

Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

Warwickshire

What's On

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MISS NIGHTINGALE
IN COVENTRY

inside:

thelist

Your 16-page week
by week listings guide

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MOTIONHOUSE

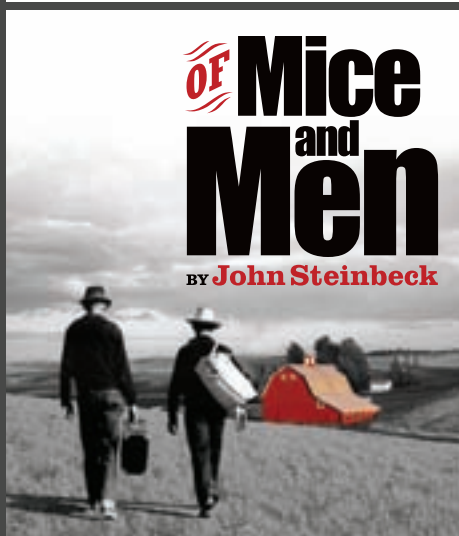
Leamington-based dance troupe out on tour



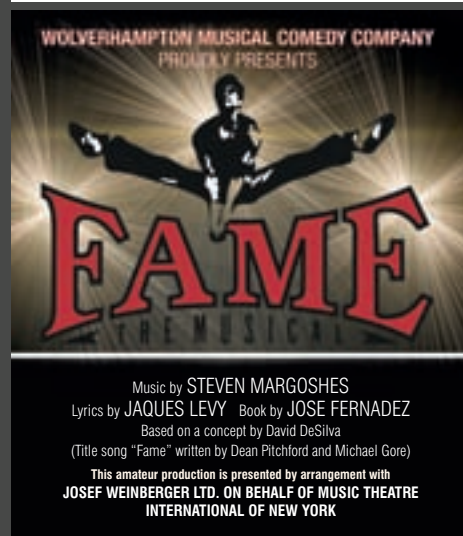
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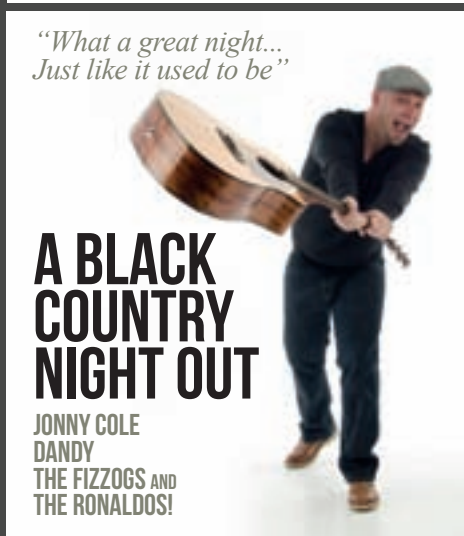
SAT 26 MARCH



THU 31 MARCH



FRI 1 APRIL



SAT 2 APRIL



MON 4 - SAT 9 APRIL



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Destination Space - topical half-term show at Thinktank page 40

Belinda Lang



talks about her dual role in Single Spies at The REP page 20

Joe Caulfield



sharp-witted comedian returns to the Glee page 22

Sleeping Beauty



Matthew Bourne's gothic reworking of classic tale page 30

the list



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

inside:

4. First Word	11. Food	14. Music	22. Comedy	24. Theatre	32. Film	38. Visual Arts	40. Events
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Holy moley! Alexandra Burke to play Deloris in Sister Act

Alexandra Burke is to star in a national tour of Leicester Curve theatre's all-new production of hit musical Sister Act. The one-time X Factor winner will play Deloris Van Cartier in a show directed and choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood. Commenting on the news, Alexandra said: "I'm over the moon to be given the opportunity to play the wonderful Deloris in Sister Act. It's such an iconic role and a part I've always wanted to play. I love touring the UK and I'm thrilled to be working with Craig and his amazing creative team. I can't wait to get started!"

Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig added: "I'm truly thrilled that Alexandra is going to be our leading lady in this all-new production of Sister Act at Curve. Alexandra is such a fantastic singer and actress, and I know she's going to be amazing. I couldn't think of anyone better to play the role of the smart and funny Deloris."

Sister Act opens at Curve on Saturday 30 July. The show visits Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre from 12 to 17 September and Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire from 5 to 10 December.



Full virtual reality ride to open at Staffordshire theme park



The first rollercoaster in the world to be entirely dedicated to virtual reality is set to open at Alton Towers in April. Galactica has been customised for the full virtual reality experience.

Each rider wears a specialist VR headset. Through this, an onboard artificial intelligence guides them from the launch pad up into space, flying and looping beyond the stars, banking through wormholes and speeding across undiscovered galaxies.

Commenting on the new attraction, Alton Towers' Marketing Director, Gill Riley, said: "Galactica uses ground-breaking technology to give riders a breathtaking and completely unique rollercoaster experience. "There's nowhere else in the world that people can experience the feeling of a flying rollercoaster combined with soaring through the universe. For two minutes, our guests will be transported into space. We believe Galactica showcases the future for theme parks around the world - it's a complete game changer."

Birthday movie for music legend Scratch

Charismatic Jamaican music legend Lee 'Scratch' Perry is celebrating his 80th birthday with the release of a new film. Lee Scratch Perry's Vision Of Paradise is described as 'the ultimate portrait of a true musical icon' and shows at mac Birmingham on 24 & 25 February.

One of Rolling Stone Magazine's top 100 artists of all time, Lee has worked with, among others, Bob Marley And The Wailers, Junior Murvin, the Congos and Max Romeo. "I find the inspiration for my music in love," says Lee, "love and comics. In comic books, good triumphs over evil, just like in my music."



Local entertainer shares The Secret Of Happiness

A local musician, writer, comedian, storyteller and actor is this month making his debut as a solo performer.

Rich Stokes' new show, The Secret Of Happiness, brings together stand-up comedy, poetry and songs, in the process contemplating such wide-ranging topics as love, stalking and earwax.

"I used to sing in the indie rock band Aquila," explains Rich, "but when the drummer left and I started playing acoustic gigs on my own, I found the crowd would often talk during my set. So I started talking back to them and writing sillier songs to keep their attention. Slowly I drifted from 'serious artiste' to 'musical comedian'.

Rich presents The Secret Of Happiness at Birmingham's mac on 27 February.

Motor museum re-opens for school holidays

The British Motor Museum, formerly known as the Heritage Motor Centre, reopens this month (Saturday 13 February) following a £1.1million refurbishment.

The new museum will feature an immersive display of British motoring history and a new Collections Centre. The centre will allow the public access to an extra 250 cars from the reserve collections of the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust and the Jaguar Heritage Trust.

The museum reopens in time for school half term and will be hosting a number of workshops during the holiday week.

Commenting on the reopening, the museum's Managing Director, Julie Tew, said: "We're delighted to reopen the museum to visitors for half term. We have a packed programme of family events and tours, and visitors will be impressed with the changes we've made to the museum."



CS Lewis classic a REP box office hit

Birmingham Rep has revealed that its Christmas production of *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe* was the biggest-selling show in the theatre's history.

Over 62,000 people visited The REP to watch the production, which was presented a total of 82 times between 26 November and 16 January.

Commenting on the record, The REP's Executive Director, Stuart Rogers, said: "The *Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe* demonstrates that there's a real desire from both schools and families in Birmingham for high-quality, home-produced theatre."



Kaiser Chiefs announce Forest Live shows

Kaiser Chiefs have announced that they'll perform at this summer's Forest Live event in Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire. And according to lead singer Ricky Wilson, the open-air setting will suit them down to the ground: "As a band we've always loved to play outdoors. We've done fields, parks, farms, rooftops, beaches and back gardens, but this

will be the first time we've played in a forest. If you go down to the woods this summer, you're sure of a big surprise!"

As with all Forest Live gigs, income generated from ticket sales for the 10 July event will be spent on protecting, improving and expanding England's forests and woodlands.

Tickets cost £38.50 (plus £4.35 booking fee) and are available from the Forestry Commission box office on 03000 680400 or online at forestry.gov.uk/music

Children invited to take First Steps with BRB

Birmingham Royal Ballet is this half term presenting a special performance for children between the ages of three and seven. *First Steps: A Child's The Dream* is an hour-long presentation designed to introduce youngsters to the world of ballet and live performance.

Featuring a full cast of dancers and an orchestra, the show is based on a one-act ballet by Sir Frederick Ashton inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Tickets for the 19 February event (1pm) cost £10. To find out more, visit brb.org.uk

£4million community hub opens in Brum

A £4million project has seen a once-derelict Birmingham swimming pool transformed into a community hub.

The restored Grade II listed building has now reopened for business as Stirchley Baths.

The result of a three-year collaboration between Birmingham City Council, Acivico, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Balfour Beatty and people from the local community, the new centre features a community hall, cinema space, meeting rooms and café.

For further information about Stirchley Baths or to make a booking, visit stirchleybaths.org or call 0121 464 9072.

ATG founders top Stage 100 list - again!

The co-founders of Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG), which owns Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre and Stoke's Regent Theatre, have topped The Stage 100 list for a record-breaking seventh consecutive year.

The announcement makes husband-and-wife team Sir Howard Panter and Rosemary Squire OBE the most successful entrants ever on the exclusive annual list, which features the 100 most influential people working in theatre and the performing arts.

Commenting on their success, Sir Howard and Rosemary said: "Last year was an extremely important one in ATG's history. Alongside continuing to produce diverse, high-quality work, we also continued our global expansion.

"We are enormously excited about what this means for ATG over the next twelve months. It's a great honour to yet again top The Stage 100, and we're delighted to be part of such a vibrant and exciting industry."

Explore your genealogy at the NEC

The world's largest family history show is returning to Birmingham in April to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Who Do You Think You Are? Live brings together some of the most renowned experts in family history, all of whom will be on hand to help visitors with ongoing research or offer advice about how to start an investigation into a family tree.

The show also features Antiques Roadshow favourite Eric Knowles, who'll be helping to identify and date family treasures.

Other attractions include a packed programme of workshops, treasure hunts for children, a replica Spitfire plane from World War Two and a specialist military area to commemorate ancestors involved in conflict. Who Do You Think You Are? Live runs at the NEC Birmingham from 7 to 9 April.



NEW SHOWS AND GIGS ANNOUNCED!

THE JOY FORMIDABLE Wed 24 February - The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

YOUTH CLUB Tues 1 March - The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CROOKS - Wed 2 March - The Asylum, Birmingham

LAPSLEY Wed 9 March - O2 Institute, Birmingham

NATTY Wed 16 March - O2 Academy, Birmingham

GWYNETH HERBERT Fri 18 March - The Glee Club, Birmingham

KANO Thurs 24 March - O2 Institute, Birmingham

ALESSIA CARA Fri 25 March - O2 Institute, Birmingham

SOX Sat 26 March - O2 Institute, Birmingham

BRAIN STORM Thurs 7 April - O2 Academy, Birmingham

PATENT PENDING Thurs 14 April - O2 Academy, Birmingham

NERINA PALLOT Fri 15 April - O2 Institute, Birmingham

WOLFMOTHER Sat 16 April - O2 Acadmey, Birmingham

THE LOVELY EGGS Sun 24 April - Hare and Hounds, Birmingham

KIP MOORE Mon 25 April - O2 Institute, Birmingham

TINASHE Wed 4 May - O2 Institute, Birmingham

RAT BOY Thurs 5 May - O2 Institute, Birmingham

FRANCES Sun 15 May - The Glee Club, Birmingham

GRAHAM NASH Sun 22 May - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ZZ TOP Thurs 23 June - O2 Academy - Birmingham

KASIER CHIEFS Sun 3 July - Delamere Forest - Cheshire and Sun 10 July - Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire

JAMIE LAWSON Sat 15 October - O2 Academy, Birmingham

BRING ME THE HORIZON Fri 4 November - Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

A Reflection Of Silence at mac

A collaboration between four highly gifted musicians whose speciality is interpreting Iranian and Kurdish music is being presented at mac Birmingham next month.

Reflection Of Silence begins with Mehdi Rostami (setar) and Adib Rostami (tombak) performing a selection of Iranian music. They will then be joined by Tara Jaff (harp, vocal) and Pouya Mahmoudi (guitar) in a presentation of ancient Kurdish pieces given a contemporary twist.

A Sampad (South Asian arts) event, Reflection Of Silence is performed at mac on 9 March.

Having a Ball at The Drum

Intercultural Birmingham arts centre The Drum is this month hosting a Spring Masquerade Ball.

The 27 February event features DJs from Birmingham, Leeds and London. Dress code is smart, with prizes awarded to the best-dressed man and woman. The event is suitable for over-18s only.

Sealife Centre welcomes new addition

A species of jellyfish named after a Star Wars character has been added to The National Sea Life Centre Birmingham's ever-growing family of weird and wonderful sea creatures.

The Sarlacc is named after a Star Wars: Episode VI - Return Of The Jedi character, a multi-talented alien beast with an insatiable appetite. Seven of the jellyfish now reside at the popular Birmingham venue.

Commenting on the new arrivals - which can grow to huge proportions, their tentacles reaching a staggering five or six metres - the Sea Life Centre's curator, James Robson, said: "It's always a massive perk of the job when we welcome new arrivals, and this swarm is no different. I'm sure this rare stinging species will prove to be a fantastic addition."



Contributors needed for radio takeover

BBC Radio WM 95.6 is calling on local listeners to take over its airwaves for one week in March.

Contributors will be selected by the WM team and invited for training in February. Commenting on the initiative, BBC WM's Editor, Sarah Harness, said: "This is a really exciting project. We're inviting listeners of BBC WM to come in and work with our presenters and journalists to really influence what goes into our programmes and news bulletins. It's a fascinating chance for us to see what people really want to hear on the radio, whilst at the same time giving the audience a unique opportunity to really shape our programmes and work with some of their favourite presenters."

Anyone over the age of 18 who lives in Birmingham or the Black Country can apply to take part. For information on how to get involved, visit www.bbc.co.uk/wmtakeover or call 03453 009956.



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*Kids Go Free: Children 10 and under go free if accompanied by a paying adult. Max 2 free children per adult, applies to General Entry tickets from 11am each day. Images used for publicity purposes only. Guest appearances subject to work commitments.

TOM CHAMBERS

talks about starring in a major revival of Noel Coward's *Private Lives*



What's a newlywed to do when his ex-wife and her new husband show up on his honeymoon? In Noel Coward's *Private Lives*, former spouses Elyot and Amanda each take off separately for a romantic French break with their new partners, Sybil and Victor, only to run into each other at the same Deauville hotel and rekindle their explosive relationship.

Strictly Come Dancing and *Holby City* star Tom Chambers spoke to *What's On* about playing the 'flamboyant' Elyot and about his career so far.

"Elyot absolutely lives in the moment and just wants to enjoy life and everything he does," Chambers explains. "He goes against the social 'type' in as much as he is kind of anti-moralist and anti-religion. It's quite a glamorous, decadent

world - these are characters who don't really have to worry about money like the rest of us, and he just has this very flamboyant nature. He also gets a thrill out of being around people he can spar with. He and his ex-wife have a very turbulent, acidic relationship and completely drive each other up the wall, but that's obviously what they love about each other."

A long-term fan of the play, Chambers is thrilled to have been offered a leading part, and has been thoroughly enjoying sinking his teeth into Coward's acerbically witty dialogue.

"The play is absolutely amazing!" he gushes. "I saw the late Alan Rickman do it about ten years ago. It was so good, I saw it three times! It feels like it could've been written yesterday. The way the dialogue moves from one line to the next, it's like being on a moving train that doesn't stop at any of the stations. And then it just suddenly leaps onto another track and goes off in another direction. It's like a box of fireworks! The great thing about good writing is that as long as you commit to it, it does all the work for you."

Rickman's isn't the only star performance of the part he's seen. Such familiarity with the play's history could easily be daunting, but he's confident that the brilliant team which director Tom Attenborough has assembled for the show will en-

sure it lives up to expectations.

"I'm very mindful of the fact that all these great actors have done it before, and it's easy to be scared by that, but you have to trust the material and the people around you. The casting is perfect - I think Laura Rogers' interpretation of Amanda is one of the best I've ever seen, and we've also got Richard Teverson from *Downton Abbey* and Charlotte Ritchie, who's in *Call The Midwife*. It's a really great group of people and Tom Attenborough is like a secret weapon. He's come from that amazing bloodline with David and Richard, and he's made us do it with a lot more realism and meaning, so we're not just saying the lines in that light, flippant Coward manner."

Chambers' previous acting credits include a leading role in the first stage production of the classic Irving Berlin musical *Top Hat*, for which he was nominated for both Olivier and WhatsOnStage Awards. Like *Private Lives*, the original *Top Hat* was released in the 1930s, as was *A Damsel In Distress* - a film partly responsible for kickstarting his career. After six years of struggling to get a professional acting break, he took matters into his own hands by recreating the complex dance sequence performed with a drum kit by Fred Astaire in the film. He then sent it out to casting directors in the hope of grabbing their attention.



“When you go to drama school, you have one compulsory ballet, tap and jazz lesson a week, but I always really loved tap. We finished college at six, but I’d usually stay on till nine on my own, tapping in front of a mirror in one of the studios, going over and over the same steps to make them as fluid as possible. People couldn’t understand why I kept doing it, and I don’t think I really knew myself, especially when I’d been unemployed for such a long time.”

“It was only when my agent fired me for not doing *Bob The Builder: The Arena Tour* that I decided to try this one last thing before I jacked it all in. So I left London and went back to live with my parents. I spent seven months watching this old VHS, pausing it and trying to recreate it frame by frame. I created a floor, put up some mirrors, filmed it and then I sent out a thousand copies, and from all of those I got two replies. I’d actually gone into a fire station and got my papers to sign up to be a fireman when the phone rang to say I’d got an audition for *Holby City*. The funny thing was that they were actually looking for an American actor, and they’d obviously decided that because Fred Astaire was American, I must be too.”

Chambers has continued to build up a portfolio of period roles, more recently finding himself transported to 1950s settings as Inspector Sullivan in the BBC detective show *Father Brown*, and as Phil Davis in a stage adaptation of another Irving Berlin

“*I saw the late Alan Rickman do it about ten years ago. It was so good, I saw it three times!*”

musical, *White Christmas*.

“I often used to think I was born in the wrong generation because I find it quite hard to be cool or trendy or modern. I used to watch those matinee idol films when I was younger and just really relate to them. For me, people like Jimmy Stewart, Cary Grant, Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly were all the greats. They have such class and style. Of course, it’s a bit romantic because I know that if you actually did live in the 1930s it would have been dire because of the Great Depression and everything else. Probably a lot of that glamour is trying to make people feel good because things were so bad.”

But while he may be comfortable in a top hat, white tie and tails and happy to be performing to live audiences again, he remains grateful of the opportunities that shows like *Strictly*, *Holby City* and *Waterloo Road* have offered him.

“At one time I was doing nothing but plays, but that was back before I got a professional acting job. I’ve done musicals and TV, but it’s now been over ten years since I’ve done a play, so it feels like new territory all of a sudden, which is exciting but also a bit nerve-wracking. After spending six years as a lorry driver, pizza delivery man, window cleaner, caretaker and barman, I’m intensely aware that it’s thanks to things like *Strictly* and *Holby* that I’m now able to do these theatre

parts. That audition for *Holby City* completely changed my life overnight. Suddenly, I had a professional job that I was actually able to pay bills from.”

This year, fans of *Holby City* will be able to see him reprise his role as Sam Strachan in the show’s sister series, *Casualty* - though how long his storyline will be, you’ll just have to wait to find out.

Asked what lessons experience has taught him that might benefit aspiring actors now struggling to break through, he suggests that young performers should get creative and start developing projects of their own. “There are so many amazing, talented actors and performers out in the world, but because there’s so much competition, it’s not really about talent so much as persistence,” he says. “I should have had the courage to find something I felt passionately enough about to record sooner, but it took me a long time to get to that because I always just thought that I was at the mercy of the industry, rather than taking things into my own hands. Working on your own material is good for your soul, and it’s so easy to put things out there now - you can just upload them onto YouTube and get discovered that way.”

Private Lives shows at the **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham** from Mon 8 to Sat 13 February

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Nouveau bistrot...

French chain Le Bistrot Pierre is to open its 15th restaurant next month, its third in the West Midlands.

Based in a Grade II listed building on Birmingham's Gas Street, near The Mailbox, the restaurant will offer food with a decidedly French flavour. All dishes will be freshly prepared using a mix of artisan provincial ingredients and carefully selected, locally sourced ingredients.

Rob Beacham, co-owner of Bistrot Pierre, said: "We've been

working closely with our architects to make best use of the stunning building. It will have original features throughout and will give diners a real sense of its heritage, which is all part of the experience we want to create." Le Bistrot Pierre will open seven days a week and offer a two-course prix-fixe lunch for £10.95 and a two-course pre-theatre menu for £14.95. There will also be an à la carte menu, a gluten-free menu and children's menu available.



Bite is back...

The Bite street food collective will be serving up more culinary favourites at Birmingham's iconic Fort Dunlop on 26 February.

Promising eats, beats and booze, Bite takes place on the last Friday of every month, from midday till 2pm. If you missed January's event, be sure to get along this time round...



New ventures for Birmingham brewer

Birmingham brewery Davenports has announced two new ventures as part of a £10million investment.

The Smethwick-based company will develop new venues while further investing in existing establishments such as the City Tavern.

Dares Cafe, will be located in the Old Police Station at the heart of the vibrant Jewellery Quarter. The venue will be one of the first in

Birmingham to offer brewery-fresh tank beer dispensed from five hundred litre tanks hung from the ceiling.

The second venue, also to be named Dares and located in the vacant HSBC bank in Moseley, could well be transformed into a craft beer/cocktail bar, restaurant and ten-bedroom hotel. Davenports' owners are crossing their fingers the city council grants the necessary application.

REVIEW: Chung Ying - Wrottesley Street Hot from the wok...



Chung Ying proudly advertises itself as 'Birmingham's favourite Chinese restaurant' - and if the crowds eating there on a chilly Tuesday night in January are anything to go by, they're not exaggerating.

Established in 1981, Chung Ying is a veteran of Birmingham's Chinese quarter, its neon sign unmissable to passers-by. Inside it feels like nothing much has changed in the intervening 35 years - there's an awful lot of black lacquered wood - but I find this quite refreshing.

There's no concept menu here, no clever branding, just good, solid, old-school Chinese dining. When I say 'old-school', I'm actually talking about two different things. There are all the classics that English diners expect - things like spare ribs, sweet and sour pork and fried rice. But the lengthy menu is also chock-full of traditional dishes: steamed eel with black bean, slow-cooked pork and vegetable dishes, chicken's feet and tripe. It's an enticing mix, indicative of a restaurant that knows it has to

cater for both English and Chinese customers. Starters of deep-fried prawns, crispy wonton wrappers and breaded squid with a sweet and sour sauce were fine, if a little dull. My wonton soup never arrived, but then the waiter had taken our order without actually writing anything down, so I wasn't surprised.

The mains were brilliant. Duck with plum sauce was generously sized - crispy, falling-apart tender and partnered with a sweet plum sauce that actually tasted of plum. We matched it with Chinese broccoli with garlic and ginger - expertly prepared, though not what I ordered; I think the waiter had overruled my choice of broccoli with crab - and a gorgeous chow mein packed with fresh vegetables and king prawns. It was all fresh, flavoursome and piping hot from the wok, with none of that sickly greasiness you can sometimes find in Chinese restaurant food.

The large table next to us was offered a platter of fruit for dessert, but sadly that offer did-

n't come our way. Our bill came to £37, which is great value for money given the standard of cooking and portion size. I'd love to go back and work my way through the lengthy dim-sum menu - and if that duck is anything to go by, the slow-cooked meat dishes on the a la carte are begging to be worked through too.

The service at Chung Ying is quick, albeit a little, erm, abrupt, but the quality of the cooking makes up for it. Altogether a great place for an entertaining evening out.

Helen Stallard

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

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A taste of love...

Simpsons Restaurant in Birmingham is offering romantic lovers and lovers of food alike the chance to indulge their passion this Valentine's Day. The Michelin-starred eatery is presenting a special tasting menu to celebrate the day of love - so why not treat your beloved to what promises to be an evening of exquisite dining accompanied by a glass of bubbly? But hurry, as spaces are limited. Call the reservations team on 0121 454 3434.



Deliciously daring

A new immersive event combining gastronomy, performance and visual art is set to provide an alternative Valentine's experience for the more daring diner. Diabolical Roses explores themes of romance, sex and unity via a marriage of food and performance. The production uses the dining table as a stage and suggests unexpected ways in which food might be consumed. Tickets for the event cost £40 and include a six-course meal and performance. The venue has yet to be announced. For further information about the menu and to buy tickets, visit billetto.co.uk/diabolical-roses



Foodies Festival, Cannon Hill Park

Something to sink your teeth into...

With so many new foodie events springing up across the region, it can sometimes be hard to decide where best to indulge your tastebuds... Here are just some of the Midlands food and drink festivals you can check out this year...

LUDLOW FOOD SPRING FESTIVAL

Boasting over 180 small independent food and drink producers from the Marches, with plenty of food-related activities taking place in the town centre, Sat 14 - Sun 15 May, Ludlow Castle and Castle Square, Ludlow

ALCESTER & FOREST OF ARDEN SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL A chance to get your hands on the seasonal produce on offer, including artisan cheeses and breads, beers, wines, fresh produce and a wide variety of mainly local food and drink, Sat 21 May, Alcester High Street, Warwickshire

ASPARAFEST This music and food festival not only offers great local produce and real ale and cider, but also a variety of crafts stalls featuring artisan crafts including leather work, willow weaving and much more... Sat 4 - Sun 5 June, Ashdown Farm, Evesham, Worcestershire

THE GREAT BRITISH FOOD FESTIVAL Taking place at historic venues across the Midlands and the North, GBFF offers lots of things to see and do, including a BBQ stage and Man V Food competitions, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, Sat 11 - Sun 12 June

ELLESMERE FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

Coinciding with Father's Day, Ellesmere's food and drink festival encourages families to come together and enjoy the entertainment on offer, Sat 18 - Sun 19 June, Various venues in Ellesmere, Shropshire

DROITWICH SPA FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL Local food and drink come together in this historic salt town, which welcomes both local residents and visitors from further afield, Sat 18 - Sun 19 June, High Street, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire

FOODIES FESTIVAL BIRMINGHAM The all-new Tasting Theatre is an exciting addition to this national food festival, featuring masterclasses designed by food bloggers and experts, Fri 24 - Sun 26 June, Cannon Hill Park, B'ham

SHREWSBURY FOOD FESTIVAL Shropshire's finest craftspeople are invited to exhibit their wares at this summertime festival, Sat 25 - Sun 26 June, Quarry Park and around Shrewsbury Town Centre

COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL Twenty-five of the district's top venues offer a wide variety of tasters alongside cookery and cocktail demonstrations and live

music, Fri 8 - Sat 9 July, Victoria Square, Birmingham

THE GREAT BRITISH FOOD FESTIVAL

This touring food festival arrives in Staffordshire. With free chef demos, kids cookery and a cake-off, there's plenty to see and do, Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July

BIRMINGHAM COCKTAIL WEEKEND

A chance to sample the very best of Birmingham's cocktail scene, with several exclusive events and masterclasses, Fri 15 - Sun 17 July, Various venues across the City Centre

BIRMINGHAM BEER WEEK Nine days of beer-related events, activities and promotions across the city, Mon 15 - Sun 23 July, Various venues across Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BEER BASH A wide range of beers, stunning street food, fringe events and entertainment, Fri 21 - Sun 23 July, Bond Co, Digbeth, Birmingham

LUDLOW FOOD FESTIVAL AUTUMN

Expect products you won't find in your local supermarkets, from rare breeds of meat to real ale from passionate producers and sellers, Fri 9 - Sun 11

September, Ludlow Castle, Shropshire

TAMWORTH FOOD GUSTO FESTIVAL

Taking place in the grounds of Tamworth Castle, this ever-popular event is packed with stands from local and regional producers, making it a great day out for the family, Sat 10th - Sun 11th September, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

LEAMINGTON FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

Expect a packed programme, including the Taste Trail - featuring Leamington's varied and diverse food and drink, Sat 10 - Sun 11 September, Pump Room Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa

STRATFORD TOWN CENTRE FOOD FESTIVAL

Last year saw celebrity chefs James Martin and Simon Rimmer in the Cookery Theatre. Keep an eye open for who will be headlining this year, Sun 25 September, Town Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

ALCESTER & FOREST OF ARDEN AUTUMN FOOD FESTIVAL

Forage through the food festival stalls, plan meals at local pubs, cafes and restaurants, Sat 15 October, Alcester High Street, Warwickshire

Foals

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
Fri 19 February

Indie rock band Foals formed over a decade ago and comprise lead vocalist and lead guitarist Yannis Philippakis, drummer and percussionist Jack Bevan, rhythm guitarist Jimmy Smith, bassist Walter Gervers and keyboardist Edwin Congreave.

The band have released four studio albums to date and certainly show no sign of slowing down.

Debut album *Antidotes* (2008) went straight into the UK Album Charts at number three, with *Total Life Forever* (2010) and *Holy Fire* (2013) also making the top ten.

Having reached number three in the charts with critically acclaimed new album *What Went Down*, the band have now embarked on a UK and European tour. Everything Everything support.



Vula Viel

Hare And Hounds, Birmingham,
Thurs 25 February



Vula Viel means 'good is good' in Dagaare, the language of a tribe in Upper West Ghana where lead singer Bex Burch used to live.

A five-piece electronic, jazz and world music collective from London, the talented outfit bring the powerful, ancient Dagaare music into the 21st century and promise to 'engage, entrance and excite your soul'.

Debut album *Good Is Good* has received rave reviews from its critics and is described as 'an engaging mix of African, electronica and minimalist influences'.

Jarrold Dickenson

The Glee Club, Birmingham,
Thurs 11 February

Texas-born Jarrod Dickenson's critically acclaimed album, *The Lonesome Traveler*, saw him tour with Laura Marling, David Bromberg, John Fullbright, Duke Special and David Ford. Meanwhile, his EP, *Songs From Willow St*, enjoyed plenty of BBC airplay from radio hosts including Cerys Matthews and Dermot O'Leary.

Dickenson gave breakout performances at Glastonbury and Larmer Tree, and recently embarked on a 21-date tour supporting The Waterboys.



Hozier

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Tues 2 February

Global star Hozier burst onto the music scene following the release of his single, *Take Me To Church*, which made it to number one in Belgium and peaked at number two in the UK, the US and Ireland. Performances at prestigious events such as Victoria Secret Fashion Show, Billboard Music Awards and Glastonbury have since seen the 25-year-old singer-songwriter's career go from strength to strength. Hozier is touring the UK prior to taking time out to work on a new album.

John Grant

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Mon 1 February



John Grant visits Coventry this month to celebrate the launch of third album *Grey Tickles, Black Pressure*.

"I do think the album's great, and I'm really proud of it," he says. "I wanted to get moodier and angrier on this record, but I probably had a lot more fun making it."

Despite ongoing health issues - including his HIV-positive status - the American singer-songwriter has refused to slow down. "I want to continue to challenge myself," says John, "to keep collaborating, to get the sound or the direction that will take me where I need to go. To keep taking the bull by the horns."

Wille And The Bandits

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 13 February;
The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 18 February

Counting blues, rock, Latin and folk among the styles of music they play, the Cornwall-based Wille And The Bandits have toured their huge and eclectic sound with the likes of Deep Purple, Joe Bonamassa, The John Butler Trio and Status Quo. They've also reached number two in the UK blues charts, performed at the London Olympics and played countless sets at major music festivals, including Glastonbury and BoomTown Fair. "Describing our music is always hard," says frontman Wille Edwards. "We get compared to all sorts of artists, so it's maybe best if people make up their own minds."



Nathaniel Rateliff And The Night Sweats

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Mon 15 February

Nathaniel Rateliff is a folk and blues singer-songwriter from America. He learned to play the drums at the age of seven, not long afterwards teaching himself guitar and starting to write songs. After releasing two solo

albums - *Desire And Dissolving Men* (2007) and *Falling Faster Than You Can Run* (2013) - he launched soulful rhythm & blues combo Nathaniel Rateliff And The Night Sweats. The seven-piece collective released their self-titled debut offering last summer, securing top spot in the US folk album charts.

Fenster

The Tin Music and Arts, Coventry,
Tues 16 February

Fenster are a four-piece experimental psych-pop band based in Berlin. They've released three full-length albums to date - *Bones* (2012), *The Pink Caves* (2014) and *Emocean* (2015). The latter is the soundtrack to a sci-fi adventure film created by and starring the band.

The movie starts out as a documentary about the band struggling to finish their third record. While attempting to do so, they're accidentally transported into an alternate dimension where nothing is as it seems...

Fenster are here performing their cine-concert/film screening with a live score.



Leona Lewis

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Sun 28 February

London-born Leona Lewis rose to fame back in 2006 when she won the third series of *The X Factor*. Best known for 2008 top-selling single *Bleeding Love* - which reached number one in over 30 countries - she's back on the road after a three-year break from touring to promote the release of her fifth album, *I Am*.



Wet Wet Wet

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Fri 26 February

Wet Wet Wet are best remembered for having topped the charts for a record-busting 15 weeks back in the mid-1990s with *Love Is All Around*. But their success story stretches way beyond a single number-one hit, with the group having amassed well in excess of 20 top-40 hits and sold more than 15 million records. Support on the evening comes from Westlife's Markus Feehily.

what's on...

Comedy Nights

Starring Zoe Lyons, Bobby Mair and compere Bethany Black

18 February 2016, 8.00pm

Tickets: £5 if purchased in advance/ £7.50 for tickets purchased on the night.

Concessions: £5 for students



Starring Nathan Caton, Sofie Hagen with compere Craig Murray

31 March 2016, 8.00pm

Tickets: £5 if purchased in advance/ £7.50 for tickets purchased on the night.

Concessions: £5 for students

Family

The Boy Who Bit Picasso

21 February 2016, 11.00am and 2.00pm

Come and play down on the farm with Tony and Picasso. We'll have loads of fun, make crazy pictures and tell the story of a young boy and his friendship with Picasso.

Suitable for 5 – 11 year olds.

Tickets: £7.50, concessions £5



Music and Spoken Word

Tongue Fu and Animal

26 February 2016, 7.30pm

Tongue Fu is part show, part live experiment. Special guest artists include jazz and hip-hop star Soweto Kinch, award winning slam poetry artist Vanessa Kisule and international poetry slam champion Anna Freeman.

Tickets: £7.50, concessions £5

Jazz

Stella Roberts

31 March 2016, 5.30pm

A young piano player based in Birmingham, Stella Roberts has played at festivals around England.

FREE event

To purchase tickets and for future events, go to www.birmingham.ac.uk/events

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



March 4-11

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham
International
Piano Festival
2016

Fri 4	1.10pm	Alexander Ullman piano recital	Barber Concert Hall Free
Fri 4	7.30pm	The David Rees-Williams Trio	Barber Concert Hall £5-15
Sat 5	2pm	When Yesterday we Met... Storytelling through song Family concert & free pre-concert craft workshop	Barber Concert Hall £3-5
Sat 5	7.30pm	Benny Goodman & Glenn Miller at Carnegie Hall 1939	Edgar Concert Hall £8-23
Wed 9	7.30pm	Angela Hewitt piano recital	Barber Concert Hall £5-22
Fri 11	7.30pm	BBC Philharmonic with Martin Roscoe	Edgar Concert Hall £8-27.50



Tickets: birminghampianofestival.com £1.25 transaction fee applies for online sales 01782 206 000

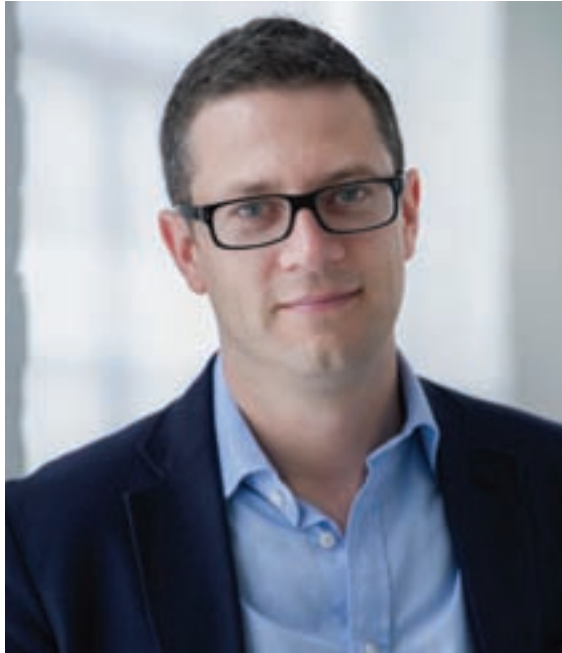
Classical Music

CBSO Benevolent Fund Concert

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 14 February

Previous years have seen the likes of Andris Nelsons and Sir Simon Rattle giving their services for free to this annual concert, which is dedicated to the CBSO's 'friends in need' within Birmingham's musical community.

John Wilson (pictured) picks up the baton on this occasion, with Valeriy Sokolov on violin. The programme features Nicolai's *The Merry Wives Of Windsor* - Overture 8', Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1* 25' and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, 31'.



Ex Cathedra: I Was Glad

Town Hall, Birmingham, Sun 7 February

British choir and early music ensemble Ex Cathedra has based its reputation on the performance of choral music from the 15th century onwards. This latest presentation features works from the 20th century, including Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice In The Lamb*. The piece was written by the composer during a particularly prolific period in the mid-1940s and is widely considered to be one of his finest choral works.

The evening's programme also features: Janáček's *Otce náš* (The Lord's Prayer), Leighton's *Crucifixus pro nobis*, Parry's *I Was Glad* and Walton's *The Twelve*.



BCMG: Parallel Colour

CBSO Centre, Birmingham, Sat 6 February



Richard Baker here conducts the world premiere of Edmund Finnis' commission for Birmingham Contemporary Music Group's Sound Investment scheme, a hugely successful initiative which aims to raise money to support living composers through the commissioning of new music.

As well as Finnis' *Parallel Colour*, the programme also features Claude Vivier's *Trois Airs pour un opéra imaginaire*, Tansy Davies' *Dark Ground*, the UK premiere of Rozalie Hirs' *Platonic ID*, Jonathan Harvey's *Cirrus Light* and Franco Donatoni's *Still*.

Unlimited Voices

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 21 February

The 200-strong Unlimited Voices choir describes itself as "unlocking unlimited potential, covering unlimited types of music in an unlimited number of places".

"We cover all different musical styles," explains a choir spokesperson, "including rock, pop, musicals, movies, classical, big band, swing, gospel, spiritual and folk music.

"We run our concerts on a themed basis for a particular genre of music - and our specialist workshops, singing days and night classes cover all musical genres. Choral singing is our focus, but there are also fabulous solo opportunities for those wishing to partake in them."

This Birmingham concert sees the choir performing some of the best-known musical theatre hits, from shows such as *Matilda* and *We Will Rock You*.



Chamber Orchestra with EMVE

Elgar Concert Hall, Birmingham, Sun 7 February



The Chamber Orchestra and Early Modern Vocal Ensemble (EMVE) here present an imaginative programme of music. *Symphony in G minor* by Pierre van Maldere - the man often referred to as 'the Flemish Mozart' - is accompanied by elegant works for orchestra and vocal ensemble. There's also orchestral music by Charles-Joseph van Helmont and Petrus Hercules Brehy, two composers who look set to enjoy a bright future in the world of classical music.

Lisa Maxwell

Loose Women regular talks about starring as the iconic Judy Garland in Peter Quilter's *End Of The Rainbow*



In early 1969, after a string of unsuccessful shows generates a bout of bad press, a damaged and deteriorating Judy Garland attempts to get her life and career back on track with the help of her newest husband, Mickey Deans, and her devoted friend and accompanist, Anthony. But will a five-week run at London's *Talk Of The Town* be enough to rekindle a star that's rapidly burning out, and can she rely on the good intentions of the men around her? Before the end of June that year, Garland's drug dependence would get the better of her, resulting in her tragic early death.

So goes the story of Peter Quilter's *End Of The Rainbow*, a poignant window onto the final days of one of Hollywood's greatest icons. In a new production of the show directed by Mercury Theatre's Daniel Buckroyd and touring to Coventry's Belgrade Theatre this month, Lisa Maxwell (*The Bill*, *Loose Women*) stars as Judy Garland, alongside Gary Wilmot and Sam Attwater as Anthony and Mickey. [What's On spoke to the leading lady to learn more.](#)

End of The Rainbow shows at

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
Tues 23 to Sat 27 February

Malvern Theatres
Tues 5 to Sat 9 April

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
Mon 18 to Wed 20 April

Lichfield Garrick
Mon 16 to Wed 18 May

New Alexandra Theatre
Tues 21 to Sat 25 June

"I'm absolutely in love with Judy, and I feel very protective of her at the moment," says Maxwell. "When I was little, I was such a fan of the family that I wrote a letter to Jim'll Fix It asking if I could do a duet with Liza Minnelli."

Maxwell is far from alone in her admiration. In portraying such an enormously popular figure, she's mindful of the expectations that many audience members will be bringing with them to the show.

"The thing I think I'm most worried about is really giving people what they expect, because there'll be a lot of Judy Garland fans in the audience. Also, as a fan of her myself, I want to do her justice. Die-hard Judy fans know everything about her, so I hope that with this play we're giving them what they know and love. For those who aren't fans, we're telling a sometimes funny, sometimes touching story of a woman with a serious alcohol and pill addiction problem."

The two characters who share the stage with Judy in this show are almost symbolic of the double pull of her public and personal life. Though mostly confident of her audience's adoration, off-stage she struggled to build trust and maintain stable re-

lationships with other people.

"I know at times she behaved appallingly towards other people, but she had no idea of how to love or be loved because she was never shown," Maxwell explains. "Her relationship with Anthony is one that she's comfortable with because he's just there to serve her. Even though he's a gay man, there's a lot of chemistry between them, and he's partly there to represent her love for her audience. With Mickey Deans, on the other hand, she has quite a volatile relationship, although she's very much in love with him. I think he loves her too, but as a frustrated musician, he's nonetheless aware of the opportunities that being married to her can bring him. He's actually her fifth husband, although she keeps calling him husband number four because she can't remember."

Despite having watched all her films growing up, Maxwell has spent time researching the woman behind the stardom, reading biographies and watching clips of her performances on YouTube.

"I want to give the character as much depth as possible. It's important to say that this is a play with songs rather than a musical, so we're trying to tell a very truthful

“ I hope that people see her vulnerability, as well as how absolutely hilarious she was. ”

story that's wonderfully punctuated with all these moments where we see her in concert. I hope that people see her vulnerability, as well as how absolutely hilarious she was.”

One difficulty, of course, is that during her final months, Garland had not been performing as well as at the peak of her career, presenting anyone portraying this period of her life with a choice of whether to emphasise that decline, or to focus on the talent that made her famous. Maxwell knows where she stands.

“I want to be able to sing all the songs well, and I've been seeing a vocal coach for a few months. Yes, she wasn't at the top of her game towards the end, but the one thing that she was always able to do was to turn it on and make magic happen on stage. I'm not allowing myself to say, 'Oh, it doesn't matter if you can't sing it, because she was at the end of her life'. I'm not taking that easy way out.”

After five years presenting ITV's Loose Women, Maxwell is relishing the challenge of getting stuck into a tough acting role again. With her teenage daughter now old enough not to need her mum around so much, it's the perfect time to get back on stage and start touring again, though family life remains important to her. Outside work, she's also vice-patron of the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home and has been helping to raise money for a new, top-quality facility in Gloucestershire.

“It's going really well. We're there now and we're going to be opening in May. Hopefully it's going to be the best rescue centre ever! The facilities for the animals are wonderful and there are great working conditions for the staff so that when they come, they'll stay. I'm amazed that in an area where nature and animal life play such a big role there are still so many animals being mistreated. It's a real passion of mine to see this facility flourish. That said, I can't take any of the credit for everything the people who've been with the charity for years have done - they've raised every penny themselves.”



Belinda Lang

West End favourite stars in a snapshot of Soviet espionage on stage at The REP



At the height of the Cold War, while touring with the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Moscow, the flamboyant stage and screen star Coral Browne is thrown into an unexpected encounter with the notorious Cambridge spy, Guy Burgess.

Years later, while supervising the restoration of a Titian painting, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures Anthony Blunt discusses art and forgery with the monarch, around the time of his exposure as a member of the same spy ring.

In a new production of Alan Bennett's *Single Spies* by the Birmingham REP in collaboration with Chichester Festival Theatre, these two snapshots of Soviet espionage are brought to life on stage by Nicholas Farrell (*The Iron Lady*, *The Lady In The Van*, *Legend*), David Robb (*Downton Abbey*, *Wolf Hall*, *The Young Victoria*) and Belinda Lang (*2point4 Children*, *Second Thoughts*, *Dear John*), directed by Olivier Award nominee Rachel Kavanaugh.

What's On recently caught up with Belinda about her two very different roles in the play.

"Coral Browne is very theatrical," says Lang, "she's an 'actressy actress', whereas the Queen is almost the opposite. She's not interested in gossip, and she even mentions how actors just talk about themselves all the time."

A singular, colourful presence, famed for her wicked sense of humour, Coral Browne left an indelible mark on the acting world. Lang recalls growing up with an even keener awareness of her "legendary personality" than of her performances.

"My mother was slightly younger than Coral, but they were acting at a similar time, and she's very much someone I remember being spoken of. She was just outrageous and terribly funny, speaking with this foul language and always telling it like it is. I think being Australian gave her a different take on the manners of the day. Of course, she was also married to Vincent Price, who was one of my great TV heroes, so that made her all the more interesting to me."

Anyone taking on this role has the unique advantage - or challenge, depending on how you look at it - of being able to refer to the

real Coral Browne's own take on the story: in the film version of the play's first act, *An Englishman Abroad*, Browne actually plays herself. "I think she was a bit too old to play her younger self by the time she came to do it. I've watched the film just to see, but I've decided to play her more the way that Alan's written her than the way she is in the film."

Meanwhile, the Queen's character is a trickier thing to get a handle on: as well as being rather less flamboyant than Browne, she has something of an obligation to keep strong opinions under wraps, and to maintain a quietly dignified demeanour, at least in public. "The Queen is hard. You think you know how to play her, but when you come to actually do it, you realise how difficult it is. It's very easy to go into a caricature and do a ludicrously posh voice, but actually, she's not like that at all. I've been watching lots of footage of her from over the years, but in the end, I'm not an impressionist, I'm an actor, so I'm not going to try to do an impersonation of her."

Fortunately, Lang will have the interval to make the transition: enough time to slip into a new character, as well as a new costume. Browne herself famously took issue with the costumes in the original National Theatre production, describing Prunella Scales' outfit as a "defamation", comprised of "fake fur and hats that wouldn't have come out of a grab bag at the Sally Army on Boxing Day". "When they first did the play at the National Theatre, it was at a time when people were very anxious about using real fur, so they got a fake one," Lang explains. "Browne was absolutely appalled by this because she loved furs, and had famously managed to get a fur coat in every show she was in, or at least that's what's said of her. She was apparently so horrified that she donated a real fur to the theatre, which they got rid of shortly afterwards. I'm afraid as a homage to Coral I'm going to be wearing real fur - I don't want her ghost coming and haunting us!"

It's not only the characters' looks and personalities that are distinct: the nature of their relationships with the two spies could also hardly be further apart.

"Coral Browne only met Guy Burgess once, although they had a little correspondence after that, so this is just the true story of the one meeting they had. On the other hand, for the Queen, Anthony Blunt was on her staff



“ The Queen is hard. You think you know how to play her, but when you come to actually do it, you realise how difficult it is. ”

for years, so he was very much a part of her world.”

As the story has it, Burgess barged into Browne's dressing room during the interval of a production of *Hamlet* in which she was playing the Danish Queen, Gertrude. Later, she was invited to his Moscow flat, where she measured him for a suit he wanted ordered from his London tailor. The specifics of the conversation between Blunt and the Queen are drawn more from Alan Bennett's imagination, whereby a discussion of faked paintings once believed to be real serves as a clever metaphor for Blunt's betrayal. Their interaction nevertheless offers some profound insights into the impact of espionage on the lives of those involved.

"People like Burgess were huge figures at the time, and the papers were just full of stories about this spy ring, and endless speculation about who the fourth man was, and then the fifth man. Even today, people still talk about it and say there must have been others involved, but of course none of that will ever be known now: it's all kept under firm wraps for reasons of security, as well as out of embarrassment. Still, the play isn't so much about spying as it is about the aftermath of it, and having to live a lonely life because of it."

True to form, Bennett blends comedy with tragedy to bring a touching humanity to figures once held up as dangerous traitors. "He's a very affectionate writer, and it's something that you notice particularly when you're doing this play, because he's very sympathetic towards these people who were vilified in their day. Anthony Blunt was supposed to have been rather unpleasant, but Alan's made him as hilarious and tolerable as he possibly could. Not because he approved of spying, but because that's what he

does with his characters: he presents them with all their foibles, but he doesn't ask you to judge them, and he makes them kind of loveable and funny."

Lang has previously described Bennett as "one of those rocks that makes our country sit together artistically", possessing talents that extend beyond his compelling character development.

"His use of language is beautiful, and he just captures things in a way that seems so effortless, though I'm sure it must take him hours and hours to create such sensitive work.

When you're learning one of his scripts, you feel like he's put every word in the right place. He also has this very English humour. It's hard to put your finger on something like that, but you can almost imagine him laughing as he writes."

The quiet introspection and gentle pacing that tend to characterise Bennett's work are a far cry from Lang's previous performances at Birmingham theatres, which included Aunt Eller in the classic *Rogers & Hammerstein musical Oklahoma!* at the Hippodrome, and Ella Khan in a 2009 REP production of *East Is East* which met with an exuberant reception. "I had a brilliant time," she says of working on *East Is East*. "It was extraordinary - more like an event than a typical theatre piece because it was jam-packed with all these people who just shouted wonderful things out. I loved every second of it! It will be interesting to come back and do a slightly less riotous play - let's hope this gets a warm reception too!"

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Single Spies shows at **The REP, Birmingham** from Wednesday 17 - Saturday 27 February.

Jo Caulfield

Glee Club, Birmingham,
Fri 19 & Sat 20 February

Enjoy an evening of urban comedy in the company of the sharp-witted Jo Caulfield, one of the most successful and instantly recognisable female comedians in the country.

Midlands-born Jo has appeared on plenty of well-known telly shows during her career, including *Mock The Week*, *Have I Got News For You* and *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*.

"Information just leaves my brain continually," says Jo in talking about her latest show, *Uninformed Opinions*. "I think I realised that a couple of years ago, watching quizzes on TV. I remember thinking, 'Oh, I like a quiz. I'm quite intelligent, I'm well read...' Then I realised I didn't remember anything.

"Now I find quizzes quite annoying. I just watch them to see if there are actually people more stupid than me.

Check out page 53 for EXCLUSIVE Friday night deals at The Glee Club



Six of the best...

Richard Herring

Station Pub,
Birmingham,
Wed 3 February

Richard Herring has developed a reputation as one of the UK's most inventive and original comedians, cleverly using his real-life trials and tribulations to inform his high-quality line in comic patter.

And he's certainly not a man to shirk big or controversial subjects when it comes to his comedy shows. Previous tours have seen him ponder religion (*Christ On A Bike*), politics (*Hitler Moustache*) and penises (*Talking Cock*).

This latest offering finds him contemplating the subject of happiness. Questions for consideration include whether true belly laughs only come from depression, and just how much pressure Happy the dwarf was under to live up to his name...



Tony Law

The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton,
Thurs 11 February;
Royal Spa Centre,
Leamington Spa,
Sat 13 February;
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, Wed 17
February

Zany alternative comedy is Canadian funnyman Tony Law's stock-in-trade, a fact which means his audience is guaranteed an evening of truly off-the-wall, boundary-defying stand-up.

So if you like your comedians to be touched with genius while at the same time prone to meander off-topic with gag-laden dialogues, Tony is definitely the laughter merchant for you.

Jokes include: "My kid was looking at me with doey eyes - we'd been baking that morning".

Tony visits the Midlands this month with his brand new touring show, *Frillemorphosis*.



Mark Steel

The Courtyard,
Hereford, Sat 6
February, Warwick
Arts Centre,
Coventry, Thurs 11
February

"I started doing stand-up in 1982, around the circuit of bizarre gigs," recalls highly regarded writer and comedian Mark Steel. "I'd go on after jugglers and escapologists and people that banged nails into their ear.

"Since then, I've spoken at lots of demonstrations, union meetings, protests and benefits - and yet capitalism still seems to rule the world. Maybe I'm a jinx!"

A well-established performer on the UK comedy circuit, Mark's CV includes the BAFTA-nominated *Mark Steel Lectures* for BBC Two, BBC One's *Have I Got News For You* and Radio Four's *News Quiz*.

His latest touring show, *Who Do I Think I Am?*, takes a look at the subjects of identity and adoption.





Adam Hills

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 13 February
Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 28 February

One of Australia's most talented comedians, Adam Hills is a Perrier Award nominee and best-selling act at the Edinburgh Festival. His thoughtful comedy, interspersed with moments of real spontaneity, have earned him rave reviews across the globe, in the process winning him an ever-growing legion of fans. Jokes include: "Deaf people are c***s. I'm not afraid to say that out loud," and "The Pope is resigning. He'll soon be known as Ex Benedict".

Tommy Tiernan

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 10 February;
The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 6 March



With sold-out shows across the world, it's fair to

say Tommy Tiernan is a hugely successful Irish export - albeit an often controversial one. Most notably he once found himself in hot water for comments he made about the Holocaust, Jews and the death of Christ. And he's not always been the comedian of choice with parents of Down Syndrome children either...

With his bag of gags also including jokes which take as their subject matter a methadone user, eastern European immigrant accents and a film idea about gay traveller spacemen seeking a cure for homosexuality, an evening in his company certainly has the potential to be a bit challenging. That said, Tiernan's not one of Ireland's top comedians without very good reason...

Steve Hall

Mockingbird Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 20 February

Steve Hall is not only related (via a convoluted web of Irish cousins) to Steve Coogan, he's also often likened in both look and sound to the Alan Partridge star. That said, Hall is very much his own man, and has been making a splash on the UK comedy circuit for many a year now.

Best known as one third of the We Are Klang sketch group, Steve has also provided support for Russell Howard on three sell-out tours.



Russell Kane

The Rose Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 27 February



This man's official publicity blurb has previously included the following: "Love.

Race. Politics. Class. Strap in for some super-speed underings and inconvenient sociology in an hour of self-soiling merriment that will leave you with rickets."

Russell Kane is a very funny man - and it's not just his publicist who thinks so. Kane's been drawing a crowd since bursting onto the scene way back in 2004, serving up liberal doses of high-quality humour in an act which also features some considerably weighty and thought-provoking material. His latest touring show, Right Man, Wrong Age, is described as 'a performance about growing up, growing down, and why farts will always be funny'.

Impossible

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Tues 16 - Sat 20 February

This West End show has been hailed as 'the UK's biggest magic spectacular'. Fusing 'death-defying' stunts, technological trickery and close-up magic, Impossible reinvents some of the biggest illusions in history. The touring version of the show features three original West End cast members - daredevil escapologist Jonathan Goodwin, mind-reading specialist Chris Cox and illusionist Ben Hart. The trio are joined by Britain's Got Talent star James More, Cirque du Soleil and Hollywood trickster Lee Thompson and hip-hop and break-dancing magician Magical Bones. Expect to have your breath well and truly taken...

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Miss Nightingale

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Tues 9 - Sat 13 February



Described as 'a heartwarming and hilarious cabaret-style story of love, loss and hope', Miss Nightingale is set during the Second World War and tells the story of feisty singer Maggie and her songwriter pal, George. As London crumbles around her, Maggie yearns for the bright lights. George, meanwhile, keeps hidden a deep, dark secret. But when wealthy club owner Sir Frank sidles into their lives, everything suddenly changes, and Maggie is miraculously transformed into satirical music hall star Miss Nightingale...

Doctor Faustus

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon;
Thurs 4 February - Thurs 4 August

First published in 1604, 11 years after its author Christopher Marlowe's death, the Elizabethan-age story of Dr Faustus is a familiar one. A disillusioned but knowledge-hungry academic enters into a pact with the devil - one which will see him relinquishing his soul in the afterlife in exchange for the enjoyment of unlimited power during his time on earth...

Maria Aberg returns to the RSC to direct this notorious tale of vanity, greed and damnation.

Read our interview with Maria online at whatsonlive.co.uk

Round And Round The Garden

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 8 - Wed 10 February;
Malvern Theatre, Tues 16 - Sat 20 February

Round And Round The Garden is one of Alan Ayckbourn's 1973 Norman Conquests trilogy, three plays following the same cast of six characters as they spend a weekend together in a Sussex country house.

The Norman of the title is a beguiling, fatally flawed assistant librarian - a man intent on making women happy. But when he attempts to seduce his sister-in-law and charm his brother-in-law's wife - while at the same time attempting to keep on the right side of his own spouse - it soon becomes apparent that he's bitten off more than he can chew...

The Best Thing

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 2 February;
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 6 February;
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 11 - Fri 12 February;
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 13 February;
mac, Birmingham, Thurs 17 - Fri 18 March

Leading full-mask theatre company Vamos have collaborated with London International Mime Festival to present this Swinging '60s story of unconditional love.

Described as 'a bitter-sweet tale of mistaken morals and broken hearts, 45s and beehives', it focuses on the character of Susan, a young woman who finds her life unexpectedly turned upside down at the tender age of 17...



The Unknown Soldier

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 26 - Sat 27 February

The need to keep a promise and repay a debt keeps Jack on the World War One battlefields, even though the guns have fallen silent...

Described as a story of comradeship and betrayal, and of promises both broken and kept following the carnage of the Great War, *The Unknown Soldier* debuted at Edinburgh last year and was highly praised by the critics.

Its author, award-nominated playwright Ross Ericson, enjoyed a 2013 success with *Casualties*, a fraught drama about the Afghanistan War and its repercussions.

I Know All The Secrets In My World

The Drum, Birmingham, Fri 25 - Sat 26 February

One of the UK's first British African theatre companies, Tiata Fahodzi, are the talented ensemble behind this thought-provoking two-hander. Presented by the actors using mime and movement, the show follows the experiences of a father and son as they grieve the loss of the woman they both loved...

A resident company at Watford Palace Theatre, Tiata Fahodzi has built a reputation for presenting accessible productions with wide appeal, in so doing crossing boundaries of race, gender, age and wealth. "We seek to challenge presumptions," explains the company, "and to reveal the African experience to British audiences in ways that are unusual and unexpected. We want to be formally adventurous as well as rigorous in our storytelling."

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Lord Of The Flies

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 23 - Sat 27 February

Written by William Golding in 1954, *Lord Of The Flies* tells the story of a group of British boys who find themselves stranded on an uninhabited island. In an effort to bring some order to their peculiar existence, they attempt to govern themselves - but things soon get seriously out of hand...

This new version of Golding's classic is presented by London's award-winning Regent's

Park Theatre and has enjoyed rave reviews. "Unfortunately, I don't think this story goes out of date," says the show's director, Timothy Sheader. "We're even more exposed to these kind of events today than people were in the 1950s. Then, it was more of a 'what if?'. Now, we've all seen terribly tragic examples of violence from and against children and young people in the news - whether it's child soldiers in Africa, teenage girls running away to Syria, or horrible youth gangs and murder cases in disenfranchised pockets of our own country."

Land Of Our Fathers

mac, Birmingham; Tues 2 - Wed 3 February



Chris Urch's play made a significant splash when it debuted in 2013, picking up the Time Out Critic's Choice and Fringe Show Of The Year awards. Hailed as an engrossing and powerful theatrical experience, the play is set in South Wales on the day that Margaret Thatcher came to power.

Trapped down a coal mine, six Welsh miners await rescue, in the meantime engaging in heated conversations that will change their world forever...

Of Mice And Men

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 4 - Sat 13 February; Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 8 - Sat 12 March

George and Lennie are drifters who only have each other and their shared search for the American Dream. George is the sharp little guy who looks out for Lennie. Lennie, meanwhile, is his big-hearted companion who, unaware of his own strength, seems unable to keep out of trouble.

Finding work on a ranch in California, they plan to stay long enough to buy a little place of their own - but their arrival triggers a tragic chain of events that threatens to destroy the very dream that unites them...

This brand new version of the John Steinbeck classic stars Dudley Sutton in the role of Candy.



Merry Wives

New Vic Theatre,
Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Fri 5 - Sat 27 February

Mistresses Page and Ford believe it's high time that the fat knight Sir John Falstaff was taught a lesson. After all, the big fella's been courting them both - and caring not one jot about the fact that both of them are married!

This Shakespearian tale of buck-baskets, frolicsome fairies and mistaken identity here receives the Northern Broadside's treatment.

Stags And Hens

Prince of Wales Centre,
Cannock,
Thurs 11 - Fri 12 February

A typical Willy Russell comedy, Stags And Hens manages to be both funny and thought-provoking. And as with the majority of the playwright's work, it also has plenty to say about British working class society. First published thirty years ago in a collection with Educating Rita and Blood Brothers, it focuses on the stag and hen parties taking place the night before Dave and Linda's wedding. Problem is, both events are being held in the same venue. And to make matters worse, Linda's ex has unexpectedly turned up, leaving the bride-to-be with a life-changing decision to make...

Life And Times Of The Tat Man

Old Joint Stock Theatre,
Birmingham, Wed 3 February;
Arena Theatre,
Wolverhampton,
Sat 13 February

David Calcutt's much-admired play is a one-man show that's been variously described as 'powerful', 'stirring', 'intimate' and 'enthraling'.

The Tat Man is a restless soul, and from the scrapyard tells tales of travelling folk, bloody births, blacksmiths, devils and talking horses.

His stories lead to the landscape of World War One, where, as dreams are shattered, he's left to gather together the pieces in an effort to make sense of things...

The Jersey Boys

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Tues 9 - Sat 20 February

Rockin' and rollin' New Jersey boys Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons scored some truly massive hits during the 1960s. Best-known numbers included Walk Like A Man, Bye Bye Baby, Big Girls Don't Cry, Sherry and December 1963 (Oh, What A Night).

This massive Tony, Olivier and Grammy award-winning jukebox musical tells their story.

Taking a documentary-style format, the show is structured as four 'seasons', each being narrated by a different member of the band.



Avenue Q

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 16 - Sat 20
February; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Mon 21 - Sat 26 March

This Tony Award-winning musical focuses on subjects such as dating, racism, being gay and finding your purpose in life.

At the centre of the story is Princeton, a bright-eyed college graduate with a tiny bank balance who, as he sets out on a voyage of self-discovery, is easily distracted by a busty blonde and a plethora of weird and wonderful friends.



Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
Tues 9 - Sat 13 February

Edward Albee's 1962 play is best remembered from its film version, which starred Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. The play focuses on a middle-aged couple named Martha and George, and examines the spectacular decline of their marriage. As the couple wage war against one another, in the process drawing their young house-party guests into a series of all-or-nothing 'games', it becomes increasingly hard for them to distinguish the line between fact and fiction...

Jeeves And Wooster

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 23 - Sat 27 February

The delightful world of PG Wodehouse is here brought to the stage by amateur ensemble Different Animal.

Featuring an engaging cast of quirky characters, Perfect Nonsense finds Bertie Wooster being unwittingly called on to play matchmaker when a country house weekend takes a turn for the worse.

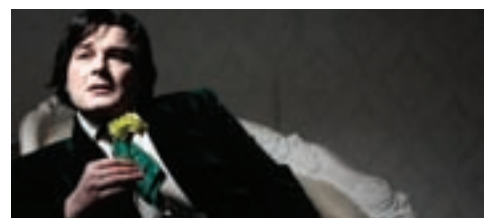
To add to his problems, Bertie needs to steal a silver cow creamer from Totleigh Towers. Needless to say, the ever-dependable Jeeves is on hand to save his employer's blushes...

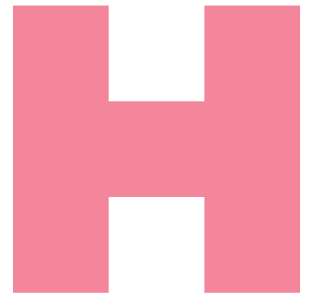
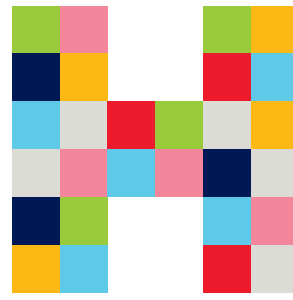
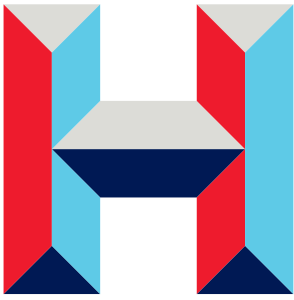
Wilde Without The Boy

Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent,
Staffs, Fri 12 February

This dramatic interpretation of De Profundis - the letter Oscar Wilde sent to his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, from Reading gaol, where he'd been imprisoned for acts of gross indecency with other males - is directed and dramatised by the award-winning Gareth Armstrong and performed by Gerard Logan.

It's accompanied by a companion piece from the same two men, Wilde's The Ballad Of Reading Gaol - a poem narrating the execution of Charles Thomas Wooldridge, who'd been convicted of murdering his wife.





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

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

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Kids shows this month...



Gangsta Granny



Rapunzel



The Return Of Neverland

Annie

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 1 - Sat 6 February; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 4 - Sat 9 April

Birds Of A Feather actress Lesley Joseph stars as the far-from-pleasant Miss Hannigan in this latest version of the oft-touring Broadway hit.

The heart-warming rags-to-riches tale of a little girl who finds herself transported from a New York orphanage to the luxurious world of millionaire Oliver Warbucks, the show features plenty of memorable songs, including It's A Hard Knock Life and the legendary Tomorrow.

The Lost Things

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 15 - Tues 16 February; mac, Birmingham, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 February

Award-winning theatre company Tortoise In A Nutshell have here teamed up with writer Oliver Emanuel to present a show that's described as 'a dark fairytale where nothing is quite as it seems'.

When a boy falls, he finds himself in a terrifying new world of lost things - including a mysterious girl who's busying herself building an amazing machine...

Rapunzel

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 13 February

Immersion Theatre have earned themselves an enviable reputation for their witty, tongue-in-cheek retellings of much-loved tales. Their last visit to Shrewsbury saw them presenting a sparky and sold-out version of *The Wind In The Willows* - and there's every reason to imagine this latest offering will be a similar bums-on-seats success story. The book and lyrics come courtesy of the creators of hit US television series *Friends*... As starting points for an entertaining experience go, that certainly isn't a bad one.

The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark

Old Rep, Birmingham, Mon 15 February

Jill Tomlinson's bestselling children's classic is here brought to the stage by the talented Blunderbus. The ensemble utilise music, puppetry and storytelling to present the delightful tale of a baby barn owl who's not as comfortable with the darkness of night as maybe he should be...

Gangsta Granny

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 16 - Sat 20 February; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 8 - Sat 11 June; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 28 June - Sat 2 July; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 12 - Sun 16 October

The ever-popular Birmingham Stage Company make a welcome return with their adaptation of David Walliams' best-selling book.

Ben's no lover of Friday nights - and why would he be? After all, Friday nights mean having to stay at Granny's house, where he's not only bored senseless but also has to eat an unholy trinity of cabbage dishes - cabbage soup, cabbage pie and cabbage cake. But experiences can sometimes be deceptive, and Ben soon finds out that there's way more to his boring old Granny than ever he'd imagined...

Here Be Monsters

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 17 February; Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 5 March

The villainous Captain Cut-Throat may be adamant that monsters simply don't exist, but his usually fearsome crew are far from convinced by their skipper... Based on the book by Jonathan Emmett, this sea-faring adventure features a veritable treasure chest of songs and interactive fun.

The Return Of Neverland

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire, Fri 12 - Sat 13 February

Even timeless classics can benefit from a fresh perspective - and that's exactly what this show is giving JM Barrie's much-loved story of Peter Pan. As Neverland's magic decreases, Peter and the Lost Boys find themselves grounded. Then, unexpectedly, a secret is revealed that may not only save the island but make it more powerful than ever before...

The Gruffalo's Child

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 4 - Fri 5 February

This Tall Stories Theatre Company's musical adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved book is sure to be a hit with kids, and finds the Gruffalo and his youngster embarking on yet another adventure in the deep, dark wood. Despite her dad's warning to stay away from the wood, the Gruffalo's child decides it's time to go and explore, unworried by the legend of the Big Bad Mouse... All adults must be accompanied by a responsible child!

Cinder-Ella

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 11 February; The REP, Birmingham, Sat 13 February

The ever-imaginative Krazy Kat Theatre make a welcome return with a show that features puppetry and sign language. When a grandfather is left holding a rather leaky baby, he decides to create a world of fantasy, using dolls, magic tricks and even an old pram to bring alive his favourite fairytale.

For full theatre listings, visit whatsonlive.co.uk

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*— Richard Coombs, *Talkin' Broadway**



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Dance

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Tues 9 - Sat 13 February

Described as a fairytale for all ages, Matthew Bourne's gothic reworking of Perrault's classic fairytale has received rave reviews since making its debut at London's Sadlers Wells. The decade of the 1890s - a period synonymous with fairies, vampires and decadent opulence - is the starting point for this haunting tale of good versus evil, which begins with the birth of Princess Aurora. The action then shifts to the 1920s, as the princess makes the transition into adolescence, and then jumps forward once again - this time to the modern day, and her awakening from 100 years of slumber...

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Birmingham Royal Ballet: Ashton Double Bill

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Wed 17 - Sat 20 February



This Birmingham Royal Ballet tribute to Sir Frederick Ashton, one of England's most admired and influential choreographers, features two of his best-loved one-act ballets.

Created by Sir Frederick in 1964, *The Dream* has been described as an 'elegant and witty distillation' of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. BRB's performance of the work kick-starts the company's year-long celebration of Shakespeare, four hundred years after the playwright's death.

A Month In The Country, meanwhile, is a poignant, romantic tale inspired by Ivan Turgenev's play of the same title. It tells the story of a bored housewife, her young foster daughter, and the rivalry that develops between them when a handsome young student enters their lives...

2Faced Dance: Dreaming In Code

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 9 February

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

The Herefordshire-based 2Faced Dance Company was formed by Fitzgerald in 1999, its stated mission being to inspire and increase dance provision to young people and the wider community.

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



Into The Hoods: Remixed

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Thurs 25 - Sat 27 February



Sadler's Wells associate artist Kate Prince here presents the story of two lost school children who're tasked with finding a number of items, including trainers as pure as gold and a hoodie as red as blood. Their efforts to do so bring them into contact with some truly colourful characters, among them wannabe singer Lil Red and vivacious rapper Rap On Zel.

The youngsters soon find themselves inextricably involved in 'a storybook adventure into the heart of a pulsating community'. This is a newly revamped version of the award-winning 2008 West End production.

Salaam

Old Rep, Birmingham,
Thurs 4 February

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.

Richard Alston Dance Company

Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire,
Tues 16 - Wed 17 February

Richard Alston is recognised as one of British dance's most inspiring and influential choreographers, his work being described by The New York Times as 'the finest by any choreographer alive'. Alston is also renowned for his instinctive musicality - an attribute which is sure to be much in evidence in this celebration of the company's 20th anniversary. A triple bill, the performance features: Nomadic (connecting Romanian gypsy music and electronic sound), Martin Lawrance's Burning (inspired by the Dante Sonata of Franz Liszt) and Overdrive (in which Alston takes up the pulsating rhythms of Californian composer Terry Riley's music).



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DeNada Dance Theatre: Ham And Passion

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 25 February

The history of homosexuality in 20th century Spain is the subject of this brand new show from choreographer Carlos Pons Guerra and his DeNada Dance Theatre company.

The dance triple bill is being promoted as an evening of 'seductive, provocative and emphatically Spanish contemporary dance theatre that will subvert the senses'.

DeNada has a fast-growing reputation for the vigorously physical style of its shows, blending dance vocabularies to present work that's been described as accessible, humorous and poignant...

Motionhouse Dance

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Thurs 4 - Fri 5 February;
mac, Birmingham, Tues 9 - Wed 10 February;
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 26 February

Although Motionhouse's work is essentially rooted in dance, the Leamington-based ensemble also draw on theatre, circus, acrobatics and film to create visually stunning performances.

The company is out and about in the Midlands with not one but two presentations this month...

Broken fuses athletic dance with digital imagery and original music to examine man's precarious relationship with the earth...

Captive and Underground, meanwhile, are performed as a double bill. The former - blending dance, acrobatics and aerial work - is performed by four dancers in a rocking tubular structure. The latter uses 'physical dance, poignant imagery and surprising aerial encounters' to explore the new reality of train travel.

Brendan Cole: A Night To Remember

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 21 February;
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 20 March

Brendan Cole is once again out on tour with this hit production, presenting a show that features, among other dance styles, waltzes, quicksteps, tangos and salsas. Described by Cole as 'an evening with style, with something for everyone', the production provides the Strictly Come Dancing stalwart with plenty of opportunity to demonstrate his slick dance moves and impressive vocal prowess.



Film

Deadpool CERT 15 tbc

Starring **Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin, Ed Skrein, TJ Miller, Gina Carano, Brianna Hildebrand, Leslie Uggams**

Directed by **Tim Miller (USA)**

Special Forces operative Wade Wilson is subjected to an experimental treatment to cure his cancer. However, things do not go according to plan and he is left severely disfigured. But it's not all bad: although he seems to have acquired a twisted sense of humour and an unstable mind, he is endowed with new healing powers. So he hangs up his khakis and takes on the superhero moniker of Deadpool, setting off to exact his revenge. In the hands of Ryan Reynolds - who does a "twisted sense of humour" proud - this could be enormous fun.

Having helmed the title sequence to the American remake of *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, Tim Miller now steps into his full-length directorial debut. We wish him luck. In IMAX.

Released Wed 10 February

CRITIC'S CHOICE



Film highlights released in February...

Dad's Army CERT 15 tbc

Starring **Bill Nighy, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Toby Jones, Tom Courtenay, Michael Gambon, Blake Harrison, Daniel Mays**

Directed by **Oliver Parker (UK)**



Don't panic! This may be another big-screen translation of a beloved British treasure, but the cast is truly impressive. No doubt younger viewers couldn't tell John Le Mesurier from John Laurie, so this lot should do very nicely as the inept conscripts of the Home Guard. The scripter Hamish McColl is perhaps best known for co-writing the theatrical hit *The Play What I Wrote* and contributing to the 'story' of *Paddington*.

Released Fri 5 February



Goosebumps

CERT PG (103 mins)

Starring **Jack Black, Dylan Minnette, Odeya Rush, Amy Ryan, Ryan Lee**

Directed by **Rob Letterman (USA)**

RL Stine is dubbed 'the Stephen King of children's literature' and here is played by Jack Black in a comic-horror fantasy adapted from his own series. When Stine's imaginary demons are unleashed on the town of Madison in Delaware, his daughter Hannah (Rush) teams up with a new teenager on the block to try and save the day. In 3D.

Released Fri 5 February

Rams CERT 15 (93 mins)

Starring **Sigurður Sigurjónsson, Theódór Júlíusson**

Directed by **Grímur Hákonarson (Iceland/Denmark)**

In a remote, windswept corner of Iceland reside two prize rams, Garpur and Sproti. Coincidentally, they belong to Gummi and Kiddi, who happen to be neighbours - and brothers - who haven't spoken to each other in forty years...

Anybody who 'gets' Icelandic humour should relish the doleful, under-stated and straight-faced portrait of rivalry, competition, loneliness and sheep as delineated here.

The fact that it is so entirely plausible and bleakly beautiful just adds to the distinctive measure of this haunting and original work. And if you think you know where the story is going, you may be surprised. It's grim up north - but, here, it's also quite droll and surprisingly moving.

Released Fri 5 February

Trumbo CERT 15 (124 mins)

Starring **Bryan Cranston, Diane Lane, Helen Mirren, Louis CK, Elle Fanning, John Goodman** Directed by **Jay Roach (USA)**

Understandably, Hollywood has proved to be rather obsessed with the McCarthy witch hunts of the 1950s.

Here, the Oscar-winning screenwriter Dalton Trumbo (Roman Holiday, Spartacus) is the focus of our sympathies, an anarchic talent with a keen eye for a good line.

In the hands of Bryan Cranston, he is a compelling figure, brandishing a cigarette-holder in his teeth while knocking out screenplays in the bath.

He's well supported by Diane Lane in an unshowy performance as his long-suffering wife Cleo and by a barnstorming turn from Helen Mirren as the waspish gossip columnist Hedda Hopper. As an engrossing drama recalling such a preposterous passage of Hollywood shame, the film is good value.

Released Fri 5 February



CRITIC'S CHOICE



Concussion

CERT 12a (123 mins)

Starring **Will Smith, Alec Baldwin, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Albert Brooks, Arliss Howard, Luke Wilson**

Directed by **Peter Landesman (USA)**

If you think FIFA is corrupt, you should try this true-life drama. Will Smith plays Bennet Omalu, an eccentric Nigerian pathologist whose life changes forever when he cuts open the brain of former football legend Mike Webster. At first Bennet is confused by what he finds.

However, he soon discovers that Webster was suffering from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a disorder resulting from concussion sustained during his career as an offensive lineman. But with his department's finances stretched beyond breaking point and with the National Football League making his life as awkward as hell, Bennet funds his own continuing investigation. It may be costing him his life savings, but he has to do the right thing...

Released Fri 12 February

Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip CERT U (92 mins)

Starring **Jason Lee, Tony Hale, Kimberly Williams-Paisley**, with the voices of **Justin Long, Anna Farris, Christina Applegate**

Directed by **Walt Becker (USA)**

Believe it or not, this is the fourth cinematic outing for the mischievous ground squirrels (created by a hit single in 1958).

Here, they suspect that their human intimate Dave (Lee) is going to dump them in favour of his new girlfriend, so they set off on a road chip [sic] to Miami to stop him. Expect irritatingly high voices.

Released Fri 12 February



A Bigger Splash

CERT 15 (124 mins)

Starring **Ralph Fiennes, Dakota Johnson, Matthias Schoenaerts, Tilda Swinton**

Directed by **Luca Guadagnino (Italy/France)**

Recuperating from an operation on her vocal chords, the androgynous rock star Marianne Lane (Swinton) holidays on the remote island of Pantelleria with her considerably younger boyfriend (Schoenaerts). But their idyll is rudely interrupted by the arrival of Marianne's former partner (Fiennes), along with his sultry 22-year-old companion (Johnson)... Reuniting Ms Swinton with Luca Guadagnino, the director of I Am Love (2009), A Bigger Splash is a loose adaptation of Jacques Deray's crime drama La Piscine (1969). And it's an odd one, to say the least. There is much to admire, but then also little to engage. The main problem, though, is that the characters are more colourful than believable and we are given little reason to care for them. Above all, though, the film suffers from a haemorrhaging unevenness of tone. Is it a family melodrama, erotic thriller or madcap farce? In spite of the best efforts of all, it doesn't succeed on any count.

Released Fri 12 February



Oddball and the Penguins

CERT U (96 mins)

Starring **Shane Jacobson, Sarah Snook, Alan Tudyk, Deborah Mailman, Coco Jack Gillies, Terry Camilleri**

Directed by **Stuart McDonald (USA)**

Oddball is the canine protagonist of this decidedly odd true-life story. When a population of penguins on an Australian island are decimated by foxes, a farmer (Jacobson) decides to train his dog to look after the seabirds. The result was astonishing.

Released Fri 12 February

Zoolander 2 CERT tbc

Starring **Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Will Ferrell, Penélope Cruz, Kristen Wiig, Benedict Cumberbatch**

Directed by **Ben Stiller (USA)**

It's been a long time coming, but the sequel to Ben Stiller's cult comedy of 2001 finally arrives with a very starry ensemble (including cameos from Justin Bieber, Kim Kardashian, Lewis Hamilton, et al). When Zoolander's mesmerising and iconic 'blue steel' look ends up on the faces of a string of celebrity corpses, he's recruited by Interpol to help solve the crimes.

Released Fri 12 February

The Finest Hours

CERT 12a (117 mins)

Starring **Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Ben Foster, Eric Bana, Holliday Grainger**

Directed by **Craig Gillespie (USA)**

It's been quite a year for blizzards (cf. *The Hateful Eight*, *The Revenant*) and now we have a nor'easter that splits asunder two oil tankers off the New England coast. The year is 1952 and this big-budget disaster movie is based on the very true event now known as the Pendleton rescue mission. In 3D.

Released Fri 19 February

Freeheld

CERT 12a (101 mins)

Starring **Julianne Moore, Ellen Page, Michael Shannon, Steve Carell, Luke Grimes, Josh Charles**

Directed by **Peter Sollett (USA)**

Last year Julianne Moore won an Oscar for playing a woman suffering from Alzheimer's. She's now playing a victim of a very different stripe. She is New Jersey detective Laurel Hester and the proud same-sex partner of Stacie Andree (Ellen Page). Peter Sollett's *Freeheld* is a more credible drama than *Still Alice* (for which Moore won her Oscar), and a good deal more moving. It helps, of course, that Laurel Hester is a true character and that Ellen Page is so damned good as the younger lesbian.

Michael Shannon contributes male ballast as Laurel's professional partner, while Steve Carell adds light relief as a gay legal activist. It's an emotive, eloquent and even funny drama and a testament to the skills of its superior cast.

Released Fri 19 February

Triple 9 CERT 15 (116 mins)

Starring **Casey Affleck, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Anthony Mackie, Aaron Paul, Woody Harrelson, Kate Winslet**

Directed by **John Hillcoat (USA)**

If done properly, heist films are pretty irresistible. This one is directed by John Hillcoat, the uncompromising filmmaker with such credits as *The Proposition*, *The Road* and *Lawless* under his belt. Here, a gang of criminals in cahoots with a cabal of corrupt cops get together to pull off a seemingly impossible robbery. But first they must eliminate a certain police officer...

Released Fri 19 February

How To Be Single

CERT 15 (110 mins)

Starring **Dakota Johnson, Rebel Wilson, Alison Brie, Leslie Mann, Jason Mantzoukas, Damon Wayans Jr**

Directed by **Christian Ditter (USA)**

The title says it all: in a world of ever-complicated definitions of a meaningful relationship, four single New York women strive to live life to the full - on their own terms. Based on the novel of the same name by Liz Tuccillo.

Released Fri 19 February



Grimsby CERT tbc

Starring **Sacha Baron Cohen, Mark Strong, Rebel Wilson, Penélope Cruz, Isla Fisher, Gabourey Sidibe**

Directed by **Louis Leterrier (UK)**

Sebastian Grimsby (Strong) is successful, efficient and deadly - and one of MI6's most prized assassins. However, when the fate of the world is in the balance, he is forced to team up with his estranged brother Nobby, a football hooligan and an idiot.

Released Wed 24 February

Gods Of Egypt CERT tbc

Starring **Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Brenton Thwaites, Chadwick Boseman, Rufus Sewell, Gerard Butler, Geoffrey Rush**

Directed by **David Gordon Green (USA)**

When Set, the god of darkness, plunges Egypt into chaos, a young thief determines to dethrone him for taking the love of his life captive. Not to be mistaken for a sequel to Ridley Scott's *Exodus: Gods And Kings*.

Released Fri 26 February



Secret In Their Eyes

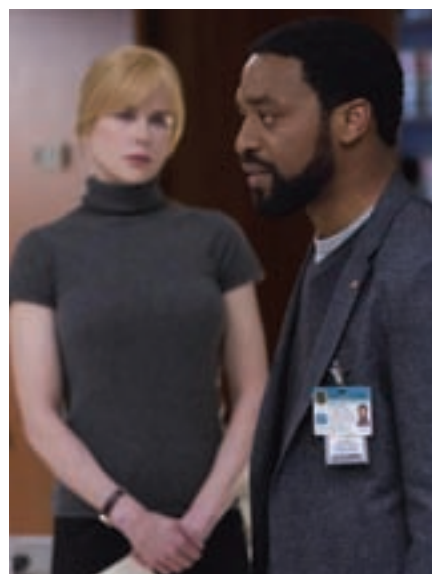
CERT tbc

Starring **Chiwetel Ejiofor, Nicole Kidman, Julia Roberts, Dean Norris, Michael Kelly, Alfred Molina**

Directed by **Patricia Riggen (Chile/Colombia)**

A team of investigative agents is thrown into disarray when a murder victim turns out to be the daughter of DA employee Jess Cobb (Julia Roberts). A remake of the Oscar-winning Argentine film of the same name, this crime thriller should surely, finally cement Chiwetel Ejiofor's standing in Hollywood.

Released Fri 29 January



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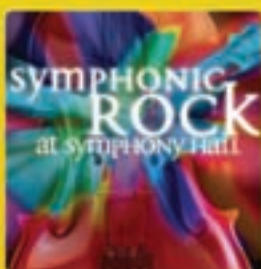
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Entertainment



Symphonic Rock

Saturday 27 February
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Beverley Knight

Thursday 2 June
7pm
Symphony Hall



Disney Frozen in Concert

Saturday 16 April
2pm & 6pm
Symphony Hall



Katherine Jenkins

Wednesday 15 June
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Anastacia

Tuesday 3 May
7pm
Symphony Hall



An Evening with Kenny G

Tuesday 28 June
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Bonnie Raitt

Monday 30 May
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Brian Cox

Thursday 20 October
7.30pm
Symphony Hall

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Image courtesy of Jon Williams

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Janet Mendelsohn Varna Road

27 January - 3 April 2016

Ikon Gallery
Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
www.ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708
Tuesday - Sunday, 11am - 5pm, free entry

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 528892.
Supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Exhibition organised in collaboration with University of Birmingham and Queen's University Belfast. Supported by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, Extension Media, The Photography Show, Flatpack Projects, Library of Birmingham and Ort Gallery.

IKON



Ikon - a flagship venue...

Ikon's Director Jonathan Watkins talks about an exciting new season of thought-provoking work

Arriving as a student at Birmingham University's Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies in the late 1960s, Harvard graduate Janet Mendelsohn embarked on a project to document life in the impoverished inner-city district of Balsall Heath. Then notorious for its slum housing, prostitution and growing immigrant population, the area became a source of moral panic, inspiring the young Mendelsohn to produce a striking photo-essay exploring the medium as "a tool for social analysis".

Decades later, thanks to historian Kieran Connell and a new exhibition at Ikon, Mendelsohn's work is finally getting the local recognition it deserves. Publicly displaying many pieces for the first time in the UK, Varna Road opens a fascinating window onto the troubled history of Birmingham and the titular street, once described as "the wickedest road in Britain".

"Balsall Heath is a very historic and textural part of the city, and what you see in the photographs is almost unrecognisable now," says Jonathan Watkins, Director of Ikon Gallery. "They were taken just before the wrecking machines started to move in for the slum clearance."

The exhibition follows a glimpse into her work that was displayed at Balsall Heath's Ort Café as part of last year's Flatpack Festival. Ghost Streets Of Balsall Heath sought to engage residents of the area, offering a range of activities, talks and screenings to help contextualise the images.

"That selection was made very much with the local community in mind," Watkins says. "But the selection is going to be much greater here. As well as more of the Balsall Heath photographs, we have a set focusing on the daily life of a prostitute called Kathleen. You see her at home, you see her on the streets with friends, you see her working, and you see her with her husband and children."

Sensitive yet unsentimental, Mendelsohn's work gives an unflinchingly honest depiction of her subject's world. As well as pictures of her soliciting passers-by from her

bedroom window and standing alone in the streets, there are some beautifully tender images of Kathleen with her infant children, and an insightful collection of interviews with both her and members of her family.

One of the first academic bodies to give serious attention to popular culture, the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies that Mendelsohn attended was a vital part of the development of a new discipline that would go on to gain international recognition. Nevertheless, the centre was eventually closed in 2002.

Varna Road is just one part of Ikon's 2016-17 programme with a local connection. Over the summer, the gallery will display the striking monochrome landscapes of Jesse Bruton, one of its founding artists. Towards the end of the year, it will host a comprehensive survey of the work of Birmingham-born Roger Hiorns, known for his innovative use of objects and materials. Hiorns will also be engaging in off-site activities, including the burial of a 737 aeroplane on a nearby brownfields site, and an intervention into church services at Birmingham Cathedral which will see the choir arranged in random patterns, lying on their backs for evensong.

"Ikon is a flagship venue for visual arts in this city and this region," says Watkins, "and it would be negligent of us not to acknowledge that context and not to be championing what happens here, with respect to both contemporary art practice and to our heritage. At the same time, there's a wider context of an increasingly globalised art world. You don't just think of yourself in your local area - you're part of a wider world, and to a large extent the demographic of Birmingham reflects that. Birmingham is a manifestation of a huge global movement of people, so it's locally relevant to have an internationalist programme."

This "internationalist programme" will include a major exhibition of Dan Flavin's fluorescent light works in spring, as well as The Colony, a new video installation by Vietnamese-American artist Dinh Q Lê that opens alongside Varna Road. Commissioned in collaboration with Artangel, The Colony takes as its subject Peru's Guano Islands,



which became a seat of international tension during the 19th century as foreign powers fought over their natural resources. The word guano refers to bird excrement that has built up over centuries, valued for its powerful fertilising properties.

"It was like a kind of gold that travelled all around the world, and resource wars actually broke out over it," Watkins explains. "It's only mined occasionally now, but in the 19th century, everybody pounced on it because it would give you maybe three, four, even five times the agricultural yield of what had been used previously."

The project marks something of a departure for Lê, who is best known for his work around the Vietnam War, often juxtaposing pictures of Vietnam with images from western culture.

"What the artist wants to do is to relate what happened then to what's gone on more recently in his part of the world. We're still in the process of working some things out, but there will be footage from the South China Sea and a kind of montage of news reports on what's happening in that part of the world. It's a great privilege to introduce an artist like Dinh Q Lê to an audience which is more or less completely unfamiliar with him."

Janet Mendelsohn's Varna Road and Dinh Q Lê's The Colony show at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, until Sunday 3 April

Maureen Cooper: What Remains

Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham, Wed 3 February - Thurs 28 April

Incorporating photographs, prints and mixed-media sculptures, this fascinating exhibition sees Leicester-based artist Maureen Cooper reflect on the grieving process.

She does so in the resonant setting of Birmingham's recently restored Coffin Works. Following a visit to the former coffin fittings factory in 2011, before restoration work began, Cooper was inspired to create work exploring themes of loss and memory. These took on a personal dimension after the death of her mother in 2014.

The exhibition's title refers both to the physical remains of the building and those its coffins were produced for, and to the memories left in people's minds of their loved ones and of the factory. Metal offcuts and other artefacts from the production process are combined with wax, a material whose shape-shifting properties emphasise the idea of mutability and change.

Laura Lancaster

The New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 8 May

Drawing inspiration from forgotten and discarded photographs and home movies, Laura Lancaster's expressive paintings prompt reflections on memory, loss and the passage of time. Divorced from their original contexts, the once personal treasures she collects from flea markets, charity shops and eBay are revitalised through her work, taking on new meanings in the space between figuration and abstraction.

This free exhibition brings together a variety of Lancaster's works, including a new series of diptychs drawn from the first and last frames of found super 8mm films, prompting reflections on a lost medium as well as on its subjects.

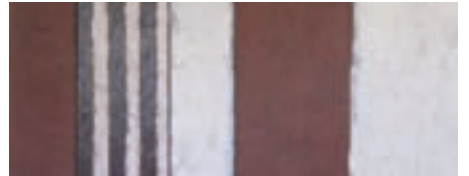
Chance, Order, Change: Abstract Paintings 1939 - 1989

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, Tues 11 February - Sunday 8 May

Spanning 50 key years in the evolution of modern art, the dozen works in this exhibition come from an important private collection, and are being publicly displayed together for the first time at the Barber Institute.

In a setting more commonly associated with representational and impressionist paintings, this is a rare chance to encounter abstract art at its purest, showcasing important work by some of the most influential artists of the late 20th century. These include Josef Albers, Bridget Riley, Victor Pasmore, Ad Reinhardt and Sean Scully.

Sean Scully, Red Painting, 1989 © Sean Scully



New Art West Midlands

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Fri 12 February - Sun 15 May; mac, Birmingham, Sat 13 February - Sun 10 April; The Herbert Gallery & Museum, Coventry, Fri 26 February - Sun 24 April & Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 12 March - Sat 15 May

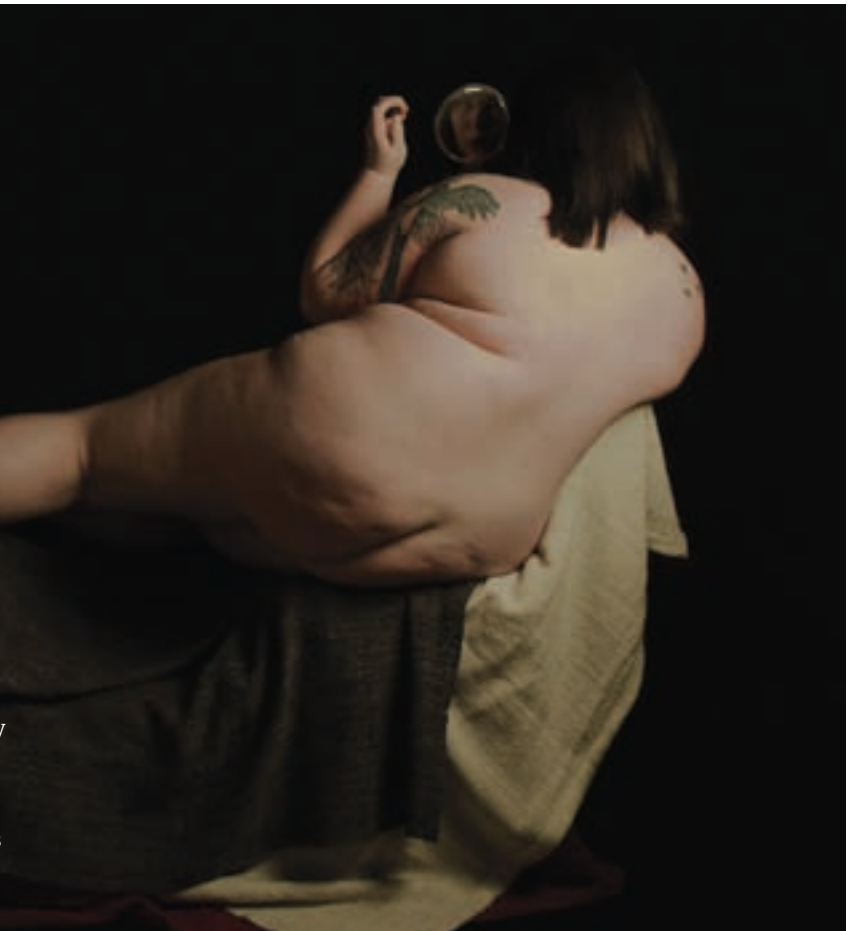
After attracting around 80,000 visitors last year, New Art West Midlands returns in 2016 to showcase more work by recent graduates from five West Midlands art schools.

For the first time this year, mac Birmingham joins Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Wolverhampton Art Gallery and the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum to exhibit and celebrate the region's achievements in contemporary art.

Selected by a panel of leading art world figures - including artists Sonia Boyce and John Stezaker and Head of Programme at ICA London Katharine Stout - the work on display offers insights into current trends and concerns in visual art, as well as providing a platform for the region's most promising new artists.

Forty-three emerging talents exhibit their work, with a cash prize of £1000 available to five winners.

Exhibition highlights include Laura Haycock's reclining self-portraits - inspired by Velasquez's 17th-century oil paintings - Jack Marder's video installation on gluttony in the modern age, and Matt Parker's *The Imitation Archive*. Developed in residency at the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park, this audio-visual installation traces the history of digital technology from Colossus to the Cloud.



Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry,
Fri 5 February - Sunday 10 April

As part of an international tour spanning six continents, this globally renowned exhibition arrives in Coventry 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 take visitors on a journey across seas, skies and sand dunes, the shots of breathtaking landscapes, fascinating animal behaviour and other awe-inspiring scenes from nature celebrating the huge diversity of life on planet earth.

The Herbert invites visitors to get involved and explore Coventry's own wild side by tagging their nature photographs #WildCov on Twitter and Instagram.



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**CULTURE
COVENTRY**

Events

Destination Space Family Show

Thinktank, Birmingham,
Mon 15 - Fri 19 February

With British astronaut Tim Peake currently doing the nation proud on the International Space Station, this is a timely and topical show for youngsters to enjoy. A range of demonstrations and science experiments present children not only with the opportunity to learn about how rockets are built and launched, but also to find out what life is like for Tim and his fellow space travellers on the ISS.

Not surprisingly, Thinktank is billing the show as a real out-of-this world experience.



History unveiled at Tamworth Castle

Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire,
Sun 13 - Fri 19 February



Education and entertainment is the package being offered to families visiting Tamworth Castle this half-term holiday.

The educational element is provided by enjoying a walk around the castle, which features displays that take visitors on a journey from Saxon to Victorian times. Items from the world famous Staffordshire Hoard are also available to view.

As for the entertainment, there are lots of dragon-related activities to keep youngsters happily engaged - and hopefully to coax resident dragon Ruby out of her hiding place...

Dinosaur Zoo

Town Hall, Birmingham,
Sat 13 - Sun 14 February

Small children and enormous dinosaurs are brought together in this hit show, here making a welcome return to the Midlands following its T-Rex-size success in previous years. And speaking of the T-Rex, this presentation is all about them.

Youngsters can either marvel at them from a distance (well, at lifelike models of them anyway!) or get right up close to the ravenous reptiles by sitting in the 'Danger Zone' seats.

If your child takes a while to build up enough courage to approach, not to worry - there's a meet-and-greet session at the end of the 50-minute show.



Chinese New Year

The Arcadian, Birmingham,
Sun 7 February



Birmingham's Southside district once again plays host to the region's biggest Chinese New Year celebrations (2016 is the year of the Red Monkey).

Attractions include dragon dances, acrobatic displays, martial art demonstrations, street food, traditional market stalls and a fair-ground.

"Each year, the Chinese New Year festivities bring thousands of new and returning visitors to Southside's Chinatown," says Julia Chance, Southside's BID manager. "Despite its continued and growing success, this year the festival lost its funding from Birmingham City Council as part of the ongoing budget cuts happening across the city. Despite this hit, spirits haven't been dampened and the entire Southside community has come together to raise the much-needed funds to plug this gap."



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Events



Half-Term Holiday At Blists Hill Victorian Town

Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Sat 13 - Sun 21 February

The chance to print a hand-made Valentine's card, have a go at candle dipping and make a miniature roof tile are among the half-term attractions at Blists Hill Victorian Town this month. There's also the opportunity to find out more about the history of sweets, build a

wall with mini-bricks and colour in pictures of Victorian scenes. The venue's drop-in sessions take place from 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 3.30pm, with activities varying from day to day. Candles and roof tiles carry a small extra charge in addition to the museum entrance fee.

The Alternative & Burlesque Fair

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Sat 13 February

The Edwardian splendour of the O2 Institute concert venue provides the backdrop for Birmingham's latest Alternative & Burlesque Fair. Up to 60 exhibitors will be presenting their wares at the hugely popular event. The show also features burlesque, twisted cabaret, aerial acts, DJs, vintage dining, neo-Victorian clothing, accessories, jewellery and artwork.

February Half Term At Wedgwood

World of Wedgwood, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Sat 13 - Sun 21 February

The Wedgwood Museum's First World War Peace Medallion provides the inspiration for this popular venue's special half-term activity. Visitors are invited to make their very own Wedgwood Plaque, using the traditional method of applied ornamentation. Participants will be shown how to roll out the clay, cut it to shape and apply decoration, after which they can either take it straight home or leave it behind to have it fired.

Princess And Pirate Week

Alton Towers Theme Park, Staffordshire, Fri 12 - Sun 21 February

There's plenty of swashbuckling action to enjoy at Alton Towers this half-term holiday. The popular Staffordshire visitor attraction is hosting an interactive live show featuring Cook and Line from CBeebies' Swashbuckle. It's also offering families the chance to visit Sharkbait Reef, a pirate-themed aquarium. Evening entertainment comes in the form of live shows, pirate and princess parties and character meet-and-greets.



Classic Dirt Bike Show

Telford International Centre, Shropshire, Sat 20 - Sun 21 February

Appearances by off-road sports legends Nick Jefferies, Jim Aird, Wayne le Marquand and Barry Briggs are among the highlights at this attraction-packed show. The event also features traders and jumble sellers offering parts, pieces, spares, riding gear, clothing and accessories. Club stands and private entrants will be displaying a variety of classic bikes from numerous disciplines, including road racing. New show sponsor Hagon Shocks plans to bring together rare Hagon bikes from across the decades, so anybody who owns one is encouraged to get in touch.



Ancient Oceans

Sealife Centre, Birmingham, Sat 6 - Sun 21 February

The Midlands has gone dinosaur crazy this half-term holiday. Not only is there hit West End show Dinosaur Zoo to enjoy, there's also this National Sea Life Centre offering, providing youngsters with the chance to become dinosaur detectives. Children are invited to complete a selection of challenges to earn a special certificate. In the process they'll learn all about the fearsome creatures that lurked in the ancient oceans. The challenges are accompanied by a host of activities and talks to enjoy, with visitors also able to explore the centre's many fascinating displays.



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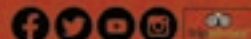


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Events

MCM Midlands Comic Con

Telford Internaitonal Centre, Shropshire, Sat 13 February

The seventh Doctor Who, Sylvester McCoy, is one of numerous celebrities making guest appearances at this well-established show, which last year attracted in excess of 9,000 visitors. The event features eSports competitions, a Comic Village packed with artists and writers, and a wide range of popular-culture memorabilia, including games, anime, gadgets and toys.



Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show

NEC, Birmingham, Tues 23 - Sun 28 February

Attracting huge crowds and promising to be 'bigger and better than ever', the Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show features over 350 exhibitors. As well as exploring all the latest products, the show also presents a packed programme of events, complete with buying tips, cookery demonstrations, holiday advice and - back by popular demand, we're told - live dog displays and expert advice on taking pets on holiday. New for 2016 is the Glamping Village, presented at the show in conjunction with Visit Pembrokeshire. There's also the chance to marvel at the Guinness World Record-breaking Lego brick caravan.



Stunt Fest

Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton, Sat 20 February

This high-octane half-term event offers an action-packed day of daredevil activity and monster truck magic. Attractions include a presentation by world record-breaking stunt

driver Terry Grant, drivers competing to jump over a bed of cars (one's going to attempt the feat with a caravan attached to the back of his vehicle!), and the guaranteed mayhem of the ever-popular car football. A funfair and range of children's entertainment ensures there's plenty to keep youngsters amused and engaged if they fancy a break from watching the death-defying stunt action.

Half Term at Coventry Transport Museum

Coventry Transport Museum, Sat 13 - Sun 21 February

A journey through Coventry Transport Museum begins with a look at the transport industry's history. The story starts in the 19th century and ends with a Coventry-made black taxi (which you can hop inside to enjoy a video tour of the city as it is today). Passing by work & leisure vehicles - including unique items like a Sky Blues tour bus and a restored 1916 Maudslay lorry - you'll discover the Innovation & Future area. Highlights include glimpses of modern car construction, a state-of-the-art driverless model and projects by local university students. There's also a glittering Jaguar room, the bright lights and sparkling floors of which complement the gleaming surfaces of the new F-Type and C-X75. Finally, there's the Supersonic section, where you can choose from three simulations to enjoy. Half-term attractions at the museum include Bristle Bugs - a chance for youngsters to create motorised creatures - and an A to Z trail of Coventry Transport's impressive collection.

Heritage Weekend

Cadbury World, Birmingham, Sat 27 - Sun 28 February

Cadbury World's 14 chocolate-themed zones - including an 1824 full-scale replica of Bull Street, location of the first ever Cadbury shop - offer plenty of reason to get yourself along to this latest Heritage Weekend. There's also the chance to make a purchase or two in the World's Biggest Cadbury Shop, as well as the opportunity to visit various other places of interest in the scenic Bournville Village.



Down Under Live

National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, Sat 13 - Sun 14 February

If the thought of starting a new life in Australia or New Zealand floats your boat, be sure to make the somewhat shorter journey to this hugely informative show. The two-day event features numerous specialist exhibitors, experts on every aspect of the emigration process, and a dedicated recruitment team who'll help visitors find their ideal job down under.



See **thelist** for all your events listings

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Birmingham Museums

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Tickets to The Classic Dirt Bike Show



Closes Monday 8 February

Tickets to Hannah Wants



Closes Friday 11 March

Tickets to Miss Nightingale



Closes Monday 1 February

Tickets to The Diesel & Electric Show



Closes Monday 8 February

Tickets to Avenue Q



Closes Tuesday 9 February

Tickets to Horrible Histories Groovy Greeks



Closes Friday 11 March

Tickets Thriller Live



Closes Friday 26 February

Tickets to Gangsta Granny



Closes Monday 8 February

Tickets to Bring on the Bollywood



Closes Friday 15 April

Tickets to Goodnight Mister Tom



Closes Monday 7 March

Tickets to Into the Hoods (Remixed)



Closes Thursday 18 February

Tickets to Impossible



Closes Friday 5 February

Tickets to End Of The Rainbow



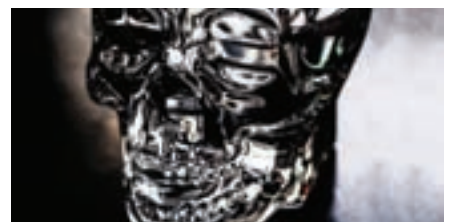
Closes Tuesday 16 February

Tickets to Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty



Closes Monday 1 February

Tickets to Hamlet



Closes Thursday 24 March

To enter all competitions go to whatsonlive.co.uk
also follow us on Twitter for more great competitions

Award FINALISTS in each category announced! **VOTE** for your **WINNER!**

What's On Readers' Awards

Yes, you VOTED in your thousands in the first round of nominations in the **What's On Readers' Awards** - over 8,500 votes to be precise! Now it's time for you to VOTE once more to choose your ultimate WINNER in each category! Here are the award shortlist finalists:

THEATRE: Best Touring Play

- Beautiful Thing
- Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
- East is East
- Lord of the Flies
- One Man Two Guvnors
- The History Boys
- Twelve Angry Men

THEATRE: Best Touring Musical

- Annie
- Blood Brothers
- The Bodyguard
- Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
- Guys and Dolls
- Hairspray
- Shrek

THEATRE: Best Home-Produced Show In The Midlands

- Anita & Me - The REP
- Beautiful Thing - The Curve
- The Borrowers - New Vic Theatre
- Crush - The Belgrade
- The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe - The REP
- Wendy & Peter Pan - RSC
- Treasure Island - Old Rep

THEATRE: Best Pantomime In The Midlands 2015/16

- Aladdin - Birmingham Hippodrome
- Beauty & The Beast - Belgrade Theatre
- Cinderella - Barclaycard Arena
- Dick Whittington - Theatre Severn
- Jack & the Beanstalk - Lichfield Garrick
- Peter Pan - Grand Theatre W'hampton
- Peter Pan - Regent Theatre, Hanley

THEATRE: Best Amateur Dramatic/Operatic Group (West Midlands)

- Bilston Operatic Company
- Bournville Musical Theatre Company
- Grange Players - Walsall
- Solihull Theatre Company
- Telford and District Light Operatic Players (TADLOP)
- West Bromwich Operatic Society (WBOS)
- Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company (MUSCOM)

DANCE: Best Production

- Birmingham Royal Ballet - The Nutcracker
- Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands

- Motionhouse - Tigress
- Rambert Dance Company - Red Rooster
- Rosie Kay Dance - 5 Soldiers: The Body Is The Frontline
- Scottish Dance Theatre - YAMA
- Vincent Dance Theatre: 21 Years / 21 Works

CLASSICAL (inc Opera): Best Production

- BCMG: The Miracle Of the Rose
- Birmingham Opera - The Ice Break
- CBSO at Symphony Hall
- Ex Cathedra - Christmas Music By Candlelight
- WNO - Sweeney Todd

Best Midlands Arts/Cultural Festivals

- Birmingham Weekender
- Birmingham Comedy Festival
- Birmingham Literature Festival
- Fierce Festival
- Flatpack Festival
- Godiva Festival
- Super Sonic Festival

Top Finalists Award - continued...

VOTE today at whatsonlive.co.uk

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

- Alexandra Theatre - Birmingham
- Belgrade Theatre - Coventry
- Birmingham Hippodrome
- Birmingham Rep
- Grand Theatre - Wolverhampton
- The Regent - Hanley
- RSC - Stratford-upon-Avon

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

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

- Arena Theatre - Wolverhampton
- Artrix - Bromsgrove
- Lichfield Garrick
- mac - Birmingham
- Malvern Theatre
- Theatre Severn - Shrewsbury
- Warwick Arts Centre - Coventry

Best Independent Cinema

- Electric Cinema - Birmingham
- Light House Media Centre - Wolverhampton
- mac - Birmingham
- Old Market Hall - Shrewsbury
- Warwick Arts Centre - Coventry
- Stoke Film Theatre
- Regal - Evesham

Best Midlands Comedian

- Scott Bennett
- Tom Binns
- James Cook

- Chris Purchase
- Masai Graham
- Barbara Nice
- Andy White

Best Midlands Music Venue (Large: 1000+ capacity)

- Barclaycard Arena - Birmingham
- Birmingham Town Hall
- Civic Hall - Wolverhampton
- Genting Arena - Birmingham
- O2 Academy - Birmingham
- O2 Institute - Birmingham
- Symphony Hall - Birmingham

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

- The Copper Rooms - Coventry
- Lichfield Garrick
- The Robin - Bilston
- The Slade Rooms - Wolverhampton
- mac - Birmingham
- Warwick Arts Centre - Coventry

Best Midlands Music Festival

- Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival
- Download Festival
- Fusion Festival
- Moseley Folk Festival
- Shrewsbury Folk Festival
- Slam Dunk Festival
- V Festival

Best Midlands Live Band

- Bonfire Radicals

- Goodnight Lenin
- Rainbreakers
- The Rooz
- The Twang

Best Midlands Exhibition

- The Story of Childrens Television - Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
- Enchanted Dreams - BMAG
- Love is Enough: William Morris and Andy Warhol - BMAG
- New Art West Midlands Exhibition - mac, Herbert, BMAG & Wolves Art Gallery
- Pop Art - Wolverhampton Art Gallery
- Secret Egypt - Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery
- Staffordshire Hoard - BMAG

Best Birmingham Art Gallery/Exhibition Venue

- Barber Institute
- Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
- Centrala in Digbeth
- Grand Union in Digbeth
- IKON Gallery
- mac - Birmingham
- Parkside Gallery, Birmingham City University

Best Midlands Art Gallery/Exhibition Venue (outside Birmingham)

- Compton Verney Gallery
- Herbert Art Gallery - Coventry
- The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery -

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

Birmingham

- Blue Orange Theatre
- The Crescent Theatre
- The Drum
- Old Joint Stock Theatre
- Old Rep
- Mockingbird Theatre

Black Country

- Stourbridge Town Hall
- Arena Theatre, W'ton
- Newhampton Arts Centre, W'ton
- Forest Arts Centre, Walsall
- Netherton Arts Centre, Dudley

Shropshire

- Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth
- Wightman Theatre, Shrewsbury
- The Hive, Shrewsbury
- Theatre Drayton, Market Drayton
- Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

Staffordshire

- Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock
- Brewhouse Arts, Burton-upon-Trent
- Stafford Gatehouse
- Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek
- Mitchell Arts Centre, Hanley, Stoke

Warwickshire

- Albany Theatre, C'try
- Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
- Dream Factory, Warwick
- Criterion Theatre, Coventry
- Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

Worcestershire

- Swan Theatre, Worcester
- Palace Theatre, Redditch
- Artrix, Bromsgrove
- Evesham Arts Centre
- No 8 Community Arts, Pershore

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

Birmingham

- The Oobleck, The Custard Factory
- Hare & Hounds
- Ort Cafe
- The Sunflower Lounge
- The Flapper
- The Glee Club

Black Country

- Katie Fitzgeralds,
- The Slade Rooms
- The River Rooms,
- Newhampton Arts Centre
- Dudley Concert Hall
- Stourbridge Town Hall

Shropshire

- Henry Tudor House
- Birchmeadow, Broseley
- The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock
- Walker Theatre
- Havana Republic,
- The Brewery, Ludlow

Staffordshire

- The Sugarmill, Stoke
- Tamworth Assembly Rooms
- The Madhouse, Burton-upon-Trent
- Brewhouse Arts, Burton-upon-Trent
- Stafford Gatehouse
- Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

Warwickshire

- Copper Rooms, Coventry
- Kasbah, Coventry
- The Tin Angel, Coventry
- The Arches, Coventry
- Leamington Lamp, Leamington Spa

Worcestershire

- Marr Barr, Worcester
- Artrix, Bromsgrove
- Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
- Swan Theatre, Worcester
- Palace Theatre, Redditch
- No 8 Community Arts, Pershore

VOTE today at whatsonlive.co.uk

FINALISTS in each category

- Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery
- New Art Gallery - Walsall
- Wolverhampton Art Gallery
- Worcester Art Gallery & Museum

Best Midlands' Visitor Attraction

- Alton Towers
- Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
- Black Country Living Museum
- Cadbury World
- Coventry Transport Museum
- Drayton Manor Park
- Ironbridge Gorge Museums
- Severn Valley Railway

Best Midlands Outdoor Event

- Blists Hill Victorian Christmas
- RAF Cosford Air Show
- Shrewsbury Flower Show
- The Big Hoot - Birmingham
- Frankfurt Christmas Market - B'ham

Best Midlands Indoor Event

- Antiques For Everyone - NEC
- BBC Good Food Show
- Comic Con - Birmingham
- Crufts - Birmingham
- Grand Designs - Birmingham
- International Craft & Hobby Fair
- Style Birmingham

Best Family-friendly/Community Festival

- Birmingham Weekender
- Fun Palaces Festival
- Imagineer Festival

- Ludlow Food Festival
- Moseley Folk Festival
- Shrewsbury Folk Festival

Best Midlands' Food Festival

- Birmingham Ind Food Festival
- Foodies Festival - Birmingham
- Great British Food Festival
- Leamington Spa Food & Drink Festival
- Ludlow Food Festival
- Shrewsbury Food Festival
- Warwick Food Festival

Best Midlands Street Food Event

- Brum Yum Yum - Kings Heath/ JQ
- Digbeth Dining Club - Birmingham
- Kings Heath Street Closure
- Flying Teapot Events at Sarehole Mill
- mac Food Market - Birmingham
- Taste & Liquor - Birmingham

Best Midlands Street Food Vendor

- Andy's Low n Slow
- Baked In Brick
- Bournville Waffle Company
- Brum Yum Yum
- Buddha Belly
- Street Chef Peter
- The Vegan Grindhouse

Best Midlands Retail Shopping Centre

- Bullring - Birmingham
- Grand Central - Birmingham
- Mailbox - Birmingham
- Merry Hill - Westfields - Brierley Hill

- Telford Shopping Centre

Best Sporting Event

- Aegon Classic Tennis
- British Basketball League Championships
- British Show Jumping National Championship
- Horse of The Year Show
- Rugby World Cup
- Sainsbury's Indoor Grand Prix
- Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships

Best Midlands Nightclub

- The Buttermarket - Shrewsbury
- Couture - Stafford
- Faces - Wolverhampton
- The Nightingale - Birmingham
- Rainbow Venues in Digbeth

Midlands Entertainment Personality of the Year Award

- Barbara Nice (Janice Connolly)
- Beverley Knight
- Citizen Khan (Adil Ray)
- Alison Hammond
- Joe Lycett



Best Regional Visitor Attraction

Birmingham

- Birmingham Botanical Gardens
- Aston Hall
- Cadbury World
- Thinktank
- Birmingham Library
- Winterbourne House
- Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Black Country

- Dudley Zoo
- Black Country Living Museum
- Wightwick Manor & Gardens
- RAF Cosford
- Bantock House
- Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust

Shropshire

- Ironbridge Gorge Museums
- Attingham Park
- Stokesay Castle
- Hawkstone Park & Follies
- Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

Staffordshire

- Trentham Estate
- National Memorial Arboretum
- The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery
- Go Ape, Cannock Chase Forest
- Alton Towers
- Drayton Manor

Warwickshire

- Herbert Art Gallery
- Warwick Castle
- Kenilworth Castle
- Compton Verney
- Umberslade Farm
- Coventry Transport Museum
- British Motor Museum

Worcestershire

- Croome Park
- Avoncroft Museum
- The Elgar Birthplace Museum
- Croft Castle
- Severn Valley Railway
- Forge Mill Needle Museum

Best Independent Regional Restaurant

Birmingham

- Sabai Sabai
- Purnells
- Adams
- Marco Pierre White at The Cube
- Pushkar
- Turners

Black Country

- Indigo Restaurant
- The Summerhouse, Dudley
- Ann's Thai
- Cafe Maxsim
- Penn Cottage
- Miller & Carter

Shropshire

- Csons
- The King and Thai
- The Peach Tree
- The Townhouse, Oswestry
- Hundred House, Shifnal

Staffordshire

- The Orange Tree
- The Swan with Two Necks
- David's Brasserie
- Eastern Eye
- Baby Russets

Warwickshire

- Greyhound Inn
- The Scullery
- The Opposition Bistro
- Anthony's, Nuneaton
- Taylors, Warwick

Worcestershire

- The Royal Oak, Evesham
- Pundits Fusion
- Casa Med, Bromsgrove
- The Black Star, Southport-on-Severn
- Maekong Thai, Bromsgrove

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the list

Your week to week
listings guide
February 2016



Jess Glynne at O2 Academy, Birmingham - Friday 26 February

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

What's On

Mon 1 to Sun 7 Feb



Chinese New Year Festival
at The Arcadian
Sun 7 February

Mon 8 to Sun 14 Feb



Private Lives at
New Alexandra Theatre
Mon 8 to Sat 13 February

Mon 15 to Sun 21 Feb



Ashton Double Bill at
Birmingham Hippodrome
Wed 17 to Sat 20 February

Mon 22 to Mon 29 Feb



Leona Lewis at
Symphony Hall
Sun 28 February

THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY

Visual Arts

ASSEMBLED DREAMS: A HISTORY OF BUILDING TOYS until Sat 5 Mar, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

DAVID TEDHAM ARBSA Series of abstract paintings by artist David Tedham, until Sat 12 Mar, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

FITTING IN AND GETTING ALONG

Through personal stories, film and a selection of objects, this exhibition explores the life stories of members of the Birmingham Polish community, until Wed 23 Mar, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

JINDŘICH ŠTREIT: SOVINEC

Photography exhibition documenting rural Czech life, until Wed 30 Mar, Centrala Gallery & Cafe, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM PEOPLE AND CHANGE IN THE INNER-CITY

Birmingham People explores the ways in which ordinary Brummie folk have been represented in art during the 20th and 21st centuries... Change In The Inner City focuses on the inner-city wards of Ladywood, including Nechells, Soho and Aston, until Thurs 31 Mar, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

JANET MENDELSON - VARNA ROAD

This exhibition, in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, features original prints from Mendelson's archive of over 3,000 photographs taken predominately in the Balsall Heath area of Birmingham, until Sun 3 Apr, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

DINH Q LÊ Video installation, organised in collaboration with Artangel, until Sun 3 Apr, Ikon Gallery, B'ham

KELLY MARK: 108 LYTON AVE Opposite but asymmetrical roles performed by the artist for a split-screen projection, until Sun 3 Apr, Ikon Gallery, B'ham

RICHARD WOODS: DUCK WEAVE A development of a 1000-year-old building technology recently rediscovered by the internationally renowned artist. Woods is widely known for his large-scale transforma-

tive graphic artworks on architecture and his inventive and playful sculpture, painting and woodblock printed furniture, until Sat 9 Apr, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

A WORLD TO WIN: POSTERS OF PROTEST AND REVOLUTION From the V&A's collection, showcasing the work of diverse artists, graphic designers and print collectives, until Sun 10 April, W'hampton Art Gallery

INHERITING ROME Exhibition which uses money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery, until Sun 24 Apr, The Barber Institute, B'ham

ECO-CRAFT EXHIBITION An exhibition showcasing designer makers with an ethical approach to craft-making, until Sat 7 May, RBSA Gallery, B'ham

PRESTIGE & POWER Artists, writers, politicians and royalty are the subjects in this display of works by Rubens, Van Dyck and Charles Le Brun - as well as miniaturists Nicholas Hilliard, Isaac Oliver and Richard Gibson, until Sun 15 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

WENDY RAMSHAW'S ROOM OF DREAMS An installation made up of many parts, from small jewels in frames to large, freestanding furniture, until Sun 22 May, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MADE AT MAC AT HEART OF ENGLAND TRUST HOSPITALS Touring exhibition by various mac students, until Fri 29 July, Heartlands Hospital, Good Hope and Solihull Hospitals

A BIG BANG: THE ORIGINS OF THE POP ART COLLECTION, PART 2 Andy Warhol's legendary 1968 Campbells Soup Can and the iconic maquette of a statue of King Kong - originally commissioned in 1972 for display in Birmingham's Bull Ring - take pride of place in this exhibition of Pop Art, until Sat 13 Aug, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

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



Alexander Armstrong, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 5 February

Gigs

NEKROGOBLIKON Mon 1 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

NECK DEEP, STATE CHAMPS, CREEPER & LIGHT YEARS Mon 1 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

HOZIER Tues 2 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BLACK STONE CHERRY, SHINEDOWN AND HALESTORM Tues 2 Feb, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

ROD PICOTT Tues 2 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

THE WEDDING CRASHERS Tues 2 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham

LEE BUTCHER SANDERS Wed 3 Feb, mac, Birmingham

THE ELO EXPERIENCE Wed 3 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

POLLY BARRETT Wed 3 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

LOUISE WARREN Wed 3 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham

NGOD Wed 3 Feb, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SUNFLOWER BEAN Wed 3 Feb, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH IAN MCCULLOCH Wed 3 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

TESSERACTION Thurs 4 Feb, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE CADILLAC THREE Thurs 4 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

RICKY COOL & THE IN CROWD Thurs 4 Feb,

The Jam House, Birmingham

PEACE AND LOVE BARBERSHOP MUHAMMAD ALI Thurs 4 Feb, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JACK JONES Fri 5 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

CRAIG OGDEN Fri 5 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE WINERY DOGS Fri 5 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CAPTAIN HORIZON Fri 5 Feb, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE CROOKES Fri 5 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MALA Fri 5 Feb, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HIGHGRADE - WE BLAZE Fri 5 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TRANSMISSION Fri 5 Feb, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

U2-2 Fri 5 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

ARMANTUS + FREE SUN RISING + GUNNER'S LAW Fri 5 Feb, Route 44, Birmingham

ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG: A YEAR OF SONGS LIVE Fri 5 Feb, Symphony Hall, B'ham

GROUPER Fri 5 - Sat 6 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham

BOWLING FOR SOUP Sat 6 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SAY WE CAN FLY Sat 6 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FRENCH CHANSON AND GYPSY JAZZ WITH MONTPARNASSE Sat 6 Feb, mac, Birmingham

TOGETHER PANGEA Sat 6 Feb, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SONS OF ICARUS Sat 6 Feb, The Asylum, Birmingham

AUGUSTANA Sat 6 Feb, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE MOD CONNECTION Sat 6 Feb, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

HOSPITALITY Sat 6 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

EVOLVE PRESENTS NICOLAS LUTZ & FRANCESCO DEL GARDA Sat 6 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE STYLE COUNCILLORS Sat 6 Feb, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

SPECIAL KINDA MADNESS Sat 6 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

ROXY MAGIC Sat 6 Feb, Route 44, Birmingham

VILLAGERS Sun 7 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MILLIE JACKSON Sun 7 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham

STIPE Sun 7 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

SOULFLY Sun 7 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

SUNDAY CLASSICS Sun 7 Feb, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

MARTHA TILSTON Sun 7 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

LIVE & UNSIGNED FEATURING DEVIL'S DICE, RKBAND, SUNDAY44, BLUE SEASON, BUZZARD Sun 7 Feb, The Robin, Bilston



Richard Woods: Duck Weave, Eastside Projects, Birmingham until Sat 9 April

Classical Music

GLIÈRE, SAINT-SAËNS, BRAHMS, LISZT Featuring Catherine Thomas (French horn), Joanne Sealey & Gyorgy Hodozsó (pianos); Edward Francis-Smith (double bass) & Jonathan French (piano), Mon 1 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

JAMAL ALIYEV Featuring Jamal Aliyev (cello) and Joanne Sealey (piano). Programme includes works by Schubert, Wieniawski, Schumann and Chopin, Tues 2 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

IAN BOSTRIDGE AND JOSEPH MIDDLETON Programme comprises Schubert's song cycle Winterreise ('Winter's Journey'), a set of 24 songs based on the poetry of Wilhelm Müller, Wed 3 Feb, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

CBSO BAIBA SKRIDE: SZYMANOWSKI Featuring Olari Elts (Conductor) and Baiba Skride (Violin). Programme includes work by Mendelssohn, Szymanowski and Shostakovich, Thurs 4 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PINES OF ROME Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) & Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra, Thurs 4 Feb, B'ham Conservatoire

THE WONDERS OF WALT Performed by percussionist Phil James, his 16-piece band and 12 vocalists. Featuring music from Snow White, The Lion King, Beauty And The Beast, Up, Frozen and many more... Fri 5 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

CRAIG OGDEN Programme includes works by D Scarlatti, Tippett, Bach, David Knotts, Ginastera, Fri 5 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

RACHEL LEE PRIDAY AND MICHAEL DUSSEK Featuring Rachel Lee Priday (violin) and Michael Dussek (piano). Programme includes works by Schubert, Ravel & Sarasate, Fri 5 Feb, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND DANCE WITH BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET Birmingham Royal Ballet and its acclaimed orchestra, the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, return to Symphony Hall for an evening of spectacular music and

dance, Sat 6 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BCMG - PARALLEL COLOUR Featuring Richard Baker (conductor), Allison Bell (soprano), Julian Warburton (percussion) & Timothy Lines (clarinet), Sat 6 Feb, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND EMVE Featuring Andrew Kirkmam (Chamber Orchestra conductor), Sun 7 Feb, Elgar Concert Hall, Birmingham

CBSO FAMILY FILM FAVOURITES Featuring Alasdair Malloy (presenter) and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes soundtracks from Star Wars, Toy Story, Harry Potter, Mary Poppins, Shrek, Despicable Me, Frozen, The Lego Movie and more, Sun 7 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA, I WAS GLAD A concert of magnificent 20th century music for choir and organ, including masterpieces by Leighton, Walton, Janáček and Parry, whose glorious anthem was written for the coronation of King Edward VII, Sun 7 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy Gigs

DIANE SPENCER, AARON TWITCHEN Mon 1 Feb, Old Joint Stock Pub, B'ham

JO ENRIGHT, MAUREEN YOUNGER Tues 2 Feb, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

RICHARD HERRING Wed 3 Feb, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield

LEE NELSON Wed 3 Feb, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

NICK REVELL, DIANE SPENCER Wed 3 Feb, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

MOCK THE FLOCK - COMEDIANS TBC Wed 3 Feb, The Mockingbird Theatre, Birmingham

DAVE'S LEICESTER COMEDY FESTIVAL Promising to be the festival's most diverse and inventive yet, Wed 3 - Sun 21 Feb, Leicester City Centre

DAVID TSONOS, TOM TOAL Thurs 4 Feb, The Dark Horse, Moseley, B'ham

ADAM BLOOM, KEVIN MCGAHERN & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY

ROBINSON Thurs 4 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NICK PAGE, JON PEARSON, HANNAH SILVESTER, & MICHAEL CRAMP Thurs 4 Feb, The Victoria, Birmingham

THE MOSELEY COMEDY FESTIVAL - NEW ACT AWARD Fri 5 Feb, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

KANE BROWN, LES BLAIR, MAUREEN YOUNGER & AURIE STYLA Fri 5 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham

JO ENRIGHT, ADAM BLOOM, ANDY ROBINSON & KEVIN MCGAHERN Fri 5 - Sat 6 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JARLETH REGAN, DOUGIE DUNLOP, DOMINIC WOODWARD & SALLY-ANNE HAYWARD Fri 5 - Sat 6 Feb, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

GARY DELANEY Sun 7 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

THE SISTERHOOD Ranjit Bolt's brilliantly funny adaptation of Molière's classic satire, Les Femmes Savantes, until Sat 20 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Merely Theatre present an energetic ninety-minute production of Shakespeare's most popular comedy, Mon 1 Feb, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

OUR KYLIE'S GETTING' WED Stripped Down Theatre present a funny yet touching play about the trials and tribulations of every family wedding that you have ever been to, Mon 1 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

HENRY V Merely Theatre presents an 'exciting and humorous' version of Shakespeare's most patriotic History play, Tues 2 Feb, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

LAND OF OUR FATHERS Chris Urch's award-winning debut play, which echoes a generation of lost voices, Tues 2 - Wed 3 Feb, mac, Birmingham

AN INSPECTOR CALLS National Theatre production of JB Priestley's classic thriller, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE SOLID LIFE OF SUGAR WATER Jack

Thorne's critically acclaimed play, which offers a candid, intimate and tender portrait of loss, hurt and recovery, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE TAT MAN A powerful one-man play that tells the rag-and-tat tales gathered during the tat man's years on the road, Wed 3 Feb, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK: THE ROD STEWART STORY Brand new theatrical production celebrating the career of one of rock's great icons, Wed 3 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

POCKET DREAM Propeller present a 60-minute adaptation of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Charitable pantomime production presented by PwC as part of its Community Affairs programme, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

OF MICE AND MEN Roxana Silbert directs John Steinbeck's classic story, Thurs 4 - Sat 13 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

ROMEO AND JULIET Blue Orange Arts present Shakespeare's classic romantic tragedy, Thurs 4 - Sat 13 Feb, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

SHIRLEY VALENTINE Willy Russell's heart-warming play of self-discovery, Fri 5 - Sat 13 Feb, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

THE UNBEARABLE PLEASURE OF BEING A WOMAN Comedy cabaret where Joana Eden & Leigh McDonald laugh, cry and sing about the serious business of being female, Sat 6 Feb, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE BEST THING Vamos Theatre present a fully masked performance of a Swinging 60s story of unconditional love, Sat 6 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE The Crescent Theatre Company presents a staging of Robert Louis Stevenson's timeless classic, Sat 6 - Sat 13 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

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Dance

SALAAM Sonia Sabri Company present a double-bill of works which cleverly weaves a dialogue between live music and Kathak dance to celebrate harmony, inner-stillness and the simple bliss of being alive, Thurs 4 Feb, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham



AN EVENING OF MUSIC & DANCE WITH BRB Compered by David Bintley, Sat 6 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Spoken Word

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE: SNAKES AND EYES FOR VITREORETINAL SURGERY Dr Christos Bergeles talks about miniaturised robots running around in your eyes to deliver drugs and conduct surgery, Tues 2 Feb, Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH MELINDA SALISBURY Celebrating the launch of her new book, *The Sleeping Prince*, Fri 5 Feb, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

MAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA (U) The best-known work of experimental documentary pioneer Dziga Vertov, *Man With A Movie Camera* is one of the most influential films in cinema history. A poetic vision of urban life in 1920s Russia, Vertov's extraordinary montage presents a bustling city at work and at play. Tues 2 Feb, The Electric, Birmingham

LE MÉPRIS (15) Screenwriter Paul Javal's marriage to his wife disintegrates during a movie production as she spends time with the producer. Stars Brigitte Bardot & Michel Piccoli. Mon 1 - Tues 2 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry; Tues 2 - Wed 3 Feb, mac, Birmingham

CHEMSEX (18) Documentary about the practice of mixing sex and drug use, set in London's gay scene. Thurs 4 Feb, mac, Birmingham

BY THE SEA (15) Drama set in France in the 1970s about a married couple going through a difficult period who stay at a hotel in a small seaside

resort. Stars Brad Pitt & Angelina Jolie. Fri 5 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove; Fri 5 Feb, mac, Birmingham

BOLSHOI BABYLON (PG) In 2013 the Ballet was in the headlines for all the wrong reasons when its Artistic Director, Sergei Filin, was the victim of a shocking acid attack. In this documentary, filmmakers Nick Read and Mark Franchetti record as Filin recuperates and theatre manager Vladimir Urin takes over. Fri 5 - Thu 11 Feb, mac, Birmingham

THE HATEFUL EIGHT (18) Tarantino's long-awaited re-imagining of *The Magnificent Seven*, with less clean-cut protagonists. Set in post-Civil War Wyoming, the film features eight disparate bounty hunters who take refuge at a stagecoach stopover during a blizzard. Stars Samuel L Jackson & Kurt Russell. Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Feb, mac, Birmingham; Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SCREEN JUNIORS: SLEEPING BEAUTY (U) After being snubbed by the royal family, a malevolent fairy places a curse on a princess which only a prince can break, along with the help of three good fairies. Animated film first released 1959. Sat 6 Feb, mac, Birmingham

THE 39 STEPS (U) This heart-racing spy story by Alfred Hitchcock follows Richard Hannay as he stumbles upon a conspiracy that thrusts him into a hectic chase across the Scottish moors - a chase in which he is both the pursuer and the pursued. The film will be preceded by a 20-minute introduction from B-Film academic Roger Shannon. Sat 6 Feb, The Electric, Birmingham



NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 5 Feb, showing at selected cinemas.

DAD'S ARMY (tbc)

GOOSEBUMPS (PG)

RAMS (15)

TRUMBO (15)

POINT BREAK (12a)

LEE SCRATCH PERRY'S VISION OF PARADISE (tbc)

TAKING STOCK (tbc)

MISS HOKUSAI (12a)

THE AMERICAN DREAMER (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p40

Events

WINTER HERITAGE TOURS OF BLAKESLEY HALL Experience one of Birmingham's finest timber-framed buildings and get a unique insight into the people who lived and worked there, Mon 1 - Thurs 11 Feb, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

WINTER HERITAGE TOURS OF SAREHOLE MILL Taking place on a Wednesday and Thursday, explore the idyllic childhood haunt of JRR Tolkien, Mon 1 - Thurs 11 Feb, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

FACETS - ANNA FRANCIS Thurs 4 Feb, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

EARLY YEARS PLAY DAYS Inspiring and sensory materials allow children to explore and helps their development through play, Thurs 4 - Fri 5 Feb, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: COME AND SING! Join the renowned chamber choir and conductor Paul Spicer for an afternoon rehearsing Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Sat 6 Feb, Selly Oak Methodist Church, Birmingham

PANTOMIME WEEKENDS Classic panto fun with *Princess Aurora* and friends in *Sleeping Beauty* And *The Chuckle Bean Fairy*, a magical performance full of giggles and songs, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Feb, Cadbury World, Birmingham

EXCALIBUR PAPER CRAFTING FAIR Featuring crafting supplies from leading craft companies from around the UK, Sat 6 Feb, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

X-RUNNER WINTER WARRIOR 2016 Winter Warrior mud run, including a variety of challenging obstacles in either 5k or 10k format, Sat 6 Feb, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Castle Donington

ANCIENT OCEANS Brush up on your discovery skills this half term and become a dinosaur detective, Sat 6 - Sun 21 Feb, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL Birmingham's Southside once again plays host to the city's Chinese New Year celebrations, as thousands of festival-goers descend on the area and welcome in the Year of the Monkey, Sun 7 Feb, Arcadian Centre, Birmingham



Visual Arts

SOUND MATTERS; EXPLORING CRAFT AND SOUND A Craft Council touring exhibition featuring seven contemporary works from a range of creative disciplines, until Sat 6 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

START EXHIBITION Featuring works by RBSA Members and Associates, until Sat 6 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

ANDREW KINMONT ARBSA Andrew's experiences of working in the landscape are reflected in this body of work, until Sun 7 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

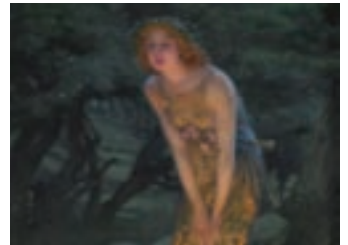


OLD WIVES' TALES: MIGRATION JOURNEYS OF BANGLADESHI WOMEN TO THE UK Photographic exhibition which gives a unique insight into the lives of young Bangladeshi women who came to Birmingham between the 1960s and 1980s, until Sun 7 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

HOPES + DREAMS: STATEMENTS OF INTENT EXPLORED An exhibition featuring lettered work, in all types of media, by members of Letter Exchange, until Fri 12 Feb, Parkside Gallery, Birmingham

JOAN SHARMA ARBSA A celebration of mothers, babies and mothers-to-be via sculptures in stone and wood, until Sat 20 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

ENCHANTED DREAMS The first ever exhibition to be dedicated to Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Robert Hughes, until Sun 21 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery



WOLVERHAMPTON SOCIETY OF ARTISTS Biennial exhibition with a diverse range of styles, mediums and subject matter, until Sat 27 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

WHAT REMAINS Mixed media exhibition by Maureen Cooper, Wed 3 Feb - Thurs 28 Apr, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2015 Featuring 100 amazing images, from fascinating animal behaviour to breathtaking wild landscapes, Fri 5 Feb - Sun 10 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry



Little Simz, O2 Academy, Birmingham, Mon 8 February

Gigs

LITTLE SIMZ Mon 8 Feb, O2 Academy, B'ham
PHILLIP HENRY AND HANNAH MARTIN Mon 8 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
THE FRONT BOTTOMS Mon 8 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE GAME Mon 8 Feb, O2 Academy, B'ham
THE COMPOZERS Mon 8 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham
RICHELIE RAMONE Mon 8 Feb, The Robin, Bilston
ALEXANDRA JAYNE Tues 9 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham
ULRIKA SPACEK Tues 9 Feb, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
GOSPEL CENTRAL Wed 10 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham
MARTIN SIMPSON Wed 10 Feb, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
DANNY BRYANT Wed 10 Feb, The Robin, Bilston
MARIA JOÃO PIRES Thurs 11 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall
FAY HIELD Thurs 11 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove
JOE JACKSON Thurs 11 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham
TELEGRAM Thurs 11 Feb, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
RICK WAKEMAN Thurs 11 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex
JARROD DICKENSON Thurs 11 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
THE SUBS Thurs 11 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham
CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. SONATA FALL Thurs 11 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

NIK TURNER'S NEW SPACE RITUAL Thurs 11 Feb, The Robin, Bilston
SO CALLED STUDIOS PRESENTS BATTLE OF THE BANDS Thurs 11 Feb, Route 44, B'ham
ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS Fri 12 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex
MARIA JOÃO PIRES & MILO POPOVIC Fri 12 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall
SLIPKNOT Fri 12 Feb, Genting Arena, B'ham
NME AWARDS TOUR 2016 Fri 12 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham
LISBON Fri 12 Feb, The Oobleck, Birmingham
GRAHAM BONNET BAND Fri 12 Feb, The Slade Rooms, W'hampston
THE GODFATHERS Fri 12 Feb, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE WORLD IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE & I AM NO LONGER AFRAID TO DIE Fri 12 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE KERRANG! TOUR Fri 12 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham
SYMPHONIC FLOYD FEATURING THE EN SUITE ELECTRIC BAND Fri 12 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CHAPTER 100 AND A DREAM Fri 12 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
DIO TRILOGY + PURE PURPLE Fri 12 Feb, The Roadhouse, B'ham
SYMPHONY X Fri 12 Feb, The Robin, Bilston
UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE Fri 12 - Sat 13 Feb, The Jam House, B'ham
ALL TIME LOW Sat 13 Feb, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
SNUFF Sat 13 Feb, The

Slade Rooms, Wolves
WILLE & THE BANDITS Sat 13 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove
THE DARKER MY HORIZON & EUPHORIA AUDIO Sat 13 Feb, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham
REIGNING DAYS Sat 13 Feb, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
BEAST AND SOUNDKITCHEN PRESENT: BEASTDOME PANTRY SESSIONS Sat 13 - Sun 14 Feb, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham
FAITH CHILD Sat 13 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham
LUNA KISS / INCLOSURE / AIRWAYS Sat 13 Feb, The Flapper, B'ham
MY NU LENG & M8S Sat 13 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
SOUL JUNCTION Sat 13 Feb, The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE COUNTERFEIT STONES Sat 13 Feb, The Robin, Bilston
IVOR & LYNN'S CLASSIC ROCK NIGHT WITH DJ DAVE Sat 13 Feb, Route 44, Birmingham
GABRIELLE APLIN Sun 14 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham
PAUL EDWARDS Sun 14 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove
MCGOLDRICK, MCCUSKER & DOYLE Sun 14 Feb, mac, B'ham
SANCHEZ & ROMAIN VIRGO - THE 2016 REGGAE VALENTINE AFFAIR Sun 14 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham
GAVIN JAMES Sun 14 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
SINNERBOY Sun 14 Feb, The Roadhouse, B'ham
RAYMOND FROGGATT & HIS BAND Sun 14 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Mon 8 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

SCHMITT, JS BACH, BEETHOVEN Lunchtime concert performed by Conservatoire students, Mon 8 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

THE ATÉA WIND QUARTET Double prize winners at the 2015 Karl Nielsen International Chamber Music Competition in Denmark. Programme features work by Francaix, Bridge and Nielsen, Tues 9 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

BEETHOVEN PIANO CONCERTOS 2,3 AND 4 Featuring Rudolf Buchbinder (conductor/piano), Wed 10 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DAN TEPFER: GOLDBERG VARIATIONS/VARIATIONS Talented young pianist Dan Tepfer performs his interpretation of Bach's masterpiece, Wed 10 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH NEY ROSAURO Featuring Ney Rosauro, Shih-Han Lee, Matthew Firkins, Stephen Plummer, Luke Taylor, Daniel Martinez Martin, Birmingham Conservatoire Percussion Department. Programme includes works from Rosauro, Wed 10 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire



TASMIN WALEY-COHEN AND HUW WATKINS Programme includes works of Bach, Beethoven, Hahn, Szymanowski, Thurs 11 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

MARIA JOAO PIRES IN RECITAL Programme features the works of Debussy, Mozart & Schubert, Thurs 11 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

HERMES ENSEMBLE Featuring Karin de Fleyt (flute), Peter Merckx (clarinet) and Jacob Fichert (piano). Programme includes works by Henderickx, Gehlhaar, Boulez, Fardon and Pärt, Fri 12 Feb, The Barber Institute, University of B'ham

NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE Daniele Rosina (director), Percy Pursglove (trumpet/flugel horn), Lydia Haynes, Holly Singlehurst, Amy Farnell (vocalists). Programme includes works by Berio, Kwiatkowska and Evans, Fri 12 Feb, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

MARIA JOAO PIRES & MILOS POPOVIC IN RECITAL Programme features the

works of Schubert & Beethoven, Fri 12 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

BEETHOVEN PIANO CONCERTOS 1 AND 5 In this second instalment of his Birmingham Beethoven cycle, conductor/pianist Rudolf Buchbinder tackles the mighty "Emperor" concerto to itself: music without limits, performed with supreme understanding by a living legend amongst pianists, Sat 13 Feb, Symphony Hall, B'ham

CBSO BENEVOLENT FUND CONCERT Featuring City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, John Wilson (conductor) and Valeriy Sokolov (violin). Programme includes works by Nicolai, Bruch and Elgar, Sun 14 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 8 Feb, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

MERCEDES BENSON, CLAIRE NELSON, LINDSEY HULSE & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 10 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

MOCK THE FLOCK - ACTS TBC Wed 10 Feb, The Mockingbird Theatre, Birmingham

TONY LAW Thurs 11 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

DAVE FULTON, STEVE WILLIAMS & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 11 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

WHITE YARDIE - BATTLE OF THE SEXES Fri 12 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham

CRAIG HILL, DAVE FULTON, STEVE WILLIAMS & COMIC TBC Fri 12 - Sat 13 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHARLIE BAKER, MATT REED, CARL HUTCHINSON & JEFF INNOCENT Fri 12 - Sat 13 Feb, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT - ACTS TBC Sat 13 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PATRICK MONAHAN, SOL BERNSTEIN, RIA LINA & THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE Sun 14 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham



Theatre

THE SISTERHOOD Ranjit Bolt's brilliantly funny adaptation of Molière's classic satire, *Les Femmes Savantes*, until Sat 20 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

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

DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE The Crescent Theatre Company presents a staging of Robert Louis Stevenson's timeless classic, Sat 6 - Sat 13 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

PRIVATE LIVES Tom Chambers and Charlotte Ritchie star in a major revival of Noël Coward's hilarious masterpiece, Mon 8 - Sat 13 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham



THE CROWS PLUCKED YOUR SINEWS Based on real events and featuring the epic lyrical tradition of Somalia, Hassan Mahamdallie's play presents a unique exploration of the violence of empire and the poetry of resistance. This one-man show is performed by Yusra Warsama, Tues 9 - Thurs 11 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

MISS NIGHTINGALE THE MUSICAL Matthew Bugg's critically acclaimed musical brings the on-stage glamour and off-stage affairs of war-torn London to life, Tues 9 - Sat 13 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

JERSEY BOYS This Tony, Olivier and Grammy Award-winning musical charts the rise to stardom of one of the most successful bands in pop music history, Tues 9 - Sat 20 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

AMERICAN IDIOT Amateur version of Green Day's award-winning Broadway musical, Tues 9 - Sun 21 Feb, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

FLASHLIGHT: HEARTS & CROSSES An evening of eight short stories told by eight storytellers, full of real life and loss (just in time for Valentine's Day), Thurs 11 Feb, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

MACBETH Award-winning Out Of Chaos present a two-man production of Shakespeare's drama of intrigue

and madness, bringing more than 30 characters to the stage in a high-octane 80-minute production, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 Feb, mac, Birmingham

ALI BABA & THE FOUR TEA THIEVES Harlequinade present a pantomime with a difference, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

THE BEAUTY OF THE HEART - MORE THAN A VALENTINE, MUCH MORE A new play from Somesuch Theatre as their contribution to the year of Shakespeare celebrations, Fri 12 - Sun 14 Feb, mac, Birmingham

FIRST STAGES: CINDER-ELLA Crazy Kat fuse imaginative storytelling, sign language and visual storytelling in a production for younger audiences. Recommended for children aged three-plus, Sat 13 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

THIS ENCHANTED EVENING An evening of Broadway and West End Classics raising money for St James's Place Foundation, and supported by major companies from across the Midlands, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

DINOSAUR ZOO Unique stage show which brings a plethora of prehistoric creatures to the stage, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

Dance

SLEEPING BEAUTY Matthew Bourne's 'gothic tale for all ages', Tues 9 - Sat 13 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome



BROKEN An adrenaline-filled spectacle from Leamington-based dance troupe, Motionhouse, Tues 9 - Wed 10 Feb, mac, Birmingham

COAL Gary Clarke Company present an emotional, moving and ever-relevant exploration of community, solidarity and survival, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 Feb, DanceXchange, Birmingham Hippodrome

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Film

BEING GOOD (tbc) Tasuku, a new primary school teacher, discovers that one of his pupils is being abused by their parents and decides that he must help. Meanwhile in the same city, Masami, a woman who appears to be a good mother, can't help lashing out at her own child. Foreign language, subtitled. Mon 8 - Tues 9 Feb, mac, Birmingham

LABYRINTH (PG) A selfish 16-year-old girl is given 13 hours to solve a labyrinth and rescue her baby brother when her wish for him to be taken away is granted by the Goblin King. Stars David Bowie & Jennifer Connelly. Wed 10 Feb, mac, Birmingham

DEAR WHITE PEOPLE (15) Winner of the 2014 Sundance Film Festival's Special Jury Award for Breakthrough Talent, Dear White People is a sly, provocative satire of race relations in the age of Obama. Thurs 11 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham

JOY (12a) That's 'Joy' as in 'Joy Mangano', the remarkable woman who founded a business empire after inventing the Miracle Mop. Stars Jennifer Lawrence & Robert De Niro. Fri 12 - Thurs 18 Feb, mac, B'ham

THE REVENANT (15) Inspired by true events and filmed in the frozen wilds of Alberta and British Columbia. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Hugh Glass, an 1820s' frontiersman who was left for dead after being mauled by a bear. Incensed by his abandonment, Glass dreams of revenge - but first must find the will to survive in inhospitable terrain. Fri 12 - Thurs 18 Feb, mac, Birmingham

SAFETY LAST! + ONE WEEK (U) The comic genius of silent-movie star Harold Lloyd is eternal. With perfectly executed gags and astonishing stunts, Safety Last! is the perfect introduction to him, featuring live organ accompaniment from David Ivory. Preceded by the 1920 Buster Keaton short, One Week. Sat 13 Feb, Birmingham Cathedral

DIRTY DANCING (12) The now-classic love story of Baby and Johnny. Stars Jennifer Grey & Patrick Swayze. Meal & movie deal available. Sat 13 - Sun 14 Feb, mac, Birmingham

GONE WITH THE WIND (PG) David O' Selznick's production of Margaret Mitchell's bestseller remains the pinnacle of polished Hollywood storytelling and craftsmanship. Stars Clark Gable & Vivien Leigh. Sun 14 Feb, The Electric, Birmingham



NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 12 Feb, showing at selected cinemas.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP (U)

A BIGGER SPLASH (15)

DEADPOOL (tbc)

CONCUSSION (15)

ODDBALL AND THE PENGUINS (tbc)

ZOOLANDER 2 (tbc)

THE GREEN INFERNO (18)

JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS (tbc)

NOBEL (tbc)

THE SURVIVALIST (tbc)

WELCOME TO LEITH (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p38

Events

CHINESE NEW YEAR Chinese New Year celebrations, Mon 8 Feb, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

PIRATE AND PRINCESS WEEK Head for Alton Towers Resort this half term as they welcome Cook & Line from CBeebies' Swashbuckle, Fri 12 - Sun 21 Feb, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Circus-themed drop-in tile decorating workshops, Sat 13 Feb, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire



SKETCH COVENTRY Join local urban sketchers in the Herbert Café for a day of sketching around Coventry city centre, Sat 13 Feb, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

VALENTINE'S HOOKING AND PROGGING CRAFT WORKSHOP Chance to gain knowledge and learn the skills of hooking and proggung to make a piece of traditional work that will last a lifetime, Sat 13 Feb, Birmingham Back to Backs

VALENTINE'S WEEKEND Enjoy the sweetest Valentine's Day with Cadbury World as hearts and chocolate will be melting for their real-life Cupid statue, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Feb, Cadbury World, Bournville

DOWN UNDER LIVE Do you want to emigrate to Australia or New Zealand? Find out how at Down Under Live - the UK's number one emigration event, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Feb, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

HALF TERM FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT A host of children's entertainers will be spreading joy throughout the day

during the half-term holidays, Sat 13 - Sun 21 Feb, Cadbury World, B'ham

FAMILY FUN DAYS - FEBRUARY HALF TERM

An outdoor adventure for all the family featuring a natural play trail with stepping stones, rope swings and a winding labyrinth, Sat 13 - Sun 21 Feb, Baddesley Clinton, Solihull

ANVILS & PETTICOATS: WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Find out about the incredible history of women workers in this one-off half-term event and discover how women in industry changed the course of history, Sat 13 - Sun 21 Feb, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley



FEBRUARY HALF-TERM FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Sat 13 - Sun 21 Feb, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

FAMILY FUN DAYS - FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

Head off on a journey through the woods for a welly walk, Sat 13 - Sun 21 Feb, Packwood House, Solihull

FLIGHT WORKSHOPS Take part in interactive activities and make your own rocket from the available craft materials, Sat 13 - Sun 21 Feb, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire



DESTINATION SPACE HALF TERM Sat 13 - Sun 21 Feb, National Space Centre, Leicester

ASTON EXPERIENCE TOURS A chance to see the site's 17th century rooms and get 'hands on' with objects from the past, Sun 14 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham

MONTHLY TOUR OF BLAKESLEY HALL

Experience one of Birmingham's finest timber-framed buildings and get a unique insight into the aspirations of the Tudor classes who lived and worked there, Sun 14 Feb, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

COIN & BANKNOTE FAIR Featuring coin, banknote, medal and antiquity dealers from the United Kingdom and Ireland, Sun 14 Feb, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

PIZZA MAKING AT SAREHOLE MILL Join the Millers at Sarehole Mill for a fun and informal baking class. Learn to make dough, see the mill in action and create and bake your own delicious pizza, Sun 14 Feb, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

Visual Arts

HOPES + DREAMS: STATEMENTS OF INTENT EXPLORED An exhibition featuring lettered work, in all types of media, by members of Letter Exchange, until Fri 12 Feb, Parkside Gallery, Birmingham

JOAN SHARMA ARBSA A celebration of mothers, babies and mothers-to-be. Sculptures in stone and wood, until Sat 20 Feb, RBSA Gallery, B'ham

ENCHANTED DREAMS The first ever exhibition to be dedicated to Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Robert Hughes, until Sun 21 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

WOLVERHAMPTON SOCIETY OF ARTISTS Biennial exhibition featuring a diverse range of styles, mediums and subject matter, until Sat 27 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

WHAT REMAINS Mixed media exhibition by Maureen Cooper, Wed 3 Feb - Thurs 28 Apr, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2015 Featuring 100 amazing images, from fascinating animal behaviour to breathtaking wild landscapes, Fri 5 Feb - Sun 10 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

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**WHAT'S ON
FEBRUARY & MARCH 2016**

**STRATFORD
ARTSHOUSE**

David O'Doherty
Friday 12th February, 8:00pm

The Rat Pack & Judy
Thursday 25th February, 7:30pm

Gary Delaney
Saturday 12th March, 8:00pm

The Dreamers
Thursday 24th March, 7:30pm

01789 207100 / stratfordartshouse.co.uk

伯明翰華人春節籌委會
Chinese Festival Committee - Birmingham

2016

FREE EVENT
Sunday
7th February
11am-6pm
ARCADIAN

華人新春庆典
**Chinese
New Year
Celebrations**

Come and celebrate the
Year of the Monkey

- ✓ KIDS FAIRGROUND
- ✓ CRAFT WORKSHOPS
- ✓ MARKET STALLS
- ✓ STREET FOODS
- ✓ 免费现场表演
- ✓ 儿童手工作坊
- ✓ 美食及手工艺品
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Arcadian, Hurst Street, Birmingham, B5 4TD
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Lebara

RAYMOND GUBBAY LTD presents

Friday 26 February at 7.30pm
A superb concert in a galaxy of sight and sound
**STAR WARS & BEYOND
A SPACE
SPECTACULAR**
A voyage through a galaxy of favourite music
from deep space and beyond
JOHN WILLIAMS
Star Wars • Superman
Close Encounters of the Third Kind • E.T.
HOLST
Mars • Jupiter from the Planets
STRAUSS
Also Sprach Zarathustra • Blue Danube Waltz
PLUS
Star Trek • Battleship Potemkin • Thunderbirds
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
Anthony Inglis conductor

Sunday 13 March 3.00pm
**GRAND
ORGAN
GALA**
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
AT SYMPHONY HALL
Experience the power and majesty of the great
Symphony Hall organ in this wonderful afternoon
of popular music including Saint-Saëns' magnificent
Symphony No. 3 'Organ'.
PARRY I was glad
HANDEL Zadok the Priest
FACHELBEL Canon
WIDOR Toccata
PARRY Jerusalem
HANDEL Hallelujah Chorus
MUSSORGSKY Great Gate of Kiev
ELGAR Land of Hope and Glory
SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No. 3 'Organ'
BACH Toccata and Fugue in D minor
STRAUSS Sunrise from Also Sprach Zarathustra
MASCAGNI Intermezzo from Cavalleria rusticana
MENDELSSOHN Wedding March
from A Midsummer Night's Dream
Stephen Bell conductor • Dariusz Bartłomiej organ
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Corps of Signals
Birmingham Choral Union
London Concert Orchestra

Saturday 7 May at 7.30pm
**KARL JENKINS
REQUIEM**
Karl Jenkins conducts his highly
acclaimed and popular Requiem.
**PALLADIO
THE HEALER**
plus
Sir Karl Jenkins conductor
Lucy Knight soprano
Håkan Wrammsjö baritone
Clive Bell shakuhachi flute
Zands Duggan percussion
City of Birmingham Choir
Manchester Concert Orchestra

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Paul Carrack, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 20 February

Gigs

PARKWAY DRIVE Mon 15 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

NATHANIEL RATELIFF AND THE NIGHT SWEATS Mon 15 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MIKEY BROMLEY Mon 15 Feb, O2 Institute, B'ham

FATHERSON Mon 15 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE LEGENDS OF AMERICAN COUNTRY Mon 15 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

EZRA FURMAN Tues 16 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE TIM AMANN X-TET Tues 16 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham

MAZ O'CONNOR Tues 16 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

HUE AND CRY Tues 16 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

BARNS AND MELODY Wed 17 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HEATHER SMALL Wed 17 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham

MIRANDA SYKES & REX PRESTON Wed 17 Feb, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

PETE KENT Wed 17 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

RUNRIG Thurs 18 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DIGBY FAIRWEATHER'S HALF DOZEN Thurs 18 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

MONEY Thurs 18 Feb, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JOHNNY 2 BAD Thurs 18 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham

MYSTERY JETS Thurs 18 Feb, O2 Institute,

Birmingham

!!! (CHK CHK CHK) Thurs 18 Feb, The Oobleck, Birmingham

JESSE MALIN Thurs 18 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JAZZ COLLECTIVE Thurs 18 - Fri 19 Feb, Bramall Music Building, B'ham

DEVILSKIN Thurs 18 Feb, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

WILLE & THE BANDITS Thurs 18 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

GRETCHEN PETERS Fri 19 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

FOALS Fri 19 Feb, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

LET'S HANG ON Fri 19 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

LUCY SPRAGGAN Fri 19 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TRU GROOVE Fri 19 - Sat 20 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham

CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. THE YOUNG Fri 19 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DIRTY OLD FOLKERS Fri 19 Feb, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

RYLE WALKER & DANNY THOMPSON Fri 19 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

GUY JONES Fri 19 Feb, The Flapper, B'ham

DAVID RODIGAN'S RAMJAM Fri 19 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

CIRQUE DU SOUL PRESENT TODDLA T Fri 19 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

DAYLIGHT ROBBERY + WEAPON UK + AVENFORD + BULLETRIDE Fri 19 Feb, The Roadhouse, B'ham

THE BOSS + BRYAN ADAMS EXPERIENCE Fri 19 Feb, The Robin,

Bilston

RHINO'S REVENGE Sat 20 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

HALSEY Sat 20 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ALLISON WEISS Sat 20 Feb, O2 Institute, B'ham

PAUL CARRACK Sat 20 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ATOMIC BLONDIE & THE BOWIE EXPERIENCE Sat 20 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CASH (PAYIN' RESPECT TO THE MAN IN BLACK) Sat 20 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FAT WHITE FAMILY Sat 20 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BLACK PEAKS Sat 20 Feb, The Asylum, Birmingham

FLOWERS Sat 20 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

SEMANTICS Sat 20 Feb, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

PORTAL 2ND BIRTHDAY - AMNESIA IBIZA TOUR Sat 20 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE PHONICS Sat 20 Feb, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

THE BILLY FURY YEARS Sun 21 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

A PROMISE TO FORGET Sun 21 Feb, The Flapper, Birmingham

VICTORIA Sun 21 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

E OF E Sun 21 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE JOHNNY WINTER EXPERIENCE FEATURING DEL BROMHAM Sun 21 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

PETER DONOHOE CELEBRITY PIANO RECITAL Featuring Peter Donohoe (piano). Programme includes Scriabin, Schubert, Beethoven and Brahms, Tues 16 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

AISHA ORAZBAYEVA AND JOSEPH HOUSTON Featuring Aisha Orazbayeva (violin) and Joseph Houston (piano). Programme includes Feldman For John Cage, Tues 16 Feb, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

JOEL SACHS Programme comprises Cage Sonatas and Interludes for prepared piano, Tues 16 Feb, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham



TCHAIKOVSKY'S SIXTH Featuring City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Rafael Payare (conductor) and Alisa Weilerstein (cello). Programme includes works by Berlioz, Prokofiev, Sinfonia and Tchaikovsky, Wed 17 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FLANDERS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Jan Latham Koenig (conductor), Nikolai Demidenko (piano), Wed 17 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

EMMA JOHNSON & MOZART'S CLARINET CONCERTO Featuring David Curtis (conductor). Programme includes works by Gluck, Fauré, Haydn and Mozart, Wed 17 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

FIDELIO TRIO Featuring Darragh Morgan (violin), Adi Tal (cello) and Mary Dullea (piano). Programme includes Alasdair Nicolson Half Told Tales, Judith Weir Piano Trio Two, Luke Bedford Chiaroscuro, Scott Wilson New work (premiere), Michael Zev Gordon In the Middle of Things, Wed 17 Feb, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

PIANO SHOWCASE Featuring György Hodozsó and Csabay Domonkos. Programme includes Liszt's Variations of Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zager, as well as works by Schubert, Wed 17 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN Featuring Martin Yates (conductor) and University of Birmingham Voices. Programme includes songs from Oklahoma!, The King and I, The Sound Of Music and more, Fri 19 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THALLEIN PLUS - 8 WORLDS PREMIERES

Following last year's highly successful project, Thallein Ensemble are here joined by a number of the UK's leading contemporary music performers in a concert of world premieres from Birmingham Conservatoire composers, Fri 19 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

FINAL PROJECTS ORCHESTRA Featuring Lucinda Scott (soprano) and Connor Wilcox (piano). Programme features the works of Ravel and Beethoven, Fri 19 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP Featuring Richard Baker (conductor), Lucy Schauer (mezzo soprano) and Christopher Yates (viola). Programme includes the works of Berio, Tansy Davies, Judith Weir, Feldman, Richard Baker, Michael Sev Gorden, and various other composers, Sat 20 Feb, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA: RACHMANINOV'S SECOND Featuring Jac van Steen (conductor). Programme includes works by Prokofiev and Rachmaninov, Sun 21 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

UNLIMITED VOICES PRESENT THE GREAT SONGS OF MUSICAL THEATRE Sun 21 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy Gigs

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 15 Feb, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

JIMEOIN Wed 17 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

TONY LAW Wed 17 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MOCK THE FLOCK - ACTS TBC Wed 17 Feb, The Mockingbird Theatre, Birmingham

RORY MCGRATH Thurs 18 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ZOE LYONS, BOBBY MAIR & BETHANY BLACK Thurs 18 Feb, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

JUST THE TONIC COMEDY CLUB FEAT. JOHNNY VEGAS Thurs 18 Feb, 6 on Broad Street, Birmingham

ROGER MONKHOUSE, JOHN HASTINGS & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 18 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham



ED BYRNE Fri 19 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

CHRIS MARTIN Fri 19 Feb, mac, Birmingham

JO CAULFIELD, ROGER MONKHOUSE, MICKEY SHARMA & JOHN HASTINGS Fri 19 - Sat 20 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Monday 15 - Sunday 21 February

PHIL NICHOL, BARRY CASTAGNOLA, KEVIN GILDEA & MICHAEL FABBRI Fri 19 - Sat 20 Feb, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

STEVE HALL Sat 20 Feb, The Mockingbird Theatre, Birmingham

Theatre

THE SISTERHOOD Ranjit Bolt's brilliantly funny adaptation of Molière's classic satire, *Les Femmes Savantes*, until Sat 20 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

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

THE OWL WHO WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK Theatre production for children aged three to seven, based on Jill Tomlinson's classic, Mon 15 Feb, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham



THE BROKE N BEAT COLLECTIVE 20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites join forces to create a unique mash up of hip-hop, theatre and puppetry, Tues 16 - Wed 17 Feb, mac, Birmingham

KITE The Wrong Crowd theatre company present a new play without words featuring originally composed music, dance, puppetry and, of course, kites. Inspired by the world of indoor kite flying and stories such as *The Snowman* and *The Red Balloon*, Tues 16 - Wed 17 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

GANGSTA GRANNY Birmingham Stage Company bring a production of David Walliams' best-selling book to the stage, Tues 16 - Sat 20 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

IMPOSSIBLE The world's greatest illusionists live on stage in a magic spectacular, Tues 16 - Sat 20 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HANDSWORTH GANG SHOW 2016 A fast-moving family show performed by cubs, scouts and guides from the Tame Valley districts of Birmingham (Handsworth, Perry Barr, Great Barr and Erdington), Tues 16 - Sat 20 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SINGLE SPIES Nicholas Farrell (*The Lady In The Van*), Belinda Lang (*2point4 Children*) and David Robb (*Downton Abbey*) star in Rachel Kavanagh's staging of Alan Bennett's

comedy masterpiece, Wed 17 - Sat 27 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: A PLAY FOR THE NATION A co-production between the Royal Shakespeare Company and amateur theatre companies across the UK, Wed 17 Feb - Sat 5 Mar, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE LOST THINGS Tortoise In A Nutshell & Oliver Emanuel present a dark fairytale set in a fantastical world where nothing is quite as it seems, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 Feb, mac, Birmingham

THE LADYKILLERS Comedy by Graham Linehan, presented by the Carrs Lane Players, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 Feb, Carrs Church Lane Centre, Birmingham

COUNT DUCKULA & THE JEWELS OF DUCKULA Join Duckula, Nanny and Igor in a race to find the treasure in a show packed with songs, games and tons of fun - perfect entertainment for all the family to enjoy, Sat 20 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

40 DAYS IN 40 MINUTES 40 one-minute spoken word pieces, written and presented by Nick Holloway, Sat 20 Feb, mac, Birmingham

FIFTY SHADES OF BEIGE A poignant but uplifting comedy from All & Sundry, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Feb, Artrix,

Bromsgrove

MORGAN & WEST'S UTTERLY SPIFFING SPECTACULAR MAGIC SHOW FOR KIDS AND CHILDISH GROWN UPS Fun for all as Morgan & West mix brainbusting illusion and good old-fashioned tomfoolery, where magic and silliness are the order of the day, Sun 21 Feb, mac, Birmingham

THE BOY WHO BIT PICASSO Featuring storytelling, music and lots of chances to make your own art, this hands-on family show introduces one of the 20th century's most influential artists through the eyes of a young boy. Be sure to wear some play-clothes because it's going to get messy!, Sun 21 Feb, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham University



THE REMARKABLE TALE OF OLIVER TWIST Red Earth Theatre present Charles Dickens' mesmerising tale in Victorian music hall style, with speciality acts and variety entertainments, Sun 21 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CHANGE ORDER CHANGE
ABSTRACT PAINTINGS 1939-89 11 FEBRUARY - 8 MAY 2016

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EX CATHEDRA
Jeffrey Skidmore
Vocal excellence, made in Birmingham

I was glad
Sun 7 February, 4pm Town Hall, Birmingham
Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb*
Parry *I was glad*
Walton *The Twelve*

Shakespeare Odes
Ame Garrick Ode
Beamish *A Shakespeare Masque*
A reconstruction of Garrick's 1769 Ode and the world premiere performances of a new work from Sally Beamish and the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy.
6 performances across the UK.

For full details, and to book, visit
www.excathedra.co.uk

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Birmingham City Council

Dance

ASHTON DOUBLE BILL Birmingham Royal Ballet present a programme of one-act ballets celebrating one of England's most influential choreographers, Wed 17 - Sat 20 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome



A CHILD'S DREAM Birmingham Royal Ballet present an adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, specially created for children aged between three and seven, Fri 19 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

TED '16: DREAM - OPENING NIGHT (12a) Live broadcast - TED's curator Chris Anderson will host the opening night, which will feature some of the world's leading thinkers and doers who've won every international prize of excellence, from Nobel Laureates to Pulitzer Prize authors to Oscar winners. Tues 16 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry; The Electric, Birmingham

THE ABOMINABLE CRIME A documentary that explores the culture of homophobia in Jamaica through the eyes of gay Jamaicans who are forced to choose between their homeland and their lives after their sexual orientations are exposed. Q&A to follow screening. Thurs 18 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham

PARTISAN (15) Vincent Cassel stars as the cold and calculating leader of a secluded commune whose idyllic world is turned upside down with the arrival of a newcomer. An unnerving, apocalyptic, psychological thriller. Fri 19 - Tues 23 Feb, mac, Birmingham

DRACULA (PG) A late-night screening of Tod Browning's 1931 Gothic chiller on 35mm, starring Bela Lugosi as the Count. Sat 20 Feb, The Electric, Birmingham

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 19 Feb, showing at selected cinemas.

THE FINEST HOURS (tbc)

FREEHELD (12a)

HOW TO BE SINGLE (tbc)

TRIPLE NINE (tbc)

BONE TOMAHAWK (18)

THE BOY (tbc)

CHRONIC (15)

MAVIS! (tbc)

ORTHODOX (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p40

Events

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME Offering a variety of activities for young people to try, from skiing to archery and climbing to orienteering, Mon 15 Feb, Wed 17 Feb, Fri 19 Feb The Ackers, Birmingham

DESTINATION SPACE: FAMILY SHOW Explore what life is like for the entire space crew in a family show celebrating astronaut Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station, Mon 15 - Fri 19 Feb, Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham



SPACE BUGGIES Join the space crew engineering team to design and build a space buggy to send to the Moon, Mon 15 - Fri 19 Feb, Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham

HALF-TERM FUN Craft activities, nature trails and plenty of fun and games... Mon 15 - Fri 19 Feb, Birmingham Botanical Gardens



HALF-TERM CERAMIC CRAFTS Fun ceramic drop-in workshops where visitors can have a go at clay modelling and painting on ceramics, Mon 15 - Fri 19 Feb, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire



FEBRUARY HALF-TERM: TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Circus-themed drop-in tile decorating workshops, Mon 15 - Sat 20 Feb, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

BANG - FAMILY POP SHOW & WORKSHOP A brand new touring pop show featuring a talented cast of professional singers and dancers performing the chart and pop music of today, Wed 17 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

THE NATIONAL FRANCHISE EXHIBITION Showcasing a huge range of national franchise opportunities - an ideal platform for anyone looking to run their own business, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Feb, NEC, Birmingham

DSLR PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS A concise four-week beginner's introduction to you DSLR camera, Sat 20 Feb, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

DISCOVER YOUR IRISH FAMILY HISTORY Lectures from genealogy expert Maggie Loughran on how to discover your Irish family history, Sat 20 Feb, Birmingham Back to Backs

THE CLASSIC DIRT BIKE SHOW Traders and jumble sellers come together to offer parts, pieces and spares for nearly every project, alongside riding gear, clothing and accessories, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Feb, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM ARMS FAIR The UK's biggest and best antique and vintage arms fair, Sun 21 Feb, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

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BIG CERAMICS: DISCOVER CLAY ON A MONUMENTAL SCALE Bringing together eight ceramicists who use clay to create ambitious objects on a monumental scale, Sat 20 Feb - Sat 28 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery



Wildlife Photographer Of The Year 2015, Herbert Art Gallery, Fri 5 February - Sun 10 April

The Bootleg Beatles
with their orchestra
'GLORIOUS!' ★★★★★ LIVERPOOL ECHO



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Tuesday 22
Town Hall, Cheltenham
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'The act you've known for all these years'
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Box Office: 0121 767 4050
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Parallel Colour
Saturday 6 February 2016, 7.30pm
CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Conductor: **Richard Baker** / Soprano: **Allison Bell** *
Percussion: **Joby Burgess** - / Clarinet: **Timothy Lines** *

Claude Vivier: *Trois Airs pour un opéra imaginaire* *
Tansy Davies: *Dark Ground* -
Edmund Finnis: *Parallel Colour* (World premiere / BCMG Sound Investment commission)
Rosalie Hirs: *Platonic ID* (UK premiere)
Jonathan Harvey: *Cirrus Light* *
Franco Donatoni: *Still* *

Framed by striking pieces for singer and ensemble, the symmetry of this exciting programme sees the Group journey towards premieres by Edmund Finnis and Rosalie Hirs, with works for solo percussion and solo clarinet either side.

6.30-7pm: Free pre-concert talk

Audience Exchange: Stay on after the concert for an informal discussion with fellow audience members and exchange ideas on this evening's programme.

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Spring Highlights Not To Miss



Forever Jackson
Friday 5 February 7.30pm



Stephen K Amos
Wednesday 10 February 7.30pm



Here Be Monsters
Wednesday 17 February 2pm



Worby & Farrell's House Party
Saturday 20 February 7.30pm



Lysistrata
Tuesday 1 March 7.30pm



Ireland's Call
Sunday 6 March 2.30pm, 7.30pm



Circus Of Horrors
Wednesday 9 March 7.30pm



Joli Vyann: Imbalance
Tuesday 22 March 7.30pm

Visit rosetheatre.org for full programme

Box Office: 01684 295074
Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 5NX
The Roses is a Registered Charity, no. 1051708



Wet Wet Wet at Genting Arena, Birmingham on 26 February

Gigs

GIRL BAND, JET SETTER & THEM WOLVES Mon 22 Feb, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GIRLS NAMES Mon 22 Feb, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SECTION BOYZ Mon 22 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MORGANISATION Mon 22 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

HINDS Tues 23 Feb, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

TWENTY ONE PILOTS Tues 23 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GOGO PENGUIN Tues 23 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

WALK THE MOON Tues 23 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WILSON Tues 23 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE BULLETPROOF BOMB Tues 23 Feb, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE JOY FORMIDABLE Wed 24 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

EWAN MCLENNAN Wed 24 Feb, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

INGLORIOUS Wed 24 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

THE BLUES BAND Thurs 25 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

FUN LOVIN' CRIMINALS Thurs 25 Feb, O2 Institute

EXODUS Thurs 25 Feb, The Asylum, B'ham

WILL VARLEY Thurs 25 Feb, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BOY AND BEAR Thurs 25 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

VULA VIEL Thurs 25 Feb, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHUGGIE OTIS Thurs 25 Feb, O2 Institute, B'ham

DEL CAMINO Thurs 25 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham

DAMIEN DEMPSEY AND HIS BAND Thurs 25 Feb, O2 Academy, B'ham

ALISTAIR GRIFFIN Thurs 25 Feb, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

BOOMIN / HIDDEN SKIES / APHERIUM / CAVALIER Thurs 25 Feb, The Flapper, Birmingham

ESTRONS, SHRINKING VIOLETS & GUESTS Thurs 25 Feb, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

WET WET WET Fri 26 Feb, Genting Arena, Birmingham

JESS GLYNNE Fri 26 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham



LADY BE GOOD Fri 26 Feb, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

ULRICH SCHNAUSS Fri 26 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

ALEX OHM Fri 26 Feb, O2 Institute, B'ham

TONIGHT ALIVE Fri 26 Feb, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MR BEN Fri 26 - Sat 27 Feb, The Jam House, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITHOUT JAKE THACKRAY Fri 26 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. BLUE NATION - 'STEADY YOUR SOUL' ALBUM LAUNCH Fri 26 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SOULED OUT 2 FUNK Fri 26 Feb, The

Roadhouse, B'ham

HELLS BELLS Fri 26 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

SCREAMIN' ABDABZ & BEDROCK BULLETS Fri 26 Feb, Route 44, B'ham

ASHLEY HUTCHINGS Sat 27 Feb, mac, B'ham

THE X FACTOR LIVE TOUR 2016 Sat 27 Feb, Genting Arena, B'ham

HOSTILE Sat 27 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES Sat 27 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

TORI KELLY Sat 27 Feb, O2 Institute, B'ham

WOLVERHAMPTON BLUES, RHYTHM & ROCK FESTIVAL Sat 27 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

GOODNIGHT BERLIN / DARREN HAMES Sat 27 Feb, The Flapper, Birmingham

ELEMENTS PRESENTS TRUNCATE, REBEKAH & MORE Sat 27 Feb, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

REACH OUT TO MOTOWN - A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS OF MOTOWN Sat 27 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

SAX IN THE CITY: THE NOTEBENDERS Sat 27 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BRITISH SEA POWER Sat 27 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

SABATON & ALESTORM Sun 28 Feb, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LEONA LEWIS Sun 28 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



STRAY Sun 28 Feb, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

QUATUOR ZAIDE Programme includes the works of Haydn, Shostakovich, Francesca Verunelli and Mendelssohn, Mon 22 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT - THOMAS TROTTER Mon 22 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

HARMONIEBAND Featuring Benjamin Farrar (conductor). Programme comprises Mozart Serenade in B flat, 'Gran Partita', Mon 22 Feb, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

SCHUBERT FESTIVAL With five concerts each day, students and staff explore the diverse richness of Schubert's music, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO BENJAMIN GROSVENOR: GRIEG Featuring Jac van Steen (conductor) and Benjamin Grosvenor (piano). Programme includes the works of Elgar, Grieg and Brahms, Wed 24 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TRIO SEVERN Featuring Zoë Beyers (violin), David Powell (cello) & Robert Markham (piano). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Thurs 25 Feb, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

STAR WARS & BEYOND - A SPACE SPECTACULAR Featuring Anthony Inglis (conductor) and London Concert Orchestra. Programme includes works by John Williams, Holst, Strauss, and more... Fri 26 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HARRY BICKET AND THE ENGLISH CONCERT PERFORM HANDEL'S ORLANDO Featuring Carolyn Sampson and Lestyn Davies in the title role, Fri 26 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

THE ALMA GUITAR QUARTET Hannah Woollocott, Brexwedan Kockaya, Jonnie Cumming and Rowan McConkey perform a broad repertoire ranging from early baroque arrangements to early 20th century works and popular music from South America and Cuba, Fri 26 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

CHRISTOPHER ORTON AND TOMOKO MATSUOKA Featuring Christopher Orton (recorders) and Tomoko Matsuoka (harpsichord). Programme includes works of JS Bach, Telemann and Froberger, Fri 26 Feb, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

SYMPHONIC ROCK The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra presents the most rocking show in town, featuring all your favourite rock and pop hits, including music by: U2, The Verve, Eric Clapton, Coldplay, Adele and more, Sat 27 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHAMBER MUSIC NIGHT Featuring the Flute Choir and Clarinet Choir, Sat 27 Feb, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL TERCENTENARY FESTIVAL OF VOICES (THE 20TH CENTURY) Discover the musical richness and heritage of Birmingham Cathedral in The Festival

Of Voices, to celebrate the cathedral's tercentenary. The festival will complete its series with a 20th century concert at the cathedral, Sat 27 Feb, Birmingham Cathedral

TOSCA Ellen Kent Opera present Puccini's tale of love and treachery. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Sun 28 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL PRESENTS VERDI'S REQUIEM Featuring guest soloists Claire Morris, Rebecca Afonwy-Jones, Gareth Dafydd Morris & Jonathan May, Sun 28 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

Dance

ROMEO AND JULIET Birmingham Royal Ballet present Kenneth MacMillan's best-loved adaptation of this famous play to continue their 2016 Shakespeare celebration, Wed 24 - Sat 27 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome

HAM & PASSION DeNada Dance Theatre present a gender-bending evening of seductive and provocative dance choreographed by Carlos Pons Guerra, Thurs 25 Feb, mac, Birmingham

INTO THE HOODS (REMIXED) Zonation present a newly revamped version of the award-winning production that stormed the West End in 2008, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

NEW WORK NIGHTS: DANCE Debut event celebrating the diversity of dance forms in Birmingham, with contributions from Lauren van Hulle (Motionhouse, van Hulle Dance Theatre), Jigsaw Collective, Outspoken Dance and Break Mission lead artists David 'Footloose' Russell and Michael 'Silence' Glasgow, Thurs 25 Feb The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET - CLASS ON STAGE A chance to look behind the scenes and watch BRB's talented dancers in their final preparations for a performance of world-class dancing, Sat 27 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome



the drum

2016 SPRING HIGHLIGHTS



Wed 9 Mar

He Named Me Malala

Documentary about Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai



Sun 20 Mar

Bangla Brummies

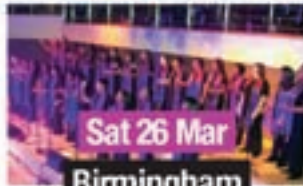
A play about Bangladeshi batchelors in 1970s Small Heath



Thu 10 Mar

Amsterdam

Chanje moves to Amsterdam after falling in love



Sat 26 Mar

Birmingham Community Gospel Choir Easter Concert

The award-winning choir present a special Easter concert



Sat 12 Mar

UK Legends of Legends

The crème of UK Lovers Rock in concert



Thu 14 Apr

Lemn Sissay

A night of captivating poetry



For a full list of what's on this Spring visit
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Mon 22 - Sun 28 February

Comedy Gigs

MOCK THE FLOCK - ACTS TBC Wed 24 Feb, The Mockingbird Theatre, Birmingham

CARL HUTCHINSON, IAIN STIRLING Thurs 25 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOHN FOTHERGILL, SIMON KING & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 25 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JO ENRIGHT & COMIC TBC Thurs 25 Feb, Station Pub, Birmingham

ADAM HESS & STEVE BUGEJA Fri 26 Feb, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

JOHN FOTHERGILL, DAN NIGHTINGALE, SIMON KING & COMIC TBC Fri 26 - Sat 27 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARLON DAVIS, STEFANO PAOLINI & ALEX BOARDMAN & JOHNNY CANDON Fri 26 - Sat 27 Feb, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

RICH STOKES Sat 27 Feb, mac, B'ham

ADAM HILLS Sun 28 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome



ROUGH WORKS Sun 28 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE LAUGHING SOLE - COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS WITH MRS BARBARA NICE AND GUESTS Sun 28 Feb, mac, B'ham.

Theatre

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

THE ODYSSEY In a brand new creative theatrical adaptation, Splendid Productions retell the story of Odysseus and his famously inconvenient journey home from the Trojan War, Mon 22 Feb, mac, Birmingham

END OF THE RAINBOW Lisa Maxwell stars as Judy Garland as the Wizard Of Oz star makes her explosive Swinging 60s London comeback in the, Tues 23 - Sat 27 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

MIDDAY VARIETY Featuring the stars of Blackpool - Billy Pearce & John Bowdler, Thurs 25 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

MUSIC HALL TAVERN Cabaret-style performance packed with 'dazzling' costumes, 'side-splitting' laughter

and a cast of unique characters singing and dancing all night long, Thurs 25 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

DON QUIXOTE Rufus Hound stars in James Fenton's staging of Cervantes' comic novel - a work regarded as one of the foundation stones of modern fiction, Thurs 25 Feb - Sat 21 May, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

I KNOW ALL THE SECRETS IN MY WORLD Tiata Fahodzi presents a heart-breaking play about a father and son whose lives comes tumbling down following the loss of their wife and mother, Thurs 25 - Fri 26 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham

FOOTLOOSE SoSage Factory present an amateur version of the 1984 film. Featuring iconic hits Holding Out For A Hero, Lets Here It For The Boy, Mama Says and, of course, the title song itself, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

FLYING SOLO Manjeet Mann's exhilarating semi-autobiographical story about family, survival, guilt and self-delusion, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER Humorous and thought-provoking story of comradeship, betrayal and promises both broken and kept following the carnage of World War One, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Feb, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

TOSCA Ellen Kent Opera present Puccini's tale of love and treachery. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Sun 28 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE 39 STEPS Fiery Angel present Alfred Hitchcock's classic spy thriller, Mon 29 Feb - Sat 5 Mar, The REP, Birmingham



Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

ANTHEM OF THE HEART (tbc) A young girl who believes that her words have caused unmeasurable trouble is one day visited by a mysterious 'Egg Fairy' who casts a spell on her, preventing her from speaking... Foreign language, subtitled. Mon 22 - Tues 23 Feb, mac, Birmingham

LEE SCRATCH PERRY'S VISION OF PARADISE (tbc) For the past 15 years, director Volker Schaner has followed Perry. Over this period, Volker has earned Perry's trust, resulting in a never-before-granted level of access and insight into the legendary musi-

THE MOCKINGBIRD

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THE CLASSIC 80'S MOVIE **COCKTAIL**
Sat 6th Feb, 2016, 6pm • £11



ELF LYONS
BEING BARBARELLA
Thu 11th Feb, 2016, 7pm • £13.20

FK VALENTINES**
COMEDY EVENT
Sun 14th Feb, 2016, 7pm • £5.50

LOVE SUCKS
COMEDY EVENT WITH
DALISO CHAFONDA
Mon 15th Feb, 2016, 7pm • £11



**CAT LOUD'S
BIG NIGHT IN**
Thu 18th & Fri 19th Feb 2016,
7:30pm • £11

STEVE HALL
ZEBRA
Sat 20th Feb, 2016, 7:30pm • £11

**CHEESE AND
WINE EVENING**
WITH A SCREENING OF **SIDEWAYS**
Thu 25th Feb, 2016, 6pm • £11

BAT-FAN
Thu 10th &
Fri 11th Mar,
2016, 7pm • £11



TRASH
VHS ONE DAY
FESTIVAL
Sat 19th Mar, 2016, 12pm • £11

CARL DONNELLY
JIVE ASS HONKY
Thu 28th Apr, 2016, 7:30pm • £11

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Birmingham

THE LADY IN THE VAN (12a) Inspired by the true story of a homeless woman who moved into a Bedford van in the drive of Alan Bennett's Camden home. Stars Maggie Smith & Alex Jennings. Fri 26 - Sun 28 Feb, mac, Birmingham



GONE WITH THE WIND (PG) David O' Selznick's production of Margaret Mitchell's bestseller remains the pinnacle of polished Hollywood storytelling and craftsmanship. Stars Clark Gable & Vivien Leigh. Sat 27 Feb, The Electric, Birmingham

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 26 Feb, showing at selected cinemas.

GRIMSBY (tbc)

GODS OF EGYPT (tbc)

SECRET IN THEIR EYES (tbc)

EXPOSED (tbc)

THE FOREST (tbc)

KING JACK (tbc)

THE PROPAGANDA GAME (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p38

Events

CARAVAN, CAMPING AND MOTORHOME SHOW The UK's biggest start-of-season showcase of caravans, motorhomes, campervans, trailer tents and folding caravans, plus tents of all sizes and caravan holiday homes & lodges, Tues 23 - Sun 28 Feb, NEC, B'ham

WINTER HERITAGE TOURS OF ASTON HALL Hear all about the fascinating history of Aston Hall, one of the last Jacobean houses to be built in Britain, Tues 23 Feb - Thurs 24 Mar, Aston Hall, Birmingham

WINTER HERITAGE TOURS OF BLAKESLEY HALL Get a unique insight into the aspirations of the Tudor classes who lived and worked at the hall, Wed 24 Feb - Thurs 24 Mar, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

WINTER HERITAGE TOURS OF SAREHOLE MILL Taking place on a Wednesday and Thursday, explore the idyllic childhood haunt of JRR Tolkien, Wed 24 Feb - Thurs 24 Mar, Sarehole Mill,

Birmingham

WHAT UNIVERSITY LIVE? A new event for 15-to-19-year-olds, to help them decide what to do after leaving school, be it an apprenticeship, training programme or university after A Levels, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Feb, NEC, Birmingham

DSLR PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS A concise four-week beginner's introduction to your DSLR camera, Sat 27 Feb, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

HERITAGE WEEKEND Join the guided walks on offer around the village which showcase places of interest and the rich history of the area, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Feb, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

NOBUKO IMAI A unique learning experience, as world-renowned Japanese-born violinist Nobuko Imai gives viola master classes, workshops and ensemble sessions. A day for all musicians, not just violinists, Sun 28 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

DIVA WEDDING FAYRE See the hall set up for a ceremony and chat to 25 exhibitors showcasing the very best services and products to make sure your special day is truly perfect, Sun 28 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham

Visual Arts

WOLVERHAMPTON SOCIETY OF ARTISTS Biennial exhibition with a diverse range of styles, mediums and subject matter, until Sat 27 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

WHAT REMAINS Mixed media exhibition by Maureen Cooper, Wed 3 Feb - Thurs 28 Apr, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2015 Featuring 100 amazing images, from fascinating animal behaviour to breathtaking wild landscapes, Fri 5 Feb - Sun 10 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

LOVE ART, BUY ART, MAKE ART EXHIBITION Works by the tutors who will deliver the Winter and Summer

workshops, Mon 8 - Sat 20 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

MARGARET FAIRHEAD RBSA Margaret has drawn inspiration from the canals near the gallery to produce a series of machine-stitched urban landscapes, Mon 8 Feb - Sat 19 Mar, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

CHANCE, ORDER, CHANGE: ABSTRACT PAINTINGS 1939 - 1989 A great opportunity to enjoy abstract art at its purest, Thurs 11 Feb - Sun 8 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

INTO THE WOODS Featuring stylistically diverse works by distinguished artists including Jacob van Ruisdael, Theodore Rousseau & Samuel Palmer, Fri 12 Feb - Sun 12 June, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS 2016 Exhibition of works by graduates from various West Midlands art schools, Fri 12 Feb - Sun 15 May, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and Sat 13 Feb - Sun 10 Apr, mac, Birmingham

BIG CERAMICS: DISCOVER CLAY ON A MONUMENTAL SCALE Bringing together eight ceramicists who use clay to create ambitious objects, Sat 20 Feb - Sat 28 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

BIRMINGHAM ART CIRCLE EXHIBITION Featuring a group of professional artists who exhibit at the RBSA each year, Mon 22 Feb - Sat 5 Mar, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

ROB HAND RBSA On the Edge - A collection of pit-fired and raku pieces including a range of jewellery, Mon 22 Feb - Sat 2 Apr, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

FLOCKOMANIA 2 A solo exhibition and installation by Zoe Robertson featuring a display of wearable sculpture, Mon 22 Feb - Fri 1 Apr, Parkside Gallery, Birmingham

HOTEL DIARIES Made over six years in hotels in six different countries, Hotel Diaries charts the 'war on terror' era of Bush and Blair through a series of video recordings that relate personal experiences to the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Israel/Palestine, Sat 27 Feb - Sat 7 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

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