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SHARES THE JOY OF MINCING

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thelist

Your 16-page week
by week listings guide



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talks about playing Holly Golightly on tour
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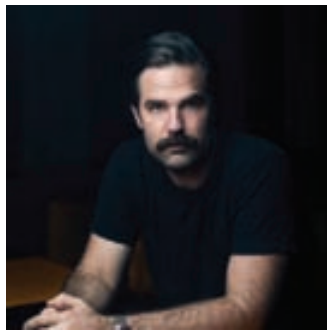
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Big names announced for Birmingham Pride

The organisers of Birmingham's annual gay Pride celebration are aiming to make the 20th festival one to remember. The 2016 event takes place over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend of 28 & 29 May. It will feature live performances from, among many others, Erasure's Andy Bell, Grammy-nominated Lisa Stansfield (pictured), Vengaboys and chart-topping headliners Katy B, MNEK and Fleur East. The festival also features a dance arena, cabaret marquee, funfair and women's arena, in addition to a host of community stalls and refreshments. This year's Carnival Parade is taking 'A Generation of Pride' as its theme. Commenting on the event, Birmingham Pride Festival Director Lawrence Barton said: "We're expecting a record turnout, attracting people from throughout the UK. And, with over 100 artists and DJs performing during the weekend, there's definitely something for everyone to enjoy." For full details, visit: birminghampride.com



New and beautiful at BBC show



BBC Gardeners' World Live is looking for emerging talent in garden design to create fun and attractive borders for this year's show.

The selected creations will feature in the Beautiful Borders and brand new Edible Borders elements of the event. Beautiful Borders has a literary theme for 2016, while Edible Borders takes a 5-a-day theme.

Commenting on the competition, 2015 Beautiful Borders Gold Medal winner Lisa Niemy, of Beautiful Borders Garden Design, Guildford, said: "After a lifetime of watching others produce stunning borders at garden shows and on TV, it's fabulous to turn your hand to designing and building a border at a show. A rollercoaster of challenges, it's helped kick-start our business and really put us on the map."

Applications are open until 8 April. Each accepted Beautiful and Edible Borders applicant will be given £50-worth of National Garden Gift Vouchers to contribute towards plants for their border at the show.

For more information and an application form, contact: Imogen.Bodimeade@riverstretevents.co.uk. BBC Gardeners' World Live takes place at Birmingham's NEC from 16 to 19 June.

A comic history at the Crescent

Birmingham youth theatre group Stage2 is presenting a comic history of English Literature at the city's Crescent Theatre this month.

A Fallible Lecture, originally a short prose poem by Liverpool poet Brian Patten, has been extended and adapted for the stage.

The show is being presented in the Crescent Studio Theatre from 13 to 16 April.



Birmingham Children's Hospital goes bananas

Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity is calling for fundraising families to put their best feet forward and take part in its Minion Mini-Marathon to raise money for its Eye Believe Appeal.

The event takes place in the city's Cannon Hill Park on Saturday 23 April (11am) and costs £5 per adult and £2 per child. All participants are asked to seek sponsorship to complete the 5k course.

The Eye Believe Appeal aims to raise £300,000 to totally transform the hospital's eye department, creating a bright, comfortable waiting area and interactive play space suitable for children with impaired vision. For more information on the Eye Believe Appeal and to register for the Minion Mini-Marathon, visit Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity at bch.org.uk/eyebelieve, or email events@bch.nhs.uk.

Blues and jazz aplenty in Lichfield

Lichfield Blues & Jazz Festival has announced its line-up for 2016. The popular event will this year feature performances from, among others, The Birmingham Jazz Orchestra, The Callum Roxburgh Swing Orchestra, Steve Ajao Blues Giants, Rebecca Downes, The Steve Waterman Quartet, leading solo bassist Fred Theloni Baker, The Nick Dewhurst Quintet and The Zappatistas. Commenting on this year's festival, organiser Brian Pretty said: "As well as the quality music, we will have workshops to join in with, and entertainment throughout the weekend. The festival offers incredible value for money, and we can guarantee you a good weekend of great music and entertainment." The festival takes place at various Lichfield venues from 24 to 26 June. For further details and to book tickets, visit lichfieldarts.org.uk



Cass Art in Brum

The UK's leading independent art supplies retailer has opened a new store in Birmingham. Cass Art is committed to providing 'the world's best art materials at the guaranteed lowest prices', and to inspiring everyone to make and do art. "This is our 11th shop in the UK," says founder Mark Cass, "and we're thrilled to be opening in the largest city outside the capital. Birmingham has a rich cultural heritage and continues to be a beacon of innovation. With a vibrant artist community and internationally acclaimed arts venues, there's no shortage of creative talent. With IKON gallery and Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery on our doorstep, we're excited to be at the heart of it all."

Phill Jupitus to join Chitty cast at the Hippodrome

Comedian Phill Jupitus and West End starlet Carrie Hope Fletcher will join Lee Mead and Michelle Collins in the star-studded cast of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang when it flies into Birmingham Hippodrome in September. The hit musical also features 'sensational' sets, 'stunning' special effects and, of course, a memorable score by the Sherman Brothers, which includes such classics as Truly Scrumptious, Toot Sweets, Hushabye Mountain and the Oscar-nominated title song itself. The show runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday 7 to Sunday 18 September. Tickets are available from £23.50 and can be booked at birminghamhippodrome.com or by calling 0844 338 5000.



New Artistic Director at BCMG

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) has appointed Stephan Meier as its new Artistic Director. Stephan is currently the Artistic Director of Hanover's Das Neue Ensemble. He will join BCMG in August. Commenting on his new role, Stephan said: "Birmingham Contemporary Music Group is one of the world's finest new music ensembles, admired for its joyous, uncompromising championing of the music of today. It is, therefore, a privilege to be its next Artistic Director, and to be asked to lead a new phase in the ensemble's life."

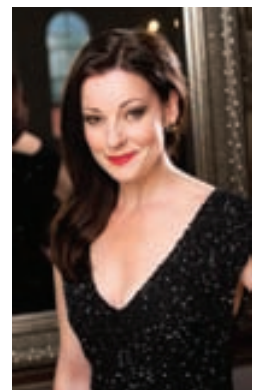
More Electro Swing in Digbeth

Electro Swing lovers and vintage connoisseurs are being urged to take to the streets and party in style when the Swingamajig festival arrives at Birmingham's Rainbow venues on 1 May. The unique event, now in its fourth year, brings the 'sounds and styles of the 1920s up to date with a modern twist'. To check out who's appearing at this year's festival, visit swingamajig.co.uk



Ruthie Henshaw in That's Entertainment!

Musical theatre favourite Ruthie Henshaw is heading to Birmingham this summer with a brand new song & dance production. Ruthie, who's starred in numerous West End and Broadway shows, including Chicago, Miss Saigon, Les Miserables, Cats and Crazy For You, will visit the New Alexandra Theatre with That's Entertainment!, a celebration of big hits from the 1940s and '50s that features the music of Lerner & Loewe, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter. The show runs at the venue from 19 to 23 July.



All Saints back on the road with Red Flag tour

Pop group All Saints will visit Birmingham's O2 Academy in the autumn (14 October) as part of their first full UK headline tour in over 15 years. The group are hitting the road in support of Red Flag, their first album in 10 years, which is released on 8 April. In a statement about the autumn tour, All Saints said: "Playing live is our favourite thing to do as a band and we can't wait to perform all our hits plus some new tracks from Red Flag. It's incredible to think our last proper tour was over 15 years ago. So we've been waiting for this moment for a very long time. We can't wait to get out there and see everyone."



New Midlands folk festival

A brand new Birmingham folk festival will make its debut at the city's Town Hall in May. Imagined Isle brings together a line-up of nationally and internationally renowned artists with a selection of local and emerging musicians. Performers include The Songs Of Nick Drake, Kate Rusby, The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain and Eric Bibb. Commenting on the event, Richard Hawley, Head of Artistic Programming at the city's Town Hall and Symphony Hall, said: "We're delighted to be announcing Imagined Isle as a new festival for Birmingham. Working closely with artists and in partnership with many promoters, we've curated a wonderful line-up of exceptional talent, both established and emerging, with many performers coming from the West Midlands. While we still have a few events to announce, please do join us for an unforgettable weekend of music from folk origins that will capture hearts and imaginations." Tickets for the festival are now on sale at: thsh.co.uk/imagined-isle-2016

Birthday celebrations at Symphony Hall

Birmingham's Symphony Hall is this month celebrating its 25th anniversary with a special concert - and anyone aged 25 or under is invited to attend the event free of charge. Taking place on 15 April, The Next 25 features the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and three talented musicians who're celebrating their 25th birthdays in 2016 - Lukas Geniušas, Jamie Phillips and Ryan Latimer. The concert programme comprises performances of Stravinsky's Firebird, Grieg's Piano Concerto and a new commission by Latimer. Tickets for people 25 and under must be reserved at the Symphony Hall Box Office ahead of the event, and ID must be shown. Over 25s who wish to purchase tickets to the concert can do so at: thsh.co.uk/SH25



Fourth outing for Soul Acoustic

This year's Soul Acoustic tour, which visits Birmingham's Glee Club on 28 April, will feature an all-female line-up in honour of women's contribution to music. Now in its fourth year, the developmental tour is a celebration of songwriting, singing and performance. Confirmed artists for 2016 include one-time X Factor finalist Misha B (pictured). "We're proud to be rolling out Year Four of Soul Acoustic", says Ammo Talwa, CEO of Punch, the music & arts development agency behind the tour. "Live music, and the opportunity to perform in such a pure style, has always been a vital component of the black music market. I'm pleased to see that some of the artists we've championed previously have gone from strength to strength."



bbopLive in Brum

A live, star-studded event in front of 15,000 people at Birmingham's Genting Arena is one of three special EU Referendum festivals announced by the Grassroots Movement. The festival, featuring some of Britain's hottest artists - as well as speeches from leading personalities and politicians who support leaving the EU - will be the first of its kind in the UK. Branded BpopLive, the event will bring together a broad audience, united by a love of great music, to raise awareness of the importance of the EU Referendum in the UK. Now that the date for the Referendum has been set for 23 June, the relevance of BpopLive has never been clearer, especially in terms of engaging younger voters. Contributors include Sigma (pictured), Sigala, Phats & Small, DJ Luck & MC Neat and Electric Swing Circus, with more to be announced. bpopLIVE comes to Genting Arena on Sunday 8 May.



NEW GIGS ANNOUNCED!

LAURA MVULA Sat 21 May - O2 Institute
CYNDI LAUPER Wed 22 Jun - Symphony Hall
RUFUS WAINWRIGHT Fri 15 Jul - Symphony Hall
ALL SAINTS Fri 14 Oct - O2 Academy
JEAN-MICHEL JARRE Sat 8 Oct - Barclaycard Arena
NICKELBACK Fri 14 Oct - Genting Arena
PLACEBO Thurs 8 Dec - Barclaycard Arena

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Jolly good show, chaps!

Graham Seed talks about Rattigan, romance and how wearing a uniform might give his wife ideas...



With the tractors and traumas of Ambridge well and truly behind him (he played Nigel Pargetter in radio soap *The Archers* for an incredible 27 years), award-winning actor and broadcaster Graham Seed continues to work extensively. Just starting out on a national tour, Graham plays Squadron Leader Swanson in Terence Rattigan's *Flare Path*, directed by Justin Audibert.

"It's going very well and we have a terrific cast," beams Graham, a self-confessed Rattigan fan. "As an actor, I'm really enjoying it because Rattigan writes such good characters; he just didn't write bad parts. One of his best plays is *The Deep Blue Sea*, and this has early elements of that. It's rather delightful and I like the play enormously."

Based on Rattigan's own experiences as a tail gunner during World War Two, the play is rooted in wartime Britain, where the life-and-death existence of the RAF bomber crews, and the wives and sweethearts who were on tenterhooks awaiting their return, created a permanent state of high anxiety.

The story tells of former actress Patricia, the wife of RAF pilot Teddy. When Patricia's ex-lover and Hollywood idol Peter arrives out of the blue, her emotions are thrown into turmoil and the survival of her marriage to Teddy becomes uncertain. As the conflict rages in the skies above, on terra firma feelings simmer, threatening to become every bit as explosive.

A romance with shades of *Brief Encounter*, then? Graham nods. "She has to decide



“ It’s rather romantic and like being with a family. For me, as an older member of the company, there’s a responsibility to make sure that everyone’s happy. ”

what she’s going to do, but it does have humour, too. It’s a very evocative and powerful play. My character is quite funny and rather charming. He’s a frightfully good chap; full of that stiff upper lip phlegm.”

In pitching his performance, Graham has had to take care not to stray into parody. “If you did it wrong, you’d be into Black Adder or Monty Python territory, which you don’t want at all.”

But it’s not just the good of the play that Graham is mindful about; he clearly has great respect for the real-life pilots who carried out such dangerous missions.

“These boys were incredibly brave and they understated the danger always. The play is set against the backdrop of planes taking off and not coming back. You can see why Churchill loved it. The Great War was so ghastly that it became romantic, but in the Second World War, far more civilians were bombed.”

Mixing history with an intriguing story gives Flare Path broad appeal, and the cast are delighted that the show is attracting audiences of all ages.

“It’s definitely a play that’s suitable for all the family, and I do hope that lots of young people will come to see it,” says Graham, who admits that these days he isn’t feeling as sprightly as he once did.

“I’m suddenly feeling my age,” he confides. “For years, you’re the youngest in the company, and now I’m suddenly the oldest - I’m

about 20 years older than everyone else!”

But there’s something about this particular production that’s had a rejuvenating effect on Graham. Botox? A bit of a nip-and-tuck? As it transpires, nothing so drastic.

“I know it sounds slightly immature for a 65-year-old man to say it, but it’s quite nice to put on an air force uniform. I look pretty chipper. It’s like evening dress - if you’re a woman and you suddenly look at your old man in evening dress, you say, ‘Goodness, he polishes up well!’ When my wife sees me in my RAF uniform, I hope she thinks that there’s life in the old dog yet!”

Certainly on the work front Graham continues to have offers lined up. Although he’s best remembered for The Archers, his CV is crammed with credible theatre, film and TV credits. “That’s because I’m so old,” he twinkles. “I’ve ducked and dived. I’m what they call a jobbing actor.”

As for life on tour, Graham doesn’t mind living out of a suitcase in the least.

“It’s rather romantic and like being with a family. For me, as an older member of the company, there’s a responsibility to make sure that everyone’s happy. But it’s a lovely way to see friends in other parts of the country and to visit wonderful theatres.”

Asked to name the theatres around the country that he’s most looking forward to playing, Graham doesn’t hesitate: “Birmingham! As a young actor I was at Birmingham Rep and the editor of The Archers was in the

audience. He was about to cast a young character called Nigel, so I was spotted in Birmingham. And, of course, The Archers is recorded up there, so I can visit old friends.”

With all the schlepping about he does for work, how does Graham relax?

“I find it very hard to relax,” he confesses. “I do What The Papers Say every other Sunday, so don’t get many Sundays off. You always worry about your next job, and even at 65 I’m always worried that I’ll be found out. But I’m actually pretty content. Getting older makes you less ambitious; there are more important things, like your health. So now I’m absolutely thrilled to play good supporting roles and to really enjoy them.”

Anxious that he doesn’t come across as “worthy” (he doesn’t), Graham believes that there’s a duty to tour good plays around the country, especially to unsubsidised theatres. Speaking of which, it’s time for him to head off to transform himself into a fine young man in uniform for the evening performance.

“I’m revving up for chocks away,” he grins, before adding: “It’s not a bad life.”

Indeed. And he’s a jolly good egg. A jolly good egg in a jolly good show. Go and see for yourself.

.....
Flare Path shows at the **The REP**, Birmingham from **Monday 25 – Saturday 30 April**.

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A little bit of India opens in Chinatown

Birmingham's Chinatown has a brand new eatery - a premium fine-dining Indian restaurant! James Dahl is situated in The Arcadian Centre and is the first restaurant to be opened by local businessman Mohammed Husban Ahmed. "It's been my dream to open a restaurant for years," says Husban, "and I've put my heart and soul into creating a very

sophisticated place in which to dine, enjoy an evening of fine food and experience excellent customer service. I know The Arcadian is known for its Chinese restaurants, but I wanted to put a little bit of India in there too." For information about James Dahl, visit: thearcadian.co.uk/food-drink-entertainment



REVIEW: San Carlo, Temple Street Oozing freshness with every bite...



It was back in 1992 that Sicilian entrepreneur and businessman Carlo Distefano first set up shop in Birmingham's Temple Street, after travelling to England with a mere £12 in his pocket to work in a barber's shop.

Fourteen years on and with over 20 Italian eateries to his name, the San Carlo group has gone from strength to strength, establishing international roots in Thailand and the Middle East alongside its ever-growing UK base of wine bars, pizzerias, 'Cichetti' cafes and traditional Italian restaurants. Yet despite its global reputation, San Carlo has never lost sight of its humble beginnings - and therein lies the secret to its hard-won success.

Exuding a characteristic warmth

and a genuine passion for his craft, our Maitre'd was on hand to guide us through the overwhelming choice of dishes, which included both a varied mix of classic pastas and a selection of lesser known regional specialities.

Special mention too must go to San Carlo's enviable choice of fish dishes, which includes the lavishly named Mixed Shellfish Royale - a tantalising combination of roasted giant prawn crevettes, scallops and mussels with garlic butter - and Mixed Seafood platter for two, simply prepared and oozing freshness with every bite.

After sampling San Carlo's delicious home-made pizza bread with passata sauce (a triumph in itself), I finally opted for a starter of Scallops Capesante

Con Spinaci, lightly fried in white wine and presented still in their shells. My partner opted for the Grilled Goats Cheese, Sesame Seeds and Balsamic drizzle - refreshingly mild in flavour with a light crumble and accented perfectly by the peppery kick of fresh rocket.

After another round of lengthy deliberation - aided by a Bellini cocktail of prosecco and fresh peach juice - our choice of main course did not fail to impress. In fact, it exceeded all expectations. Deciding on the 'mixed pasta' platter - a choice of three signature pasta dishes as selected by the Head Chef at £11.95 per head - the 'star turn' of the evening came in the form of the Tagliolini Lobster - special pasta with lobster, brandy, tomato, cream and petit-pois. Succulent, beautifully sweet and infused with an unmistakable taste of the sea, the freshness of the lobster married perfectly with the lightness of the tomato and cream sauce. An absolute delight to eat and by far one of the best shellfish dishes I've ever had the good fortune to sample.

Accompanying this was the Garganelli Salsiccia & Porcini - a rich egg pasta dish with Cambrian-imported spiced sausage and porcini mushroom which, whilst a little rich for my taste, was nevertheless a fine example of a traditional dish, simply prepared and executed with panache.

With such incredible choice of starter and main course, it would be easy for the dessert menu to become an afterthought. Not in San Carlo's case. For the perfect palate cleanser, I recommend the Panna Cotta served with fresh fruit compote, deliciously light and bursting with the intense flavour of fresh raspberries. Or for something a little more substantial, you can't go far wrong with San Carlo's homemade Baked Italian Cheesecake.

In a market that sometimes feels saturated with inoffensive high street chains, it's refreshing to come across a restaurant for whom passion for produce remains a guiding principle. At the heart of Carlo Distefano's business empire lies a real appreciation for quality ingredients - and it shows!

Simple, heartfelt and infused with a genuine passion for the culture and cuisine, San Carlo is big on flavour and even bigger on heart! Bellissimo!

Katherine Ewing

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

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Alison Hammond to host food awards

Brummie TV presenter Alison Hammond is to host this summer's inaugural Birmingham Food, Drink & Hospitality Awards. Best known from ITV's This Morning show, Alison will host the awards ceremony at Edgbaston Stadium on Monday 6 June. Commenting on the forthcoming engagement, Alison said: "I'm delighted to be taking the helm of these awards. I love Birmingham and we've never had it so good when it comes to going out to great places for fabulous food and drink. I'm looking forward to celebrating the best of the best in the city."



Nozomi to open on Fleet Street

A new sushi and Japanese tapas restaurant is opening on Birmingham's Fleet Street this month.

An export from Knightsbridge in London, Nozomi Birmingham will offer a Japanese take on the perennially popular tapas style of dining, with small plates served for sharing. Commenting on the new eatery, a spokesperson for Nozomi said: "We're very excited about opening our new restaurant in Birmingham - and the first in the UK outside London. The menu will be the same as London but with a few additions."

The new restaurant opens at the end of April and will be housed in a heritage building, close to Coffin Works in the Jewellery Quarter.



Glynn Purnell's Friday Night Kitchen is back...

Michelin-starred chef Glynn Purnell will be joined by X Factor winner Sam Bailey when he opens the doors of his Friday Night Kitchen at Villa Park's Holte Suite in the autumn (7 October). Sam and other celebrities will be assisting Glynn with the cooking in what promises to be a fun-filled live show.

Glynn's previous two Friday Night Kitchens have raised over £100,000 for Cure Leukaemia, a charity for which the chef is a trustee.

"I can't wait to welcome Sam and other guests to my Friday Night Kitchen this October," says

Glynn. "I'm looking forward to hearing about her favourite food, so I can think up some delicious recipes for everyone on the night. I'm delighted with the way the event has grown over the last two years, and proud to have helped raise such a phenomenal figure for Cure Leukaemia. I can promise that it will be another night full of fun, laughs, amazing music and, of course, great food!"

For more information, visit purnellsrestaurant.com

Pop up restaurant at Six Eight Kafe

A food company specialising in taking its diners on a nostalgic journey inspired by cuisine from the prohibition era is hosting two pop-up restaurants in Birmingham this month.

A Lost Society is the brainchild of Josh Porter and Jade Hollingworth, whose stated aim is "to educate, excite and evoke memories for all our guests".

Josh and Jade's restaurants pop up at Six Eight Kafe on 9 & 23 April.



International Food court to open in Digbeth

The Digbeth area of Birmingham looks set to get its own international food court.

The food court would sit adjacent to the new 108-bedroom Adagio apart-hotel complex. It would be five storeys high and feature stalls selling healthy snack foods from around the world, including Japanese sushi, South American cajun chicken, Chinese rice dishes and African market dishes.

The food court would be part of the regeneration project currently being undertaken in Digbeth. We'll keep you posted.

Muse

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
Sat 2 April

Since their debut in 1994, Muse have released seven studio albums - including *Absolution* (2003), *Black Holes And Revelations* (2006) and *The 2nd Law* (2012) - selling upwards of 17 million copies worldwide. Seventh album *Drones* topped the UK charts for two weeks last June.

The talented three-piece, comprising Matt Bellamy, Chris Wolstenholme and Dominic Howard, have also won numerous awards for their work, including two BRITs, two Grammys and eight NME gongs.

Renowned for their exceptional live performances, the band's *Drones World Tour* sees them performing for the first time 'in the round', from the middle of the arena. This stage design and configuration gives fans a true 360-degree audio/visual sensory experience.



The Cat Empire

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Sat 2 April



For over a decade, Australian ska/jazz band The Cat Empire have been showcasing their trademark high-energy live gigs around the world.

This month, the six-piece return to the UK in support of their new album, *Rising With The Sun*, which was released in March.

"There's a lot of celebration on *Rising With The Sun*," says man main Felix, "in terms of 'celebrating' what The Cat Empire is, and what it means to people to come to the shows and be a part of that celebration and self-abandon for a night. I don't want to make grand statements about whether it's our best album or not. It doesn't really matter. It's true to what the band is, and to what's kept people coming back to our shows for quite a long time, and that's something that's really great."

Gregory Porter

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 24 April

Brooklyn-based vocalist and songwriter Gregory Porter has been called 'one of the most captivating voices in contemporary jazz'. Not bad for a fella who didn't follow his dream of becoming a professional musician until he was nearly 40 - a step he took to fulfill his dying mother's wish for him.

A move from Southern California to New York kickstarted his success story, with his album, *Liquid Spirit*, bagging a coveted Grammy Award. In the UK alone, the album is certified gold and has shown plenty of staying power in the Official Album Charts.

Porter has performed with such greats as Martin Gaye, Nat Cole and Donny Hathaway.



Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Fri 29 April

Last year saw ex-Oasis member Noel Gallagher and his High Flying Birds complete a worldwide tour that included a sell-out round of UK arena shows and headline performances at major summer festivals, including T In The Park and Latitude. The band's album, *Chasing Yesterday*, went straight to number one in the Official UK Album Charts and has received huge critical acclaim.

The boys are back on the road alongside Super Furry Animals, who take the support slot on this new UK tour.

Betty Wright

The Drum, Birmingham, Sat 9 April



With a career spanning over four decades, Betty Wright is arguably one of the most talented vocalists of her generation. She rose to fame when just 17 years old, following the release of her most famous song, Clean Up Woman. Tonight Is The Night, She's Got Papers On Me and No Pain, No Gain also feature in her repertoire of classics.

Talon

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 14 April; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 30 April

Talon here present a brand new production of their award-winning Best Of Eagles. The first half of the show takes an in-depth look at the 'early Eagles roots' before making the journey from Hell Freezes Over to the critically acclaimed Long Road Out Of Eden. The second half celebrates the band's 'greatest hits'. After 19 successful years together, Talon have certainly fulfilled their mission to 'faithfully recreate the music of the Eagles with honesty, respect and reverence'.



Jeff Lynne's ELO

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Sat 16 - Sun 17 April

With a unique sound blending rock, pop and classical, ELO have produced 26 UK Top 40 singles and sold over 50 million records throughout their career. Alone In The Universe - the band's first album in 15 years - was released last November and has

received rave reviews from the critics. As well as embarking on this 10-date UK tour, the band have also announced that they'll be playing Glastonbury's famous Legends slot, which has featured the likes of Dolly Parton and Lionel Richie in recent years. As with ELO's previous chart-topping albums, Jeff Lynne continues to serve as the group's producer, songwriter, arranger, lead singer and guitarist.

Alice Zawadzki

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 22 April

Alice Zawadzki is a musician of many talents. Not only is she a phenomenal vocalist, she's also a violinist, a songwriter, a composer and an improviser. Her journey into jazz started at just 12 years of age. By the time she was 15, she was a backing vocalist for Lillian Boutté. Alice has since brought her 'distinctive and individual presence' to most major venues and festivals in the UK.



U.K. Subs

The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 21 April

With 2016 marking their 40th anniversary, this legendary band represent the true spirit of punk rock and continue to tour the world. Expect to hear classics from their UK top-10 albums, Brand New Age and Crash Course, as well as songs from latest offering Yellow Leader, released last year.



Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 20 April

Having racked up over 20 years of music-making, not only together but with the likes of Seth Lakeman, Cara Dillon, Levellers, Kate Rusby and Show Of Hands, partners Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman have firmly established themselves as pillars of the modern British folk scene. So much so, in fact, that the pair have been nominated for Best Duo in the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards 2016.

Classical Music

Birmingham Philharmonic Concerto

Birmingham Conservatoire, Sun 24 April

A collaborative project between Birmingham Conservatoire and Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, the Concerto Prize concert features performances from the coveted competition's three finalists - Yu-Cheng Chen (marimba), Michael Webb (clarinet) and Yuting Guo (piano).

The concert, introduced by BBC TV presenter Michael Collie, sees former Prize winner Michael Seal making a welcome return to conduct the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra. Commenting on the event, Julian Lloyd Webber, Principal of Birmingham Conservatoire, said, "The chance to take part in this famous competition, and to perform a concerto with such an expert orchestra as the Birmingham Philharmonic, is a fantastic experience for these students as they take their first steps on the professional ladder. And for the audience, this will be an exciting opportunity to hear three exceptional musicians in an afternoon of thrilling performances."



Left to right: Yu-Cheng Chen, Yuting Guo & Michael Webb

Tamsin Waley-Cohen And Tchaikovsky

Stratford Artshouse, Tues 12 April;
Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 13 April

Acclaimed violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen once again joins forces with the Stratford-based Orchestra Of The Swan, for whom she is an Associate Artist. Described by The Guardian as a performer of 'fearless intensity', Tamsin here plays Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, a piece which was considered unplayable at the time it was composed. The concert also features Mozart's Symphony no25 in G minor and, to maintain the Orchestra Of The Swan's season of Shakespeare-connected work, Shostakovich's Hamlet Suite.



City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Wed 27 - Thurs 28 April



A conductor much admired for his great sensitivity, Ilan Volkov (pictured above) here digs beneath the surface of Mahler's playful and melodic Fourth Symphony in search of its rich vein of black comedy.

Both concerts also feature a delightful new version of Debussy's Children's Corner.

The programme on the 27th is completed by Haydn's Piano Concerto in D major, and on the 28th by the first UK performance of a brand new piano concerto. The new work has been specially written by Danish 'sonic magician' Hans Abrahamsen for the soloist in both concerts, Alexandre Tharaud. Soprano Sarah Tynan also contributes to both evenings.

Ex Cathedra: Shakespeare Odes

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 22 April; Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 24 April; Hereford Cathedral, Fri 6 May; St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, Sat 7 May

This latest Ex Cathedra presentation sees the talented early music ensemble turning its attention to Shakespeare, in a concert performed in recognition of the 400th anniversary of the bard's death. Presented in partnership with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the Shakespeare Institute and in association with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the concert features a staged, period-instrument performance of actor David Garrick's 1769 Shakespeare Ode, with music by Thomas Arne (Rule Britannia). The evening also includes a new Ode, written by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, which has been composed for Ex Cathedra and a 'broken consort' of instruments by Sally Beamish.



Ex Cathedra

Nigel Kennedy's New Four Seasons And Dedications

Malvern Theatre, Sat 16 April

Perhaps in an attempt to distract himself from the feelings of utter misery that are part and parcel of supporting Aston Villa, maverick violinist Nigel Kennedy has headed out on tour with an acoustic version of his groundbreaking Four Seasons. Alongside his rendition of this Vivaldi favourite, the concert also sees him performing his own eclectic Dedications.

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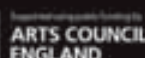
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SUMMER FESTIVAL

Guide



As another summer sets in, we're already looking forward to the warm weekends of the 2016 festival season, promising pop parties, metal mayhem, indie extravaganzas and some folkling good fun, along with (mostly) jazz, funk and blues. Over the winter, we asked you to vote for the best venues and events across the region, and now the polls have closed, we can officially reveal a handful of the finalists. Here are your favourite music festivals, plus a few more to watch out for in the coming months.

Slam Dunk Festival

NEC, Birmingham, Sun 29 May



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

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

Moseley Folk Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham,
Fri 2 - Sun 4 September

With rainbow colours, floral stages and hand-made crafts filling the stunning surroundings of Moseley Park, our next top finalist is a festival of a rather different character. Tucked away from busy city streets in an eleven-acre woodland glade, Moseley Folk feels a world away from the bustle of central Birmingham, with a laid-back, family-friendly atmosphere offering the perfect way to unwind at the end of the summer. Nominally a folk festival, it incorporates a huge array of styles and genres, programming top quality performers from both traditional and contemporary music scenes.

The 2016 line-up is yet to be announced, but expect accomplished artists ranging from the unsigned to the internationally successful.



Shrewsbury Folk Festival

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

Long recognised as a key date in any folkie's calendar, this four-day festival takes the last top spot in our festival category as voted for by you. The picturesque, historical town of Shrewsbury, where the West Midlands meets the Welsh and North West borders, provides the perfect setting for a festival focused on unearthing traditions from diverse cultures. Just don't be fooled into thinking it's old-fashioned: as medieval instruments meet modern effects and global grassroots cultures collide to form dynamic fusion styles, folk is fast becoming one of the most innovative musical genres today. As mainstream music becomes increasingly industry-dominated, it's also where you'll find some of the most passionate protest songs. Falling during the school holidays, Shrewsbury Folk offers something for all the family, with dancing, music workshops and children's activities. It's also been known to broadcast performances live online, so even those at home can join the fun.

2016 Line-up Includes: Eliza Carthy & the Wayward Band, The Levellers, Show of Hands, Treacherous Orchestra, Lady Maisery and A Day's Work – a folk opera by Mick Ryan



Download Festival

Donington Park, Leicestershire,
Fri 10 - Sun 12 June



With top billing consistently taken by some of the biggest names in rock and metal, it's not hard to see why Download Festival made it into our Readers' Awards finals. Conceived as a follow-up to Donington Park's previous Monsters of Rock Festival, Download makes its 14th outing this year, owing its name partly to its pioneering use of technology to connect with audiences and build a community around the event. But while it's cutting edge on one hand, its genre of choice is also steeped in local history. Emerging against a backdrop of thumping, grinding machinery in the country's industrial heart, early heavy metal acts have left an unmistakable legacy in the Midlands, and as long as Download continues, they'll always have a home here.

2016 Line-up Includes: Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Rammstein, Korn, Megadeth, Deftones, Nightwish, Alien Ant Farm, Killswitch Engage, Atreyu, Billy Talent, Jane's Addiction and Disturbed

V Festival

Weston Park, Staffordshire,
Fri 19 - Sun 21 August

Bringing together the biggest artists from across all genres, Virgin's V Festival has, over the last 20 years, blossomed into one of the UK's biggest and best-known music events. Born in 1996 when Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker put forward the idea of playing in two outdoor venues over two days, V Festival is unique in taking place in two separate locations simultaneously. Chart-topping acts take to stages in Staffordshire and Chelmsford, visiting one on Saturday and the other on Sunday.

2016 Line-up Includes: Rihanna, Justin Bieber, David Guetta, Sia, Faithless, Kaiser Chiefs, Bastille, Little Mix, Jess Glynne, Jake Bugg, Years & Years, Rita Ora and Tini Tempah



Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham, Fri 8 - Sun 10 July



Brought to you by the masterminds behind Moseley Folk and the Lunar Festival, Mostly Jazz, Funk and Soul does exactly what it says on the tin. World-class artists come together with the leading lights of the local jazz scene in a laid-back, family-friendly event that celebrates the city's cultural heritage. Like its sister festival Moseley Folk, it's also located in the gorgeous Moseley Park.

2016 Line-up Includes: De La Soul, Craig Charles' Funk & Soul Show

Lunar Festival

Umberslade Estate, Tanworth-in-Arden,
Fri 3 - Sun 5 June

The third in the Moseley Folk/Mostly Jazz/Lunar trio, the Lunar Festival takes place in a different setting to its sister festivals, this time in the gorgeous grounds of Tanworth-in-Arden's Umberslade Estate. Expect an eclectic mix of music, local ales, cabaret, all manner of creative workshops (from ska aerobics to guerilla archaeology), and general malarkey.

2016 Line-up Includes: Super Furry Animals, Mercury Rev, Television, Badly Drawn Boy, The Zombies, Matt Berry and the Maypoles, Bentley Rhythm Ace and Martin Carthy.



Godiva Festival

War Memorial Park, Coventry,
Fri 1 - Sun 3 July



One of Coventry's greatest cultural assets, the Godiva Festival claims the title of the UK's biggest free music festival, attracting ever-growing audiences and a diverse array of performers. Over the years, its line-ups have covered big Britpop bands, emerging indie talents, '80s electronic pop, familiar ska and two-tone favourites and even international acts.

2016 Line-up Includes: The Charlatans, Mystery Jets, Space and The Boomtown Rats

MADE Birmingham

Digbeth Triangle, Birmingham, Sat 30 July

Combining live music with visual street art and design, the Metropolitan Arts & Dance Event celebrates the contemporary art and culture scene in the UK's second city. Cutting-edge electronic acts and live DJ sets find their ideal home at this adults-only festival in Digbeth, the city's dynamic youth culture quarter.

2016 Line-up Includes: Rudimental, Stormzy and Andy C



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Pixie Lott

As musician Pixie Lott prepares to play Holly Golightly in director Nikolai Foster's new 1940s-set touring production of *Breakfast At Tiffany's*, she explains why she's returning to acting after an absence of 12 years - and how her portrayal of Holly is far-removed from Audrey Hepburn's...



"I realised the other day that I actually have that famous black-and-white photo of Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly in *Breakfast At Tiffany's* on a coaster next to my bed for my cup of tea," laughs Pixie Lott. "I've had it there for ages, long before I found out I'd be playing Holly on stage. It was obviously meant to be!"

In a temporary departure from her career as a singer/songwriter, Pixie is taking on the iconic role of the free-spirited, guitar-playing, cat-loving party girl in the touring production of Richard Greenberg's new play. However, she's keen to stress that this iteration of Holly is truer to the character as she's portrayed in Truman Capote's original 1958 novella, rather than in the better-known big-screen version. In fact, Pixie hasn't even watched the film since being cast in the play, as she 'didn't want to get too caught up in it'.

"Our play still has all those wonderful characters, the different personalities that make up New York, just as Capote brilliantly wrote them," Bromley-born Pixie, 25, explains. "When you think about it, the story was incredibly ahead of its time, which is what makes it still so relevant today, a genuine modern classic.

"This really is the dream role for me to take on for my first play. I feel incredibly lucky. Of course people will make comparisons with Audrey Hepburn, but I would never try to replicate an icon like her, as she was a one-off, truly unique. I hope audiences feel I bring my own interpretation and personality to the role. My Holly is free-spirited and has lots of energy, and we also see glimpses of the secrets of her past. But she's a survivor. She makes it through."

Capote himself was famously against casting Hepburn as Golightly, instead wanting Marilyn Monroe for the role, but her agent advised her against playing 'a lady of the evening'. Did Pixie have any reservations about playing such an iconic and controversial character? "Not at all," she smiles. "After all, Holly isn't actually a prostitute, but an 'American geisha', as Truman Capote described her. Once you get to know her in the play, she's both fabulous and very endearing."

Some may say that playing Holly Golightly is quite a departure for Pixie, who, after all, is best known for a string of chart-topping hits including Mama

Do and All About Tonight. As a teenager, she did in fact train as an actress at Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts, appearing in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the London Palladium before moving into music. So why has she decided to make a return to the stage? “I’ve always believed in being as rounded a performer as possible, and it’s always good to push yourself out of your comfort zone. I did that when I took part in Strictly Come Dancing in 2014. I learned ballroom and Latin from scratch, which I really loved, and this year it’s been really amazing to focus on acting. I’ll still be working on my own music alongside the play, and in the two breaks I have from the tour. I’ve been writing new songs at every opportunity I can, and hope to have new music ready towards the end of the year, with a little teaser or two in the summer.”

Pixie set herself a further challenge for this role: learning how to play the guitar. “I’d always wanted to learn, and the play has given me the perfect excuse. It was really hard, though!”

As a nod to the film, she performs Henry Mancini’s Oscar-winning Moon River. “It’s such a timeless song,” she says, “so beautiful. And it appears at a very intimate moment in the play, it sits really well.” Pixie also performs what she describes as “a little hillbilly ballad” which reflects Holly’s past, but this is by no means a musical version of the story. “It’s a play with music. There are songs from the era and a new score written by Grant Olding which scoots in and out throughout the performance. It brilliantly evokes the 1940s.”

Playing opposite Pixie as her confidant, ‘Fred’, is actor Matt Barber, who played Atticus Aldridge in Downton Abbey. “We get on brilliantly, but I haven’t yet dared to tell him that I didn’t watch Downton!” she admits. And, of course, there’s also Holly’s feline pet, Cat. “I’m still getting used to the cat,” she says. “I’m more of a dog person really, so I’m not familiar with being with cats or how to hold a cat. Thankfully, I’m not allergic to them.”

The play’s New York setting hugely appeals to the actress. “It’s one of my favourite cities in the world. I actually went and checked out the Tiffany’s store, which is at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 57th Street, the last time I was in New York. It was stunning! I’ve always been a fan of Tiffany’s, but I’ve never done the whole ‘coffee and Danish’ thing outside the store. I’d say I’m more of a tea and toast kind of girl!”

Holly Golightly’s 1940s look is intrinsic to the play’s authenticity, and something that definitely excites style-fan Pixie. “Holly has lots of costume changes, and wearing actual, fabulous vintage pieces and accessories from the era really helps me with her character. They’re not custom-made Givenchy gowns like Audrey’s, which would be incredible, but they’re the next best thing. I love experimenting with the way I look, with different hairdos and make-up, and this is so far removed from my usual get-ups.”

Life on the road is something that Pixie has become used to as a musician. “I’m actually looking forward to spending time in cities where, ordinarily on a music tour, I would only get to be for one night, maybe two. The play will give me the chance

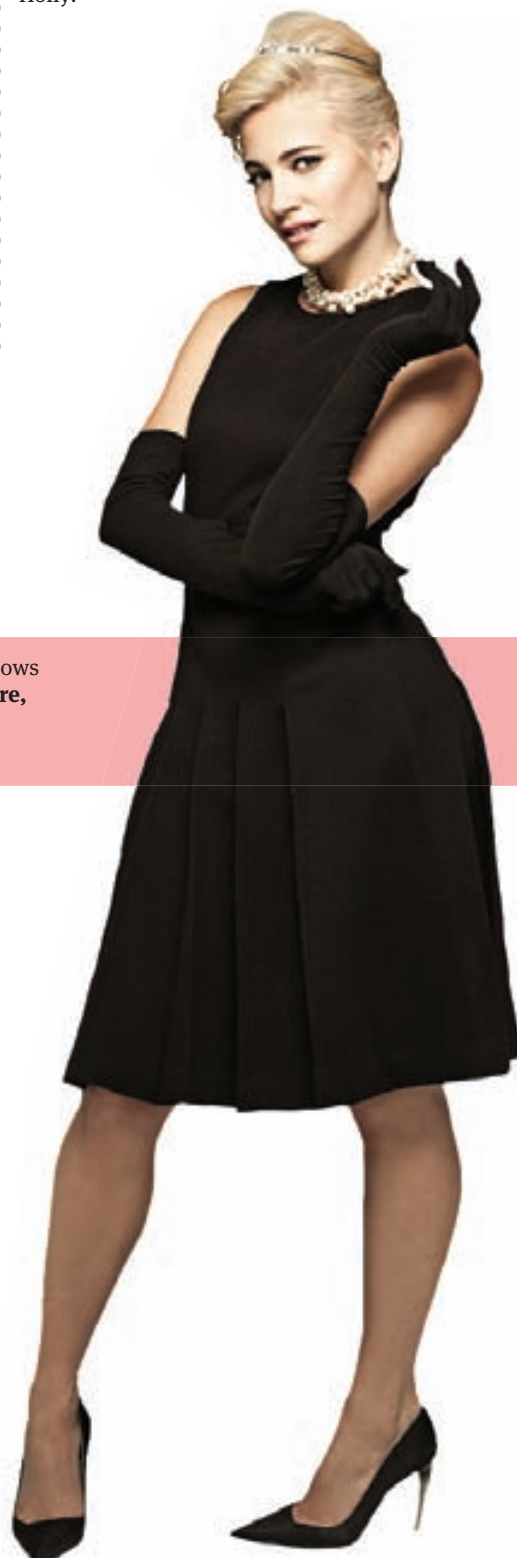
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“If my dressing-room is messy, I’ll just blame it on Holly Golightly

”

to explore parts of the UK and Ireland that I’ve never visited before, and also to get to know places which I already love even better.”

Like Holly Golightly, though, Pixie is a self-confessed scatterbrain, short-sighted (in the novel, Holly’s famous sunglasses apparently had prescription lenses) and she’s equally as untidy. “I’m a really messy person, so my dressing room will be fairly chaotic. Lots of make-up and clothes, maybe a candle and some pictures from the 1940s. If anyone complains about the mess, I’ll just blame it on Holly!”



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There will be performances in Shakespeare's church in Stratford-upon-Avon (22 Apr), in Birmingham (24 Apr), Hereford (6 May), Wolverhampton (7 May), London (12 May) and Southwell (28 May).

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The Young'uns

The North East folk trio find themselves on a winning streak...

There's nothing like a good award to boost a career - just ask Teesside's The Young'uns.

After a decade plying their trade at festivals and around the folk clubs of the North East, the now not-so-young trio are one of the biggest acts in the folk/acoustic world, thanks (in part) to their Best Group win at the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards.

"People do put their trust in these things, they do hold weight," says singer and accordion player David Eagle of their gong. "We always felt that people enjoyed us live, but didn't think there was much interest in us from the industry, but the BBC award showed different."

The Young'uns career started by chance as 16-year-old school pals David, Sean Cooney (vocals) and Michael Hughes (vocals, guitar) popped out for a spot of underage drinking, and accidentally stumbled into a folk club. Intrigued by the sing-arounds - where individuals kick-start a traditional song, unaccompanied, with everyone then joining in - they returned, and elder regulars eventually asked "the young'uns" if they'd like to participate. A couple of years later, they became a band.

"I say we've been together for 10 years, but the first two to three years we were rubbish!" recalls Eagle with a hearty laugh. "July 2005 was the first gig, but we were very different to who we are now. It's crazy to see how we've developed. There wasn't the same reliance on YouTube and the internet back in 2005, so no-one saw us play. I played triangle, penny whistle, kazoo, and we did unaccompanied things."

From wobbly early appearances, the friends have gained confidence - firstly as performers, more recently as songwriters.

"In the past, songs have been inspired by history," says Eagle, "of where we're from, of the landscape, and we talk about things in the past. But we became more inspired by things now. We approach folk music as stories and songs and anecdotes. Every gig is about storytelling, so our songwriting has become more sophisticated. We're talking about things that are actually in the now. We know what we like, we're more unabashed, we know who we are."

Eagle cites *The Biscuits Of Bull Lane* and *Lovely Cup Of Tea*, penned in the wake of soldier David Rigby's 2013 murder in Woolwich, as two songs that borrow from folk music traditions yet are utterly contemporary: "The English Defence League came to protest at Bull Lanes Mosque, in York, and they were greeted with biscuits and tea! That's a story! That's a folk song!"

Across 2014's *Never Forget* and 2015's *Another Man's Ground*, they've also explored such issues as honour killings (*The Streets Of Lahore*), Channel Four's *Benefits Street* (*You Won't Find Me On Benefits Street*) and war.

Of their rise in popularity, Eagle says: "A lot of things came together in a six-month period over 2014/15. We did a session for BBC Radio Two which bought a lot of new people to our shows, then did *The Unthanks* support in February 2015, which a lot of people came to see, and then there was the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards and the win. It was a combination of all of those things - that's when we started to get a lot of people coming to our gigs who'd not seen us before."

The Beeb win came as a shock for the three folkateers, as they were up against the mighty, all-conquering *Bellowhead*. Folk's

biggest band, with 21 nominations and eight wins, they seemed unbeatable.

"People kept telling us we were the underdog - and I think we felt we were the underdog - but I'm sure a lot of other [nominated] people felt that way about themselves too. It was a complete surprise to win."

Re-nominated for the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards Best Group this year, The Young'uns are no longer the outsiders, as they find themselves up against Londoners *Stick In The Wheel*, Dublin's *Lynched* and *Leveret*, featuring Andy Cutting and *Bellowhead*'s Sam Sweeney - who've both won the *Musicians Of The Year* award.

"*Stick The Wheel* we heard quite early on. They had this really interesting, raw EP. I really liked it. A lot of people are talking about them - you hear a lot about them. *Lynched* seem to have risen in the past few months and sound brilliant. And *Leveret* are an absolutely brilliant band as well. They have such a rapport - great musicianship."

Asked what he reckons The Young'uns chances are of retaining the award, Eagle responds by discussing how impossible it is to rank the nominees when all are arguably at the top of their game.

"They're all very different," he says. "You've always got to realise that when someone says you're the best group, you're not. It'd be ridiculous. You're not really the best."

The Young'uns play Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury on Monday 18 April, and Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Thursday 28 April

Rob Delaney: Meat

The REP, Birmingham, Sat 23 April

American comic Rob Delaney was once voted the funniest person on Twitter. He bagged the accolade from Comedy Central for his line in gleefully juvenile and sometimes overtly sexual offerings.

At this point, we could reproduce his rude'n'crude musing on whether the contents of Catwoman's litter tray acts like an aphrodisiac on Batman - but we won't. More palatable Twitter fare includes, "As far as I'm concerned, the scariest thing to come out of the Muslim world is algebra", and "WiFi at my uncle's funeral is a ****ing joke..."

Rob's visiting the Midlands this month with his latest stand-up show, Meat. He's touring on the back of a hugely successful year during which he co-starred in two series of hit Channel Four comedy show Catastrophe.



Four of the best...

Julian Clary: The Joy Of Mincing

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 27 April



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

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

Rob Beckett: Mouth Of The South

The Place, Oakengates, Shropshire, Sat 2 April; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 16 April



First tickling the nation's collective funny bone in 2009, Rob Beckett's TV work includes 8 Out Of 10 Cats and Celebrity Juice. A high-tempo comedian who's been described by one newspaper as 'a little short of a revelation', Rob claims his relationship with comedy began as a youngster. "I was the middle child and desperate for attention," he explains, "so I decided to try and get it by making my friends and family chuckle - or better still, belly laugh." Gags include, "You know you're working-class when your TV's bigger than your bookcase," and "My girlfriend worries about me cheating on a night out. I say to her, 'Why would I have a burger when I've got steak at home?' The only problem is, when you're drunk, burgers are well nice."

Danny Buckler

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 14 April



More than once likened in style to the legendary Tony Hancock, Danny Buckler started out as a magician working the shop floor of Harrods, his talent for conjuring securing him invitations to perform at numerous celebrity bashes. Appearances at private functions for the likes of Liam Gallagher, Bruce Willis and the Sultan of Brunei all feature on his impressive CV. Nowadays a regular performer on the stand-up circuit, Danny is a solid rather than spectacular purveyor of mirth, but his light touch, easy manner and intriguing dress sense ensure that an evening in his company is very definitely an evening well spent.



The All-Star Stand Up Tour

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 12 April;
Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 13 April; Warwick
Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 4 May

Four highly rated comedians for the price of one is the mouthwatering prospect on offer here.

Kiwi compere Jarred Christmas is joined by 'king of the one-liners' Gary Delaney, 'master of stand-up satire' Sean Hughes and Magicians star Pete Firman, a man once described by Time Out as 'more magical than Dumbledore on a good day'.

Four comedians, four styles of comedy - and therefore, no doubt, a suitably wide range of amused responses from the sure-to-be-appreciative audience. Expect to hear chuckles, giggles, belly laughs and ribs being mercilessly tickled (although we're not entirely sure what that last one actually sounds like)...

Jamie Wood: Oh No!

mac, Birmingham,
Fri 8 April

"O No! is a psychedelic ride and a wonky homage to the woman

damned for destroying the Beatles," explains Jamie Wood in talking about his latest touring production. "The show borrows Yoko Ono's art instructions to ask whether falling in love is always catastrophic. In my family, Yoko was deeply distrusted for the effect she'd had on John. I love Yoko Ono's art, I love her seemingly endless positivity and it makes me laugh. "This is basically a show about reckless optimism, avant-garde art - and what we might yet have to learn from the hippies!"



On the rise...

Adam Jaremko takes a look at what makes someone a comedian?

The comedians you see on TV, on tour and in comedy clubs every week all started out at the same point - standing on stage for the very first time, trying to make strangers laugh. Years later, they're still doing the same, but the rooms are grander, audiences bigger and they even get their own bottled water.

But what makes someone a comedian?

Being funny is the obvious starting point, but the fact that they even got up on stage - and their willingness to continue to do so - is what makes them real comedians. Oh, and being funny. Did I mention that?

When they start out, they'll travel the country and perform for free just for the chance to make progress and to grace the stages their heroes once did. UK clubs such as The Stand, Komedia and the Glee Clubs continue to witness the progression of tomorrow's stars. The Glee, for example, still has a paper file of 'act reviews' featur-

ing Sarah Millican, Rob Beckett and many more now-established comedians.

Most clubs will be contacted by a performer for a gig request; they normally provide a video clip and some text about themselves. If they're interesting enough, they'll be invited along to do a five or 10-minute set. This is what's called an 'open spot' - a chance to perform and impress both the audience and the venue staff/management. If that goes well, it's on to a 'half spot', normally 15 minutes on stage with a fee to cover travel and performance. If THAT goes well, then it's on to the big time - but all in good time, of course.

It's refreshing and reassuring to see that the comedy industry has a system that's thorough, fair and works. There's a journey for all comics to take, and Michael McIntyre is a good example of someone who's travelled it. He first played the Glee in 2003, had his first paid spot in 2004 and was on TV with his own show in 2009.

There are plenty of funny people out there, but it takes a lot to become a comedian - so here's to the stars on the rise!

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Relaxed Performance
Saturday 2 April 3pm



SEAL

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7pm
Symphony Hall



Disney Frozen in Concert

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Symphony Hall



Star Wars & Beyond A Space Spectacular

Saturday 2 July
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Jason Donovan Ten Good Reasons & Greatest Hits

Wednesday 11 May
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Sarah Millican: Outsider

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



Katherine Jenkins

Wednesday 15 June
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Daniel O'Donnell

Tuesday 20 September
7.30pm
Symphony Hall

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It's all about the Bard

Stratford celebrates its 'Famous Son'

Every April the 23rd, Shakespeare's hometown bursts into life as theatre enthusiasts come together to celebrate his life and works.

In case the buzz has passed you by, 2016 is a bit of a big year for the Bard, marking the 400th anniversary of his death. As such, this year's celebrations look set to be the most spectacular yet, with a weekend full of workshops, tours, live shows, screenings, concerts, visual art and more.

In the build-up to the big day, on Tuesday the 19th, tenor Joseph Calleja and soprano Angel Blue perform operatic classics inspired by Shakespeare's works in a gala concert at Holy Trinity Church.

The same day, Stratford Picturehouse begins a Shakespeare-themed film festival by screening Michael Elliot's 1963 version of *As You Like It*.

On Friday the 22nd, Margaret Drabble, Stanley Wells and Michael Wood discuss Shakespeare's family and friends in a special birthday lecture at The Shakespeare Centre, ending with a poetry reading from Wendy Cope. That evening at Holy Trinity, Ex Cathedra perform Garrick's Shakespeare Ode, set by Thomas Arne, alongside a brand new ode with words by Carol Ann Duffy and music by Sally Beamish. Featuring period instruments, this concert goes on to tour the Midlands.

At 10.30am on Saturday the 23rd, the Birthday Parade kicks off at Shakespeare's Birthplace, led by the Head Boy of Shakespeare's alma mater, King Edward VI School. From there, a colourful procession travels through town, ending at Holy Trinity, where Shakespeare is buried.

At the Royal Shakespeare theatres, part of the newly refurbished Swan Wing is unveiled, complete with an original artwork by Steven Follen. Comprised of over 2,000 stainless steel stars, *For All Time* is the RSC's largest ever site-specific art commission.

Meanwhile, in the Paccar Room, an exhibition called *Well Said!* displays Shakespeare quotes selected by actors and artists, including playwright Tanika Gupta, Hamlet star Paapa Essiedu and rapper Doc Brown.

Home to the RSC's costume store, the recently relaunched *Other Place* will also be open for *Page To Stage* Tours.

Outside, visitors can enjoy live music and sonnets on the ferry, or get stuck in to workshops on stage fighting, dance and voice work. Active Storytelling workshops engage with current RSC productions, while in *Blood, Guts And Gore*, make-up artists create realistic cuts and bruises.

At 2 and 4pm, Mimbres present a 30-minute acrobatic performance called *Wondrous*

Strange. There'll also be opportunities to meet the artists and ask them all your burning questions, or to participate in a self-guided tour of Stratford devised by Stan's Café, using speech bubbles at eight locations as instructions to act out mini dramas.

The birthday itself culminates in an exclusive, balloted event inside the theatre, broadcast live on BBC2 and in select cinemas. With a stellar guest list including David Tennant, Judi Dench and Ian McKellen, the variety bill features ballet, opera, hip-hop, scenes from Shakespeare and more, and ends with a free, public fireworks display outside.

Don't stay out too late though: there's more to come! For those up early enough on Sunday morning, a Shakespeare-themed service, broadcast on Radio Four, takes place at Holy Trinity, with music from Orchestra of the Swan. This is also the day of the Shakespeare Marathon and Half-Marathon.

Meanwhile, at the Birthplace, New York rapper Devon Glover embarks on a marathon of his own as he races through all 154 of Shakespeare's sonnets.

There'll be plenty more as the month and year continue - this is just a flavour of what's on offer for the main event.

Of course, Stratford's not the only town to be celebrating...

A sample of what's happening elsewhere in the Midlands...

AN ELIZABETHAN TRAVELLING THEATRE COMPANY Looking at how Shakespeare's plays were performed at the time, Sat 23 Apr, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

FROM BARD TO VERSE The original music of Shakespeare's plays performed by The Night Watch, Sat 30 April, Palace Theatre, Redditch

OUR SHAKESPEARE EXHIBITION A free exhibition of Shakespeare-related items from around the world, Fri 22 April - Sat 2 September, Library of Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA SHAKESPEARE MASQUE CONCERT A reconstruction of Thomas Arne's *An Ode To Shakespeare*, Fri 22 April, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

SHAKESPEARE'S WILL Performed by Rain Or Shine Theatre on Sat 2 April, Severn Valley Country Park, Bridgnorth and Love Lee Productions on Wed 27 - Sat 30 April, The Wightman, Shrewsbury

SHREWSBURY SHAKESPEARE DAY Music, songs and combat from Shakespeare's time are just some of what's on offer here, Sat 23 April, The Square, Shrewsbury

SHAKE UP SHAKESPEARE FAMILY DAY Fun and interactive family day for children and their parents which brings two of the Bard's best-known plays to life, Sat 23 April, The REP, Birmingham

HENRY V Antic Disposition presents its critically acclaimed production as part of a UK cathedral tour, Thurs 28 April, Worcester Cathedral

For more Shakespeare 400 events, visit whatsonlive.co.uk

Mary Poppins

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sat 23 April

Zizzi Strallen here takes the lead in Julian Fellowes' reworking of the much-loved family musical.

PL Travers' popular fictional character has been a global superstar since Julie Andrews brought her to life in Walt Disney's hugely successful 1964 movie. Not surprisingly, the success of the film led to a stage version, albeit some 40 years later - and Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's award-winning musical has been doing great business in theatres across the world ever since.

The show's timeless score includes the songs Jolly Holiday, Step In Time, Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and Feed The Birds. New songs and additional music and lyrics are provided by the Olivier Award-winning British team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe.

Read more about Mary Poppins at whatsonlive.co.uk



The Rotters' Club

Birmingham REP, Sat 2 - Sat 9 April



The REP's one-time associate director, Gwenda Hughes, returns to the venue to helm Richard Cameron's adaptation of Jonathan Coe's well-regarded novel. Set in Birmingham during the 1970s, it follows the fortunes of five teenagers as they struggle to grow up in the shadow of a rapidly changing and increasingly troubled society.

The 9 April performance is preceded by an In Conversation session with Jonathan Coe and Richard Cameron, during which the pair will discuss the production and their careers.

Bangla Brummies

The Drum, Birmingham, Sun 24 April

Murad Khan's sparky new offering has been described as a play blending satire, dreams and fantasies. Spanning 40 years, from the

1970s to 2010, it compares and contrasts the lives of a group of Bangladeshi bachelors, living together in a cramped house in Birmingham, with the experiences of an extended Asian family who're living in a similarly cramped house in the same area. Although their respective experiences seem starkly different, it soon becomes clear that they have far more in common than at first meets the eye...

Diary Of A Madman

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 7 - Fri 8 April

This acclaimed one-man show finds low-ranking Russian civil servant Poprishchin moving from obsession to psychosis... Gogol's dark comedy, exploring the experiences of a man driven to insanity by government bureaucracy and hierarchy, is here performed by award-winning actor Robert Bowman and directed by Olivier Award nominee Sinéad Rushe.

Anne Of Green Gables

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 15 - Sat 16 April

The central character in Lucy Maude Montgomery's 1908 novel, Anne Shirley is mistakenly sent to live with a middle-aged brother and sister on Green Gables farm in the Canadian province of Prince Edward

Island. A spirited girl, Anne soon makes a big impression - and not only on the siblings who've adopted her...

This particular production is brought to the stage by Redhead Reach.

The Dishonoured

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 April; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 4 - Sat 7 May

Kali Theatre's reputation for creating inspiring, award-winning theatre based around challenging and thought-provoking issues is further enhanced by this powerful new production.

Described by the company as 'a compelling political thriller', The Dishonoured takes place in a world of espionage and secret agents - a world in which a highly decorated war hero suddenly finds himself unexpectedly out of his depth...



The Importance Of Being Earnest

Blue Orange Theatre,
Birmingham,
Thurs 28 April - Sat 7 May

This famous Oscar Wilde work is a rightly-adored piece of farce that has stood both the test of time and countless dire amateur productions, rising unscathed to take its place at the very pinnacle of British comic theatre. The story revolves around the attempts of Jack to marry his true love Gwendolen, in spite of the fact that Algernon is masquerading as Jack's wayward brother Earnest in order to see his exquisite ward, Cecily. Add the ingredient of the redoubtable Lady Bracknell, and there's little wonder that disaster looms large on Jack's horizon.



All Our Cost

The Old Rep, Birmingham,
Wed 20 - Fri 22 April

The relationship between theatre and history, in particular with regard to The Holocaust, is the shared theme of All Our Cost's three plays, each of which is presented on a different night. Performed by Birmingham Ormiston Academy's Acting Pathway, the productions are: Ghetto, which analyses the role of theatre within the Jewish community in the Vilna ghetto; The Investigation, a verbatim play retold through physical theatre; and The Merchant Of Vilna, an adaptation of Shakespeare's Merchant Of Venice, reflecting how the Jewish community might have used art to comment on their situation.

WIN! TICKETS To enter, visit whatsonlive.co.uk



Annie The Musical

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,
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.

Heartbeat

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, until
Sat 2 April; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon
11 - Sat 16 April; Wolverhampton Grand
Theatre, Tue 5 - Sat 9 July



The long arm of the law is much in evidence in the Midlands this month, courtesy of this brand new stage version of ITV1's long-running rural police drama.

The hugely popular 1960s-set television series ran from 1992 to 2010, regularly drawing viewing figures in excess of 10 million. This new touring version, which stars members of the TV cast and boasts a brand new script, is making its world premiere at the New Alex.

Shadowlands

Malvern Theatres, Mon 11 - Sat 16 April

Birdsong Productions here joins forces with Guildford's Yvonne Arnaud Theatre to present William Nicholson's powerful biographical drama - best known, of course, from its 1993 film version starring Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger. At its centre is the story of the late-flowering love between Oxford academic CS Lewis and American poet Joy Davidman, a relationship which would ultimately lead to Lewis profoundly questioning his devoutly held Christian faith...



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, until Sat 9 April

Jason Manford, Michelle Collins and Phill Jupitus star in a new touring production which sees everybody's favourite flying car make a welcome return to the Midlands. Complete with 'sensational' sets, 'stunning' special effects, the Sherman Brothers' memorable score and a high-energy cast, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is the story of eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts (Manford) who creates an amazing flying car to take his family to the fictional country of Vulgaria. But all is not well in the European barony, where the sinister Baron Bomburst has decided to make children illegal... Truly Scrumptious, Toot Sweets, Hushabye Mountain and the Oscar-nominated title song feature among the show's best-known musical numbers.



Menopause The Musical

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire, Thurs 14 April; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 24 April; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 26 April; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 April



Female TV stars 'of a certain age' are much in evidence in this well-reviewed show, with Linda Nolan, EastEnders' Cheryl Fergison and Casualty's Rebecca Wheatley taking top billing.

When four menopausal women meet in a department store, conversation quickly turns to the one thing they all have in common - the menopause. Cue innumerable one-liners on subjects including forgetfulness, mood swings, wrinkles, night sweats and uncontrollable chocolate binges...

The Ladykillers

Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Thurs 14 - Fri 15 April

Based on the iconic Ealing comedy, this easy-to-follow story concerns a dear old lady (Mrs Wilberforce) who, well known to the local constabulary for reporting unsubstantiated crimes, unwittingly becomes an accessory to a brilliantly conceived heist when she rents a room to a small-time crook posing as a musician named Professor Marcus. Marcus then proceeds to bring his gang of criminal misfits, disguised as a quartet, into Mrs Wilberforce's home, to finalise the details of their plan...



The Debt Collectors

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 8 - Sat 9 April; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 12 April

John Godber's popular comedy features two out-of-work actors who're so desperate for cash that they take a job they absolutely loathe - as debt collectors. Nonetheless, they're good at what they do, and when all's said and done, the job does have its perks... Presented by Reform Theatre Company.

A Machine They're Secretly Building

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 27 April

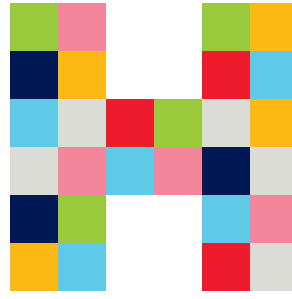


The multi-disciplinary Proto-type Theater get seriously topical with this thought-provoking show, which takes a look at the insidious machine of surveillance. "This show is about how we got to the point where our governments are spying on us and how that's changing who we are," says Proto-type. "It charts a course from the Top Secret secrets of World War One intelligence through to 9/11, the erosion of privacy, Edward Snowden and the terror of a future that might already be upon us..."





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Calamity Jane

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 19 - Sat 23 April

Boasting songs such as The Deadwood Stage, Black Hills Of Dakota, Windy City and Secret Love, Calamity Jane tells the story of the Wild West's most notorious female outlaw, along the way offering an all-in combination of music, comedy, drama and dance.

The famous '50s film version, starring Doris Day and Howard Keel, remains one of the best-regarded Hollywood musicals of its era.

This particular production is brought to the stage by Stafford Operatics.

Our Gracie

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Wed 6 - Sat 23 April

This new play by Philip Goulding sees the New Vic collaborating with Oldham Coliseum Theatre to tell the story of the legendary Gracie Fields, a working-class woman from Rochdale who became one of Britain's best-loved female entertainers - and in the process was declared an enemy of the Third Reich by Adolf Hitler!

The show combines Gracie's own words with some of her most well-known songs.

Former Coronation Street, Casualty and Dinnerladies star Sue Devaney takes the title role.



Photo credit: Joel Chester Fildes

The Mousetrap

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 4 - Sat 9 April; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 11 - Wed 13 April

Not only has everyone heard of The Mousetrap, everyone has seen it too - haven't they? Okay, maybe not, but as the show recently celebrated its 60th year in the West End, it's fair to say its capacity to put bums on seats is absolutely beyond doubt. The world's longest running show, the famous Agatha Christie play has been performed over 25,000 times. Its touring version here makes a welcome return to the Midlands.



A Black Country Night Out

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 1 April; Kidderminster Town Hall, Fri 15 April; Aston Wood, Sutton Coldfield, Thurs 21 April; Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 28 April; Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Fri 29 April; Solihull Arts Complex, Thurs 5 May

This show is almost as old as the Black Country itself and has matured just as beautifully!

Bringing a fresh look to proceedings, the 2016 version features some of the region's most 'brilliantly talented' acts - including Jonny Cole, who's earning himself quite a reputation for his musical parodies of modern local life.

Joining Jonny is Dandy and The Fizzogs, while music from The Ronaldos promises to get people well and truly rocking in the aisles.



3 Days And 3 Minutes With Larry

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 24 April; Malvern Theatres, Fri 29 - Sat 30 April

Chris Mellor's affectionate tribute to one-time Generation Game host Larry Grayson focuses on the three days leading up to his final performance - the Royal Variety Show of 1994. The three days were spent trying to get together three minutes' worth of material for the production - an undertaking which saw Grayson employ the assistance of a spiritual healer...

Mellor's play features plenty of Larry's best comic material and has been developed with the assistance of the late comedian's family.

Best Of BE Festival

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 19 April; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 3 May; The Bramall, Birmingham, Thurs 5 May

Highly acclaimed for its daring and innovative programme of theatre, dance, circus, live music, visual arts, talks and workshops, BE Festival takes place in Birmingham every June.

This touring 'best of' production showcases three of the event's most popular pieces.

The featured presentations are: #sobrejulietta by Grumelot, a stripped-back, one-woman take on Romeo And Juliet; The Whistle by Squarehead Productions, a show packed to its proverbial rafters with 'deft circus skills'; and Beating Quintetto by Tida, an interactive comedy, dance and physical theatre piece dealing with the realities of shoestring-budget entertainment.

Paul Zerdin

Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 12 April

Comedian and ventriloquist Zerdin, a three-times contributor to the Royal Variety Performance, here returns to the Midlands with a show that's definitely not suitable for children.

"They might be cute little puppets," Paul says of his numerous characters, "but leave the kids at home!"

Just to confirm, the show is suitable for audience members aged 14 and over.



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Kids shows this month...



Disney On Ice

Stig Of The Dump

mac, Birmingham, Fri 1 - Sat 2 April;
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 17 April

Stig wears rabbit skins, has his own language and uses empty tin cans for a chimney. Barney has scuffed shoes, grazed knees and dirty fingernails. Together, they're set for a magical adventure...

London Contemporary Theatre present this timeless children's classic for a whole new generation of youngsters.

Disney On Ice - Silver Anniversary

Genting Arena, Birmingham,
Wed 6 - Sun 10 April

This action-packed adventure, celebrating a quarter-century of Disney On Ice, invites audiences to enjoy 'the ultimate sightseeing holiday'.

The anniversary show sees Goofy, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Daisy visiting the magical African domain of The Lion King and the underwater kingdom of The Little Mermaid. There's also the chance to join Peter Pan on his journey from London to Neverland.

Fans of Frozen, meanwhile, will no doubt be delighted by a stop-off in the wintry world of Arendelle, where princesses Anna and Elsa 'Let It Go' with Kristoff and the huggable snowman, Olaf.

The Cat In The Hat

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 18 - Tues 19 April

Based on the much-loved book by Dr Seuss, this latest theatrical version of The Cat In The Hat has been designed to engage and (hopefully) delight youngsters aged three and older.

The Cat In The Hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat that Sally and her brother have ever met - and what's more, he's got a fantastic talent for turning the rainiest of afternoons into the most amazing of adventures...



The Cat In The Hat

Elf The Musical

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
Wed 13 - Sat 16 April

Stafford Gatehouse Youth Theatre showcase their talents in this new musical version of Will Ferrell's big-screen festive favourite, Elf. For those not already in the know, the story follows the adventures of Buddy, an orphan boy who grows up in the North Pole with Santa and his elves. Buddy thinks he's an elf too, but his enormous size and inability to make toys tells an altogether different story...

James And The Giant Peach

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
Mon 25 - Tues 26 April

Roald Dahl's classic yarn tells the story of a young orphan boy named James who's sent to live with Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker. Two of the most horrid aunts in the whole of England, the wicked pair make his life an utter misery. Then, one day, James meets a mystical old man who gives him a bag that contains the strongest magic the world has ever known. When the put-upon young lad accidentally spills the contents of the bag near an old peach tree, the most wondrous things start to happen - and an opportunity to escape his unhappy existence opens up to James in a weird and wonderful way he could never have imagined...

The Girl Who Fell In Love With The Moon

mac, Birmingham, Sat 9 April

Humanity's eternal fascination with the skies is the subject of the ever-inventive Human Zoo's latest high-energy offering. A giddy patchwork of puppetry, poetry, movement and live music, the production has earned some rave reviews during its time on the road, and perfectly showcases the company's dynamic and visually inventive approach to theatre.



The Girl Who Fell In Love With The Moon

The Wizard Of Oz

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 7 April

This classic story from the pen of L Frank Baum has been delighting children for over a century. A marvellous mix of magic, mayhem and munchkins, it tells the story of Dorothy Gale and her unexpected trip over the rainbow to the wonderful land of Oz. There, she meets the scarecrow, the tin man and a cowardly lion, heads off on a journey along the yellow brick road to find the Emerald City, and has more than one unpleasant encounter with the Wicked Witch of the West.

If ever a ruby-slipped girl was in need of a wizard...

Three Keepers

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 5 April

If you're looking for a relatively short but imaginatively entertaining night out, this could well be the show for you. A 55-minute silent comedy blending physical theatre, original music, dance and slapstick, Three Keepers is set on Flounder Rock Lighthouse, where wise old Tom, uptight Dick and wet-behind-the-ears 'Arry have only the seagulls for company. It's a peaceful existence - until, that is, the storm of the century strikes...

My Pet Monster And Me

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 9 April

The highly regarded Blunderbus Theatre are the ensemble behind this brand new show blending puppetry, music and song. It tells the story of a little girl named Sophie, whose wish for a friend with whom to share her down-on-the-farm adventures is answered in the shape of 'a cuddly, toothy, burpy, baby monster'. The only trouble is, the little creature just keeps on growing...

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Film

The Jungle Book CERT PG

Starring **Neel Sethi** as Mowgli, with the voices of **Bill Murray**, **Ben Kingsley**, **Idris Elba**, **Lupita Nyong'o**, **Scarlett Johansson**, **Giancarlo Esposito**, **Christopher Walken**

Directed by **Zack Snyder** (USA)

Following the enormous success of Disney's live-action adaptations of their animated classics *Alice in Wonderland*, *Sleeping Beauty* (*Maleficent*) and *Cinderella*, *The Jungle Book* is destined for great things. The voice cast alone is a thing of wonder. Here, Mowgli is played by the twelve-year-old New York-born American-Indian Neel Sethi, while Kipling's famous animal characters are rendered in CGI. Bill Murray is Baloo the bumptious bear, Ben Kingsley the black panther Bagheera and Idris Elba the predatory tiger Shere Khan. As in the original 1967 cartoon, there will be songs to accompany the action, including new numbers composed by the original songwriter Richard M. Sherman (now eighty-seven), as well as some of the old favourites, such as Baloo's 'The Bare Necessities.' In 3D, too.

Released **Fri 15 April**



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in April...

Dheepan CERT 15 (115 mins)

Starring **Antonythasan Jesuthasan**, **Kalieaswari Srinivasan**, **Claudine Vinasithamby**

Directed by **Jacques Audiard** (France)

Arguably the most highly-acclaimed director working in French cinema today, Jacques Audiard invariably delivers credible and pertinent dramas that explore the world we live in. Here, he focuses on Dheepan, a Tamil Tiger fighter who flees to Paris for political asylum with a fake identity. Winner of the Palm d'Or at last year's Cannes festival.

Released **Fri 8 Apr**



Hardcore Henry CERT 15 tbc

Starring **Sharlto Copley**, **Danila Kozlovsky**, **Haley Bennett**, **Andrei Dementiev**, **Tim Roth**

Directed by **Ilya Naishuller** (Russia/USA)

Filmed entirely from the viewpoint of the eponymous protagonist, this Russian-American actioner takes no prisoners. Henry remembers nothing of his past life, but knows that he is a target and discovers that he has had a cybernetic make-over that makes him pretty damn dangerous to his adversaries. Expect some pretty strong violence, drug use and nudity.

Released **Fri 8 April**

The Huntsman: Winter's War CERT 12a tbc

Starring **Chris Hemsworth**, **Charlize Theron**, **Emily Blunt**, **Jessica Chastain**, **Nick Frost**, **Sam Claflin**, **Rob Brydon**

Directed by **Cedric Nicolas-Troyan** (USA/UK)

This is an odd one. Following the success of *Snow White and the Huntsman* (worldwide gross: \$396 million), Universal Pictures have ushered up a sequel-cum-prequel – but without *Snow White*. Here, it's the hunky woodsman (Chris Hemsworth) who takes centre stage as two princesses declare war on each other and amass enormous armies to do their business. Not to be confused with *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*. In 3D.

Released **Fri 8 April**



Eddie the Eagle

CERT PG (106 mins)

Starring Taron Egerton, Hugh Jackman, Christopher Walken, Mark Benton, Keith Allen, Tim McInnerny

Directed by Dexter Fletcher (UK/USA/Germany)

With lashings of comedy, this is the true story of Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards, a young Englishman who was determined to become an Olympic skier – against improbable odds. Taron Egerton previously played 'Eggsy' in Kingsman: The Secret Service and 'Mad Teddy' in Legend.

Released Fri 1 April



CRITIC'S CHOICE



Son of Saul

CERT 15 (107 mins)

Starring Géza Röhrig, Levente Molnár, Urs Rechn, Sándor Zsótér

Directed by László Nemes (Hungary)

Son of Saul started its glittering trail of accolades at last year's Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Grand Prix. Along the way it picked up umpteen gongs for best foreign language film, from the Golden Globes to the Oscars. Its subject, though, is not for those with a

delicate disposition. It follows 36 hours in the life of Saul Ausländer (Röhrig) whose job in Auschwitz is to burn the bodies of his own Jewish-Hungarian compatriots. Then he comes across the corpse of a boy, a child he believes to be his son... The last Hungarian film to win an Oscar was István Szabó's Mephisto in 1981.

Released Fri 29 April

Midnight Special

CERT 12a (112 mins)

Starring Michael Shannon, Joel Edgerton, Kirsten Dunst, Adam Driver, Sam Shepard, Jaeden Lieberher

Directed by Jeff Nicholls (USA)

When both the government and an extreme religious sect find out that the eight-year-old Alton (Jaeden Lieberher) has supernatural powers, his father (Michael Shannon) is desperate to protect him. So father and son – and later the boy's mother – hide out before meddling forces can have their own way. Shannon and the director Jeff Nicholls previously collaborated on the films Shotgun Stories, Take Shelter and Mud.

Released Fri 8 April



The Man Who Knew Infinity

CERT 12a (109 mins)

Starring Dev Patel, Jeremy Irons, Toby Jones, Stephen Fry, Jeremy Northam, Kevin McNally

Directed by Matt Brown (UK)

This is a must for those who adored A Beautiful Mind and Good Will Hunting. Srinivasa Ramanujan (Dev Patel) is a young man who, after an impoverished childhood in Madras, managed to secure a place at Trinity College in Cambridge. He later went on to lead the field in mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series and continued fractions. Gosh.

Released Fri 8 April

Nasty Baby

CERT 15 (101mins)

Starring Kristen Wiig, Sebastián Silva, Tunde Adebimpe, Reg E. Cathey, Mark Margolis

Directed by Sebastián Silva (Chile/USA/France)

Fans of Kristen Wiig will be surprised to find her in a Chilean-American drama, but we say good on her. She plays the friend of a gay couple of immigrants living in Brooklyn who decide to have a baby. She agrees to carry it but outside forces conspire to destroy their world, not least a threat of deportation and a particularly homophobic neighbour...

Released Fri 8 April



Criminal CERT 15 (113 mins)

Starring **Kevin Costner, Gary Oldman, Tommy Lee Jones, Alice Eve, Gal Gadot, Ryan Reynolds** Directed by **Ariel Vromen (USA/UK)**

In an age of mind transplants, the memories, skills and secrets of a deceased CIA agent are implanted in the body of a former Death Row inmate. It's a dangerous move but with the clock ticking it may be the only solution to foil a monstrous plot. Ryan Reynolds's last film about a mind transplant was in *Self/less*, released here last July.

Released Fri 15 April



Eye in the Sky CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Helen Mirren, Aaron Paul, Alan Rickman, Barkhad Abdi, Jeremy Northam, Iain Glen** Directed by **Gavin Hood (UK)**

Striding across the same moral minefield as last year's *Good Kill* with Ethan Hawke, this British drama stars Dame Helen as a colonel forced to weigh up the consequences of a drone strike in Kenya. The target is a group of terrorists planning a major suicide attack, but then a nine-year-old girl is seen entering the kill zone. The film marks Alan Rickman's last appearance in front of the camera.



Released Fri 15 April

Bastille Day CERT 15 (92 mins)

Starring **Idris Elba, Richard Madden, Charlotte Le Bon, Eriq Ebouaney, Kelly Reilly, José García** Directed by **James Watkins (USA)**

Not to be confused with a French Revolution romp, this is actually an American actioner shot in London and Paris. With the threat of a terrorist attack, a con man and a former CIA agent team up to pool their resources. With Idris Elba in the driving seat this should be good value, while the director James Watkins previously brought us the chilling *Eden Lake* and *The Woman in Black*.

Released Fri 22 April

Louder Than Bombs

CERT 15 (109 mins)

Starring **Gabriel Byrne, Jesse Eisenberg, Isabelle Huppert, Amy Ryan, David Strathairn, Rachel Brosnahan** Directed by **Joachim Trier (Norway/France/Denmark)**

In spite of its provenance, this is actually a drama filmed in New York, in which a family struggles to come to terms with its differences. Long estranged from his father, Jonah Reed (Eisenberg) returns to his old home in order to celebrate an exhibition of his late mother's work, a series of war photographs. However, it seems that each member of the Reed family has different memories of the woman they called wife and mother.

Released Fri 22 April

Miles Ahead CERT 15 tbc

Starring **Don Cheadle, Ewan McGregor, Emayatzy Corinealdi, LaKeith Lee Stanfield, Michael Stuhlbarg** Directed by **Don Cheadle (USA)**

For a while last year Don Cheadle was mooted as a serious contender for an Oscar nomination for his role as the jazz musician Miles Davis. But then the Oscars So White controversy kicked in. Still, Cheadle as first-time director was praised for his approach to film biography, creating a free-flowing style in keeping with his subject's music. Ewan McGregor plays an unscrupulous journalist attempting to get the inside skinny on the reclusive trumpeter, band-leader and composer.

Released Fri 22 April

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot

CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Tina Fey, Margot Robbie, Martin Freeman, Alfred Molina, Billy Bob Thornton** Directed by **Glenn Ficarra and John Requa (USA)**

One doesn't usually associate Afghanistan with belly laughs but, hey, this is Fey. The actress plays Kim Baker, the television correspondent whose brief excursion to Afghanistan turned into something entirely more serious – and occasionally hilarious. It's based on Baker's own memoir *The Taliban Shuffle: Strange Days in Afghanistan and Pakistan* (2011). The directors previously brought us *Crazy, Stupid, Love* and *Focus* (also with Margot Robbie). And we dig the title.

Released Fri 22 April

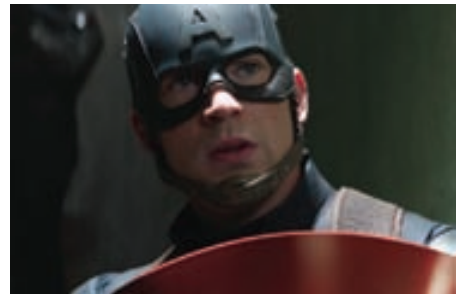
Captain America: Civil War

CERT 12a tbc

Starring **Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr, Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan, Anthony Mackie, Don Cheadle, Jeremy Renner, Chadwick Boseman, Paul Bettany, Elizabeth Olsen, Paul Rudd** Directed by **Anthony Russo and Joe Russo (USA)**

It looked like *Avengers: Age of Ultron* was going to be the biggest box-office behemoth of 2015 until *Star Wars* and *Jurassic World* came along. Nonetheless, it did make a tidy \$1,405,413,868 worldwide. Now we have Captain America, Iron Man, Black Widow and Ant-Man teaming up for another collision course at the multiplex with the first two superheroes, thanks to new government rules, failing to see eye-to-eye. A perfect time, then, for a new arch-enemy to step into the breach... It's all too much. In 3D, of course.

Released Fri 29 April

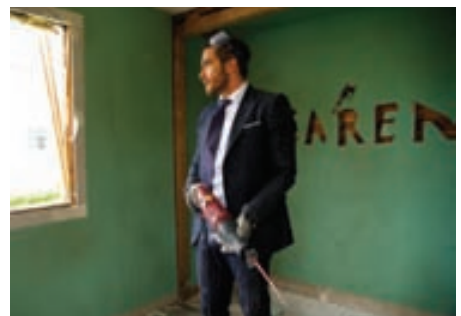


Demolition CERT 15 (101 mins)

Starring **Jake Gyllenhaal, Naomi Watts, Chris Cooper, Judah Lewis** Directed by **Jean-Marc Vallée (USA)**

Jake Gyllenhaal would seem to favour Quebec-born film directors. After working with Denis Villeneuve on *Prisoners* and *Enemy*, he now teams up with Jean-Marc Vallée (*Dallas Buyers Club*, *Wild*) on this drama. He plays a successful investment banker who completely loses his grip after his wife is killed in a car crash. Then, when he starts to write a stream of self-incriminating letters to a vending machine company, the firm's customer service rep (Naomi Watts) takes up his cause...

Released Fri 29 April



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What's On

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Dan Flavin: It Is What It Is And Ain't Nothing Else

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,
Wed 13 April - Tues 26 June

Taking its title from the artist's own description of his work, this major exhibition presents a series of fluorescent light works. Associated with the 20th century Abstract Expressionist movement, Dan Flavin is one of America's most important post-war artists. Flavin rejected notions of symbolism and spirituality in art, sharing with Donald Judd an interest in work that refers to nothing but its own presence, often with an emphasis on industrial materials and intense colour. Steering clear of conventional, chronologically ordered retrospectives, this exhibition instead makes use of the varied spaces inside the gallery to faithfully replicate Flavin's "situational" approach, focusing on how each piece interacts with its environment. "I wanted it to feel as if Dan Flavin had been here and responded characteristically to the nature of the space," explains Ikon director Jonathan Watkins, "so it will be quite an enveloping experience for the audience. It's an exhibition that will look beautiful, but that will be quite provocative and raise a lot of questions about art."



Grayson Perry: The Vanity Of Small Differences

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry,
Fri 22 April - Sun 3 July

Turner Prize-winning artist Grayson Perry here takes his inspiration not only from his own 2012 television documentary series, *All In The Best Possible Taste*, but also from William Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress* - a series of canvases depicting eighteenth century society which the artist produced in the early 1730s. Charting the story of class mobility and examining the influence of social class on aesthetic taste, the exhibition comprises many of the characters, incidents and objects that Perry encountered while making his BAFTA award-winning documentary series. Using these characters to weave a narrative, the artist has produced a social commentary which focuses on the minutiae of contemporary taste, in so doing paying due homage to Hogarth's collection of 18th century paintings.

Prem Sahib Solo Exhibition

Grand Union, Birmingham,
Fri 22 April - Thurs 23 June

With a title inspired jointly by the gallery's own name and the idea of coming together, this installation by Prem Sahib focuses on the use of materials, bringing objects made from wood, metal, tiles, rubber and resin into choreographed conversation. Sahib's predominantly sculptural work is informed by the atmosphere of queer meeting places and encounters in physical environments, whether social, sexual or confrontational.

A short story by Huw Lemmey called *Dank And Rare* accompanies the exhibition, and a limited edition print will be available in the shop.

Big Ceramics

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sat 28 May

Challenging expectations of the clay object while celebrating the drive, creativity and skill involved in creating large-scale ceramics, this visually arresting exhibition brings together monumental pieces by eight contemporary artists. Featured ceramicists include Felicity Aylieff, who explores contemporary translations of traditional Chinese techniques to produce giant pots and vases, and Clare Twomey, who makes extensive use of clay in her multi-component installations and site-specific works.



Barbara Walker: Shock And Awe

mac, Birmingham, Sat 23 April - Sun 3 July

Developed in collaboration with the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, this major new commission from acclaimed Birmingham artist Barbara Walker examines the many contributions of black servicemen and women to British war efforts from 1914 to the present day. Acknowledging an absence of representation over the last 100 years, *Shock And Awe* alludes to Britain's imperial past as well as the physical and psychological impact of war on soldiers returning to civilian life.

In this series of large-scale drawings, Walker highlights the work of the British West Indies Regiment and the King's African Rifles, as well as the key role played by women in the Caribbean and West India Regiments during World War Two.



The Humble Vessel

New Art Gallery, Walsall, Fri 29 April - Sun 24 July

Ships, seas and difficult journeys across the waves have long been a favourite subject among artists, used to represent diverse themes and ideas.

Developed by Pakistani curator Aziz Sohail, this evocative exhibition explores what sea crossings might mean for artists and audiences today, in a world where perilous voyages are often undertaken by refugees desperately fleeing conflict. A newly commissioned film from Fazal Rizvi explores multiple narratives around the sea, shifting between fiction and reality. Other featured artists include Eric Ravilious, William Scott, Sarah Taylor Silverwood, Dayanita Singh and Bob and Roberta Smith.

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Events

Antiques For Everyone

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 7 - Sun 10 April

Last year celebrating its 30th anniversary, Antiques For Everyone is one of the largest events of its kind in the UK. The show features displays of antique and decorative furniture, treen, ceramics, kitchenalia, silver, glass, jewellery, arms and armour, maps, dolls, bears and an array of vintage and decorative collectables.

With more than 230 dealers showcasing their wares - and with items ranging in price from as little as £10 right up to £100,000 - this ever-popular event offers the perfect opportunity to pick up some unusual gifts and mix the antique with the modern.

Commenting on the show, Mary Claire Boyd, the Fair's Director, said: "We're always seeking out new exhibits and new stories to excite visitors to the fair and to inspire them with fresh ideas. The addition of contemporary pieces and 20th century specialists ensure that the fair reflects the latest trends."



St George's Day

Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire, Sat 23 April



There's the chance to sample a taste of Medieval Britain at Tamworth Castle this month, as the venue celebrates Saint George's Day.

Attractions include weapons and armour demonstrations throughout the day, a special medieval jousting tournament, a living history encampment, children's medieval activities and numerous street entertainers plying their trades. Within the castle, medieval households prepare laundry and armour, while Lady Freville offers a selection of games and activities for all the family to enjoy.

Flatpack Film Festival

Various venues across Birmingham, Tues 19 - Sun 24 April

Birmingham Conservatoire, Adrian Boulton Hall, the Electric Cinema and the Old Rep Theatre are just some of the venues selected to host this year's 10th anniversary Flatpack Festival. The popular event has built its reputation on presenting a package of entertainment that brings together animation, music, artists' film, archive discoveries, off-beat shorts for kids and live cinema. This year's highlights include the presentation of new live scores to Carl Theodor Dreyer's landmark 1932 movie, *Vampyr*, and FW Murnau's *Faust* (1926). There's also a showing of the Harold Lloyd classic, *Girl Shy* (1924), and a project offering its audience the chance to experience a film while blindfolded, with only the soundtrack and whispered narration by a group of schoolchildren offering clues as to the film's content.



Who Do You Think You Are? Live

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 April



The world's largest family history show is this year celebrating 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, and One Show presenter Anita Ranie, who'll take audiences behind the scenes of the hit TV series.

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. The show's Education Zone area features a roadshow to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

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Events



A Day At The Lake

Rudyard Lake, Staffordshire,
Sat 30 April - Mon 2 May

Across the May Bank Holiday, Rudyard Lake in Staffordshire will be reimagined as it was in the late 1800s - a period of time which saw thousands of day-trippers visit the location to relax and enjoy a range of outdoor arts and entertainments. This weekend event is being produced by Cheshire company Wild Rumpus

and features a series of arts-based presentations on and around the lake, including a performance by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Ensemble.

On the shore, circus sideshows, marching bands, and a helter skelter are just some of the highlights from the jam-packed programme. You may even spot some real life mermaids...

Homebuilding And Renovating Show

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 April

This is the biggest event of its kind in the UK, bringing together self-build specialists, talented renovators and a host of leading brands. New for 2016 are one-hour workshops - providing visitors with the chance to chat to the experts - and a Kitchen Design & Planning feature, with experienced kitchen studio owners on hand to offer free consultations. Seminars, masterclasses, a home security advice centre, design consultations and DIY demonstrations are among the event's already established features.



The Fast Show

Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton,
Sun 10 April



The first 'performance and modified car' event on the 2016 calendar, The Fast Show features club stand displays, Run What Ya Brung, FWD and JDS drag racing, drifting, stunt displays, jet car, a trade village and fun-fair rides. The show's organisers reckon they're pretty much offering 'something for everyone', whether your car is about 'show' or 'go', a modified hot-hatch, a retro classic or a supercar.

May Day Bank Holiday Fun

Drayton Manor Theme Park,
Tamworth, Staffs, Sat 30 April -
Sun 2 May

The brand new Tamarin Trail - comprising eight enclosures housing a variety of tamarins and marmosets - is just one of the attractions for visitors to enjoy at Drayton Manor Park this May Day bank holiday.

As well as the trail, the venue also features the ever-popular Thomas Land and a wealth of enjoyable rides, including Flynn's Fire And Rescue, Captain's Sea Adventure and Toby's Tram Express. Thrill seekers are well catered for too, courtesy of (among other white-knuckle attractions) Shockwave, Apocalypse and Maelstrom.

Shrewsbury Bookfest

Various venues across
Shrewsbury,
Fri 29 April - Mon 2 May

Former Children's Laureate Jacqueline Wilson and comedian-turned-author Julian Clary top the bill at this year's festival. The high-profile pair are joined at the event by, among others, Charlie And Lola author Lauren Child, Clarice Bean novelist Vicki Archer, screenwriter Frank Cottrell Boyce and performance poet, comedian and musician John Hegley.

The festival also features Shaun the Sheep model-making workshops, a chance for Star Wars fans to learn to draw some of their favourite characters, and a drawing and storytelling event for younger children with Hugless Douglas creator David Melling



Events

Horrible Histories Maze: Get Lost In Time!

Warwick Castle, Warwickshire

The long-ago past is brought to life in this brand new attraction. The multi-sensory maze features moving walls, interactive puzzles and plenty of Horrible Histories' 'foul facts and crazy cartoons'. Visitors to the maze are challenged to reorder the muddle that the mischievous Rattus Rattus has made of time - and then to find their way out again.

Commenting on the new attraction, Horrible Histories' author, Terry Deary, said: "The history in my books is horrible. But to experience it live in Warwick's maze will be most horrible of all. I may not have the nerve to do it myself unless I'm wearing one of the castle's suits of armour!"



Stratford-upon-Avon Literary Festival

Various locations Sun 24 April - Sun 1 May



Stratford Literary Festival is one of the most significant get-togethers of its kind in the UK. Offering a fusion of celebrity-author events, debates and workshops, this year's festival takes the theme of 'legacies, memories and great classics - from Charlotte Brontë to Agatha Christie and from Gruffalos to Peter Rabbit'.

Familiar names taking part in the event include Julia Donaldson, John McCarthy, Howard Jacobson and Mary Portas (pictured). DJ Paul Gambaccini makes a contribution too, not only discussing his career but also giving an account of his harrowing year spent under investigation by Operation Yewtree.

For a full festival line-up, visit www.stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

Harlem Globetrotters

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sat 30 April

The Harlem Globetrotters have been playing exhibition basketball games for the best part of a century, participating in more than 20,000 matches in 100-plus countries. Regular visitors to the UK and the Midlands, the fellas are well worth a look. This year's touring show boasts a star-studded roster featuring Big Easy Lofton, Ant Atkinson, Hi-Lite Bruton, Thunder Law, Bull Bullard and Cheese Chisholm - not to mention female stars TNT Maddox and Sweet J Ekworomadu. Slam-dunkin' magic is a guarantee.

Shropshire Kids Festival

The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury, Sat 23 - Sun 24 April

'Education through fun' lies at the heart of this high-energy weekend for kids of all ages. There's entertainment available for babies and toddlers, and plenty of arts & crafts events and workshops for older children, all of which have been designed to allow youngsters to get hands-on while they learn.

"Education is about expanding the world of youngsters," say the event's organisers, "and we will be doing that through play, science, drama, engineering, technology and much more!"



The Dana Prison Tours

The Dana Prison, Shrewsbury

HM Prison Shrewsbury was built in 1877, close to the site where Thomas Telford built the Dana Gaol in 1793.

This tour provides the opportunity to explore the history of one of Shrewsbury's most famous buildings, within the walls of which seven people were executed by hanging between 1902 and 1961.

Visitors taking the tour can find out what it was like for convicts entering prison for the first time, check out the solitary confinement and condemned-man cells, walk the wings and step inside the execution room, where sentences were carried out.



Meccanuity

Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Sat 30 April - Mon 2 May

This popular event, facilitated by the Telford & Ironbridge Meccano Society, features an impressive array of large and small models for enthusiasts young and old to enjoy. As well as marvelling at displays of giant cranes, steam engines, pattern-drawing machines, fairground rides and clocks, visitors can also construct their own models using the abundance of available Meccano parts.



See [thelist](#) for all your events listings

Win!

Tickets to Bring On The Bollywood



Closes Friday 15 April

Tickets to Folk at The REP



Closes Monday 11 April

Tickets to Wipers in Coventry



Closes Thursday 5 May

Tickets to see comedy quartet at Theatre Severn



Closes Monday 4 April

Tickets to American Idiot



Closes Tuesday 3 April

Tickets to Superbike World Championship



Closes Friday 20 May

Tickets to Breakfast At Tiffany's



Closes Friday 8 April

Tickets to Jackie The Musical



Closes Monday 16 May

Tickets to The Father



Closes Friday 29 April

Tickets to Shadowlands



Closes Friday 27 May

Tickets to Save The Last Dance For Me



Closes Monday 9 May

Tickets to Slam Dunk Festival



Closes Friday 20 May

Tickets to Bad Jews



Closes Monday 25 April

Tickets to King Lear at The REP



Closes Monday 16 May

Tickets to Flare Path



Closes Monday 18 April

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the list

Your week to week
listings guide
April 2016



5 Seconds Of Summer at Genting Arena, Birmingham - Thurs 14 April

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

What's On

Fri 1 to Sun 3 April



The Gadget Show Live
at NEC
until Sun 3 April

Mon 4 to Sun 10 April



Shazia Mirza at The Old
Rep Theatre
Sat 9 April

Mon 11 to Sun 17 April



Big Fish Little Fish Family
Rave at The Rainbow
Venues
Sun 17 April

Mon 18 to Sun 24 April



Troye Sivan at O2 Institute
Sat 23 April

Mon 25 to Sat 30 April



Russell Kane at
Birmingham Town Hall
Sat 30 April

THROUGHOUT APRIL

Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

BIRMINGHAM PEOPLE AND CHANGE IN THE INNER-CITY Exploring the ways in which ordinary Brummie folk have been represented in art during the 20th and 21st centuries, until Thurs 31 Mar.

WENDY RAMSHAW'S ROOM OF DREAMS Installation made up of many parts, from small jewels in frames to large, freestanding furniture, until Sun 1 May.

NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS 2016 Exhibition of works by graduates from various West Midlands art schools, until Sun 15 May and until Sun 10 Apr. Also showing at mac, Birmingham, Wolverhampton Art Gallery & Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry

HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS An exhibition of work by young West Midlands students and tutors, until Sun 10 Apr

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

Grand Union

NEW! PREM SAHIB A solo show of new work, Fri 22 Apr - Fri 3 June.

Ikon Gallery

JANET MENDELSON - VARNA ROAD Exhibition featuring original prints from Mendelson's archive of over 3,000 photographs taken predominantly in the Balsall Heath area of Birmingham, until Sun 3 Apr.

DINH Q LÊ Video installation, organised in collaboration with Artangel, until Sun 3 Apr.

The Library of Birmingham

NEW! OUR SHAKESPEARE the Library of Birmingham has joined forces with the British Library to stage a colourful free exhibition, Fri 22 Apr - Sat 3 Sept

Parkside Gallery, BCU

FLOCKOMANIA 2 A solo exhibition and installation by Zoe Robertson featuring a display of wearable sculpture, until Fri 1 Apr.

RBSA Gallery

ROB HAND RBSA On The Edge - A collection of pit-fired and raku pieces, including a range of jewellery, until Sat 2 Apr.

OPEN ALL MEDIA EXHIBITION Annual open exhibition for all media, this year for the first time including photography, until Sat 9 Apr

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

NEW! JEFF LOMAS RBSA Grasslands -

an exhibition of ceramics, Mon 4 Apr - Sat 28 May

NEW! CANDIDATES EXHIBITION Work by artists seeking to become Associates or Members, Mon 11 - Sat 23 Apr

The Barber Institute

INHERITING ROME Exhibition using money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery, until Sun 24 Apr.

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

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

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

mac, Birmingham

CONNECTING SPACES An exhibition showcasing the creative work of community groups and artists working in collaboration, until Sun 10 Apr.

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

NEW! PRINTS: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SERIES AND 11 DRYPOINTS BY LOUISE BOURGEOIS Two collections of works by one of the most influential artists of recent decades (1911-2010), Sat 23 Apr - Sun 19 June

Millennium Point & Eastside Park, Birmingham

WELLCOME IMAGE AWARDS EXHIBITION Exhibition displaying the Wellcome Image Awards winners' work, until Sun 10 Apr

Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

WHAT REMAINS Mixed-media exhibition by Maureen Cooper, until 28 Apr

Eastside Projects

RICHARD WOODS: DUCK WEAVE A development of a 1000-year-old building technology recently rediscovered by Woods, until Sat 9 Apr.

BOM (B'ham Open Media)

NEW! INGENIOUS AND FEARLESS COMPANIONS The first ever exhibition by the High Altitude Bioprospecting (HAB) science-art collective, Fri 1 Apr - Sat 11 June.

Article Gallery, School of Art, Birmingham City University

THIS FRONTIER SO FAMILIAR, SO STRANGE James Irwin, Laura O'Connor, Jack Marder & Christopher Liam Oakes, until Thurs 14 Apr.

Gigs

YEARS & YEARS Fri 1 Apr, Barclaycard Arena

ADELE Fri 1 - Sat 2 Apr, Genting Arena

THE BESNARD LAKES Fri 1 Apr, Hare & Hounds

DEAD PLUS YOUTH MAN, A PROMISE TO FORGET & LED BY LANTERNS SUPPORT Fri 1 Apr, The Asylum

NOTHING BUT THIEVES Fri 1 Apr, O2 Institute

THE RED LEMONS Fri 1 - Sat 2 Apr, The Jam House

FRED ZEPPELIN - TRIBUTE BAND TO LED ZEPPELIN Fri 1 Apr, The Roadhouse

JOHN LAW'S NEW CONGREGATION Fri 1 Apr, Symphony Hall

PIGHEAD + IN DEMISE + HUMAN WASTE + SPAWNED FROM HATE Fri 1 Apr, Scrumphy Murphys

MUSE Sat 2 Apr, Barclaycard Arena

THE CAT EMPIRE Sat 2 Apr, O2 Institute

THE SURRENDERERS Sat 2 Apr, O2 Academy

SARTAAJ LIVE Outstanding poet and singer from India, Sat 2 Apr, Symphony Hall



RICK ROSS Sat 2 Apr, O2 Academy

BETTER THAN NEVER + COAST TO COAST Sat 2 Apr, The Asylum

BIG UPS Sat 2 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

THE SHEEPDOGS Sat 2 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

SPEEDOMETER Sat 2 Apr, Hare & Hounds

HOTTER THAN HELL - TRIBUTE TO KISS Sat 2 Apr, The Roadhouse

LESLEY WOODS (AU PAIRS) / THE CRAVATS / DEPARTMENT S Sat 2 Apr, The Flapper

MARK PADMORE AND PAUL LEWIS Sun 3 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

EDDI READER Sun 3 Apr, The Glee Club

LITTLE MIX Sun 3 Apr, Genting Arena

ELIZA SHADDAD Sun 3 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

THE GALLEONS Sun 3 Apr, Hare & Hounds

FEAR OF MEN Mon 4 Apr, Hare & Hounds

OVERKILL Tues 5 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

JIM JONES AND THE RIGHTEOUS MIND Tues 5 Apr, Hare & Hounds

JULIE DEXTER Tues 5 Apr, The Jam House

SCREAMIN' MISS JACKSON Tues 5 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

THE NECKS AND JAMES MCVINNIE: THE SECRET LIFE OF ORGANS Tues 5 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

MATT & KIM Wed 6 Apr, O2 Academy

THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY Wed 6 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

RICK ASTLEY Wed 6 Apr, Symphony Hall

KREPT & KONAN Wed 6 Apr, O2 Institute

AUSTINN Wed 6 Apr, The Asylum

THE VRYLL SOCIETY Wed 6 Apr, Hare & Hounds

GOSPEL CENTRAL Wed 6 Apr, The Jam House

MARTIN CARTHY Wed 6 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

THE TERRORSAURS + JACK O'BONES + COLORADO LOUNGE + DEATH SEX BLOOD BATH + KHAOS THEORY Wed 6 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

DAME MITSUKO UCHIDA Thurs 7 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS Thurs 7 Apr, The Jam House

BRIAN FALLON & THE CROWES Thurs 7 Apr, O2 Institute

ZIBRA Thurs 7 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

BRAINSTORM Thurs 7 Apr, O2 Academy

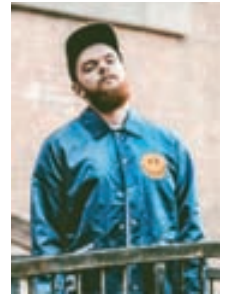
THE KVB Thurs 7 Apr, Hare & Hounds

NEVER THE BRIDE Thurs 7 Apr, The Roadhouse

ROBERT HAWKINS + GEORGE WILSON + MEG YATES Thurs 7 Apr, Route 44

MICHAEL BOLTON Fri 8

Apr, Symphony Hall
JACK GARRATT Fri 8 Apr, O2 Institute



URBAN FOLK QUARTET Fri 8 Apr, mac

ZOE GILBY QUARTET Fri 8 Apr, Symphony Hall

TELEMAN Fri 8 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

SEBASTIAN TREE Fri 8 Apr, O2 Institute

HARVEY SUTHERLAND Fri 8 Apr, Hare & Hounds

JOHNNY KOWALSKI AND THE SEXY WEIRDOS Fri 8 Apr, Hare & Hounds

DIRTY STERLING Fri 8 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

BALLS DEEP (ALBUM LAUNCH) Fri 8 Apr, The Roadhouse

HIGHER ON MAIDEN Fri 8 Apr, Route 44

SPUNK VOLCANO & THE ERUPTIONS / SKURVI / BORN TO DESTRICT / VINCENT AND THE ONEPOTTS Fri 8 Apr, The Flapper

PVRIS Sat 9 Apr, O2 Institute

THE SUPERSKAS Sat 9 Apr, O2 Academy

THE KING PRESLEY LIVES 11 Sat 9 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

BETTY WRIGHT Sat 9 Apr, The Drum

A GUY CALLED GERALD & NIGHTMARES ON WAX Sat 9 Apr, Hare & Hounds

JAMIE CROFT Sat 9 Apr, Ort Cafe

DRAGSTER Sat 9 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

OCEANS ATE ALASKA Sat 9 Apr, The Asylum Venue

REBEL REBEL: DAVID BOWIE TRIBUTE Sat 9 Apr, Route 44

NATASHA WATTS Sun 10 Apr, Hare & Hounds

BETH SHERBURN Sun 10 Apr, Hare & Hounds

GLASVILLE Sun 10 Apr, O2 Institute

THE RAILSPLITTERS Sun 10 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

Classical Music

SUNDAY CLASSICS Presenting young stars of the future from the classical world, including opera singers, violinists & harpists, all of whom are at the very start of their careers... Sun 3 Apr, The Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham

MARK PADMORE (TENOR) & PAUL LEWIS (PIANO) Programme includes works by Beethoven & Schubert, Sun 3 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH KONSTANTIN VOLOSTNOV Moscow organist Konstantin Volostnov is well known for his recitals throughout Russia and Europe. Here he performs works by JS Bach, A.G Ritter, Tchaikovsky, Glazunov, Vierne & Dianov, Mon 4 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

THE NECKS AND JAMES MCVINNIE: THE SECRET LIVES OF ORGANS Music by Tom Jenkinson, Philip Glass and The Necks, performed on Birmingham Town Hall's magnificent organ, Tues 5 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

DAME MITSUKO UCHIDA IN RECITAL Programme includes works by Schubert & Beethoven, Thurs 7 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall



LAST NIGHT OF ROTARY PROMS Sat 9 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE RELAXED CONCERT featuring

James Rowney, Little Jim & Orchestra of the Swan Sun 10 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy Gigs

SLIM, TOJU FEATURING MR CEE & REM CONWAY, Fri 1 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham



JUNIOR SIMPSON, DAMIAN CLARK, DAVID WARD & SAM AVERY Fri 1 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

3-MINUTE GONG SHOW Sat 2 Apr, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

JARRED CHRISTMAS, JOHN MOLONEY, JEN BRISTER & COMIC TBC Sat 2 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUNIOR SIMPSON, LOU CONRAN, DAMIAN CLARK & COMIC TBC Sat 2 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

COLIN COLE, PETER BRUSH FEATURING SIMON BLIGH Sat 2 Apr, Faces, Wolverhampton

CHRIS RAMSEY: ALL GROWED UP Sun 3 Apr, Bedworth Civic Hall

MARK STEEL - WHO DO I THINK I AM? Sun 3 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 6 Apr, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, ANDRE VINCENT, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 7 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MANILLA ROAD COMEDY Thurs 7 Apr, The Victoria, Birmingham

ANDREW LAWRENCE - UNCENSORED Fri 8 Apr, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JOE LYCETT Fri 8 Apr, Stratford Artshouse

ANDREW BIRD, STEPHEN BAILEY,

ANDRE VINCENT & GARETH RICHARDS Fri 8 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TEZ, TOBY HADOKE, STUART MITCHELL & ANDY ASKINS Fri 8 - Sat 9 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

JAMIE WOOD - O NO! Fri 8 Apr, mac, Birmingham

SHAZIA MIRZA - THE KARDASHIANS MADE ME DO IT Sat 9 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, GARETH RICHARDS FEATURING ANDRE VINCENT & STEPHEN BAILEY Sat 9 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

TRAINSPOTTING A co-production from King's Head Theatre, In Your Face Theatre Company and mac Birmingham, featuring full-frontal nudity, strong language and scenes of a violent and sexual nature, until Sat 2 Apr, Rainbow Venues, Digbeth

MARY POPPINS The supercalifragilistic international hit arrives in Brum as part of a UK tour, until Sat 23 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome

DON QUIXOTE James Fenton's staging of Cervantes' comic novel - a work regarded as one of the foundation stones of modern fiction, until Sat 21

May, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

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

HEARTBEAT ITV's popular Sunday evening police drama makes its stage debut. Set in rural Yorkshire in the 1960s, Heartbeat on stage features a brand new script, video footage and 'clever set'. Steven Blakeley & David Lonsdale star, Mon 28 Mar - Sat 2 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

AMERICAN IDIOT Lichfield Garrick Youth Theatre present an amateur production of the two-time Tony Award-winning musical, Tues 29 Mar - Sat 2 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

HAY FEVER The Crescent Theatre Company present Noel Coward's comedy of manners, Wed 30 Mar - Thurs 7 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

HOW THE KOALA LEARNT TO HUG Join Karen The Koala as she heads a cast of wild characters in a fun-filled family musical written especially for parents to enjoy with their children, Fri 1 Apr, Lichfield Garrick





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THE TIMES

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STAGE EXPERIENCE 2016

Grease

AUDITIONS 1 MAY*

SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME

MON 16 - SAT 21 MAY

AGE 10+

Jackie
The Musical

TUE 24 - SAT 28 MAY

AGE 12+

TOM
A STORY OF TOMMY JOHNSON, THE MUSICAL

WED 1 - SAT 4 JUN

AGE 14+

END OF THE RAINBOW
THE JUDY GARLAND STORY

TUE 21 - SAT 25 JUN

Footloose
THE MUSICAL

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
METRO

MON 4 - SAT 9 JUL

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BOSWORTH HERITAGE CENTRE & KING RICHARD III
Wednesday 20th April 2016 **£53.50** per person

WADDESDON MANOR SPRING FLOWERS
Thursday 21st April 2016 **£47.50** per person

BOULOGNE SHOPPER
Friday 22nd April 2016 **£60.50** per person

ENIGMA 'CODE BREAKERS' STATION
Tuesday 26th April 2016 **£44.50** per person

DERBYSHIRE PEAK DISTRICT
Wednesday 27th April 2016 **£36.50** per person

KINKY BOOTS AT ADELPHI THEATRE
Wednesday 27th April 2016 **£69.50** per person

RIPON CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL
Friday 29th April 2016 **£47.50** per person

KENSINGTON PALACE
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A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT

Featuring some of the funniest comedy acts from the Black Country, including Jonny Cole, Dandy and Fizzog. Music from The Ronaldos also features, Fri 1 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MY PET MONSTER AND ME

Blunderbuss Theatre bring to life the story of Sophie Bucket, a young girl who spends her time alone and day-dreaming, wishing she had a friend with whom she could share her adventures. A tale especially for little monsters and their grown-ups, Fri 1 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

STIG OF THE DUMP

London Contemporary Theatre presents its version of the timeless children's classic, Fri 1 - Sat 2 Apr, mac, Birmingham

VIRTUAL REALITY

Postcard Theatre present Maria de la Roche's debut play, which provides a modern-day look at the virtual world of internet sex and female empowerment, Fri 1 - Sat 2 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

HOW THE KOALA LEARNT TO HUG

Join Karen The Koala as she heads a cast of wild characters in a fun-filled family musical written especially for parents to enjoy with their children, Sat 2 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE ROTTERS CLUB

Jonathan Coe's award-winning novel is here adapted for the stage by Richard Cameron. Set against the backdrop of an ever-changing Birmingham in the 1970s, The Rotter's Club is inspired by Coe's personal experiences growing up in the Midlands, Sat 2 - Sat 9 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

MONOLOGUE SLAM MASTERCLASS 2016

A fun, interactive and constructive masterclass for aspiring actors, Sat 2 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

MACBETH

Award-winning 30-minute performance of The Bard's shortest tragedy, performed by Jamaica's Campion College. Performances from Young Drum & The Hip Hop Shakespeare Theatre also feature, Sat 2 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham

BLUE STOCKINGS

Little Arden Theatre Company present a moving, comical and eye-opening story of four young women fighting for education and self-determination against the larger backdrop of women's suffrage, Sun 3 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Timeless Theatre present a musical journey through six decades, Mon 4 - Tues 5 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

ANNIE

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, Mon 4 - Sat 9 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

REHEARSAL FOR MURDER

Agatha Christie thriller starring Robert Daws, Amy Robbins, Robert Duncan, Susan Penhaligon and Ben Nealon, Mon 4 - Sat 9 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE MOUSETRAP

Touring production of Agatha Christie's famous thriller -

the longest running show in the history of British theatre, Mon 4 - Sat 9 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

FLIRT OFF Brand new open-mic story cabaret featuring true stories about dating and relationships, Wed 6 Apr, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE BEST THING Vamos Theatre present a fully masked performance of a Swinging '60s story of unconditional love, Wed 6 - Thurs 7 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

YARNING Through spoken word, music, image and sound, Trevor Pitt reflects on the collected stories from women around the UK about their relationship with wool - knitting, spinning, felting and weaving, Thurs 7 Apr, mac, Birmingham

A DRAGON'S TALE Magical story based on the legend of Lambton Worm, told through puppets, changing scenery, music and sound effects, Thurs 7 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

DIARY OF A MADMAN New adaptation of Gogol's dark comedy, Thurs 7 - Fri 8 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



SHEILA'S MHS - MENTAL HEALTH SHOW

As a qualified councillor and a comedian, Sheila here shares her own experiences of mental health, highlighting self-sabotaging behaviours and educating us on how we can be less hard on ourselves, Fri 8 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

CALLING FOR HELP! - NEXT PAGE

PRODUCTIONS A new interactive comedy by the writers of Invisible, Fri 8 - Sat 9 Apr, mac, Birmingham

MY PET MONSTER AND ME

Blunderbuss Theatre bring to life the story of Sophie Bucket, a young girl who spends her time alone and day-dreaming, wishing she had a friend with whom she could share her adventures. A tale especially for little monsters and their grown-ups, Sat 9 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

THE ENDURING ROMANCE OF CATHY & HEATHCLIFF

Dark romantic comedy set in the 1950s that follows the lives of Cathy & John, as he tries to prove to her that he can be her perfect man - her Heathcliff, Sat 9 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

THE GIRL WHO WELL IN LOVE WITH THE MOON

Puppetry, poetry, movement and live music explore humanity's external fascination with the skies, Sat 9 Apr, mac, Birmingham

Talks

IN CONVERSATION WITH JONATHAN COE & RICHARD CAMERON

Presented by Writing West Midlands and recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio 3's Arts and Ideas Programme, Jonathan Coe, the author of The Rotters' Club, and Richard Cameron who has adapted it for the stage, discuss this new production and their careers, Sat 9 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

BATMAN VS SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE (12a) Batman decides to pick a spat with Superman and while the superheroes are having their argy-bargy, Lex Luthor sees an opportunity to unleash his ultimate secret weapon on Metropolis: Doomsday. Thank God, then, for Wonder Woman... Stars Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill & Amy Adams. Until Thur 14 Apr, Electric Cinema, Birmingham

SLOW WEST (15) A bounty hunter (Michael Fassbender) keeps his true motive a secret from the naive Scottish teenager (Kodi Smit-McPhee) he's offered to serve as bodyguard and guide while the youth searches for his beloved in 1800s Colorado. Fri 1 Apr, The Mockingbird Theatre, Birmingham

ERNEST & CELESTINE (PG) Deep below the streets lives a civilization of hard-working mice, terrified of the bears who live above ground. Unlike her fellow mice, Celestine is an artist and a dreamer - and when she nearly ends up as breakfast for ursine troubadour Ernest, the two form an unlikely bond. But it isn't long before their friendship is put on trial by their respective bear-fearing and mice-eating communities. Sat 2 Apr, mac, Birmingham

LA CLAVE (18) A feature-length documentary by Charlie Inman sees him explore the roots of rumba through interviews with leading figures of the rumba scene in Cuba. Fri 1 Apr, The Mockingbird Theatre, Birmingham

CATHY COME HOME (15) A 50th anniversary screening of the classic Ken Loach film followed by a Q & A with veteran producer Tony Garnett hosted by Professor Roger Shannon. Tony will be joined by Cath Gilliver - CEO of local Birmingham homeless charity SIFA Fireside. Sat 9 Apr, The Mockingbird Theatre, Birmingham

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 1 April, showing at selected cinemas.

EDDIE THE EAGLE (PG)

VICTORIA (15)

DHEEPAN (15)

HARDCORE HENRY (18)

THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER'S WAR (tbc)

THE MAN WHO KNEW INFINITY (12a)

Events

HIPPITY HOPPITY HURRAY!

Check out the fantastic Easter activities and make a cracking Easter card, a rocking chick and play lots of fun games. Plus, take part in the egg hunt, until Fri 1 Apr, Selly Manor, Birmingham

EASTER HALF TERM FUN Award-winning clown and children's entertainer Bibbledy Bob - with music, fun and games on the lawn, until Fri 1 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

THE GADGET SHOW LIVE The UK's largest consumer technology show, Thurs 31 March - Sun 3 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

EGG HUNT Ruby the Castle Dragon has hidden her eggs from the dastardly dragon hunter. Visitors will be invited to help locate Ruby's eggs, until Fri 8 Apr, Tamworth Castle, Staffs

EGG DANCING Once blindfolded, the townsfolk will dance across the street without stepping on eggs carefully placed along their route, until Sun 10 Apr, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

EGG-CITING EASTER ACTIVITIES

Hop on over to the canalside village where a cracking programme of Easter fun is ready and waiting, until Sun 10 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

DESIGN A TRAIN until Mon 11 Apr, Wonderful World of Trains and Planes, Birmingham

EASTER FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy live shows from the resident magicians and ventriloquists, with giggles and games for the whole family, until Sun 17 Apr, Cadbury World, Bournville

MIDLANDS WHISKY FESTIVAL One of the UK's biggest whisky events, Fri 1 - Sat 2 Apr, Stourbridge Town Hall

MONOLOGUESLAM MASTERCLASS 2016 Fun, interactive and constructive session suitable for those over 16, Sat 2 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

FEMINISM AND YA FICTION: A

DISCUSSION A discussion about feminism in YA literature, taking a look at the way the conversation has evolved recently, the problems and opportunities facing YA authors and readers, and ways to get the agenda moving forward, Mon 4 Apr, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? LIVE

The world's largest family history show, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE SPRING FAIR

Featuring special exhibitions, celebrity talks and over 250 dealers, Thurs 7 - Sun 10 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

PIZZA MAKING AT SAREHOLE MILL

Fun and informal baking class. Learn to make dough, see the mill in action & create and bake your own delicious pizza, Sun 10 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

Gigs

ABI MOORE Mon 11 Apr, Crescent Theatre

WITH THE DEAD + BEASTMAKER Mon 11 Apr, O2 Institute

TREMBLING BELLS Mon 11 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

THE BODY & FULL OF HELL Mon 11 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

ROLO TOMASSI Mon 11 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

HANS ZIMMER Tues 12 Apr, Barclaycard Arena

BRY Tues 12 Apr, O2 Institute

HONKY TONK ROSE Tues 12 Apr, The Jam House

THE VIEW Tues 12 Apr, O2 Academy

DAN OWEN Tues 12 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

THE BELLRAYS Tues 12 Apr, Hare & Hounds

BRONWYNNE BRENT Tues 12 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND Wed 13 - Thurs 14 Apr, O2 Institute

THE CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS Wed 13 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre

ELIZA AND THE BEAR Wed 13 Apr, O2 Institute

UNDERCOVER HIPPIE Wed 13 Apr, Hare & Hounds

THE FROE Wed 13 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club

NIGHT Thurs 14 Apr, mac

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER Thurs 14 Apr, Genting Arena

BELLOWHEAD Thurs 14 Apr, Symphony Hall

MERCURY Thurs 14 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre

ALXNDR Thurs 14 Apr, O2 Academy

PATENT PENDING Thurs 14 Apr, O2 Academy

DARK CIRCUS Thurs 14 Apr, Hare & Hounds

DANA IMMANUEL & THE STOLEN BAND Thurs 14 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

CONAN Thurs 14 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

TYTAN Thurs 14 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

GABBIDON Thurs 14 Apr, The Jam House

REAL ZEKS + TBC + JORDON FITZGERALD



Nerina Pallot at the O2 Institute, Fri 15 April

Thurs 14 Apr, Route 44

INTO THE SHADOWS Fri 15 Apr, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

UP FOR THE DOWN-STROKE Fri 15 Apr, The Jam House

NERINA PALLOT Fri 15 Apr, O2 Institute

HEY! HELLO! Fri 15 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

ANDY SMITH PRESENTS THE DOCUMENT Fri 15 Apr, Hare & Hounds

TALON: THE BEST OF THE EAGLES Fri 15 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

MOON SUGAR Fri 15 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

MATT RIDLEY QUARTET Fri 15 Apr, The Red Lion

STEVE GIBBONS & DAVE SCOTT MORGAN Fri 15 Apr, mac

SHAI HULUD Fri 15 Apr, The Asylum Venue

SPLIT MILK SOCIETY + HALF ASLEEP + SUNDAY SERVICE Fri 15 Apr, O2 Institute

THE TOM WALKER TRIO Fri 15 Apr, Route 44

MOSAIC Fri 15 Apr, Symphony Hall

DISCHARGE Sat 16 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

JEFF LYNNES ELO Sat 16 - Sun 17 Apr, Genting Arena

MIKE DIGNAM Sat 16 Apr, O2 Institute

NEWTON FAULKNER Sat 16 Apr, O2 Institute

CAST Sat 16 Apr, O2 Academy

THE SOCIAL EXCHANGE 2016 - LIVE! Sat 16 Apr, mac

HOLY ESQUE Sat 16 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

UP FOR THE DOWN-STROKE Sat 16 Apr, The

Jam House

WOLFMOOTHER Sat 16 Apr, O2 Academy

MOOSE BLOOD Sat 16 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

BATTLE OF THE BANDS Sat 16 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

SOUL FOOD PROJECT PRESENTS CRAIG CHARLES Sat 16 Apr, Hare & Hounds

SIGNS OF FIRE + PELUGION + INTERROBANG + TOROUS + INCLOSURE Sat 16 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

SPECIAL KINDA MADNESS Sat 16 Apr, The Roadhouse

MIKE FLETCHER JAZZ ORCHESTRA Sat 16 Apr, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

CHAS & DAVE Sat 16 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

VIC GODARD & SUBWAY SECT / YEAH YEAH NOH / HARRY STAFFORD (INCA BABIES) Sat 16 Apr, The Flapper

MISTY MILLER Sun 17 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

TREETOP FLYERS Sun 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds

THE FUNKY KNUCKLES & MARK LETTIERI TRIO Sun 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds

LAURA CORTESE & THE DANCE CARDS Sun 17 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

CALLUM KERRIGAN Sun 17 Apr, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

ORCHARD HILL Sun 17 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

THE HEATHER FINDLAY BAND Sun 17 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

DESOLATED / RESTRICT Sun 17 Apr, The Flapper

Classical Music

G4 BACK FOR GOOD UK TOUR Mon 11 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall



DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Tues 12 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE REPERTOIRE ORCHESTRA Featuring Daniele Rosina (conductor) & Elsbabe Reath (viola). Programme includes Chris Cresswell's New Work; Forsyth's Concerto for Viola & Orchestra in G minor & Brahms' Symphony No 2 in D major, Op.73, Tues 12 Apr, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

GERARD MCCHRISTAL (SAXOPHONE) INTERFUSE Tues 12 Apr, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: BRUCKNER'S NINTH Featuring James Feddeck (conductor) & Michael Collins (clarinet), Wed 13 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



IMPROVISATION FESTIVAL A mini festival which provides a platform to showcase classical students, highlighting where they collaborate with the jazz department, Wed 13 - Fri 15 Apr, various locations within Birmingham Conservatoire

COMPLETELY BRAHMS Featuring Pavel Fischer (violin) & John Thwaites (piano). Programme comprises Brahms' Violin Sonata No.1 in G, Op78 & Violin Sonata No.2 in A, Op 100, Fri 15 Apr, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: DISNEY FROZEN IN CONCERT Featuring Simon Lee (conductor) & CBSO Chorus, Sat 16 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS - IN EVERY CORNER SING Featuring Ben Lamb (conductor) & Martin Rawles (organist). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn & Vaughan Williams, Sat 16 Apr, Lichfield Cathedral

ALCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR Featuring an eclectic programme of works, including Bridge Over Troubled

Water, The Prayer (Wagner), The Peacemakers, Rule the World, Sine Nomine, Love Changes Everything, The Lord's Prayer, We Are The Champions, Sun 17 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

SUNDAY CLASSICS Presenting young stars of the future from the classical world, including opera singers, violinists & harpists, all of whom are at the very start of their careers... Sun 17 Apr, The Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 11 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 12 Apr, The Dark Horse, Moseley

THE ALL-STAR STAND-UP TOUR Wed 13 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 13 Apr, The Mockingbird

JO ENRIGHT, SUZY BENNETT, HELEN THORN & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 13 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

COMEDY CLUB Thurs 14 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

ANDREW O'NEILL, STEVE SHANYASKI PLUS COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 14 Apr, The Glee Club

ANDREW O'NEILL, CHARLIE BAKER, STEVE SHANASKI & ANDREW STANLEY Fri 15 Apr, The Glee Club

GEIN'S FAMILY GIFTSHOP'S TROPHY COLLECTION Fri 15 Apr, mac

JAMES ALDERSON, TIM FITZHUGHAM & IVO GRAHAM Fri 15 - Sat 16 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club

KEN DODD Sat 16 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre

ROB BECKETT: MOUTH OF THE SOUTH Sat 16 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ANDREW O'NEILL, ANDREW STANLEY, CHARLIE BAKER & STEVE SHANYASKI Sat 16 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham



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Benedict Mason Portrait

Sunday 1 May 2016, 7.30pm
CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Conductor: **Ilan Volkov**

Benedict Mason: *Nodding Trilliums & Curve-Lined Angles*
(BCMG commission 1990)

Charles Ives: *Piano Trio*

Benedict Mason: *Horns Strings and Harmony* (World premiere /
BCMG Sound Investment commission)

'When it comes to the music of Benedict Mason,
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In 1990 BCMG premiered Mason's exotically-named *Nodding Trilliums and Curve-Lined Angles* - a joyous, extravagant quadruple percussion concerto. His new piece promises to be one of the musical highlights of the year!

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PUCCINI *La bohème* Act 1 Finale
WAGNER *Tannhäuser* O Star of Eve
SAINT-SAËNS *Samson et Dalila*,
Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix
BIZET *The Pearl Fishers* Duet
PUCCINI *Turandot* Nessun dorma

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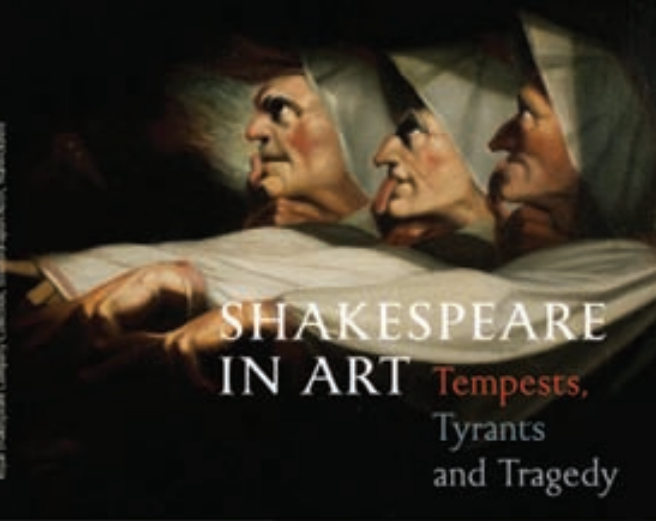
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Henry Goodall, 'Shakespeare in Art', 1911, Oil on canvas, 137x181. Royal Shakespeare Company Collection, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire



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Twelfth Night at Birmingham REP, Tues 12 to Sat 16 April

Theatre

DERREN BROWN: MIRACLE The award-winning master of psychological illusion returns to the Midlands, Mon 11 - Sat 16 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



MALC STENT IN THE AFTERNOON Music, mirth and stories that'll take you back in time, Tues 12 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

THE CHAIRS A rare opportunity to see a live performance of this groundbreaking absurdist play. Performed by Extant, the UK's leading blind and visually impaired theatre company, Tues 12 - Wed 13 Apr, mac

COPACABANA The Peterbrook Players present an amateur production of the Barry Manilow musical, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

TWELFTH NIGHT Riotous gig meets Shakespeare in Filter's innovative staging of The Bard's tale of satire, romance and mistaken identity, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Apr, Birmingham REP

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR Amateur production of the Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical, presented by Lichfield Operatic Society, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

USHERS: THE FRONT OF HOUSE MUSICAL The Old Joint Stock Musical Theatre Company present a new jukebox musical which portrays the hilarious, ridiculous and frequently moving stories of ice cream and programme sellers who dare to dream, Tues 12 - Sun 17 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre

MISSING AT THE MISSING CAFE Evening

of food, fun, frolics, fantasy - and some hard thoughts about what makes us all tick, Wed 13 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS New stage production featuring over two hours of the best blues, Motown, soul and comedy from both of the Blues Brothers movies, Wed 13 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre

THE FALLIBLE LECTURE A comic history of English Literature, from Geoffrey Chaucer to Kate Tempest, Wed 13 - Sat 16 Apr, Crescent Theatre

ELF - THE MUSICAL Performed by Stafford Gatehouse Youth Theatre, Group 7, Wed 13 - Sat 16 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

FOLK Tom Wells' hilarious and not-so-holy story of hope, coming together and finding your feet when your world is turned upside down, Thurs 14 - Sat 30 Apr, Birmingham REP

IRELANDS CALL Musical which tells of dreams, enduring love and the resilience of the human spirit - inspired by true events spanning three decades, Fri 15 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre

BEST OF BE FESTIVAL BE Festival curators and directors Miguel Oyarzun and Isla Aguilar have chosen three acts that best encapsulate the ethos and energy of European theatre, dance and circus, Fri 15 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton



THE SOCIAL EXCHANGE 2016 - LIVE! Sat 16 Apr, mac, Birmingham

FIRST STAGES: RUMPELSTILTSKIN Big Brum Theatre presents a new version of the classic Brothers Grimm fairy-

tale, Sat 16 Apr, Birmingham REP

FERAL Tortoise In A Nutshell present an innovative piece of visual theatre which creates and destroys a world in front of the audience's eyes, Sat 16 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

MY FRIEND PETER Hookhitch presents a family-friendly folk musical for all those who seek big adventures in little places, Sun 17 Apr, mac, Birmingham

Talks

AN EVENING WITH LEMM SISSAY Captivating spoken word & poetry from the award-winning playwright & popular broadcaster, Thurs 14 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham

REBUILDING SELLY MANOR - HERITAGE TALK Talk by Dr Simon Davies using innovative methods in 3D digital modelling, Thurs 14 Apr, Selly Manor

Film

INDEPENDENT CINEMAS:

BICYCLE THIEVES (U) Adapted from a novel by Luigi Bartolini, the quiet tragedy of a father's desperate hunt for a stolen bicycle that he depends on for his work has a fable-like simplicity. For all its vivid documentation of a downtrodden Rome, it is as a universal tale of human striving. Stars Lamberto Maggiorani & Enzo Staiola. Tues 12 Apr, Electric Cinema

LAPSE OF HONOUR (tbc) Set in a tough part of Manchester where drugs and gangs rule, young couple Tom and Eve are head over heels in love. Tom wants a career in graphic design; Eve is an aspiring grime artiste who wants to change her life by becoming a successful artiste. When Eve discovers she's pregnant, they make a pact to raise enough money to get out of town sooner rather than later. Tom mistakenly believes he can take a short cut and make quick money, bringing mayhem and tragedy into the lives of all. The screening will be followed by an informal discussion. Wed 13 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham

12 ANGRY MEN (U) 12 Angry Men, by Sidney Lumet, may be the most radical courtroom drama in cinema history. A behind-closed-doors look at the

American legal system that is as riveting as it is spare, this iconic adaptation of Reginald Rose's teleplay stars Henry Fonda as the dissenting member on a jury of white men ready to pass judgment on a Puerto Rican teenager charged with murdering his father. Sat 16 Apr, Electric Cinema

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 15 April, showing at selected cinemas.

CRIMINAL(15)

EYE IN THE SKY (15)

THE JUNGLE BOOK (15)

Events

THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING SHOW Four days of unlimited inspiration with hundreds of exhibitors on hand to dish out advice. The UK's largest event of its kind, the show also features an array of must-see masterclasses for self-build enthusiasts, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

STRATFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL Exciting mixture of debate, ideas, celebrity author events, workshops & humour. Featured events include a fun & interactive show which sees children's author Julia Donaldson act out her stories and sing her songs alongside a cast of five, Thurs 14 Apr - Sun 1 May, Stratford Town Centre

WWE LIVE WWE superstars and divas, all under one roof including Roman Reigns vs Bray Wyatt & the New Day vs The League Of Nations Sheamus & Rusev, Sat 16 Apr, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY DECORATIVE RAG WREATHS WORKSHOP Create a red, white and blue wreath in celebration of Queen Elizabeth's birthday, Sat 16 Apr, Birmingham Back to Backs

BIG FISH LITTLE FISH FAMILY RAVE A jungle and safari-themed family event with multi sensory dance floor, glitter cannons, bubbles and giant parachute dance, Sun 17 Apr, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

GTI SPRING FESTIVAL RWYB event for watercooled VWs with show'n'shine, clubs, an autojumble and more, Sun 17 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway

The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show, NEC, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 April





Gregory Porter, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 24 April

Gigs

BENJAMIN APPL Mon 18 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

ED DONOVAN AND THE WANDERING MOLES Mon 18 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

FENRIR Tues 19 Apr, The Flapper

RICHMOND FONTAINE Tues 19 Apr, Hare & Hounds

CURTIS ELLER Tues 19 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

RENAISSANCE Tues 19 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

HIGH TYDE Tues 19 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

TOM HILL & ZZ BOP Tues 19 Apr, The Jam House

KATHRYN ROBERTS AND SEAN LAKEMAN Wed 20 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

TIGERTAILZ Wed 20 Apr, The Asylum

MARTIN STEPHENSON Wed 20 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

THE SPITFIRES Wed 20 Apr, Hare & Hounds

CODE 46 Wed 20 Apr, Hare & Hounds

NAO + DEMO TAPED Wed 20 Apr, O2 Institute

DEVONBIRD / SI BARRON Wed 20 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club

ISLA GRANT Scottish contemporary country singer, Wed 20 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

SHALAMAR Wed 20 Apr, The Jam House

COLIN BLUNSTONE & BAND Wed 20 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD Thurs 21 Apr,

O2 Academy

ABBA MANIA Thurs 21 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

KINGS OF COOL WITH MATT FORD Thurs 21 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

BEN HAENOW Thurs 21 Apr, O2 Institute

MARLON WILLIAMS Thurs 21 Apr, Hare & Hounds

MATRIX Thurs 21 Apr, The Jam House

COUNTERFEIT Thurs 21 Apr, O2 Institute

POLICE DOG HOGAN Thurs 21 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

UK SUBS Thurs 21 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

HANNAH LOU CLARK Thurs 21 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS Fri 22 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

LOGIC Fri 22 Apr, O2 Institute

OLLY MURS TRIBUTE Fri 22 Apr, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield

THE JAMES HUNTER SIX Fri 22 Apr, O2 Institute

HUNTER AND THE BEAR Fri 22 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE SOLID SILVER 60S SHOW Fri 22 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

BLAIR DUNLOP Fri 22 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

VANT Fri 22 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

ALICE ZAWADZKI Fri 22 Apr, The Glee Club

FAMILY TIES + ARRON ERSKINE + QUARRY + DEMAREO + MYLES MANDERS Fri 22 Apr, O2 Institute

QUILL Fri 22 Apr, The

Robin, Bilston

BOOTLEG BLONDIE Fri 22 Apr, The Roadhouse

THE BIG WOLF BAND & THE ZOE GREEN BAND Fri 22 Apr, Route 44

DETROIT SOUL Fri 22 Apr, The Jam House

BRASSICK ANGRY ITCH AND THE BRANDONS SUPPORT Sat 23 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS Sat 23 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

TROYE SIVAN Sat 23 Apr, O2 Institute

DETROIT SOUL Sat 23 Apr, The Jam House

BUTCHER BABIES Sat 23 Apr, O2 Academy

THE BEAT Sat 23 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

THREE TRAPPED TIGERS Sat 23 Apr, The Rainbow Venues

SLAM CARTEL Sat 23 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE QUO Sat 23 Apr, The Roadhouse

THE SEX PISSED DOLLS Sat 23 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

GREGORY PORTER Sun 24 Apr, Symphony Hall

SOLID SILVER 60'S Sun 24 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE LOVELY EGGS + OKINAWA PICTURE SHOW Sun 24 Apr, Hare & Hounds

THE FLATLINERS Sun 24 Apr, O2 Academy

RAYMOND FROGGATT Sun 24 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

BEACH BABY Sun 24 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge

KATY ROSE BENNETT Sun 24 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Also featuring the Birmingham Conservatoire Choir, Programme includes works by Joubert, Howells & Parry, Mon 18 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: ROMEO AND JULIET Featuring Lahav Shani (conductor). Programme comprises Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Overture: Bernstein's West Side Story - Symphonic Dances & Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet, Wed 20 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: CELLOS THE AMERICAS! Programme includes works by Villa Lobos, Piazzolla, Gershwin & selections from Gerhswin's West Side story, Thurs 21 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DODDERHILL SCHOOL 70TH ANNIVERSARY EXTRAVAGANZA Thurs 21 - Fri 22 Apr, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

CBSO SHAKESPEARE IN FILM Featuring Robert Ziegler (conductor). Programme includes Shostakovich's Hamlet Ball at the Palace, Duel and Death of Hamlet; Walton's Richard III Prelude, Warbeck's Shakespeare in Love; Doyle's Henry V: St Crispin's Day, Rota's Romeo and Juliet: A Time for Us & Rozsa's Julius Caesar: Now Be Still, Fri 22 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE MIDLAND CHAMBER PLAYERS: THE FRENCH ROMANTICS Programme includes works by Saint-Saens & Lalo, Fri 22 Apr, Birmingham & Midland Institute

COMPLETELY BRAHMS Featuring The Gildas Quartet, Anton Clarke-Butler (clarinet) & Tingting Yao & Daniel Tong (pianos). Programme comprises Brahms' Clarinet Sonata No 1 in G, Op78 & Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor, Op34, Fri 22 Apr, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire



EX CATHEDRA, SHAKESPEARE ODES Narrated by Samuel West & featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Sun 24 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC CONCERTO PRIZE FINAL 2016 Featuring the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, Michael Seal (conductor), Michael Webb (clarinet), Yuting Guo (piano), Yu-Cheng Chen (marimba). Programme includes works by John Foulds, Gerald Finzi, Franz Liszt, Keiko Abe & Hector Berlioz, Sun 24 Apr, Adran Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy Gigs

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 18 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 20 Apr, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

PAUL THORNE, IAN MOORE, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 21 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHIP OF FOOLS WITH COMPERE ALAN SEAMAN Fri 22 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

NATHAN CATON, PAUL THORNE, IAN MOORE & KATE LUCAS Fri 22 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham



CARL DONNELLY, JOJO SMITH, MARK NELSON & FREDDIE FARRELL Fri 22 - Sat 23 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

TIFF STEVENSON - MAD MAN Sat 23 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

ROB DELANEY: MEAT Sat 23 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

PATRICK MONAHAN Sat 23 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham

NATHAN CATON, KATE LUCAS, IAN MOORE & PAUL THORNE Sat 23 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JAMES COOK - READY, STEADY, JAMES Sat 23 Apr, mac, Birmingham



THE LAUGHING SOLE - COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS Sun 24 Apr, mac, Birmingham



The Devil Inside, Birmingham REP, Mon 18 April

Theatre

THE DEVIL INSIDE Music Theatre Wales, in a co-promotion with Scottish Opera, present a gritty, glittery, Faustian folktale, set firmly in the 21st century, Mon 18 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

END OF THE RAINBOW Judy Garland makes her explosive London comeback at the height of the Swinging '60s, Mon 18 - Wed 20 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DR SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT Lively and engaging theatre experience for young children aged three-plus, Mon 18 - Tues 19 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S The classic tale of Holly Golightly, starring Pixie Lott in the title role, Mon 18 - Sat 23 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER Marc Camoletti's fast-paced farce, presented by the Lichfield Players, Tue 19 - Sat 23 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

JEKYLL & HYDE: THE MUSICAL Bournville Musical Theatre Company present a musical thriller adaptation of the Robert Louis Stevenson story, Tues 19 - Sat 23 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

WEST SIDE STORY Amateur production presented by Stoke Youth Musical Theatre Company, Tues 19 - Sat 23 Apr, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

DALLOWAY Dyad Productions present an adaptation of Virginia Woolf's celebrated map of hearts, minds and memories..., Wed 20 Apr, mac, Birmingham



GHETTO Part of Birmingham Ormiston Academy's Acting Pathway season of

plays that looks at the Holocaust and the relationship between theatre and history, Wed 20 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

DORIAN GRAY Tin Robot Theatre present a radical adaptation of Oscar Wilde's masterpiece, Wed 20 - Sat 23 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE INVESTIGATION Part of Birmingham Ormiston Academy's Acting Pathway season of plays that looks at the Holocaust and the relationship between theatre and history, Thurs 21 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Featuring some of the funniest comedy acts from the Black Country, including Jonny Cole, Dandy and Fizzog. Music by The Ronaldos also features, Thurs 21 Apr, Aston Wood, Sutton Coldfield

THE DISHONOURED Kali Theatre present a compelling political thriller about surviving in a world of deceit and violence, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 Apr, mac, Birmingham



THE MERCHANT OF VILNA Part of Birmingham Ormiston Academy's Acting Pathway season of plays that looks at the Holocaust and the relationship between theatre and history, Fri 22 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

THE DARK ROAD Ian Rankin's tense, gritty and hard-hitting stage play, Fri 22 - Sat 30 Apr, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH DES O'CONNOR Brand new show celebrating the stage and screen career of a show-business legend, Sat 23 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

I GOT GERSHWIN! Award-winning singer Robert Habermann's new show presents a unique look at the

great American songwriter, from his birth to his untimely death at the age of 37, Sat 23 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD DOUBLE BILL A double-bill of plays inspired by the Staffordshire Hoard, featuring: Tranklements, Caroline Horton's funny solo performance about home, underdogs and the Midlands spirit; and Gold - a one-woman show from REP Foundry graduate Francesca Millican-Slater using story-telling, power-point, lyricism and possibly some classic gold tracks. Includes a viewing of actual items from the collection, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

TELL ME ON A SUNDAY Jodie Prenger stars in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's one-woman musical charting the misadventures of a young English girl in New York in the heady days of the 1980s, Sun 24 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BANGLA BRUMMIES Murad Khan's new comedy looks at the lives of Asian immigrants in Birmingham. Performed in English, Sun 24 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL Linda Nolan, Rebecca Wheatley (Casualty) and Cheryl Fergison (EastEnders) star in a brand new musical parody, Sun 24 Apr, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

TOKYO STORY (U) Regularly voted "the greatest film ever made", this charming, gentle and melancholy tale of the ups and downs of family life by director Yasujiro Ozu has moved generations of cinema-goers. Foreign language, subtitled. Sat 23 Apr, Electric Cinema, Birmingham

FLATPACK FILM FESTIVAL:

FILM ADVENTURER KAREL ZEMAN (U) Tues 19 Apr, Electric Cinema, Birmingham

VAMPYR (PG) Tues 19 Apr, Adrian Bolt Hall, Birmingham

LUNCH SHORTS (PG) Wed 20 Apr, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

A TASTE OF FLATPACK (PG) Wed 20 Apr, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

PICK 'N' MIX 1 (PG) Wed 20 Apr, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

MUSTANG (15) Wed 20 Apr, mac, Birmingham

OUTSIDERS (15) Wed 20 Apr, Electric Cinema, Birmingham

JOURNEYS (15) Thurs 21 Apr, Electric Cinema, Birmingham

MOONSTRUCK (PG) Thurs 21 Apr, University College Birmingham

CRUMBS (15) Thurs 21 Apr, Electric Cinema, Birmingham

LOST IN SOUND (15) Fri 22 Apr, Birmingham and Midland Institute

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 22 April, showing at selected cinemas.

BASTILLE DAY (15)

JANE GOT A GUN (tbc)

LOUDER THAN BOMBS (tbc)

MILES AHEAD (tbc)

SING STREET (12A)

WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT (15)

THE PEARL BUTTON (tbc)

RISEN (12a)

ROCK THE KASBAH (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p40

Events

UNCOVERED BIRMINGHAM Whether you're into wines, cocktails, or are simply looking for some inspiration for your drinks offering, this event has something for everyone, Tues 19 Apr, New Bingley Hall, Birmingham



ELIZABETHAN & EARLY STUART CLOTHING, AN ILLUSTRATED TALK IN THE NEW GUESTEN HALL Learn about what people wore in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. The talk is accompanied by a wide selection of reproductions of period costumes for you to handle, Thurs 21 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION RECRUITMENT EXHIBITION Meet recruiters from the industry's top employers and get one-to-one advice, Fri 22 - Sat 23 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

BIG BANG CAMPER & BUS SHOW

The first and friendliest VW show on the calendar. Despite high-octane racing and two music arenas, the festival remains as laid-back and family-friendly as ever, Fri 22 - Sat 23 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants



PETER KAY'S DANCE FOR LIFE Award-winning comedian Peter Kay hosts a



Penguin Week at The National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham, Sat 23 - April - Mon 2 May

series of ambitious fundraising 'dance-athon parties', with all profits going to Cancer Research UK, Sat 23 Apr, Barclaycard Arena

ST. GEORGE'S DAY AT TAMWORTH CASTLE Medieval living history in the castle and re-enactments in the castle grounds, Sat 23 Apr, Tamworth Castle

ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS Featuring a re-enactment encampment, magic, crafts and much more, Sat 23 Apr, Manor House Museum, West Bromwich

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATIONS Live street entertainment across the town and a Shakespeare show broadcast live from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, followed by spectacular fireworks, Sat 23 Apr, Stratford Town Centre

ST GEORGE'S DAY Remember England's patron saint with a day at Avoncroft, complete with knights and dragons, Sat 23 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

SILK PAINTING WORKSHOP Led by silk painter Clive Garner, participants will be able to create their own designs and complete a unique silk painting

for themselves, Sat 23 Apr, Selly Manor, Birmingham

SHAKE UP SHAKESPEARE FAMILY DAY Rehearse and perform plays, with costumes, props and sound, Sat 23 Apr, The REP, Birmingham



THE BIRMINGHAM COMICS FESTIVAL Featuring the creators of 2000AD, The Beano, Marvel, DC and Image, Sat 23 Apr, Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham

THE 36TH CAROLE NASH INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE SHOW A flagship event on the classic motorcycling calendar, Sat 23 - Sun

24 Apr, Staffordshire County Showground

ST GEORGE'S WEEKEND Hands-on fun and games, including a battle with a mighty dragon to save a fair maiden, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Apr, Kenilworth Castle

PENGUIN WEEK Learn all about penguin leader Alf and his other pals. Get involved in numerous activities and celebrate World Penguin Day on the 25th, Sat 23 Apr - Mon 2 May, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

SONNET RAP MARATHON Sun 24 Apr, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

WORLD PENGUIN DAY Fun activities to help raise awareness for Humboldt Penguin Conservation in support of Sphenisco, Sun 24 Apr, Cotswold Wildlife Park

WAKE UP THE ZOO An early-morning guided tour giving visitors the opportunity to go behind the scenes and get close to a variety of exotic animals, Sun 24 Apr, Dudley Zoological Gardens

SPRING CRAFT FAYRE A variety of stalls selling lots of different crafts, including prints, pottery, jewellery and candles, Sun 24 Apr, Highbury Hall, Birmingham

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Sat 9 April

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Thu 14 April

AN EVENING WITH LEMN SISSAY

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Sat 23 Apr

PATRICK MONAHAN - THE DISCO YEARS

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Thur 5 May

DETOX

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Sunday 1st May



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Dixie Chicks, Barclaycard Arena, Fri 29 April

Gigs

KIP MOORE Mon 25 Apr, O2 Institute
BROKEN HANDS Mon 25 Apr, Hare & Hounds
NEW FACES BIRMINGHAM Mon 25 Apr, The Rainbow Venues
BLUES CARAVAN 2016 - BLUES SISTERS FEATURING LAYLA ZOE, INA FORSMAN + TASHA TAYLOR Mon 25 Apr, The Robin, Bilston
MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS Tues 26 Apr, Barclaycard Arena



SHAKY GRAVES Tues 26 Apr, O2 Institute
RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS Tues 26 Apr, The Robin, Bilston
METHOD MAN & REDMAN Tues 26 Apr, O2 Institute
KORPIKLAANI Tues 26 Apr, O2 Academy
THE ACOUSTIC SESSIONS Tues 26 Apr, The Jam House
KATH BLOOM & BAND FEATURING SPLINTERED MAN & CAPT. LOVELACE Tue 26 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe
DEAD HARTS Tues 26 Apr, The Rainbow Venues
MEILYR JONES Wed 27 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge
INHEAVEN Wed 27 Apr, Hare & Hounds

WE ARE SCIENTISTS Wed 27 Apr, O2 Institute
STRAWBS Wed 27 Apr, The Robin, Bilston
THE GLAMOPHONES Wed 27 Apr, The Jam House
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES Thurs 28 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre
MAC MILLER Thurs 28 Apr, O2 Institute
SPEAR OF DESTINY Thurs 28 Apr, Hare & Hounds
SOUL ACOUSTIC Thurs 28 Apr, The Glee Club
KATHRYN WILLIAMS Thurs 28 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe
THE YOUNG'UNS Thurs 28 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
MELLOW PEACHES, SMALL CHANGES & CAROLINE SEVERN Thurs 28 Apr, The Roadhouse
ASHESTOANGELS Thurs 28 Apr, The Rainbow Venues
CASH - JOHNNY CASH Tribute Thurs 28 Apr, The Robin, Bilston
DIXIE CHICKS Fri 29 Apr, Barclaycard Arena
NOEL GALLAGHER'S HIGH FLYING BIRDS Fri 29 Apr, Genting Arena
CISSY STONE "WORTH THE WAIT" Fri 29 Apr, The Blue Piano
LEFT FOR RED & THE ANEMICS Fri 29 Apr, The Roadhouse
THE CARPENTERS STORY Fri 29 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre
UNDER A BANNER & THE LEYLINES Fri 29 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
U2UK Fri 29 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove
AQUILLO Fri 29 Apr, O2 Institute

KATY B Fri 29 Apr, The Assembly, Leamington Spa
DAVID RODIGAN Fri 29 Apr, Hare & Hounds
VALOUS Fri 29 Apr, The Roadhouse
BON GIOVI Fri 29 Apr, The Robin, Bilston
OCOEUR Fri 29 Apr, Route 44
MR BEN Fri 29 Apr, The Jam House
BRYAN ADAMS Sat 30 Apr, Genting Arena



SHOWADDYWADDY Sat 30 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre
MR BEN Sat 30 Apr, The Jam House
JIVE TALKIN' Sat 30 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove
BLOODY CEREMONY Sat 30 Apr, The Rainbow Venues
UK FEDS ONE WEEK STAND AND THE STRIKE Sat 30 Apr, O2 Institute
GLAM 45 Sat 30 Apr, The Roadhouse
MILLIE MANDERS Sat 30 Apr, The Actress & Bishop
SHE DREW THE GUN Sat 30 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge
SOLELY MOURNING Sat 30 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
SOUL'D OUT Sat 30 Apr, The Robin, Bilston
ICONIC EYE Sat 30 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

NICHOLAS MORRIS ORGAN RECITAL
 Programme includes works by Alain, Durufle, Landmann & Reger, Mon 25 Apr, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
YU CHENG CHEN PERCUSSION RECITAL
 Featuring 2-You Duo, Yu-Cheng Chen & Shih-Han Lee (percussion). Programme includes works by Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic, Zenakis, Askeil Masson, Ivan Trevino, Donatoni & Jesse Monkman, Tues 26 Apr, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham
CBSO: MAHLER'S FOURTH Featuring Ilan Volkov (conductor), Alexandre Tharaud (piano), Sarah Tynan (soprano). Programme includes works by Debussy, Haydn & Mahler, Wed 27 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CBSO: ABRAHAMSEN & MAHLER
 Featuring Ilan Volkov (conductor), Alexandre Tharaud (piano) & Sarah Tynan (soprano). Programme includes works by Debussy, Hans Abrahamson & Mahler, Thurs 28 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
EMMA JOHNSON AND FRIENDS
 The Carducci String, Alec Frank-Gemmill (horn), Philip Gibbon (bassoon) & Chris West (double bassoon). Programme includes works by Weber, Mozart & Schubert, Thurs 28 Apr, Malvern Theatres



CBSO BRASS Featuring the 10-piece CBSO Brass ensemble with Percussion students from Birmingham Conservatoire. Programme includes Britten's Fanfare for St Edmundsbury; Arnold's Fantasy for Horn, Bliss' Fanfare Homage to Shakespeare; Howells' Paeon & Walton's 3 Movements from Henry V Suite & Movements from Facade, Fri 29 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 26 Apr, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham
JULIAN CLARY - THE JOY OF MINCING Wed 27 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
ROMESH RANGANATHAN - IRRATIONAL Wed 27 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 27 Apr, The Mockingbird, Birmingham
FAT PENGUIN COMEDY Wed 27 Apr, The Patrick Kavanagh, Moseley, Birmingham
CARL DONNELLY - JIVE ASS HONKY FEATURING ADAM HESS Thurs 28 Apr, The Mockingbird, Birmingham
DAVID TRENT, TOM DEACON FEATURING COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 28 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham
DAVID MORGAN BLAMMO! Fri 29 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex
BEN NORRIS, ERIC LAMPAERT FEATURING TOM DEACON & PETER WHITE Fri 29 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham
SEAN PERCIVAL, ROGER MONKHOUSE FEATURING JOE BROMEHEAD & JOE ROWNTREE Fri 29 - Sat 30 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham
RUSSELL KANE - RIGHT MAN, WRONG AGE Sat 30 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall
DEBRA STEPHENSON: NIGHT OF ONE HUNDRED VOICES Sat 30 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch



ERIC LAMPAERT, BEN NORRIS FEATURING TOM DEACON & PETER WHITE Sat 30 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

KEITH BARRY: BRAIN HAKER Ireland's biggest touring entertainment star uses a combination of mind control, deception, mentalism and hypnotism to hack into the brains of the audience, Mon 25 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
LET IT BE Concert-style show featuring over forty of the Fab Four's greatest hits, Mon 25 - Sat 30 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome
FLARE PATH Terrence Rattigan's evocative portrait of life in wartime Britain. Graham Seed stars as Swanson and Charlie G Hawkins (EastEnders) as Percy, Mon 25 - Sat 30 Apr, The REP, Birmingham
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Oscar Wilde's comic masterpiece, presented by The Pantaloons, Tues 26 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove
MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL Linda Nolan, Rebecca Wheatley (Casualty) and Cheryl Ferguson (EastEnders) star in a brand new musical parody, Tues 26 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

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The Beanfield, Birmingham REP, Tues 26 - Wed 27 April

THE BEANFIELD Breach Theatre fuse documentary footage with new writing in a multimedia show about state violence and national heritage, Tues 26 - Wed 27 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

DIAL M FOR MURDER Stourbridge Theatre Company presents its version of Frederick Knott's erotic tale of betrayal, passion and, ultimately, murder, Tues 26 - Sat 30 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

FAME Presented by Solihull On Stage. Featuring songs such as 'I Want To Make Magic, Hard Work and Dancin' On The Sidewalk, Tues 26 - Sat 30 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

FERAL Tortoise In A Nutshell present an innovative piece of visual theatre which creates and destroys a world in front of the audience's eyes, Wed 27 Apr, mac, Birmingham

IRELAND'S CALL Musical which tells of dreams, enduring love and the resilience of the human spirit, inspired by true events spanning three decades, Wed 27 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

A MACHINE THEY'RE SECRETLY BUILDING Proto-type Theater combine original text and classified intelligence documents to vent their frustration at the insidious machine of surveillance, Wed 27 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Featuring some of the funniest comedy acts from the Black Country, including Jonny Cole, Dandy and Fizzog. Music from The Ronaldos also features, Thurs 28 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

HENRY V Antic Disposition presents its critically acclaimed production as

part of a UK cathedral tour to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Thurs 28 Apr, Worcester Cathedral

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Blue Orange Arts presents its version of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners, Thurs 28 Apr - Sat 7 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

CALLING FOR HELP! - NEXT PAGE PRODUCTIONS A new interactive comedy by the writers of *Invisible*, Fri 29 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove



AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING Concert celebration of the iconic movie's award-winning soundtrack, Fri 29 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

CYMBELINE Melly Still directs Shakespeare's rarely performed romance, Fri 29 Apr - Fri 12 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MAD ABOUT THE MUSICALS A whistle-stop tour of London's West End and the glitz of Broadway, Sat 30 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

SPEED SISTERS (PG) Documentary following The Speed Sisters the first all-woman race car driving team in the Middle East. Grabbing headlines and turning heads at improvised tracks across the West Bank, these five women have sped their way into the heart of the gritty, male-dominated Palestinian street car scene. Mon 25 - Thurs 2 Apr, mac, Birmingham

HIGH RISE (15) The director Ben Wheatley has garnered considerable acclaim following his films *Down Terrace*, *Kill List* and *A Field in England*. Here, he untangles an ecosystem preserved in a luxury London tower block, where a young doctor (Hiddleston) moves to the twenty-fifth floor to discover fierce dissent between the residents. Stars Tom Hiddleston & Jeremy Irons. From Fri 29 Apr, mac, Birmingham



FUTURE SHOCK! THE STORY OF 2000AD (15) This documentary offers an illuminating overview of the magazine's history: a warts and all look at the various highs and lows, a peek inside the creative process of some of its most legendary creators, and a funny, moving and passionate chronicle of how a disparate band of talented eccentrics came together to create something both visionary and extraordinary. From Sat 30 Apr, mac, Birmingham

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 29 April, showing at selected cinemas.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR (tbc)

DEMOLITION (15)

SON OF SAUL (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p38

Events

HERITAGE SKILLS WORKSHOP: BASKET WEAVING Try your hand at this ancient craft and make two functional, attractive items for your home, Tues 26 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

NAIDEX Tues 26 - Thurs 28 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

2016 BETWAY PREMIER LEAGUE DARTS Thurs 28 Apr, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

FLORALIA FESTIVAL Flower arrangements through the ages, Fri 29 Apr - Mon 2 May, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS Family show featuring 'incredible ball handling wizardry, rim-rattling dunks, trick shots, comedy and fan interaction', Sat 30 Apr, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

EXCALIBUR PAPER CRAFTING FAIR Papercrafting and Stamping Show, Sat 30 Apr, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

TUG BOAT GATHERING Tug boats from near and far make a rare appearance at the museum as they manoeuvre their way along the canal arm, Sat 30 Apr - Mon 2 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

PIRATE WEEKEND Sat 30 Apr - Mon 2 May, Cadbury World, Bournville

IRONBRIDGE GORGE WALKING FESTIVAL Now in its 11th year, offering nine days of free, varied and rewarding walks in and around Telford's stunning Ironbridge Gorge, where the Industrial Revolution began over 300 years ago, Sat 30 Apr - Sun 8 May, Ironbridge, Shropshire

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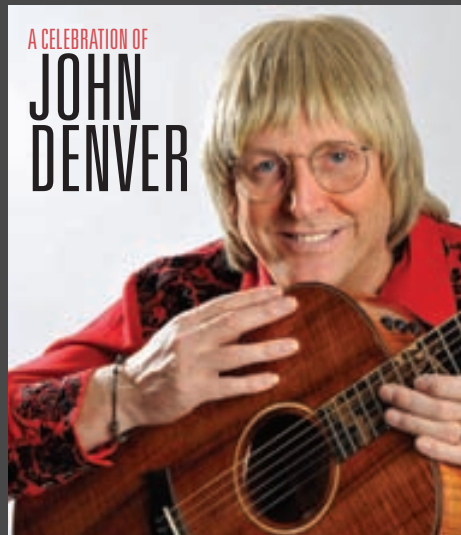
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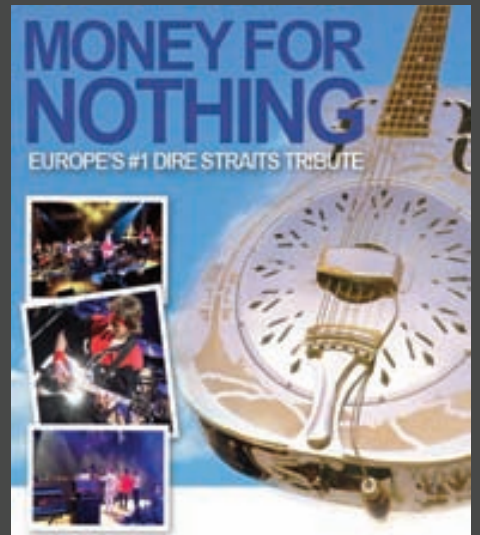
MON 9 - TUE 10 MAY



WED 11 MAY



THU 12 MAY



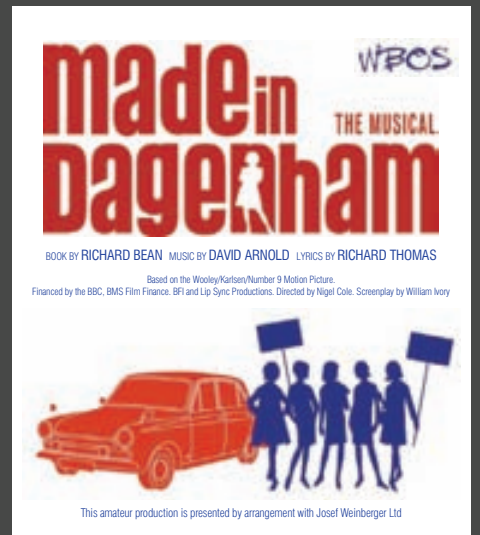
SAT 14 MAY



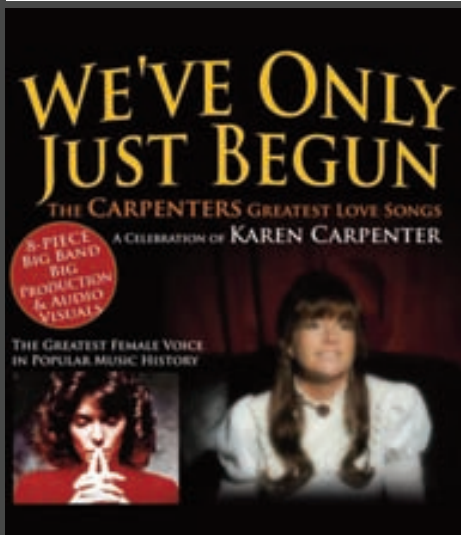
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TUE 31 MAY



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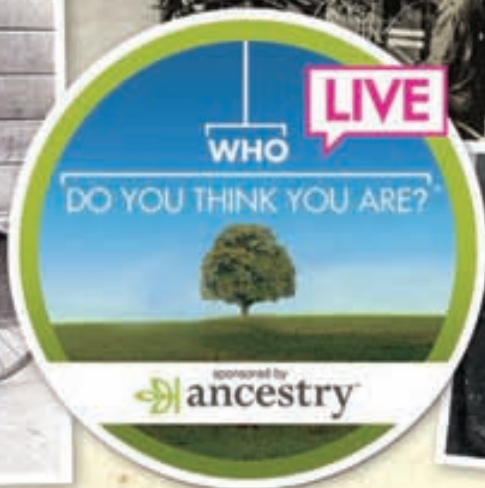


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