author. In Charles Dickens And The Great Theatre Of The World, Simon Callow, an authority on Dickens, uses his inimitable wit and style to reveal a life driven by a compulsion to perform.

Merckx: Half Man, Half Bike

By William Fotheringham

This, the first ever English language biography of the greatest cyclist of all time, is a definitive story of a man whose fear of failure drove him to the peak of his profession but ultimately destroyed him.

Belgian-born Edouard Louis Joseph Baron Merckx, better known as Eddy, amassed an astonishing four hundred-and-forty-five victories during his career, winning the equivalent of a race a week for six years. However, behind the glory lay tales of drug-busts, horrific injury and death... William Fotheringham is recognised as Britain's leading cycling writer, and in Half Man, Half Bike, he attempts to answer the often-asked question: "What made Eddy Merckx so invincible?".

TOP 5 BOOKS

1. Steve Jobs: The Exclusive Biography Walter Isaacson
2. Before I Go To Sleep S J Watson
3. Death Comes To Pemberley P D James
4. Inheritance Christopher Paolini
5. Daughters-in-law Joanna Trollope



Great Expectations actress to take lead in new BBC thriller

This month sees filming commence in Belfast on a new five-part psychological thriller by Murphy's Law and Prime Suspect writer Allan Cubitt. Great Expectations and X Files star Gillian Anderson takes the lead role as DSI Gibson in The Fall, a story of two hunters - one a serial killer who stalks his victims at random in and around Belfast; the other a Detective Superintendent, on secondment from the MET, who's been brought in to catch him.

Further casting is yet to be announced for the series, which is scheduled to screen on BBC Two later in 2012.

Filming on new army drama announced

ITV has announced the commissioning of a yet-to-be-written six-part drama based around the wives and girlfriends of soldiers serving in Afghanistan. Currently referred to as SWAGS (working title) and with casting still to be announced, the series will focus on four 'real' women - Debbie, Gemma, Louise and Claire - whose lives living in army quarters are far from easy.

Promising to be 'compelling viewing', SWAGS follows the foursome as they cope with not only the trials and tribulations of motherhood, but issues of infidelity, insecurity, bereavement and bureaucracy. Filming begins in Manchester in May.

Amanda Lamb to front new property makeover show for Channel 4

A Place In The Sun presenter Amanda Lamb this month returns to our TV screens with a brand new makeover show. Channel Four's You Deserve This House promises to deliver a combination of spectacular transformations, emotional backstories and useful makeover advice. Each episode features a different project, with a team - including people that the homeowners have helped over the years - having just forty-eight hours to renovate the chosen house. You Deserve This House will screen on Mondays from 5 March.



Eating Out

New tapas bar planned for Brum...

The San Carlo group has announced its plans for a new Venetian tapas bar, scheduled to open on Birmingham's Waterloo Street in April. The new venue will be called Fumo, and will feature a large bar serving wines, beers and innovative cocktails, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Fumo is the next stage of the group's international expansion plan, which last year saw the opening of a second restaurant in Kuwait and a new venue in Beirut.



Unique dining experience on offer at Worcester's latest restaurant

Bindles Brasserie and Bar, situated in the heart of Worcester, is this month hosting a charity evening in aid of Sight Concern Worcestershire - a charity supporting blind and partially sighted people. The event, to be held on 8 March, features a drinks reception followed by a three-course meal, during which guests will experience their main and dessert courses while blindfolded, leaving them needing to use their senses of taste and smell to work out what they're eating. Tickets to the black tie event cost £45 and are available by calling 01684 892666.

Glyn Purnell to host kitchen challenge for charity

Michelin-starred chef Glyn Purnell this month makes his first appearance as patron of the Midlands-based charity Cure Leukaemia. Glyn will direct a live cooking event at Warwickshire County Cricket Club's Edgbaston stadium on 5 March. He'll be joined by Edgbaston head chef Dave Hill, along with Warwickshire's Director of Cricket Ashley Giles, captain Jim Troughton and BBC WM Radio DJ Phil Upton. For further information, or to book tickets, contact Ruth Bishop on 0121 371 4367.



Glyn Purnell & Dave Hill



Comfortable chic in the heart of Birmingham...

REVIEW

Located a stone's throw from St. Paul's Square in the Jewellery Quarter, Cucina Rustica proved to be well worth a ten minute trudge from Birmingham City Centre on a snowy Saturday night.

Contrary to the restaurant's name, there was nothing rustic about the quality Italian food with which we were presented.

After scouring the numerous Italian reds and whites on the wine list, we were served with a generous helping of complimentary bread and olives, followed swiftly by our starters. This efficient pace was consistent between courses.

Indeed, the only slight criticism of the otherwise attentive and helpful service was that we were waited upon by several different members of staff throughout the night.

We weren't short of choice on the 'paste' (ranging from £7.20 to £13.95 for the sea food-based dishes) and 'secondi patti' (upwards of £14) menus, in addition to the specials and pizzas which were also on offer. I finally opted for one of the risottos, which happily included not just mushroom (all too often the case in many a restaurant), but asparagus and artichoke. My dining partner chose the restaurant's most popular (and expensive) dish: the fillet steak on a crouton base, topped with paté and served with vegetables (£22.95). While his medium-rare steak could have done with thirty seconds longer, and the wine sauce could have packed a little more punch, it was nonetheless among the finest pieces of meat he'd been served in a Midlands restaurant.

Dessert was a further highlight; indeed, it was with mixed emotions that I tucked into the indulgent chocolate fondant, conscious that I was tearing apart the chef's masterly presentation.

Unlike many a new city restaurant which has been interior-designed to within an inch of its life, the smart interiors possessed a comfortable charm (and some eccentric artwork to boot) - but it was the food and the service which were the real treat. *Claire Lloyd*

Food:
Service:
Ambience:
Overall value
OVERALL

Cusina Rustica
Saint Paul's Square
24 Ludgate Hill
Birmingham
B3 1DX
Tel: 0121 233 2277

Restaurant REVIEWS

Puddings to die for at Wolverhampton bistro...

On a cold Valentine's night, my partner and I ventured into the lovely Chapel Ash (just off the Wolverhampton City Centre ring road) to sample the cuisine of Bank's Bistro - and what a lovely night we had!

The restaurant was decorated with twinkly fairy lights, candles and gorgeous red flowers in honour of Valentine's Day - it looked and felt so cosy I could have sat there all night.

To start, I went for the lobster, crab and sweetcorn chowder with crusty bread, which was simply divine. My partner opted for seared beef and watercress salad with a stilton dressing - a very tasty dish to start the meal, and the stilton sauce wasn't too overpowering.

My main of fillet of seabass with mussels and tiger prawns with wilted spinach, herby potatoes and a saffron cream sauce was very nice, although the prawns and mussels were slightly overcooked.

My partner's pan roast rack of lamb could have been slightly pinker but was still very good, accompanied by delicious dauphinoise potatoes with a medley of market vegetables and a honey and rosemary jus.

For pudding I went for the warm chocolate fondant with vanilla ice cream. Naturally, there was a fifteen minute wait to allow the fondant to cook, but boy, was it worth it! The chocolate positively oozed out of the soft sponge pudding!



My partner chose the Irish cream cheesecake with a strawberry compot, quite easily the lightest cheesecake he'd ever tasted.

Bank's Bistro is currently doing some fantastic offers, including a three-course Sunday lunch for £9.95, the menu for which makes your mouth water. They also do a fantastic lunch/early evening Bistro menu, with two courses costing £12.95. An a la Carte menu is available from Wednesday to Saturday.

Vicky Price

Food:
Service:
Ambience:
Overall value
OVERALL

Bank's Bistro
Chapel Ash
Wolverhampton
WV1 4EP
Tel: 01902 238433

Powys restaurant gets top marks across the board...

The Knighton Hotel boasts an imposing stone frontage and a beautiful galleried staircase rising high into the atrium, resplendent with its original timbers. It also boasts the recently refurbished King Offa's Restaurant.

It's hard not to be impressed by this tall, spacious and very elegant room. Simply and tastefully decorated, there's an air of understated sophistication here. The service throughout the meal was attentive without being intrusive - an ideal blend.

To start, my wife ordered the wasabi and goat's cheese bon bons, whilst I 'went crazy' and opted for the soup. The bon bons were simply delicious, complemented perfectly by the Tempranillo Rioja which we'd chosen to accompany it. My vegetable soup was simple and tasty, with a nice hint of garlic and well matched with a glass of Pinot Gris.

Already impressed, we sipped our way onward towards main courses. My wife opted for the contra-cut sirloin, which was cooked to absolute perfection. Coming with homemade chunky chips, mushrooms and tomatoes, this was a hearty yet simple dish, the locally sourced sirloin providing a juicy centrepiece attraction. A glass of Riesling was the perfect partner. Meanwhile, I was tempted by the intriguingly titled Blade of Beef - slow cooked, with horseradish mash and roasted parsnip & red onion marmalade. A signature dish of the chef, the slow-cooked beef was beautifully tender and fell apart in my mouth, from where it was happily washed down with a cheeky little



Cabernet Sauvignon from Chile.

With eyes considerably bigger than bellies, we ploughed straight into dessert. My sticky toffee pudding was one of the finest I'd ever tasted. My wife ordered melting chocolate tart with vanilla crumble, whch proved to be sweet and sumptuous.

Our trip to The Knighton was a revelation. The food was superb, matched only by the lovely venue and helpful staff. And good value too - the most expensive main on the à la carte menu was under £15. A return trip is an absolute must. *Matthew Morris*

Food:
Service:
Ambience:
Overall value
OVERALL

The Knighton Hotel
Broad Street, Knighton
Powys, LD7 1BL
Tel: 01547 520530

Restaurant LISTINGS

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

Birmingham

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 7766

BAR EPERNAY 171-172 Wharfside Street, The Mailbox. 0121 632 1430

BAR ESTILO 10-114 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B11RF 0121 643 3443

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

BARTONS ARMS 144 High Street, Aston, B6 5UP 0121 333 5988

BARAJEE 265 Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 643 6700

BELLA ITALIA 102 New St, B2 4HQ 0121 6431548

THE BERLOIZ Burlington Arcade, New St, B2 4JQ 0121 633 1737

BLUE MANGO 5 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

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

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

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 70 Hurst St, The Arcadian Centre, B5 4TD 0121 683 8350

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

CELEBRITY INDIAN 44 Broad St, B1 2HP 0121 643 8969

THE CHAMELEON 1 Victoria Square, B1 1BD 0121 643 2233

CHEZ JULES 5a Ethel St, B2 4BG 0121 633 4664

CHI 61 Newhall St, B3 3RB 0121 233 3150

CHINA RED 193-194 Broad St, B15 1AY 0121 632 6688

CHUNG YING 17 Thorpe St, B5 4RT 0121 622 5669

CITY CAFE RESTAURANT Mint Hotel, 1 Brunswick Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HW 0121 633 6300

CIELO 6 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 632 6882

COTE The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587

CUIZENE 17 Thorp Street, B5 4AT 0121 622 5573

CUCINA RUSTICA 24 Ludgate Hill, B3 1DX 0121 233 2277

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

DEL VILLAGGIO Unit 528, Middle Mall The Bullring B5 4BE 0121 643 1400

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

EDMUNDS 6 Brindley place, B1 2 JB 0121 633 4944

GREEN ROOM Hurst St, B5 4DT 0121 605 4343

HA HA BAR & GRILL 178-180 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B1 0121 632 1250

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

THE HOUSE Bennetts Hill, B2 5RS 0121 643 2220

ITIHAAS 18 Fleet St, B3 1JL 0121 212 3383

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

THE JUNCTION 212 High Street, Harborne, B17 9PT 0121 428 2635

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

JIMMY SPICES Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121643 2111

JIMMY SPICES 64-66 Station Rd, Solihull, B91 3RX 0121 709 2111

KINNAREE THAI 22 Waterfront Walk, B1 1SN. 0121 665 6568

LA BASTILLE 220 Corporation St, B4 6QB 0121 236 1171

LAHORE KARAHI HALAL CHINESE AND BALTI 309 Highgate Road, B12 8DN 0121773 7575

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

LAS IGUANAS Arcadian Centre, Hurst St, B5 4TD 0121 622 4466

LA TASCA Regency Wharf, B1 2DS 0121 643 9888

LOCH FYNE Mere Green Road, Sutton Coldfield. B75 5BL 0121 308 9410

THE LOFT LOUNGE 143 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG 0121 622 2444

LOVES The Glasshouse, Browning St, B16 8FL 0121 454 5151

MANIC ORGANIC 46 Poplar Road, B14 7AG 0121 441 3802

MAHARAJA 23/25 Hurst St, B5 4AS 0121 622 2641

MECHU 59 Summer Row, B3 1JJ 0121 710 4233

METRO 73 Cornwall St, B3 0121200 1911

LA BASTILLE 220 Corporation St, B4 6QB 0121 236 1171

MINT Yew Tree Retail Park, Stoney Lane Yardley, B25 8YP Tel: 0121 789 8908

MIRAGE FUSION Broadway Casino, Broadway Plaza Ladywood Middleway, B16 8LP. 0121 456 5557

MOUNT FUJI The Bullring, B5 4QL 0121 633 9853

OPUS 54 Cornwall St, B3 2DA 0121 200 2323

OLD JOINTSTOCK PUB 4 Temple Row, B2 5NY 0121 200 1892

THE ORIENTAL The Mailbox, 128-130 Wharfside St, B1 1RQ 0121 633 9988

PASTA DE PIAZZA 11 Brook Street, St Paul's Square, B3 1SA 0121 236 5858

PEACHY KEENS 1741 Coventry Road, Yardley B26 1DS. 0121 764 5519

PENNY BLACKS The Mailbox,132-134 Wharfside St, B1 1XL 0121 632 1460

PEPPERS 5a Broad St, B15 0121 633 4411

PICCOLINO 9 Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 634 3055

PONTE DI LEGNO 44-44a Woodbridge Rd, Moseley, B13 8EJ 0121 449 8064

PUNJABI HAVELI 1558 Stratford Rd, Hall Green, B28 9HA 0121 745 3636

PURNELL'S 55 Cornwall St, B3 2DH. 0121 212 9799

PUSHKAR 245 Broad St, B1 2HQ. 0121 643 7978

THE RECTORY 50-54 St Paul's Sq, B3 1QS 0121 605 1001

RED 4 Temple St, B2 5BN 0121 643 0194

RED PEPPERS 117 Wharfside St, B1 1RF 0121 643 4202

ROSE MURREE 94 -96 Hagley Rd, Edgbaston, B16 8LU 0121 456 4500

SABAI SABAI 25 Woodbridge Rd, Moseley, B13 8EH 0121 4494498

SAFFRON 909 Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury B69 4RR 0121 552 1752

SAN CARLO 4 Temple St, B2 5BN 0121 633 0251

SHAH'S Unit 16, 1160 Warwick Road, Acocks Green B27 6BP. 0121 707 8297

SHIMLA PINKS 215 Broad St, B15 1AY 0121 633 0366

SHOGUN TEPPANYAKI The Mailbox,113-115 Wharfside St, B1 1RD 0121 632 1253

SHOGUN TEPPANYAKI The Waters Edge, Brindleyplace, B1 2HL 0121 643 1856

SIMPSONS, 20 Highfield Rd, Edgbaston B13 3DU 0121 454 3434

SPICE EXCHANGE, 1845 Pershore Rd Kings Norton, B30 3DJ 0121 451 1007

STRADA 109-111 Wharfside St, The Mailbox B1 1XL 0121 643 7279

SYRIANA 1 Constitution Hill, B19 3LG 0121 2369444

THAI EDGE 7 Oozells Sq, B1 2HL 0121 643 3993

TIN TIN CANTONESE, The Waters Edge, Brindleyplace, B1 2HL 0121 633 0888

THE VAULTS Newhall Place, Newhall Hill, B1 3JH 0121 212 9837

VMF - ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB Villa Park, Trinity Rd, B6 6HE 0121 326 1570

ULYSSES 42a Bristol Street, B5 7AA 0121 622 3159

THE WAREHOUSE CAFE 54-57 Allison Street, Digbeth, B5 5TH 0121 633 0261

WINE REPUBLIC Centenary Square, B1 2EP 0121 644 6464

WING WAH 278 Thimblemill Lane, B7 5HD 0121 327 7879

WOKTASTIC Paradise Place, B3 3HJ 0121 236 3130

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

YO! SUSHI Bullring, Birmingham B5 4BP. 0121 600 6712

ZIZZI 183 High St, Harborne B17 9QE 0121 428 4228 also at The Mailbox B1 1RL 0121 632 1333. 10 Poplar Rd, Solihull, B91 3AB 0121 704 5030

Black Country

ALEX'S 5 Bridgnorth Rd, Wolverhampton, WV6 8AB 01902 759274

ARBOR LIGHTS 127 Lichfield St, Walsall, WS1 1SY 01922 613361

BELLA 82 Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton, 01902 427555

BILASH 2 Cheapside, Wolverhampton, 01902 427762

THE BLUE BRICK Low Level Station, Sun St, Wolverhampton WV10 0DG 0870 850 6376

CAFE CHAI 29-33 New Street, Dudley DY1 1LT 01384 456847

CAFE CHAMPAGNE 253-255 Bilston Road, Wolverhampton WV2 2JN 01902 458024



Wine Republic, Birmingham

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

THE COWSHED Clive Farm Clive Rd, Pattingham, WV6 7EN 01902 701888

CINNAMON COURT Bentley Mill Way, Walsall WS2 0BP 0121 568 6664

THE DITCH 1 Town Hill, Walsall, WS1 2EU 01922 643215

FARADAYS The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, Dudley, DY5 1UR 01384 482 882

THE FAIRLAWNS AT ALDRIDGE 178 Little Aston Road, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 0NU 01922 455122

FOUR STONES Adam's Hill,Clint, Stourbridge, DY9 9PS 01562 883260

FRANZIS 151 Milcote Rd, Smethwick, B67 0121 429 7920

FRENCH CONNECTION 3 Coventry St, Stourbridge DY8 1EP 01384 390940

FRENCH HEN Bromsgrove Rd, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9PY 01562 883040

GARAM MASALA 205 High St, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8JZ 01384 424 240

GOLDEN MOMENTS 2-3 Ablewell St, Walsall WS1 2EQ 01922 640363

KAMRAN BALTI'S 34 High Street, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8LF 01384 893030

MADE IN THAI Darlington St, Wolverhampton WV1 4HW 01902 312512

MALABAR 7 Anchor Rd, Walsall WS9 8PT 01922 944 482

THE MANGO TREE Chester Rd, Stonnall, WS9 9HJ 01922 457344

PARLOUR 10 The Arcade, Walsall, WS1 1SY 01922 613407

THE PIE FACTORY 50 Hurst Lane, Tipton DY4 9AB 0121 557 1402

RED FORT Fold St, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LP 01902 424440

RISTORANTE ROMAGNA 4 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8QQ 01902 756052

THE SPRINGHILL Warstones Rd, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 4LB 01902 342530

SIMON'S 520 Chester Rd, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0121 580 9293

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

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

THE WOODMAN Claverley, Staffordshire, Wolverhampton WV5 7DG 01746 710 553

Shropshire

AFTAB 25 High St, Ironbridge TF8 7AD 01952 432055

ALBRIGHT HUSSEY Ellesmere Rd, Shrewsbury, SY4 3AF 01939 290 523

BUTLERS Park St, Shifnal, TF11 01952 460662

CASA NARANJO Barracks Passage, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 01743 588165

CASA RUIZ 45 High Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX 01746 218 084

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

CORNHOUSE 59a Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, SY1 1XY 01743 231991

CROMWELLS 11 Dogpole, Shrewsbury SY1 1EN 01743 361440

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

COUNTESS ARMS Weston Heath, Shropshire TF11 8RY 01952 691123

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

D'ARCEYS Broadway, Shifnal TF11 8AZ 01952 460600

DRAPERS 10 St Mary's St Shrewsbury, SY1 1DZ 01743 344679

FENNELS 8 Market Place, Shifnall TF11 9AZ 01952 463020

THE FEATHERS Brockton, Much Wenlock TF13 6JR 01746 785202

THE FOX INN 46 High St, Much Wenlock TF13 6AD 01952 727292

FRANK CAFE BAR 165-167 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8LG 01743 354422

THE GOLDEN CROSS 14 Princess St, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LP 01743 362507

THE GOLDEN MOMENTS 50 Broad St, Ludlow SY8 1NH Tel:01584 878488

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 INN AT GRINSHILL The High Street, Grinshill, Shrewsbury, SY4 3BL 01939 220410

THE HAYWARDS at The Lion Hotel, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1UY 01743 353107

KING & THAI Avenue Rd, Broseley, Telford TF12 5DL 01952 882004

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

MAD JACKS 15 St Mary's St, Shrewsbury, SY1 1EQ 01743 358870

THE MALTHOUSE The Wharfage, Ironbridge TF8 7NH. 01902 433712

THE MEADOW INN Buildwas Road, Ironbridge TF8 7BJ 01952 433193

MINH'S CHINESE 20 Bradford St, Shifnal TF11 8AU 01952 463323

MR UNDERHILLS Dinham Weir, Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1EH 01584 874431

MORGANS 1 Bellstone, Shrewsbury SY1 1HU 01743 239114

THE MYTTON & MERMAID Atcham, Shrewsbury, SY5 6QG 01743 761220

OAK TREE Burrington, Ludlow, SY8 2HT 01568 770033

THE OLD ORLETON INN Holyhead Rd, Wellington, TF1 2HA 01952 255011

THE OLD RECTORY HOTEL & RESTAURANT Lowe Hill Road, Wem, Shropshire 01939 233233

ODYSSEY TAVERNA Cheapside, Shifnal TF11 8BN 01952 461660

PARKWAY 76 Corve St, Ludlow SY8 2PG 01584 873 130

THE PEACH TREE 21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE 01743 355055

THE POUND AT LEE-BOTWOOD Leebotwood, Nr Church Stretton SY6 6ND 01694 751477

RENAISSANCE, 29a Princess St,Shrewsbury, SY11LW 01743 354289

ROMOLO Victoria Avenue, shrewsbury SY1 1HH 01743 233244

ROYAL BENGAL TANDOORI 32-34 The Broadway, Shifnal TF11 8AZ 01952 460522

SARACENS Shrewsbury Rd, SY4 4AG 01939 210877

SEBASTIANS 45 Willow St, Oswestry SY11 1AQ 01691 655444

TIN TINS Wellington Road, Telford TF2 8AJ 01952 608688

Restaurant LISTINGS

TRAITORS GATE Castle St, Water Lane, ShrewsburySY1 2BX 01743 249152

THE WALLS Welsh Walls, Oswestry SY11 1AW 01691 670970

Staffordshire

NO 5 Gaol Mews, Stafford ST16 3AN 01785 22 9900

BELLA ITALIA 20 Greengate St, Stafford,ST16 2HS 01785 211968

CURRY KUTEER 31 Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HY 01785 253279

CHANDLERS 6 Conduit St, Lichfield, WS13 01543 416688

THE CORNER HOUSE Second Avenue, Burton-On-Trent DE14 2WF 01283 542321

ESSENCE OF THE ORIENT 27 Broad Eye, Stafford ST16 2QB 01785 229988

FOUR SEASONS Swinfen Hall Lichfield, WS14 9RE 0844 567 2407

THE GREEN ROOM Castle Dyke, Lichfield WS13 6HR 01543 412121

JASMINE PEKING 21 High St, Eccleshall, Stafford ST21 6BW 01785 851200

LA DOLCE VITA 19 Stafford St, Stone ST15 8QW 01785 817 985

LODGE BALTI Shenstone, Wood End, Lichfield WS14 (01543) 483334

MALABAR 1 Water Street, Stafford, ST16 2AG 01785 227 500/600

THE MEETING ROOM 41 Piccadilly, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1EN 01782 205554

MARLOES 13 London Road, Newcastle, ST5 1LQ 01782 661983

THE MILL Mill St, Stone, ST15 8BA 01785 818456

MINT LEAF George St, Burton. DE14 1DP 01283 563468

THE NAVIGATION INN Newport Road, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0BN 01785 822327

OLD VICARAGE 2 Main St, Branston, Burton, DE14 3EX 01283 533222

PASTICHE BISTRO 12 Percy Street, Hanley, ST1 1NE 01782 263 737

THE PEARL18 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 Tel: 01782 209444

THE RED ROOM 7 Newcastle Road, Congleton CW12 4HN 01260 297871

SHIMLA PALACE Wolsely Bridge Stafford ST170XS 01889 881025

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

BLUE 21 Spon St, Coventry, CV1 3BA 024 7622 9274

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 42 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

BROWNS Earl St, Coventry CV1 5RU 0247 622 1100

CARLUCCIOS 13 Waterside, Stratford-Upon-Avon CV37 6BA 01789 267424

CASTLE BALTI 11-13 St. Johns, Warwick CV34 4NE 01926 493007

CATALAN 6 Jury St , Warwick CV34 4EW 01926 498 930

THE CELLAR 5 The Knibbs, Smith St, Warwick,CV34 4UW 01926 400809

EGO 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 864463

FIVE RIVERS 20-22 Victoria Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 3AB 01926 431999

GEORGETOWN 23 Sheep St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6EF 01789 204445

THE GRANVILLE 52, Wellesbourne Rd, Barford, CV35 8DS 01926 624236

LANE'S 6 Castle St, Warwick CV34 4BP 01926 403030

THE LORD LEYCESTER 17-19 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EJ 01926 491481

MALBEC 6 Union St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6QT 01789 269106

MERCHANTS Swan Street, Warwick CV34 4BJ 01926 403833

NAILCOTE HALL Nailcote Lane, Berkswell, Coventry, CV7 7DE 02476 466174

NICOLINIS 14 The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4DW 01926 421620

QUEANS RESTAURANT 15 Dormer Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA 01926 315522

THE ONE ELM 1 Guild St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6QZ 01789 404919

OSCARS 39 Chandos St, Leamington Spa, CV32 4RL 01926 452807

OYSTER LOUNGE 12-14 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW 01926 495491

PEEL'S Hampton Manor, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, B92 0EN 01675 446080

PREZZO 1-3 High St, Warwick CV34 4AP 01926 475867


Valentino's Restaurant, Worcester


Albright Hussey, Shrewsbury, Shropshire

RAFFLES 57 Warwick Rd, Kenilworth, CV8 1HN 01926 864 300

THE RED LION Station Rd, Warwick CV35 8PE 01926 842291

RESTAURANT 23 23 Dromer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA 01926 422422

ROBBIES 74 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HU 01926 400470

ROSE & CROWN 30 Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SH 01926 411117

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB 01789 403449

SAFFRON Market St, Westgate House, Warwick CV34 4DE 01926 402061

THE SAXON MILL Coventry Rd, Guys Cliffe, Warwick CV34 5YN 01926 492 255

SIGNATURES AT THE BELGRADE Belgrade Theatre, Belgrade Square, Coventry, CV1 1GS 02476 846762

TAILORS 22 Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SL 01926 410590

THAI ELEPHANT 8-10 Theatre St, Warwick CV34 4DP 01926 410688

THE TREVELYAN Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 ONR 01789 295252

WARWICK SPICE 24 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HS 01926 491736

THE VINE INN West St, Warwick CV34 6AW 01926 490744

ZIZZI 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 852980

Worcestershire

ANAKARI 47 The Tythings, Worcester. 01905 21412

ANGEL CHEF Angel St, Worcester WR1 3QT 01905 731131

ASHLEYS 11 The Tything, Worcester WR1 1HD 01905 611747

BACCHUS 44 Worcester Rd Bromsgrove B61 7AE 01527 877557

BENEDICTOS 34 Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HZ 01905 21444

THE BEAR AND RAGGED STAFF Station Rd, Worcester WR6 5JH 01886 833399

BRAMBLINGS Hither Green Lane, Redditch, B98 9BE 0871 2079595

BROWNS 24 Quay St, Worcester WR1 2JJ 01905 26263

CHESTERS 51 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DP 01905 611638

CROWN & SANDYS Main Rd, Ombersley, WR9 0EW 01905 620252

FARTHINGS Bransford, Gt Malvern WR6 5JD 01886 833551

THE FIG TREE 99 Church Street, Gt Malvern WR14 2AE 01684 569909

FOUR SEASONS 61 Lowesmoor, Worcester WR1 2RS 01905 2702

FUSION BRASSERIE Hawbridge, Stoulton, Worcester WR7 4RJ 01905 840647

GLASSHOUSE 55 Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HU 01905 611120

THE HADLEY BOWLING GREEN Hadley Heath, Hadley, WR9 0AR 01905 620294

THE INN AT STONEHALL Stonehall Common, Worcester, WR5 3QG 01905 820462

KING CHARLES II King Charles House, New St, Worcester WR1 2D 01905 22449

LITTLE VENICE 1 St Nicholas St, Worcester WR1 1UW 01905 726126

MASSALLA LOUNGE 35 Broad St, Worcester WR1 3NH 01905 729955

MONSOON 35 Foregate St, Worcester, WR1 1EE 01905 726333

MUG HOUSE Claines Lane, Worcester WR3 7RN 01905 456649

OLD RECTIFYING HOUSE North Parade, Worcester WR1 3NN 01905 619622

THE OLD RECTORY Ipsley, Redditch, B98 0AP 01527 517003

PEPPER & OZ 23 Abbey Rd, Gt Malvern WR14 3ES 01684 562676

THE PRIORY VIEW Abbey Rd, Gt Malvern WR14 3ET 0845 084 8923

PUCCINI'S, 12 Friar St, Worcester WR12LZ 01905 27770

THE QUAY Worcester WR1 2JN 01905 745 792

THE QUEENS HEAD Sugarbrook Lane, Bromsgrove, B30 3AU 01527 877777

RED ROOMS Church St, Worcester WR1 2RH 01905 28228

RILEY'S The Quadrant, Redditch B98 8AE 01527 60544

ROSADOS'S 2 Finstall Rd, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. B60 2DZ 01527 889948

ROSEANNAS St. Andrews Drive, Droitwich, WR9 8AL 01905 779677

SAFFRONS 15 New St, Worcester WR1 2DP 01905 610505

SINGAPORE 29 Friar St, Worcester WR1 2NA 01905 613005

SPICE CUISINE 39-41 Bromyard Terrace, Worcester WR2 5BW 01905 429786

SPICE FUSION St Andrews St, Droitwich, WR9 8DY 0871 961 7008

THAI GALLERY 26-32 Friar St, Worcester WR1 2LZ 01905 25451

VALENTINO'S 43 Foregate St, Worcester WR1 1EE 01905 617773

VENTURE INN Ombersley, Droitwich, WR9 0EW 01905 620552

THE WILDMOOR OAK Top Road, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove B61 0RB 0121 453 2696

WYCH WAY INN Worcester Rd, Wychbold, WR9 7PA 01527 860130

To get your restaurant listed here
e: j.cartwright@whatsonlive.co.uk
or call Jon Cartwright
on 01743 281703

Cucina Rustica

Saint Paul's Square, 24 Ludgate Hill
Birmingham, B3 1DX
Tel: 0121 233 2277
Email: info@cucinarustica.co.uk
web: www.cucinarustica.co.uk



- For lovers of finest food and attentive service
- An explosion of flavour of true Italian food
- The restaurant believes in traditional and authenticity on classic recipes with a modern twist
- Deciding where to go to add that special touch to family events, business meetings or social parties will no longer be a difficult decision.

DISCERNING DINERS
Food, Drink & New Friends...



- Meet and make new friends in a sociable atmosphere
- Welcoming to singles and couples
- Instantly widening your social circle
- Informal with a relaxed atmosphere
- Open to all ages over 18
- Good food, good company
- Have fun

WE OFFER YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND YOUR SOCIAL CIRCLE DURING EVENINGS OF DELICIOUS FOOD AND GOOD COMPANY

We meet monthly in restaurants carefully selected for their ambience, service and cuisine. From the moment you arrive you will be made to feel very welcome.

Although most of our members are unattached, we are not a singles club or dating agency. Our ethos is: Food, Drink & New Friends

For further information please call Pam on 0121 682 2895 or 0798 4259979
email info@discerningdiners.co.uk or visit our website www.discerningdiners.co.uk

---

THE DINNER CLUB (Est 86)

SINGLE?

For the more discerning unattached person, age 30-45 or 45+

Events weekly include dining out, dinner dances, black tie balls, theatre, parties, weekends away and holidays abroad.

NOT A DATING AGENCY

01244 677030 (Day) / 01244 548816 (Eve/W-end)

www.thedinnerclubuk.com

Southside Style



Set in the **heart of Southside**, Birmingham, (just minutes from the Hippodrome) 'The Loft Lounge' is an ideal place to **escape those winter blues,** whether it be for a bite to eat, **premium cocktails** or just a heart warming hot chocolate.

Book Now for Mothers Day
3 Courses just £19.95
(Includes bottle of bubbly for Mum!)

The perfect location morning, noon or night!

The Loft Lounge

143 Bromsgrove Street, Southside,
Birmingham, B5 6RG t: 0121 622 2444
e: contact@theloftlounge.co.uk
www.theloftlounge.co.uk

ANTIQUES *for* EVERYONE

VETTED · VARIETY · VINTAGE







INVEST IN STYLE VETTED FOR AUTHENTICITY QUALITY ORIGINALS FREE PARKING

12TH - 15TH APRIL 2012
HALLS 17-19, THE NEC, BIRMINGHAM

Tickets: Call 0844 581 0827 or Book Online at

www.antiquesforeveryone.co.uk

All bookings are subject to a single transaction fee Rights of admission reserved. Security searches in operation.
Visitors are not permitted to bring antiques into the fair.

CLARION EVENTS