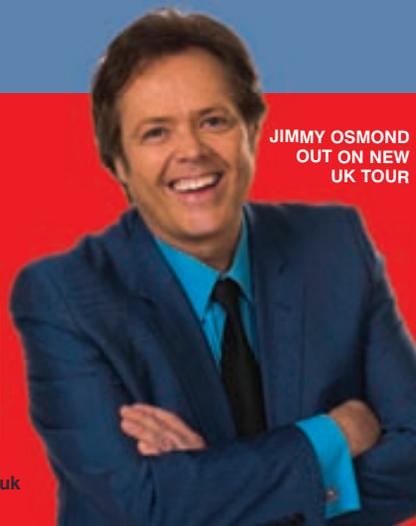


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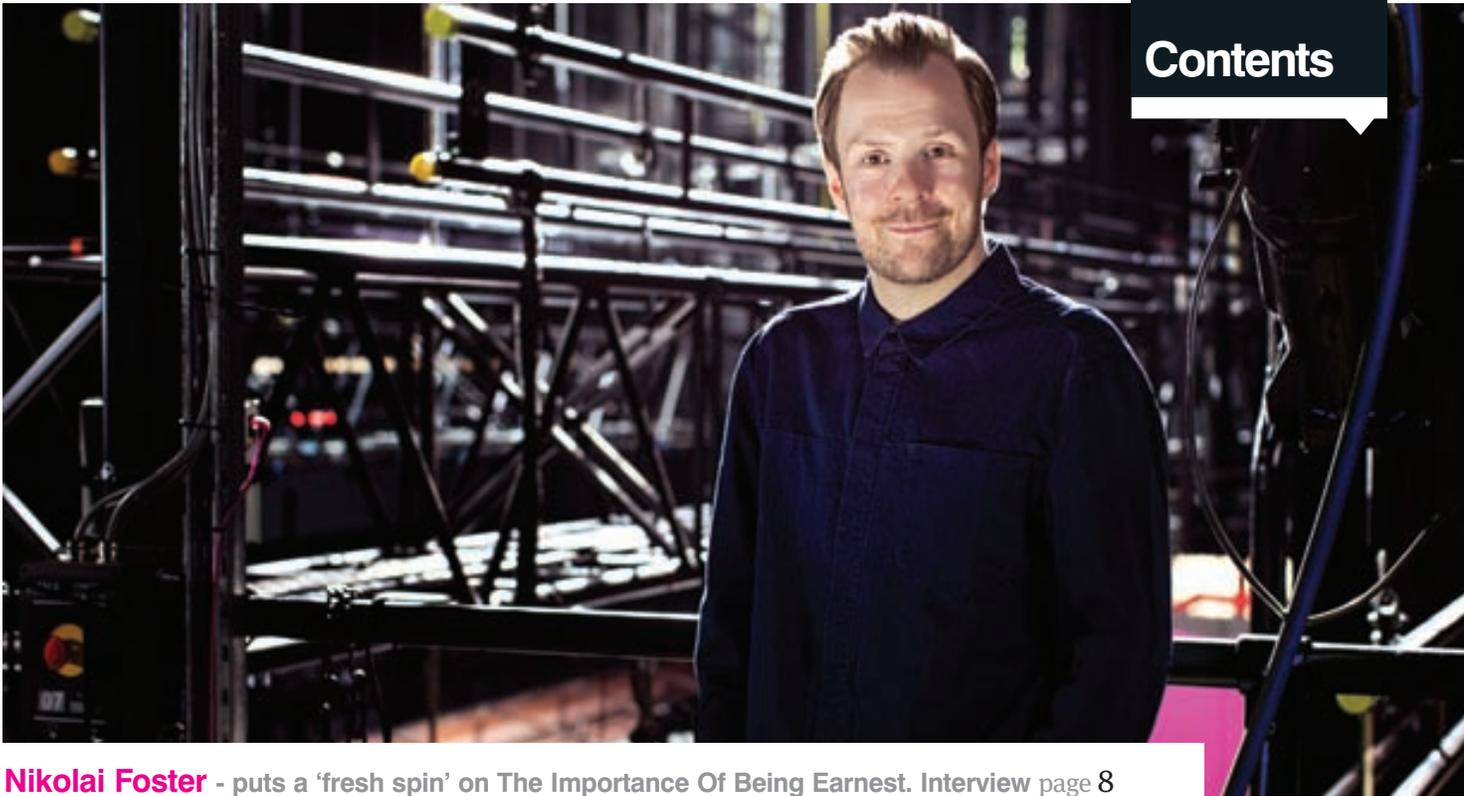
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Nikolai Foster - puts a 'fresh spin' on The Importance Of Being Earnest. Interview page 8

Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla



Interview with the CBSO's newest music director page 8

Kerry Godliman



Comedian talks about her new show, Stick Or Twist page 27

Inspire 16



Summer showcase continues at BMAG page 40

the list



Your 16-page week-by-week listings guide page 51

inside:

4. First Word	11. Food	14. Music	26. Comedy	28. Theatre	37. Film	40. Visual Arts	43. Events
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First Word

Celebrating 450 years of Viennese tradition

The Spanish Riding School of Vienna is this autumn celebrating its 450th anniversary with a series of exclusive shows in Birmingham and London.

The shows will be hosted by TV presenter and British Dressage Ambassador Nicki Chapman. Commenting on her involvement, Nicki said: "The Spanish Riding School of Vienna tours are rare and exceptional. I've witnessed first hand these graceful horses thrilling crowds with their astonishing combination of elegance and power. This is an extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness these world-renowned horses performing in the UK during the academy's momentous 450th anniversary year."

The Spanish Riding School of Vienna perform at the Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, from 18 to 20 November.



Get up close and personal with the Bard!

If you've missed out, but wish you hadn't, on all the events marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, the Birmingham Repertory Theatre is this month providing a further opportunity to get up close and personal with the works of the bard. There is a catch, though; you have to be between the ages of 13 and 25!

The REP's Shakespeare summer school provides participants with the chance to rehearse an abridged version of one of his plays, and then to perform it in a city centre park for families, friends and passers-by to enjoy. Featuring drama workshops and the chance to collaborate with a professional director to hone your acting skills, the week-long school takes place at The REP from 1 to 5 August. For more information, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk

Soho House does Bollywood

Birmingham's Soho House is 'going Bollywood' this month. The Handsworth-located Birmingham Museums Trust visitor attraction, a restored Georgian house, will host 'an atmospheric Indian evening' on Saturday 13 August.

Devised in partnership with the Travelling Cinema Company, the adults-only event's programme features al fresco entertainment, including Bollywood dancers, and an open-air showing of Oscar-winning movie *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Commenting on the event, Birmingham Museums Trust's Alex Nicholson-Evans said: "There's nothing better on a summer's evening than enjoying entertainment outdoors, and this event is going to be great fun. We'll have deckchairs and picnic blankets out on the lawn, and each participant will be given their own set of headphones to enjoy the movie in this unique location. We've got street food for sale too, so you can grab a bite to eat while catching the movie, so why not make a night of it!"



Jodie Prenger joins panto cast

Musical theatre star Jodie Prenger will be making wishes come true this Christmas when she stars as Fairy Bow Bells in



Birmingham Hippodrome's pantomime production of *Dick Whittington*.

Jodie, who found fame on BBC talent show *I'd Do Anything*, winning the role of Nancy in the West End revival of Lionel Bart's *Oliver!*, will be joined in the Hippodrome panto by John Barrowman, Steve McFadden, The Krankies and comedian Matt Slack. Commenting on her forthcoming wand-waving role, Jodie said: "I'm so excited to be heading to Birmingham this Christmas and working with my old *I'd Do Anything* judge John Barrowman. We've been saying for years we should do another show together, so to get the chance to do panto with him, Steve, The Krankies and Matt is really exciting. I can't wait!"

Dick Whittington runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday 19 December to Sunday 29 January.

Tickets are available at birminghamhippodrome.com

The Big Yin gets on his High Horse

Legendary Scottish comedian Billy Connolly is heading for Birmingham as part of an autumn tour.

Connolly - also known as the Big Yin - will bring his High Horse show to the city's Barclaycard Arena on 2 & 3 November.

Earlier this year, he revealed that touring helps alleviate the symptoms of his Parkinson's disease.

"It's a miracle," he said in an interview in the US. "I think science should study it. I've gone on stage sick and come off better."

Tickets for Billy's Birmingham shows are now on general sale via theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.



Hollywood debut for Birmingham actor

A young Birmingham actor is set to appear alongside former Dr Who favourite Billie Piper in a brand new British movie.

Twenty-year-old Antonio Aakeel will star in the crime thriller *City Of Tiny Lights*, directed by the BAFTA-winning Pete Travis, whose Hollywood films include *Vantage Point* and *Dredd*.

Discussing his role in the movie, Antonio said: "Coming from a working-class background, opportunities like this for people like me are few and far between. I've had a couple of TV jobs but nothing compares to being on an actual film set."



Cirque brings critically acclaimed show to the Midlands

The internationally renowned Cirque du Soleil is returning to Birmingham in 2017 with its signature production, *Varekai*. The critically acclaimed show has been updated with acts never before seen in the UK. Paying tribute to 'the nomadic soul', it tells the story of a young man who finds himself parachuted into 'a kaleidoscopic world' inhabited by fantastical creatures.

Varekai visits the Genting Arena, Birmingham, from 1 to 5 March as part of a UK tour.

Young persons festival at the Town Hall

Birmingham's Town Hall is hosting a free one-day music & arts festival on Saturday 6 August.

The festival is part of Project SoundLounge, an ongoing initiative curated by a team of talented young people between the ages of 16 and 25.

Commenting on the event, Project SoundLounge Fellow Lucy Mulgrew said: "The team have worked incredibly hard to create a festival which showcases a variety of fresh and unique artists and performers from across Birmingham.

Please do join us for an unforgettable day created by young people for young people."

Free tickets for the festival can be booked at www.thsh.co.uk or by phoning the box office on 0121 780 3333.

Theatres join forces in new playwriting initiative

A year-long playwriting scheme for deaf and disabled writers has been launched in the Midlands.

Write To Play is the brainchild of Graeae Theatre Company, an organisation dedicated to placing deaf and disabled artists centre stage. The scheme is being run in partnership with Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Curve Leicester and Belgrade Theatre Coventry.

The 12-month programme includes a crash course in the art of playwriting, specialist workshops, mentoring sessions and opportunities to have short pieces of work performed in front of an audience.

Applications to take part in Write To Play open on 5 September.



Something for all ages at Cannon Hill Park venue

Popular arts venue mac birmingham has released details about its 2016/17 programme of courses. The Cannon Hill Park-located destination is offering more than 200 courses for children, young people and adults, covering a wide range of subject matter including music, visual arts, well-being, dance and digital media.

The venue's autumn term commences on Monday 12 September. To see the whole range of courses on offer, visit macbirmingham.co.uk/courses



RBSA explores the art of printmaking

A new festival exploring and celebrating the art of printmaking is being launched in Birmingham this month.

Co-ordinated by the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA), the event begins on 15 August with a series of print workshops led by renowned printmakers. The workshops are suitable for everyone, from beginners with an interest in learning a new skill to advanced printmakers looking to refresh their technique. Numerous other festival events will take place during the autumn. Commenting on the new festival, RBSA Gallery Director Dr Marie Considine said: "We're excited to launch Birmingham's first ever printmaking festival and hope that it will encourage more people to engage with this historic, hands-on art form. Birmingham has such a rich printmaking heritage, with many artists still practising the technique in the city today. The festival offers people of all ages and abilities the chance to learn something new, whilst introducing both the art form and the RBSA to a wider audience." For more information, visit rbsa.org.uk



Flip Out in the Black Country

A giant £1million trampoline park is opening in the Black Country early this month. The Flip Out centre in Oldbury will feature a multi-level parkour area, a gladiator duel beam, a 30m tumble track, a huge graffiti wall, a special under-fives space, and penalty shoot-out and basketball areas. It will also house three specialist rooms for children's parties and a large cafe, with a traditional big red bus used as a viewing gallery. For more information, visit flipout.co.uk

Lighting up Longbridge

The recently regenerated Longbridge area of Birmingham is set to host a light festival this autumn. Featuring a collection of temporary and permanent outdoor light & art installations, the event also includes music, performance, pop-up theatre, free family workshops, outdoor play, street food and a glow-in-the-dark roller disco. The Longbridge Light Festival takes place on the evening of 22 October. For more information, visit longbridgelightfestival.co.uk

PJ Harvey plays Wolverhampton

The PJ Harvey is stopping off in Wolverhampton this autumn as part of a 17-date UK and European tour. The talented singer-songwriter went to the top of the UK charts earlier this year with the release of The Hope Six Demolition Project, her first album for five years. She plays the city's Starworks Warehouse on 4 November.

Fusing music and fire at mac

A show featuring fire, live and electronic music and glass blowing is being presented at mac birmingham in early September. Torch Chamber Arkestra sees glass artist Carrie Fertig using a process of flameworking with fire to make glass instruments. These are then played by Carrie and participating musicians, together with pre-made instruments, and are combined with electronic and digitally manipulated sound. "We aim to create a new intersection of craft, music and technology," explains Carrie. "Torch Chamber Arkestra combines fire, glass and digital manipulation of percussive glass instruments to produce a dark, theatrical, audiovisual experience. Through ritualistic music and action, we take the audience to a new sonic interior between realms." Carrie Fertig: Torch Chamber Arkestra is presented at mac birmingham on Friday 2 & Saturday 3 September. There's an extra 'relaxed family performance' on the Saturday afternoon.

The future's bright for Arenacross

The Monster Energy Arenacross Tour is set to make a welcome return to Birmingham in early 2017. Bringing indoors all the spectacular elements of Motorcross and set to a pumping soundtrack and laser show, Arenacross sees the world's top freestylers taking to the track to present some truly awe-inspiring entertainment. Commenting on the growth and popularity of the event, Matt Bates, the boss of organisers e22 Sports, said: "Who would've thought just four years ago the UK would have the strongest indoor Motocross series in Europe, with over 50,000 fans attending? I'm massively proud of what we've achieved so far, but all I can say is that this is just the beginning - I believe we have an absolutely massive future and want to take the entertainment of Arenacross to a whole new level." The 2017 tour visits Genting Arena, Birmingham, on 21 January.



Mamma Mia! joins HOYS

Equestrian fun combined with award-winning musical theatre is The Name Of The Game at Birmingham's NEC this October, when the West End cast of hit Abba production Mamma Mia! perform at the Horse Of The Year Show (HOYS). Horse-loving Mamma Mia! creator and producer Judy Craymer is the inspiration behind the unusual team-up, which should make for a memorable final night at the popular five-day event. Commenting on the news, Helena Pettit, managing director of Grandstand Media, which organises HOYS, said: "Judy had mentioned Mamma Mia! performing at the Horse Of The Year Show as an opportunity a couple of years ago. For it to come to fruition is hugely exciting. Mamma Mia! is the perfect accompaniment to our show finale, which celebrates the champion of champions and the culmination of another competitive year." The Horse Of The Year Show runs at the NEC from 5 to 9 October, with the Mamma Mia! cast making their contribution on the evening of Sunday the 9th.

What's On HIGHLIGHTS

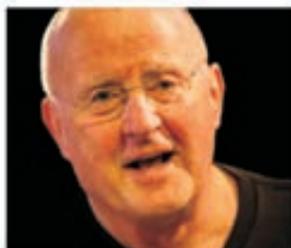
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SUN 16 OCTOBER
8PM
TOWN HALL



THE GLOAMING

SUN 25 SEPTEMBER
7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III

TUES 18 OCTOBER
7:30PM
TOWN HALL



PETULA CLARK FROM NOW ON TOUR

MON 10 OCTOBER
7:30PM
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NIKOLAI FOSTER

Heather Kincaid talks to Leicester Curve's Artistic Director about his 'fresh and contemporary' spin on Oscar Wilde's farcical comedy



In the preface to *The Picture Of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde writes, "It is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors." However astute the observation may have been, it's unlikely that Wilde would ever have envisaged its literal realisation in a production of a play of his own. Led by Curve Leicester's Artistic Director, Nikolai Foster, in co-production with Birmingham REP, a bold new staging of *The Importance Of Being Earnest* uses a dazzling mirrored set to prompt reflection on the play's complex themes.

"One of the very first productions I assisted on when I was at drama school was *The Importance Of Being Earnest*," explains Foster. "It was very traditional, with nice sets and posh frocks, and I just remember dreaming about what I'd do with the play if I was ever lucky enough to direct it. What we've come up with is something quite conceptual and expressionistic, which notionally takes place in the 1800s, but is set in this environment which is basically a world of mirrors."

Developed by Isla Shaw, the production's arresting design taps into ideas around identity, deception and the disconnect between appearance and reality which are not only central to this play, but recur time and again in Wilde's work. Though Wilde was writing over a century ago, these concepts remain just as relevant in today's world of social media and carefully curated online profiles.

"It's a very witty, intelligent play that uses language in quite an exciting, subversive way. Wilde writes a lot about the hypocrisy and double standards of the times he lived in - Lady Bracknell, for example, wasn't born into this society, but has married into it and sort of clawed her way to the top. So I started thinking about that and about mirrors, and the question of whether or not, when you look in a mirror, you actually see a true reflection of yourself."

As Algernon would have it, “The truth is rarely pure and never simple,” and “To be natural is such a very difficult pose to keep up.” Foster hopes that this high-concept design will offer something “truthful to the period, but with a contemporary twist.” For his initial inspiration, he turned to the world of high fashion - a world bubbling over with the kinds of big ideas, exclusivity, excess and obsession with appearances that Wilde himself would doubtless have found familiar.

“Just by accident, about a year ago, I found this image of a fashion shoot in New York on Twitter. It's basically just a box of mirrors with a table and a door at the back, and clever lighting. Then we found these wonderful photographs of fashion now - these sort of country frocks and Dolce and Gabbana suits that look like they could absolutely be from Gwendolen's day.”

Composed by Curve Associate Artist Dougal Irvine, the score will similarly straddle past and present to produce something fresh and dynamic, with what Foster describes as a very “Curve feel”.

“Dougal and I talked about a composer called Steve Reich who creates these kind of electropop-synth-classical compositions, and that's the sort of sound we're starting with. It might be that the play starts with a scene in a nightclub where the lads have been the night before and so we have something very aggressively 'now' to get us into the world of the play, and then we'll have more of a contemporary-classical crossover sound to link scenes together and underscore it all. But it will all be tastefully employed to support what we're trying to do tonally - we don't want it to be a barrage of contemporary nonsense for the sake of it.”

For Foster, this is crucial: Wilde's writing speaks for itself, and there's no intention of updating or interfering with the text as written.

“We're not messing with genius. People who know and love the play are going to get a very fine reading of it. Hopefully it's the best

of both worlds: I think young people coming to see it for the first time will love the anarchy of these young people telling porkies and creating alter-egos to escape their overbearing parents and guardians, and people who are a bit older and know the play will get to see something very glamorous and unlike any production they've ever seen before.”

Alongside major, award-winning talent like Cathy Tyson (Mona Lisa, The Serpent And The Rainbow, Priest, Band Of Gold), the cast will also include local actor Sharan Phull, who has previously performed with the Curve Community Company.

“At the launch of my very first season, Sharan was an usher at the theatre. She'd just come back from drama school in London after having been in Rent and other community shows here. I saw her in Bend It Like Beckham when she was on for the lead role which she'd been understudying, and consequently we auditioned her for Cecily and she was amazing. She absolutely captured the sort of innocence and exuberance of the character.”

In his capacity as Artistic Director, Foster is passionate about nurturing links with the local community, and since taking over from Paul Kerryson in January last year, he has actively sought to bring new people into the theatre, both onto the stage and into the auditorium. So far, his development work has been hugely successful, with several community performers going on to be cast in professional productions at Curve and elsewhere.

“Mark Peachy, who played the title role in our Community Company production of Richard III last year went on to be in A Streetcar Named Desire here. We also offered him a part in Breakfast At Tiffany's but he couldn't do it because he'll be in Birmingham doing Mamma Mia! Nick Read, whose stage name is Nicholas Alexander, has been involved with the young company and then was in A Streetcar Named Desire, and he's just got a place at drama school from September. But it goes both ways: at the moment we're rehearsing

Bugsy Malone, and one of the kids in that played one of the Adrian Moles, so he's been in a professional production and has now come back to be in a community production. I love that crossover. There's no barrier between professional and amateur here - it's all about genuinely engaging, and there are so many ways that people do that here, whether it's being part of a company or just coming in, putting on some music and practising your breakdancing in the foyer.”

From a literary classic to a popular musical, Foster goes from The Importance Of Being Earnest to directing Grease later in the year. Thanks to some last-minute rescheduling, he'll also be working on a National Youth Music Theatre production of Spring Awakening while Earnest is still in rehearsals.

“I think we really pride ourselves on having something for everybody here at Curve, and as an artist, I do feel like it's important to have that variety. It keeps you on your toes. One of the things I was worried about when I came to work in this building was that I'd get complacent without the rough and tumble of moving around as a freelancer, but we're always so busy and working so hard to challenge ourselves here that it's never going to become static.

“There are times when you miss the privacy and the chance to have a break. I have just said to myself, you're constantly going to be tired and a bit stressed now because there's always something to worry about - but in a good way. Even after you've had a press night, you've got other things to work on, whether it's your learning department or a new communications strategy or looking at the Arts Council grant. It's a really full-on, full-time job, but I love it.”

.....
The Importance Of Being Earnest is at Birmingham REP from Fri 9 to Sat 24 September and at Curve Leicester from Thurs 6 October to Sat 5 November

“ *It's a very witty and intelligent play that uses language in quite an exciting, subversive way.* ”

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Omar Allibhoy makes Spanish cooking simple

The chef and owner of Birmingham's Grand Central-located eatery, Tapas Revolution, is publishing his second cookbook next month.

Omar Allibhoy uses the book, *Spanish Made Simple*, to introduce readers to home-cooked meals that are widely enjoyed across Spain.

"The dishes I grew up with have left an indelible mark on my heart," says Omar, who hails from Madrid. "My aim is to convince everyone to add some of my favourites to their weekly repertoire at home."

Spanish Made Simple is published by Quadrille on 22 September.



Coming soon to Birmingham's food and drink scene...

Birmingham's ever-growing food & drink scene is set to expand further in the forthcoming months, thanks to the addition of a number of new venues.

Popular cocktail bar chain The Alchemist and Italian restaurant Gusto will both open their doors next month in the Grand Hotel on Colmore Row. The venues are part of the Living Ventures group, which also operates The Botanist on the city's Temple Street.

Also opening in Colmore Row - in early 2017 - is a basement restaurant next to Snow Hill Station. The site of the restaurant features a glass pavilion-style door, a new lift and stairway. It's yet to be announced who will be operating from the venue.

Across the road, meanwhile, in the Great Western Arcade, Charter Brands, the company behind Langley's No 8 Gin, is launching its first city centre bar in the autumn. The yet-to-be-named venue opens in the wake of numerous pop-up projects coordinated by the company in recent times.

REVIEW: Bistrot Pierre, Gas Street, Birmingham

'Warm and good value' despite the teething problems...



Another week and another new restaurant opening in Brum.

Bistrot Pierre is a smallish chain of French-inspired eateries which sets out to offer good-value cooking in a relaxed and friendly environment. They've recently set up shop on Gas Street in the refurbished, Grade II listed, former headquarters of the Birmingham Canal Company. It's a lovely refit: set over two floors, the dining rooms are packed with original

features, complemented with an airy glass atrium and courtyard. There are cosy alcoves hidden in corners and you can even experience private dining in the old safe.

Let's get one thing out of the way immediately, which is that on the night we visited, the service was - how to put it - chaotic. Plates flying! Wrong food brought to the table not just once, but twice! And my personal favourite - being asked if I

wanted my beef stew cooked rare! Anything that could have gone wrong did, but - and it's a big but - the staff were so friendly and apologetic that they deserve the benefit of the doubt. In a few weeks, with a bit more training, they'll be just fine.

So let's get down to the food. My starter of *pâté de campagne* (£5.75) was skillfully made, studded with green pistachios and a cut above the average. The aforementioned beef stew (the *bourguignon maison*, £13.95) was the best of its kind that I've ever tasted - and I've tasted a few. A hunking great piece of beef shin melted into a pool of deep, rich, red wine gravy, studded with mushrooms, onions and bacon. No corners were cut in the making of this dish and the chef deserves a handshake. The side of potato *dauphinoise* was sadly very undercooked and was replaced with roasted new potatoes.

My partner, greedy as he is, went for the six-course set dinner (the *Soirée gastronomique*, £22.95), which is outstanding value for money. The onion soup was full-bodied and deeply savoury, and the pan-fried scal-

lops were fine. Bavette steak would have been perfect when it left the chef, but suffered for being left to linger under the hot lamp for too long.

But the puddings, oh the puddings. Lemon tart came with a proper *brûlée* crust and a gorgeous curl of raspberry sorbet. The star, though, was the *délice au chocolat* (£5.25) - a dense slice of the richest chocolate cake, offset with tart blackcurrant ice cream and sweet chocolate sauce. This is the stuff that dreams are made of.

Chains can often make you feel disappointed and a bit ripped off. Bistrot Pierre felt warm and good value - and, despite the teething problems, we left well-fed. Definitely worth a visit.

Helen Stallard

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

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Sweet treats galore at new Digbeth venue

Located in Digbeth, this latest addition to the city's ever-growing crop of dessert parlours showcases a New York loft-style cafe experience, with high ceilings, exposed brickwork and lots of copper.

Pirlo's serves everything from cakes and sundaes to cookie dough, waffles, crepes and gelato, as well as a range of vegan and gluten-free options. It also offers premium coffee - from local business Quarterhorse Coffee - and a range of milkshakes, smoothies and mocktails. There's even alcohol-free Champagne! To start, myself and my partner decided to try a Kinder Bueno and a Snickers milkshake. Both were creamy and full of flavour without being too heavy - a very good start indeed.

Next up was the milk chocolate cookie dough served with chocolate orange sauce and a white Ferrero Rocher gelato. The cookie dough was gooey and delicious, the sauce and gelato perfect accompaniments. Pirlo's boasts 23 gelato flavours, including Maltesers, bubblegum, midnight mint and banana swirl, to name but a few.

My partner is a huge fan of waffles, so naturally we chose one as our second dish - a Pirlo's Super Special with Ferrero Rocher, strawberries, bananas and Nutella sauce, to be precise. It was huge! Pirlo's certainly doesn't skimp on its portion sizes. The waffles were cooked perfectly, extremely tasty, and the ratio of ingredients worked well.

Both feeling suitably full, we opted for just one more dish. As tempting as the red velvet cheesecake was, we went for the lighter option of the mixed berry pavlova - a perfect choice to end the evening.

By the time we left, the majority of tables were taken - a really positive sign, considering it was 9 o'clock on a Wednesday evening.

If you've got a sweet tooth and fancy a late-night treat, look no further - Pirlo's is the place for you...

Check it out!

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Tom's Kitchen to open in The Mailbox

Award-winning chef Tom Aikens will open a restaurant, bar and deli in Birmingham in December.

Tom's Kitchen will be located in premier lifestyle and shopping destination The Mailbox. It will serve British favourites and comfort-food classics in a relaxed and informal setting.

Commenting on the news, Tom said:

"Birmingham is a vibrant and bustling city with a thriving food scene. There's already a wonderful array of restaurants in the city, and I believe that Tom's Kitchen will offer an exciting new option for diners in the Mailbox development."

The new restaurant will be the first Tom's Kitchen venture outside of London.

Jewellery Quarter restaurant gets a makeover

Recently expanded Birmingham Jewellery Quarter restaurant Pasta di Piazza is launching a brand new monthly eating experience.

The venue's Family Table event is designed to allow participants to enjoy food and drink in the company of lots of other people - much like a big family occasion in Italy.

Commenting on the initiative, manager Roni Ferro said: "Sometimes we get so caught up in our busy lives that we tend to get isolated and stick to our immediate groups. Family Table eating aims to challenge that. We want to reinvent the idea of the evening meal as a gathering of friends and strangers - essentially a great mixing opportunity. It's social dining - the city getting together - and a perfect way for people to make new connections."

The first Family Table takes place on Thursday 4 August at 8pm. Subsequent events take place on 8 September, 6 October, 3 November and 1 December.

Festival showcases the best of Lichfield food and drink

This month's Lichfield Food Festival is a particularly mouthwatering prospect for lovers of '80s pop music, with sibling duo Patrick and Gregory Kane - aka Hue And Cry - performing a free concert in the grounds of Lichfield Cathedral. Alongside the music, the free-entry festival features cookery demos, a huge range of food & drink stalls and street food, a celebration of local brews, numerous special offers and a birthday bake-off.

The event takes place on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 August.

Julian Marley

O2 Institute,
Birmingham,
Wed 17 August



This month sees Grammy-nominated reggae superstar Julian Ju Marley embark on his first ever UK tour. Son of the legendary Bob Marley, Julian firmly secured his place in the reggae world with the 1996 release of debut album *Lion In The Morning*. After a second album (*A Time & Place*, 2003) and various tours, he and his Uprising band were invited by the Jamaican government to represent the country and perform at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. His third and most recent release, *Awake*, was nominated for a Grammy in the Best Reggae Album category. Julian performs with his eleven-piece band on this highly anticipated tour - a must-see for any reggae fan.

Ernest Ranglin & Soweto Kinch

Hockley Flyover, Birmingham,
Sat 20 August

Jamaican jazz guitarist and composer Ernest Ranglin here joins British jazz alto saxophonist and rapper Soweto Kinch. The two perform together as part of *The Flyover Show* - a free, one-day event which returns to Birmingham's Hockley Flyover after a four-year break. The show features in Ranglin's farewell tour schedule, with the 84-year-old having already appeared with Kinch at both Glastonbury and Montreal Jazz Festival this summer.

Also featuring in the event's line-up, among others, are Basil Gabbidon, Eska, Ruben James, Alex Wilson, Call Me Unique and Knox Brown.



Soweto Kinch



Raghu Dixit

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Wed 31 August

Raghu Dixit's unique brand of infectious, happy music transcends age, genre and even language.

A real ambassador for Indian music, his career highlights include a performance for HM The Queen at the Diamond Jubilee cele-

brations in Windsor, hitting the number one spot seven times on the iTunes World Music Charts and performing at Glastonbury.

He visits Birmingham - accompanied by his band, Raghu Dixit Project - as part of a string of UK events.

The collective are also on the Shrewsbury Folk Festival bill, playing there two days before their Birmingham date.

Carina Round

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Thurs 4 August



In the summer of 1996, following a basement gig in her home town of Wolverhampton, Carina Round was given a three-night support slot at Ronnie Scott's club in Birmingham. This led to other such slots with the likes of Coldplay, Annie Lennox, David Gray and Elbow, to name but a few.

The singer-songwriter has since released four critically acclaimed albums - *Blood Mystery* (2001), *The Disconnection* (2003), *Slow Motion Addict* (2006) and *Tigermending* (2012). Although she's been producing and performing with the band Puscifer in recent years, she here appears solo on what's sure to be an unforgettable night of music for rock and indie lovers alike.

Good Charlotte

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Sat 27 August

Multi-platinum-selling pop punk icons Good Charlotte rose to fame in 2002 with the release of second album *The Young And The Hopeless*, the breakthrough single from which, *Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous*, topped pop and rock charts around the globe.

Fronted by Joel Madden, the band visit Birmingham in support of sixth album *Youth Authority* and ahead of performances at Reading and Leeds Festivals.



Good Charlotte



PUP

PUP

The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham,
Tues 30 August

PUP - said to be the acronym for Pathetic Use of Potential - are a punk rock band from Toronto. Following the release of critically acclaimed second album *The Dream Is Over* (the title having being inspired by a direct quote from vocalist Stefan Babcock's doctor after the singer had damaged his vocal chords), the band embark on their biggest ever headline tour.



ARTICLES IN SOUND

New project gives an insight into Coventry's rich musical heritage...

Ask any Coventrian about music from the area, and they'll probably talk to you at length about the heyday of ska and 2Tone in the '80s.

The instrumental role the city played in what became a massive musical movement based on values of multiculturalism and racial harmony is almost certainly its proudest claim to fame.

Yet The Specials and The Selecter are far from the beginning and end of Coventry's contribution to British music. From the Coventry Carol to Clint Mansell, Pete Waterman to Panjabi MC, and Delia Derbyshire to The Enemy, Coventry's connections to performers, innovators and recordings of national and even international renown have not been insignificant.

Seeking to reclaim this rich heritage as Coventry launches its City of Culture bid is a project led by Coventry Music Museum founder Pete Chambers BEM, exploring the city's sonic history, with an exhibition of 50 carefully chosen objects at its heart.

Funded through a Heritage Lottery grant, Articles In Sound is an ambitious multimedia venture, encompassing a printed guidebook, documentary film, outdoor mural and free smartphone app as well as physical exhibits in the museum itself.

The story begins over 400 years ago with James Hewitt of the Coventry Waits, the first musician from the city to be mentioned by name in any surviving written records. It's around this time that the first object on our journey surfaces - the 16th century Coventry Carol, a haunting lullaby to the infants mas-

sacred by Herod in Bethlehem following the birth of Christ. The song has since become a Christmas staple, with artists ranging from Tori Amos and Annie Lennox to John Denver and Chas'n'Dave recording their own versions.

Among various vinyl records, tickets, tapes and CDs by notable artists, as well as odds and ends representing major music venues, there's also a fabulous collection of jackets, suits and waistcoats belonging to such local legends as Frank Ifield, Vince Hill, Taz Singh and The Primitives' Tracy Cattel, along with two pairs of custom Dr Martens worn by King bass player Tony Wall.

But for any music buff, the real highlights will be the specialist items made for more than just show - the things that helped secure the success of the musicians who used and created them. A demo CD featuring early tracks by The Enemy joins master tapes of Go For It, written by Steve and Heather Taylor in celebration of Coventry City Football Club's 1987 FA Cup win, and of The Selecter's Kingston Affair - arguably the song that started 2Tone. Elsewhere, you can catch a glimpse of Neol Davies' original handwritten lyrics for the group's hit, On My Radio, as well as distinctive instruments like Panjabi MC's tumbi and the hand-made musical 'jug' used by folk singer Rod Felton. The wider Warwickshire area also gets a look-in, with items like a harmonica owned by The Shadows' Bedworth-born Brian Locking.

In a section of the museum devoted to Delia Derbyshire - the electronic music pioneer responsible for realising the original Doctor Who theme - you'll find Derbyshire's person-

al tape recorder, a favourite exhibit among visitors and volunteers alike.

Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the room stands a re-creation of the circular bench surrounding the acorns planted by John Lennon and Yoko Ono on their first public 'date' in Coventry, a kind of 'peace-art performance' drawing on the city's historical status as a symbol of rebirth and reconciliation. The copy of the bench on display featured in a ceremony at Coventry Cathedral when Ono returned in 2005. Visitors are invited to take a seat and write out a 'peace leaf' to be added to the 'Cofa's tree' wall display.

Articles In Sound is an accessible starting point for anyone interested in learning more about music or local history, the optional guidebook fleshing out the information on display with extra details and quotes from numerous fans and experts. Both this and the accompanying app will be handy for anyone planning a trip around the town to visit some of the key sites the exhibition touches on.

The Coventry Music Museum has already been graced with appearances from various industry stars.

Who knows - perhaps Articles In Sound will see many more music pilgrims willingly sending themselves to Coventry...

Articles In Sound shows at the Coventry Music Museum. For further information visit articlesinsound.co.uk

Meet the Music Director

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla on her first season with the CBSO



She's been described as 'mesmerising', 'awesome', 'a serious intellect' and 'the most exciting young conductor to come along since Gustavo Dudamel': in taking on the mantle of CBSO Music Director from Andris Nelsons, Lithuanian-born Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla becomes the latest in a string of bright young things to land the role, as well as the only female director of an orchestra in Britain.

As she prepares for the launch of an exciting 2016-17 season, What's On spoke to her about her plans for the year ahead and beyond.

"I feel an incredible good will and enthusiasm from the orchestra and all of our supporters to go on this new journey together," says Gražinytė-Tyla. "It's very impressive, and of course that enthusiasm inspires me to give the same back."

Still in her 20s, Gražinytė-Tyla follows in the footsteps of several former rising stars who have developed names for themselves in the role. Seven years ago, her immediate predecessor took up the position aged 28, and has since gone on to lead the Boston Symphony and Leipzig Gewandhaus orchestras. Before that, a 30-year-old Sakari Oramo took the baton from the now globally renowned Sir Simon Rattle, who led the CBSO for 18 years, beginning at the age of 25. This willingness to take a chance on relative newcomers is largely the result of an openness and receptiveness to fresh ideas which Gražinytė-Tyla identifies as a distinguishing characteristic of the Birmingham orchestra.

"The spirit of the CBSO breathes openness and freedom. It is incredible how democratic their system of working is. The musicians are very active, not only during rehearsals and concerts in which they play a direct part, but also in all the issues which affect the orchestra. They participate in discussions on all sorts of decisions, and I think it's something that's very special about the CBSO."

The new director will begin her tenure with an inaugural concert at Symphony Hall on 26

“ *The spirit of the CBSO breathes openness and freedom. It is incredible how diplomatic their system of working is.* ”

August, conducting a small selection of very different pieces by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and the contemporary Danish composer, Hans Abrahamsen.

“At the very beginning of the concert will be the overture of *The Magic Flute*.

Mozart, along with Haydn and Beethoven, is absolutely at the core of our Western classical music tradition, and playing their music is always a huge challenge because it is so simple and so naked. Every single detail is exposed, which forces musicians to really concentrate on the smallest things. Also, I felt that the humanist ideas expressed by Mozart would make it a great, symbolic choice to start with.

“On the other hand, new music has always been a crucial part of the CBSO's profile, and is something I wanted to continue with. Hans Abrahamsen's piece is incredibly poetic, and we will be performing it with a wonderful singer, Barbara Hannigan, which is very exciting for all of us. Finally, I chose Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony because Andris did a lot of Tchaikovsky with the orchestra, and I wanted to follow that focus while also doing something different to the pieces he chose.”

Over the coming season, Gražinytė-Tyla will bring two UK premieres to Birmingham, the first of which is the “atmospheric, explosive” *Fires*, written by a contemporary composer from her native Lithuania and set to be performed in Birmingham in mid-November.

“The composer, Raminta Šerkšnytė, was originally commissioned to write a piece to be played before Beethoven's 5th Symphony by the Bavarian Symphony Orchestra. At first, she had trouble, because it had never been her style to use music or even intonations by other composers, and she almost refused the job, but eventually she created *Fires*, which became a kind of story of the birth of the *Destiny* motif (the famous opening notes of Beethoven's 5th Symphony, often

credited with symbolic significance as a representation of Fate knocking at the door).

The whole piece seems to be searching for this motif and trying to arrive there, and I'm very glad that we will be presenting this interesting composer to the British public.”

The second piece to be performed to UK audiences for the first time is an older, but more recently ‘discovered’ piece from a ballet by Mieczysław Weinberg, an under-appreciated Polish-Jewish composer whose work was largely ignored by the Soviet establishment during his lifetime.

“The suite from *The Golden Key* will start our journey into the work of Weinberg, who already has a following in Britain. There is a British musicologist called David Fanning who has been researching his life and is currently working on a second book about him. Fanning says that once we've discovered more of Weinberg's work, there will be no question that he was at least the third most important Soviet composer after Shostakovich and Prokofiev, and perhaps even more significant than that. There is still a huge amount of his work left to discover - he wrote 22 symphonies, seven operas and 17 string quartets among many other pieces.”

Unsurprisingly for the daughter of a choir conductor, Gražinytė-Tyla is also passionate about conducting sung pieces, and among the things we can expect to see under her leadership is an increased emphasis on opera and choral music.

“We have quite a few ideas which we will be mainly looking at starting in 2017-18, the season after this one, but for the coming season we will be putting on *Idomenio* in concert, which, of all Mozart's operas, is the chorus opera. It has so many wonderful numbers for the chorus and all the different characters, so it will be a huge pleasure to work on it with the choir led by Simon Halsey.”

Elsewhere, she'll be looking to explore the

theme of ‘The Spirit of England’ through an eclectic programme of concerts and events showcasing a huge diversity of perspectives on the subject of Englishness - an interesting choice for someone coming from outside the country.

“This sense of British and English spirit is something I will be taking with me not only for the coming season but across my whole journey with the CBSO and my time in Birmingham. I see it as a wonderful opportunity to gain an inside insight. We are starting with Tippet this season, but for later years I think it will be one of the most important tasks for me to discover more British music and composers.”

Even a cursory glance over the orchestra's 2016-17 programme of events reveals plenty to look forward to, and Gražinytė-Tyla can't wait to fully immerse herself in the work of the orchestra here. For the time being, though, there are still a few loose ends to tie up: this dynamic young conductor is much in demand.

“There are many exciting projects I am looking forward to - I have my calendar marked with concerts by Ed Gardner and Michael Seal. But I have to say that during the coming season, I will still be finishing my engagements in Salzburg and Los Angeles, so at the moment, I may not be able to attend everything I would really love to. However, once I have seen through my contracts to the end of their final year, I will be completely dedicated to CBSO with a full force, so I'm excited about experiencing more in future seasons.”

Mirga Gražinyte-Tyla's welcoming concert is at Symphony Hall on Friday 26 August. The CBSO's full 2016-17 season programme is now available to view online.

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Sunday 18 September 7.30pm
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Saturday 24 September 7.30pm
Leo Green's Sounds of the 50's Live!
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Festivals

Shrewsbury Folk Festival

West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury,
Fri 26 - Mon 29 August

A key date in any folk fan's calendar, this four-day festival takes place in the picturesque, historical town of Shrewsbury, where the West Midlands meets the Welsh and North West borders - the perfect setting for a festival focused on unearthing music from a range of folk traditions. Just don't be fooled into thinking it's all old-fashioned: as medieval instruments meet modern tastes and global grassroots cultures collide in dynamic fusion styles, folk is fast becoming one of today's most innovative musical genres. Conveniently coinciding with the bank holiday weekend, Shrewsbury Folk offers something for all the family, with dancing, music workshops and children's activities alongside the main acts. It's also been known to broadcast performances live online, so even those at home can join the fun.

Line-up includes: Eliza Carthy & the Wayward Band, The Levellers, Show of Hands, Treacherous Orchestra, The Wilsons, Lady Maisery, Rosanne Cash & John Leventhal, The Will Pound Band, A Day's Work (a folk opera by Mick Ryan) and Nick Lowe, Paul Carrack & Andy Fairweather Low



Rosanne Cash

Lakefest

Eastnor Castle, Ledbury, Herefordshire,
Thurs 11 - Sun 14 August

Priding itself on putting family first and treating its guests like royalty, Lakefest's story began five years ago with a giant cider festival at Croft Farm Waterpark. The music side of things has since expanded massively, though it still retains its friendly, hippie, West Country vibe. This year, the festival relocates to Herefordshire's beautiful Eastnor Castle with an impressive and varied line-up, ranging from popular indie bands to an eclectic mix of smaller acts. There'll also be a ton of fun activities for the kids.

Line-up includes: 3 Daft Monkeys, Primal Scream, We Are Scientists, Molotov Jukebox, Cast, Starsailor, Afro Celt Soundsystem, Big Country, The Coral, Newton Faulkner, Nahko and Medicine for the People, Roving Crows, Granny's Attic



Molotov Jukebox

Brecon Jazz Weekend

Various venues, Brecon Town Centre,
Powys, Fri 12 - Sun 14 August

Celebrating 33 years in 2016, Brecon Jazz reinvents itself with a smaller-scale, more collaborative and community-led approach. Transforming past difficulties into a platform for positive change, the festival re-emerges as strong as ever with the proud support of various local partners and organisations. Expect an exciting mix of headline performers and emerging acts, social and folk activities, and workshops, with indoor and outdoor venues hosting fantastic line-ups curated by the Brecon Jazz Club. There'll also be film screenings and a special exhibition on Women in Jazz.

Line-up includes: Teddy Smith Big Band, Tina May & Wales Latin Jazz Ensemble, Brownfield Byrne Quintet with Trish Clowes, Trefor Owen Quartet & Megan Thomas, Geoff Eales, Smooth Celtic Jazz, Ashley John-Long & Friends and a film and exhibition on women in jazz

Sunshine Festival

Fish Meadow, Upton-upon-Severn,
Worcestershire, Fri 26 - Sun 28 August

Taking place during the August bank holiday weekend, this multi-stage, family-friendly festival brings big-name pop acts and retro favourites together with family fun and fancy dress. Tribute bands take to the Sunflower Stage, alongside pop favourites, comedy acts and more on the Main and Variety Stages. Brand new for 2016 is the Little Sunshine Stage, hosting kids' disco and karaoke sessions. This year's optional costume themes are 'glam rock', 'tribute' and 'tartan', on Friday, Saturday and Sunday respectively. Full-on fun and silliness guaranteed.

Line-up includes: Nazareth, MUD, Hello, The Magoos, Midge Ure, Fine Young Cannibals, Bad Manners, T'Pau, Black Lace, Mari Wilson, Bay City Rollers, Sister Sledge & Beverley Craven



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Festivals



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Justin Bieber

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Comedy line-up includes: Bill Bailey, Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe, Sara Pascoe and Katherine Ryan



Katherine Ryan

V Festival

Weston Park, Staffordshire,
Sat 20 - Sun 21 August

Among the UK's best-known music events, Virgin's V Festival brings together world-class performers in two beautiful parks for one epic cross-country weekend. Born in 1996 when Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker put

forward the idea of playing in two outdoor venues over two days, V Festival is unique in taking place in two separate locations simultaneously. Chart-topping acts of all genres, along with a host of comedy talent, take to stages in Staffordshire and Chelmsford, visiting one on Saturday and the other on Sunday.

The Green Man Festival

Glanusk Park, Powys, Wales,
Thurs 18 - Sun 21 August



Belle & Sebastian

Now in its 14th year, Wales' largest music and arts festival has established a strong reputation for its ethical, independent business model and quality line-ups. Over the years, Green Man has picked up a whole host of accolades, including an Outstanding Achievement Award for its director, Fiona Stewart. Dubbed one of Britain's top 50 coolest brands in 2013/14, Green Man shines a spotlight on folk, world, indie, electronic and psychedelic music, lending it a hippie vibe in keeping with its folkloric name. In addition to the main music line-up, there's also literature, film, comedy, theatre, ceilidhs, all-night bonfires and secret gigs, all surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Brecon Beacons.

Music Line-up Includes: Belle & Sebastian, James Blake, Laura Marling, Wild Beasts, Grandaddy, Warpaint, Lush, White Denim, Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros, Tindersticks, Battles, The Unthanks, Cate Le Bon and Charlotte Church's Late Night Pop Dungeon

Comedy Line-up includes: The Horne Section, John Shuttleworth, Ivo Graham, David Trent, Rob Deering and Angela Barnes

Films include: A Bigger Splash, High-Rise, Inside Out, Fantastic Planet, Janis: Little Girl Blue, Metropolis (with live piano score from Dmytro Morykit), Where You're Meant To Be (+ Aidan Moffat solo show), Green Room, Espresso Bongo and The Man Who Fell To Earth

Pershore Jazz Festival

Pershore College, Avonbank, Pershore,
Worcestershire, Fri 19 - Sun 21 August

Evolving from humble beginnings to gain renown across the UK jazz scene, Pershore College's annual jazz festival showcases formidable musical talent on local, national and even international levels. Though the Club tends to err on the side of the traditional, young musicians and audiences are encouraged to come along and share fresh ideas about the future of jazz. A friendly, not-for-profit event run by a passionate and dedicated team.

Line-up includes: The Festival Orchestra (dir. Keith Nichols), Richard Leach's 7 Stars of Jazz, Ivory & Gold, JB Jazz & Blues, Jeff Barnhart's Tribute to Fats Waller, Andy Legget & Chris Pearce's Sopranos, Magnificent 7, Remi Harris Trio with Alan Barnes, TJ Johnson Band and the Worcester Youth Jazz Orchestra

Beermageddon

Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire, Fri 26 - Sun 28 August

Billed as the best-kept secret in British metal, Beermageddon returns after four successive sold-out years to showcase the rising stars of the UK's alternative music scene. The music might be hard and heavy, but the set-up is comfortable and civilised, with indoor stages and facilities, hot food, affordable beers and free entry for under-14s with any paying adult.

Line-up includes: Gehtika, Def-Con-One, Annihilated, Eradikator, Kambrium, Solitary, Garganjua, Demons of Old Metal, Cambion, Old Corpse Road, Outright Resistance and The Dead XIII

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Festivals



Chase & Status

Creamfields

Daresbury Estate, Halton, Cheshire,
Thurs 25 - Sun 28 August

A hedonistic four-day dance party packed full of cutting-edge live acts and world-class DJs, Creamfields lets loose the relentless

energy of Cream's Liverpool club nights on the wide open space of Halton's Daresbury Estate. Originally held at Winchester's Matterley Bowl, Creamfields has gone on to become a huge, international phenomenon, spawning events in multiple countries around the world. Made for the trailblazers,

ravers, experimenters and anyone looking for music to move to, this 12-stage event has previously earned the title of the UK's best dance festival.

Music line-up includes: Chase & Status, Calvin Harris, Annie Mac, Fatboy Slim, Groove Armada, Eric Prydz, Pete Tong, Gorgon City, Above & Beyond, AVICII, Andy C, Wilkinson, Alesso, Knife Party, Robin Schulz, Kurupt FM, DJ EZ, Mistajam, Charlie Sloth, Axwell & Ingrosso and DVBBS



Annie Mac

Towersey Festival

Thame, Oxfordshire, Fri 26 - Mon 29 August



The Young'uns

Billed as the original independent festival, Towersey began as a single-day village event in 1965. Folk music and folk movements go right to its roots: in the '60s, the village came together to purchase a field from a family of wealthy landowners nearby, raising funds to drain, plough and reseed the area. Today, Towersey has built a reputation as a major folk festival, attracting some of the biggest names in the genre. In honour of its origins, part of the profits are paid back into maintaining the village and its facilities, and part donated to local charities. This year's event features multiple Radio Two Folk Award winners, as well as some well-known indie acts.

Line-up includes: Billy Bragg, Kate Rusby, Midge Ure, The Wonder Stuff, Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, Edward the

Second, Nell Bryden, Nizlopi, Andy Kershaw, 9Bach, Josienne Clarke & Ben Walker, Lynched, Nancy Kerr & James Fagan, The Young'uns and Brighde Chaimbeul

The Big Feastival

Kingham, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire,
Fri 26 - Sun 28 August

Taking place on the idyllic Cotswold farm owned by Blur's Alex James, The Big Feastival gets its name from its focus combining great food with great music. Co-run by Jamie Oliver, the festival boasts an enticing array of feasts and banquets, cooking and healthy-eating workshops, delicious street food, market stalls, boutique bars, a 'cheese hub', hands-on kids' activities and demonstrations, and Q&A sessions from several world-class chefs. In addition to big-name music acts, the entertainment also includes performances from kids' TV stars Justin Fletcher and Dick 'n' Dom, a 'family Olympics', vintage funfair, farm park, a 'lifestyle village' and a range of fitness classes in the Action Station. This is dinner and a show like you've never experienced before!

Line-up includes: Mark Ronson, Tinie Tempah, Kaiser Chiefs, Roisin Murphy, Ella Henderson, Foxes, DJ Fresh, Reef, The Proclaimers, Stereo MCs, Reverend & the Makers, DJ Yoda, Norman Jay, Roland Gift (of

Fine Young Cannibals) and Toots & the Maytals.



Roisin Murphy

Chefs include: Jamie Oliver, Tom Kerridge, Raymond Blanc, Thomasina Miers, Gizzi Erskine, Nadiya Hussain, Cyrus Todiwala, Nathan Outlaw, Olia Hercules, Gennaro Contaldo, Ashley Palmer-Watts, Neil Borthwick, DJ BBQ, Fabulous Baker Brothers and The Skinny Jean Gardeners.



Jamie Oliver



CORINNE BAILEY RAE

Lauren Foster chats to the Grammy Award-winning singer songwriter ahead of her performance at this month's V Festival

Your third and most recent album, *The Heart Speaks In Whispers*, is your first collection of new material for six years. Why have we had to wait so long?

It was a really long process because I was producing it myself. I really wanted to get the songs right, and I built a studio myself in Leeds too, and that took a long time. I really wanted to work somewhere where I could be independent and do it whenever I felt like it; that was really important. I was just making the right conditions.

How does the album differ from your previous two?

It's different because it's quite an experimental record; it's really joyous. I was using quite a lot of subconscious ideas - it all just came to me in a really natural way. I would sit and play my guitar and see what happened. I made a lot of it in my studio in Leeds, but then we went over to Capital Records in LA. It was really amazing to work with some of my heroes, like James Gadson - who used to play with Bill Withers and Marvin Gaye - and Pino Palladino, who played with D'Angelo. There were lots of musicians around that scene who I really wanted to hook up with, but I also wanted to meet new people like Moses Sumney and Thundercat. There's a really amazing scene in LA; it's kind of underground, electronic, soul, hip-

hop. Kendrick Lamar and all his crew, Kamasi Washington, Flying Lotus - they're all out of that particular part of LA, so it was really nice to be there. We went over there for seven weeks and ended up staying for seven months, just because it was so productive and creative and so much fun.

Can you see yourself moving to LA permanently?

I really like moving around quite a lot. I feel like being a nomad, you know? I've recently found out what 'nomad' actually means, and it doesn't mean just wandering from place to place aimlessly. It means you visit known homes. I feel like we have a few known places we can go to where we feel really at home. I love being at home in the UK, but I also loved spending time in LA, I love spending time in New York, I love being in Jamaica - and I'm very happy to keep on a circuit around those places. Thankfully, through touring, you end up doing exactly that.

You've just finished supporting Lionel Richie on his *All The Hits* UK tour. How was that experience for you?

It was amazing. The main thing for me was playing in these huge venues that I've never played in before, like the O2 Arena and

Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena. We also played at the Eden Project down in Cornwall and lots of rugby stadiums. It was amazing to play outdoors and indoors in these huge places and really feel like you have to try and capture the room. It was a really good trial for me because everyone's there to see Lionel Richie, but it was great because I think his audience were open to whatever was going to happen. I signed my record in the break and there would always be 100 people waiting to have their copy of the album signed - that was always really amazing and I really enjoyed that experience. Also, hanging out with Lionel - he's a really fun person, a really fun character with a lot of great stories.

Your first headline show for over five years sold out in less than 60 minutes. Were you expecting such a great response?

No, I wasn't actually. It was amazing. I think the New York show went in 10 minutes and everything else went really fast. We deliberately did an intimate tour of the US when the album first came out, and that was so rewarding for me. People would stay after the show to say hi. At one of the gigs, I think the entire audience stayed. There were a lot of really young people who'd liked me in 2006 when they were seven or something and

their mum had got them into me. They used to listen to me on the way to school and stuff. I really loved that tour.

If you could collaborate with anyone in the industry - dead or alive - who would it be?

The people who've gone before. I really like Prince and got to spend a good bit of time with him when we were touring. He was a really good supporter. We met up in Abu Dhabi and went back to his hotel room and hung out for hours, ending up having breakfast there the next morning. That was a really nice time with him. I love Marvin Gaye too; I think he's got an incredible voice. I would've loved to have done some work with him. I've been really lucky, though. I got to perform with Al Green on a record, and I was on a Herbie Hancock record doing a Joni Mitchell song. I feel like I've been really lucky to have worked with some of my heroes. I performed with Paul McCartney at an event at the White House, did a tribute to him and it got recorded. And we did a tribute to Fats Domino when we were in New Orleans. So I feel really lucky that music has brought me face-to-face with so many of the people I've admired for a long time.

You're playing V Festival this month. Do you prefer playing to audiences of that size or doing smaller, more intimate shows?

I like them all, I really like them all. I love intimate shows, where it's 500 people and you can see everyone. You feel like you're all in it together. Someone can shout out a song and it can totally change the environment, change the feeling of the place. I also like playing at festivals. We played Glastonbury, and it's amazing when it's going well. You see more and more people arriving where the music is. Hopefully V Festival will be the

same. I quite like playing a festival because you feel like you've got something to prove. People might be wandering past who don't necessarily know who they're listening to, and you get a chance to show those people what you're about, which is always a really good thing.

Has singing been a passion from a young age?

I always loved singing but I never felt I could sing. I was brought up in a school where the music education was really quite conservative. It was all about singing Andrew Lloyd Webber songs. It had the type of choir where everyone has an angelic voice. I never felt my voice fitted into that. I'd always felt that I had more texture to my voice, and I felt like I couldn't sing really high like that. Two things opened me up to the idea that there are lots of different types of voice. One was getting into Billy Holiday, the other was hearing Kurt Cobain sing. That's what got me into believing in my own voice.

Who were your musical influences growing up?

I loved Nirvana, Radiohead, Bjork, Erykah Badu, Portishead - they were really big influences on me. I guess it was that early '90s music which I felt was really independent - stuff like Tori Amos and PJ Harvey. The alternative became the mainstream. It was a really exciting time because it meant people who were kids who weren't just cool and on cool blogs and whatever would be exposed to this unusual music. That was a really good time to grow up.

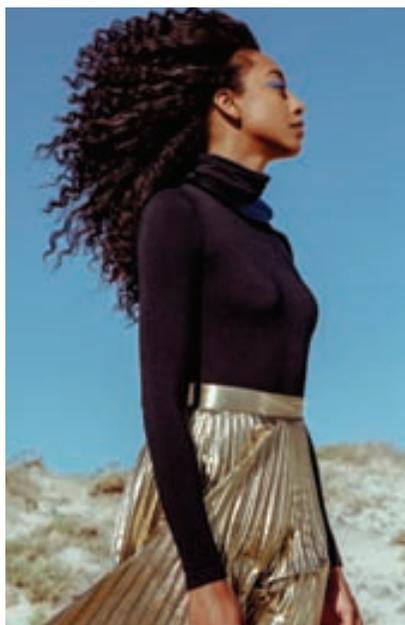
You formed indie group Helen before you began working on solo material. Was there any reason why you decided to steer towards a soulful sound?

It's funny because Helen was always an indie, noisy band but also had really soulful songs. I wrote Like A Star when I was in Helen and we used to play that song. I liked Radiohead and Portishead, and I liked dreamy, soulful music but also aggressive drums. So we always tried to match those two things. I guess I got more into soul music when I started working in a jazz club while I was at university. I loved hearing that kind of harmony and finding that subtlety. I guess to cut through loud electric guitars I'd always had this shouty, loud kind of style, but it was nice to be able to sing quietly and more conversationally. We were recording in a basement underneath an art shop, so I couldn't have a whole band pile in there. So I guess that's why it turned out more mellow, because a lot of the time it would be just me and my guitar.

And finally, what does the future hold for Corinne Bailey Rae?

I really want to write some music for film, do more writing for TV, do more records and guest on people's songs. I've been sent quite a few things since the record came out. It's nice when people who have a completely different style like my voice or whatever. That's been a good thing in the past few weeks - just thinking about which of those projects I'm going to do. I'd love to be in a film doing some singing - that would be amazing - and I'd like to write more stuff. I'm going to be touring for the next 12 months - South East Asia, Europe, Latin America. I'm really looking forward to that.

Corinne Bailey Rae plays V Festival at Weston Park, Staffordshire on Saturday 20 August and brings her headline tour to the O2 Institute, Birmingham, on Friday 4 November.



“

I feel really lucky that my music has brought me face-to-face with so many people I've admired for a long time.

”



Comedy

Sarah Millican: Outsider

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Mon 29 - Tues 30 August

One of the brightest comedians around, Sarah Millican enjoyed a sell-out success with her very first tour, with bums on all available seats on no fewer than 120 laughter-filled nights. It almost goes without saying that she's not looked back since. She returns to the Midlands with touring show *Outside*, in which she focuses on her recent switch from town to country living. Out on the road since last year and the recipient of plenty of positive reviews, the show is awash with Millican's trademark smut and flatulence gags, ensuring her long-term admirers get exactly the sort of evening they've come to expect from her.



Three of the best...

Josh Widdicombe

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 5 August;
Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 23 August;
Evesham Arts Centre, Fri 26 August

Peddling a nice line in exasperated, self-deprecating humour when performing live, Devon-born funnyman Josh Widdicombe fancies himself the Speedy Gonzales of the comedy circuit, pumping out well-crafted gags at the kind of pace you'd maybe expect from a man who's worried he might miss the last bus home. He's become an extremely familiar face thanks to TV shows like *Mock The Week* and looks set to score a significant hit with comedy-loving audiences for many a year to come.

Josh visits the Midlands this month as part of the second leg of a national tour.



Jarred Christmas

Henry Tudor House,
Shrewsbury,
Wed 17 August; The
Glee Club, Birmingham,
Thurs 18 - Sat 20
August

Kiwi comedian Jarred Christmas is delighted with the warm reception he receives from UK audiences. "I think it's the charming and 'sixy' New Zealand accent that does it," he jokes. "I think Brits are also great at laughing at themselves, so don't mind Johnny Foreigner making jokes about British stuff. In fact, they seem to love it." Jarred is joined for this Shrewsbury gig by fellow funnyman Andrew Bird. Resident host Mark Olver comperes - and as a comperer himself, Jarred has some hard-hitting views about the business of being an MC. "A lot of comperes just don't get it," he observes. "They seem to forget that, along with keeping the show moving and warming up the audience, they still have to be funny. If they're not funny, then they should get the **** off the stage."

Best gags at the ready, then, Mr Olver...



Dana Alexander

The Comedy Loft, Birmingham,
Fri 5 - Sat 6 August

Tomboy comedian Dana Alexander was once billed as the only black female comic on the Canadian comedy circuit. Now she's here in the UK, peddling an outspoken, irreverent and ballsy style of humour that's often inspired by her diverse lifestyle, her gay friends and her crazy Jamaican family. When it comes to the delivery of material not directly connected to Dana's own life, however, there's plenty of room for improvement, both in terms of the content and her style of presentation. If she can work out how better to engage with this more general subject matter, there's every chance she could quickly become one of the UK comedy scene's most cutting-edge performers.



Kerry Godliman

You may remember comedian and actress Kerry Godliman from such TV shows as Ricky Gervais' Derek (where she played ultra-caring care worker Hannah), Miranda, Our Girl and Extras. She's also had her own Radio Four show, Kerry's List.

Like a breath of fresh, post-summer air, Kerry will be bringing her rapier wit to October's Birmingham Comedy Festival. What's On caught up with her as she prepared to head out on tour...

Kerry Godliman's new touring show, *Stick Or Twist*, zeroes in on why people take certain decisions and make particular choices - especially when it comes to that potentially life-transforming (or ruining) moment when they start to think about moving house, city or country.

"I was prompted by whether I should move out of London with my family," explains Kerry, "but it opens up beyond that to why people live where they live: some people choose it, others are forced to stay where they are or forced to move. Whether I'm happy where I live is the 64 million dollar question."

As Kerry acknowledges, this is an age where we're constantly being encouraged to consider alternatives to everything, but nowhere is this more prevalent than with regard to decisions about where we permanently lay our hats and put down our roots.

"Generations ago, people were born somewhere and lived there and died there, whereas now, people go on Rightmove on a daily basis to find out what they can get for their house. It just seems as though we're 24-hour consumers considering alternative lifestyles all the time."

While Kerry began work on her show around this central theme, she soon found herself wandering into some familiar areas of concern. "It was originally about considering moving and then questioning why and how where you live influences all other parts of your life, such as your friendships and parenting choices. But it then seemed to open out into things that I've covered before.

When you do a few shows, you do notice that you revisit things. Parenting is an ongoing subject, where you look back on your



baby jokes with nostalgia. As they grow up, your material also changes with them."

And so in *Stick Or Twist*, Kerry will reflect on why she's kept her own children's baby teeth in a box. "I didn't keep them on purpose, I just did the tooth fairy thing and threw them in a box which I then stumbled upon recently and thought, 'What am I going to do with that?' I mean, they're just teeth at the bottom of a box, which is a little bit macabre and sort of voodoo. They're quite pristine. They haven't gone rotten, which I think is a measure of my good parenting. That routine is about sentimentality and about why we keep every memento of their childhood, their hair and every birthday card they've been given, and take millions of photos of them. But to what end?"

Friendship is still an area which Kerry believes provides a great source of material, particularly the ever-evolving (and occasionally warped) nature of companionship in this technologically centred age. "That's all changed because of social media, and the way we conduct our friendships has become quite administrative. I do Twitter but I've had to step away from Facebook. People just know everything about everyone else now and it's killed conversation. We can't do exposition anymore. You can have a debate with someone about spurious facts and then somebody will google it and you suddenly have actual knowledge. Can't we just meander around with half-knowledge?"

Part of Kerry's stage persona is to be constantly bewildered at the stuff life throws at her. It turns out that in the real world, she's just as perplexed. For now, she's shocked by politics and the rise of divisive figures like

Donald Trump ("it's like they've got Yosemite Sam to lead the Republican Party"); she's confused about the TV shows that get made over others which only reach pilot episode stage (she's been there); and she's also quite befuddled by the modern teaching methods that enter her home now that she has school-age offspring: "I'm bewildered about my children's homework. Phonics bewilders me, but that's how they do it. My husband went to a phonics workshop the other day and that was bewildering."

Bewildered or not, 2016 is proving to be a big year for Kerry. As well as taking a stand-up show across the country (her second full UK tour, after 2014's *Face Time*), her extensive acting CV is set to be enhanced with a major role in *Mascots*, the new mockumentary film by Christopher Guest (*This Is Spinal Tap*, *Best In Show*) which is scheduled to appear on Netflix.

"I do love acting and going to work with different people and playing in an ensemble set-up, where you don't have to worry about the lines because someone else has written them. But when I go back to stand-up, it's such a creative opportunity to say all the stuff I want to say about things like politics and parenting. And that's amazing - there aren't many jobs where you can just say exactly what you like."

Kerry Godliman plays Artrix, Bromsgrove on Sat 8 October and The Glee Club, Birmingham (as part of the Comedy Festival) on Fri 14 October.

Mamma Mia!

Birmingham Hippodrome,
until Sat 3 September

This legendary show is of course a nicely contrived vehicle for the chart-topping music of 1970s Super Troupers Abba. The Swedish Fab Four scored mega-hit after mega-hit with catchy numbers like Waterloo, Dancing Queen, The Name Of The Game, The Winner Takes It All and Take A Chance On Me - all of which are present and correct in this blockbuster offering.

Abba boys Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus were both involved in the development of the show, while Anni-Frid Lyngstad - she's the dark one - contributed in a financial capacity. A 2008 movie version received a thumbs up from many if not most of Mamma Mia!'s adoring fans - despite former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan having been given, rather unwisely, a Licence to Sing...



The Glenn Miller Story

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Tues 23 - Sat 27 August



Ever-popular song-and-dance man Tommy Steele takes top billing in this homage to legendary band leader Glenn Miller. Featuring classic numbers such as In The Mood, Chattanooga Choo Choo, Moonlight Serenade and Tuxedo Junction, the show explores Miller's extraordinary life and career - from his two-decades'-long effort to create a unique sound, through to his disappearance in mysterious circumstances over the English Channel in December 1944.

Urinetown The Musical

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
until Sat 6 August

Social and political satire Urinetown is set in a fictional future where water is scarce. With the government having imposed a ban on all private toilets in order to control water consumption, spending a penny proves to be somewhat problematic...

The Old Joint Stock Theatre Company are the talented ensemble behind this latest version of the, er, flushed-with-success West End musical, which made its debut off Broadway in 2001.

Sonia Sabri Company: Salaam

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 5 August

A double bill celebrating 'harmony, inner-stillness and the simple bliss of being alive', Salaam (meaning 'peace') is the latest work from British-born dancer-choreographer Sonia Sabri and her dynamic ensemble. Sonia describes Salaam as "a response to unrest around the world that aims to refocus on and reminisce about all that is good". Over the years, her highly rated company has established an international reputation for its presentation of Kathak dance in a contemporary context.



Maverick

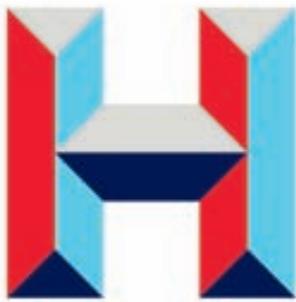
New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Tues 30 August - Sat 10 September

New Vic favourite Eric Smith here makes a welcome return to the stage, saddling up his horse and heading for the Wild West town of Dead End Gulch. Set in the 1860s and featuring music from the 1960s, the show is being publicised as 'the best night out you'll have this summer' - and there are plenty of dedicated Eric fans who'll be only too happy to lend their support to that claim. So how about moseying on over to the New Vic an' findin' out fer yerself, pardner...

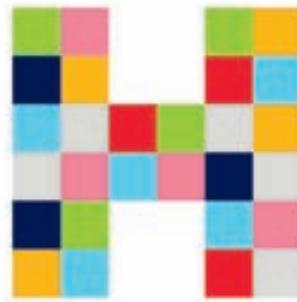
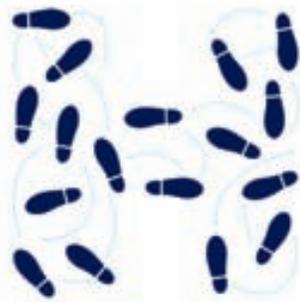
Murder On The Churchill Express

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 26 - Sat 27 August

All aboard for any theatre lovers who enjoy an immersive, interactive experience... A classic whodunnit story is here combined with plenty of 'fun and laughter' as eccentric Austrian inventor Professor Kildorf is shot while awaiting the departure of his train. The question is, who perpetrated this most heinous of crimes? The professor's brainbox assistant, Heidi Heibrau, is one possible suspect - but then so is the RAF wing commander with the peculiar limp and the bushy moustache...



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King Lear

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 20 August - Sat 15 October

Greed, betrayal, cruelty and lust for power combine to make King Lear one of the most deeply moving and violent of Shakespeare's tragedies. Lear is an elderly monarch who decides to divide his kingdom between his three daughters - as long as each of them first declares their love for him. But when the loyal Cordelia fails to satisfy his demand - saying only that she has no words to describe how much she loves her father - Lear disowns her. In so doing, he sets in motion a train of events that will lead to tragic consequences for all concerned...

Sir Antony Sher makes a welcome return to Stratford to take the title role. The RSC's artistic director, Gregory Doran, is the man at the helm.



Much Ado About Nothing

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 6 August

Much Ado About Nothing revolves around the stumbling romance between Benedick and Beatrice.



Their liaison is strewn with difficulties - not least among which is an unwillingness on the part of either to admit a liking for the other...

Not that the plot of Much Ado is likely to be overly important in this particular production, given that it's zany funsters Madcap Theatre who're at the helm! Expect plenty of mayhem and laughter from this Bromsgrove-based ensemble.

Loserville: A New Musical

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 10 - Sat 13 August

Co-written by Busted and Son Of Dork star James Bourne, first performed in 2009 and set in 1971, Loserville tells the story of computer geek Michael Dork and his science fiction-obsessed friends and social misfits Lucas, Francis and Marvin. Between the four of them, they've hatched a plan to change the course of history, fashion and dating - particularly the dating...

This new version of Loserville is the product of this year's Stafford Gatehouse summer school. It's being presented by young performers between the ages of seven and 21.

Present Laughter

Malvern Theatre, Mon 15 - Sat 20 August

Womaniser, idol and suavely sophisticated theatrical Gary Essendine lives in a world of hopeful actors, star-struck teenagers and adoring fans. His antics and casual love affairs require the most delicate handling by his manager and secretary - and although he pretends to be harassed to the brink of a nervous breakdown, he secretly welcomes the adulation...

RSC actor Samuel West stars alongside Downton Abbey's Phyllis Logan in this stylish Noel Coward offering, directed by Stephen Unwin.



Fast Woman

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 13 August

Nude photographic model, dancer at the Casino de Paris, enthusiastic downhill skier and convention-busting Grand Prix motor racing driver - Helle Nice was no ordinary woman. Roaring her way through the Roaring 20s, Helle lived life in the fast lane, augmenting her aforementioned activities with numerous other daredevil undertakings, including high-wire acts, mountaineering and speed-record attempts.

Sandra Hunt is joined for this celebration of a truly remarkable 20th century woman by Fine Time Fontayne, who accompanies on acoustic guitar to evoke a sense of France between the wars.

Joanne

The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 11 - Fri 12 August

Clean Break, the company behind this hour-long collection of monologues, have spent the last 37 years working with women in prison and exploring issues connected to crime and justice...

One of the company's two current productions, Joanne debuted to critical acclaim last year. The title character is absent from proceedings. The five monologues, written by five writers, are given by female characters who've had a brief involvement with Joanne. In so doing, they've profoundly shaped the vulnerable young woman's destiny... Olivier Award-nominated Tanya Moodie stars in this thought-provoking one-woman show.

JOE MCELDERRY

as Aladdin

LISA RILEY

as Slave Of The Ring

IAN ADAMS

as Widow Twankey

CBEEBIES' MR BLOOM
BEN FAULKS

as The Policeman

DOREEN

as The Lazy Empress



Aladdin

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Big Wooden Horse

Big Wooden Horse

mac, Birmingham, Sun 21 August

Having created a whole world of whacky inventions and incredible monsters, young inventor Monty doesn't know what to do with them all...

The creators of *Aliens Love Underpants* make a welcome return with this brand new and 'monster-ously good show', which comes complete with original music and plenty of audience participation.

The Smartest Giant In Town

Biddulph Grange Garden, Staffordshire, Sat 6 August; Martineau Gardens, Birmingham, Wed 10 August; Bishops Wood Garden Centre, Thurs 11 August; Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton, Sat 13 August

The wise old owls at Folksy Theatre know a smart move when they come across one - and presenting a stage adaptation of a Julia Donaldson book is just about as clever as a theatre company can be when it comes to attracting a young audience.

Donaldson's *Smartest Giant*, George, decides his scruffy days are a thing of the past and buys himself some oversized clothes. But when he encounters various animals needing his assistance - and, more particularly, his newly purchased items of clothing - George soon realises that it isn't clothes that maketh the giant but rather a gargantuan sense of generosity and a colossal warm heart...



Peter Pan In Scarlet

Peter Pan In Scarlet

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, until Sat 6 August

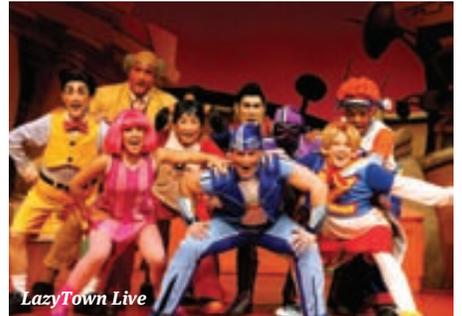
Second star to the right and straight on till morning, that's the way to Neverland. But Wendy and the Lost Boys could certainly be forgiven if they'd forgotten how to reach the magical island, given that it's been 20 long years since their adventures with the boy who wouldn't grow up. When they suddenly find their dreams being infiltrated by visions of pirates, mermaids, fairies and crocodiles, they realise that something is terribly wrong and that Peter Pan is in urgent need of their help...

This official sequel to JM Barrie's classic story was written by three-time Whitbread Children's Book Award winner Geraldine McCaughrean. It's been adapted for the stage by the New Vic's Theresa Heskins.

Ratburger

Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire, Thurs 11 August; St John's House Museum, Warwick, Tues 16 August

Although Heartbreak Productions are perhaps best known for their outdoor presentations of Shakespeare plays, the company also tours a selection of other stage works, one of which is this brand new adaptation of David Walliams' 2012 bestseller. Heartbreak have impressive form when it comes to Walliams' work, having last year presented a critically acclaimed, under-the-stars version of his massively popular *Mr Stink* - so it's fair to assume this latest offering will also be of the very highest quality. For those unfamiliar with the story, it follows the adventures of a 12-year-old girl named Zoe as she attempts to keep both herself and her pet rat safe from the ever-menacing Burt of Burt's Burgers. The show is suitable for children aged seven and older.



LazyTown Live

LazyTown Live

The Core, Solihull, Fri 5 August; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 6 - Mon 8 August

This brand new show looks sure to be a major hit with its young audience, blending laugh-out-loud fun and plenty of singalong songs with not a little dancing in the aisles. When the pink-haired Stephanie arrives in LazyTown, it isn't long before she meets the world's laziest super-villain, Robbie Rotten, and slightly-above-average hero Sportacus, who somehow always manages to save the day...

Hairy Maclary & Friends

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 4 August

Music and singing lie at the heart of this feel-good show that's based around the famous character of Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's *Dairy*. It features numerous much-loved characters from the Hairy Maclary universe, including Hercules Morse, as big as a horse; Bottomley Potts, covered in spots; Schnitzel von Krumm, with the very low tum; and Scarface Claw, the toughest tomcat in town. Nonsense Room Productions are the ensemble behind this highly recommended presentation.



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Tickets to Bowie Experience



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Closes Monday 21 September

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Film

Suicide Squad CERT 15 (123 mins)

Starring **Will Smith, Jared Leto, Margot Robbie, Joel Kinnaman, Viola Davis, Jai Courtney, Jay Hernandez, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Ike Barinholtz, Scott Eastwood, Cara Delevingne, Ben Affleck, Common**

Directed by **David Ayer (USA)**

Comic-book fans have been waiting way too long for this. But here it is, with Will Smith heading an all-star cast as the masterful marksman Deadshot. For those in the not-know, this is the third instalment in the so-called DC Extended Universe in which superheroes of various stripes share the big screen. Viewers will be familiar with The Joker, here played by the rock star and Oscar-winning actor Jared Leto, and with Batman, courtesy of Ben Affleck. They're all actually more anti-heroic than superheroes and have been granted clemency should they muster their awesome black-op abilities to combat an unknown menace threatening the very future of the planet. We're particularly looking forward to Margot Robbie's psychotic Harley Quinn, a funny-sexy-terrifying combo. She previously starred opposite Will Smith in last year's crime romance Focus. In 3D.

Released Fri 5 August



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in August...

Mike And Dave Need Wedding Dates CERT 15 (98 mins)

Starring **Zac Efron, Anna Kendrick, Adam DeVine, Aubrey Plaza, Stephen Root** Directed by **Jake Szymanski (USA)**

Zac Efron continues the backlash against his formerly squeaky-clean persona, this time playing the outrageous Dave Strangle, who has a habit of destroying family get-togethers. However, when his sister is to be married in Hawaii, their parents insist that he and his brother Mike (DeVine) find appropriate dates for the occasion. So they advertise themselves on television...

Released Wed 10 August



Nerve CERT 15 (96 mins)

Starring **Emma Roberts, Dave Franco, Juliette Lewis, Emily Meade** Directed by **Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman (USA)**



Nerve is what you need to play the Internet game of the same name, a sort of 'truth or dare' without the truth. The film suggests that the world is divided between 'watchers' and 'players' and baits the gullible with financial rewards. But once you start to play... A clean cinematic leap from last year's Unfriended to David Fincher's The Game (1997), Nerve is a slick, kinetic exploration of the dangers of and addiction to the World Wide Web. Hang on to your mobiles.

Released Thurs 11 August

Pete's Dragon

CERT tbc (100 mins)

Starring **Bryce Dallas Howard, Oakes Fegley, Wes Bentley, Karl Urban, Robert Redford** Directed by **David Lowery (USA/New Zealand)**

You can't keep a good dragon down. A remake of Disney's very own film of the same name of 1977, this is the tale of a young lad with a dragon for a pet. This time, though, there will be no musical numbers. In 3D.

Released Fri 12 August



Film

The Shallows

CERT 15 (86 mins)

Starring **Blake Lively, Óscar Jaenada, Brett Cullen**
Directed by **Jaume Collet-Serra (USA)**

Just when you thought it was safe... A surfer on a secluded beach in Mexico finds herself the prey of a great white shark, even though she is only 200 yards from the beach. From the director of House Of Wax, Orphan and Non-Stop.

Released Fri 12 August



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Up For Love

CERT 12a (98 mins)

Starring **Jean Dujardin, Virginie Efira, Cédric Kahn** Directed by **Laurent Tirard (France/Belgium)**

Following a flaming row with her ex, Diane Duchêne (Efira) leaves her phone behind at a restaurant. Not long afterwards a stranger rings her at her apartment and, with a bit of coaxing, persuades her to meet for lunch the following day. Not knowing what to expect, Diane is more surprised than she could have imagined: the man who rescued her phone (Dujardin) is suave, charming, funny, handsome and fabulously wealthy. And 4'7" ... The French have a habit of producing delightful romantic

comedies with a twist, which more often than not end up being remade by Hollywood. The difference here is that Laurent Tirard's effortlessly Gallic and engaging comedy is a remake of a 2013 Argentine film. Although technically a romcom, Up For Love is more than just touching and funny, although it is certainly both those things. Ultimately, though, it is about prejudice, in whatever form it occurs, and in spite of his enormous success, Dujardin's Alexandre does have his shortcomings - but only because of the preconceptions of other people. It's a small film, but an enchanting, witty and poignant one.

Released Fri 5 August

Wiener-Dog

CERT tbc (90 mins)

Starring **Ellen Burstyn, Kieran Culkin, Julie Delpy, Danny DeVito, Greta Gerwig, Tracy Letts** Directed by **Todd Solondz (USA)**

Taking the template of François Girard's remarkable film *The Red Violin* (1998) - in which a violin passed through innumerable hands explored the diversity of mankind - Todd Solondz has replaced the fiddle with a dachshund, or wiener-dog. Here, though, the pooch's 'owners' are all rather dysfunctional and are dramatically changed by the tenure of the dog.

Released Fri 12 August



Nine Lives

CERT 12a (87 mins)

Starring **Kevin Spacey, Jennifer Garner, Christopher Walken, Malina Weissman, Cheryl Hines** Directed by **Barry Sonnenfeld (France/China)**

Like so many workaholics, business tycoon Tom Brand (Kevin Spacey) has put his work before his family. So, when's he turned into a cat, he has to reconcile with his young daughter before he can think about being human again. The director previously brought us *The Addams Family*, *Get Shorty* and *Men In Black*.

Released Wed 17 August

David Brent: Life On The Road

CERT 15 (96 mins)

Starring **Ricky Gervais, Doc Brown, Andy Burrows, Tom Basden, Nina Sosanya**
Directed by **Ricky Gervais (UK)**

David Brent, you will remember, is the character that Ricky Gervais played in the mockumentary sitcom *The Office* (2001-7). Now, 15 years later, Brent fancies himself a rock star and is followed up and down the country by a camera crew. However, Brent's delusions of grandeur sit uneasily in the real world...

Released Fri 19 August



Lights Out CERT 15 (81 mins)

Starring **Teresa Palmer, Gabriel Bateman, Billy Burke, Maria Bello**
Directed by **David F Sandberg (USA)**

After lights out, the dark takes on an entirely more menacing aspect. Having believed that she has rid herself of a supernatural entity that once haunted her, Rebecca (Palmer) discovers that the 'being' is now picking on her little brother. Based on David F Sandberg's short film of the same name.

Released Fri 19 August



Swallows And Amazons

CERT tbc

Starring **Rafe Spall, Andrew Scott, Kelly Macdonald, Jessica Hynes, Harry Enfield**
Directed by **Philippa Lowthorpe (UK)**

Can't remember the last time we had a remake, but this one goes back to Arthur Ransome's original 1930 book about a childhood summer in the Lake District, last filmed in 1974. Two groups of children - in their dinghies Amazon and Swallow - play pirates in between the camping and fishing trips. Let's just hope the new film retains the old innocence and nostalgia.

Released Fri 19 August



Bad Moms CERT tbc

Starring **Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell, Kathryn Hahn, Annie Mumolo, Jada Pinkett Smith, Christina Applegate**
Directed by **Jon Lucas and Scott Moore (USA)**

We've had bad teachers, bad neighbours, a bad Santa and, now, Heaven forbid, some wanton mamas. When Amy Mitchell (Kunis) reaches the end of her tether, she decides to take off with another couple of over-stressed moms to find a bit of fun, freedom and fast living. Could this be the mother of all comedies?

Released Fri 26 August



Hell Or High Water

CERT tbc (102 mins)

Starring **Jeff Bridges, Chris Pine, Ben Foster, Gil Birmingham**
Directed by **David Mackenzie (USA)**

Chris Pine has already been through hell and high water this year (in the waterlogged *Finest Hours*), but here the title proves to be a little more metaphorical. He plays a Texan farmer whose business is facing foreclosure, so he and his brother, an ex-con, set about acquiring some major cash by somewhat unorthodox means.

Released Fri 26 August

Mechanic: Resurrection

CERT tbc

Starring **Jason Statham, Jessica Alba, Tommy Lee Jones, Michelle Yeoh, Sam Hazeldine**
Directed by **Dennis Gansel (USA)**

Jason Statham, 48, has been no slouch when it comes to sequels and here he resurrects his role as Arthur Bishop, an assassin who disguises his hits as accidents. Although now retired, he's forced to go back into business when his girlfriend is kidnapped. Filmed in Thailand, Bulgaria, Brazil and Australia.

Released Fri 26 August

Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping

CERT 15 (87 mins)

Starring **Andy Samberg, Akiva Schaffer, Jorma Taccone, Sarah Silverman, Tim Meadows, Imogen Poots**
Directed by **Akiva Schaffer and Jorma Taccone (USA)**

A musical mockumentary, *Popstar* follows the privileged life of Conner4Real (Samberg), a singer who becomes quite desperate when his second album fails to make the grade. Expect lots of star cameos.

Released Fri 26 August

The Purge: Election Year

CERT tbc (90 mins)

Starring **Frank Grillo, Elizabeth Mitchell, Mykelti Williamson**
Directed by **James DeMonaco (USA)**

When did *The Purge* become a trilogy? When the first film grossed almost \$90million (on a budget of \$3m). The original was certainly one of the most disturbing and frightening films of 2013, and now comes the supposed conclusion to the franchise (but we'll see how much money it makes, first). There is a presidential election afoot and the front-runner (Mitchell) is seeking to abolish the Purge, the one night of the year when killing is endorsed by the government.

Released Fri 26 August



War Dogs CERT tbc (120 mins)

Starring **Jonah Hill, Miles Teller, Ana de Armas, Bradley Cooper**
Directed by **Todd Phillips (USA)**

From the director of *The Hangover* films, this is the true story of David Packouz and Efraim Diveroli, two arms dealers who were given \$300million by the US government to provide weapons for the country's allies in Afghanistan. You couldn't make it up.

Released Fri 26 August



Visual Arts

Inspire 16: The Young Creatives Of Birmingham

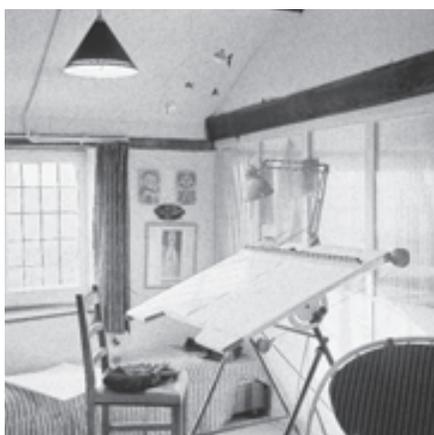
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,
until Sat 17 September

This summer showcase celebrates the diversity and creativity of local young artists. Included in the presentation are sculptural models designed by Birmingham schoolchildren and a selection of high-quality entries from an online youth arts competition. The show also encourages visitors to get 'hands on' via a dedicated programme of creative activities for youngsters. Arts masterclasses, performances, spoken word events, storytelling and a 'crafty kids' session all feature. First-prize recipient Sonia Tam's mixed media piece, *Essence* (pictured), is inspired by the atmosphere and textures of an old fishing village, Tai O, at her family home in Hong Kong.



Britain In The Fifties

Compton Verney, Warwickshire,
until Sun 2 October



Objects as diverse as a Vespa scooter and original illustrations for a celebrated Ladybird book take pride of place in this engaging exhibition exploring the history of post-war design in Britain. The show looks at all aspects of design during the 1950s, a decade which saw the country rediscovering its reputation for innovation following years of austerity and rationing.

Other '50s design items under the spotlight include Lucienne Day's furnishing fabrics, Robert Welch's cutlery, Ken Wood's Kenwood Chef, Enid Seeney's 'Homemaker' ceramics and Alec Issigonis' Mini.

Coast

Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford,
until Sun 4 September

Nostalgic beach scenes, atmospheric seascapes and an installation of 600 ceramic sardine tins are included in this multimedia selling exhibition inspired by and celebrating 'the coast'. Comprising paintings, photographs, textiles, glass and ceramics, the display features jewellery by Jasmine Bowden, metalwork by Sharon McSwiney and textiles by Jo Hill. A range of rock pool glass bowls by Loco Glass and ceramics by Rose Dickinson and Caroline Barnes are also included.



Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
until Sun 18 September



As part of an international tour spanning six continents, this globally renowned exhibition arrives in Wolverhampton on loan from the National History Museum.

Launched in 1965, Wildlife Photographer Of The Year is the most prestigious photography event of its kind, with this year's competition attracting over 42,000 entries from 96 different countries.

The 100 award-winning photographs will take visitors on a journey across seas, skies and sand dunes, with shots of breathtaking landscapes, fascinating animal behaviour and other awe-inspiring scenes from nature all featuring.

Jesse Bruton

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,
until Sun 11 September

One of the founding artists of Ikon, Jesse Bruton took landscape - in particular the Welsh mountains and the Pembrokeshire coast - as a starting point for his highly praised abstract paintings.

Created using a stringent palette of black and white, his artworks reflect his interest in "the way things work, things like valleys, rock formations and rivers".

The paintings depict the landscape in terms of how it appears when a viewer is actually passing through it on a car journey.

Bruton stopped producing artwork in the early 1970s in favour of a career in picture conservation.

Common Culture Cabaret

mac, Birmingham, until Sun 11 September

The public fascination with celebrity takes centre stage in this brand new presentation by collaborative artists' group Common Culture. Featuring a video installation specially commissioned for mac, the show combines the use of ventriloquism and impersonation to explore television viewers' appetite for the often cruel spectacle of TV talent shows.



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10 GREAT REASONS TO VISIT SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW



One of the country's premier horticultural events, the annual Shrewsbury Flower Show delivers a diverse programme of attractions and entertainment for all the family to enjoy. This year it's the Red Hot Chilli Pipers (Friday) and '80s chart-toppers The Christians (Saturday) who'll be

taking the headline spots on the main stage. If you've not already checked out what Shrewsbury Flower Show has to offer this summer, here are 10 'blooming' good reasons to add this prestigious event to your holiday list of places to visit...

1 FLORAL ATTRACTIONS

These include: the Quarry Marquee, featuring two floral arrangements designed and created to mark the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen; the Severn Marquee, packed to the rafters with vegetables, cut flowers, hanging baskets, pot plants and alpiners; the Dingle Marquee, showcasing the artistic talents of amateur exhibitors; ten Show Gardens inspired by the theme Hope & Glory; a Lecture Theatre featuring talks and demonstrations by experts.



2 GARDENING EXHIBITORS

Inspirational and passionate broadcaster, journalist, public speaker and teacher Sarah Raven is the celebrity gardener at this year's show. Sarah speaks on a variety of subjects, including gardening, flower arranging and cooking. She also delivers an in-depth and



personal account of the life, history and gardens of Sissinghurst in Kent - regarded as one of the most inspirational gardens in the world.

3 CRAFT MARQUEE

From unique papercut cards and Slip Trailed Ceramics to bespoke upholstery and silk clothing from France and Italy, the marquee features an impressive array of artisan crafts, with more than 66 exhibitors showcasing their wares.



4 ATTRACTIONS FOR THE YOUNG

This year's show features an array of themed activities based around Beatrix Potter and Roald Dahl, for whom 2016 is a special anniversary year. Mr Boom, Malcolm Malan and Jack the Jester all present new shows and circus workshops, while David Hatfield hosts a series of children's planting sessions and workshops in which youngsters can decorate their own plant pots.



5 FOOD AND DRINK

There are gastronomic delights for all tastes and pockets at this year's Shrewsbury Flower Show, with more than 30 exhibitors showcasing artisan products from across the region and further afield. From sweet pies and pastries, Turkish Delight and Baklava to all things garlic from the Isle of Wight, there's plenty to tantalise your tastebuds...



6

LIVE MUSIC

Main stage acts are always a real crowd-puller at Shrewsbury Flower Show. This year's line-up features When Will I Be Famous winners The Red

Hot Chilli Pipers - taking to the stage on the Friday evening - and '80s soul sensations The Christians (Ideal World, Harvest For The World and Forgotten Town), who promise to wow audiences on the Saturday evening.

7

MAIN ARENA ATTRACTIONS

As always, there's plenty of main arena activity taking place at Shrewsbury Flower Show. Renowned for its show jumping classes, the event has in the past attracted big names including Tim Stockdale and Geoff Billington.

Other main arena highlights include performances from The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment Musical Ride, an Army Section and Forge Falconry display.



8

FOOD EXHIBITORS

Celebrity chef Gizzi Erskine is making her fair share of festival appearances

over the summer months. She stops off in Shrewsbury on both days of the show to share her knowledge of the UK food scene. Gizzi was one of the first to back the pop-up restaurant trend and has opened numerous pop-ups over the past 14 years. She was also one of the first to introduce Korean street food to the UK.



9

STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

A brand new attraction for 2016. Railway enthusiasts young and old can delight in the arrival of a steam engine from the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway. It will operate close to the river side of the Quarry site.

10

FIREWORKS

People flock from all over to bag a good vantage point from which to witness the skies above Shrewsbury being lit up by a magnificent pyrotechnic display. The finale to both days' activities, the firework display is regarded by many locals as a signal that summer is drawing to a close.



Shrewsbury Flower Show takes place at The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 August



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Events



Insomnia58

NEC, Birmingham. Fri 26 - Sun 29 August

The UK's biggest gaming festival has recently relocated to Birmingham's NEC, having outgrown its previous home at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry.

Insomnia58 is a four-day, round-the-clock event 'combining all the best bits of video-gaming'. The show features LAN gaming halls, a

huge exhibition hall, special guests 'doing cool interactive content', large-scale eSports tournaments and a wide selection of activities tailored to gamers of all ages.

Commenting on the event, Craig Fletcher, founder and CEO of Multiplay, the company which runs Insomnia, said: "The festival has enjoyed an incredible journey in recent times. Ticket sales have soared in the last four years and we're expecting to welcome a total of over 100,000 visitors through our doors in 2016."

Donington Classic Motorcycle Festival

Donington Park, Derby, Fri 5 - Sun 7 August

The legendary Steve Baker makes a headline appearance at this year's get-together, almost 40 years after he became the first American motorcycle racer to win a road racing world championship (the Formula 750, on a factory Yamaha in 1977).

"I'm very excited to return to England and the Donington Classic," says Steve, who, in that same Formula 750-winning season, also triumphed in the prestigious Daytona 200 race and finished second to Barry Sheene in the 500cc World Championship. "It's like a dream come true to ride at Donington and be with old friends and the best racing fans in the world."

As well as star appearances by Steve, Jim Redman and Steve Parrish, this year's festival also features 50 races throughout the weekend, huge display areas, parades and numerous activities to keep younger members of the family entertained.

Digital Days

Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Mon 1 - Thurs 18 August



How to use LEGO, construct a programmable robot and tell stories via animation are among the workshops being offered in this new series of entertaining and educational teacher-led activity days. There's also the opportunity for youngsters to explore, play and discover the world of Minecraft within a safe and secure digital environment. Suitable for children aged between six and 15, all workshops need to be booked and paid for in advance. For more information, visit ironbridge.org.uk/shop

Spy School

The REP, Birmingham, Mon 8 - Fri 12 August

If your youngster loves James Bond, this week-long event is one that they really won't want to miss.

Children between the ages of seven and 12 get the chance to work with professional theatre directors, participate in games, improvisations and drama workshops, and take part in a story about spies, secrets and all things espionage. They can follow suspects, bug telephones and create secret identities too, not to mention cut eye-holes in a newspaper so that they can pretend they're reading when they're actually spying. All in all, then, an event that's only a 'vodka martini shaken not stirred' away from being the full spy experience!



British Showjumping National Championships

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire,
Tues 9 - Sun 14 August

The British Showjumping National Championships this month come to Warwickshire for the third time. The event is one of the summer highlights on the British showjumping calendar and features the prestigious International Stairway League final (Sunday 14 August), at the end of which the British Showjumping National Champion will

be crowned. A new addition to the calendar last year and returning in 2016 is the Stoneleigh Horse Show, running in conjunction with the championships and sure once again to make a big impression. The event also offers plenty of competitions, indoor performances, hospitality and shopping opportunities for visitors to enjoy. And just to make the day even more appealing, entry to the show is free.

Art In The Park

Jephson Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa,
Sat 6 - Sun 7 August

Leamington's Art In The Park festival is expected to attract in excess of 5,000 visitors when it makes a welcome return this month. The 2016 edition of the event features exhibitions of paintings, ceramics, textiles and sculpture, a dozen bands presenting a feast of blues, jazz and soul music, and numerous workshops ranging from upcycling to bespoke T-shirt designing and a pottery 'throw down'.

Local ensemble Motionhouse perform physical dance piece Lost, while the Pauline Quirke Academy and Stagecoach Theatre School also make contributions.

Commenting on the festival, organiser Carole Sleight said: "With the range of art and activities on offer, we know that visitors will get a huge amount of value from the weekend and leave with many great memories, new skills and inspirational ideas."



Spectacular Science Show

The Core Theatre, Solihull, Thurs 25 August



TV astronomer and author Mark Thompson is the man behind this brand new show, which has been designed with the very definite intention of dispelling the popular myth that science is boring.

"This is science like you've never seen before," says Mark. "The Spectacular Science Show explores the strange and magical properties of matter, with exploding elephant's toothpaste, vortex-generating dustbins, dancing paste, vanishing beakers and even exploding Pringle tubes!"

The show is suitable for children aged six and older.

Our pick of top places to visit this Summer

Coventry Transport Museum

A journey through the recently relaunched museum begins with a look at the transport industry's history and includes the chance to hop inside a Coventry-made black taxi to enjoy a video tour of the city.

Visitors can then check out numerous work & leisure vehicles - including unique items like a Sky Blues tour bus - and stop off in the Innovation & Future area, offering glimpses of modern car construction and a state-of-the-art driverless model.

Other attractions include the Supersonic section - complete with three simulations to enjoy - and the glittering Jaguar room, the bright lights and sparkling floors of which complement the gleaming surfaces of the new F-Type and C-X75.

British Motor Museum

The British Motor Museum, formerly known as the Heritage Motor Centre, recently reopened following a £1.1million refurbishment. The museum features an immersive display of British motoring history and a new Collections Centre. The centre allows members of the general public access to an extra 250 cars from the reserve collections of the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust and the Jaguar Heritage Trust. As well as one of the top car collections in the world, the museum also boasts a comprehensive archive and picture library, runs education and learning programmes, and hosts numerous specialist motoring events, clubs and rallies throughout the year.



Family Night

Black Country Living Museum, Sat 13 August

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

face painting and singalong songs to the museum's cobbled streets. There's also the chance to enjoy a birds of prey show and go face-to-face with a variety of creepy crawlies. This year's get-together celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of children's author Roald Dahl.

Lockdown at The Dana

The Dana Prison, Shrewsbury,
Thurs 11 - Sat 13 August

After over 200 years of service, former HM Prison Shrewsbury - or the Dana, as it's affectionately known - closed its doors in 2013. Following much speculation about the building's future, the cobwebs were dusted off, the hinges oiled, and history & heritage tour company Jailhouse Tours took active possession of the decommissioned gaol...

One of the company's August attractions at the Dana is Lockdown, a prison-based Zombie-chase event which its organisers say is the first of its kind in the UK (perhaps not surprisingly, given its curious nature). The governor of the prison has lost control and the inmates are not only revolting, they're clawing, scratching and biting - themselves as well as the prison officers. Escape is the only option - but where are the keys to the front gate? Visitors will certainly need to get a wriggle on if they want to stay one step ahead of the undead...

Jailhouse Tours are keen to make it known that this isn't a suitable event for anybody who is affected by strobe lighting, in poor health, has a heart condition or is unable to climb stairs and cover one mile at a brisk pace.

Gypsy Wedding

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Shropshire,
Sat 27 - Mon 29 August



The chance to view a traditional gypsy wedding is one of the highlights of a bank holiday weekend of entertainment at Blists Hill Victorian Town. Visitors to the popular attraction can check out the elaborate gypsy wagons on the Green before settling down to watch the recreated marriage ceremony, after which they can join in with the post-wedding fun and merriment.

Other activities taking place at Blists Hill across the weekend include candle-dipping workshops, a lesson in the school house, a ride on a horse-drawn bus and a singalong in the pub.

Our pick of top places to visit this Summer

Thinktank

Thinktank science museum offers plenty for children to see and do throughout the summer holidays, from unlocking Birmingham's industrial heritage to uncovering the secrets of the science that's all around them - in the city, in the wild and even in their own bodies. There's the chance to explore the outer reaches of space too, and to get to grips with innovative inventions and contemplate scientists' predictions for the future.

Other activities include arts & crafts and daily Planetarium shows, while Birmingham's 'Spitfire story' is recounted in the Spitfire Gallery.

New for 2016 is the Marine Worlds Gallery, featuring the Thinktank Ichthyosaur, a giant sea monster from the dinosaur era that's being displayed in full for the first time. The outdoor Science Garden, meanwhile - complete with giant-sized exhibits - is open daily and free to enter after 3pm.

Jackfield Tile Museum

Ironbridge Gorge's popular museum provides visitors with the opportunity to learn about the history of the tile-making industry, as well as to design and create a unique tile of their own. The venue's attractions include the chance to walk through an Edwardian tube station, a pub, a children's hospital ward and the original gas-lit trade show room. Visitors can also discover tile-decorating techniques, see the Craven Dunnill factory in operation (on certain days) and enjoy an entertaining and educational factory tour, taking place every Wednesday at 11am.

Events

Coventry Sky Ride

Coventry City Centre, Sun 7 August

The West Midlands' only Sky Ride event is once again taking place in Coventry this year.

Sky Ride provides participants with the chance to enjoy the experience of cycling around a traffic-free city.

Attractions and activities to enjoy along this year's route include the Extreme Mountain Bike Show, British Cycling's Go Ride children's obstacle course, quiz-show games and face painting.

"We want more people to enjoy riding a bike," says Sky Ride ambassador Sir Chris Hoy. "That's why Sky and British Cycling have teamed up to bring you Sky Ride. We've made it easier than ever to get out on your bike and spend quality time with your family and friends.

"Sky Rides close towns and cities for big bike events so you can ride safely on traffic-free streets. With a huge festival atmosphere and loads to do, they're great fun and a great way to get on your bike."



Our pick of top places to visit this Summer

Tamworth Castle

From Norman fort to stately home to 21st century museum, Tamworth Castle stands as a physical record of almost a millennium's worth of history.

The castle is currently home to unique artefacts from the Staffordshire Hoard and offers some fascinating insights into the Anglo-Saxon era from which they date.

Summer holiday visitors to the venue this month can learn about weaponry, armour and battle tactics from the Saxon, Medieval, Tudor and English Civil War periods (4 August), and about the history of toys and games, from Medieval times to the Second World War (9 - 11 August). There's also a Tudor Living History Day (well, three actually - 16 to 18 August) and the chance to follow a 'magical trail' through the castle from the 22nd to the 26th of the month.

August's programme of family-friendly events is rounded off on Bank Holiday Monday (the 29th) with a storytelling session, including sure-to-be-enchanted tales of castles, knights, dragons and princesses.



Festival Of Quilts

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 August

Bringing together a unique blend of exhibitors, galleries, practical workshops and in-depth lectures, the Festival Of Quilts is Europe's largest celebration of patchwork and quilting.

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



There's plenty of music to enjoy too, and 'eye-swivelling' acrobatics to (hopefully) make you gasp - not to mention a different story every day, recounting the adventures of princes and maidens, donkeys and roosters, enchanted fish and forest-dwelling wild men.

Each show has been designed to appeal to people of all ages and lasts for approximately 75 minutes.



The Big Read: Animal Story Time

Soho House, Birmingham, Sat 13 August

Birmingham children's author BB Taylor takes her writing inspiration from her love of animals, enjoys making magic come to life through the power of words, and here shares some of the tricks of her trade.

An interactive workshop in which BB teaches participants how to write their own stories, the event has been designed for children aged between five and 10.

Enchanted Circus

Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire
Thurs 4 - Sun 7 August

The circus is coming to town - and what's more, it's an enchanted one. Visitors who step inside the big-top tent located within the castle walls will find themselves transported 'deep into a forest, past a robber's hideout and right to the edge of the sea'. Ancient stories are brought to life in a fairytale world illuminated by 'glittering' visual effects.



Shrewsbury Flower Show

Friday 12th & Saturday 13th August 2016

FLOWERS, FIREWORKS & FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Performances by the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment Musical Ride

Friday
Evening
The Red
Hot Chilli
Pipers

Saturday
Evening
The
Christians

Floral Displays
Premier Show Jumping
Stunning Show Gardens
Household Cavalry Mounted
Regiment Musical Ride

ENTERTAINMENT TO SUIT EVERY TASTE

The Chef Gizzi Erskine and the Gardener Sarah Raven,
Red Hot Chilli Pipers, The Christians, Of One Accord
and Biddulph Male Voice Choirs, Massed Bands,
Traditional Carousel, Food and Drink,
Spectacular Fireworks Finale,
Working Steam Engine and
Schools Floral Train.

ADVANCE DAY TICKETS

Available until midnight on 11th August
Adults £24, Over 60's £22
Accompanied children
(15 yrs & under)
FREE

Celebrity
Gardener
Sarah
Raven

Why not
join as a member
and enjoy admission
to the show on both days
and an invitation to our
exclusive preview
evening?

Celebrity
Chef
Gizzi
Erskine

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS*

Available until midnight on 11th August
Adult Single £45,
Double £80, Children
(15 yrs & under) £5
Life Member
£550

*Membership upgrades will not
be available during the show

Call us on: 01743 234050 or
visit www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk

ENJOY THE GREAT



Thinktank, Birmingham



Blists Hill, Ironbridge



Drayton Manor Theme Park

The Midlands is home to an abundance of enjoyable and exciting places to visit, catering for people of all ages and from all walks of life. Whatever you're looking for to keep the kids entertained this summer, you're sure to find somewhere and something that fits the bill.

Our What's On directory features just a small handful of some of the best places to visit across the region this summer. Check out whatsonlive.co.uk for more details...

Birmingham

ASTON HALL This 17th century red-brick mansion hosts many family activities throughout the season, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

BBC BIRMINGHAM Go behind the scenes of some of your favourite TV shows with informative and entertaining tours, The Mailbox, Birmingham, B1 1RF

BECKETT'S FARM Hosts a number of family events throughout the year, including cookery classes for young and old, with a farm shop and restaurant on site, Wythall, Birmingham B47 6AJ

BIRMINGHAM BACK TO BACKS Restored 19th-century courtyard of working people's houses, Hurst Street, Birmingham, B5 4TE

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS Spanning 15 acres, with four glasshouses hosting a variety of climates, from tropical rainforest to arid desert, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TR

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Explore over 40 galleries displaying various eras of art, with a diverse exhibition programme on offer, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

BLAKESLEY HALL Discover a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens just a few miles from the heart of the city, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

CADBURY WORLD Discover the origins of everyone's favourite sweet treat, from the cocoa beans in the Aztec jungle to the making of Cadbury confectionery today, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU

CANNON HILL PARK Opened in 1873, the park is made up of 80 acres of formal parkland and 120 acres of conservation and woodland plantation, Moseley, Birmingham, B12 9QH

EASTSIDE PARK Birmingham's first central city park in over 130 years, situated only a stone's throw from the Bullring Shopping Centre and New Street Station, Birmingham City Centre, B4 7AP

LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM A major cultural destination, providing a dynamic mix of events, activities and performances, resources and access to expert help for learning, information and culture, Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 2ND

LICKEY HILLS COUNTRY PARK Covering 524 acres, the park is a place for family fun, whether that be walking the dog, cycling, horse riding, or maybe just for the views and a cup of tea, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 8ER

MAC A huge range of theatre, music, comedy, plays for children, dance, creative and craft courses, family shows, film and free exhibitions on offer, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH

MUSEUM OF THE JEWELLERY QUARTER The museum tells the story of Birmingham's renowned jewellery and metalworking heritage, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA

NATIONAL SEA LIFE CENTRE Featuring over 1,000 creatures and 60-plus displays, including a million-litre underwater tropical tank, Nemo's Kingdom, turtle breeding and much more, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL

RESORTS WORLD Boasting the largest casino in the UK, a shopping mall, restaurants and cinemas, Birmingham, B40 1NT

SAREHOLE MILL A 250-year-old working watermill famous for its association with Lord Of The Rings author JRR Tolkien, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD

THINKTANK SCIENCE MUSEUM Over 200 interactive exhibits on science and discovery, including a programme of workshops, shows and demonstrations, and a digital Planetarium, Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Shropshire

ATTINGHAM PARK An elegant 18th century mansion house with Regency interiors. Set within an expansive deer park, there are riverside walks, a woodland sculpture trail and family events to enjoy. Shrewsbury, SY4 4TP

CARDING MILL VALLEY Covering almost 5,000 acres, with stunning views of the Shropshire and Welsh hills. An important place for wildlife, geology and archaeology. Church Stretton, SY6 6JG

CHOLMONDELEY CASTLE A Gothic castle - a product of the early 19th century - that stands on a high rise above a lake. The castle is surrounded by lawns, a variety of mature trees and gardens. Whitchurch, SY14 8AH

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS The Shropshire site of the birth of the Industrial Revolution has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, with 10 award-winning museums. Ironbridge, TF8 7DQ

RAF COSFORD The museum houses one of the largest aviation collections in the UK. Over 70 his-

toric aircraft are displayed in three wartime hangars on an active airfield. Shifnal, TF11 8UP

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK An oasis of calm and beauty on the banks of the River Severn, this award-winning, 51-hectare country park is a place for quiet enjoyment of the countryside. Bridgnorth, WV15 6NG

SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Housed within the town's grade II Victorian Music Hall and one of the country's rare 13th century mansions, featuring a broad range of artefacts alongside a rolling programme of contemporary art. Shrewsbury, SY1 1LH

TELFORD STEAM RAILWAY A heritage railway located at Horsehay and formed in 1976. The railway is operated by volunteers on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Telford, TF4 2NF

THE BRITISH IRONWORK CENTRE Boasting a varied collection of beautifully decorative metal items, some of which are faithful reproductions of ironwork no longer seen today. There's also a collection of animal sculptures to admire. Oswestry, SY11 4JH

THE QUARRY PARK Shrewsbury's 29-acre parkland hosts numerous events throughout the year, including the Shrewsbury Flower Show 12-13 August, SY1 1RN

Staffordshire

AERIAL EXTREME Ever fancied swinging about, high up in the trees? Now's your chance with Aerial Extreme's tree-mendous course at the Trentham Estate. All ages are guaranteed a bucketload of fun. How much can you handle? Trentham, ST12 9HR

ALTON TOWERS Enjoy a mind-blowing mix of fantastic rides and attractions, offering unlimited fun for kids of all ages, families and thrill-seekers. Alton, ST10 4DB

BIDDULPH GRANGE COUNTRY PARK Originally part of a larger Biddulph Grange Estate, this is a 73-acre wooded hillside site with a large lake, ponds and meadows, Stoke-on-Trent, ST8 7TA

CENTRAL FOREST PARK Located in the heart of Stoke, Central Forest Park is a green space providing facilities for walking, cycling, dog walking, informal sports and skateboarding. Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 6BB

CHURNET VALLEY RAILWAY Take a journey back to

OUTDOORS THIS AUGUST!



Coventry Transport Museum



Black Country Living Museum, Dudley



Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

the classic days of railway travel on a rural line that passes through beautiful countryside known as Staffordshire's 'Little Switzerland'. Froghall, ST10 2HA

DRAYTON MANOR THEME PARK A definite stop-off venue for thrill-seekers, featuring, as it does, all manner of white-knuckle rides. Also offers a range of rides that are somewhat less challenging. And with a zoo on site, it's a venue that's got plenty for kids and adults of all ages to enjoy. Tamworth, B78 3TW

HANLEY PARK Hanley Park and the adjacent Cauldon Grounds are open to the public. Features include three play areas: toddler, sensory and adventure (including aerial slide). Shelton, ST1 4DX

PEAK WILDLIFE PARK Large walk-throughs allow you to come face to face with exotic and endangered animals from across three continents. Leek, ST13 7QR

THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Exhibits include the world's greatest collection of Staffordshire ceramics, a World War Two Spitfire, decorative arts and natural history, along with items from the Staffordshire Hoard. Hanley, ST1 3DW

THE WEDGWOOD MUSEUM The home of one of the most interesting ceramic collections in the world. The galleries tell the story of Josiah Wedgwood, his family, and the company he founded over two centuries ago. Stoke-on-Trent, ST12 9ER

Warwickshire

BADDESLEY CLINTON A secluded estate set in the heart of the Forest of Arden. With guided talks, walks through the gardens and activities for children such as pond dipping and garden trails. Warwick, B93 ODQ

BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM The museum features the world's greatest collection of classic, vintage and veteran British cars. Gaydon, CV35 0BJ

CHARLECOTE PARK This grand 16th century country house comes complete with deer park and is a property of the National Trust. Warwick, CV35 9ER

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK Set in 160 acres of parkland and gardens, Cotswold Wildlife Park now has one of the UK's largest zoological collections. Burford, OX18 4JP

COVENTRY MUSIC MUSEUM Activities to interest and delight youngsters, and a studio in which visitors can try their hand at composing and music-making. CV2 4ED

COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM The museum houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world. Now fully open after a £9.5million redevelopment programme. CV1 1JD

HATTON ADVENTURE WORLD An attraction for families with children up to the age of 12. Hatton, CV35 8XA

HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM A family-friendly museum, with activities that run throughout the school holidays. Coventry, CV1 5QP

KENILWORTH CASTLE A vast complex of ruined fortifications and palatial apartments spanning over five centuries. CV8 1NE

RAGLEY HALL Family entertainment, with an adventure playground, 3D maze, boating and a woodland walk. Alcester, B49 5NJ

SHAKESPEARE BIRTHPLACE TRUST Six unique properties - Shakespeare's Birthplace, Harvard House, Hall's Croft, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Mary Arden's Farm & Shakespeare's New Place.

STONELEIGH ABBEY Visitors to the Abbey can learn about the house's history through a guided tour of the West Wing. CV8 2LF

STRATFORD BUTTERFLY FARM A unique opportunity to watch hundreds of the world's most spectacular butterflies flying around. Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7LS

WARWICK CASTLE Experience over 1,000 years of history at Warwick Castle. Aside from visiting the castle itself and looking at the battlements, towers, turrets and interiors, there are also jousting shows, the Horrible History show and Time Tower to keep you entertained. CV34 4QU

Wolverhampton & Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE MUSEUM Restored to its Edwardian glory, Bantock House sits within 43 acres of parkland, with activities for all ages, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY A lively programme of changing exhibitions featuring the best of contemporary ceramics, glass, jewellery, textiles, metal, woodwork and more, Wolverhampton, WV14 7LU

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM A tribute to the traditional skills and enterprise of the people that once lived in the heart of industrial Britain, Dudley, DY1 4SQ

DUDLEY CANAL TUNNEL TRUST Guided boat trips through the tunnels, accompanied by videos, life-like reconstructions and stunning music and light shows, Dudley, DY1 4SB

DUDLEY CASTLE AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS Home to more than 1,300 animals, with up to 200 species. At the heart of the site sits the ruins of an 11th century castle, Dudley, DY1 4QF

HIMLEY HALL & PARK An 18th century building set in 180 acres of Capability Brown-landscaped parkland, Dudley, DY3 4DF

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE A heritage site with 225 years of glass, industrial and social history within its walls, Stourbridge, DY8 4AZ

SANDWELL PARK FARM A fully restored working Victorian farm with grazing meadows, a traditional farmyard, walled kitchen gardens, Grade II listed buildings, a small museum and award-winning tea rooms, West Bromwich, B71 4BG

WIGHTWICK MANOR & GARDENS A manor house filled

with an important collection of Pre-Raphaelite and Arts & Crafts pictures and furnishings, Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY Explore more than 300 years of art, including regular world class touring exhibitions, Wolverhampton, WV1 1DU

Worcestershire

AVONCROFT MUSEUM A fascinating museum of historic buildings spanning seven centuries, rescued from imminent destruction and carefully rebuilt, timber by timber or brick by brick, on a beautiful open-air site in the north of Worcestershire, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR

BERRINGTON HALL Created by architect Henry Holland, the hall is one of a small number of his buildings to survive intact. As well as being able to explore the family rooms and servant quarters, guests can take part in activities or relax by the lake, Nr Leominster, HR6 0DW

BROCKHAMPTON ESTATE Set in 1,700 acres of estate, the romantic Manor House dates back to the late 14th century and is accessible via a small gatehouse and over a moat, Nr Bromyard, WR6 5TB

CROFT CASTLE Located deep in the heart of the Herefordshire countryside, surrounded by 1,500 acres of historic woodland, farm and parkland. Home to the Croft family for nearly 1,000 years, this castle has many intriguing stories to uncover. Yarpole, Nr Leominster, HR6 9PW

CROOME PARK Explore what remains of a secret wartime air base and discover how thousands of people lived and worked there during the 1940s. Worcester, WR8 9DW

EASTNOR CASTLE DEER PARK Set within the dramatic beauty of the Malvern Hills and surrounded by a beautiful deer park, arboretum and lake. Ledbury HR8 1RL

HAMPTON COURT CASTLE Originally formed by the merging of two manors, Hampton Court was remodelled in the 1830s/40s. The castle and grounds offer a great location for adventure and events, Leominster, HR6 0PN

HARTLEBURY CASTLE A Grade I listed building which was built in the mid-13th century as a fortified manor house. Kidderminster, DY11 7XZ

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY A full-size standard-gauge railway line which runs regular steam-hauled passenger trains, for tourists and enthusiasts alike, between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, a distance of 16 miles, Bewdley, DY12 1BG

THE MALVERN HILLS A wide variety of walks, from short and gently graded slopes to more strenuous options, WR14 3EY

WITLEY COURT One hundred years ago, Witley Court was one of England's great country houses, hosting many extravagant parties. Today, it's a spectacular ruin, the result of a disastrous fire in 1937. Great Witley, WR6 6JT

Summer In the Valley

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 August 2016
10am – 5pm

Sandwell's Strongest Man Competition • Sporting Activities
Live Music • Food Quarter • Real Ale Bar • Market
Boating On The Lake • Land Train • Children's Entertainment

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 August 2016
10am – 5pm

Horticultural Displays • Animal Racing • Farm Machinery
Countryside Crafts • Falconry Displays • Live Music
Food Quarter • Real Ale Bar • Market • Boating On The Lake

Monday 29 August 2016
10am – 4pm

Giant Bank Holiday Market

A rambling mixed market including street food, fine food, art, crafts, vintage, shabby chic, continental, unusual and general stalls.

Free entry to events
Car parking: £2 per car
Contact: 0121 569 3064

 Follow Sandwell Valley Country Park on Facebook





IRONBRIDGE.ORG.UK

WHERE WILL YOUR VISIT TAKE YOU?



FROM:

WALK THE BEAT

At Blists Hill Victorian Town

TO:

BEAT THE ROBOT

At Enginuity

10 AWARD WINNING ATTRACTIONS IN A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Lichfield Arts

Inspiring, Involving, Entertaining

Superb live music & more at historic Lichfield Guildhall



Fri 2 & Sat 3 September 2016: Autumn Beer Festival
Enjoy a fine selection of real ales and ciders from local and regional breweries. Live band each evening.
If bringing a party you are advised to book in advance.

SEPTEMBER	Saturday 24th Sunday 25th Friday 30th	Plug & Play - for young, local musicians Kaz Hawkins Band L2F Ceilidh
OCTOBER	Sunday 9th Friday 14th Saturday 15th Sunday 16th Sunday 23rd Sunday 30th	Dervish <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: blue;">L2F</div> LICHFIELD FESTIVAL OF FOLK Tom Woodman Band Ben Poole Band
NOVEMBER	Friday 11th Sunday 13th Saturday 19th Sunday 20th	Fred Zeppelin Sheelanagig Ian Siegal Band Sarah Gillespie Quartet
DECEMBER	SEE WEBSITE FOR SEASONAL CONCERTS AND MORE!	

lichfieldarts.org.uk Box office: 01543 262223  

Donegal House Bore Street Lichfield Staffordshire WS13 6LU info@lichfieldarts.org.uk

HALLOWEEN NIGHTS

28, 29 & 31 OCT 2016
6.30pm - 10pm



BOOK BEFORE 11 SEP AND SAVE 10%

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

BANKS'S Official Beer Sponsor www.bclm.com

the list

Your week to week
listings guide

August 2016



The Color Run at NEC, Birmingham - Saturday 20 August

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

What's On

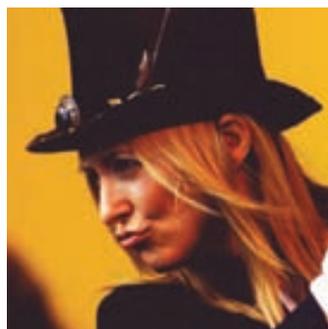
Mon 1 to Sun 7 August



A Midsummer Night's Dream
at Packwood House, Solihull

Sat 6 August

Mon 8 to Sun 14 August



Quill at O2 Institute,
Birmingham

Sat 13 August

Mon 15 to Sun 21 August



Kissing Frogs at mac,
Birmingham

Fri 12 - Sat 13 August

Mon 22 to Wed 31 August



Solihull Summer Festival at
Tudor Grange Park

Sat 26 - Sun 27 August

THROUGHOUT AUGUST

Visual Arts

Artifex Gallery, Sutton Coldfield

NEW MATHÉ SHEPHEARD Showcasing works in watercolour, mixed media and ink, Sat 30 July - Wed 31 Aug

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

ABBAYFIELD'S GOLDEN GALLERY: ART & SOUL Pioneering new exhibition highlighting the therapeutic benefits that art brings to older people - particularly those living with dementia and other medical conditions, until Fri 14 Oct

FAITH IN BIRMINGHAM, Exploring how different faiths have influenced and shaped the city, until Sun 3 Feb 2019

Grand Union

LAURA OLDFIELD FORD SOLO

EXHIBITION A new body of work following six weeks in residence at the Grand Union, until Fri 5 Aug

Ikon Gallery

KAN XUAN The first UK exhibition of work by renowned Chinese artist Kan Xuan, until Sun 11 Sept

PATRICK KILLORAN Public space and the role of participation in contemporary art informed by social practice are essential elements of Killoran's work, until Sun 11 Sept

The Library of Birmingham

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

RBSA Gallery

NEW DAVID WALTON RBSA Portraits, drawn from life, in graphite or ink, Mon 15 Aug - Sat 1 Oct

NEW CHRIS SALMON ARBSA:

RETROSPECTIVE Original prints, paintings, and drawings. Chris will also be demonstrating on Sat 27 Aug, Mon 22 Aug - Sat 3 Sept

NEW DRAWN An exhibition of drawings by members and associates of the RBSA which show the variety of skills involved within the discipline of drawing, Mon 22 Aug - Sat 3 Sept

NEW JASMINA AJZENKOL ARBSA Solo show of clay sculptures inspired by marine forms and the patterns created by wind blowing across the sand, Mon 29 Aug - Sat 8 Oct

The Barber Institute

CURIOS BEAUTY Display showcasing Ennemond-Alexandre Petitot's eccentric, neoclassical drawings for ornamental vases, engraved by Benigno Bossi (1727-1792), until Sun 4 Sept

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE Marking the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, until Sun 25 Sept

TALES OF THE CITY A display of prints

and drawings capturing the expansion of European cities from the 17th to 19th century, until Sun 2 Oct

BURIED TREASURES Exhibition exploring coin hoards, telling the stories of their deposition and discovery, until Sun 26 Feb 2017

mac, Birmingham

BERT HACKETT: THE GEMINI YEARS A timely tribute to the former Birmingham Post cartoonist, displaying a selection of his best-loved drawings, until Sun 4 Sept

MADE AT MAC: LIFE OF A SONG

Interactive exhibition allowing audience members to listen to the different song stages while observing the songwriting process. Get involved by strumming, pushing buttons and listening, until Sun 11 Sept

COMMON CULTURE: CABARET Exhibition featuring new work made in response to the unruly traditions of comedy and popular entertainment, until Sun 11 Sept

BOM (B'ham Open Media)

ART IN CRISIS - DIGITAL STORIES The BOM Fellows have been collaborating with Crisis members to produce digital stories using photography and sound, to explore relationships with the urban environment, until Sat 6 Aug

Museum of The Jewellery Quarter

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

Other

SOHO AT 21 Exhibition celebrating 21 years since Soho House opened as a museum, until Sun 7 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BIG ART PROJECT

Exhibition presenting five shortlisted artists' proposals, commissioned by Birmingham Big Art Foundation, to imagine a major new work of public art for the city of Birmingham, to be completed in 2018, until Wed 31 Aug, Millennium Point & Eastside Park

NEW BRITAIN FROM THE AIR

Birmingham is hosting a prestigious street photography exhibition with over 100 giant aerial photographs on display, Sat 30 July - Wed 31 Aug, Birmingham City Centre

WELLCOME IMAGE AWARDS EXHIBITION until Sun 23 Oct, Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham

NEW SUMMER EXHIBITION Work from 16 contemporary artists in a range of mediums, genres and subject matter are on display, Sat 30 July - Sun 28 Aug, Castle Fine Art in The International Convention Centre, Birmingham



Beres Hammond - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Gigs

DON BROCO Mon 1 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

LOCK & KEY Tues 2 Aug, Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

IMARHAN Wed 3 Aug, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

HONKY TONK ROSE Wed 3 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

TROUBLEMAKER - OLLY MURS TRIBUTE Wed 3 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

PHUNDO ART Wed 3 Aug, Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LISA STANLEY AND HER BAND Thurs 4 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

BEGGAR & CO Thurs 4 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

CARINA ROUND Thurs 4 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE WEST COAST EAGLES Fri 5 Aug, The River

Rooms, Stourbridge

MENTAL LICA Fri 5 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

BAZAAR PRESENTS AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC, COMEDY & MORE... Fri 5 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RELAPSE Fri 5 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

URBAN INTRO Fri 5 - Sat 6 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE NAKED BEATLES Fri 5 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 5 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

MARAUDIOLOGY Sat 6 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BERES HAMMOND Sat 6 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GREEN CIRCLES Sat 6 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham

STRAIGHT FOR THE SUN

Sat 6 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ZOE GREEN BAND Sat 6 Aug, Route 44, B'ham

BRUK UP WITH EVM 128 & LORD BYRON Sat 6 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GIN ANNIE BAND Sat 6 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE WRONG UNS Sat 6 Aug, Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

DEVIL RED Sat 6 Aug, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

KILLERSTREAM Sat 6 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BAD MANNERS Sat 6 Aug, Assembly Rooms, Leamington Spa

CREDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW Sat 6 Aug, The Roadhouse, B'ham

PURE/DC Sun 7 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

IRENE & TOM Sun 7 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham



Bad Manners - Assembly Rooms, Leamington Spa

Classical Music

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Conducted by Edward Gardner. Programme comprises Strauss' Also Sprach Zarathustra, 33'; Holst's The Planet, 49' & Isir ter Schiphort's Gravitational Waves, 6', Fri 5 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SUNDAY CLASSICS Presenting a range of young stars of the future from the classical world, ranging from opera singers to violinists to harpists at the very start of their careers..., Sun 7 Aug, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

JQ COMEDY Tues 2 Aug, Rose Villa Tavern, Birmingham

MANILLA ROAD COMEDY Thurs 4 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL FEAT. ANDY ROBINSON, JUNIOR SIMPSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 4 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROB ROUSE, NOEL JAMES, PETER COLE & MC DAVE WILLIAMS Thurs 4 Aug, The George Hotel, Lichfield

BIRMINGHAM IS FUNNY: YOU, ME & MONKEY: ABSURDLY FABULOUS - THE IMPROVISED EPISODE Fri 5 Aug, mac, Birmingham

TREVOR CROOK, NOEL JAMES, JUNIOR SIMPSON & COMIC TBC Fri 5 - Sat 6 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUST THE TONIC FEAT. KEVIN GILDEA, STEVE SHANYASKI, DANA ALEXANDER & DAN NIGHTINGALE Fri 5 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JASON MANFORD Sun 7 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove



Theatre

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

THE ALCHEMIST Polly Findlay directs Ben Jonson's comedy about human folly, until Sat 6 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE HIRED MAN A cast of talented local performers join the theatre's professional production team to

present Melvyn Bragg and Howard Goodall's award-winning British musical, until Sat 6 Aug, Lichfield Garrick

URINETOWN THE MUSICAL The Old Joint Stock Musical Theatre Company presents its version of the award-winning tale of greed, love, revolution (and musicals), in a time when water was worth its weight in gold, until Sat 6 Aug, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CYMBELINE Melly Still directs Shakespeare's rarely performed romance, until Sat 16 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

HAMLET Simon Godwin directs Paapa Essiedu as Hamlet in Shakespeare's searing tragedy, until Sat 13 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon



ALWAYS ORANGE Fraser Grace presents a tragicomic exploration of how to be human in a world always on edge, until Sat 27 Aug, Studio Theatre @ The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

MAMMA MIA! The smash-hit musical continues to show in Brum as part of its first ever UK tour, until Sat 3 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN Play by Alice Birch which examines the language, behaviour and forces that shape women in the 21st century. Note: this production contains strong language and scenes of a sexual nature, Tues 2 - Sat 13 Aug, Studio Theatre @ The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE HOLLYWOOD SPECIAL EFFECTS SHOW Interactive and explosive family show which goes behind the scenes of famous films to discover the science and secrets of creating movie magic, Tues 2 - Wed 3 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LES MISERABLES Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Society Youth Section present an amateur staging of Boubli & Schonberg's world famous musical, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

TREASURE ISLAND A family musical show featuring sea shanty songs and plenty of audience participation, Thurs 4 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

HAIRY MACLARY & FRIENDS Stage adaptation of Lynley Dodd's much-loved Hairy Maclary children's books, Thurs 4 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

AS YOU LIKE IT Folksy Theatre present an outdoor production of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Fri 5 Aug, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham

LAZYTOWN LIVE A nonstop, highly interactive show, jam-packed with singing, dancing, acrobatics, music and original tracks from the hit children's TV show, Fri 5 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BIRMINGHAM IS FUNNY: YOU, ME & MONKEY: ABSURDLY FABULOUS - THE IMPROVISED EPISODE Feature-length show inspired by the hit '90s sitcom, Fri 5 Aug, mac, Birmingham

SALAAM Sonia Sabri Opera crafts a stunningly intricate dialogue between Kathak dance and live music that celebrates harmony and the finding of peace within the simple pleasures of being alive, Fri 5 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Madcap Theatre Productions present a fast-paced version of Shakespeare's sparkling battle of the sexes, Sat 6 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Chapterhouse Theatre Company present Shakespeare's best-loved romantic comedy, Sat 6 Aug, Packwood House, Solihull

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA Sun & Moon Theatre present an outdoor staging of one of Shakespeare's first and most underrated plays, Sat 6 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

AS YOU LIKE IT The King's Troupe return to The Dell along with a Romanian inter-generational theatre group they helped establish, the London Taiko Drum School and actors from a Halifax centre for refugees, Sun 7 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

MA MA (12a) In the aftermath of a tragedy, a woman, Magda, reacts in a way that engulfs her circle of family and friends. Stars Penélope Cruz & Luis Tosar. Foreign language, subtitled. mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 4 Aug

JASON BOURNE (12a) Jason Bourne is beginning to remember stuff. And so he sets about trying to uncover the truth about who he really is. The good news is that Paul Greengrass returns as the director of this hopelessly addictive franchise (he directed the best in the series, The Bourne Supremacy and The Bourne Ultimatum). Stars Matt Damon & Julia Stiles. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, until Thurs 11 Aug

HOME (U) There's no place like... Actually, the loveable extraterrestrial Oh is very far from home when he escapes to Earth to evade an alien race. He then teams up with a teenage girl, Tip (voiced by Rihanna),

and they both find themselves on the run. mac, Birmingham, Wed 3 - Thurs 4 Aug

BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE CHINA (15) Some time in the '80s, trucker Jack Burton arrives in a small town to deliver his cargo and win a few bucks playing cards with the locals down at the Chinese market. Practically bankrupting nearly all of his opponents, he's challenged to a game of 'double or nothing'. The Mockingbird, Birmingham, Thurs 4 Aug

ELVIS AND NIXON (18) The most requested photo from the US National Archives is of Richard M Nixon shaking the hand of Elvis A Presley. The occasion was on 21 December 1970, in the Oval Office, and the official notes of the meeting reveal the King's interest in Communist brainwashing and a distaste for The Beatles. Michael Shannon plays Elvis and Kevin Spacey is Nixon. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 4 Aug

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS (PG) Like Superman and Marty McFly (and others), Alice is forced to travel back in time in order to alter the outcome of events. You see, when she returns to Underland she finds the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp) in a terrible state and decides to dabble in a bit of quantum physics. But would Lewis Carroll approve? Also stars Anne Hathaway & Mia Wasikowska. mac, Birmingham, Fri 5 Aug

THE SWIMMER (PG) A wealthy, middle-aged advertising man embarks on a revelatory journey through suburban Connecticut, slowly making his way to his split-level home by travelling from swimming pool to swimming pool. At each stop he faces an incident from his past. Stars Burt Lancaster & Janet Landgard. mac, Birmingham, Fri 5 Aug

FANTASTIC MR FOX (PG) Mr and Mrs Fox live an idyllic home life but after 12 years of quiet domesticity, the bucolic existence proves too much for Mr Fox's wild animal instincts. Director Wes Anderson's adaptation of a beloved children's novel by Roald Dahl. With the voices of George Clooney & Willem Dafoe. mac, Birmingham, Sat 6 Aug

THE WITCHES (PG) Based on the classic book by Roald Dahl. A young boy stumbles onto a witch convention and must stop them, even after he's been turned into a mouse. Stars Anjelica Huston & Rowan Atkinson. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 6 Aug

MOUNTAIN BIKING: THE UNTOLD BRITISH STORY Mountain biking is now in its fourth decade and has come a long way from its beginnings in the hills of the West Coast USA. But that's only part of the story. The UK MTB scene grew in parallel to the US's and this documentary tells its unique history. Followed by Q&A. mac, Birmingham, Sat 6 Aug

DISTANT NORTH - HIDING THE KUNGSLEDEN Four friends set off on a 440km journey through the largest remaining wilderness in Europe. This

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11.30am-4.00pm

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11.30am-4.00pm

Come and learn about the history of weaponry, armour and battle tactics.

Storytelling
with Ruby

Mon 29th August (Bank Holiday)
11.30am-4.00pm

The magical storyteller is back with tales of castles, knights, dragons and princesses.

Toys through Time

Tues 9th-Thurs 11th August
11.30am-4.00pm

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Tamworth
Borough Council



documentary charts their journey, beginning in the northern most section of the trail in Abisko. It's a strenuous 30-day hike over impressive mountains and down through glacial carved valleys abundant with reindeer. Followed by Q&A. mac, Birmingham, Sun 7 Aug

MEN & CHICKEN (15) Gabriel and Elias are two very different brothers. Their father is dead. Things take a turn when the brothers learn through a videotape recorded by their now late father that he wasn't, in fact, their biological father... Stars David Dencik & Mads Mikkelsen. Foreign language, subtitled. mac, Birmingham, Sun 7 - Thurs 11 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 5 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

BOBBY SANDS: 66 DAYS (15)

SID AND NANCY (18)

SUICIDE SQUAD (tbc)

SWEET BEAN (PG)

UP FOR LOVE (12a)

Events

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES Be inspired by the colours of nature with a range of activities for children, until Tues 2 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

2-DAY ROBOTICS PROJECT Design, 3D print and programme your very own robot over two days, until Wed 3 Aug, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

BOOKBENCH SUMMER CRAFT ACTIVITIES Join in a family craft activity inspired by a different children's story each week of the summer holidays, until Tues 23 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

HISTORY DETECTIVE THURSDAYS Become a History Detective for the day and enter Blakesley Hall to complete the history mystery trail, until Thurs 25 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham



SAFARI SUMMER SCHOOL Three different clubs on offer, all tailored towards different age groups and all offering hands-on animal experiences and knowledge of the natural world, until Sat 27 Aug, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Worcestershire

PLAY DAY WEDNESDAYS Enjoy tradi-

tional garden games, including quoits, giant jenga and croquet, until Wed 31 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

ZOO CLUB An opportunity for animal-loving eight-to-12-year-olds to take part in a range of exciting activities at Drayton Manor Zoo, Mon 1 - Wed 3 Aug, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

BLOOD, GUTS AND GORE Join former RSC Head of Wigs and Make-up Brenda Leedham as she talks about the tricks of the trade and how bruises, cuts and scars are created, Tues 2 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

LIVING HISTORY - WEAPONRY An opportunity for visitors to learn about weaponry, armour and battle tactics through history, Tues 2 - Thurs 4 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

SPEAKING SHAKESPEARE A chance to perform some of Shakespeare's speeches, Wed 3 Aug, Clore Learning Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

STORYTELLING IN THE COURTYARD Hear a variety of old folktales from Britain and beyond - tales of dragons, trolls, giant cats and magical mermaids, Wed 3 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: PUPPET MAKING Turn your hand to puppet-making and create colourful characters to ignite your imagination, Wed 3 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

TEDDY BEAR ZIP WIRE Make a cape for your teddy and fly him/her down the zipwire, Wed 3 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

BUILD AND PROGRAMME WITH MINECRAFT Learn how to build and programme virtual working machines in Minecraft using a range of advanced blocks, including Redstone, Thurs 4 Aug, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

COLLAGE PORTRAITS: INSPIRED BY VAN DYCK Be inspired by 400 years of portraits to create your own portrait with feathers, sequins and more, Thurs 4 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

ACTIVE STORYTELLING Become an actor and tell Shakespeare's stories, Thurs 4 Aug, Clore Learning Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

ENCHANTED CIRCUS Follow the fortunes of princes and maidens and see their adventures come to life via eye-swivelling acrobatics, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

CRAFTY KIDS WORKSHOP Thurs 4 - Thurs 25 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

BUILD AND PROGRAMME WITH LEGO WE-DO Using motorised WeDo kits, learn how to solve problems using a variety of sensors, Fri 5 Aug, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

DIGBETH FIRST FRIDAY Exhibitions, late-night openings, special events, culture in unexpected spaces, live music, street food and more, Fri 5 Aug, Digbeth, Birmingham

CONDENSED HISTORIES: ANCIENT WARRIOR SHOWS Greg Chapman uses juggling, unicycling and other



Digbeth First Fridays

Digbeth, Birmingham, Fri 5 August

The 'First Friday' of the title refers to the first Friday of every month, when Digbeth comes alive with 'exhibitions, late-night openings, special events, culture in unexpected spaces, live music, street food and more'. The 'first Friday' concept isn't unique to Birmingham, but there's no question that the city has taken the event to its heart. "By showing off once a month," explain the organisers, "we can create a critical mass of events and make it easy for audiences to cross over between venues, shops, pubs, clubs, galleries and eateries." Digbeth First Friday runs from 6pm till late. Event times vary, so it's strongly recommended that visitors check the listings in advance to ensure they make the most of their evening.

variety skills to perform shows about the gladiators of Ancient Rome, warrior queen Boudicca and the Spartans, Fri 5 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

DONINGTON CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE FESTIVAL Featuring a massive line-up of hundreds of racing machines, huge off-track displays and numerous stars of the sport, Fri 5 - Sun 7 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

ULTIMATE STREET CAR Europe's biggest modified car festival, Fri 5 - Sun 7 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

HANDSWORTH HERITAGE WALK Admire fine Georgian and Victorian architecture, a convent designed by Augustus Pugin, a church that was built nearly one thousand years ago, Sat 6 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

THE BIG READ: GAVIN YOUNG Sat 6 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

BIG BULL BARN DAY Dig out your old cowboy boots and handkerchiefs for Birmingham's only barn party, Sat 6 Aug, The Big Bulls Head, Birmingham

BECKETT'S LITERATURE FESTIVAL Sat 6 Aug, Beckett's Farm, Birmingham

KINGS HEATH FARMERS MARKET Sat 6 Aug, All Saints' Church, Kings Heath, Birmingham

BUCKINGHAM'S RETINUE: MEDIEVAL WEEKEND Sat 6 - Sun 7 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

WWI/EDWARDIAN WEEKEND Featuring the soldiers of the Empire, the gallant French allies, the ladies of the

Suffragette movement and Mr Charlie Chaplin, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Aug, The Staffordshire Regiment Museum, Lichfield

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Beginning in the commercial heart of the city at the end of Colmore Row, this live guided tour takes in all of the city's major buildings of architectural interest including St Philip's and St Chad's Cathedrals, the Victoria Law Courts, the Town Hall, the Council House, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and Library, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Aug, Birmingham City Centre

ART IN THE PARK More than 120 artists from Leamington's vibrant creative scene showcase their talent, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Aug, Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa

THE BADDESLEY BOOK FAIR 2016 Sat 6 - Sun 14 Aug, Baddesley Clinton, Solihull

RARE PLANT FAIR Sun 7 Aug, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

CLASSIC VAN AND PICK UP SHOW Featuring the best light commercial vehicles from yesteryear, including vans, pick-ups, campers and police vehicles, Sun 7 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

MAC CONTEMPORARY CRAFT MARKETS Sun 7 Aug, mac, Birmingham

THE CLASSIC CAR AND TRANSPORT SHOW Featuring over 1,000 exhibits, including classic cars, American, kit & custom, motorcycles, commercial and club stands, Sun 7 Aug, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire



Clay - Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Gigs

SHOW ME THE BODY

Mon 8 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DAG NASTY Mon 8 Aug, O2 Academy, B'ham

SARABETH & GLEN MITCHELL Tue 9 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

BIG D AND THE KIDS TABLE Wed 10 Aug, O2 Academy, B'ham

GOSPEL CENTRAL Wed 10 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

JOHN VERITY BAND Thurs 11 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

DEATH SPELLS Thurs 11 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

APOLLO SOUL Thurs 11 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

FLAMINGO FLAME Thurs 11 Aug, Hare &

Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham

CLAY & RISCAS Thurs 11 Aug, Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE TIDE Fri 12 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

BENTLEY RHYTHM ACE Fri 12 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FRAN THE MAN Fri 12 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham

LEVELLERS Fri 12 Aug, The Empire, Coventry

SKABUCKS Fri 12 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

DETROIT SOUL Fri 12 - Sat 13 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

MAGIC - A KIND OF QUEEN Fri 12 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

VON KRYSATI ROXZ & MR APOLLO Fri 12 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

UB4T Sat 13 Aug, The

Robin, Bilston

THE JAM'D Sat 13 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

THE REPEAT OFFENDERZ Sat 13 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

BLACK BOMBERS Sat 13 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, B'ham

BRITISH SEA POWER Sat 13 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SWIM WITH SHARKS Sat 13 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham

QUILL Sat 13 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE SEX PISTOLS EXPERIENCE Sat 13 Aug, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE HARTS Sat 13 Aug, Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BLAKE & BRAZIL Sun 14 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham

Classical Music

THE REALLY BIG CHORUS Programme comprises Mendelssohn's Elijah, Sat 13 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy Gigs

LOUDEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT

Featuring new and established acts, Mon 8 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

MY COMEDY FEAT. MAUREN YOUNGER

Wed 10 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL FEAT. ANDY ROBINSON, MARK OLVER & MICK FERRY

Thurs 11 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUST THE TONIC FEAT. PAUL TONKINSON, WES ZAHARUK, ANDY ROBINSON & MATT REED

Fri 12 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham



Paul Tonkinson

CHRIS KENT, ROB HUGHES, MARK OLVER & COMIC TBC Fri 12 - Sat 13 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUST THE TONIC FEAT. SIMON BLIGH, DOUGIE DUNLOP & MATT REED Sun 13 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

THE LAUGHING SOLE COMEDY FOR KIDS Compered by Mrs Barbara Nice, the comedy club is specifically for children and their families, bringing together some of the best acts on the circuit performing family friendly jokes. Recommended age 5 plus, Sun 14 Aug, mac, B'ham

backdrop of classic hits from the 1980s, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Aug, mac, Birmingham



THE SMARTEST GIANT IN TOWN

Folsky Theatre present an outdoor performance of Julia Donaldson & Alex Scheffler's story of a giant who gives away his clothes to those who need them more than he does, Sat 13 Aug, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Immersion Theatre present an outdoor re-telling of the classic children's tale, Sat 13 Aug, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

TWELFTH NIGHT Fathom Theatre Company present an outdoor production of Shakespeare's identity-swapping comedy, Sat 13 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

RICHARD II Everyman Youth Theatre presents an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's tale of justice, power, identity and loyalty, Sun 14 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

FANTASTIC MR FOX (PG) Mr and Mrs Fox live an idyllic home life but after 12 years of quiet domesticity, the bucolic existence proves too much for Mr Fox's wild animal instincts. Director Wes Anderson's adaptation of a beloved children's novel by Roald Dahl. With the voices of George Clooney & Willem Dafoe. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 10 Aug



ELVIS AND NIXON (18) The most requested photo from the US National Archives is of Richard M Nixon shaking the hand of Elvis A Presley. The occasion was on 21 December 1970, in the Oval Office, and the official notes of the meeting reveal the King's interest in Communist brainwashing and a distaste for The Beatles. Michael Shannon plays Elvis and Kevin



British Sea Power - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Theatre

THE SMARTEST GIANT IN TOWN Folsky Theatre present an outdoor performance of Julia Donaldson & Alex Scheffler's story of a giant who gives away his clothes to those who need them more than he does, Wed 10 Aug, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham

AS YOU LIKE IT Folsky Theatre present an outdoor production of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Thurs 11 - Fri 12 Aug, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

JOANNE One-woman show performed by the Olivier Award-nominated Tanya Moodie, Thurs 11 - Fri 12 Aug, Studio Theatre @ The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

KISSING FROGS A journey of love, loss and self-discovery set against a

Family



August

Performances, films
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family this Summer

Highlights:

Family Photography

Mon 1 Aug, 10am - 3pm

All Levels | 6 - 11yrs + PG

Alice Through the Looking Glass (PG)

Fri 5, Wed 10 & Thu 11 Aug
3pm

Theatre Design

Tue 9 Aug, 11am - 4pm

11 - 17yrs | All levels

Sundown Cinema:

Hairspray (PG)

Fri 12 Aug | 8.30pm | Outdoor Arena

Big Wooden Horse: Monstersaurus

Sun 21 Aug | 11.30am & 2.30pm

Age 3+

mac Camp: Shadow Animation

Mon 15 - Fri 19 Aug, 8.30am - 5.30pm | 6 - 11yrs

All levels

Summer School: Young Designer's Sewing School

Mon 15 - Fri 19 Aug, 11am - 4pm | 12 - 17yrs | Beginner/Improver

mac Explorers: Kathak Dance

Tue 23 Aug, 10am - 3pm | 6 - 11yrs | All Levels

Baby & Toddler Creative Play

Fri 26 Aug, 12.45pm - 1.15pm | 4 months - 24 months + PGyrs | All Levels



Image: Big Wooden Horse:
Monstersaurus

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Spacey is Nixon. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 11 Aug

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS (U) It's a dog's life for a terrier called Max when his owner adopts a mongrel from a dog pound. But this problem seems small fry when the pooches uncover a nefarious conspiracy aimed at pets from human homes. With the voices of Louis CK, Eric Stonestreet. mac, Birmingham, Sat 13 Aug

THE CONFESSION (15) From supporting the Bosnian Mujahideen to being imprisoned in Bagram and Guantanamo, from the rebel training camps in Syria to the prison cells of Belmarsh in Britain, Moazzam Begg has experienced a generation of conflict. This is his first-hand account, a chronicle of the rise of modern jihad, its descent into terror and the disastrous reaction of the West. Followed by Q&A. mac, Birmingham, Fri 12 Aug

HAIRSPRAY (PG) Sundown Cinema returns to mac's Outdoor Arena with this popular musical comedy starring John Travolta and Michelle Pfeiffer. mac, Birmingham, Fri 12 Aug



TERMINATOR (15) Classic cult sci-fi starring Arnold Schwarzenegger & Linda Hamilton. This is an 18+ event. The Mockingbird, Birmingham, Fri 12 Aug

BORN TO BE BLUE (15) In the 1950s, Chet Baker was one of the most famous trumpeters in the world, renowned as both a pioneer of the West Coast jazz scene and an icon of cool. By the 1960s, he was all but washed up, his career and personal life in shambles due to years of addiction. Stars Ethan Hawke & Carmen Ejogo. mac, Birmingham, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Aug

SUMMERTIME (15) Two women from entirely different worlds - Carole is a militant feminist teaching Spanish in Paris and Delphine is a farmer's daughter committed to her parents in rural southwest France - fall passionately in love. Stars Cécile de France & Izia Higelin. mac, Birmingham, Sat 13 - Tues 16 Aug

ROCKY (12) Sundown Cinema at mac's Outdoor Arena presents the rags-to-riches American Dream story of Rocky Balboa, an uneducated but kind-hearted Italian-American boxer working as a debt collector for a loan shark in the slums of Philadelphia. Rocky starts out as a small-time club fighter, and later gets a shot at the world heavyweight championship. Stars Sylvester Stallone & Talia Shire. mac, Birmingham, Fri 12 - Thurs 18 Aug

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (U) An orphan with terrible aunts for guardians befriends human-like bugs who live inside a giant peach. Stars Paul Terry & Joanna Lumley. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 13 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 12 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

BOBBY SANDS: 66 DAYS (15)

SID AND NANCY (18)

SUICIDE SQUAD (tbc)

SWEET BEAN (PG)

UP FOR LOVE (12a)

Events

CONDENSED HISTORIES: ANCIENT WARRIOR SHOWS Greg Chapman uses juggling, unicycling and other variety skills to perform shows about the gladiators of Ancient Rome, warrior queen Boudicca and the Spartans, Mon 8 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Worcestershire

KNIGHTS AND PRINCESSES ACADEMY An academy for budding knights and princesses, with hands-on medieval fun. Transform yourself into a courtly lord or lady, with tips on everything from curtsies to combat, Mon 8 - Fri 12 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

LIVING HISTORY - TOYS THROUGH TIME Tues 9 - Thurs 11 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

BRITISH SHOWJUMPING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND STONELEIGH HORSE SHOW Tues 9 - Sun 14 Aug, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: MONSTER MASKS Make your very own monster mask, inspired by the grotesques who decorate the Great Dining Room's ceiling, Wed 10 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

HONDA RON HASLAM RACE SCHOOL Experience riding on the Donington Park GP Circuit, Wed 10 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

HANDSWORTH HERITAGE WALK Admire fine Georgian and Victorian architecture, a convent designed by Augustus Pugin, a church that was built nearly 1,000 years ago, Wed 10 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

LOCKDOWN The UK's first ever prison-based Zombie chase event. Set in HMP Shrewsbury (the Dana), a 4.5-acre site which until recently was a fully populated and functioning prison, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 Aug, The Dana Prison, Shrewsbury

THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS Celebrating patchwork and quilting in all its forms, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

FAMILY NIGHT An evening of games, crafts and laugh-out-loud entertainment, Sat 13 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

KINGS NORTON FARMERS MARKET Sat 13 Aug, The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham

RAGLEY HALL BATTLE PROMS The final night of the UK's premier picnic concert series, Sat 13 Aug, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK Sat 13 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery



Jewellery Quarter Heritage Walk

The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, Sat 13 August

The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter is offering visitors the chance to step back in time this month, by taking part in the latest in its series of popular two-hour walks.

The walk is designed to provide participants with an opportunity to explore the themes, people and places that once upon a time made the area the largest centre of jewellery production in the world. "Although the heritage walk focuses on the jewellery trade," explained Birmingham Museum Trust's Oliver Buckley in launching the series, "it also encompasses the many other aspects of the Quarter's rich history that placed Birmingham firmly on the national and international map."

Quarter, Birmingham

AN INDIAN SUMMER NIGHT See page 4 for details, Sat 13 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

THE BIG READ: ANIMAL STORY-TIME Hear tales about author BB Taylor's favourite animals and meet them in real life, Sat 13 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Beginning in the commercial heart of the city at the end of Colmore Row,

this live guided tour takes in all of the city's major buildings of architectural interest including St Philip's and St Chad's Cathedrals, the Victoria Law Courts, the Town Hall, the Council House, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and Library, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Aug, Birmingham City Centre

BONSAI DEMO Demonstration of best care and practice for Bonsai trees, Sun 14 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens



Condensed Histories: Ancient Warriors - Forge Mill Needle Museum, Reddit



Atomic Kitten - Kasbah, Coventry

Gigs

MARTHA REEVES & VANDALLAS Mon 15 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

ANNA AND ELIZABETH Mon 15 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

GRYPHON Tues 16 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

JULIAN JU JU MARLEY Wed 17 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE BIG WOLF BAND Wed 17 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS Wed 17 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BUZZ D'ANGELO BAND Thurs 18 Aug, The Jam House, B'ham

MINISTRY Thurs 18 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE FLYNNTONES Thurs 18 Aug, The Roadhouse, B'ham

ATOMIC KITTEN Thurs 18 Aug, Kasbah, Coventry

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK Thurs 18 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DIAMOND HEAD HEAVY METAL BAND Thurs 18 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

MOON SUGAR Fri 19 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BOW WOW WOW Fri 19 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MR C Fri 19 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Kings

Heath, Birmingham

MOTOWN & SOUL NIGHT WITH DJ PAUL KELLY Fri 19 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham

BON GIOVI Fri 19 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SKIT FEST Fri 19 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham

THE HANDSOME BEASTS Fri 19 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

MR BEN Fri 19 - Sat 20 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE FLYOVER SHOW FEAT SOWETO KINCH Sat 20 Aug, Hockley Flyover, Birmingham

TROPICAL SPECIAL WITH ALTERNATIVE DUBSTEP ORCHESTRA Sat 20 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE GLAMOPHONES Sat 20 Aug, Tamworth Castle

IVOR & LYNN'S CLASSIC ROCK NIGHT Sat 20

Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

STAR OF THE SEA Sat 20 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham

NIRVANA UK Sat 20 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

SOUL JUNCTION Sat 20 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE MIGHTY YOUNG Sat 20 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TEMPLETON PEK Sat 20 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GOLDIE + MORE Sat 20 Aug, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

NIK TURNERS INNER CITY UNIT Sun 21 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PAT JORDAN & FINIANS RAINBOW Sun 21 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham



Templeton Pek - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Programme includes works by Verdi, Curtis, Tchaikovsky, Gershwin arr. Rose & Badelt arr. Ricketts, Sat 20 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

SUNDAY CLASSICS Presenting a range of young stars of the future from the classical world, ranging from opera singers to violinists to harpists at the very start of their careers..., Sun 21 Aug, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

taste of life in professional musical theatre, Wed 17 - Sat 20 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW The ALPs present a Commedia dell'arte version of Shakespeare's romantic comedy, Sun 21 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

HAMLET Festival Players Theatre Company present an outdoor production of the Bard's most famous play, Sun 21 Aug, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

MONSTERSAURUS Brand new children's show from the creators of Aliens Love Underpants, Sun 21 Aug, mac, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Members of Box of Frogs present their own inimitable brand of high-octane improvised nonsense from audience suggestions, Mon 15 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL FEAT. ANDY ROBINSON, CRAIG MURRAY & JARRED CHRISTMAS Thurs 18 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham



Jarred Christmas

JUST THE TONIC FEAT. OTIZ CANNELLONI, JULIAN DEANE, QUINCY & DAVID MORGAN Fri 19 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JOHN FOTHERGILL, ANDREW STANLEY, CRAIG MURRAY & JARRED CHRISTMAS Fri 19 - Sat 20 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

UPFRONT COMEDY'S SUMMER JAM Featuring Slim, Judi Love, Jamie Howard & John Simmit, Sat 20 Aug, mac, Birmingham

JUST THE TONIC FEAT. OTIZ CANNELLONI, JULIAN DEANE, ROB HEENEY & DAVID MORGAN Sat 20 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

DAVID BOWIE IS (PG) The Victoria & Albert Museum presents David Bowie Is Happening Now, a nationwide cinema event screened live from David Bowie Is, as the finale to the museum's enormously successful exhibition. This unique event is the last opportunity to view the V&A's exhibition before it goes on international tour. mac, Birmingham, Tues 16 Aug

WEINER (15) Documentary about US politician Anthony Weiner's failed attempt to run for Mayor of New York City in 2013. Many politicians have seen their careers slip off the tracks, but few have had their failure so incisively and painfully recorded. mac, Birmingham, Tues 16 - Wed 17 Aug

WE ARE MANY (12a) A documentary about the protest movement against the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Directed by Amir Amirani. Followed by Q&A. mac, Birmingham, Tues 16 - Wed 17 Aug

BARRY LYNDON (12a) In this adaptation of William Makepeace Thackeray's novel about the exploits of an 18th century Irish adventurer, Ryan O'Neal stars as Redmond Barry (later Barry Lyndon) and Marisa Berenson is Lady Lyndon. mac, Birmingham, Fri 19 Aug

MAD MAX (15) Sundown Cinema at mac's Outdoor Arena presents Mel Gibson as a vengeance-bent cop in the near-future dystopian Australian outback. Also stars Joanne Samuel & Steve Bisley. mac, Birmingham, Fri 19 Aug

ASTERIX AND OBELIX: MANSION OF THE GODS (U) The setting is 50 BC. The entire territory of Gaul is occupied by the Romans... Or is it? mac, Birmingham, Fri 19 - Thurs 25 Aug

AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON (15) This John Landis landmark depicts the story of two college yanks wandering the English moors on vacation. When David (David Naughton) and Jack (Griffin Dunne) happen upon a quaint pub, they're warned not to leave the road when walking after dark. Needless to say, they ignore the advice... This is an 18+ event. The Mockingbird, Birmingham, Sat 20 Aug

Theatre

THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN Based on Chaucer's The Knight's Tale, The Two Noble Kinsmen is attributed to John Fletcher and William Shakespeare and is best described as a tragicomedy exploring the intoxication and strangeness of love, Wed 17 Aug - Tues 7 Feb 2017, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

GREASE: STAGE EXPERIENCE Featuring some of the West Midlands' most talented young performers, hungry for a

THE COMMUNE (15) Thomas Vinterberg (Festen, The Hunt, Far From The Madding Crowd) sets his latest film in a commune in the '70s where not everybody sees eye to eye. Trine Dyrholm won the best actress award at Berlin for her performance. And if Ms Dyrholm looks familiar to you, she starred opposite Pierce Brosnan in the delightful Love Is All You Need (2012). mac, Birmingham, Sun 21 - Thurs 25 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 19 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

400 DAYS (tbc)

ALMOST HOLY (PG)

ASTERIX AND OBELIX - MANSION OF THE GODS (U)

BEHEMOTH (tbc)

COSMOS (tbc)

DAVID BRENT: LIFE ON THE ROAD (15)

LIGHTS OUT (15)

SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS (tbc)

Events

SUMMER HOLIDAY TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Create your own ceramic tiles at family drop-in tile decorating workshops running Monday to Friday during the summer school holidays, Mon 15 - Fri 19 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

CIRCUSMASH WORKSHOPS Circus workshops and masterclasses for the Birmingham community, Mon 15 - Fri 19 Aug, Circusmash, Birmingham

MEDIEVAL FUN & GAMES Hands-on activities, Mon 15 - Fri 19 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

DISCOVER AND EXPLORE WITH MINECRAFT Explore, play and discover the world of Minecraft within a safe and secure digital environment. Tues 16 Aug, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

BUILD YOUR FAVOURITE BRITISH CAR Build your favourite British car with LEGO, Tues 16 - Thurs 18 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

LEGO MINDSTORMS ROBOTS Work with LEGO MindStorms to build and programme a robot to solve a variety of problems, Wed 17 Aug, Enginuity



CircusMASH Workshops

Circusmash, Kings Heath, Birmingham, Mon 15 - Fri 19 August

Specialising in the development of circus in the West Midlands, six-year-old company CircusMASH is inviting children and young people aged between eight and 17 to take part in its summer youth show, Elemento. Participants get to try out a selection of circus skills before focusing on one particular discipline, which then forms part of a final-day show for friends and family to enjoy. Check out the company's website - circusmash.co.uk - for further details about how to take part.

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FUN in THE Sun at the gardens

Join us for some fun in the sun at the gardens this summer!

17th August 2016
Peppa Pig & George

24th August 2016
Teddy Bears Pirate Picnic

30th & 31st August 2016
Circus spectacular

Tickets can be purchased online or at reception

www.peppapig.com
birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

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BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS
AN EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: SILHOUETTE STAGES Get crafty and creative as you make your own puppet theatre, complete with silhouette props, Wed 17 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

PEPPA PIG See Peppa Pig and George in the gardens, Wed 17 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CLAYMATION - STORY TELLING THROUGH ANIMATION Create backdrops, figures and objects that can be used to tell a story through animation, Thurs 18 Aug, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

PRINTED PORTRAITS: INSPIRED BY VANDYCK Try out polytile printing and make your own portrait in a beautiful frame, Thurs 18 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE COLOR RUN Unique 5km run celebrating healthiness, happiness, friendship and having the time of your life, Sat 20 Aug, NEC, B'ham

ROUNDHOUSE UN-TOUR Tour of the Roundhouse Birmingham with a difference, Sat 20 Aug, Birmingham Back to Backs

THE BIG READ: BEATFREEKS One-hour creative writing session for young people, Sat 20 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

BECKETTS VINTAGE FAIR Sat 20 Aug,

Beckett's Farm, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Sat 20 - Sun 21 Aug, Birmingham City Centre

BLISTS HILL IN STEAM Collection of steam machines in their full working splendour, plus visiting miniature engines brought by steam enthusiasts, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Aug, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

MECCANO EVENT See some amazing working Meccano models and find out more about the versatile building system with the Telford Meccano Society, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Aug, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG Take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

VINTAGE CAR RALLY Featuring 100 vintage cars from 1900 to 1975, Sun 21 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

BUSES FESTIVAL Featuring up to 100 restored, vintage and modern buses and coaches, Sun 21 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

MONSTER TRUCK NATIONALS The battle to find the ultimate Monster Truck National Champion, Sun 21 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants



A Day Out With Peppa Pig

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Wed 17 August

Peppa Pig and George make a welcome return to Birmingham Botanical Gardens this month to delight and excite their legion of young fans.

And there's plenty more besides to enjoy at this always-popular visitor attraction. Opened in 1832, the 15-acre venue has changed very little in its near-200-year history. The gardens feature four glasshouses - tropical, subtropical, Mediterranean and arid - a wetlands enclosure, a seasonal butterfly house and 7,000-plus types of plant. It's also home to the British National Bonsai Collection and a small number of exotic birds from around the world.

Plenty to see and do for visitors of all ages, then...

WHAT'S COMING UP THIS AUTUMN?

An autumn of entertainment awaits you at the Bramall – book your tickets today



Comedy Night

Thursday 29 September, 8pm
Tickets: £7, £5 Students*
(*limited availability) plus booking fee

Join us for a night of side splitting gags and one-liners, with Andrew Bird, Suzi Ruffell and Mike Wilmot.



Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers

Thursday 20 October, 7:30pm
Tickets: £15, £5 Students*
(*limited availability) plus booking fee

Be transported to another world, thanks to the sounds of the thundering drums of the Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers.



An Audience With...Ranulph Fiennes

Wednesday 2 November, 6:30pm
Tickets: £25, £20 Concessions, £5 Students*
(*limited availability) plus booking fee

Learn more about Sir Ranulph's next challenge, where he intends to raise money Marie Curie.



The 12 Ensemble

Wednesday 16 November, 7:30pm
Tickets: £16.50, £15 Concessions, £5 Students*
(*limited availability) plus booking fee

Relax in the company of the award-winning 12 ensemble, who will entertain us with pieces by Schubert and Elgar.



The Bramall, University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TT

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Birmingham Museums



Our World Below - O2 Institute, Birmingham

Gigs

WHITNEY Tues 23 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BEACH SLANG Tues 23 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CELEBRATE - KOOL AS THE GANG Wed 24 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

ETHAN JOHNS Wed 24 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, B'ham

PHOENIX RISING Wed 24 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

DEAD! Wed 24 Aug, The Asylum, B'ham

KEVIN MORBY Thurs 25 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE PRETTY THINGS Thurs 25 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

DEL CAMINO Thurs 25 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

DOING YOUR OWN DANG Fri 26 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE

Fri 26 - Sat 27 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE SCOPYONS Fri 26 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

KRIS DREVER & IAN CARR Fri 26 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

THE HURLING BOYS Sat 27 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham

GOOD CHARLOTTE Sat 27 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

OZZY OZZSPAWN Sat 27 Aug, The Roadhouse, B'ham

DIRTY JANE Sat 27 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

T-REXTACY Sat 27 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

OUR WORLD BELOW Sat 27 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SUBHUMAN RACE Sat 27 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

SOLIHULL SUMMER FESTIVAL Featuring UB40, Scouting For Girls & Lucy Spraggan, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Aug, Tudor

Grange Park, Solihull
SUMMER CHAPTER Sat 27 - Sun 28 Aug, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

CLUB A GO GO Sun 28 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE GARDEN Sun 28 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NORTHERN SOUL SPECIAL Sun 28 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

NOVACROW Sat 28 Aug, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

LIQUIDBRASS Sun 28 Aug, Tamworth Castle

TONT KEARNEY Sun 28 Aug, The Irish Centre, Birmingham

RAGHU DIXIT Wed 31 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE ACOUSTIC SESSIONS Wed 31 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

HOODIE ALLEN - Unsigned American hip-hop artist and rapper, Wed 31 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

Classical Music

CBSO: WELCOMING MIRGA GRAZINYTYLA Introducing the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's new Music Director. Programme includes works by Mozart, Abrahamsen & Tchaikovsky, Fri 26 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Read our interview with Mirga on page 16

Comedy Gigs

COMEDY CAROUSEL FEAT. ANDY ROBINSON, DAVID HADINGHAM & COMIC TBC Thurs 25 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUST THE TONIC FEAT. DALISO CHAPONDA, JOSH HOWIE, JOHN FOTHERGILL & BILLY KIRKWOOD Fri 26 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

TIM CLARK, ANDY WHITE, DAVID HADINGHAM & COMIC TBC Fri 26 - Sat 27 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham



Andy White - The Glee Club

CHARITY COMEDY NIGHT FEAT. ANDY WHITE In aid of Alzheimer's Society, Sun 28 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUST THE TONIC FEAT. DALISO CHAPONDA, JOSH HOWIE, JOHN FOTHERGILL & BILLY KIRKWOOD Mon 29 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

SARAH MILLICAN: OUTSIDER Mon 29 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FAT PENGUIN COMEDY Wed 31 Aug, The Patrick Kavanagh, Birmingham

Theatre

THE GLENN MILLER STORY Tommy Steele stars as America's most famous big band leader, Tues 23 - Sat 27 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MURDER ON THE CHURCHILL EXPRESS An interactive, immersive evening of fun centred around the murder of eccentric Austrian inventor, Professor Kildorf, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Aug, Lichfield Garrick

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The same company of actors present two one-act versions of plays linked by the dangerous power of magic, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Aug, The Dell, Stratford-upon-Avon

JOE PASQUALE Royal Variety Show favourite Joe Pasquale contemplates an array of subjects, including 'Why is an orange called an orange when a carrot is more orange than an orange?', Wed 31 Aug, Lichfield Garrick



Joe Pasquale - Lichfield Garrick

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

SID & NANCY (18) Morbid biographical story of Sid Vicious, bassist with British punk group the Sex Pistols, and his girlfriend Nancy Spungen. Stars Gary Oldman & Chloe Webb. mac, Birmingham, Mon 22 - Tues 23 Aug

PAN (PG) Fantasy action adventure in which Peter Pan is kidnapped and taken to Neverland by the pirates, where he has to confront their dangerous leader, Blackbeard. Stars Hugh Jackman & Garrett Hedlund. mac, Birmingham, Fri 26 Aug

PSYCHO (15) Marion Crane (Janet Leigh) goes on the run after stealing \$40,000 from one of her employer's clients. Taking a wrong turn in a storm, she arrives at the isolated Bates Motel, run by the twitchy Norman (Anthony Perkins). mac, Birmingham, Fri 26 Aug

THE BFG (PG) The last time Steven Spielberg collaborated on a film was on ET The Extra-Terrestrial, 34 years ago. This one is a live-action adaptation of Roald Dahl's story of the lonely giant (played here by Mark Rylance) who kidnaps a little girl (Ruby Barnhill) to help him outwit the man-eating giants that have been plaguing the human world. Also stars Ruby Barnhill & Dame Penelope Wilton. mac, Birmingham, Fri 26 Aug - Wed 31 Aug

STRANGE MAGIC (U) A madcap fairytale musical inspired by A Midsummer Night's Dream. Popular songs from the past six decades help tell the tale of a colourful cast of goblins, elves, fairies and imps, and their hilarious misadventures sparked by the battle



Lucy Spraggan - Solihull Summer Festival

Monday 22 - Wednesday 31 August

over a powerful potion.. mac, Birmingham, Sat 27 Aug

SHAFT (15) Sundown Cinema at mac's Outdoor Arena presents John Shaft, a black private eye with a small office near Times Square. Stars Richard Roundtree & Moses Gunn. mac, Birmingham, Sat 27 Aug

CALAMITY JANE (U) Sundown Cinema at mac's Outdoor Arena presents Calamity Jane, the classic musical starring Doris Day & Howard Keel. mac, Birmingham, Sun 28 Aug

GOOSEBUMPS (U) An adventure horror about a boy who has to save his town when hundreds of monsters are unleashed from his neighbour's book collection. Stars Jack Black & Dylan Minnette. mac, Birmingham, Mon 29 Aug



Goosebumps

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 26 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

BAD MOMS (tbc)

CELL (PG)

JULIETA (15)

KIDS IN LOVE (15)

THE PURGE: ELECTION YEAR (TBC)

WAR DOGS (TBC)

Events

CONDENSED HISTORIES: ANCIENT

WARRIOR SHOWS Greg Chapman uses juggling, unicycling and other variety skills to perform shows about the gladiators of Ancient Rome, war-

rior queen Boudicca and the Spartans, Mon 22 Aug, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch, Worcestershire

SIEGE THE DAY! A week-long event preparing for the great siege of Kenilworth. Would-be young castle defenders can practise their trebuchet skills and hear tales about the terrifying siege, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

ENCHANTED CASTLE Aimed at anyone who likes knights, dragons and fairies. Follow the magical trail through the Castle, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Aug, Tamworth Castle

SUPERHEROES TO THE RESCUE! Make your own mask and cape, and use your special powers to create a utility belt, Tues 23 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

SUMMER WORKSHOP - ILLUSTRATION AND FOLD-OUR STORY BOOKS Be inspired by Selly Manor and learn fun ways to draw and translate stories and characters into a hand-made picture book, Wed 24 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC Featuring games on the lawn, a bouncy castle, a children's entertainer, arts and crafts and activity trails, Wed 24 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: CRAFTY CASTLES Take inspiration from the magnificent architecture of Aston Hall to create a crafty castle and become the lord or lady of your own make-believe world, Wed 24 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE YUCKY Interactive family show which finds the Mrs History team trying to out-gross each other with nasty objects from the past, Wed 24 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER WORKSHOP - EDWARDIAN TOY MAKING Get toy tinkering and make your own peg doll, Jacob's ladder and spinning tops, Thurs 25 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

BRINDLEYPLACE SUMMER MARKETS Fri 26 Aug, Brindleyplace, B'ham

INSOMNIA58 The UK's biggest gaming festival, Fri 26 - Mon 29 Aug, NEC, Birmingham



Drawn

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham, Mon 22 August - Sun 3 September

The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) here displays a range of artworks by its members and associates with the intention of showcasing the variety of skills involved within the discipline of drawing. The exhibition also seeks to illustrate the numerous ways in which drawings can be used - as a form of visual research, for the purpose of planning and design, or as drafts for final pieces of artwork.

The pieces on show are available to buy, with the RBSA offering an interest-free loan on purchases of between £100 and £2,000. For further details, enquire at the gallery or visit www.rbsa.org.uk

MOSELEY ARTS MARKET Sat 27 Aug, Victoria Parade, Moseley, B'ham

SUTTON RECORD FAIR Sat 27 Aug, The Carpenter's Arms, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham

THE BIG READ: STORY-TIME TRAIL Explore Soho with Stories By Jo. Make your own story by collecting items through the story time trail, Sat 27 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

MOTORCYCLE RIDER SKILLS WORKSHOP Improve your riding skills, knowledge

and hazard awareness, Sat 27 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Beginning in the commercial heart of the city at the end of Colmore Row, this live guided tour takes in all of the city's major buildings of architectural interest including St Philip's and St Chad's Cathedrals, the Victoria Law Courts, the Town Hall, the Council House, Birmingham Museum & Art

BIRMINGHAM TOURS

EVERY WEEKEND - From end of April to end of September

Special Family Ticket £20

2 adults and up to 3 children aged 5-15 years

MEETING POINT:

corner of Colmore Row & Waterloo Street, Victoria Square

TOUR TIMES:

10.30am, 12.30pm & 2.30pm

CONTACT:

0121 427 2555 / 07805 115 998

enquiries@birmingham-tours.co.uk

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www.birmingham-tours.co.uk

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NOT A DATING AGENCY

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www.thedinnerclubuk.com



Scouting For Girls

Solihull Summer Festival

Tudor Grange, Solihull, Sat 27 - Sun 28 August

Birmingham band UB40 headline this live music festival to raise money for Help Harry Help Others, a local cancer charity set up in memory of the late schoolboy Harry Moseley, who died five years ago aged 11.

The longstanding Midlands favourites will conclude their European festival tour at the event, the first of its kind in Solihull. Other artists taking part include Kevin Simm (winner of The Voice UK 2016), Scouting For Girls, The Hoosiers, The Wonder Stuff, Five, S Club Party and The Blow Monkeys.

Gallery and Library, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Aug, Birmingham City Centre

BECKETTS BANK HOLIDAY FAMILY WEEKEND A weekend of family fun, with fairground rides, inflatables, and plenty for the whole family to see and do, Sat 27 - Mon 29 Aug, Beckett's Farm, Birmingham

THE SIEGE OF KENILWORTH CASTLE Mark 750 years since the Kenilworth siege with a weekend of live-action re-enactments, Sun 28 - Mon 29 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

STORYTELLING WITH RUBY Visitors are invited to come along dressed in their favourite costumes and listen to stories of knights, dragons, princesses and castle-related themes, Mon 29 Aug, Tamworth Castle

SUMMER WORKSHOP - DINOSAUR DESIGNS Stomp along to Selly Manor and construct your very own terrific T-Rex or brilliant brachio using recycled materials, Tues 30 Aug, Selly Manor, B'ham

MAKE A CODE BREAKER Make your very own code breaker to help you write messages in code, Tues 30 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

CIRCUS WORKSHOPS Plate spinning, juggling, clowns and more, Tues 30 - Wed 31 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

HANDS ON HISTORY - SIEGE! Get set for a summer packed with time-travelling fun, Tues 30 - Wed 31 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

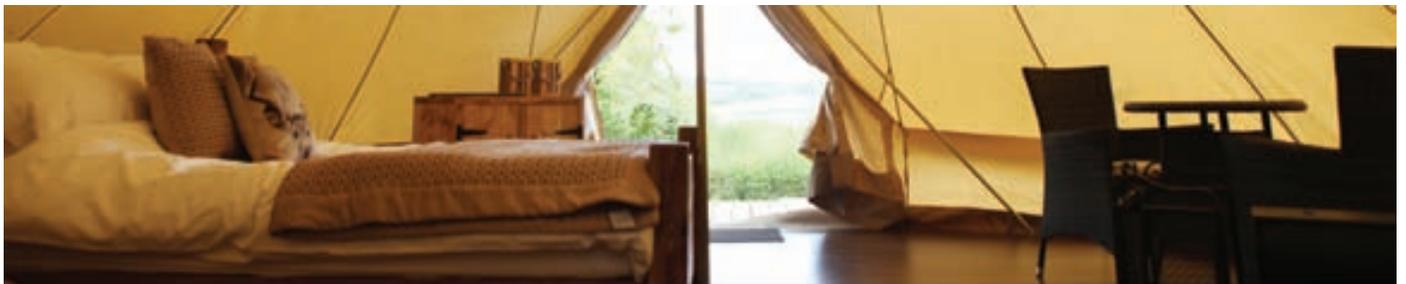
GREAT FIRE OF LONDON WEEK Commemorate 350 years since the Great Fire of London, with themed crafts, garden and house trails, quizzes and performances based on the Great Fire, Tues 30 Aug - Sun 4 Sep, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: HAND PRINT BEASTS Aston Hall is filled with mythical and legendary beasts hidden within the architecture. Find as many as you can and then get hands-on as you create your own colourful creature, Wed 31 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

STORYTELLING IN THE COURTYARD Hear a variety of old folktales from Britain, and beyond; tales of dragons, trolls, giant cats and magical mermaids, Wed 31 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER WORKSHOP - ANIMATION AND OLDSKOOL CINEMA Learn about a range of inventors and animators who've worked with early forms of cinema, then create your own mini theatres and shadow puppets, Wed 31 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

BEHIND THE SCENES AT HIMLEY HALL Wed 31 Aug, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley



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THE GLAMPING SHOW
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www.transport-museum.com
and www.luntromanfort.org



SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL

26-27-28-29 AUG 2016



Shrewsbury Folk Festival



@shrewsburyfolk

- >> CEILIDH BANDS >> MORRIS TEAMS
- >> WORKSHOPS >> REFOLKUS for 11-20 year olds
- >> CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL >> CRAFT FAIR
- >> GREAT CAMPSITE >> CATERERS
- >> REAL ALE & COCKTAIL BARS
- >> SINGAROUNDS & SESSIONS



Nick Lowe, Paul Carrack & Andy Fairweather Low

Rosanne Cash with John Leventhal

Levellers Raghu Dixit

Show of Hands

Eliza Carthy & the Wayward Band

Dervish & Guests

Barnstar!

Blackie & the Rodeo Kings

P@ndemonium!
Children's Festival

refolkus
for 11-20 year olds

Photo by: Paul Hutchinson, Virtual Shropshire

- ✿ Treacherous Orchestra
 - ✿ Tom Robinson Band
 - ✿ John McCusker Band ✿ Shooglenifty
 - ✿ John Jones plus Special Guests
 - ✿ Ten Strings And A Goat Skin ✿ Richard Shindell
 - ✿ Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson ✿ Edward II
 - ✿ Andy Irvine ✿ Karen Matheson ✿ Lady Maisery
- PLUS MANY MORE!

DANCE BANDS:

- >> BLACKBEARD'S TEA PARTY >> HEKETY
- >> ALL BLACKED UP >> MOLTENAMBA
- >> THE DIATONICS >> WILL POUND CEILIDH BAND
- >> MINOR CONTRAVENTION

more acts to be announced! see website for latest...

www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

