

Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

Warwickshire

What's On

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EDDIE IZZARD
IN THE MIDLANDS

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thelist

Your 16-page
week by week
listings guide



Fleur East

at MTV Crashes at Ricoh Arena



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The poster features a young child with blonde hair smiling and holding up a craft project made from a paper bag with a pink face and yellow hair. The background is decorated with illustrations of blue birds, a green frog, and yellow flowers. The text is in a mix of bold, colorful fonts. Logos for the museums and Culture Coventry are included.



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Matthew Bourne's *The Red Shoes* amongst Hippodrome highlights

A specially commissioned outdoor production commemorating the centenary of the Great War is one of the highlights of Birmingham Hippodrome's recently announced 2016/17 programme of shows.

Furious Folly, taking place as night falls in a no-man's land on the battle front between the two lines, immerses its audience within an open-air collage of sound, light, pyrotechnics and performance. The production will be presented in Sutton Park.

The Hippodrome season also sees Sir Matthew Bourne making a welcome return to Birmingham with brand new show *The Red Shoes*, a dance piece based on the beloved fairytale and Academy Award-winning movie of the same title.

Other highlights of the season include Shakespeare-inspired productions by Birmingham Royal Ballet and Welsh National Opera, Cuban choreographer Nilda Guerra's 'sizzling' new dance show *Vamos Cuba*, and *Billy Elliott The Musical*, stopping off at the Hippodrome as part of its first ever UK tour.

For more information about these shows and other elements of the Hippodrome's 2016/17 season, visit birminghamhippodrome.com.



Aldo Zilli announced for Foodies Festival



Award-winning celebrity chef and restaurateur Aldo Zilli is set to be a star attraction at Birmingham's forthcoming Foodies Festival.

Aldo, who specialises in Italian, vegetarian and seafood cuisine, will take his place at the Cannon Hill Park event next month, heading a line-up of celebrity chefs that also features Great British Bake Off 2015 winner Nadiya Jamir Hussain.

Other attractions at the three-day festival include an artisan producers market, craft beer masterclasses, a kids cookery theatre, a vintage cider tent and, for those with an adventurous nature and cast-iron stomach, a jungle bug eating challenge.

The Birmingham Foodies Festival takes place in Cannon Hill Park from 3 to 5 June.

Little Shop Of Horrors for Rhydian

Welsh baritone Rhydian Roberts is to star in *Little Shop Of Horrors* when it tours to Birmingham and Coventry in the autumn. Rhydian, who's sold in excess of one million albums worldwide since appearing on *The X Factor* in 2007, will take the role of sadistic dentist Orin Scrivello, the character memorably played by Steve Martin in the 1986 film version.

The show runs at the New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday 27 September to Saturday 1 October and *The Belgrade*, Coventry from Wed 26 to Sat 29 October.



An exciting line-up awaits at the Ricoh Arena



Chase & Status, Fleur East, Tom Odell and Kaiser Chiefs are among the high-profile performers appearing at MTV's two-day festival in Coventry over the Spring bank holiday weekend.

MTV Crashes Coventry will also feature, among other artists, The Chainsmokers, Wilkinson and Pete Tong.

Commenting on his appearance at the festival, BBC Radio One DJ Tong said: "Sharing a stage with some of the most exciting up-and-comers in electronic music is going to be incredible, so bring it on!"

MTV Crashes Coventry takes place at the city's Ricoh Arena on 27 & 28 May. For further information, visit, mtv.co.uk/mtv-crashes-coventry.

Will wannabe surgeons make the cut?

Midlands-based wannabe surgeons are being given the chance to work in a real operating theatre this summer.

The anatomy dissection tour Operating Theatre Live is heading to Birmingham in August, and is aimed at children and young people between the ages of 14 and 17 who want to pursue careers in health and medicine.

The students will work in groups to dissect a real GI tract (stomach & intestines), a heart, a set of lungs, a head and brain sample and a real leg and bone.

Operating Theatre Live runs from 10 to 12 August in Sutton Coldfield. Visit, operatingtheatre-live.co.uk/tour.html for more information.



Milestone for music museum

The Coventry Music Museum has recently welcomed its 10,000th visitor. The milestone follows hot on the heels of the museum's success in the Coventry Telegraph People's Choice Awards, in which it was voted Best Family Attraction and Best Independent Venue.

"It's an amazing milestone reaching 10,000 visitors," says museum director Pete Chambers. "The reality is that it's every one of those amazing visitors who have put us where we are, along with our sponsors Heritage Lottery and, of course, our amazing team and board."



Pete Chambers (left) with Peter Draw

Mel B set to spice up the festive season

It will definitely be a case of 'mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the Spiciest one of all?' at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena this Christmas, when Spice Girl Mel B stars as the Scary Queen in Snow White.

Melanie Brown - aka Scary Spice - will headline the production, which is being promoted as 'the world's biggest panto'.

Mel will be joined by Big Brother favourite Rylan Clarke-Neal as her henchman, Paddy McGuinness as Muddles and Strictly Come Dancing's Vincent and Flavia as the mysterious spirits in the mirror. The show will also boast a giant castle, 'amazing' special effects, 24ft-high fountains and impressive displays of aerial acrobatics.

The production runs at the Barclaycard Arena from 19 to 22 December. For more information and to buy tickets, visit, barclaycardarena.co.uk/whats-on/worlds-biggest-pantomime



Motoring fun for half term



Youngsters have the chance to learn about the art of animation - with a motoring twist! - at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon, Warwickshire, this half-term holiday (30 May - 3 June).

Children can start by creating a storyboard and then build a model car to appear in a short stop motion film. The museum's animation workshops have a limited number of spaces and, subject to availability, are bookable on arrival. For more information, visit www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk or call 01926 641188.

New raceday in Warwick

Warwick Racecourse is launching a brand new festival.

The Warwick May Racing Carnival links together three meetings and includes a raceday designed to celebrate the town. The Proudly Warwick Raceday, held on the evening of Saturday 7 May, is sandwiched between the two other meetings included in the carnival - the Wonderful Warwick Family Raceday on Bank Holiday Monday (2 May) and the Think Pink Warwick Ladies Day on the 18th of the month. Andre Klein, General Manager at Warwick Racecourse, says one of the main aims of the carnival is to foster strong links between the racecourse and the town. "We're delighted to be launching this new sporting celebration," says Andre. "There's a lot of work to do to raise the profile of the racecourse and explain what we're trying to do within the local community, and this is what the Warwick May Racing Carnival is all about."

Midlands jazz festivals team up

The Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival has teamed up with Solihull Business Improvement District (BID) to become the Birmingham and Solihull Jazz & Blues Festival.

Commenting on the development, Melanie Palmer, Executive Director of Solihull BID, said: "From our experience in running our own annual Solihull Jazz Festival, we realised that there's a huge appetite for jazz in and around Solihull. I believe that the time is now right to engage with the long-established Birmingham event to produce a festival that will have a far greater footprint than would two separate festivals."

The Birmingham and Solihull Jazz & Blues Festival takes place from 15 to 24 July. The event includes around 150 performances presented in 60 venues, almost all of which will be free to attend.



What's On Readers' Awards 2016

You've been voting in your thousands - literally **OVER 25,000 VOTES CAST** - in our first ever What's On Readers' Awards! And, the **WINNERS** are:



The organisers of Moseley Folk Festival



Barbara Nice



Graham Callister



Chris Sudworth

THEATRE: Best Touring Play

WINNER: Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time
1st RUNNER-UP: East Is East

THEATRE: Best Touring Musical

WINNER: Hairspray
1st RUNNER-UP: The Bodyguard

THEATRE: Best Home-Produced Show In The Midlands

WINNER: The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe - The REP
1st RUNNER-UP: Wendy & Peter Pan - RSC

THEATRE: Best Pantomime In The Midlands 2015/16

WINNER: Aladdin - Birmingham Hippodrome
1st RUNNER-UP: Peter Pan - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THEATRE: Best Midlands Amateur Dramatic/Operatic Group

WINNER: West Bromwich Operatic Society (WBOS)
1st RUNNER-UP: Bournville Musical Theatre Company

DANCE: Best Production

WINNER: BRB's - The Nutcracker
1st RUNNER-UP: Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands

CLASSICAL (inc Opera): Best Production

WINNER: CBSO at Symphony Hall
1st RUNNER-UP: WNO - Sweeney Todd

Best Midlands Arts/Cultural Festival

WINNER: Birmingham Weekender
1st RUNNER-UP: Birmingham Comedy Festival

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

WINNER: Birmingham Hippodrome
1st RUNNER-UP: Birmingham Rep



Rob Macpherson from Birmingham Hippodrome

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

WINNER: mac - Birmingham
1st RUNNER-UP: Lichfield Garrick

Best Independent Cinema

WINNER: Electric Cinema - Birmingham
1st RUNNER-UP: mac - Birmingham

Best Midlands Comedian

WINNER: Barbara Nice
1st RUNNER-UP: Andy White

Best Midlands Music Venue (Large: 1000+ capacity)

WINNER: Symphony Hall
1st RUNNER-UP: Barclaycard Arena

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

WINNER: The Robin - Bilston
1st RUNNER-UP: Warwick Arts Centre - Coventry

Best Midlands Music Festival

WINNER: Moseley Folk Festival
1st RUNNER-UP: Shrewsbury Folk Festival

Best Midlands Live Band

WINNER: The Twang
1st RUNNER-UP: Rainbreakers

Best Midlands Exhibition

WINNER: Staffordshire Hoard - BMAG
1st RUNNER-UP: Pop Art - Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Best Birmingham Art Gallery/Exhibition Venue

WINNER: Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
1st RUNNER-UP: IKON Gallery

WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

#artsmatters
#culturematters

Best Midlands Art Gallery/ Exhibition Venue (outside Birmingham)

WINNER: Wolverhampton Art Gallery
1st RUNNER-UP: New Art Gallery -
Walsall

Best Midlands' Visitor Attraction

WINNER: Black Country Living
Museum
1st RUNNER-UP: Severn Valley
Railway

Best Midlands Outdoor Event

WINNER: The Big Hoot - Birmingham
1st RUNNER-UP: Frankfurt Christmas
Market - B'ham

Best Midlands Indoor Event

WINNER: BBC Good Food Show
1st RUNNER-UP: MCM Comic Con

Best Family-friendly/Community Festival

WINNER: Birmingham Weekender

1st RUNNER-UP: Moseley Folk
Festival

Best Midlands' Food Festival

WINNER: Birmingham Ind Food Fair
1st RUNNER-UP:
Ludlow Food Festival

Best Midlands Street Food Event

WINNER: Digbeth Dining Club -
Birmingham
1st RUNNER-UP: mac Food Market -
Birmingham

Best Midlands Street Food Vendor

WINNER: Brum Yum Yum
1st RUNNER-UP:
Bournville Waffle Company

Best Midlands Retail Shopping Centre

WINNER: Bullring - Birmingham
1st RUNNER-UP:
Grand Central - Birmingham

Best Sporting Event

WINNER: The Rugby World Cup
1st RUNNER-UP:
Aegon Classic Tennis

Best Midlands Nightclub

WINNER: Rainbow Venues in Digbeth
1st RUNNER-UP: The Nightingale -
Birmingham

Midlands Entertainment Personality of the Year Award

WINNER: Citizen Khan (Adil Ray)
1st RUNNER-UP: Beverley Knight



Citizen Khan with
Lauren Foster

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

Birmingham

1st RUNNER-UP:
The Crescent Theatre
WINNER: The Old Rep

Black Country

WINNER:
Arena Theatre, W'ton
1st RUNNER-UP:
Stourbridge Town Hall

Shropshire

WINNER:
The Hive, Shrewsbury
1st RUNNER-UP:
Theatre on the Steps

Staffordshire

WINNER:
Stafford Gatehouse
1st RUNNER-UP:
Brewhouse Arts

Warwickshire

WINNER:
Albany Theatre, C'try
1st RUNNER-UP:
Criterion Theatre

Worcestershire

WINNER:
Artrix, Bromsgrove
1st RUNNER-UP:
Evesham Arts Centre

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

Birmingham

WINNER:
Hare & Hounds
1st RUNNER-UP:
The Glee Club

Black Country

WINNER:
The Slade Rooms
1st RUNNER-UP:
Newhampton Arts
Centre

Shropshire

WINNER: Henry Tudor
House, Shrewsbury
1st RUNNER-UP:
Walker Theatre at
Theatre Severn

Staffordshire

WINNER:
The Sugarmill, Stoke
1st RUNNER-UP:
Tamworth Assembly
Rooms

Warwickshire

WINNER: The Tin
Music & Arts, C'try
1st RUNNER-UP:
Leamington Lamp,
Leamington Spa

Worcestershire

WINNER: Huntingdon
Hall, Worcester
1st RUNNER-UP:
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Best Regional Visitor Attraction

Birmingham

WINNER: Birmingham
Museum & Art Gallery
1st RUNNER-UP:
Cadbury World

Black Country

WINNER: Black
Country Living Museum
1st RUNNER-UP:
Dudley Zoo

Shropshire

WINNER: Ironbridge
Gorge Museums
1st RUNNER-UP:
Attingham Park

Staffordshire

WINNER: Drayton Manor
1st RUNNER-UP:
National Memorial
Arboretum

Warwickshire

WINNER: Coventry
Transport Museum
1st RUNNER-UP:
Warwick Castle

Worcestershire

WINNER:
Croome Park
1st RUNNER-UP:
Severn Valley Railway

Best Independent Regional Restaurant

Birmingham

WINNER:
Purnells
1st RUNNER-UP:
Sabai Sabai

Black Country

WINNER: The
Summerhouse, Dudley
1st RUNNER-UP:
Indigo Restaurant

Shropshire

WINNER:
The King and Thai
1st RUNNER-UP:
The Hundred House

Staffordshire

WINNER: The Swan
with Two Necks
1st RUNNER-UP:
The Orange Tree

Warwickshire

WINNER:
Tailors, Warwick
1st RUNNER-UP:
Greyhound Inn

Worcestershire

WINNER: The Royal
Oak, Evesham
1st RUNNER-UP:
The Black Star

Ishy Din

Former cab driver Ishy Din talks to What's On about his new play, *Wipers*, which tells the World War One story of the first Indian soldier to be awarded a Victoria Cross medal...



“ *Even though it's set in 1914, I think there's a universality about the characters - we can still connect with them emotionally, and that's timeless.* **”**

The 31st of October 1914: Indian soldiers from the 129th regiment, the Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchis, are overrun by Germans in the Hollebeke area of Ypres, Belgium. For 10 hours, 26-year-old Khudadad Khan holds back the enemy troops, continuing to fight almost single-handedly as his comrades fall around him. Finally incapacitated by his wounds, Khan is left for dead by the Germans, but somehow manages to crawl back behind Allied lines and lives to tell the tale. This incredible effort buys enough time for reinforcements to be deployed, and Khan becomes the first Indian soldier to be awarded a Victoria Cross medal.

As the World War One centenary commemorations continue, a new play by Ishy Din aims to shed light on the often overlooked contributions made by Khan and other South Asian volunteer soldiers. Directed by Curve Leicester's Suba Das, *Wipers* takes its title from the name given to Ypres by British troops, and will run at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre from 12 to 21 May. What's On spoke to Ishy Din to find out more.

“A couple of years ago, I was commissioned by Leicester Curve to write a play highlighting the contribution of South Asian soldiers in World War One,” explains Din. “I wasn't given any particular remit beyond that, but one of the first things that came up when I started researching was this chap called Khudadad Khan. I found out that he's actually quite revered, especially in Pakistan and amongst fellow soldiers.”

Situated in the Chakwal District, Khan's former home in Dab is now part of modern Pakistan, and a statue of him can be seen at the Pakistan Army Museum in Rawalpindi. But the huge respect for Khan both at home and elsewhere presented Din with something of a challenge.

“I felt like I'd be doing him a disservice if I put him right at the centre of the play. You need to add texture to your characters and I wasn't very comfortable making things up about him, so



the play actually follows four of his colleagues who've been ordered to secure a barn while he's out fighting. There's an officer called Thomas, who's quite young and inexperienced, and then there are three soldiers from India called Sadiq, Adi and Ayub. Essentially, over the course of those 10 hours they realise that they'll have to work together in order to survive, and they learn that heroism comes in many forms."

The cut-down history of the First World War that most children learn in schools today barely touches on the support provided by international soldiers from across the British Empire. Though Khan and others were honoured with medals, knowledge of their deeds may not have been widespread even at the time, since different regiments tended to operate separately. For Din, researching the history has been eye-opening.

"The really interesting thing was realising how little I knew, and by extension, how little everyone knows about the contribution made by these men. I found out that the different army regiments were actually very distinct entities, so even though the Indian Army had mostly British officers, it had its own methods that were adopted and adapted from Indian traditions."

From his award-winning 2012 play *Snookered* to his standalone Channel Four comedy *Doughnuts*, most of Din's previous work has been set in the present day, so writing a historical piece has been a new experience for him.

"In the writing world, there's this long-standing idea that you should write what you know, and so most of my previous work has been about contemporary British Asian life, but it's been really interesting to write about a different world and a different time. Even though it's set in 1914, I think there's a universality about

the characters - we can still connect with them emotionally, and that's timeless."

One advantage Din had in imagining that world was a family history of military service, as well as past experience of writing about soldiers. His 2013 short film, *Our Lad*, concerned a young man and his struggles to fit in, both with his colleagues in the army, and with his family at home.

"I don't know of any family that served in the First World War, but my dad was in the army, and I have great uncles and grandfathers who were in the British Indian Army during the Second World War, before partition and independence," he said.

As things move forward, Din continues to work closely with the production team, helping to take the play from page to stage.

"It's been a very collaborative process. I get emails from designers and all sorts of people letting me know what's happening with different aspects of the show, and I'll be part of the rehearsals too. A few of the actors we got in to do workshops during the drafting process were people who were already on my radar, and some of those guys just seemed to inhabit the characters I'd written completely, which was brilliant."

Once it's finished, Din is also hoping to catch the play at the various venues that it will visit on its tour. Coincidentally, his previous work includes a short film directed by Dawn Walton for *Eclipse*, whose production of American classic *A Raisin In The Sun* is also showing as part of the Belgrade's Hidden Histories season, alongside *Wipers* and Liz Mytton's *Red Snapper*.

"Dawn's absolutely fantastic and she's doing some great stuff, so I'm really glad to be part of this season with her. Hopefully we'll get to meet up at the Belgrade at some point. I've never been there before, but I like to

see how my work translates onto different stages, so it'll be great to come in and check out the building. My work is nearly done now, so by then I'll be able to just sit back and - I don't know if 'enjoy' is the right word - but to experience it, anyway!"

Since first entering a short story into a competition with Radio Five Live, Din has come a long way in his writing career. At the time, he was working as a cab driver in his hometown of Middlesbrough, absorbing stories from his passengers. Today, his ambitious upcoming projects include an original legal drama, a feature film, and a pilot for a show called *Midnight Dreams* that's been commissioned by the BBC.

"It's still early days and there's lots of development to be done, so I'm reluctant to say too much at this stage, but it's exciting to be able to base those projects in my world, in Asian communities in the north."

He'll also be writing a script for the first season of an upcoming Channel Four series called *The ABC*, created by East Is East writer Ayub Khan Din. Set in Lancashire's Arnold Braithwaite College, the show will follow new headteacher Emma Hussein as she rises to the challenges of running a multicultural school.

"At the moment, I'm only contracted to write one episode, but of course I'd like to write all of them!" Din laughs. "Unfortunately, that's not my decision, but Channel Four certainly have high hopes for the series and want it to be something that returns for several seasons, so hopefully there'll be more further down the line."



Wipers shows at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry from Thursday 12 to Saturday 21 May.



WIPERS.

12 – 21 May from £10.25 ★

The poster features a large, stylized title 'WIPERS.' in white, distressed font against a dark, textured background. On the left, a man in a turban and military uniform is shown in profile. Below him, a silhouette of a soldier in a helmet is visible. The bottom of the poster shows a line of silhouettes of soldiers walking across a field.



Kali Theatre presents
THE DISHONOURED
Aamina Ahmad

4 – 7 May Age 14+ from £10.25 ★

The poster shows a woman with dark hair and a green patterned top embracing a man from behind. The man's face is not visible, only his dark hair and back. The background is a solid blue color.



The Classic Thriller
Theatre Company
**REHEARSAL
FOR
MURDER**
written and directed by DAVID ROGERS

9 – 14 May from £17.50 ★

The poster features a typewriter in the foreground with a sheet of paper that reads 'RICHARD LEVINSON & WILHELM S. LINK'. Behind the typewriter, a collage of faces of the cast members is shown. The background is dark with some light effects.



Vincent Simone & Flavia Cacace in
The Last Tango

26 – 28 May from £24.50

The poster shows a man in a dark suit and a woman in a red dress dancing tango. The woman is leaning back, and the man is supporting her. The background is dark.



The Birthday Party
by Harold Pinter

14 – 18 June from £12 ★

The poster features a large, wrapped red gift box with a gold ribbon and bow. The background is dark.

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

REVIEW: Casa Med, Bromsgrove
Flavours of the Med and an abundance of charm...



The experience of eating tapas is all about sharing, socialising and checking in with that familiar desire to escape to sun-drenched foreign shores. Best enjoyed across a leisurely few hours and over a glass or two of good wine, Britain's love affair with the no-frills finger food has blossomed these last few years - and with high street chains quick to claim tapas as their own, the nation's appetite for novelty cuisine shows no sign of abating. So when a tapas restaurant like Casa Med comes along, it makes me want to crack open the sangria in celebration!

Located at the heart of Bromsgrove, just a short walk from the train station, this delightful addition to the high street is already making waves within the Worcestershire business community. And, judging from my experience there, it isn't hard to see why.

Tucked away like some delicious secret waiting to be discovered, Casa Med is every bit the authentic 'tapas experience' - small but perfectly formed, exuding warmth and imbued with the true spirit of the Mediterranean.

From the moment I stepped off the high street and onto the cobble promenade, I was transported away from day-to-day drudgery. Sheltered by surrounding pine trees, dressed with olive plants, overlaid with line upon line of fairy lights and boasting rustic beams and quirky old-world charm, there was something altogether enchanting about this place, from the earthenware pots and tapas bowls right through to the vintage poster prints of old Madrid that decorated the white-washed walls.

In keeping with the restaurant's relaxed ethos, Casa Med's menu is extensive as opposed to overwhelming. Bringing together Spanish staples such as Abondigas (handmade meatballs), Patatas Bravas (fried potato with smoky tomato sauce) and Gambas el Diablo (prawns cooked in white wine and chilli) with the best of Greek meze and Moroccan-inspired cuisine, this was a Mediterranean adventure in its broadest sense.

Taking the advice of our friendly waitress and opting for a handmade flatbread starter at £3.75

(drizzled with a light extra virgin olive oil and accompanied by a side order of Gordal, Manzilla and Black olives), our choice of dips included the classic Greek Tzatziki and the Moroccan-inspired Zaalouk - a moreish concoction of roasted aubergine, cumin, paprika, coriander and tomatoes. Both were priced at a reasonable £2.75 each.

After supping on a leisurely glass of the Bodegas Borsao Maccabeo - a light and refreshing Spanish chardonnay with hints of peach and lemon - it was time to get serious. From the East Mediterranean, Charmoula Chicken skewers cooked in lemon, paprika and fresh coriander (£6.95) provided a zesty and refreshing complement to the rich, sweet notes of the handmade meatballs in sherry sauce - cooked to perfection and oozing flavour. From the South Mediterranean, the Cod Loin in Serrano Ham (£7.95) was very much the surprise hit of the evening. The cod was tender yet firm in texture, complemented beautifully by the subtle smokiness of the pork and matched only by the waitress's choice of

Harissa Chicken with spinach and sweet cherry tomatoes (which alone was worth our visit!).

With the stakes well and truly raised, it all rested on the Patatas Ailoli (£4.45). We weren't disappointed. Fluffy on the inside with a lightly spiced outer skin and served with a deliciously rich garlic mayonnaise, these potatoes really were too good to share!

For the perfect fiesta with friends, Casa Med also offers a 12-to-14-dish Party Menu priced at a not-unreasonable £17.50 per head for 9 to 14 diners, and £22.50 per head for 15 to 24 diners. Ideal for sharing and the perfect choice for any celebration.

With the prospect of an early-morning start prompting us to head for home, it was time to catch the last train back to reality. Such was the unique ambience of Casa Med that leaving via the tree-lined avenue felt akin to being on a holiday that had come to an end all too soon.

Warm, welcoming and intimate in style, Casa Med's abundant charm is matched by a genuine passion for food and a willingness to let fresh produce speak for itself. This was tapas as it's meant to be experienced - enjoyed in a relaxed atmosphere, cooked to perfection and boasting the unmistakable flavours of the Med.

Bromsgrove's best-kept secret is out and, like its food, is well worth sharing...

Cinco estrellas! *Katherine Ewing*

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

Casa Med Tapas
 89a High Street
 Bromsgrove
 Worcestershire
 B61 8AQ

ASPARAFEST

Worcestershire's Asparagus-tastic Music & Food Festival

Sat 4th & Sun 5th June
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Food

Dining at the cathedral

Birmingham's Digbeth Dining Club is this month heading to Coventry - and more particularly to the city's cathedral.

The award-winning street food event, which takes place in the Digbeth area of Birmingham every Friday, has already expanded into other locations, including Wolverhampton. It visits Coventry Cathedral on 8 May. "Coventry is a city that we've always seen in our long-term plan of showcasing our mixture of street food and fun," says Dining Club co-founder Jack Brabant. "Working in partnership with the cathedral, we feel we have an iconic spot to do just this. It promises to be a great day out for all ages and we look forward to feeding everyone who comes down."

Nutrilicious delights at Staffordshire spa

TV chef and best-selling author Sally Bee has opened a 'healthy but indulgent' restaurant at Staffordshire's Hoar Cross Hall Spa Hotel.

Sally survived three heart attacks in a week at the age of 36. Since that time, she's followed a 'delicious and achievable' healthy eating plan, which is reflected in the menu for her new restaurant, Sally Bee's Nutrilicious.

"I've always stood by the philosophy that the key to life is balance," says Sally. "I've worked with Hoar Cross Hall Spa Hotel over the last year to develop a menu that is nutritionally balanced, wonderfully flavour-some and uncompromisingly good, and I'm enormously excited to share it with everyone."



MPW unveils new dining concept at The Cube



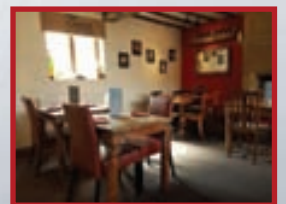
Marco Pierre White will this month launch a new 'ultra-casual' dining concept at The Cube in Birmingham.

Bardolino Pizzeria Bellini & Espresso bar will feature an all-day express menu of authentic Italian food, coffees and Bellinis. Commenting on his new venture, Marco said: "Bardolino represents affordable, friendly and casual dining with recognisable family favourites and classic Italian dishes. "Bardolino is a restaurant concept created for both discerning diners and aspirational families alike. After all, pasta is a child's favourite food."



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Manic Street Preachers

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Sat 14 May

Nearly 30 years of producing high-quality material has seen the Manics claim their place in the upper echelons of British rock. After hitting the big time with a cover of Suicide Is Painless in the early '90s, they survived the disappearance of band member Richey James to go on and enjoy mega success with *A Design For Life*, from the album *Everything Must Go*. The record was certified triple platinum in the UK and went on to sell over a million copies and bag multiple Brit awards.

They here return to Birmingham to celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Everything Must Go*, playing two sets on the night - the album in full followed by rarities and curios, greatest hits and a few brand new songs.

Rock band The Editors provide support.



Hot 8 Brass Band

The Copper Rooms, Coventry, Sat 21 May



Transcending genres and trends, Hot 8's rocking sound and indomitable energy are renowned across the world. The New Orleans-based collective have performed with a wide range of artists, including Lauryn Hill and Mos Def, and released three albums: *Rock With The Hot 8*, *Tombstone* and *The Life And Times Of The Hot 8 Brass Band*. The latter was nominated for a Grammy in 2013.

The band are real favourites on the festival circuit and regularly appear on the bill at Glastonbury and BoomTown.

Anastacia

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 3 May

Best known for her singles *Left Outside Alone* and *I'm Outta Love*, Anastacia has released five albums and sold over 30 million copies worldwide.

The *Ultimate Collection* sees the American singer return to Sony Music, the label that was instrumental in catapulting her to global superstardom. "I feel so blessed and humbled to be experiencing this exciting next chapter of my life," she says. "The idea for my *Ultimate Collection* is to include something for everyone. I'm eternally grateful to be reunited with Sony, the record label that made all of this possible from day one. Fifteen years later, I'm back, I'm home and I couldn't be happier."



Tom Robinson

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 15 May

Singer, songwriter and broadcaster Tom Robinson was a vocal supporter of Rock Against Racism and LGBT rights in the late 1970s, enjoying chart success with *Glad To Be Gay*, *2-4-6-8 Motorway* and *Up Against The Wall*.

His broadcasting career has seen him win two gold Sony Academy Radio Awards. He's also hosted programmes on BBC Radios One, Two, Three, Four, Four Extra, Five Live and Six Music - where he currently presents three shows a week.

Last year he returned to the recording studio with award-winning producer and multi-instrumentalist Gerry Diver to make his first new album in almost 20 years.

James

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
Fri 20 May



English rock band James originally signed to the iconic Factory Records in 1982. They have since gone on to produce a string of massive hit singles, including *Sit Down*, *Come Home*, *She's A Star* and *Born Of Frustration*. Now, 34 years on, they're touring in support of their 14th album, *Girl At The End Of The World*, which they claim to be their best yet. Italian-English solo acoustic singer Jack Savoretti supports.

Laura Mvula

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Sat 21 May



Birmingham-born soul singer-songwriter Laura Mvula captivated audiences back in 2013 with debut album *Sing To The Moon*. Influenced by the likes of Nina Simone, Jill Scott and Erykah Badu, Mvula's latest single, *Overcome*, features the legendary Nile Rodgers. It's taken from her new album, *The Dreaming Room*, which is set for release on 17 June.



YolanDa Brown

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 7 May

Regarded as the premier female saxophonist in the UK, YolanDa's debut album - *April Showers*, *May Flowers* - reached number one on the iTunes and Amazon jazz charts. As well as performing across the world in

her own right, she's also toured in support of The Temptations and Errol Brown, and collaborated with artists including Julian Marley, Soweto Kinch and as part of Jools Holland's Rhythm & Blues Orchestra. She visits Warwick Arts Centre on her Reggae Love Songs Tour, accompanied by Mica Paris.

Cate Le Bon

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 22 May

Welsh singer-songwriter Cate Le Bon appears at Birmingham's Glee Club this month in support of her fourth album, *Crab Day*, which was released last month. "Crab Day was lovingly formed in the mouth of the Pacific Ocean, as it quietly mocked us with its magnitude," says Cate. "It's the sound of the 'accidentally on purpose' coming together of the right people at precisely the right time in an environment that furnished and fuelled the abandonment we felt effortlessly. It's a coalition of inescapable feelings and fabricated nonsense, each propping the other up. Crab Day is an old holiday. Crab Day is a new holiday. Crab Day isn't a holiday at all."



Travis

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Thurs 12 May



Rock four-piece Travis have accumulated two number one LPs, five top ten singles, two Brit Awards and more than eight million record sales across their illustrious career. They've released eight studio albums since their inception in 1990, including *Good Feeling* (1997), *12 Memories* (2003) and *Where You Stand* (2013). After a quiet few years, the band behind hit singles *Why Does It Always Rain On Me* and *Flowers In The Window* are back on the road in support of their highly anticipated new album, *Everything At Once*, released at the end of April on their own label, Red Telephone Box.



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For more info visit idfb.co.uk

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Let's Dance: IDFB 2016 At A Glance

From ballet to Bollywood, hip-hop to lindy-hop and kathak to acrobatics, since 2008, International Dance Festival Birmingham has been rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the UK's most important dance events, firmly cementing its place in the city's cultural calendar.

Characterised by a multitude of street performances, solo shows, genre-crossing collaborations, interactive workshops and community projects, the fifth IDFB has attracted some of the dance world's biggest stars, as well as showcasing home-grown talent and expanding its reach across Birmingham and into the wider West Midlands region.

"I think there's been a desire to see Birmingham start to challenge London as a place for dance, where artists want to live and make work," said David Massingham, IDFB Co-Artistic Director and Chief Executive of DanceXchange. "There's an enormous amount of great space for dance here, and a big appetite for showing diverse work from around the world, so over the last few years, we've started getting messages from people all the time asking to be part of it."

One big change for 2016 is the introduction of a "Festival Hub" at the old Municipal Bank on Broad Street. Conveniently located next to Centenary Square, where much of the outdoor action takes place, the disused bank provides plenty of room for a café, performances, socialising and even an art exhibition called Cosmic Birds.

Visual art might seem an odd inclusion, but it fits in with IDFB's wider blurring of the line between dance and other creative pursuits. A former dancer who switched careers following an injury, Shun Ito creates metal and light sculptures which move, according

to Massingham, "in a very choreographic way". His work will also serve as the basis for a live event featuring a dance performance by Kei Miyata and experimental music by Ex Easter Island Head. "I've always seen dance as a very collaborative art form, and I like breaking down barriers to dance, especially through our work with circus," said Massingham.

Cosmic Birds ties in nicely with a subtle, underlying theme for the festival - the interplay between man and machine - which comes to the fore during "Live Nights", four evening extravaganzas bringing multiple acts together in Centenary Square. Ideal for those with limited free time, Live Nights promise "the complete festival experience in one place", with Massingham's The Machine Show serving as the spectacular centrepiece. "The outdoor works like RIDE and Phone Box that we're sending out on tours of the city will all come into the centre during Live Nights so people can see a lot of them in one go. We wanted to create an exciting night-time atmosphere and make this something people want to come and join in with, so we've done things like bringing in Digbeth Dining Club to provide food and drink."

Like DanceXchange, IDFB is guided by a passion for accessibility and inclusiveness as well as excellence. By developing such a wide-ranging programme, Massingham and the festival team hope to reach diverse audiences and encourage as many people as possible to get involved.

"When we set out in 2008 with the first festival, I wanted to try to provide something for everyone instead of having the same few people come to everything. We've got all the

outdoor work which is free, and we've got things like Put Your Foot Down in the Bullring which is a day of youth and community dance and people in training showing off their skills and entertaining shoppers, which I think is a really good thing for the shopping experience too. Even if people just dip their toes in once, I think that's great."

Whatever your interests, there's certainly plenty to look forward to, but for those who aren't sure what to check out first, here are some of our top picks to give a flavour of what's on offer.

Find out what else David Massingham has to say about this year's festival at whatsonlive.co.uk

International Dance Festival Birmingham takes place at various city centre locations from Sun 1 to Sun 22 May. Check out our highlights on page 22. For further information and full festival listings, visit idfb.co.uk



Political Mother

Heather Kincaid explores Hofesh Shechter's critically acclaimed work which returns to the Midlands as part of International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016



Part rock concert, part brutal satire and part cinematic spectacle, Hofesh Shechter's first full-length dance production premiered at the 2010 Brighton Festival to extraordinary acclaim. A year later, the show was reworked as *Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut* for an international tour, with sell-out shows held in rock venues around the world - an achievement virtually unprecedented in contemporary dance.

This May, thanks to the International Dance Festival team, lucky Birmingham audiences will have the chance to experience the groundbreaking style and raw, youthful energy of *Political Mother* on two separate dates at Birmingham REP.

"Hofesh and I have worked together on and off for a long time," says David Massingham, IDFB's Co-Artistic Director. "When we approached the company about putting on *Political Mother* for IDFB, they said that they weren't going to be touring it any more, but I convinced them to put it on one last time, and now Hofesh is actually going to be performing in it."

"It feels exciting and absolutely right to bring *Political Mother* home to Birmingham," says Shechter. "I spent part of the rehearsal period for this show working in the studios at DanceXchange, and although we have since toured it throughout the world, this is our first time to perform it to audiences in Birmingham."

Long recognised as one of the most important and original artists currently working in contemporary dance, Shechter has been seen by critics as blazing a trail to open up the medium to a wider audience, stripping it of any perceived pretension and propelling it into the mainstream. Nowhere is this more true than in the brazenly anti-authoritarian and musically intense *Political Mother*, whose innovative choreography is inspired as much by news footage and everyday life as it is by established forms and structures.

“Hofesh is one of the most exciting artists to emerge in recent years”

David Massingham



Born in the notoriously fraught city of Jerusalem before moving to the UK, where conflict with the Middle East seems almost perpetual, it's perhaps no surprise that Shechter's work would have a strongly political bent.

"Everything I've experienced has left a mark on my work, and a lot of that experience has been about conflict, about struggling to make sense of things," he said in a 2009 Guardian interview.

Growing up in Israel, Shechter developed an early interest in folk dance, joining a local group before going on to train at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. This early passion remains a key influence on his work, both formally and philosophically. A statement displayed in lights during Political Mother reads, "Where there is pressure there is folk dance". It might be understood as a kind of ethos for his work: like its musical equivalent, folk dance can be seen as in some way inherently political, a kind of counter-culture to more elitist or industry-controlled art forms.

Nevertheless, it's the contrasts and juxtapositions that make Shechter's work truly radical, bringing together these traditional folk elements with visceral images inspired by films and by real conflict, along with the kinds of furious, thrashing sounds and movements you'd be more likely to encounter at a rock concert than in a dance production. Piercing lighting creates stark shadows as one scene cuts to another in quickfire succession. Among the things you'll witness in this show is a ritual samurai suicide, a dictator's incoherent ranting, and the weary movements of what appear to be a group of prisoners.

"When I come to do a piece, I don't come with an answer," says Shechter. "I hope to awaken interesting connections for myself. I want to try to create all these different worlds, then edit between them and see

what happens."

His experimental style isn't limited to choreography. Following a period working with leading Israeli dance company Batsheva, Shechter moved to Paris to study music and play drums for a rock band called The Human Beings. Today, he frequently acts as both composer and choreographer for his shows, relying on a few trusted collaborators to help him realise his visions. He describes the development of Political Mother as "a very complex and to some extent random process", where composition and choreography are inextricably intertwined, though he does remember what began the creative journey for the show.

"I have an idea - a drum loop that drives us forward, that keeps a train of rhythm that carries us down the rabbit hole. My first instinct is to steal a groove from a Peter Gabriel song - so I do. Yaron (Engler, musical collaborator) and I are sitting in the working room recording it on what is left from my old drum kit. It sounds rough. This miserable recording grew into what now sounds like 'the end of the world'. Peter himself wouldn't know it was inspired by him, and the way it sounds now I'm not sure he'd want to." The end result is even further from this starting point: Political Mother is as varied and dramatic musically as it is visually. The drum loop Shechter describes is layered up with "magical, haunting viola sounds" from Nell Catchpole, as well as with his own vocals, sung with an old Egyptian string band in mind, "cigarettes hanging from their lips while playing and with a glass of arak within reach." In the final production, the heavy metal fury of roaring guitars and pounding military drums mingle with gentle, baroque-style chamber music and even melancholy klezmer sounds. It's a mad-sounding melting pot, but if the overwhelmingly positive response is anything to judge by, there's certainly method in it.

Since the gritty and provocative In Your Rooms set his career skyrocketing in 2006/7, Shechter has gone on to produce work for the Royal Ballet and a Broadway revival of Fiddler On The Roof, as well as choreographing the 'Maxxie's Dance' sequence for Channel Four's Skins and creating several shows with his self-titled dance company, formed in 2008. Yet Political Mother remains one of his most powerful and successful pieces to date. It's hard to imagine a show better suited to IDFB, given the festival's celebration of diversity and innovation and its commitment to "breaking down barriers to dance", something for which Political Mother has itself been praised.

"I think there's a growing group of people in this city who want to see something a little bit unusual," says Massingham. "I think Birmingham really wants to be that kind of international and European city, and I think our festival reflects that."

Both IDFB and Birmingham REP are thrilled to be supporting Shechter's work at the festival.

"Political Mother," says Birmingham REP's Artistic Director Roxana Silbert, "is a typically bold, raw, intense piece accompanied by pulsating live music in a heady collision of contemporary dance meets rock gig. Birmingham audiences are in for a real treat."

Massingham agrees: "Hofesh is one of the most exciting artists to emerge in recent years and has made much of his work here in Birmingham, so it's fantastic to see Political Mother performed at IDFB, after sell-out seasons all over the world - it's a real coup for the festival and the city."

Hofesh Shechter's Political Mother will show at The REP, Birmingham, Fri 13 to Sat 14 May

whatsonlive.co.uk 21



Centenary Square LIVE NIGHTS

Free Performances, Live Music, Circus and Dance plus award-winning street food from Digbeth Dining Club

The Machine Show

Centenary Square, Birmingham,
Wed 11 - Sat 14 May
Age Guidance 12+

A power-driven dance and circus spectacular set against a wall of sound, The Machine Show is the must-see centrepiece of IDFB 2016. This 40-minute show features an impressive line-up of 13 international performers including Melanie Lomoff, popping legend Salah Benlemqawansaa and Aakash Odedra, as well as live music from French electro/rock dance group Rinôçérôse.



Motionhouse: Torque

Centenary Square, Birmingham,
Fri 13 - Sat 14 May

Dancers and JCB diggers work together in this breathtaking demonstration of strength and agility.

Corey Baker: Phone Box

Multiple locations plus Centenary Square, Birmingham (check website for details), Sun 1 - Sat 14 May

In this nostalgic yet exhilarating 20-minute show, Birmingham-based Corey Baker brings to life the iconic British phone box with incredible acrobatic feats and a wacky digital soundtrack.



ZoieLogic Dance Theatre: Ride

Multiple locations plus Centenary Square, Birmingham (check website for details), Sat 7 - Sat 14 May



ZoieLogic presents an innovative and visually arresting outdoor work exploring the nature of travelling and the relationship between man and machine. Thrown together on a strange journey in a customised Ford Orion named Stanley, three strangers soon discover that the 80s car may have a life of its own...

Visit idfb.co.uk for further information

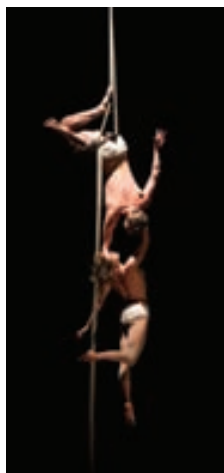
More IDFB 2016 highlights...

The Ricochet Project: Smoke And Mirrors

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham,
Tues 17 - Wed 18 May

Age Guidance: 14+ (contains nudity)

Winner of a Total Theatre Award for Best Circus at Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2015. Combining poetic acrobatics, contemporary dance, contortion and high-flying circus feats, Smoke And Mirrors scrutinises the state of America and the pursuit of happiness in the modern world. Delicate metaphor and jaw-dropping spectacle are seamlessly woven together against a minimalist set in this poignant, hour-long production by award-winning US company Ricochet.



UK Premiere

Ballet BC: Bill / 16+ A Room / Solo Echo

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 20 - Sat 21 May

A cutting-edge company consisting of 17 performers, Ballet British Columbia is committed to innovation in contemporary dance. Since 2009, Ballet BC has developed an exciting repertoire of new work by acclaimed Canadian and international choreographers. Their first IDFB performance will consist of three pieces: Sharon Eyal's Bill, Crystal Pite's Solo Echo and Artistic Director Emily Molnar's 16+ A Room.



Hemabharathy Palani / Subhash Viman: Trikonanga & Twine / Morphed

The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome,
Sat 21 May. Age Guidance 12+

This 75-minute double-bill combines traditional Indian dance with contemporary influences. Award-winning dancer and choreographer Hemabharathy Palani blends Bharatanatyam with contemporary dance and ballet in Trikonanga & Twine. Meanwhile, British dancer Subhash Viman presents Morphed, an examination of our indefinitely morphing identities in a globalised world. A promising new talent inspired by hip-hop, urban and contemporary styles, Viman has worked with top Bollywood choreographers as well as training in classical Indian dance.



Dance

More dance previews from around the region

Balletboyz: Life

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 28 May

An all-male company of 10 incredible dancers, the fresh and inventive Balletboyz return to Lichfield with a brand new show co-produced by Sadler's Wells in association with Artsdepot. Taking a powerful and sometimes provocative look at life and death, the production features two new commissions by Pontus Lidberg and Javier de Frutos, as well as an original score written for an ensemble of nine musicians.

Tribhangi Dance Theatre: Sukuma

mac, Birmingham, Sun 8 May,
Albany Theatre, Coventry, Mon 9 May

Hailing from Johannesburg, South Africa, the award-winning Tribhangi Dance Theatre brings its dynamic dance fusion to the Midlands in 'a show like no other'. Combining the grace and elegance of Classical Indian Bharatanatyam with the intense physicality of African dance styles, Sukuma promises to be an exhilarating, high-energy experience for audiences of all ages.



Motionhouse & No Fit State: Block

mac, Birmingham, Fri 27 - Sat 28 May

Dance, circus skills and physical theatre collide in this unique collaboration between leading UK companies Motionhouse and NoFit State Circus.

Twenty oversized blocks are deconstructed and reformed into an infinite variety of shapes and structures for the performers to explore, move and play with, reflecting on the diversity, challenges and contradictions of life in the city.

Directed by Kevin Finnan and Paul Evans, the event is supported by mac Birmingham.

Riverdance

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Fri 6 - Sat 7 May



Riverdance needs no introduction: experienced live in the UK by over 2.9 million people and watched on television by more than two billion viewers worldwide, the international phenomenon has lost none of its magic over the course of 1000-plus performances. Composed by Bill Whelan, produced by Moya Doherty and directed by John McColgan, the current tour has been described as 'an unmissable chance' for UK audiences to reconnect with this stand-out show.

Birmingham Royal Ballet

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Tues 17 - Wed 18 May

Showcasing the range and beauty of its widely renowned work, Birmingham Royal Ballet returns to Theatre Severn with a selection of new and familiar pieces, themed around Shakespeare's writing to coincide with the 400th anniversary of his death. Famous pas de deux excerpts from well-loved ballets such as Romeo And Juliet, The Dream and The Taming Of The Shrew are performed alongside José Limón's The Moor's Pavane - a single-act adaptation of Othello - and Jessica Lang's one-act ballet Wink, a new work inspired by Shakespeare's sonnets.

Live accompaniment is provided by the acclaimed Royal Ballet Sinfonia.





Karl Jenkins: Requiem

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 7 May

“Karl Jenkins,” says opera and concert star Bryn Terfel, “produces always impeccable writing for a multitude of voices and instruments. I wish I had his talent to compose tunes but am proud to consider myself as one who adores to sing them.”

Terfel is far from alone in his admiration of the 72-year-old Welshman. A recent exhaustive survey revealed that Sir Karl is the most-performed living composer in the world. Indeed, his best-known work, *The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace*, has been performed over 1,500 times in 20 different countries.

He returns to Birmingham this month to conduct another of his most admired pieces, his *Requiem*, alongside his 1995 composition *Palladio* and his 2014 *Cantata for St Luke, The Healer*.

Armonico Consort

Warwick Castle, Tues 17 May

Founded by organist and conductor Christopher Monks in 2001, Armonico Consort use authentic baroque period instruments and regularly perform with some of the best solo musicians in the world.

This cabaret-style presentation at Warwick Castle sees them teaming up with writer, wine critic, broadcaster and one-time singer Oz Clarke (pictured below) to investigate the spurious links between wine from across the world and the music of the baroque.



Orchestra Of The Swan With Tamsin Whaley-Cohen



Malvern Theatre, Wed 25 May

Acclaimed violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen (pictured above) 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 Mendelssohn’s *Incidental Music to A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Violin Concerto in E minor*, and Vaughan Williams’ *Violin Concerto*. David Curtis conducts.

Martinu Quartet

Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Mon 2 May

Formed in 1976 by students of the Prague Conservatoire, the Martinu Quartet present programmes of work which combine music by legendary composers with neglected works and world premieres. They here perform alongside baritone Simon Wallfisch and cellist Gemma Rosefield in the final concert of this year’s Leamington Music Festival.

The evening’s programme is as follows: Mozart - *Divertimento in D K136*; Mendelssohn - *Capriccio*; Sylvie Bodorova - *Terezin Ghetto Requiem*; Schubert - *Quintet in C D956*.



Blake

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 27 May

Old school friends Ollie Baines, Stephen Bowman and Humphrey Berney have certainly carved out a profitable career for themselves since reuniting as adults on Facebook. Recording their first album within six months of becoming reacquainted with one another, the British harmony trio have since enjoyed success in both the classical and pop charts, as well as becoming familiar faces via all manner of television programmes.

This latest show is being described by the boys as ‘the ultimate celebration of movies and musicals’. It features music by, among others, Hanz Zimmer, Ennio Morricone, Leonard Bernstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Leonard Cohen and The Beach Boys.



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Entertainment



Anastacia

Tuesday 3 May
7pm
Symphony Hall



**Sue Perkins
LIVE!
in Spectacles**

Sunday 18 September
7.30pm
Town Hall



Cyndi Lauper

Wednesday 22 June
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Ronan Keating

Tuesday 27 September
7.30pm
Symphony Hall



Sarah Millican


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




**Nina Conti –
In Your Face**


Sunday 30 October
7.30pm
Town Hall

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REAL FRIENDS AS IT IS HIT THE LIGHTS NORMA JEAN HACKTIVIST

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SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL

Showcasing the best in contemporary emo, punk and ska, the three-stop touring Slam Dunk 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

WHAT CREATOR BEN RAY HAS TO SAY ABOUT SLAM DUNK...

Slam Dunk Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Take us through the journey from its inception...

It started in 2006, when I needed a large venue to put on Fall Out Boy in the city of Leeds. I ended up using the large Millennium Square - and as it was a Saturday, I turned it into an all-day event and called it a festival! It's then just grown over the last 10 years - and we've added more stages and more venues as it's done so. That's increased the audience size from a couple of thousand to nearly 40,000. We first added a Midlands event, in Wolverhampton, in 2013. After three successful years there, we've moved to Birmingham's NEC for 2016.

You've stated the 2016 event is going to be the best party you've ever thrown. What's going to make this year better than the previous nine?

It's simply much bigger than before. The NEC is a great venue, and we'll also be throwing a big after-party in conjunction with Birmingham-based promoter Uprawr. Taking place in one of the Pavilions at the NEC, it will be the biggest rock club night the Midlands has ever seen.

The festival is usually held at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall but has relocated for the time being due to the venue's refurbishment. Is the plan to move back to Wolverhampton when the Civic reopens?

We will look at the options. It will ultimately come down to the size of the acts we have on.

Slam Dunk Festival won Best Festival at the Kerrang! Awards in both 2014 and 2015. Did you ever imagine the event would be so successful?

No, not at all. It started almost as an accident - I never set out to create a festival. The event has grown at a good, slow rate. It wouldn't have been such a success if we'd tried too much, too quickly.

Who are you most looking forward to seeing play at this year's event?

As it's the 10th anniversary, it was important to book a line-up that represented the 10 years. I think we've done that, so I'm looking forward to re-living some great memories as well as discovering new artists.

It must be a real bonus that Panic! At The Disco's only UK dates this year are for Slam Dunk. How did booking them come about?

I knew they were planning to tour Europe around the time of the event, as I've always done their shows in Leeds, so I offered them the slot.

Are there any moments, good or bad, from previous years that are particularly memorable?

Nothing sticks out because there have been so many of both! It's really fun and really stressful at the same time.

Generally speaking, rock bands have a reputation for being rebellious. Are there any moments from previous years where



Pictured - Ben Ray, Director of Slam Dunk and Todd 'Jd' Malloy, Live Music Co-ordinator

this was particularly evident?

Back in 2010, the last time New Found Glory played, they and a load of other bands invaded the stage during the set of alternative girl band The Millionaires. It was pretty chaotic, so I hope they don't do that again!

What's the most unusual thing you've ever come across on an artist's rider?

A framed picture of Cuba Gooding Jr.

What are your hopes for the festival in the future?

Just to keep getting bigger and better!

Slam Dunk Festival is at the NEC, Birmingham on Sun 29 May

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GAZ BROOKFIELD *Blind Fever* **Tony Wright + Milly** (Terrorvision)

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Festivals

Imagined Isle Folk Festival

Birmingham Town Hall,
Thurs 12 - Mon 16 May

Celebrating the vibrancy and diversity of Britain's contemporary folk scene, Town Hall's Imagined Isle Festival showcases some of the country's most accomplished and acclaimed traditional musicians alongside exciting local and emerging talent. Ranging from intimate performances from Eric Bibb and Declan O'Rourke to larger scale, multi-act events like Future Folk and fascinating retrospectives like Way To Blue: The Songs Of Nick Drake, Imagined Isle promises to be an unforgettable few days with something to capture the imagination of just about anyone. Events are individually listed and can be booked separately, allowing you to pick and choose shows for yourself.

Line-up includes: Kate Rusby, Eric Bibb, Emily Portman (pictured) & The Coracle Band, False Lights, Josienne Clarke & Ben Walker, Luke Jackson, The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain and Way to Blue: The Songs of Nick Drake



Birmingham Pride

Gay Village, Birmingham, Sat 28 - Sun 29 May

Marking its 20th outing in 2016, this year's Birmingham Pride takes A Generation Of Pride as its theme, celebrating the pivotal, hard-won achievements of the LGBT community over the course of the last two decades. Legal changes to the age of consent, marriage and adoption rights, the right to serve in the military and to change one's official gender are among the milestones passed in recent years. On a local level, too, the event will highlight the growth of Birmingham's own gay scene into one of the most popular in the country, with over 15 vibrant bars and clubs in the Gay Village as well as one of the UK's first LGBT health and wellbeing centres. Today, Birmingham Pride attracts over 50,000 visitors per year, boasting a diverse array of activities and entertainment including music, cabaret, dance and, of course, the hugely popular Carnival Parade. It's come a long way from its humble 1990s roots outside the Nightingale Club.

Line-up includes: Erasure's Andy Bell, Katy B, Lawson, DJ Fresh, Lisa Stansfield, Fleur East, Marvin Humes, MNEK, Blonde, Liberty X, Imani, Dakota, Vengaboys, Ms Dynamite and Lucy Spraggan

Swingamajig

The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Sun 1 May

Returning to Birmingham for the fourth year, Swingamajig is a unique festival which invites Electro Swing lovers and vintage connoisseurs to take to the streets and party in style. Bringing the 'sounds and styles of the 1920s up to date with a modern twist', this year's event features festival creators and organisers Electric Swing Circus and headliners Balkan Beat Box.

Line-up also includes: JFB, The Destroyers, The Tootsie Rollers, Father Funk, Aries, Stenchman, Jim Wynn Swing Orchestra, C@ In The H@, The Carny Villains, Jack Rabbit Slim, Swingrowers, Gypsies Of Bohemia, Cafe Manouche, Swing Dance, Jon Udry, Tankus The Henge, Kitty Bang Bangs, Rubyyy Jones, Eliza DeLite, Equador Wizard and many more also feature amongst this year's line-up.

Bearded Theory

Catton Hall, Derbyshire,
Thurs 26 - Sun 29 May

Taking place in the grounds of Catton Hall in the heart of the National Forest, the multi-award-winning Bearded Theory has been rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the UK's best independent festivals. Ever expanding to meet demand, the festival takes place during the May bank holiday weekend, with fantastic acts spread across six stages, including a dance tent, a cinema and a comedy & cabaret area in addition to the main Pallet and Woodland stages. But it's not only the convenient location and top-quality performers that make it popular: Bearded Theory also features a free, award-winning Children's Village (along with affordably priced tickets for kids), an award-winning bar selling drinks at typical pub tariffs, permission to bring your own drinks, and even award-shortlisted loos!

Line-up includes: Levellers, Killing Joke, Terrorvision, Reverend and the Makers, Public Image Ltd, Billy Bragg, Wilko Johnson, Squeeze, Arrested Development, Turin Brakes, Jack Savoretti and Stiff Little Fingers

Katherine Ryan

Birmingham Town Hall,
Fri 20 May

Having experienced motherhood, divorce and MTV, award-winning Canadian funny lady Katherine Ryan is well placed indeed to take a wry look at those aspects of life that make people angry and bitter.

Alongside her comedy career, Katherine also takes occasional acting roles - the part of George in Channel Four's *Campus*, and Merc's assistant in *Episodes*, feature among her more recent engagements.

She visits the Midlands this month with her show, *Kathbum*.



Four of the best...

Squidboy

mac, Birmingham,
Fri 13 May

Rubber-faced New Zealand funnyman Trygve (pronounced 'trig-vee') Wakenshaw hasn't had much time to spend in his new

London home - he's been way too busy touring this hugely successful show since it caused a stir at Edinburgh in 2013. Treadmills, bags of crisps, a lion, a dog, a girlfriend and 'the romance of Jacques Brel' are all present and correct during a truly silly and surreal 60 minutes of high-energy madness.



Dan Thomas

The Glee Club,
Birmingham,
Fri 13 - Sat 14 May

Dan Thomas's dad was a big fan of Tony Hancock - and was determined to ensure

his son developed an appreciation of the Birmingham-born funnyman too. "Hancock's hand-dog misery-guts quality is something I've tried to capture onstage as well as in my everyday life," the Cardiff-based comedian recently told *Buzzmag*. "I got started in comedy because I was told that it was a super-glamorous and quick way of making easy money. And the other night, as I sat in my knackered 12-years-old Ford Fiesta after a gig, eating a chicken chow mein with my bare hands, I realised how true that was."



Jonny Awsum

Henry Tudor House,
Shrewsbury,
Wed 4 May

'If you can't beat 'em, join 'em' seems to have been the perspective taken by musical

comic Jonny Awsum. Having served as a barman at London's Chuckle Club for eight long years, Jonny decided it was high time he put down the pint glasses and picked up the microphone himself. Now a regular on the UK comedy circuit, he's also been the warm-up artist for ITV1 lunchtime series *Loose Women* and featured in Cravendale's hugely popular 'cats with thumbs' advertising campaign, viewed more than a million times on YouTube.





Eddie Izzard: Force Majeure 333

mac, Birmingham, Mon 23 May

Not many comedians make it to God-like status through stand-up alone. Jerry Seinfeld had a TV show, while Saturday Night Live alumni like Steve Martin and Bill Murray used the movies to make it big. Only performers like Bill Hicks, Jackie Mason and Lenny Bruce managed it through stage work alone - but you can definitely add Eddie Izzard to that list.

Eddie's worked a live crowd for more years than he probably cares to remember, building his reputation with material based around skewed logic and surreal tangents. Of late it's been his endeavours for Sport Relief which have seen him in the headlines, completing 27 gruelling marathons in as many days.

For this latest visit to Birmingham, he's presenting a reloaded version of the three-year-old Force Majeure show he's been performing across the world in four different languages, three of which - English, French and German - will be in evidence on the night. Critics have stopped short of hailing the show classic Izzard, but there's plenty of off-the-wall material for his fans to enjoy. Brexit supporters may think twice about attending, mind - he's performing the show in support of the Stronger In Europe campaign.

Max And Ivan

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 25 May

"After a killer-awesome Edinburgh Festival and kick-ass Soho Theatre run," say Max and Ivan, "we're pleased to be heading out on our first ever UK tour. So come along if you fancy a whole heap of skits and sketches followed by an hour-long epic tale." Character comedy duo Max Olesker and Ivan Gonzalez have enjoyed plenty of positive reviews for their latest show, which finds them introducing their audience to the odd-ball - and soon-to-be-doomed - community of the godforsaken Sudley-on-Sea. "We aren't judgmental," the boys add, "so if you're the kind of person who prefers to enjoy comedy whilst sat in your pants, you're very welcome to do so at our live gig."



Just The Tonic

The Comedy Loft, Birmingham, Thurs 5 May

Lee Nelson tops the bill at this special launch night for Birmingham's brand new comedy club.

Just The Tonic began in Nottingham over 20 years ago and has now taken over the Jongleurs sites in Birmingham, Reading, Watford and London. Past performers at the club have included Ricky Gervais, Matt Lucas, Al Murray, Bill Bailey and Stewart Lee.

Already lined up for Birmingham gigs are Reginald D Hunter, Adam Bloom, Glenn Wool, Ivan Brackenbury and Paul Sinha. Watch this space for details about when each of them is performing...



Julian Clary: The Joy Of Mincing

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 1 May; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 26 May

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, an offering which his website promises will be 'a masterclass in camp comedy'.



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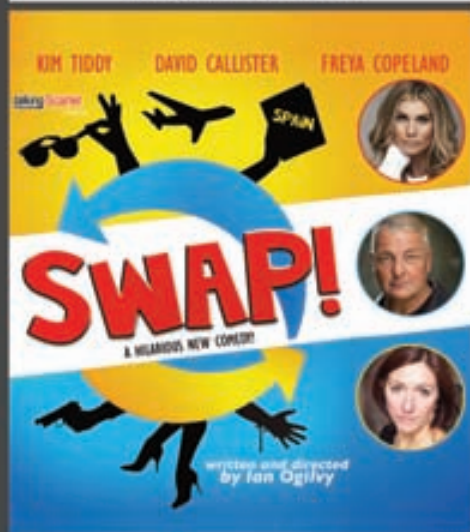
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TUE 28 JUN - SAT 2 JUL



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King Lear

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 19 - Sat 28 May

“Our version of King Lear is set in more or less the same period of prehistory as the play,” says former Rising Damp star Don Warrington, who takes the title role. “We haven’t moved it, so it’s quite a primitive setting. I’ve seen some of the costume designs, and they’re rather medieval-looking.”

One of Shakespeare’s most iconic roles, Lear has been played by illustrious actors including Orson Welles, James Earl Jones, Laurence Olivier and Ian McKellen. Big shoes indeed for Don to fill...

“I’ve seen three performances that were pretty remarkable,” he says. “One was Paul Schofield’s, which I’ve only seen on film. I also saw Eric Porter in the theatre many years ago and, more recently, I saw Simon Russell Beale. It’s all extra pressure, but bring it on! I try to wear it as lightly as I can and just get on with doing the play.” Read the full interview with Don Warrington online at whatsonlive.co.uk

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The Father

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 3 - Sat 7 May



There’s plenty of humour in this highly praised offering from French playwright Florian Zeller, but that doesn’t mean it’s an easy or always comfortable ride. Kenneth Cranham stars as 80-year-old Andre, a man whose life is becoming ever more challenging as he struggles with the onset of dementia.

Alice In Wonderland

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 28 May - Sat 11 June

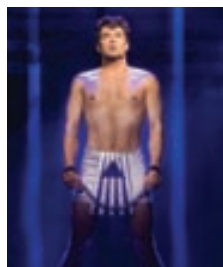
This timeless classic tells the magical story of a little girl called Alice, who falls down a rabbit hole and discovers the world of Wonderland - an enchanted and sometimes scary place populated with nonsensical and amusing characters such as the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. Presented by Blue Orange Arts.

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May

X Factor winner Joe McElderry takes the lead in this Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice show which tells the story of a boy driven into slavery by his calculating brothers, who’re all envious of his coat of many colours. Joseph’s ability to predict the future from his dreams, however, ultimately frees him and wins him a place among the highest in the land... This long-time hit show is an ensemble triumph, with terrific energy put in by all concerned.

Spectacular sets and excellent music complete the experience, which provides everything you’d expect of a Rice /Lloyd Webber collaboration, for better or worse.



certainly achieving its aims with this latest theatrical offering, imaginatively unfolding the story of a young girl raised by the creatures residing in a dense mangrove forest.

But when conflict between man and beast threatens to devour her home, she finds herself unexpectedly chosen by Allah to embark on a quest, the outcome of which could change the forest forever...



Tina Turner: Tea Lady & Friends

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 26 May

Tracey Collins describes herself as a musical character comedian. Her award-winning show, meanwhile, has been called a remarkable tour de force, and her alter-ego title character a deliciously funny cross between Mrs Overall and Beyonce. The show plays Birmingham following a sell-out debut run at the Edinburgh Festival and hit performances at Bestival and Latitude festivals. Tracey advises that the evening will feature not only ‘hit songs, off-the-wall characters and quick changes’ but also ‘simply the best tea in town’... What’s not to like?

Daughter Of The Forest

The Drum, Birmingham, Sun 29 May

Theatre company Komola Collective is clear about its intentions - to revisit history, challenge social taboos, unearth myths, question accepted beliefs and look at the world through women’s eyes. And the company is

The Sound Of Music

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 24 - Sat 28 May; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 31 May - Sat 11 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 4 - Sat 8 October

One of the most popular family musicals of all time, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound Of Music* is best known from its mid-1960s film version starring Julie Andrews. It tells the story of the Von Trapp family's World War Two flight across the mountains of Austria, and features hit songs like *Edelweiss*, *My Favourite Things*, *Do-Re-Mi*, *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*, *The Lonely Goatherd*, *So Long*, *Farewell* and, of course, the title track itself.

Lucy O'Byrne (*The Voice*) plays the lead role of Maria.



Margaret Thatcher: Queen Of Soho

mac, Birmingham, Fri 6 - Sat 7 May

This critically acclaimed show has been described as 'a delightful odyssey of gay rights, the '80s and disco'. Taking place on the eve of the vote on controversial anti-gay clause, Section 28, it finds the prime minister lost in London's decadent Soho, where she accidentally becomes a cabaret superstar... The production sees performer and co-writer Matt Tedford pulling on the tights to play Maggie. *Read our interview with Matt online at whatsonlive.co.uk*



Rehearsal For Murder

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 9 - Sat 14 May; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 27 June - Sat 2 July

The Agatha Christie Theatre Company take a break from presenting grizzly whodunnits by the legendary Queen of Crime to present instead a grizzly whodunnit by two near-legendary American screenwriters. Richard Levinson and William Link, the writing team behind this show, are best known

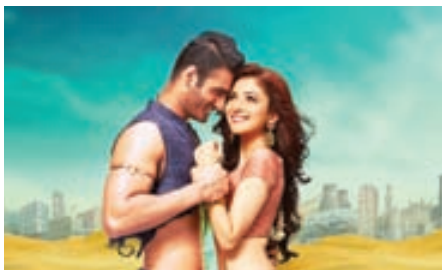
for numerous TV detective series, included among which are *Columbo* and *Murder, She Wrote*.

Robert Daws, Amy Robbins, Robert Duncan, Ben Nealon and Susan Penhaligon star in this twisted tale of 'murder most foul', in which a playwright not only determines to prove his fiancée's death was no accident but also to unmask her killer...



Laila: The Musical

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 10 - Sat 14 May



A bittersweet tale of star-crossed lovers that originated in seventh century Persia, *Laila Majnu* was once described by British poet Lord Byron as 'the Romeo And Juliet of the

east'. "Laila Majnu is one of the oldest love stories but has rarely been told in the west," explains Pravesh Kumar, the artistic director of Rifco, the company behind this brand new contemporary musical. "The story has travelled across borders and generations through music and verse and is a natural musical. I wanted to share this beautiful tale and look at the timeless themes of love and honour in today's multicultural Britain." Rifco's previous theatrical offerings include award-winning musical *Britain's Got Bhangra*.

The Alchemist

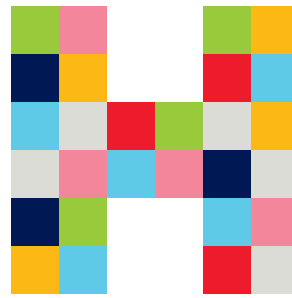
Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 26 May - Sat 6 August

Ben Johnson's *The Alchemist* was described by poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge as having one of the three most perfect plots in literature. It's also widely considered to be Johnson's finest work. When an outbreak of the Plague forces the gentleman Lovewit to flee London, his butler Jeremy is left in sole charge of the house. Jeremy uses the premises - not to mention his association with a conman and a prostitute - to set up a series of elaborate scams. But can the man now calling himself Captain Face really get away with claiming he can turn tin into bankable gold?... Polly Findlay (pictured) directs.





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BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thu 16 - Sat 18 Jun
The Taming of the Shrew

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The Very Magic Flute

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 24 - Wed 25 May

'Beautiful' puppets, 'magical' transformations and an innovative use of sign language are here combined by the highly rated Krazy Kat theatre company, an ensemble well versed in the business of visual storytelling. The 50-minute show has been created for children aged between three and seven and is loosely based on Mozart's famous opera, The Magic Flute.



Made In Dagenham

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 24 - Sat 28 May

West Bromwich Operatic Society make a welcome return to the Grand with their brand new version of the hit West End musical comedy. Based on true facts, the show tells the story of the 1968 Ford sewing machinists strike at the Ford Dagenham plant. The female workers' decision to walk out in protest against sexual and financial discrimination led to the introduction of the Equal Pay Act of 1970.



Hairspray The Musical

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 9 - Sat 14 May

Freya Sutton, Claire Sweeney, ex-Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan and former X Factor favourite Brenda Edwards star in this touring version of the Tony Award-winning show. Set in 1962, it boasts a jukebox-worth of '60s-style dance music and 'downtown' rhythm and blues. At its heart is the story of Tracy Turnblad (Sutton), a chubby teenager who enjoys an overnight rise to stardom when she earns the chance to appear on a local TV dance show...

WHAT'S ON READERS' AWARD WINNER!



Graeme Of Thrones

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 12 May; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 24 May



This original and unauthorised parody of hit TV series Game Of Thrones has been created by a team of top comedy writers. Described as 'a rollercoaster ride of beheadings, incest and war', it stops off in the Midlands direct from a sold-out run in the West End.

Grumpy Old Women: Fifty Shades Of Beige

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 13 - Sat 14 May; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 22 May; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 10 June; Lichfield Garrick, Wed 6 July

If you've seen the TV series, you'll already know how this show works. Celebrity ladies of a certain age come together and wax lyrical on all manner of subjects salient to being middle-aged women in the 21st century. Jenny Eclair, Susie Blake and Kate Robbins are the purveyors of mirth taking to the stage on this particular occasion. Subjects for their consideration include the art of 'grumpy grooming', the joy of large pants, middle-aged drinking, voluntary euthanasia versus retirement and how to customise an unwanted pole-dancing kit...

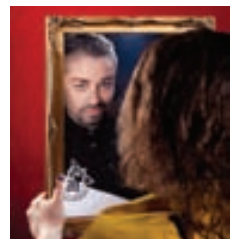
Joan

mac, Birmingham, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 May; Lichfield Garrick, Fri 13 May; Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent, Fri 6 May

Drag Idol champion Lucy Jane Parkinson - aka LoUis CYfer - here fuses lyrical new writing with drag king cabaret to present an imaginative retelling of the story of Joan of Arc.

"The show's about Joan's journey," explains Lucy Jane, "about her belief that St Catherine has visited her and is leading her into battle.

Then there's her decision to look more like a guy. From being just a regular person, she suddenly has a new-found strength when she decides to incorporate her masculinity into her life."



Talent

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Fri 20 May - Sat 4 June

Although best known as a comedian, the late Victoria Wood's initial success came as a playwright when, way back in 1978, she penned this lighthearted offering, in so doing bagging herself the first of numerous BAFTA nominations. Set in a run-down nightclub, it follows the fortunes of wannabe star Julie as she makes her bid for fame and fortune by entering a talent contest. With frumpy best friend Maureen in tow, Julie finds herself suddenly plunged into the backstage world of ukulele-wielding pensioners, hapless magicians and predatory comperes with wandering hands...



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Adil Ray

The man behind Citizen Khan talks about his What's On Readers' Award win and Mr Khan's plans for Hollywood...



Firstly, congratulations on winning Best Entertainment Personality in our What's On Readers' Awards. How does it feel to have won such an accolade?!

Thank you very much. It's for Citizen Khan, and I think Mr Khan would be absolutely delighted. He'd think it's only right that he should win the award - it's just one award away from getting an MBE, I think, so he's delighted.

What have you found most challenging about transferring the world of Citizen Khan from the TV studio to the stage?

I think in a way it's always challenging, whatever we're doing, whether we're writing the sitcom or doing the live show. In a way, though, it feels like an organic progression because the show is filmed in front of a live studio audience, so we're already sort of a live show. Some of the best bits, I find, are in between the scenes, when we have to move sets and cameras around. So in character as Mr Khan, I sort of interact and play around with the audience a lot, so we're actually taking bits like that and creating a live show in which Khan will speak to the audience, get involved, get to the cheap seats. If you're coming to the Genting Arena and you're in the cheap seats in the top block, he will come and get you. It'll be great fun. He'll also do stuff like that somewhere like Warwick Arts Centre - which is a lovely, intimate venue - and that'll be great as well. So it's al-

ways a challenge doing stuff like this because you just never know with comedy - you write it and you hope. You've just got to put the effort in, I think. We've done a few little try-outs. We did something the other day at mac - Midlands Arts Centre - in front of just 80 people. We're going to try and do a couple more of those before we do the first date. Just put the work in, that's the challenge - make sure you concentrate and work hard at it.

What motivated you to create a live show - a relatively unusual move for a television comedy?

In a way, yes it is. In years gone by, you'd never do it, but recently, with things like Mrs Brown's Boys going live, I think there's the possibility that it can happen. I just thought it would be a nice thing to do.

Why do you think Citizen Khan has proved to be so popular?

I think it's a universal story. Of course, we've got a strong USP - that it's a Pakistani Muslim family - so it kind of stands out in that sense. I think the success is because it connects and relates to lots of people. Despite the fact the family's Pakistani, you know your White British public can watch it and go 'I connect with that, he's a little bit like my dad' or 'I was a little bit like Alia - the daughter - when I was growing up'. That's actually quite a lovely feeling, the fact that we can connect with this family even though they're Pakistani Muslims. The show sells well abroad now - we're doing well in places like Russia, Bulgaria, India and South Africa - and I think that's the reason why. I think people just connect with the family. And it's quite warm, you know. I think the format is designed to feel warm and give you a nice feeling. I think when you watch this kind of comedy, you grow to love it and develop a real affection for it.



Citizen Khan hasn't been universally popular with Muslim viewers. How do you respond to suggestions that it's disrespectful in the way it depicts Islam?

I think there certainly was that in Series One. We had a few complaints and people would say that perhaps it was mocking the faith, but I think a lot of those people have since realised that it's not intending to do that. It's just a comedy. If anything, it's universalising and humanising a community, and essentially it's just there to make us laugh. I think that's more the case now. I don't hear people complaining any more. Of course you can spend an afternoon on twitter and you'll find somebody who wants to make negative comments - I think that's par for the course and you've just got to accept it. Comedy is so subjective. I sit with my co-writers - who're absolutely brilliant writers - and debate comedy, and they'll like something that I don't like and I'll like something that they don't like.

What were your motivations for deciding to follow a career in comedy?

Growing up, I was a big fan of comedy - it made me laugh! I remember when I was very young watching Not The 9 O'Clock News and loving Rowan Atkinson. I thought he was just brilliant. Me and my dad were massive fans of Fawlty Towers and Only Fools And Horses. Also watching sitcoms with my mum on a Friday night was great. We'd sit there with fish and chips on our plate, watching Cheers. I loved the show, whereas my mum just fancied Ted Danson! My family were like lots of other families - we had our fair share of problems. It wasn't always plain sailing, but when a comedy was on, we'd all sit down and have a laugh together. Comedy can be so powerful in that way, and I just wanted to be a part of it.

What's your perspective on the subject of comedy boundaries? Do you think there are/should be any no-go areas for comedians in terms of the subject matter they refer to in their material?

No, not at all. For me, you can make a joke about absolutely anything as long as the intention is right. I'll give you an example. Between friends, we all say the worst things. We can be very politically incorrect, we can give each other the worst insults ever. We know that, because we're friends and because we've got a relationship with one another, the intention is to make each other laugh, to have a bit of fun, not to make anybody feel bad or offend anyone. The same can happen in any joke, in any comedy - you just have to show your intention. With Mr Khan, for example, in the end I think he does wear his heart on his sleeve and he's vulnerable, so we kind of excuse him for being slightly obnoxious and rude and offensive at times.

You're Birmingham-bred and still live there. How has the city changed during your lifetime, and have the changes been for the better or worse?

For the better. It's a fantastically diverse city. I used to take an hour-long bus ride into school, and it was a classic experience because I'd see so much of Birmingham and realise just how diverse we were as a city. We're even more diverse now. You walk through the city centre and it looks fantastic. Birmingham is a microcosm of what Britain is going to be in many years to come. You can come to Birmingham and adapt to that Brummie lifestyle, and I think that's fantastic. I kind of started to fall out with Birmingham a few years ago. I felt like we were getting caught up in whether we wanted to be the second city, whether we should compete with Manchester, whether we should compete with London. I don't care whether we're the second, fifth or sixth

city as long as we're a city that we're proud of. And that's the thing we need to be more of. Whoever we are, whatever we are, we should be immensely proud, and I think we've finally started to accept that. We've stopped rubbishing ourselves, which I think we're very good at in Birmingham.

There's obviously plenty of mileage left in the Citizen Khan character, but what do you have planned for an encore - or won't you mind if, a bit like Steve Coogan, you remain inextricably linked to one character for the rest of your career?

It's a good question. Do I put him to sleep for a while and bring somebody else out? People do that, but I feel like we're onto something with Citizen Khan. I love it, and we feel very lucky to have a fifth series coming up, so why not let it run and run? We're thinking of possible film ideas at the moment, so there are no plans to put him to sleep just yet. Hopefully, if the audience love it and the BBC still commission it, we'll see plenty more of Citizen Khan.

And finally, you have plans to tackle Hollywood, so what can we expect from Citizen Khan in future months?

It's very, very early days. This film idea just exists in my head and in my lounge at the moment. I'm writing a story idea and I'm being very ambitious. I think it could be a movie for Citizen Khan fans, but it could also be very funny simply to have a movie with a Muslim character at the centre of it. It's certainly something I'd like to do. We'll take it one step at a time - studios and other producing directors agree with me, so time will tell, I guess.

Citizen Khan plays Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 2 May and Genting Arena, Birmingham, Friday 6 May

X-Men: Apocalypse CERT tbc

Starring **James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Oscar Isaac, Nicholas Hoult, Rose Byrne, Tye Sheridan, Sophie Turner, Kodi Smit-McPhee**

Directed by **Bryan Singer (USA)**

The ninth instalment in the X-Men series, Apocalypse features the eponymous mutant (Isaac) with a dastardly plan up his sleeve. Having hibernated for thousands of years, he emerges to find a world that he is not entirely happy with. So, recruiting a disillusioned Magneto (Fassbender) and other disgruntled mutants, he sets about ridding the planet of mankind. It's up to the telepathic Professor X (McAvoy), the shape-shifting Mystique (Lawrence) and other more level-headed mutants to stop him. Of course, it will be an uphill struggle. In 3D.

Released Wed 18 May



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in May...

Florence Foster Jenkins

CERT PG (110 mins)

Starring **Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant, Simon Helberg, Nina Arianda, Rebecca Ferguson**

Directed by **Stephen Frears (UK/USA)**

Florence Foster Jenkins was a New York heiress and socialite and, as a child, a prodigy on the piano. However, her real passion was as an operatic soprano and because of her connections, she got to sing places others could but dream of. Her lack of rhythm, pitch and tone, though, did not appear to be a problem to her. Very much a true story, Jenkins' tale was loosely adapted into a French film, Marguerite, which was only released here in March. You just can't keep a bad singer down...

Released Fri 6 May



I Saw The Light

CERT 15 (124 mins)

Starring **Tom Hiddleston, Elizabeth Olsen, Cherry Jones, Bradley Whitford, Maddie Hasson**

Directed by **Marc Abraham (USA)**

The biographies are coming thick and fast at the moment. Here, the London-born Tom Hiddleston takes on the mantle of the legendary Country and blues singer Hank Williams, from whose famous gospel song the film takes its title. Williams' life was tragically short-lived, but his influence was considerable, as is his musical legacy.

Released Fri 6 May

Knight Of Cups CERT 15 (118 mins)

Starring **Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Natalie Portman, Brian Dennehy, Antonio Banderas, Wes Bentley, Freida Pinto, Cherry Jones**

Directed by **Marc Abraham (USA)**

Terrence Malick used to be a director that critics and film buffs scraped and bowed to. However, his recent, and more frequent, offerings have left many baffled, if not infuriated. His latest is a modern, experimental drama inspired by various ancient texts in which a Hollywood screenwriter (Bale) attempts to find the meaning of life. The film is divided into eight chapters, seven of which are named after tarot cards. Of course, some might find it all terribly profound.

Released Fri 6 May



Bad Neighbours 2 CERT tbc

Starring **Seth Rogen, Zac Efron, Rose Byrne, Chloë Grace Moretz, Dave Franco, Ike Barinholtz, Selena Gomez**

Directed by **Nicholas Stoller (USA)**

Just when you thought there couldn't be another sequel this year... Just kidding. Here, Mac and Kelly (Rogen and Byrne) are expecting their second child and have come to some sort of understanding with their formerly raucous neighbour Teddy (Efron). Then the sorority sisters of Kappa Kappa Nu move in next door and all hell is let loose. Time for Teddy to step up to the plate, then.

Released Fri 6 May



CRITIC'S CHOICE



Money Monster CERT tbc

Starring **George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Jack O'Connell, Dominic West, Caitriona Balfe, Giancarlo Esposito**

Directed by **Jodie Foster (USA)**

'Money Monster' is the name of a TV show that gives its viewers useful tips on how to manage their finances. However, when Kyle Budwell (O'Connell) loses all his dosh on a bad tip from the show's host, Lee Guest (Clooney), he decides to take him hostage – live on-air. Besides

the double star wattage of Clooney and Roberts - she plays the director of the show - the actor to look out for is Jack O'Connell. The Derby-born thesp came out of nowhere in 2014 when he played three completely different starring roles in *Starred Up*, *'71* and *Unbroken*. And with Jodie Foster wielding the megaphone, this could prove to be cinematic gold.

Released Fri 27 May

Angry Birds CERT PG tbc

With the voices of **Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Danny McBride, Maya Rudolph, Kate McKinnon, Sean Penn**

Directed by **Fergal Reilly and Clay Kaytis (USA/Finland)**

Based on the video game of the same name (a favourite of David Cameron's), this cartoon from Sony Pictures Imageworks attempts to get to the bottom of all that avian indignation. Set on an idyllic island populated by flightless birds, the film suggests that some green pigs may have something to do with it. In 3D.

Released Fri 13 May



The Darkness CERT tbc

Starring **Kevin Bacon, Radha Mitchell, David Mazouz, Lucy Fry**

Directed by **Greg Mclean (USA)**

With his Australian horror films *Wolf Creek* and *Rogue*, the Aussie filmmaker Greg Mclean established himself as a master of the genre. Here, he helms his first American film, the story of a family who, returning from a trip to the Grand Canyon, appear to have brought a supernatural presence back with them. Apparently based on real events.

Released Fri 13 May

Everybody Wants Some!

CERT 15 (117 mins)

Starring **Blake Jenner, Zoey Deutch, Ryan Guzman, Tyler Hoechlin**

Directed by **Richard Linklater (USA)**

On their last weekend before the start of school, a group of college baseball players test the waters of unsupervised adulthood. If the concept of this comedy fails to get your juices flowing, remember that Richard Linklater's last film, *Boyhood*, was nominated for six Oscars (and won the BAFTA for best film).

Released Fri 13 May



Green Room CERT 18 (95 mins)

Starring **Anton Yelchin, Imogen Poots, Joe Cole, Callum Turner, Mark Webber, Patrick Stewart** Directed by **Jeremy Saulnier (USA)**

The green room is where the heavy metal band The Ain't Rights finds itself trapped after a gig goes awry. Actually, there was nothing wrong with the group's performance, they just happened to witness something they really, really shouldn't have. Desperate to make some real cash, the band agreed to sing for a crowd of neo-Nazi types at a venue tucked away in the Oregon woodland. That's desperation for you... The writer-director Jeremy Saulnier is a smarter genre filmmaker than most, employing a narrative shorthand that cuts to the chase without losing any humour or character interest. His film also makes for extremely intense viewing, with special kudos going to the make-up and special effects department. It's certainly not recommended to those of a more sensitive disposition.

Released Fri 13 May



Our Kind Of Traitor

CERT 15 (95 mins)

Starring **Ewan McGregor, Stellan Skarsgård, Damian Lewis, Naomie Harris** Directed by **Susanna White (UK)**

The latest adaptation of a John le Carré novel, this spy thriller sees a British couple on holiday who find themselves befriended by a Russian oligarch. However, Dima (Skarsgård) has an ulterior motive for his amiability and soon the couple's holiday in the sun turns into a game of shadows.

Released Fri 13 May



Sing Street

CERT 12a (106 mins)

Starring **Lucy Boynton, Maria Doyle Kennedy, Aidan Gillen, Jack Reynor** Directed by **John Carney (Ireland/USA/UK)**

John Carney started out as bassist for the Irish rock band The Frames, directed some of their music videos and went on to helm the critically acclaimed feature films *Once* and *Begin Again*. He keeps to the theme of music here with this simple love story in which a boy starts up a band in order to impress a girl. Bono himself collaborated on the soundtrack.



Released Fri 20 May

A Hologram For The King CERT 12a (98 mins)

Starring **Tom Hanks, Alexander Black, Sarita Choudhury, Sidse Babett Knudsen, Ben Whishaw, Tom Skerritt** Directed by **Tom Tykwer (USA/Germany)**

Business has not been going well for Alan Clay (Tom Hanks). So the salesman heads to Saudi Arabia to pitch his latest idea to an Arab king building a massive new complex in the desert. Based on the 2012 novel by Dave Eggers.

Released Fri 20 May

The Silent Storm

CERT 15 (95 mins)

Starring **Andrea Riseborough, Damian Lewis, Ross Anderson, Kate Dickie, John Sessions** Directed by **Corinna McFarlane (UK)**

Set on a remote Scottish island prior to the Second World War, *The Silent Storm* marks the solo directorial debut of McFarlane. It's a passionate tale, the story of a hot-headed minister (Lewis) and his nature-loving wife (Riseborough) who are joined by a Glaswegian delinquent bequeathed to them by a charity. The newcomer may be a curse, or perhaps a blessing...



Released Fri 20 May

Alice Through The Looking Glass CERT PG tbc

Starring **Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway, Mia Wasikowska, Rhys Ifans, Helena Bonham Carter, Sacha Baron Cohen** Directed by **James Bobin (USA)**

Like Superman and Marty McFly (and others), Alice is forced to travel back in time in order to alter the outcome of events. You see, when she returns to Underland she finds the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp) in a terrible state and decides to dabble in a bit of quantum physics. But would Lewis Carroll approve? Michael Sheen supplies the voice of the White Rabbit and the late Alan Rickman is the Blue Caterpillar.

Released Fri 27 May



Love & Friendship

CERT U (93 mins)

Starring **Kate Beckinsale, Chloë Sevigny, Xavier Samuel, Stephen Fry, Emma Greenwell, James Fleet** Directed by **Whit Stillman (USA/Ireland)**

Considering the popularity of Jane Austen, it's extraordinary that nobody's made a film of her 1794 novel *Lady Susan* till now. Kate Beckinsale - who starred in the same director's *The Last Days of Disco* (1998) - plays Lady Susan Vernon who, while staying at a massive estate, sets about finding a suitable husband for her daughter. Of course, she wouldn't mind an eligible man for herself...

Released Fri 27 May



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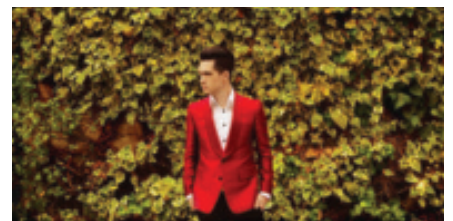
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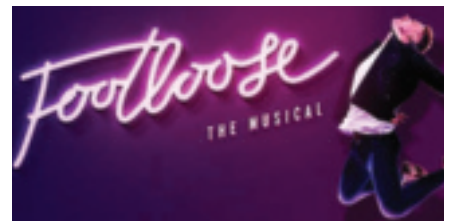
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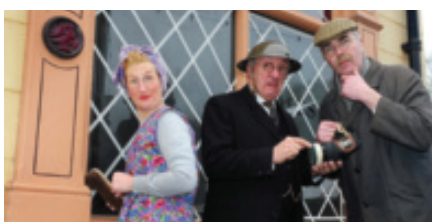
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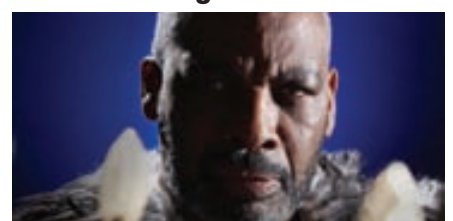
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Visual Arts

Turning To See: From Van Dyck to Lucian Freud

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,
Sat 28 May - Sun 4 September

The first ever to be curated by internationally renowned, West Midlands-born artist John Stezaker, this striking, free exhibition takes Sir Anthony van Dyck's last self-portrait as a starting point to explore the idea of physical and metaphorical turning in portraiture. From Rembrandt and Rossetti to Picasso and Bomberg, *Turning To See* showcases major loans from the National Portrait Gallery alongside highlights from Birmingham's collection, creating a spectacle of turning that mirrors the way the viewer moves around the space. Fragile, rarely displayed works such as Burne-Jones' sketches for the *Pygmalion* series also feature, as well as new collages by Stezaker himself.



Buried Treasures: Uncovering Hoards

The Barber Institute, Birmingham,
Fri 6 May - Sun 26 February

Displaying artefacts from no fewer than 48 coin hoards, including the British Dorchester and Appleford Hoards, this historical exhibition sheds light on Roman, Byzantine and Turkman worlds. Examining buried treasures can yield exciting revelations about wealth, power and trade networks in the ancient world, as well as prompting questions about their burial and rediscovery.

A series of lectures runs alongside the exhibition, delving deeper into its themes and the questions it poses.



Land, Sea And Air

New Art Gallery, Walsall,
Fri 27 May - Sun 4 September



Spanning a period of more than 40 years, the diverse works collected in this exhibition are linked through the use of maps as a common inspiration. Frank Bowling, Tiffany Chung, Agnes Denes, Shilpa Gupta, Tania Kovats and Cornelia Parker explore both the physical geography that maps set out to represent, and the more complex personal and political meanings they contain through themes of conflict, resistance, negotiation and power as well as notions of home and identity.

Fools Rush In

Airspace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent,
until Sat 28 May

This solo print exhibition takes autobiography as its subject, exploring the growth of celebrity culture, mass-produced books and fabricated life stories.

Taking its name from the subtitle of an autobiography by Stoke-born Anthea Turner, *Fools Rush In* reflects on the premature creation of legacies, and how the proliferation of such texts undermines their value and distinction. Unwanted and second-hand books, often bought as token gifts, are dissected and reduced to only their embossed spines. By painting and applying printmaking ink to these, artist Leigh Clarke removes any sense of hierarchy between the famous personalities whose names they bear.

For his project at Airspace, Clarke will work with students on the BA Fine Art course at Staffordshire University to locate and collect every autobiography in the city's charity shops, which will serve as the material for the exhibition. To counter these glossy celebrity stories, six local writers have also been commissioned to ghost-author a limited edition of autobiographies about local heroes.



Another Minimalism

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 5 May - Sat 25 June

Curated by Melissa E Feldman, this free touring exhibition brings together work by contemporary artists from around the world, linked through their emphasis on light and space. Building on the groundbreaking work of Californian artists like Robert Irwin, Larry Bell and Maria Nordman in the 1960s and '70s, a younger generation now continues to experiment with minimalistic, site-specific and experiential designs, using materials such as mirrors, glass and coloured lights to alter perceptions of space and time. Another Minimalism is the first exhibition to connect the California Light And Space movement with new work by artists including Tacita Dean, Olafur Eliasson, Spencer Finch, Uta Bart, Sarah Braman, Sam Falls, Jeppe Hein, Ann Veronica Janssens and James Welling.



Shun Ito: Cosmic Birds

Festival Hub, The Municipal Bank, Birmingham, Mon 2 - Fri 20 May

Japanese artist Shun Ito explores gravity, movement and light through a series of mesmerising kinetic sculptures in this free, family-friendly exhibition, organised as part of the International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016. Drawing on his physical experiences as a dancer, the artist captures the beauty of natural falling and spinning motions with intricate mechanical creations, including the dramatic installation Cells, a giant mobile made up of over 200 rotating steel rings and 30 light bulbs created in residency in Birmingham.



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Events

Museums At Night

Various locations across the Midlands,
Wed 11 - Sat 14 May

This biannual event sees museums all over the UK throwing open their doors after hours, allowing visitors to explore the country's rich and diverse culture in a different light. The evening events also provide the opportunity for real enthusiasts to indulge their particular interest in an atmosphere that's calm and relaxing - not always possible during normal opening hours. A total of ten museums across the West Midlands are taking part in the event. Featured attractions include twilight tours in spooky cellars, pottery workshops and crafts, a film screening of Shakespeare, and a medieval experience. For more information or to run an event, visit museumsatnight.org.uk



Red By Night

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Sat 14 May



Flying sparks, clanging hammers and rising smoke are the order of the day - or rather, the night - at this special Black Country Living Museum event.

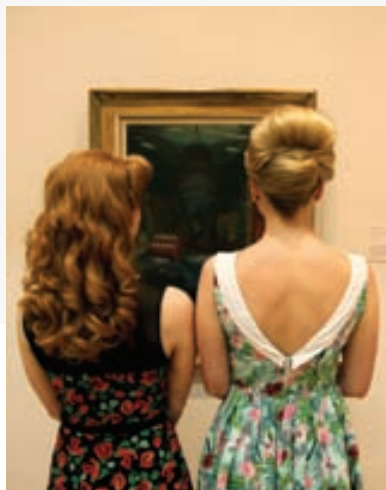
The Dudley visitor attraction's annual Night At The Museum celebration this year brings to life the history of the region via a package of entertainment that includes soundscapes, theatre performances, light shows, poetry, music and storytelling. There are fire jugglers on hand too, while inquisitive visitors can also descend into an underground mine and check out a full-scale replica of the Newcomen Engine, the world's very first successful steam engine.

Plenty of traditional food and drink should ensure the rumbling of stomachs isn't added to the museum's cacophony of industrial sounds.

Roaring Twenties

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum,
Sat 14 May

A Museums At Night event offering visitors the chance to return to the jazz-drenched days of the early 20th century, The Roaring Twenties brings together comedy sketches from local show group the Cubbington Players and music of the era from the Gershwin Gang. Attending dressed in the style of the 1920s isn't compulsory but is certainly encouraged. For those who'd rather not do so but who'd nonetheless like to enter into the spirit of the occasion, there's a photo booth in which visitors can kit themselves out in vintage costume from the era.



Compton Verney



Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Fri 13 May



Compton Verney is opening its current displays, Shakespeare In Art and Boydell's Vision, for evening perusal as part of its Museums At Night event. Experts from The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust will be on hand to inform visitors about the plays which feature in the exhibitions.

Other attractions on the night include a talk on how Shakespeare's plays influenced Elizabethan thinking about the subject of 'emotion', and a screening of Peter Hall's 1968 movie version of A Midsummer Night's Dream, filmed entirely at Compton Verney and starring Helen Mirren, David Warner, Diana Rigg and Judi Dench.

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Events



The Baby Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 13 - Sun 15 May

Sleep-deprived new parents would do well to call on their reserves of energy and get along to this popular show. Widely considered to be the UK's leading pregnancy and parenting event, the Baby Show brings together leading retailers and brands, includes one-to-one demonstrations and provides the opportunity

to 'touch, feel and compare' items, enabling shoppers to make an informed decision about their purchases. The show also offers free advice on topics such as sleeping, breastfeeding and weaning, and comes complete with a host of facilities to help you have a hassle-free day.

We're fairly sure that if your baby could talk, they'd advise you to attend...

Ludlow Spring Festival

Ludlow Castle & Grounds, South Shropshire, Sat 14 - Sun 15 May

This annual festival ably illustrates why Ludlow is one of the country's most reputable foodie towns. The two-day event features more than 200 beers (from more than 50 local brewers) and an array of food stalls, with vendors offering delectable delights ranging from artisan flours to charcuterie, award-winning cakes, gourmet sausage rolls and local cheeses.

A hugely popular element of the festival is the talks and demonstrations - this year including interactive sessions with chef Steve Lyons - while for younger visitors, there's the chance to get 'hands on' in special cookery classes.



Open Cockpits Evenings

RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton, Fri 13 - Sat 14 May

Now here's an opportunity no aviation fan will want to miss. The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford's Open Cockpits Evenings offer 300 visitors per night the rare opportunity to step inside some of the world's most iconic aircraft - including two research jets which have never before been opened to the public.

"Events like this make a visit to RAF Cosford extra special," says the museum's event manager, Abi Betteridge. "It's a unique opportunity to have access inside military aircraft. To make sure visitors get the most out of the event, we have a fantastic team of volunteers on hand to answer any questions they may have. We've also added two new aircraft to the list, along with some that haven't been open for a number of years - so there's something new and exciting for any returning visitors to enjoy."

The Open Cockpits Evenings are part of the Europe-wide Museums At Night initiative, which sees hundreds of museums, galleries, libraries, archives and heritage sites opening their doors to the public for special after-hours events.

Queen Victoria's Birthday

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Sat 28 May - Sun 5 June

While our current Queen is celebrating her 90th birthday, the good folk of Blists Hill are putting out the bunting in honour of another long-reigning monarch. This year's birthday bash for Queen Victoria features poetry readings and short stories, candle-dipping workshops, school house lessons and the chance to ride on a horse-drawn bus. There's also a self-led trail to enjoy, providing visitors with the opportunity to discover more about Victoria and the British Empire.

Take note that Sunday the 29th is an extra special day, with added attractions including a Punch & Judy show, street games, live entertainment and a 'patriotic parade'.



Drive-In Movie

Telford Shopping Centre, Shropshire, Mon 30 May

Telford Shopping Centre 'goes American' this May bank holiday when it hosts three drive-in movies in its Red Oak car park - Despicable Me 2 (from 2pm), Dirty Dancing (from 5.30pm) and Star Wars: The Force Awakens (from 8.30pm). Movie fans can relax in the comfort of their own vehicle to enjoy the films, tuning in their car radio to hear the soundtrack through the car speakers.

Food and drink is available to purchase on the day, but viewers are encouraged to bring along a picnic if they prefer.

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Events

Ultimate Smash Down

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sun 8 May

Ten hours of top-class badminton is the mouthwatering prospect awaiting fans of the sport at this National Badminton League season-two finale event. Quickfire badminton action, Powerplays, time-outs and sudden-death tie-breaks should ensure there's no let up in the tension as the league's top four teams go head to head to be crowned champions.



Motul FIM Superbike World Championship

Donington Park, Derby, Fri 27 - Sun 29 May

This is the prestigious World Superbike Championship's only UK round - and Donington Park's premier event of the year. As well as a World Superbike race on both the Saturday and Sunday, the event also features World Supersport and Superstock 1000 championships, and races from the Ducati TriOptions Cup, European Junior Cup and the National Superstock 600 and 1000. Other attractions include live music on the Friday and Saturday evenings, an exclusive 'rider Q&A session' (for campers only) and children's entertainment in the form of football, bouncy castles and mascot appearances.



Eastnor Chilli Festival

Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May

Promising to heat up the bank holiday weekend, Eastnor's fifth annual Chilli Festival showcases an abundance of spiced-up entertainment for all the family to enjoy. The castle courtyard will be transformed into a chilli

market for the event, where visitors can both try and buy the selection of chilli-infused delights on offer - including chocolate, bread, cakes, vodka, cocktails and chutney. There's also a selection of specialist hot food suppliers on hand, selling authentic Asian curries and a variety of other spicy foods. Other attractions include a chilli-eating competition, contributions from local chefs, a children's cookery school, a puppet show and live music.

Tudor Weekend

Blakesley Hall, Birmingham, Sun 29 - Mon 30 May

Visitors to Blakesley Hall get the chance to participate in Tudor games and dancing or try their hand at writing with a quill pen at this family-friendly event. Tudor reenactors entertain and educate throughout the weekend, presenting battle scenes from Shakespeare's Henry V, performing a short play first staged in 1575, and demonstrating a range of sure-to-be-impressive sword-fighting techniques. Tudor-style cooking is also on the agenda, while a number of Tudor ladies will be showing off their impressive textile skills. Sounds like a step back in time that could be well worth taking...



Race, Rock 'n' Ride

Santapod Raceway, Northampton, Sat 21 - Sun 22 May

This is the first ever Race, Rock'n'Ride event - and if its action-packed programme of entertainment is anything to go by, it surely won't be the last. Highlights include two-seater dragster rides, Podzilla monster truck displays, stunt bikes and shows, a display of classic race bikes, a FireForce jet car, a round of the Straightliners Drag Racing Championships, mini monster truck rides for kids, Run What Ya Brung, a wheelie competition and live music from AC/DC tribute act Live/Wire. Time to get your motor running, we think...

The National Kit Car Motor Show

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May

Hundreds of trade stands, live action displays and more than 4,000 cars - from the unusual to the exotic - feature among the highlights at this unique event. The two-day get-together also offers the opportunity for visitors to take a trip in an impressive Dakar 4x4 around the site's massive off-road course. The chance to enjoy 'the drift of your life', courtesy of the show's Slalom Experience, is another sure-to-be-popular attraction.



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

FOR YOUR COMPLETE LISTINGS VISIT



What's On

WWW.WHATSONLIVE.CO.UK

the list

Your week to week
listings guide
May 2016



Cats at Birmingham Hippodrome Mon 30 May - Sat 4 Jun

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

What's On

Sun 1 to Sun 8 May



Swingamajig at the
Rainbow Venues, Digbeth
Sun 1 May

Mon 9 to Sun 15 May



Bodypower UK at
NEC, Birmingham
Fri 13 - Sun 15 May

Mon 16 to Sun 22 May



Laura Mvula at
O2 Institute, Birmingham
Sat 21 May

Mon 23 to Tues 31 May



David Morgan at
The Core Theatre, Solihull
Sun 29 May

THROUGHOUT MAY

Visual Arts

Artrix, Bromsgrove

DAVID CONSTANTINE: URBAN SHADOWS - 5PM & EVERYTHING AFTER David is a contemporary abstract/portrait painter from Worcestershire. His new body of work focuses on the re-emergence of the bearded man in popular culture, Wed 27 Apr - Sun 22 May

NEW HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE ART & DESIGN STUDENTS END OF YEAR SHOW Work on display includes fine art, graphic design, photography, video, interior design, furniture and product design, fashion, textiles, ceramics and sculpture, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 May

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

BIRMINGHAM QUR'AN One of the earliest surviving copies of the Islamic holy book, on display, until Wed 3 Aug.

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

NEW TURNING TO SEE: FROM VAN DYCK TO LUCIAN FREUD Van Dyck's last self-portrait, curated by West Midlands-born and internationally renowned artist John Stezaker, Sat 28 May - Sun 4 Sept

Compton Verney Gallery, Warwick

SHAKESPEARE IN ART: TEMPESTS, TYRANTS AND TRAGEDY Exhibition reimagining Shakespeare's works through a unique series of multi-media encounters, until Sun 19 June.

BOYDELL'S VISION Exhibition tracing the history of John Boydell's famous Shakespeare Gallery, which opened in 1789 on London's Pall Mall, until Sun 19 June.

Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

NEW! TANGENT TEXTILES: WARRIORS Exhibition inspired by warriors from the ancient world, until Sun 5 June

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

DEGAS' DANCERS Edgar Degas' famous painting, Two Dancers On A Stage, is displayed alongside three other works by the artist, until Sun 19 June.

COURTAULDS IN COVENTRY Selection of items from the Herbert's collection relating to the Courtaulds company and its links with Coventry, until Sun 19 June.

KORABRA BY GAVIN JANTJES Dramatic paintings by Gavin Jantjes, on display as part of a collaboration with the Black Artists & Modernism project, until Sun 21 August.

CECILY BROWN Brown's Be Nice To The Big Blue Sea is shown alongside a display of work by Edgar Degas. On loan from a private collector, until Sun 19 June

GRAYSON PERRY: THE VANITY OF SMALL DIFFERENCES Series of six large-scale tapestries by Turner Prize-winning artist Grayson Perry, exploring the British fascination with taste and class, until Sun 3 July

MAKING A MASTERPIECE Exploring the creative process undertaken by artist Graham Sutherland to design the monumental tapestry which hangs behind the altar of Coventry Cathedral, until Sun 3 July, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

NEW COVENTRY OPEN 2016 The ninth Coventry Open for West Midlands and Warwickshire artists, displaying work in a wide range of media, Sat 14 May - Sun 12 June

The Hive, Worcester

TRANSLATING THREE DIMENSIONS INTO TWO Exhibition of drawings and paintings by Angela Landels, until Wed 4 May

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

SIMON LEWY: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WRITING Exhibition including early works by Lewy, dating back to the 1970s, alongside his recent work, Fri 29 Apr - Sun 10 July, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

WHEN YOU FALL INTO A TRANCE New film work by internationally acclaimed artist Emily Wardill, until Sat 11 June.

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

NEW ANOTHER MINIMALISM A Fruitmarket Gallery touring exhibition curated by Melissa E Feldman. The artists use materials including glass, mirrors and coloured lights to alter the viewer's perception of space and time, Thurs 5 May - Sat 25 June

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

THIS GREEN EARTH Malvern-based artist Bridget Macdonald's landscapes, exhibited alongside works by great historic painters Claude Lorrain, Samuel Palmer and Peter Paul Rubens, until Sat 25 June

DIVIDED LOYALTIES Exhibition exploring Worcestershire's heroes and rebels, until Sat 29 Oct.

Other VISUAL ARTS

EMBROIDERERS GUILD EXHIBITION - BROWN AT BERRINGTON Hand-crafted textiles inspired by Capability Brown's landscape design, which is Berrington's parkland, until Sun 6 Nov, Berrington Hall, Nr Leominster

Gigs

MAGNUM Sun 1 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

TONY KEARNEY Sun 1 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

FULL 100 2016! FEATURING TARRUS RILEY Sun 1 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MICHAEL BOLTON Sun 1 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ANDROMEDA XV - MAYDAY WARNING Sun 1 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

UB40 Sun 1 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

JOE GODDARD Sun 1 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DO NOT SLEEP FEATURING PACO OSUNA Sun 1 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

OTOBOKE BEAVER Mon 2 May, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

MARK LANEGAN Mon 2 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

WHITECLIFF Mon 2 May, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CHRIS CORNELL Mon 2 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ANASTACIA Tues 3 May, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE BLUETONES Tues 3 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MICHAEL CHAPMAN Tues 3 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

DANNI NICHOLLS Wed 4 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

FIELD HARMONICS Wed 4 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NINA NESBITT Wed 4 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TINASHÉ Wed 4 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

NGOD Wed 4 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JONNY & THE BAPTISTS: THE END IS NIGH Wed 4 May, mac, Birmingham

THE MAGIC OF THE BEATLES Wed 4 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

PURPLE SHADES EP LAUNCH Thurs 5 May, The Marr's Bar, Stourbridge

WORLDSERVICE PROJECT Thurs 5 May, Hare &

Hounds, Birmingham
BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH Thurs 5 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

RAT BOY Thurs 5 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

SENSATION - A SHOW FEATURING THE MUSIC OF THE WHO Thurs 5 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

MAHALIA Thurs 5 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BOY JUMPS SHIP Thurs 5 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BOXER REBELLION Thurs 5 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FLIGHT 15 Fri 6 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Fri 6 May, Birmingham Town Hall

WUSSY Fri 6 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THESE SMITHS Fri 6 May, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

VOULEZ-VOUS Fri 6 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

MICHAEL KNOWLES AND THE STDS Fri 6 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

AURELIO VOLTAIRE + AMONG THE ECHOES Fri 6 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

YOUNG PILGRIMS, FOFOLAH & JACT Fri 6 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TEDDY THOMPSON & KELLY JONES Fri 6 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE ICICLE WORKS Fri 6 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

YES Fri 6 May, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY Fri 6 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

KLASSIDE Fri 6 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BUDDY HOLLY'S WINTER DANCE PARTY Fri 6 May, Bedworth Civic Hall

THE UPBEAT BEATLES Fri 6 May, The Core, Solihull

VOULEZ VOUS Evening of non-stop Abba hits, Fri 6 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

PILGRIMAGE FEAT. FOFOLAH, JACT & YOUNG PILGRIMS Fri 6

May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SEVENTH CIRCLE Sat 7 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

YOLANDA BROWN & MICA PARIS Sat 7 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE FUREYS Sat 7 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

CLOUDBUSTING - THE MUSIC OF KATE BUSH Sat 7 May, Huntington Hall, Worcester

BRANTLEY GILBERT Sat 7 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE DIRTY NIL & WACO Sat 7 May, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ESKIMO DANCE Sat 7 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BILLY JOEL SONGBOOK Sat 7 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE 'BEATLEMANIA' PARTY Sat 7 May, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire

80'S MANIA Sat 7 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

GERRY COLVIN BAND Sat 7 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

LETHAL BIZZLE Sat 7 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

RICKY COOL AND THE IN CROWD Sat 7 May, The Fold, Worcester

IDESTORY + STILETTO FARM + NOISE REVOLT + YOUTH WITHIN Sun 8 May, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

PALEHORSE Sun 8 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE DREAMERS Sun 8 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

CHAMELEONS VOX + EVIL BLIZZARD Sun 8 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BIG BOY BLOATER Sun 8 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DOMINIC KIRWAN Sun 8 May, Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire

SYMPHONIC FLOYD FEATURING THE EN SUITE ELECTRIC BAND Sun 8 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHRIS WOOD Sun 8 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

Classical Music

LEAMINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Fri 29 April - Tues 3 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

MARTINU PIANO TRIO Featuring Pavel Safarik (violin), Jaroslav Matejka (cello) & Petr Jirikovsky (piano). Programme includes works by Haydn, Suk, Martinu & Dvorak, Sun 1 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

CELEBRITY RECITAL WITH SIR JAMES AND LADY JEANNE GALWAY

Programme includes works by Gaubert, Chaminade, Harty, Gossec, Marais, Kreisler & Morlacchi, Sun 1 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

GUARNERI PIANO TRIO Featuring Cenek Pavlik (violin), Marek Jirice (cello) & Ivan Klansky (piano). Programme includes works by Janacek, Martinu, Smetana, Dvorak & Suk, Sun 1 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

BENEDICT MASON PORTRAIT Sun 1 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

ENSEMBLE 360 Programme includes works by Beethoven, Fucik, Martinu, Sylvie Bodorova & Janacek, Mon 2 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

MARTINU STRING QUARTET Featuring Petr Jirikovsky (piano), Mon 2 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

MARTINU STRING QUARTET WITH SIMON WALLFISCH (Baritone) and Gemma Rosefield (Cello). Programme includes works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Sylvie Bodorova & Schubert, Tues 3 May, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

FINAL YEAR RECITALISTS Featuring Matthew Hayden (baritone), Jacob Dorell (voice), Lydia Haynes (soprano) & David Woods (tenor), Tues 3 May, The Bramall, Birmingham

SOUND AFFAIRS: THE TEMPEST Telling the story of Shakespeare's play of magic and theatrical illusion, through musical settings from the baroque to the contemporary, this new production from Sound Affairs marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Wed 4 May, Malvern Theatres

THOMAS TROTTER IN RECITAL Programme includes works by Bach, Mozart, Widor, Dove, MacMillan, Dukas & Liszt, Wed 4 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO VAUGHAN WILLIAMS' FIFTH Featuring John Wilson (Conductor), Alice Coote - Mezzo soprano) Programme includes works by Bax, Elgar & Vaughan Williams, Thurs 5 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FINAL YEAR RECITALISTS Featuring Karis Ong (piano), Christopher Percival (piano) & Usha Aron (piano), Thurs 5 May, The Bramall, Birmingham

DI XIAO: MOON, WATER AND DANCE Programme includes works by Ravel, Guang Ren, Debussy, Jianzhong Wang, Yiqiang Sun & Liszt, Fri 6 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CBSO PLAYERS: VAUGHAN WILLIAMS PHANTASY QUINTET Fri 6 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

IL DIVO Sat 7 May, Genting Arena, Birmingham

KARL JENKINS REQUIEM Karl Jenkins conducts his highly acclaimed and popular Requiem alongside Palladio & The Healer. Lucy Knight (soprano), Håkan Vramsmo (baritone), Clive Bell shakuhachi & Zands Duggan (percussion), also feature, Sat 7 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CANOLDIR: 50 GLORIOUS YEARS

Celebrating 50 glorious years of music making, Canoldir will here be joined by the Make Choirs of Bridgend, Cardiff Arms Park, Dunvant & Pontarddulais, Sat 7 May, Birmingham Town Hall

BIRMINGHAM CITADEL BAND OF THE SALVATION ARMY GALA CONCERT 2016 Sat 7 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

JARRED CHRISTMAS, TONY LAW BETHANY BLACK, RICH WILSON, JAMES ANDERSON & COMIC TBC Sun 1 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CITIZEN KHAN Mon 2 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BILL BAILEY Tues 3 - Thurs 5 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 4 May, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

CRAIG CAMPBELL Wed 4 May, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

GARY DELANEY, PETE FIRMAN, JARRED CHRISTMAS & SEAN HUGHES Wed 4 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

FOIL, ARMS AND HOG Thurs 5 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

MANILLA ROAD COMEDY Thurs 5 May, The Victoria, Birmingham

GARY LITTLE, FUNMBI OMOTAYO & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 5 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RUSSELL KANE Thurs 5 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LEE NELSON, MATT REED & COMIC TBC 5 May, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

LOVDEV BARPAGA, BILLY MCGUIRE, THOMAS RACKHAM, SALLY FIRTH, BEN CLOVER, JOSH PUGH, LUCAS JOLSON & MATTHEW BAYLISS Fri 6 May, Evesham Arts Centre

DAVE JOHNS, ANDREW RYAN, GARY LITTLE & FUNMBI OMOTAYO Fri 6 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SIMON EVANS Fri 6 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROB AUTON Fri 6 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CHRISTIAN O'CONNELL Fri 6 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MATT REED, JARLATH REGAN, STEVE BUGEJA & BRENDON BURNS Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

GORDON SOUTHERN, JOE BROMEHEAD Sat 7 May, Coventry Showcase

FUNMBI OMOTAYO, ANDREW RYAN, DAVE JOHNS & GARY LITTLE Sat 7 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK WATSON Sat 7 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CURTIS WALKER, SINCK, MELANIE GAYLE & JOHN SIMMIT Sun 8 May, mac, Birmingham

CRAIG CAMPBELL Sun 8 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Theatre

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

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

CYMBELINE

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

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Blue Orange Arts presents its version of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners, Thurs 28 April - Sat 7 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

BAD JEWS Joshua Harman's renowned play, set in a Manhattan apartment on the evening of a family funeral, Mon 2 - Sat 7 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BEST OF BE FESTIVAL Showcase of BE Festival's favourite European theatre, dance and circus performances, Tues 3 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SALLY MORGAN - CALL ME PSYCHIC Sally Morgan is back with a brand new show, Tues 3 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

CONNECTIONS 500 In collaboration with the National Theatre, 13 youth theatres from across the country visit The REP to present a selection of plays to celebrate the 21st year of the National Theatre's Connections Festival. Each group stages one of 12 plays commissioned by the National Theatre since 1995, Tues 3 - Sat 7 May, The REP, Birmingham

THE FATHER Kenneth Cranham reprises his role in Florian Zeller's acclaimed play, Tues 3 - Sat 7 May, The REP, Birmingham

JUNGLE BOOK Rudyard Kipling's classic tale is here re-imagined with street-dance, circus and spoken word, Tues 3 - Sat 7 May, Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire

THE WIZARD OF OZ Amateur production of the RSC's version of the much-loved family musical, based on Frank Baum's novel, The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz, Wed 4 - Sat 7 May, Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE DISHONOURED Kali Theatre pres-

ent a compelling political thriller about surviving in a world of deceit and violence, Wed 4 - Sat 7 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

BREATHE FOR ME Martin O'Brien considers the nature of the regulated chronically ill body, Thurs 5 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Starring Jonny Cole, Dandy, The Fizzogs & The Ronaldos, Thurs 5 May, The Core, Solihull

A NIGHT OF DIRTY DANCING Described as the ultimate tribute show, Thurs 5 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

EMMA Hotbuckle Theatre Company present a staging of Jane Austen's 'most perfect' novel, Thurs 5 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

WOODY SEZ: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF WOODY GUTHRIE Soul-stirring hit musical capturing the heart and spirit of America's original folk hero, Woody Guthrie, Thurs 5 May, Malvern Theatres

UNDER MILK WOOD Guy Masterson presents a one-man interpretation of Dylan Thomas' timeless masterpiece, Fri 6 May, Swan Theatre, Worcester

SONGS OF HOLLYWOOD Starring Fascinating Aida's Lisa Pullman, Joseph Atkins & The Stardust Ensemble, Fri 6 May, Malvern Theatre

ROB AUTON: THE WATER SHOW A comedy/theatre/talking show about water, written and performed by the award-winning Rob Auton, Fri 6 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MR B THE GENTLEMAN RHYMER Mr B continues his ongoing quest to reconnect hip-hop with manners and bring the Queen's English to Birmingham, Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MARGARET THATCHER: QUEEN OF SOHO Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, mac, Birmingham

WEEKEND ROCKSTARS Theatre meets gig in Middle Child's unapologetic telling of three young lives living for the weekend, Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, The REP, Birmingham

GOD OF CARNAGE Yasmina Reza's award-winning black comedy sees two sets of parents meeting up to deal with the unruly behaviour of their respective children, Fri 6 - Sat 14 May, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE IMPROV MUSICAL Music Theatre Warwick present a show based on the premise of - yep, you guessed it - improvisation, Sat 7 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MTW: THE IMPROV MUSICAL 2016

Promising an evening of unforgettable improvised fun, Sat 7 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

NELSON: THE SAILOR'S STORY On New Year's Eve 200 years later, Nelson surveys the world from his column in Trafalgar Square with a wry and observant eye, shooing pigeons and insulting tourists. Below him, a homeless Falklands veteran shivers in the cold, Sat 7 May, Swan Theatre, Worcester

DON QUIXOTE Part of the RSC's Unwrapped Season, in which members of the acting company demonstrate some of the skills that go into making a production, Sat 7 May, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

WOODY SEZ: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF WOODY GUTHRIE Soul-stirring hit musical capturing the heart and spirit of America's original folk hero, Woody Guthrie, Sun 8 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

SWAN LAKE One of the best-known love stories, performed by the ever-popular Vienna Festival Ballet, Sun 1 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

NEDERLANDS DANS THEATER Tues 3 - Wed 4 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

COMPAGNIE PHILIPPE SAIRE: BLACK OUT Thousands of black granulated fragments transform the dancers' world into a moving, pictorial composition that jars as it shifts in response to the light, sound and movement. Tues 3 - Wed 4 May DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

BRIDGING THE VOID Experimental Dance present a new film/dance production featuring a dramatic movement vocabulary performed by three dancers. Wed 4 May mac, B'ham

DETOX Intense, energetic and thought-provoking production by Pagrav Dance Company, Thurs 5 May, The Drum, Birmingham

TRIBANGHI DANCE THEATRE IN SUKUMA An exhilarating dance experience combining the grace of Indian classical Bharatanatyam with the strong physicality of African dance, brought together with contemporary flair. Fri 6 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ECLIPSE & JINX 103 A double bill showcasing choreographic works that beautifully complement one another, Fri 6 - Sat 7 May, DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham

CARLOS ACOSTA Carlos Acosta presents his final classical ballet programme. With an incredible cast of dancers from Cuba, he performs excerpts from his favourite ballet repertoire. Fri 6 - Sat 7 May Birmingham Hippodrome

ZOIELOGIC DANCE THEATRE: RIDE World premiere of an outdoor dance theatre work exploring the nature of travelling. Commissioned and co-produced by DanceXchange for IDFB 2016 and co-commissioned by Gulbenkian, Kent and Dance Village in Bristol Harbour Festival. Sat 7 May, Ward End Park, Birmingham

PUT YOUR FOOT DOWN An afternoon of spectacular free dance performances in a range of styles. Sat 7 May The Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham

TRIBANGHI DANCE THEATRE: SUKUMA High-energy fusion of Indian classical Bharatanatyam and African dance,

brought together with contemporary flair, Sun 8 May, mac, Birmingham

Talks

PATRICK LAMBERT Talk - Martinu in his time and the recorded legacy, Sun 1 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

THE KING IS DEAD: ROYAL DEATH AND SUCCESSION UNDER THE TUDORS Talk by renowned historian David Starkey, Sat 7 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

SPOTLIGHT (15) In 2001, scandals of abuse and molestation by priests reached a new height when a group of Boston Globe reporters exposed widespread corruption within the Catholic Church, shaking the system to its core. Stars Mark Ruffalo & Michael Keaton. Fri 29 Apr - Mon 2 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

VICTORIA (15) Four young Berliners meet Victoria, a young Spanish woman newly moved to Berlin, outside a club, and romance kicks in. They stumble through the night, drinking, dancing, flirting, until they are forced to commit a crime and events spiral out of control. Stars Laia Costa & Frederick Lau. Fri 29 Apr - Tues 3 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

HAIL, CAESAR! (12a) When a Hollywood star in 1950s' Hollywood (George Clooney) is kidnapped, a 'fixer' (Josh Brolin) is called in to solve the problem. Tues 3 - Fri 6 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

EDDIE THE EAGLE (PG) 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. Stars Taron Egerton & Hugh Jackman. Fri 6 - Tues 12 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury; Fri 6 - Wed 11 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 6 May, showing at selected cinemas.

BAD NEIGHBOURS 2 (tbc)

EVOLUTION (15)

FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS (PG)

I SAW THE LIGHT (15)

KNIGHT OF CUPS (15)

ROBINSON CRUSOE (PG)

THESE FINAL HOURS (15)

Events

STRATFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL continues until 14 Apr - Sun 1 May, Stratford Town Centre

ROLLER BOOGIE Enjoy an evening of roller skating and a cheesy disco, Sun 1 May, Fargo Village, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Sun 1 May, Birmingham City Centre

ARCHERY LESSONS WITH REALLY RURAL An Archery GB-qualified instructor shows how to shoot a 'Recurve Bow', Sun 1 May, Croome Park, Worcester

INTERNATIONAL DAWN CHORUS Catch the early morning chorus on an RSPB-led walk around the garden, Sun 1 May, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

DRIVE & DINE - STRATFORD FESTIVAL OF MOTORING Drive & Dine is back for a second year, offering classic car owners a variety of exclusive excursions throughout the summer, Sun 1 May, Coventry Transport Museum

MARVELLOUS MAY DAY Celebrate 50 years of the County Museum with a traditional May Day festival, including maypole dancing, stalls, children's activities, traditional entertainment and a chance to meet the Green Man, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, Worcestershire County Museum, Worcester

NATIONAL KIT CAR MOTOR SHOW Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

EASTNOR CHILLI FESTIVAL Now in its fifth year. All things chilli to try and buy! Live music, bars, hot food, children's cookery school, a chilli-eating competition and cookery demonstrations, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

GLORIOUS GARDENS Expect crafts, demonstrations, games and expert advice from Witley's gardening team, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, Witley Court, Worcestershire

PIRATE WEEKEND Pirates invade Cadbury World for a weekend of swashbuckling fun, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, Cadbury World, Bournville

HORSEPOWER Two days of manes, reins and automobiles, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, Kenilworth Castle

PENGUIN WEEK Learn all about the penguin leader Alf and his pals. Plus, get involved in numerous activities to celebrate World Penguin Day on the 25th, Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

WALLED GARDEN Britain's largest walled garden opens its doors again. With new paths and planting schemes, there are restored greenhouses, vibrant border planting, a blooming rose garden and working vegetable plots, Sun 1 May - Sun 30 Oct, Croome Park, Worcester

TRADITIONAL MAY DAY Maypole dancing, folk music, country crafts and 'The Battle of the Green Man', Mon 2 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

WARWICK MAY RACING CARNIVAL Mon 2 May, Warwick Racecourse

PATRONS, PLACES AND LANDSCAPE

DESIGN WALK Join Lancelot 'Capability' Brown expert Richard Wheeler on a walk around Croome's parkland, Tues 3 May, Croome Park, Worcester

CAFE SCIENTIFIQUE: THE FUTURE OF EYE CARE A talk from Professor Shehzad A Naroo from the School of Life and Health Sciences at Aston University, Tues 3 May, Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham

EARLY YEARS: POPULAR TRACTOR STORIES An opportunity for children aged between one and four and their families to explore the tractor exhibition using action-packed stories and Makaton signs, Wed 4 May, Coventry Transport Museum

TALES FROM HISTORY: THE LUNAR SOCIETY AND SOHO HOUSE To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Lunar Society, Soho House Manager Samina Kosar gives a talk at Waterstones as part of their Tales From History season, Thurs 5 May, Soho House, Birmingham

HANDSWORTH HERITAGE WALK Check out fine Georgian and Victorian architecture, a convent designed by Augustus Pugin, a church that was built nearly one millennium ago, Sat 7 May, Soho House, Birmingham

VE TEA DANCE Immerse yourself and celebrate in true 1940s style. Watch the professionals dance, have a go yourself and then enjoy some delicious rations of tea and cake, Sat 7 May, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

WARWICK MAY RACING CARNIVAL Sat 7 May, Warwick Racecourse

THE KINGMAKER'S MEDIAEVAL BANQUET It's the year 1471 and you have been summoned to dine with the infamous Earl of Warwick for an unforgettable evening of eating, drinking and medieval revelry, Sat 7 May, Warwick Castle

CADBURY CHARACTER WEEKEND Pose for photographs alongside Freddo, Caramel Bunny and friends as they meet and greet visitors, Sat 7 - Sun 8 May, Cadbury World, Bournville

VICTORY AFTERNOON TEA Enjoy 1940s music while tea is being served with cream scones, an assortment of sandwiches and a selection of traditional cakes, Sat 7 - Sun 8 May, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

AJ BELL NATIONAL BADMINTON LEAGUE Sun 8 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham



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

May 2016

Wednesday 4th May

GREG FOOT

AS SEEN ON BLUE PETER & YOUTUBE'S BRIT LAB



Saturday 7th May

THE BILLY JOEL SONGBOOK

WITH ELIO PACE & HIS BAND



Friday 13th May

THE FAIR RAIN

PROMOTING THE NEW ALBUM BEHIND THE GLASS



Sunday 15th May

TOM ROBINSON

INTIMATE ACOUSTIC EVENING



Friday 27th May

BLAKE

SONGS OF STAGE & SCREEN



Saturday 28th May

DREAMING OF KATE

STUNNING TRIBUTE TO KATE BUSH



FORTHCOMING CINEMA:

Hail, Caesar! (12A) // Eddie The Eagle (PG) // Labyrinth (U) // Trumbo (15) // Youth (U) // Zootropolis (PG)

FORTHCOMING SCREENINGS:

Frankenstein (Royal Ballet Live) // A View From The Bridge (NT Live) // The Audience (NT Live) // Hamlet (RSC) // Romeo & Juliet (Kenneth Branagh) // Andre Rieu's Maastricht Concert // Cymbeline (RSC) // King Lear (RSC)

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WHAT'S ON - May 2016

STRATFORD ARTSHOUSE



Friday 6th May, 7:30pm

Show of Hands

'Long Way Home' Tour 2016

Featuring material from the new studio album alongside their trademark, anthemic, acoustic classics.

"One of the great English bands" - Peter Gabriel.



Friday 13th May, 8pm

Shazia Mirza

'The Kardashians Made Me Do It'

Recently seen on The Joanthan Ross Show.

Revered, applauded, loved and reviled Shazia Mirza is an award-winning comedian and columnist. With several TV appearances, her laconic one-liners represent something quite unique in modern comedy.



Friday 20th May, 7:30pm

Sherry Babys

Jersey Boys Tribute Show

Oh What A Night! - The Sherry Babys present their tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, the subject of the top Worldwide musical - The Jersey Boys.

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WARWICK MAY RACING CARNIVAL

Mon 2nd May
BANK HOLIDAY FUN
Wonderful Warwick Family Raceday
The Gruffalo will be appearing at intervals.

Sat 7th May
Proudly Warwick Evening Meeting
An evening of traditional, Proudly Warwick entertainment!

Wed 18th May
Think Pink Warwick Ladies Day
The perfect excuse for a day of glamour.

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*Terms and conditions apply

REDDITCH PALACE THEATRE

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS
Box Office 01527 65203

5th May - 7.30pm
A NIGHT OF DIRTY DANCING
Tickets £20.50* & £19.50* (disc)

6th May - 7.30pm
VOULEZ-VOUS 25th ANNIVERSARY TOUR
Tickets £20.50*

7th May - 7.30pm
THE FUREYS
LEGENDARY IRISH BAND
Tickets £18.50*

12th May - 7.30pm
THE STONES
EUROPE'S NO 1 TRIBUTE
Tickets £19.50*

13th May - 2.00pm
90 GLORIOUS YEARS
In celebration of the Queen's Birthday
Tickets £15.00* & £14.00*

14 May - 7.30pm
MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL
A celebration of Women and "The Change"
Tickets £22.00*

15th May - 5.00pm
THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA
Tickets £19.00* & £18.00* (disc)

26th & 27th May - 7.30pm
PASHA
"IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU"
Tickets £24.50*

*inclusive of booking fee £1 per ticket up to a maximum of £4
Online booking www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk

Gigs

ELESSAR Mon 9 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

ISAAC GRACIE Mon 9 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SKATERS Mon 9 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

ELVIS COSTELLO Mon 9 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

TRIO CATCH Mon 9 May, Birmingham Town Hall

CLIVE GREGSON Mon 9 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

PAUL YOUNG Tues 10 May, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

SHOOK TWINS Tues 10 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

FAIRPORT CONVENTION Tues 10 May, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

IGOR LEVIT Tues 10 May, Birmingham Town Hall

DAVE O'HIGGINS Wed 11 May, Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

COLUM SANDS Wed 11 May, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

CHASTITY BELT Wed 11 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JASON DONOVAN TEN GOOD REASONS & GREATEST HITS TOUR Wed 11 May, Symphony Hall, B'ham

SATIVA & SODEN Thurs 12 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

DANNI G Thurs 12 May, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

MIKE STEWART LAWRENCE Thurs 12 May, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

THE HEAVY Thurs 12 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FREE REIGN Thurs 12 May, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETERS Thurs 12 May, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

IMAGINED ISLE FOLK FESTIVAL Thurs 12 - Mon 16 May, Birmingham Town Hall

WAY TO BLUE: THE SONGS OF NICK DRAKE Thurs 12 May,

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TRAVIS Thurs 12 May, O2 Academy, B'ham

QUI Thurs 12 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

REND COLLECTIVE Thurs 12 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE STONES Thurs 12 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

EMILY PORTMAN & THE CORACLE BAND Fri 13 May, Birmingham Town Hall

MAGIC: A KIND OF QUEEN Fri 13 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

MANOS PA'ARRIBA Fri 13 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

OATHBREAKER Fri 13 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

FRAN THE MAN Fri 13 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

THE HARTS + SALAD DAYS + SHOOT THE SYMPHONY + THE REAL COOL Fri 13 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SNOWPOET Fri 13 May, The Glee Club, B'ham

CRIME & PUNISHMENT Fri 13 May, The Flapper, Birmingham

ARMY OF BONES Fri 13 May, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE FAIR RAIN Fri 13 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

UB40 - LABOUR OF LOVE Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

DENNIS SEATON'S SOUL & MOTOWN SHOW Fri 13 May, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire

SPACEHOPPERS Fri 13 May, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

THE SESSIONS - A live re-staging of The Beatles at Abbey Road Studios Fri 13 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE SUMMER SET Fri 13 May, The Asylum, Birmingham

ANDY JORDAN Fri 13 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JOHN OTWAY Fri 13 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

KATE RUSBY Sat 14 May, Birmingham Town Hall

DECLAN O'ROURKE Sat 14 May, Symphony

Hall, Birmingham
WITHOUT FLIGHT Sat 14 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

PAT BRESLIN Sat 14 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

ANDY BLACK Sat 14 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE MEMBRANES Sat 14 May, The Flapper, Birmingham

IN DISMAY + HOPE FOR RETURN + VICTORY LANE + SILO 18 Sat 14 May, Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

MARTIN TURNER Sat 14 May, Huntington Hall, Worcester

MANIC STREET PREACHERS Sat 14 May, Genting Arena, B'ham

SUPERFICIALS Sat 14 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE STRAIGHT ACES Sat 14 May, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

THE BIG O & THE WILBURYS TRIBUTE SHOW Sat 14 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MUMBO JUMBO Sat 14 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JOCELYN BROWN & KENNY THOMAS Sat 14 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FUTURE FOLK FEATURING FALSE LIGHTS, JOSIENNE CLARKE & BEN WALKER AND LUKE JACKSON Sun 15 May, Birmingham Town Hall

SEAN WILSON Sun 15 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

MIKE PETERS PRESENTS THE ALARM Sun 15 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RICKY COOL AND THE IN CROWD Sun 15 May, The Brasshouse, Birmingham

FRANKLY SINATRA Sun 15 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

TOM ROBINSON Sun 15 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Sun 15 May, Birmingham Town Hall

THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA Sun 15 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

FRANCES Sun 15 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Classical Music

RISING STARS: TRIO CATCH Featuring Boglárka Pecze (clarinet), Eva Boesch (cello) & Sun-Young Nam (piano), Mon 9 May, Birmingham Town Hall

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor) & Valeriy Sokolov (violin). Programme includes works by Sibelius & Elgar, Tues 10 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

IGOR LEVIT (PIANO) Programme comprises Beethoven's Sonata No 17 Op 31 No 2 & Frederic Rzewski's The People United Will Never Be Defeated, Tues 10 May, Birmingham Town Hall

CITY OF SOUNDS: TWO TRIOS Featuring Ben Muirhead & Billy Weir as one act alongside The Birmingham Conservatoire Trio which comprises Jiafeng Chen (violin), Jiaxin Lloyd Webber (cello), Di Xiao (piano) presenting music by Bach, Debussy, Paganini & Mendelssohn, Tues 10 May, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: SCANDINAVIAN SERENADE Featuring David Le Page (violin) & David Curtis (conductor). Programme includes works by Grieg, Sibelius & Dvorak, Wed 11 May, Birmingham Town Hall

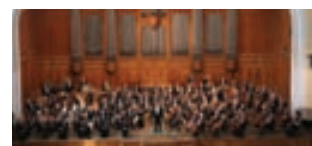
CBSO: BEN-HUR LIVE Carl Davis conducts the CBSO Orchestra in live score to accompany the 1925 silent movie, Fri 13 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

RECYCLAGE MUSICAL Featuring Richard Sutcliffe (viola) & Sofie Vanherie (harpichord). Programme includes works by Marin Marais, Antoine Forqueray, Louis de Caix d'Hervelois and Jean-Baptiste Barrière, Fri 13 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

STRATFORD CONCERT BAND SPRING CONCERT Sat 14 May, Stratford Artshouse

TEWKESBURY CHORAL SOCIETY: SOUNDS OF THE SEA Conducted by John Holloway. Programme comprises Edward Elgar's Sea Pictures & Ralph Vaughan Williams' A Sea Symphony, Sat 14 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

MOSCOW STATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Stephen Johnson, Rachmaninov & Shostakovich, Sat 14 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



CBSO: A GREAT BRITISH SUMMER Featuring Julian Wilkins (conductor) & the CBSO Children's Chorus. Tom Redmond presents, Sun 15 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA Sun 15 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

Comedy Gigs

LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 9 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 10 May, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 11 May, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

MARK OLVER, PAUL MCCAFFREY & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 12 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CARL HUTCHINSON Thurs 12 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

DAVE TWENTYMAN, ALAN HUDSON, STEVE DAY & STEVE N ALLEN Fri 13 May, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

TRYGVE WAKENSHAW: SQUIDBOY Fri 13 May, mac, Birmingham

DAN THOMAS, DANE BAPTISTE, PAUL MCCAFFREY & COMIC TBC Fri 13 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHAZIA MIRZA Fri 13 May, Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon



DIANE SPENCER, KEVIN MCCARTHY, IAN COGNITO & DARIUS DAVIES Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

PADDY LENNOX, MATT GREEN Sat 14 May, Coventry Showcase

PAUL MCCAFFREY, MARK OLVER, DAN THOMAS & DANE BAPTISTE Sat 14 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHAZIA MIRZA Sat 14 May, mac, Birmingham

HAL CRUTTENDEN Sat 14 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

Theatre

MURDER ON THE NILE Adapted from one of Agatha Christie's favourite novels and presented by the Malvern Theatre Players, Mon 9 - Sat 14 May, Malvern Theatres

REHEARSAL FOR MURDER Bill Kenwright presents a new production of an all-time classic thriller, Mon 9 - Sat 14 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE GLASS MENAGERIE Mon 9 - Sat 14 May, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Starring Diana Vickers as Janet, Ben Freeman as Brad and Paul Cattermole as Eddie/Dr Scott, Mon 9 - Sat 14 May, Malvern Theatres

MURDER ON THE NILE The Coach



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SUMMER 16

YOUR BIG NIGHT OUT

Tindersticks

The Waiting Room:
 Cine-Concert
 Sat 30 Apr



YolanDa Brown

with special guest Mica Paris
 Sat 7 May

Laila

The Musical
 Tue 10 - Sun 15 May

WFC, WATFORD PALACE THEATRE,
 GREEN'S THEATRE, HORNCHURCH



Ry X
 Sun 22 May

Dinosaur Zoo

Sat 28 May
 & Sun 29 May



Gyles Brandreth

Word Power! Get it! Use it!
 Conquer The World!
 Sat 4 Jun

**Hugh Masekela
 & Larry Willis**
 Mon 6 Jun



**Sing-along
 Calamity Jane**

with Barbara Nice
 Fri 17 Jun

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House Theatre present a staging of Agatha Christie's classic whodunnit, Mon 9 - Sat 14 May, Malvern Theatre

CENTURY SONG Volcano Theatre present a unique show inspired in part by Virginia Woolf's Orlando and Alice Walker's In Search Of Our Mothers' Garden, Tues 10 May, mac, Birmingham

HELEN Actors of Dionysis present a powerful contemporary take on the myth of Helen of Troy, Tues 10 - Wed 11 May, Malvern Theatre

LAILA: THE MUSICAL Rifco Arts, the creators behind the award-winning Britain's Got Bhangra, present a contemporary musical inspired by Romeo And Juliet, Tues 10 - Sat 14 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SOUTH PACIFIC This popular musical presented by Solihull Theatre Company is an unusual love story set against the backdrop of a cruel war. Contains much-loved songs such as I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair and the famously finger-wagging Happy Talk! Tues 10 - Sat 14 May, The Core Theatre, Solihull

LAILA: THE MUSICAL New contemporary musical retelling the greatest love story from the east, Tues 10 - Sat 14 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

AMERICAN IDIOT X Factor finalist Amelia Lily and musical theatre star Aaron Sidwell star in Green Day's explosive, award-winning Broadway musical, Tues 10 - Sat 14 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

KIKI LOVECHILD: SHEETS Brand new clown show for grown-ups, about the end of the world, Wed 11 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SPIKE MILLIGAN'S PUCKOON Based on the book by Spike Milligan, this comic masterpiece is an irreverent and hilarious story which takes the mick, celebrates the absurd, and paints a picture of a simple life that borders on the ridiculous, Wed 11 May, Stourbridge Town Hall

JOAN An earthy story of courage, conviction, hope, survival and love, performed by Drag Idol champion Lucy Jane Parkinson, aka LoUIS CYfer, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 May, mac, Birmingham

THE WEDDING SINGER Heart Of Worcestershire College Performing Arts present an amateur version of the musical comedy, based on the 1985 film of the same name, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

EURYDICE Warwick University Drama Society present Sarah Ruhl's contemporary reimagining of the Greek myth of Eurydice and Orpheus, exploring romantic and parental loss as well as loss of the self, Wed 11 - Sat 14 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

STAGE DOOR JOHNNY OBJETS TROUVES The host of the Old Joint Stock's Footsie Club brings his solo show to the cabaret festival, Thurs 12 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

I AM JOAN A hopeful comedy about a woman in recovery from trauma,

Thurs 12 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THAT'LL BE THE DAY A musical romp through the youthful days of Rock'n'Roll in the '50s, on through the Swinging '60s and into the taste-free days of the 1970s, Thurs 12 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

WIPERS October 1914, Ypres, Belgium. The British forces, bolstered by significant numbers of volunteer soldiers from across the Empire, have suffered huge casualties in one of the first bloody battles of the Great War, Thurs 12 - Sat 21 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

CLUB CAIRO Fusion of live music, dance & theatre, bringing audiences a super-sensory experience steeped in Arabian tradition, Fri 13 May, mac, Birmingham

EASTEND CABARET Raucous and risqué musical comedy show from the award-winning cult comedy duo, Sat 14 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL Linda Nolan, Rebecca Wheatley (Casualty) and Cheryl Fergison (EastEnders) star in a brand new musical parody featuring a host of one-liners about hot flushes, memory loss and pop classics, Sat 14 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Image Musical Theatre presents a new adaptation of E Nesbit's classic tale, Sat 14 May, Swan Theatre, Worcester

KIERAN HODGSON: LANCE Comedy show about teenage cycling, sullied dreams & migrating from the north, Sat 14 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

MADE UP Heart-warming play about friendship and the faces we show the world, Sat 14 - Sat 21 May, The REP, Birmingham

FRANKLY SINATRA Stephen Triffitt brings the swing, the swagger and the velvet vocals of Frank Sinatra to the stage, Sun 15 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

TRIBHANGI DANCE THEATRE IN SUKUMA An exhilarating dance experience combining the grace of Indian classical Bharatanatyam with the strong physicality of African dance, brought together with contemporary flair. Mon 9 May Albany Theatre, Coventry

COMPANY WANG RAMIREZ: MONCHICHI Part of IDFB 2016, Tues 10 May DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham

ARACALADANZA: MOKO DANCE Part of IDFB 2016, Tues 10 May The REP, Birmingham

VUELOS (FLIGHTS) Part of IDFB 2016, Tues 10 May, The REP, Birmingham

ZOEILOGIC DANCE THEATRE: RIDE Part of IDFB 2016, Tues 10 May, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham; Wed 11 May,

Handsworth Park, Birmingham; Thurs 12 May, Bournville College, Birmingham; Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, Centenary Square, Birmingham

CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN: SONGS OF THE WANDERERS Part of IDFB 2016, Tues 10 - Wed 11 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

TAMSIN FITZGERALD: CUBES Part of IDFB 2016, Wed 11 - Sat 14 May, Centenary Square, Birmingham

THE MACHINE SHOW Part of IDFB 2016, Wed 11 - Sat 14 May, Centenary Square, Birmingham

KEI MIYATA: IN A LANDSCAPE Part of IDFB 2016, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 May, Municipal Bank, Birmingham

MOTIONHOUSE TORQUE Part of IDFB 2016, Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, Centenary Square, Birmingham

VERTEDANCE, JIRI HAVELKA & THE CLARINET FACTORY: CORRECTION Part of IDFB 2016, Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, DanceXchange, Birmingham

ELEMENTS: ELOQUENT DANCE ACADEMY Showcase of work featuring various dance styles, all relating to the elements. Fri 13 - Sat 14 May, Albany Theatre, Coventry

AUDIENCE WITH IAN WAITE & NATALIE LOWE Dance showcase from the Strictly Come Dancing favourites, Sat 14 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Film

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 13 May, showing at selected cinemas.

ANGRY BIRDS (tbc)

CABIN FEVER (tbc)

THE DARNKESS (tbc)

EVERYBODY WANTS SOME (15)

GREEN ROOM (18)

KILL COMMAND (15)

OUR KIND OF TRAITOR (15)

CABIN FEVER (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p39

Events

THE SAVOY OPERAS IN BRITISH MUSICAL HISTORY Guest speaker Roberta Morrell, former principal of D'Oyly Carte Opera, Tues 10 May, The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcester

WORKSHOP: FELT MAKING Master the basic techniques and produce your very own finished items in felt, using alpaca wool, Tues 10 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

EARLY YEARS: GO MESSY Farmyard-inspired messy play time, Wed 11 May, Coventry Transport Museum

MUSEUMS AT NIGHT: BAT WALK A guided evening walk around Avoncroft's grounds to see the nighttime wildlife, Fri 13 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

JAY RAYNER - MY DINING HELL Restaurant critic Jay Rayner reads accounts of the most excruciating nights out he's ever had and looks at the worst reviews he's ever received, Fri 13 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

BODYPOWER EXPO 2016 Fri 13 - Sun 15 May, NEC, Birmingham

THE BABY SHOW The UK's leading pregnancy and parenting event returns to the NEC. Whether you're expecting or have recently had a baby, you'll find everything you need at the show, Fri 13 - Sun 15 May, NEC, Birmingham

MIDLANDS HOME AND GARDEN SHOW Fri 13 - Sun 15 May, Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire

EVENING HOUSE TOURS 2016 Sat 14 May, Packwood House, Solihull

THE CAREERS AND APPRENTICESHIP SHOW Sat 14 May, Millennium Point & Eastside Park, Birmingham

KENILWORTH SIEGE An after-hours tour of medieval Kenilworth Castle. Learn about the great siege of 1266 - one of the longest and hardest-fought battles in English history, Sat 14 May, Kenilworth Castle

TRACTOR FOLK Live acoustic musical performances from leading regional folk artists, Sat 14 May, Coventry Transport Museum

MUSEUMS AT NIGHT: THE ROARING TWENTIES A 1920s-themed night of drama and music. Part of Museums At Night, Sat 14 May, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

THE WEAVER'S HOUSE OPEN DAY Step back in time to Coventry's medieval past at the Weaver's House, Sat 14 May, The Weavers House, Coventry

BAMMA 25 Presented by David Haye and Andy Shepherd and broadcast around the world, BAMMA returns to the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham, Sat 14 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

CARS & COFFEE BREAKFAST CLUB An opportunity for classic car and motorcycle owners to show off their vehicles in front of the prestigious Coventry Transport Museum, Sat 14 May, Coventry Transport Museum

SLOT CAR FESTIVAL 2016 Showcasing the world of Scalextric, Sat 14 - Sun 15 May, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND 2016 Sat 14 - Sun 15 May, Churchill Forge Mill, Worcestershire

UK SLOT CAR FESTIVAL A weekend showcasing the world of Scalextric, Sat 14 - Sun 15 May, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

VW DAY Sun 15 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

NATIONAL VINTAGE COMMUNICATIONS FAIR Sun 15 May, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa

BIRMINGHAM

CABARET FESTIVAL

4TH - 29TH MAY 2016

OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE
WWW.OLDJOINTSTOCK.CO.UK

Droitwich Spa

Food and Drink Festival

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th June

The Droitwich Spa Food & Drink Festival will take place on Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th June

Highlights include:

- Grand Opening by Nadiya Hussain, Winner of The Great British Bake Off 2015 10am Saturday
- Nearly 200 food & drink stalls over the 2 days of the festival
- A demonstration kitchen featuring Nadiya Hussain and local chefs
- Street entertainment featuring local artists
- Fathers Day special on Sunday 19th June

So come along and make it a great couple of days out, eat drink and enjoy - and it's free entry

Event organised by Droitwich Spa Food and Drink Festival Limited supported by

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Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

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MAKING A MASTERPIECE
GRAHAM SUTHERLAND'S CHRIST IN GLORY

Grayson Perry Epulsion from Number 8 Eden Close, 2012.



The Blockheads, The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Sat 21 May

Gigs

ERIC BIBB Mon 16 May, Birmingham Town Hall
STEVE TURNER Mon 16 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
LONELY THE BRAVE Tues 17 May, The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SEPTEMBER GIRLS Tues 17 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham
BRIAN WILSON Tues 17 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CALAN Tues 17 May, mac, Birmingham
FORT HOPE Tues 17 May, The Asylum, Birmingham
EAGULLS Tues 17 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
EVERYBODY LOOKS FAMOUS Tues 17 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
KIERAN GOSS Tues 17 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST Wed 18 May, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
LANDSCAPES Wed 18 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
KEN VANDERMARK + NATE WOOLEY DUO Wed 18 May, mac, Birmingham
DAN REED & DANNY VAUGHN Wed 18 May, Hare & Hounds, B'ham
EMMA POLLOCK Wed 18 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham
HEATHER PEACE Wed 18 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham
KILLER QUEEN (QUEEN TRIBUTE) Wed 18 May, Belgrade Theatre,

Coventry
SCOOPS Wed 18 May, Hare & Hounds, B'ham
DANIEL KEMISH (FULL BAND) + SUPPORTS Wed 18 May, The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE JAM DRC + THE NATURAL EMOTIONS Thurs 19 May, The Roadhouse, Birmingham
SACRED QAWWALI: SOUNDS OF SPIRITUALITY Thurs 19 May, mac, Birmingham
GREN BARTLEY Thurs 19 May, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
NICK DEWHURST Thurs 19 May, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham
LET'S HANG ON THE MUSIC OF FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS Thurs 19 May, Bedworth Civic Hall
PEATBOG FAERIES Thurs 19 May, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
RORY MCLEOD & THE FAMILIAR STRANGERS Thurs 19 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Thurs 19 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
LIMEHOUSE LIZZY Thurs 19 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester
SHERRY BABYS - JERSEY BOYS TRIBUTE SHOW Fri 20 May, Stratford Artshouse
CUT GLASS KINGS Fri 20 May, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
THE YOUNG Fri 20 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham
MOTOWN AND SOUL NIGHT WITH DJ PAUL KELLY Fri 20 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham
HENRY WU Fri 20 May, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

IDEAL CLUB Fri 20 May, O2 Institute, B'ham
THE HOSTS Fri 20 May, The Flapper, B'ham
DORJE Fri 20 May, The Assembly, Leamington Spa
THE SMYTHS Fri 20 May, O2 Academy, B'ham
BON GIOVI Fri 20 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND: THE MUSIC OF JAMES TAYLOR AND CAROLE KING Fri 20 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove
THE PHONICS Fri 20 May, The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE FEZZ Fri 20 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester
JAMES Fri 20 May, Barclaycard Arena
BUSTED Fri 20 May, Genting Arena, Birmingham
THE OASIS EXPERIENCE WEEKENDER Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, The Roadhouse, B'ham
TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, Swan Theatre, Worcester
TREVOR BURTON Sat 21 May, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

King King, Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 21 May



Classical Music

ARMONICO CONSORT & BAROQUE PLAYERS: OZ & ARMONICO DRINK TO MUSIC Featuring Christopher Monks (director), Eloise Irving (soprano), William Towers (countertenor) & Oz Clarke (narrator) Programme includes works by Bach, Purcell and Vivaldi, Tues 17 May, Warwick Castle
ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC: VIVALDI IN DRESDEN Programme comprises works J S Bach, Vivaldi & Telemann, Wed 18 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham
DANIEL HOPE WITH THE KAMMERORCHESTER BASEL Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Pärt, El-Khoury & Bach, Wed 18 May, Birmingham Town Hall
COULL QUARTET: WAVES AND WANDERERS Programme includes works by Haydn, Britten & Schubert, Thurs 19 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
CSO BECOME OCEAN Featuring Ludovic Morlot (Conductor) & Steven Osborne (Piano) Programme includes works by Sibelius, Ravel & John Luther Adams, Thurs 19 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CSO CENTRE STAGE: SHOSTAKOVICH'S PIANO QUINTET Featuring Steven Osbourne (piano), Zoe Beyers & Jane Wright (violin), Adam Romer (viola) & Richard Jenkinson (cello), Fri 20 May, CSO Centre, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP Featuring Daniel Galbreath (conductor), Ulrich Heinen (cello), Malcolm Wilson (piano) & the Viva Nova Chamber Choir, Fri 20 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA GRAND OPERA GALA Celebrating 25 Years of Symphony Hall Featuring: Andrew Greenwood (conductor), Claire Rutter (soprano), Justine Gringyte (mezzo-soprano), Peter Auty (tenor) & Ashley Holland (baritone), Fri 20 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ENGLISH STRING ORCHESTRA Directed from the violin by Michael Bochmann & featuring Eleanor Cooke - violin. Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Telemann, JS Bach, Sibelius, Carl Jenkins, Elgar & Copland, Sun 22 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
CITY OF SOUNDS: MOZART'S CORONATION MASS Featuring Patrick Larley (conductor), Elouise Waterhouse, Alistair Donoghue, Rob Tilson & Lucinda Scott, Sun 22 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 16 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham
CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 17 May, The Dark Horse, Birmingham
MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 18 May, The Mockingbird, Birmingham
RUSSELL KANE Wed 18 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch
REGINALD D HUNTER, ADAM BLOOM, STEVE



32 Rue Vandenbranden, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 19 - Fri 20 May

HARRIS & DARRELL MARTIN
Thurs 19 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

BOBBY MAIR, JULIAN DEANE & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON
Thurs 19 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

IVO GRAHAM, DAVID FULTON & ANDREW RYAN Thurs 19 May, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

DAMIAN CLARK, JOJO SMITH, JULIAN DEANE & BOBBY MAIR Fri 20 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KATHERINE RYAN Fri 20 May, Birmingham Town Hall

SIMON BLYTH, MICKEY BARTLETT, DAVE LONGLEY & WAYNE DEAKIN Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

NICK REVELL, CARLY SMALLMAN
Sat 21 May, Coventry Showcase

JOJO SMITH, BOBBY MAIR & DAMIAN CLARK & JULIAN DEANE Sat 21 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHIP OF FOOLS WITH COMPERE ALAN SEAMAN Sat 21 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT LINE-UP TBC Sat 21 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ROB BECKETT Sat 21 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JEREMY HARDY Sat 21 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

ROMESH RANGANATHAN Sun 22 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove



Theatre

SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME A nostalgic feelgood journey which transports audiences back to the early 1960s, Mon 16 - Sat 21 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE DIARY OF A HOUNSLOW GIRL A comic story of dreams, aspirations and coming of age, Tues 17 May, The Drum, Birmingham

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT Four actors take on over 20 characters in this madcap dash around the world with Henry Pulling, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May, Malvern Theatres

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT X Factor winner Joe McElderry dons the coveted coat in Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's sparkling family musical, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



SUITABLE FOR SHOP WORK Worcester Repertory Theatre Company present the world premiere of Chris Jaeger's brand new play about four young people leaving school to face the world, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May, Swan Theatre, Worcester

INVINCIBLE The Original Theatre Company and The Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds present a brand new production of Torben Betts' smash-hit comedy, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May, The REP, Birmingham

THE WIZARD OF OZ Amateur produc-

tion presented by Coleshill Operatic Society, Tues 17 - Sat 21 May, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SCOTTISH FALSETTO SOCK PUPPET THEATRE: SHAKESPEARE 'Earth's funniest footwear' return with a brand new show of songs, sketches, socks and violence, taking on The Bard Of Avon himself. Howl at their Hamlet, roar at their Romeo And Juliet, and peer into their Coriolanus, Thurs 19 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

WHOLE LOTTA SHAKIN' Thurs 19 May, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

GAMES AND THRONES Playbox present an epic new work for Shakespeare's 400th anniversary which tells the story of 50 years of bloody English history, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 May, The Dream Factory, Warwick

KING LEAR Don Warrington stars in Shakespeare's brutal portrait of one man's unwinding sanity, Thurs 19 - Sat 28 May, The REP, Birmingham

FORBIDDEN NIGHTS New all-male variety show with full theatre production and explosive choreography, Fri 20 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

TRIBUTE ACTS TheatreState present a boldly honest exploration of father/daughter relationships, Fri 20 May, mac, Birmingham

ROBIN HOOD & HIS MERRY PERSONS (OR THE ART OF COMPROMISE) Musical featuring songs based on those by Gilbert & Sullivan (and Offenbach), with shades of Blackadder and Monty Python. Presented by Worcester Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

LEARNED FRIENDS Startling revelations threaten relationships, careers and the true course of justice in Ginny Davis' courtroom drama, Sun 22 May, Old Shire Hall, Warwick

WONDERWOMAN: THE NAKED TRUTH Notnow Collective address family, parenthood and work-home subjects in a challenging, highly visual and immersive way, Sun 22 - Tues 24 May, mac, Birmingham

Dance

DANCE: SAMPLED A selection of different dance styles, all in one night, performed by some of the world's best dancers - Company Wayne McGregor, Birmingham Royal Ballet, BBC Young Dancer finalist Vidya Patel, world tango champions German Cornejo and Gisela Gallessi from Buenos Aires, and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's Faun. Tues 17 - Wed 18 May Birmingham Hippodrome

THE RICOCHET PROJECT: SMOKE & MIRRORS Poetic acrobatics, contemporary dance, contortion and high-flying feats combine in an exhilarating examination of the current state of America in the pursuit of happiness, Tues 17 - Wed 18 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SANDHYA & SANGACHHADHWAM

Double bill of Indian dance, Thurs 19 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

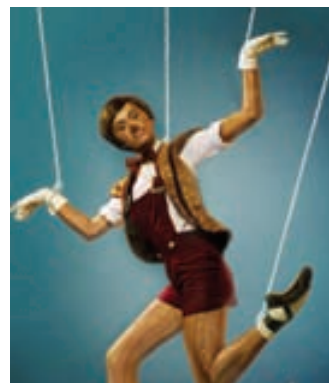
32 RUE VANDENBRANDEN Mesmerising cinematic set design and jaw-dropping physicality combine to create an unforgettable piece of dance theatre that plunges spectators into a foreboding universe of cold, wind and ice, Thurs 19 - Fri 20 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BALLET BC Ballet British Columbia is a unique creation-based company of 17 dancers under the leadership of Artistic Director Emily Molnar. Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, Birmingham Hippodrome



FANTASY IN DANCE The Latham School of Dance's students - aged between three and 18 - take to the stage. Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

PINOCCHIO Ballet Theatre UK present a choreographed staging of the classic family tale, Sat 21 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham



Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

ANOMALISA (15) David Thewlis provides the voice of a self-help author who views everybody as identical until meeting a highly original woman in a Cincinnati hotel. A stop-motion cartoon based on Charlie Kaufman's 2005 play of the same name. Tues 17 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

DHEEPAN (15) 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



Big Fish Little Fish Family Rave, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Sun 22 May

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. Stars Antonythasan Jesuthasan. Foreign language with subtitles. Thurs 19 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

TRUMBO (15) In 1947, Dalton Trumbo (Bryan Cranston) was Hollywood's top screenwriter - until he and other artists were jailed and blacklisted for their political beliefs. Directed by Jay Roach, the film recounts how Dalton used words and wit to win two Academy Awards and expose the absurdity and injustice of the blacklist. Also stars Helen Mirren. Fri 20 - Thurs 26 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE LION KING (U) A young lion prince is cast out of his pride by his cruel uncle, who claims he killed his father. While the uncle rules with an iron fist, the prince grows up beyond the savanna. But when his past comes to haunt him, the prince must decide his fate. Sat 21 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

EYE IN THE SKY (15) 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. Stars Helen Mirren & Aaron Paul. Fri 20 - Mon 23 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa; Sat 21 & Tues 24 May, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton; Sat 21 - Wed 25 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury



NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 20 May, showing at selected cinemas.

THE CALL UP (tbc)

THE DAUGHTER (15)

A HOLOGRAM FOR A KING (tbc)

THE SILENT STORM (15)

SING STREET (15)

IVAN'S CHILDHOOD (12a)

JOURNEY TO THE SHORE (tbc)

Events

EARLY YEARS: POPULAR TRACTOR

STORIES An opportunity for children aged between one and four and their families to explore the tractor exhibition using action-packed stories and Makaton signs, Wed 18 May, Coventry Transport Museum

PARKLAND BIRD WALK WITH IAN KING

Join the Assistant Ranger on a walk around the park and listen to the morning bird song, Wed 18 May, Croome Park, Worcestershire

WARWICK MAY RACING CARNIVAL Wed 18 May, Warwick Racecourse

EXPLORE AVONCROFT: THE FLORA & FAUNA OF AVONCROFT MUSEUM

A guided tour around the museum, including its ponds, orchard and wildflower meadow, Thurs 19 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

MEDIEVAL BANQUET

A medieval three-course banquet, with music and entertainment from The Grinnigogs, Fri 20 - Sat 21 May, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Worcestershire

WALK WITH PRIDE: FROM GUNS TO GRAFFITI

A five-mile walk through historic Aston, Digbeth and Highgate, Fri 20 - Mon 30 May, Birmingham LGBT Centre

PORSCHE CLUB GB Sat 21 May, Coventry Transport Museum

VICTORIAN MUSIC Sat 21 May, Chedhams Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

RACE, ROCK 'N' RIDE Brand new and on two wheels, a weekend filled to the brim with anything and every-

thing from the world of motorcycles, Sat 21 - Sun 22 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

DOWN UNDER LIVE Sat 21 - Sun 22 May, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

AZTEC WEEKEND Travel 1,000 years back in time to the Aztec jungle. Explore the origins of the cocoa bean and uncover the mysteries of Emperor Montezuma, Sat 21 - Sun 22 May, Cadbury World, Bournville

BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUZ SIGHTSEEING TOUR

Beginning at the commercial heart of the city at the end of Colmore Row, Victoria Square, this popular tour includes the city's major buildings of architectural interest including St Philip's and St Chad's Cathedrals, the Victoria Law Courts, the Town Hall, the Council House, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and Library, Sat 21 - Sun 22 May, Birmingham City Centre

PHOENIX SPRINT TRIATHLON Sun 22 May, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

HANGING BASKETS WORKSHOP Create and take home your very own hanging basket, Sun 22 May, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

BIG FISH LITTLE FISH FAMILY RAVE Sun 22 May, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham

PIZZA MAKING AT SAREHOLE MILL Join the millers at Sarehole Mill for a fun and informal baking class. Learn to make dough, see the mill in action and create and bake your own delicious pizza, Sun 22 May, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

THE BRITISH TARANTULA SOCIETY EXHIBITION Sun 22 May, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS - CELLAR Go below the stairs to the cellars underneath the court, Sun 22 May, Witley Court, Worcestershire

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS - SERVICE AREA & STABLE YARD Exploring the stable yard, where the downstairs staff lived and worked in Witley's heyday, Sun 22 May, Witley Court, Worcestershire

BEAUTYUK 2016 Sun 22 - Mon 23 May, NEC, Birmingham

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WHAT'S ON MAY & JUNE



The Wizard of Oz
Wednesday 4 - Saturday 7 May



Tribhangi Dance Theatre in Sukuma
Monday 9 May, 7.30pm



Celtic Feet
Saturday 28 May, 7.30pm



Fairport Convention
Sunday 29 May, 7.30pm



King Arthur and the Inglewood
Friday 3 June, 11am & 2.30pm



The Whitney Houston Theatre Show
Saturday 11 June, 7.30pm



Sister Act
Wednesday 15 - Saturday 18 June

To find out more and to book tickets:

www.albanytheatre.co.uk
Box Office: 024 7699 8964
53 The Butts, Coventry CV1 3BH

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Thursday 2 June 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Pinocchio by Ballet Theatre UK
Ballet Theatre UK presents this beautiful show based on the much-loved children's tale of Pinocchio and his adventures.
£18 (£17, £12 child)



Saturday 4 June 11am & 2pm
The Chris & Pui Show
The much-loved Chris & Pui return with their new show for youngsters. Meet them afterwards in the Studio.
£12 adult, £10 child



Monday 6 June 7pm - 9pm for 5 weeks
Theo's Comedy Skool
This is a fabulous way to develop your stage presence and it's a laugh! Course includes live comedy show finale in July.
Course cost is £80



Friday 10 June 8pm
All Folk'd Up
Introducing the most exciting young Irish band to appear in a generation on their first ever UK theatre tour!
£17.50



Friday 24 June 8.15pm
Steve Hall
Comedian Steve Hall, plus support from Jack Barry, Steve Hall who is one third of comedy trio We Are Klang and writes for Russell Howard and more.
£10



Thursday 7 July 7.30pm
A Night In Venice
Glittering Opera extravaganza from the producers of Magical Mozart and A Viennese Strauss Gala.
Starring Jonathan Amell of G4 fame.
£21

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Miranda Gore Browne



Luis Troyano

www.greatbritishfoodfestival.com

Gigs

MOTHERS, GLOBELAMP & HOOPLA BLUE Mon 23 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CATE CODY TRIO Tues 24 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

PUBLIC IMAGE LTD Tues 24 May, The Copper Rooms, Coventry

G-EAZY Tues 24 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

ONE AND ONLY DIRECTION Tues 24 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SLOW CLUB Tues 24 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

OWINY SIGOMA BAND Tues 24 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DIET CIG Wed 25 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LUKE CONCANNON Wed 25 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

HOMESHAKES Wed 25 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NIGHT BEATS Wed 25 May, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

BARLUATH Wed 25 May, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

PENTATONIX Wed 25 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JOOLS HOLLAND & HIS RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA Wed 25 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MORTIUS + SERAPH SIN + DEADFILMSTAR Thurs 26 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SAMM HENSHAW Thurs 26 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LUKAS GRAHAM Thurs 26 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN - CARPENTERS TRIBUTE Thurs 26 May, The Core Theatre, Solihull

IN THIS MOMENT Thurs 26 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE PRIMITIVES Thurs 26 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TIA MCGRAFF Thurs 26 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

THE PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA Fri 27 May, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore

BLAKE - SONGS FROM STAGE & SCREEN Fri 27 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE DARKHORSE Fri 27 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

KATIESFEST 2016 Fri 27 - Sun 29 May, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

BOOGIE NIGHTS LIVE WITH ABBA TRIBUTE & DJ ROB Fri 27 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

DR FEELGOOD + EDDIE & THE HOT RODS Fri 27 May, The Robin, Bilston

WHITE LUNG Fri 27 May, The Flapper, B'ham

FETTY WAP Fri 27 May, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CHE CHESTERMAN PLUS 4TH IMPACT Fri 27 May, Bedworth Civic Hall

MTV CRASHES COVENTRY FEATURING KAISER CHIEFS, TOM ODELL, SIGALA, FLEUR EAST & CHASE & STATUS Fri 27 - Sat 28 May, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

'OLLY MURS & BRUNO MARS' WITH ROBBIE GLENN Fri 27 May, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire

THE BEE GEES STORY - NIGHTS ON BROADWAY Fri 27 May, Malvern Cube

THE NEIL DIAMOND STORY Fri 27 May, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

GORDON LIGHTFOOT Fri 27 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FELL OUT BOY Fri 27 May, Kasbah, Coventry

THE NEIL DIAMOND STORY Fri 27 May, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

SHOWADDYWADDY Fri 27 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

DRESSED TO KILL - THE TRIBUTE TO KISS Fri 27 May, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

SEAFRET + SPECIAL GUESTS Fri 27 May, Ort Cage, Birmingham

MORETALICA Sat 28 May, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

WENDY JAMES Sat 28 May, Kasbah, Coventry

CIARAN CLIFFORD & THE HIGH DRIVES Sat 28 May, Irish Centre, Birmingham

YOUNG CULTURE PRES-

ENTS TROJAN SOUNDSYSTEM 'DEX 'N' FX' Sat 28 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE ECLIPSE Sat 28 May, The Empire, Coventry

THE LEGENDS OF REGGAE FESTIVAL 2016 Sat 28 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FIRE RED EMPRESS Sat 28 May, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DIZZY LIZZY Sat 28 May, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

DREAMING OF KATE - KATE BUSH EXPERIENCE Sat 28 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ALEXANDER O'NEAL Sat 28 May, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

ANNETTE GREGORY SINGS & CELEBRATES ELLA FITZGERALD SONGBOOK Sat 28 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY Sat 28 May, The Core Theatre, Solihull

FLARES PARTY BAND Sat 28 May, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE BOOTLEG SHADOWS Sat 28 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

INTIMATE EVENING WITH MAVERICK SABRE Sun 29 May, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

BC CAMPLIGHT Sun 29 May, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FAIRPORT CONVENTION Sun 29 May, Albany Theatre, Coventry

MAGCON Sun 29 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

MAGNUM Mon 30 May, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

LEEROY STAGGER Mon 30 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

BONNIE RAITT Mon 30 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HANDS LIKE HOUSES + I THE MIGHTY + DEAD! + THE GOSPEL YOUTH Tues 31 May, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE HUNNA Tues 31 May, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

HAUS Tues 31 May, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JOEL SAVOY, JESSE LEGE AND CAJUN COUNTRY REVIVAL Tues 31 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by W. Harris, JS Bach, Messiaen, A. Hollins & J Ireland, Mon 23 May, Birmingham Town Hall

SIR ANDRIS SCHIFF WITH THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF EUROPE Programme comprises Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No2 in D minor, Hebrides Overture & Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor, Mon 23 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN WITH TAMSIN WALEY-COHEN Featuring David Curtis (conductor). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams & Mendelssohn, Wed 25 May, Malvern Theatres

CBISO TCHAIKOVSKY'S FIFTH Featuring Alexander Vedernikov (conductor) & Tasmin Little (violin). Programme includes works by Glazunov & Tchaikovsky, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: IN A STRANGE LAND Programme includes works by William Byrd, Gesualdo, Lobo & Tallis, Thurs 26 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

BLAKE Re-inspired by the classic trio harmonies of The Three Tenors, The Bee Gees and Boyz-II-Men, the 3 Brit-Award-winners perform exclusive songs from their fifth studio album, released UK-wide this autumn, Fri 27 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MILOS KARADAGLIC IN RECITAL Featuring an eclectic programme of works ranging from Bach to The Beatles, Fri 27 May, Birmingham Town Hall

BBC PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Ben Gernon (conductor) & Kathryn Rudge (mezzo soprano). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Elgar & Beethoven, Sat 28 May, Malvern Theatres

FINAL YEAR RECITALISTS Line-up tbc, Tues 31 May, The Bramall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

EDDIE IZZARD Mon 23 May, mac, Birmingham

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 24 May, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

MAX AND IVAN Wed 25 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



FAT PENGUIN COMEDY Wed 25 May, The Patrick Kavanagh, Birmingham

MOCK THE FLOCK Wed 25 May, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

MARK NELSON, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON PLUS COMIC TBC Thurs 26 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, CIAMH MCDONNELL & CHRIS TURNER Fri 27 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

SUZI RUFFELL, ALEX BOARDMAN, MARK NELSON & CHRIS MCCAUSLAND Fri 27 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, CIAMH MCDONNELL & COMIC TBC Sat 28 May, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

CHRIS MCCAUSLAND, JAMES ALDERSON Sat 28 May, Coventry Showcase

SUZI RUFFELL, MARK NELSON, ALEX BOARDMAN & CHRIS MCCAUSLAND Sat 28 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

THE SOUND OF MUSIC New production of the timeless family musical. Lucy O'Byrne, from BBC One's The Voice, plays Maria. Gray O'Brien stars as Captain Von Trapp, Tues 24 - Sat 28 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

JACKIE THE MUSICAL Brand new 'fun & feisty' musical featuring original choreography by Arlene Phillips. Janey Dibley, Graham Bickley, Nicholas Bailey & Mike James star, Tues 24 - Sat 28 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

ROY HUDD'S VERY OWN MUSIC HALL Join Roy for a sparkling evening of songs and stories from his extraordinary career, Wed 25 May, Malvern Theatres

HALFWAY TO PARADISE Musical charting the rise to fame of Billy Fury, a shy young boy from Liverpool who became one of Britain's best-loved rock stars. Timeless hits featured in the show include I Will, Jealousy, It's Only Make Believe and, of course, Halfway To Paradise, Wed 25 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

OPERA FOR THE UNKNOWN WOMAN Melanie Wilson & Fuel present a bold re-imagining of the operatic form, weaving together theatre, contemporary classical music, electronics and film, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

TINA T'URNER: TEA LADY & FRIENDS Join musical character comedian Tracey Collins for a high-octane evening of hit songs, off-the-wall characters, quick changes and the best tea in town, Thurs 26 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

HAIR PEACE Victoria Melody uses her boundless energy to take audiences from the temples of India to the shopping malls of Russia, Thurs 26 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AMAZING MAY AND JUNE... SPECIAL FESTIVAL MARKETS

WORCESTER BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY MARKET



Set in an idyllic setting along the river and South Quay in Worcester offering a random mix of traders selling a wide variety of goods of every description.

Find this market:
The Quay Worcester Mon 2nd & 30th May, 10am-4pm

WORCESTER SPRING FESTIVAL



This is one of our classic events held in Worcester High Street with traders specialising in Art, Craft, Vintage, Collectables and unusual goods as well as food & drink.

Find this market:
High Street Worcester 20th & 21st June, 9am-5pm

STAFFORD UP-MARKET AND FOOD EVENT



Held in the Market Square in the centre of Stafford. A brilliant UpMarket with traders specialising in Street food or fine foods, farm fresh, home-made, art, craft, vintage, charity day, and all speciality lines.

Find this market:
Market Square, Stafford Sat 29th May, 9am - 5pm

HIMLEY STEAM AND COUNTRY FAIR



In conjunction with the market event at the famous Himley Hall, there will be a host of Family Entertainment, Vintage Cars, Steam Trains & Fairground Organs. Traders selling fine food, street food, Fashion, Arts, Crafts and all unusual goods.

Find this market:
Himley Hall & Park Sun 5th June, 10am-4pm

ROYAL MARKET & FOOD FESTIVAL



We are very excited to be hosting this fabulous market in celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday. Enjoy this epic Street Party and food festival in a fantastic location, definitely an event not to be missed. Family entertainment, Live Music in the bandstand, dog shows and fun-fair and lots more will be happening throughout this three-day event, including Street Food, fine foods, farmers, artists, crafts, Collectables and all unusual goods.

Find this market:
Mary Stovers Park, Stourbridge Fri 11th June 2pm-9pm, Sat 11th June 10am-9pm & Sun 12th June 10am-5pm



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A great day out this May

With a theatrical Shakespeare exhibition, 'Capability' Brown walks around the lawns, a woodland play area and family activities - this is the perfect day out for everyone.

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- Museums at Night (Fri 13 May)
- May Half Term Activities (Sat 28 May - Sun 5 June)



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Cats The Musical, Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 30 May - Sat 4 June

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM THEATRE MRES: LITTLE MISSES Four individuals reflect on incidents which have changed their lives forever, Thurs 26 May, mac, Birmingham

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL Linda Nolan, Rebecca Wheatley (Casualty) and Cheryl Fergison (EastEnders) star in a brand new musical parody featuring a host of one-liners about hot flushes, memory loss and pop classics, Thurs 26 May, Malvern Theatre

LA BOHEME Swansea City Opera present Puccini's shimmering concoction of soaring vocal lines and lush orchestral melodies, Thurs 26 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE QUIET HOUSE Gareth Farr's highly anticipated new play explores fertility and the taboo that surrounds it, Thurs 26 May - Sat 4 Jun, The REP, Birmingham

THE ALCHEMIST Polly Findlay directs Ben Jonson's comedy about human folly, Thurs 26 May - Sat 6 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

EAST END CABARET Raucous and risqué musical comedy show, Fri 27 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

GOING VIRAL Storytelling, playful comedy and performance lecture from Daniel Bye, Fri 27 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MUSICALS, MOVIES AND MAGICAL MEMORIES Fri 27 - Sat 28 May, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

MISSION IMPUDSEYBLE Britain's newest secret agent is off the leash as the Britain's Got Talent champions take to the stage, Fri 27 - Sat 28 May, Malvern Theatre

YETIS DEMON DIVE BAR Evening of naughty songs and hilarious characters from the London Cabaret award-winners, Sat 28 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

FERTILITY FEST Bringing together 20 of the country's leading writers, visual artists, theatre makers, film directors and composers for a day of performance, discussion and debate on one of the most important scientific and societal developments of modern times, Sat 28 May, The REP, Birmingham

DINOSAUR ZOO Bringing a plethora of prehistoric creatures to the stage, this unique experience enables audiences 'to interact with lifelike dinosaurs in an engaging live show', Sat 28 - Sun 29 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Blue Orange Arts presents its version of Lewis Carroll's classic tale, Sat 28 May - Sat 11 Jun, The Blue Orange

Theatre, Birmingham

GYLES BRANDRETH - WORD POWER! Sat 28 May, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

BANGARANG Keith Shebada stars in a fiery comedy set in Princess Street, downtown Kingston, Sun 29 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE CURIOUS ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO Lyngo Theatre bring one of the best-known children's classics to life, Sun 29 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DAUGHTER OF THE FOREST Komola Collective present a play based on a traditional Bangladeshi tale about the impact of manmade disasters on the surrounding wildlife and its local people, Sun 29 May, The Drum, Birmingham

CATS Andrew Lloyd Webber's record-breaking musical returns, direct from the London Palladium, Mon 30 May - Sat 4 Jun, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE GIANT'S LOO ROLL Bouncy musical adaptation of Nicholas Allan's much-loved book, Tues 31 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

BRIDESHEAD REVISITED English Touring Theatre and York Theatre Royal present the world premiere of Evelyn Waugh's classic novel, Tue 31 May - Sat 4 Jun, Malvern Theatres

SHADOWLANDS Stephen Boxer, Tony Slattery & Amanda Ryan star in a stage version of William Nicholson's TV drama and subsequent film of the same name, Tue 31 May - Sat 4 Jun, The REP, Birmingham

Dance

PASHA: IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU The Strictly star hits the road once again with a brand new show in which he'll be joined by spectacular dancers and guests, including Anya Garnis, Tues 24 - Wed 25 May, The Core, Solihull

NEW WORK NIGHTS: DANCE Featuring headline act Sonia Sabri Dance Company, as well as developing work from other West Midlands dancers and choreographers, Thurs 26 May, Old Rep, Birmingham

PASHA: IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU The Strictly star hits the road once again with a brand new show in which he'll be joined by spectacular dancers and guests, including Anya Garnis, Thurs 26 - Fri 27 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE LAST TANGO New choreographed show from Strictly stars Vincent Simone & Flavia Cacace, Thu 26 - Sat 28 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

MOTIONHOUSE & NO FIT CIRCUS: BLOCK

Exciting new collaboration which showcases what happens when dance and circus collide, Fri 27 - Sat 28 May, mac, Birmingham

CELTIC FEET Internationally acclaimed show featuring exhilarating Irish dance accompanied by the Lisa Murphy Irish Band, Sat 28 May, Albany Theatre, Coventry

Film

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 27 May, showing at selected cinemas.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR (tbc)

DEMOLITION (15)

SON OF SAUL (tbc)

See Film section for previews on p38

Events

EARLY YEARS: GO MESSY Farmyard-inspired messy play time, Wed 25 May, Coventry Transport Museum

AN EVENING WITH JACQUELINE WILSON Thurs 26 May, Birmingham Town Hall

GARDEN TOURS Discover the fabulous flora and fauna at Witley with one of the expert gardeners, Fri 27 May, Witley Court, Worcestershire

KERBSIDE KITCHEN Ten different street food trucks & stalls, plus an ever-changing selection of craft beers, ciders, wines and cocktails, Fri 27 May, Fargo Village, Coventry

FIA/FIM MAIN EVENT 2016 Santa Pod's flagship Drag Racing event, featuring over 250 of Europe's finest teams, Fri 27 - Mon 30 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

MAY HALF TERM TRACTOR FACTORY Show off your knowledge of tractors and use recycled card and tactile materials to make a model, Sat 28 May, Coventry Transport Museum

TWISTED BARREL BREWERY TOURS 2016 Meet the team behind Twisted Barrel Ale on this exclusive tour, learn how the brewing process works and sample the ales and food, Sat 28 May, Fargo Village, Coventry

HOLD A SCARY BEAST PLUS CRAFTS Be brave and hold a cockroach, spider or snake, Sat 28 May, Croome Park, Worcestershire

UGLY BUG BINGO TRAIL Discover what bugs are lurking in the undergrowth at Croome and mark off each one. A full house means Bingo and a prize, Sat 28 May, Croome Park, Worcestershire

FAMILY WORKSHOP: HAMLET Sat 28 May, Clore Learning Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

DESIGN YOUR OWN THEATRE SET Get crafty by creating your own mini-theatre set in a box. Imagine, design and make a stage, background and actors for a Shakespearean play, Sat 28 May - Fri 3 Jun, Compton Verney

Gallery, Stratford-upon-Avon

FROM THE FIRE Studio ceramics from the Midland Potters Association, Sat 28 May - Sun 5 Jun, Selly Manor, Birmingham

SHAKESPEARE OUTDOOR GAMES Play in the park and discover new games such as Pinecone Skittles & Knuckle Bones, Sat 28 May - Sun 5 Jun, Compton Verney Gallery, Stratford-upon-Avon

DIG FOR VICTORY TRAIL Explore the gardens and learn more about the Dig For Victory campaign, Sat 28 May - Sun 5 Jun, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

RHINO WEEK Celebrating all things rhino, and raising funds for rhino conservation, Sat 28 May - Sun 5 Jun, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Worcestershire

GAYDON FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT Hundreds of vehicles take part in this great family show, Sun 29 May, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW Including up to 600 vintage and classic cars, American, kit & custom, motorcycles and commercial vehicles, Sun 29 - Mon 30 May, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

AN ELIZABETHAN DAY OUT A celebration of the golden age of Queen Elizabeth I, Sun 29 - Mon 30 May, Kenilworth Castle

ELIZABETHAN LIVING HISTORY EVENT The house is brought to life with re-enactments of Elizabethan life, costumes, music and dancing, Sun 29 - Mon 30 May, Harvington Hall, Worcestershire

A VERY VICTORIAN DAY OUT Take a trip back to Witley's Victorian heyday, Sun 29 - Mon 30 May, Witley Court, Worcestershire

BUSHCRAFT DAY Learn den-making skills, how to build a fire safely and how to read a compass, Mon 30 May, Croome Park, Pershore, Worcestershire

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY A traditional family fun day featuring animal tales, Mon 30 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

LET'S ROCK! Join in the Building Stones Roadshow and revel in the rock and stone activities. Make your own clay dinosaurs and snake mobiles, meet Vernon the life-sized Velociraptor and follow the building stones trail, Mon 30 May, Worcestershire County Museum, Worcester

PARKLAND BIRD WALK WITH IAN KING Join the Assistant Ranger on a walk around the park and listen to the morning bird song, Tues 31 May, Croome Park, Pershore, Worcs

MONARCH MASK MAKING Make a mask of one of the famous Tudor kings or queens to take home with you, Tues 31 May, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SPRING HALF TERM Animal-themed activities suitable for children aged between five and 12, Tues 31 May - Thu 2 Jun, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

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Friday 20th May 2016 **£54.50** per person

PORTOBELLO MARKET, LONDON

Thursday 12th May 2016 **£66.50** per person

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Saturday 21st May **£48.50** per person

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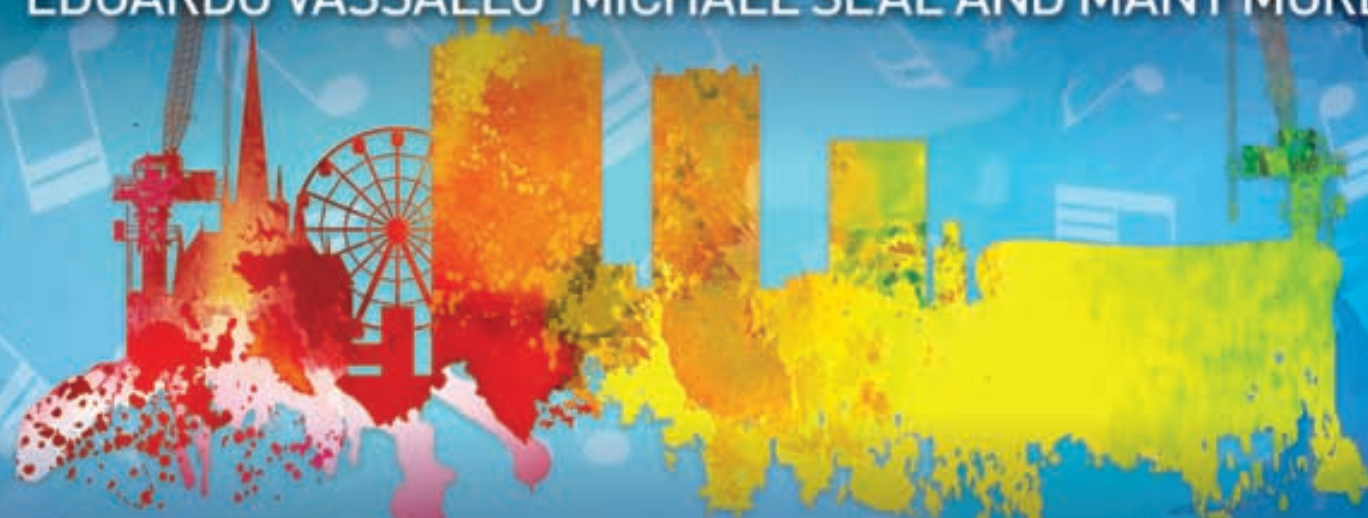
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