

# THE MIDLANDS ESSENTIAL ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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**What's On**

**MAGAZINE GROUP**



Dirty Dancing - smash-hit musical arrives in Wolverhampton. Read the preview on page 25

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## Exciting line-up for comedy festival

Performances by top comedians and an impressive programme of special events awaits visitors to next month's Birmingham Comedy Festival. The ten-day event, which takes place at numerous city venues, will feature comedian/author Mark Watson, Irish funnyman Tommy Tiernan, rising star James Acaster and comedian/actor Doc Brown, as well as some of the region's finest home-grown talent, including Andy Robinson, Mrs Barbara Nice and Old Joint Stock favourites Foghorn Improv. A revival of the cult radio series *The Goon Show*, utilising two scripts penned by Spike Milligan, also features, as does the Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award, screenings of classic Laurel And Hardy films, and an exhibition by artist Steve Lilly. Check out the festival's full listings at [www.bhamcomfest.co.uk](http://www.bhamcomfest.co.uk)



Tommy Tiernan

## Birmingham Town Hall is the place for major new project

A collaboration between Birmingham video designer Matthew J Watkins and Mercury Prize folk artists Sam Lee and Becky & Rachel Unthank takes place at Birmingham Town Hall this month. Commemorating the First World War, *A Time And Place* sees Sam, Becky and Rachel perform as part of an eleven-strong line-up, and is a collaborative presentation by sounduk, Barbican and Opera North in partnership with Birmingham Town Hall. The show features an original repertoire from the era, presented alongside new material influenced by personal stories, and arrangements to the First World War poetry of Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen and Ivor Gurney. *A Time And Place: Musical Meditations On The First World War* makes its debut at Birmingham Town Hall on 17 September, ahead of performances at London's Barbican and Leeds' Howard Assembly Room.



Sam Lee with Becky and Rachel Unthank



## Celebrating the Black Country's heritage...

A major festival celebrating the Black Country's unrivalled manufacturing heritage both past and present opens in the region this month. Black Country Echoes, taking place from September to December, comprises an extensive programme of events and exhibitions at over twenty-five venues across Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall. The project is the result of a collaboration between local authorities, voluntary arts, and community and business sector organisations, and builds on the success of the partnership's Home Of Metal project in 2011. For further information, visit, [www.blackcountryechoes.org.uk](http://www.blackcountryechoes.org.uk)

## Tuesday is Bluesday...

A new event showcasing the best of the region's blues bands launches this month at The Asylum 2 in Birmingham's Hockley district. Taking inspiration from the heady days of the city's Henry's Blues House, Nothing But The Blues will provide a performance platform for today's local bluesmen. Acts already confirmed to appear include The 58's Blues Band (23 September), The Grey Goose Blues Band (30 September) and People's Republic Of Mercia (7 October). Visit [www.theasylumvenue.co.uk](http://www.theasylumvenue.co.uk) for further information

## Children's literary event remembers 1914

Organisers behind Shrewsbury's Children's Bookfest have announced they're to present a series of events each November between 2014 and 2018 to commemorate and remember all those who fought in the First World War. The initiative has been made possible thanks to a partnership with the Imperial War Museum and the Shropshire First World War Community Consortium. Funding has come from various sources, including Arts Council England and the Armed Forces Covenant, with all events having a strong literary connection. A First World War Day School is the opening pres-

entation in the series, taking place at Shrewsbury Sixth Form College on 15 November. This is followed by a performance of *The Best Christmas Present In The World*, featuring Michael Morpurgo and Virginia McKenna, at Theatre Severn on 16 November.

## Mouthwatering photography in Shropshire

A world-renowned photography competition is to exhibit over sixty shortlisted images as part of this month's Ludlow Food Festival. Pink Lady® Food Photographer Of The Year is a global celebration of food photography by both amateurs and professionals, and only travels to a few venues outside London each year. The tour was launched a couple of years ago as a result of requests from food festivals and galleries up and down the country. Pink Lady® has proved so popular that some of the winning images from the 2014 Food In The Street and Food For Sale categories were displayed on the red carpet at the European premiere of the film *Chef* in June.

Pink Lady® always features a number of high-profile food experts on its judging panel - musician-turned-cheesemaker Alex James and Antonio Carluccio have both played their parts in recent years. Pink Lady® will show at Ludlow's Assembly Rooms until 5 October.



## Southside to showcase international video art

An exhibition of international video art is to be showcased in Birmingham's Southside district in November. Presented by Hippodrome Plus in partnership with the city's Ikon Gallery, About Town (13 to 16 November) will feature a variety of night screenings by artists from the UK and abroad. A combination of large-scale installations will transform Gallan Car Park on Hurst Street into a large indoor landscape, complete with moving imagery and ambient sound. Birmingham Hippodrome's foyer areas, staircases and landings, meanwhile, will become home to works by Adel Abdessemed and Kelly Mark. Also featuring as part of About Town are Beat Streuli's *New Street* (2013), Gillian Wearing's *Broad Street* (2000), Oliver Beer's film *Pay And Display* (2011) and Cornelia Parker's *Chomskian Abstract* (2007).



Beat Streuli's *New Street* (2013)

## Actor voices support for mac birmingham

Acclaimed actor and mac birmingham supporter Adrian Lester has voiced his support for the venue's planned weekend of creative activities this month. mac's Open Weekend (6 - 7 September) has been made possible by the generous players of People's Postcode Lottery, and will enable visitors to participate in an array of free events and taster sessions. Lester, who spent his formative years involved with Birmingham Youth Theatre and the Children's Opera Company, recently spoke about his great memories of the centre and the dedicated people who work there, stating: "I know I wouldn't be where I am today without the opportunities and confidence that mac offered me."



## Miranda Sings in Wolves

YouTube sensation Miranda Sings is to perform in the region as part of a short UK tour later this year. The brainchild of American comedian, actress and professional singer Colleen Ballinger, Miranda has received over sixty million YouTube viewings, with fans loving her quirky look, off-key singing, and misinterpretation of current events. Miranda stops off at Wulfrun Hall on 5 November, entertaining her fans with a blend of comedy, hit songs, magic tricks and dramatic readings of hate mail. Colleen Ballinger will be accompanying Miranda on tour.



As *The World Tipped* by Wired Aerial Theatre which performed as part of Birmingham's 4Squares Weekender in 2013  
Photo credit: Mark McNulty

## Arts organisations commission culture survey

A major online survey to assess what culture means to people in their everyday lives takes place on 25 October. Entitled *24 Hour Culture*, the survey aims to discover how people experience arts and culture in the West Midlands, with participants from across the region encouraged to fill in a short questionnaire and divulge what cultural activities they've taken part in during the twenty-four-hour period leading up to completing the survey.

The survey has been commissioned by twenty-two of the West Midlands' leading arts organisations, including the Royal Shakespeare Company, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Coventry's Belgrade Theatre. It's hoped that the findings will inform arts policy in forthcoming years, both by the organisations themselves and by local authority and government. Joanna Reid, Director at Belgrade Theatre, said of the initiative: "We have an amazing diversity of cultural life here in the West Midlands. Our hope is that the *24 Hour Cultural Survey* will help people to value the part that arts and culture already plays in their life, rather like how the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch Survey has made many people appreciate the bird life in their gardens. We hope that by valuing arts and culture, they will want to protect it and participate more in it." The survey's findings will be analysed by experts from the Royal Shakespeare Company's Audience Insight team, and will be made public before the end of 2014.

### IN BRIEF

#### The Russians are coming

The Central Band of the Belarus Armed Forces will be marching into the Midlands region later this year, performing at Redditch's Palace Theatre on 24 November ahead of taking part in the Birmingham International Tattoo at the city's National Indoor Arena (29 to 30 November). The band is appearing in a music and dance extravaganza entitled *Russian Spectacular*, which also features special guest soloists from The Bolshoi and Dancers from The Belarussian National Folk Dance Academy.



## New gallery dedicated to Staffordshire Hoard

A new space dedicated to the fascinating story of the Staffordshire Hoard is to open at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery in October. Featuring hands-on displays and hundreds of pieces from the Hoard, the new gallery will allow visitors to learn more about the treasure, its history, and the ongoing conservation techniques used to unlock its secrets today.

Youngsters visiting the gallery will have access to microscopes and the unusual tools that a conservator uses to work with precious objects. Traditional games, dressing-up opportunities and storytelling take place in the site's Mead Hall, offering an insight into Anglo-Saxon England and the living conditions of a seventh century lord and warriors.

Commenting on the new gallery, Ellen McAdam, Director of Birmingham Museums, said: "The Staffordshire Hoard is one of Birmingham's most popular collections, and this new gallery will give visitors an even greater access to this unique find. Last year alone, over one hundred thousand people from across the world came to see the Hoard at the museum, and we look forward to welcoming many more visitors in the years to come."



“ I'd like to get my hand into Ed Miliband and give him a personality ”



# Paul Zerdin

bringing his sponge friends to a theatre near you...

**Citing Sesame Street and The Muppet Show as his early inspiration, ventriloquist Paul Zerdin has a wide appeal, presenting an act which blends humour, cuteness and cheekiness in equal measure via his affable sponge characters, Sam, Baby and Albert. In between providing a huge dollop of laughs in the Birmingham Hippodrome's pantomimes - Paul's back at the venue this Christmas - he's taking to the road with his No Strings tour. What's On finds out more...**

**So, tell us how you first got into puppetry.**

I used to watch Sesame Street and then The Muppet Show. I remember getting a teddy bear and I cut the back open, took all the stuffing out and put my hand into the mouth and made a puppet out of it. I'd been given some puppet marionettes by a friend of the family and we built a puppet theatre. My family all recorded the voices with me. I started doing that for friends' birthday parties about the age of twelve. I was interested in ventriloquism but I didn't know how to do it properly. I wanted to be a magician first and foremost. I forgot about the puppetry initially and became a magician when I left school.

**Do you come from a showbiz family?**

My father went to RADA and still works as a freelancer. He was on the BBC World Service. My mum does talks on her showbiz career; she was a presenter on television and radio. My sister's a journalist, too. I was always going to do something a bit 'starry'.

**Tell us about your very early performances...**

I used to sit in the audience of Paul Daniels' shows as a kid and watch shows being filmed. They had guest acts on from all over the world; some amazing acts from Vegas. The puppet thing I grew out of. I couldn't see myself doing that long-term, whereas magic... you can do 'close-up magic' and show people card tricks or do an illusion show on stage. I did shows at school. Normally someone would recite a poem, sing a song or do a tap dance, but I levitated my sister! I got an agent when I left school, but she had lots of magicians on her roster and told me I needed something different in order to stand out. So I started learning ventriloquism properly. I got a puppet built, and did a bit of Tommy Cooper-style comedy magic and some gags with the puppet. .

**When was your first professional gig?**

One of my first gigs was close-up magic at

the Savoy Hotel for a private function. I got paid great money. I was seen by a few people who then booked me. I put together an act and my agent got me a gig working on a cruise ship in Scandinavia. I did a family show in the afternoons and a late-night show around midnight, so I was knackered! The ship went between Sweden and Finland, and the sun never sets. That was a party ship, I can tell you! Then I moved on to working-men's clubs; that was the real training. They really let you know what they think of you; you have to get them on your side within thirty seconds.

**When did you discover your talent for voices and mimicry?**

I could always do silly voices. As a kid I was always fascinated by voices and constantly mimicked cartoon characters. I had a short career in radio, too. I did airport information radio; travel information on all the flight times at Heathrow on medium wave. I also had a



mid-morning show on a satellite radio station. I used to do crazy voices, like Donald Duck reading the weather. Sadly, you couldn't understand a word he said, so it didn't quite work out! I only lasted four months.

#### What happened?

I was just finding my feet. I came in one day and I spilt coffee all over the mixing desks and the whole station went off air. At the time, I was gigging and was changing around some of my radio slots to accommodate my magic shows at night. The station boss said, "You're either a DJ or a magician". I replied, "I think you can do both in this day and age". I came in the next day and someone else was doing my show. They'd fired me and hadn't told me!

#### Fast-forward to the present day and The Paul Zerdin Show. Tell us what we can expect?

If you liked the last show, you'll love this one. The old man, Albert, is determined to find me a girlfriend from the audience, so we'll be getting the crowd involved there. Sam has delusions of grandeur, thinking he can enter himself into Britain's Got Talent, and the baby is becoming a rap artist. Throw in some audience participation and a little bit of magic and you've got a truly sponge-based night of comedy. Sam is doing ventriloquism himself too, and has a little dummy of me. I can't wait to test that out and see how it goes down.

#### Do you ever have a temptation to throw your voice in everyday life?

I can be a bit of a prankster. In my act, I talk about how I fool my girlfriend into thinking we've got the latest Sat Nav by pretending to be its voice. I did a hidden camera show for Sky where I did the voice of the lift, telling people to get out, as they were too fat. I also ordered room service in hotel rooms and food in restaurants for me and the puppets. Both of our orders would be taken with some strange looks. Knowing you're being filmed for TV makes it even more fun!

#### Everyone thinks ventriloquists are mad...

I've met a lot of ventriloquists and I think I'd agree! I'll do silly voices at home; pretend to open the cupboard under the stairs and that there's someone in there. I love silly stuff like that. Why not get some laughs at home?

#### How did you go about constructing the characters of your puppets?

Sam was built for a kids' show I used to present on GMTV. I play games with my three-year-old nephew now and observe him. He gives me great ideas for Sam and the baby. I love people-watching generally, so I get a lot of inspiration from that. Sam is basically me; a really, really immature version who gets away with a lot more than I could. The baby is my interpretation of 'if a baby could talk, what would it be like?'. The old man, Albert - my father is turning into him. He's losing his hearing. I'm not taking the piss out of deafness; Albert is deaf and losing his marbles, and we're just trying to find the funny side of that. The puppets are caricatures, which gives me licence to push things further than I otherwise could.

#### People tend to be more cautious today, even comedians. Do you feel we live in a too-sensitive world?

We live in an overly PC-conscious world. You have to be careful, and it's a shame. I'm not saying it's good to say outrageous things, but I do feel we're too sensitive. There's always someone who's going to moan.

#### What do you feel are the major differences between ventriloquism and more traditional stand-up?

I do stand-up sections within the show about being a ventriloquist, to give that real-life element. Ventriloquism is a form of stand-up, but it's just me talking to me. I'm talking to something stuck on my arm. Ventriloquism is a very old tradition, but it's not traditional stand-up; it's kind of like a sitcom. A situation is developing, and out of that will come a joke between myself and the character. I don't do observational stuff; it's about their lives. It's almost like interviewing. Like with Albert; I'm the interviewer but he misunderstands my questions, and that enables me to do jokes about his old age. I'm acting and reacting all in one.

#### You mention presenting your shows almost as a sitcom. Is a television sitcom something you'd like to do?

Yeah, I did a mini-pilot for a production company, and I'm writing quite a grown-up sitcom with a friend of mine for Children's BBC. I have a wife and children in the show, and it's based on my life as a jobbing ventriloquist and all the things I've done. I've flown out to Iraq and Afghanistan to support the troops; you really do get to do the most amazing things. It shows how I balance a family life with that. It's still early days, but it's exciting.

#### Did you watch the recent BBC puppet sitcom, *Mongrels*, about a group of household pets and urban animals?

I didn't see much, but from what I gather it was all puppets, and I think 'all puppets' can be a problem. There needs to be human interaction. The Muppets were very careful with that. Frank Oz, Jim Henson's right-hand man, says the Muppets don't work in a vacuum; there has to be a human there to bounce off. I have animatronic puppets that come alive without me, but you can't have too much of that for too long. For an initial 'wow' it's magic, but you need the extra dynamic with the performer talking to it, so that you have something to connect to.

#### Similarly, what's your take on Broadway and West End smash Avenue Q?

I like Avenue Q because it's something different - a pastiche of Sesame Street. I like it and it's been a massive success.

#### You also worked on the smash-hit feature, *Muppet Treasure Island*. How did that come about and what was it like?

I got the job by accident. I was about to do a tour and had a couple of months before I started. It was after I'd been a kids' TV presenter. A friend of mine was a puppeteer who did Nobby The Sheep on a kids' show called Gimme 5 and I went to see him. I'd edited a showreel and a CV on the off-chance that I could maybe meet one of the bosses and show him my stuff. I was introduced to Kevin Clash, the main Muppet

coordinator who did Elmo and lots of other characters on Sesame Street. He took me into an office and Brian Henson, Jim Henson's son, was there. He asked me if I was any good, and then said, "What're you doing Monday? You're working for us!". That's how I got in. I did a few weeks; they asked me to do more but I couldn't, because I had to do a tour. But it was amazing. I mean, Tim Curry was Long John Silver. You learn a lot about how film works.

#### It must be very different to performing your own show?

Yes, you carry out their orders and do what they want. I spent hours underneath a grassy mound with Gonzo. Your body goes into spasm. My arm never goes above my shoulder in my shows, as my puppets are eye-height; but with the Muppets, everything is above your head and you have to be out of shot. It's a totally different craft. When they shout 'action', you have to give it your all!

#### You're also a festival regular. Do you find audiences at Edinburgh different to other audiences?

There's more of a buzz in Edinburgh, as a lot of the audiences are going from show to show. I've done Montreal, South Africa and Asia, but Edinburgh has a special vibe. You feel different; it's just very exciting. I love doing festivals. I didn't used to, but now I feel you can do things you may not get away with elsewhere, as maybe the audiences are more accepting. They know it's a festival and they know you may be trying out new and different things.

#### One of the most popular parts of your show is when you get audience members on stage to participate. How do you identify who would be ideal guests?

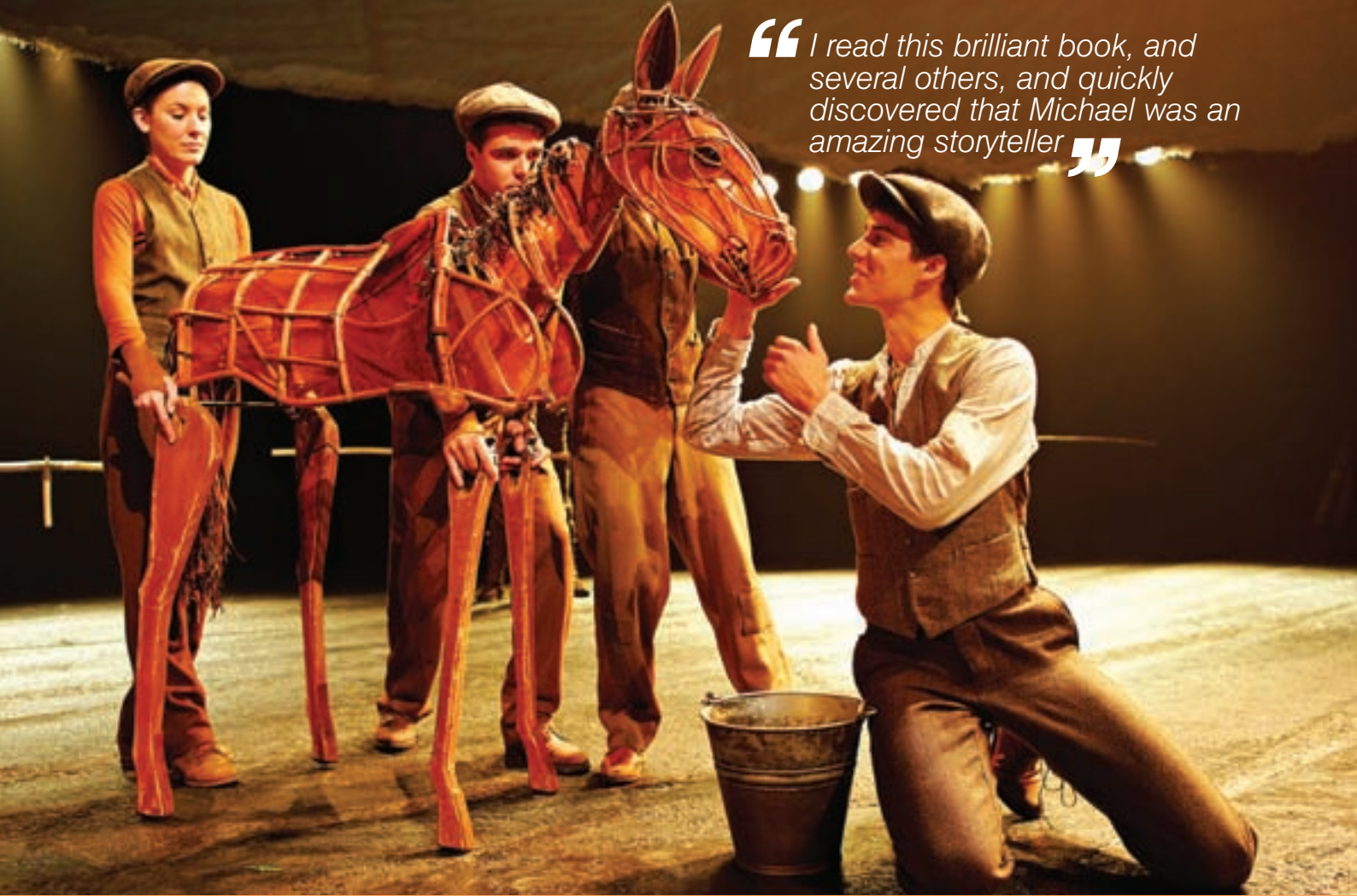
Mostly it's random. A couple who aren't too old to get onto the stage is a help. I'm looking for people who look like they're having a nice time and aren't going to be panic-stricken or freak out when they get on stage. There's nothing worse than seeing people who look like they don't want to be there; that's not fun for anyone. Similarly, you don't want someone who's too much of a show-off, because it looks like they're set up. It's a fine line. I'll ask them if they're up for it; if they're not, I'll leave them alone. You have to invest time in finding the right people, because if you pick an individual or couple who're up for it, the next fifteen minutes are gold. You have to be quick but not too quick, or the whole routine that follows won't work. You learn from experience. I got one guy up on stage and put the mask on him, then backstage he freaked out. He had a stroop and said, "How dare you make me do it. I've come here to watch a show, not be part of it". But that's only happened once. I sent him back to his seat.

#### Finally, if you could control a political figure, which one would you choose and what would you make them say?

I'd like to get my hand into Ed Miliband and give him a personality. I'd give him a better voice too!

Paul Zerdin takes his sponge friends to Lichfield Garrick on 23 September and to The Place, Oakengates, on 10 October.

“ I read this brilliant book, and several others, and quickly discovered that Michael was an amazing storyteller ”



# War Horse returns

Show director Tom Morris talks about the hit production

**The National Theatre's award-winning production of the Michael Morpurgo novel War Horse is making a welcome return to the Midlands this month. But how did a little-known children's story become one of the greatest theatrical productions of the twenty-first century? What's On caught up with the show's co-director, Tom Morris, to find out...**

## **How did the National Theatre's production of War Horse come about?**

The idea for the production came about when two very different trains of thought ended up accidentally crossing over. The first arose from a desire I had to work with Handspring Puppets. I'd seen their work in 1995, in a show at the Battersea Arts Centre, in which there was a completely captivating hyena at the centre of the production. Since then I'd followed their work, thinking that, at some stage, there would be a way to harness this magnetic quality that their puppetry design had in a larger-scale show. When I moved to the National Theatre in 2004, they were on my list of companies to try to collaborate with. In fact, I went to South Africa with Nick Starr (the Executive Director of the National Theatre) to see a show they'd made about a giraffe. We thought we might be able to invite it to play at the National's Lyttleton Theatre. It was a brilliant but flawed production, and we agreed that it wasn't right to invite the show

in its existing state to play at the National. At the centre of it was a giraffe that the audience fell in love with. I was all for trying to re-work that show, re-work the narrative around the giraffe, and create something that we could invite to play at the National. Nick Starr thought it was much too complex and challenging to do this. He suggested it would be better to have an idea with which to start working with Handspring from scratch. And here's the second train of thought. At the same time, the National Theatre's director, Nick Hytner, had asked us to come up with ideas for large-scale shows that would appeal to a mixed audience of adults and children. Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* had been a big hit and was returning to the National for its second Christmas season. Nick was thinking about what might follow it. It had changed the rules about what kind of work might be staged for adults and children, and Nick wanted to build on that. We were reading lots of children's books and, in the course of doing

so, I'd been told about Michael Morpurgo's stories by a director and designer called Julian Crouch. In particular, he told me that Michael understood the First World War very well and suggested I read a book called *Private Peaceful*.

I read this brilliant book, and several others, and quickly discovered that Michael was an amazing storyteller - but I hadn't found a story that was quite right for us to adapt for the Olivier stage. Then my mum asked me if I knew that Michael Morpurgo had written a story about a horse in the First World War. Then it occurred to me that maybe these two projects, which I thought were separate, were, in fact, the same. If there was a story which was tailor-made for Handspring to make a puppet for, maybe this was it. I read the book and thought it was. I then asked Nick Hytner to read the chapter of the book in which there's a disastrous cavalry charge. He got excited, and we agreed we should look into it further. I then showed Nick a video of the giraffe,



and he got a bit more excited. Even though the book is narrated by a horse, we agreed that if we were making a show which was going to engage with adults and children in a serious way, then we shouldn't have a talking horse. We both felt that one of the great things about the book was the insight it gave into the First World War. If we were going to make a show, we wanted to treat the subject with the seriousness that it deserved. That presented a huge challenge. If we were going to make something on a large scale to play on the Olivier Stage, we had to accept that the space is modelled on a Greek Amphitheatre and is therefore designed for the spoken word; to tell a story in which a central character didn't speak is counter-intuitive, to say the least - especially if the central character is played by a puppet. Rather than saying yes or no, Nick then played his brilliant trump card, which allowed us to investigate the idea further without committing to a production. He suggested I go into the National Theatre Studio to see what the idea might yield, and to ask Nick Starr to construct some way to resource the development process and see what came out of it.

We went into the National Theatre Studio for an exploratory week, looking at the story - without puppets, but with some bits of cardboard - and explored the relationship between the boy and the horse. We looked at wordless or almost-wordless scenes in which a boy would comfort or groom a horse - and might even tell some of his secrets to it. The results were surprisingly watchable, and some of that very early work made its way into the finished show. We also took cardboard cut-outs onto the Olivier stage, to get a sense of how we might actually stage a show with a big puppet in the middle of it. It was all encouraging. We went through a series of workshops in the studio, developing the staging language, the design concept, the puppetry design, the musical language and the script all at the same time, until we felt we had something exciting enough to show Nick Hytner. It was the moment when the baby horse changes into the big horse. By that time, the co-director, Marianne Elliott, was on board. So this moment had been suggested by Toby Sedgwick, the movement director, after a lot of discussion with Adrian Kohler and Marianne and me. We thought it looked pretty exciting. I think we tried it out to a bit of Mahler's first symphony, and got Nick down from his office to have a look. Nick Starr came too, who'd been there from the very start when we watched the giraffe show in South Africa. Nick saw what we'd come up with and said yes, let's put that on. That was nearly eighteen months after the first conversation.

#### **Is this long gestation period normal for this kind of work?**

I would say yes. But this kind of work isn't normal. My view is that one of the reasons this production appealed to people when it opened was that it felt unfamiliar. It attempted to do something that felt new and hadn't been done before. From our point of view, it was a massive counter-intuitive experiment. To put a puppet in a central role, a puppet that wasn't speaking, to try and tell a story which synthesised script, movement, music, design and puppetry, to say nothing of lighting and sound design as well. It's far simpler to get a

really good script and work out how you're going to stage it than take a story and work out how that story will be told using all those different elements at the same time. If you're going to do that, you might come up with something that will break the rules in an interesting and successful way, but you need to have a huge amount of development time and, more importantly, it needs to be unpressured, which is what Nick Starr and Nick Hytner managed to do. When we were going into the National Theatre Studio trying out these ideas, there wasn't a producer there saying, right you've spent x thousand pounds already and you need to deliver a solution by the end of next week otherwise our investors are going to start pulling the plug on the show. There just wasn't any of that. There was a genuine backing for the experimental quest we were on. When the concept was developing, it was completely free, which was a prerequisite for something so innovative. Obviously that changed when we finally went into rehearsals, and knew that we had to sell tickets for the show, but in the early stages we had complete experimental freedom.

#### **How did your relationship with Marianne Elliott work?**

My job at the National Theatre wasn't to direct plays. Originally I'd been invited to come up with ideas to push the boundaries of conventional theatre-making, based on my experience at the Battersea Arts Centre. As the ideas developed, someone else would stage them; someone who had more experience at staging shows on a big scale than I did. Nick Hytner and I talked about various directors for War Horse. After we'd done a year or so in development, but at quite a slow pace, Nick suggested Marianne Elliott. I saw her work, met her and thought it was an excellent idea. She came into the next workshop - the one where we ended up showing Nick the baby horse growing into the big horse - and we led the workshop together. Then, after that, Marianne suggested to Nick that she thought the best way to deliver the project would be for us to direct it together, for which I'm eternally grateful. It was very much within her gift to share that role. But it goes against a lot of received wisdom about how to deliver a theatre show. As we found out, you don't save much time by having two directors. Everything has to be talked through and agreed, and that can multiply the amount of time it takes to do something. But Marianne felt at the time that we couldn't have done it without both of us, because it was too complicated. And as it turned out, I think she was probably right. We needed to be able to take it in turns looking at the work the other person was doing, think about it, learn from it and support it. Of course, with that there were various complexities. If two directors disagree, it can be difficult, but we worked it out.

#### **It seems like a very collaborative project - design, direction, music, lighting, puppetry etc...**

The characterising thing about it is that the story is told partly by the text, partly by how the puppets move, partly by the staging, partly by the design, partly by the music and light. All of those things had to be evolving and woven together whilst we were making the show - rather like all those elements tell a story in a film. And I suppose that the collaboration between Marianne and I fitted

into this much more complex, wider collaboration that made the show what it is. I think this is what made the show groundbreaking. Those sorts of collaborations are wonderful; where you manage to get such a brilliant group together to work with a director as amazing as Marianne, who has such great precision of character motivation and staging instincts. The designer, Rae Smith, is absolutely the kind of designer who makes you see possibilities you didn't think existed, as does Paul Constable, the lighting designer, and Chris Shutt, the sound designer. Then you can add to that mix John Tams, the pre-eminent architect of a folk score in British theatre over the past fifty years, and Adrian Sutton, a composer of such versatility. And that's to say nothing of the puppets. There's no question in my mind that Adrian Koehler's puppets are the benchmark of puppetry designs in living memory in theatre. To have all those people in the same room and, from my point of view, to have the opportunity to provoke and marshal all those instincts together, with everyone outside their comfort zone, is probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It's as good as it gets from a creative point of view.

#### **How do you feel now that War Horse has celebrated five years in London, with productions running worldwide and numerous awards won, including five Tonys?**

Is it something you ever imagined? Absolutely not. It was an experimental show - and with experimental work, you expect to make some audiences happy and interested, to maybe get some nice reviews, and to hang around for a couple of months. We didn't even expect it to come back into a subsidised theatre for a second run, which it did at the National Theatre. We had absolutely no idea it would become what it is today. It was so outside the bounds of possibility that we didn't talk about it. It's credit to the astonishing skill of Nick Starr as a producer that he eased it into a commercial environment - first of all into the West End, then onto Broadway and then elsewhere - whilst protecting the subsidised ethos that had created it, and the ensemble ethos that makes it work on stage. So it's still baffling to any of us that it's running as a long-running show. We need to remind ourselves that this is something that happens once in a lifetime.

#### **How was Michael Morpurgo involved in the whole process?**

Brilliantly. Having inspired it, he let us get on with it, but he said that at any point where we wanted either some advice or to inspire a rehearsal room, in the way we'd been inspired by his story, he was available to do that. And he has been ever since. He's been an ongoing sounding board for us. He's been incredibly graceful and generous, and whenever we've wanted our rehearsal rooms to get to hear, first-hand, the story that inspired the whole project, he's come and talked to the company.

War Horse shows at Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent from Wed 24 September to Sat 11 October

## What's on

# HIGHLIGHTS

To see what's on when, visit [www.thsh.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.thsh.co.uk/whats-on)

### Classical



#### Daniil Trifonov plays Liszt and Beethoven

Wednesday 1 October  
7.30pm  
Town Hall  
£9.50 – £28 plus transaction fee\*



#### Desert Island Discs

Saturday 4 October  
7.30pm  
Symphony Hall  
£14.50 – £36.50 plus transaction fee\*



#### Australian Chamber Orchestra and Steven Osborne

Sunday 5 October  
3pm  
Symphony Hall  
£9.50 – £40 plus transaction fee\*



#### Tchaikovsky from the St Petersburg Philharmonic

Friday 31 October  
7.30pm  
Symphony Hall  
£9.50 – £50 plus transaction fee\*

### Dance



#### Inala A Zulu ballet featuring Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Friday 3 October  
7.30pm  
Symphony Hall  
£19.50, £24 plus transaction fee\*

### Rock, Pop & Entertainment



#### Doc Brown The Weird Way Round

Saturday 11 October  
8pm  
Town Hall  
£14 plus transaction fee\*

### Spoken Word



#### John Cooper Clarke

Thursday 23 October  
7.30pm  
Town Hall  
£22.50 – £30 plus transaction fee\*

### Film



#### Halloween Silent Movie: The Cat and the Canary (1927)

Friday 31 October  
7.30pm  
Town Hall  
£15 plus transaction fee\*

\*A £3 transaction fee plus £1 (optional) postage, will be charged on all bookings except purchases made in person at the Town Hall or Symphony Hall Box office.

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# Music

## The Martin Barre Band

The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 4 September

"This year sees us touring in many new territories," says Martin Barre, "showcasing our new live album, Order Of Play."

The Martin Barre Band is now in its fourth year, and is keeping its sixty-seven-year-old Brummie frontman gainfully employed while his other band, Jethro Tull, take 'a long break from touring'.

Martin first played with the legendary rockers forty-five years ago, and has featured on every Jethro Tull album since that time. Alongside his work with Tull, his claims to fame include collaborating with Paul McCartney and Phil Collins, and sharing a stage with the legendary Jimmi Hendrix, Fleetwood Mac, Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin.

Martin's band will here be playing 'classic' music from the Tull catalogue.



## Leo Appleyard Quintet

The Hive, Shrewsbury, Sat 13 September

With notable musicians Phil Robson and Jean Toussaint among his tutors, it's fair to say that Birmingham Conservatoire-trained jazz guitarist Leo Appleyard has enjoyed an education for which many would give their guitar-strumming right arm. His debut album, *Pembroke Road*, is out this month, and Leo and his band are here joined by the much-admired Manchester-born modern jazz trumpeter, Neil Yates.

## Ani DiFranco

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 17 September

Whether it's been abortion rights, gay visibility or any number of causes in between, Ani DiFranco has never been slow to lend both her voice and name to a broad range of social movements. The guitarist, poet and songwriter's status as a feminist icon is assured, as is her popularity as a musician. Her twenty-plus albums have seen her engage with a wide range of genres, including punk, funk, hip-hop and jazz, but it's for her folk rock and alternative rock music that she's best known and most admired.



## Ms. Lauryn Hill

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Tues 23 September

Breaking new ground as part of The Fugees, Lauryn Hill recorded her one and only seminal album, *The Miseducation Of Lauryn Hill*, in 1998, selling eight million copies in the US alone. She's since gone on to raise six children with Rohan Marley, son of Damian, and served jail time for tax evasion in 2013. Now, following the sell-out success of two London shows, she plays Birmingham and Manchester on this short tour, her second UK showing in five years.

## Vance Joy

The Institute, Birmingham, Sun 28 September

Vance Joy is James Keogh, an Australian singer-songwriter who eschewed his promising football career to make it as a musician. Providing the soundtrack to summer for thousands of students across the world, Vance Joy's hit, *Riptide*, is the perfect introduction to his upbeat indie style. This success has earned him a UK tour and a debut album to boot, with *Dream Your Life Away* set for release this very month. Recording in a tree house, Keogh's worked with Ryan Hadlock of The Lumineers to put together this eagerly awaited record. Ezra Vine supports.



In Concert - the first lady of Motown

# MARTHA REEVES AND THE VANDELLAS



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*Jimmy Mack : Third Finger, Left Hand*

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## Music PREVIEW

### Martha Reeves & The Vandellas

The Jam House, Birmingham, Thurs 4 Sept; The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Fri 19 September; Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock, Fri 26 September

A living legend comes to Shrewsbury. One of the biggest names in the history of music, Martha Reeves is widely referred to as 'the first lady of Motown'. During her time with The Vandellas, from the late-'50s through till the early-'70s, the all-girl group charted an impressive twenty-plus hits, including classic anthems like Nowhere To Run, Jimmy Mack and Dancing In The Street. The latter song, the Vandellas' signature tune, is this year a half-century old, with Martha and co currently touring to arenas, casinos, clubs, theatres and festivals across the world in celebration.



### Alt-J

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Mon 22 September

Winners of the British Mercury Prize in 2012, Alt-J seemingly came from nowhere to shake up the music scene with their cerebral sound. Forming at Leeds University, they later moved to Cambridge to hone their craft before signing with Infectious Records in late 2011. With songs such as Breezblocks, Tessellate and Bloodflood making waves on the scene, they insist they're completely 'normal', despite their challenging lyrics and disdain for the limelight. See them on this eight-date UK tour, taking place in support of their soon-to-be-released second album, This Is All Yours.

### Nik Kershaw

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 10 September; The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 25 September

Is it really possible that Nik Kershaw has clocked up a half-century and more on Planet Earth? It seems like only yesterday that the boy from Bristol was a fresh-faced teen idol, sharing airtime and chart space with the likes of Duran Duran, Wham! and Haircut 100. A one-time funk guitarist, Nik spent a record-breaking fifty weeks in the charts in his golden year of 1984, and played his part in Live Aid the following year too, as well as scoring hits with songs like I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me and Wouldn't It Be Good. Oh, and he also wrote the Chesney Hawkes number one, The One And Only.



### Blondie O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 13 September

Sometimes style can outweigh substance - but in the case of Blondie, somebody got the measurements just about right. At the height of the band's fame in the late-1970s, ex-Playboy bunnygirl and male adolescent fantasy Debbie Harry was the ultimate trendsetter. Her chiselled features and punk-chick style made her the perfect cover girl, her disinterested expression the equally perfect image for a disaffected generation. Indeed, so high was Harry's profile that it was easy to forget guitarist Chris Stein, drummer Clem Burke and keyboardist Jimmy Destri were also in the band. Breaking up in 1982, Blondie reformed fifteen years later and followed their golden-era string of hits - including Call Me, Atomic and The Tide Is High - with the 1999 single Maria, which stormed to the UK number one spot exactly twenty years after Heart Of Glass had become their first British chart-topper. Earlier this year winning NME's Godlike Genius award, the band appear in Birmingham in support of their latest album, Ghosts Of Download.

### The Magic Numbers

The Institute, Birmingham, Tues 16 September

This double brother-and-sister act were everywhere back in 2005, when their soft, sunshine-infused sound chimed well with the indie pop revival. A Mercury Prize nomination and a host of festival appearances soon followed, and their harmonies helped make them a huge success. But two albums later, with a third, Alias, just released, it's inevitable that they've changed direction somewhat, now returning with a harder, rockier sound. Stating in an interview that they feel 'like a brand new band', they'll be playing both old hits and new at this Institute gig. Ren Harvieu supports.



### The Stray Birds

Stafford Gatehouse, Mon 1 September

Their website describes their sound as having been 'drawn from the richness of American folk music traditions, spun with a stirring subtlety and grace'. No Depression magazine, meanwhile, reckons they're 'a band destined for global success', while Whispering Bob Harris expects them to be 'elevated into a kind of folk/bluegrass superstardom'. The Stray Birds - well, two of them at least - came together in Pennsylvania in early 2010, when a snowy winter offered plenty of opportunity for Maya de Vitry and Oliver Craven to pool their creativity. Charles Muench came on board later and a full-length album followed, as did plenty of positive feedback. They appear in the Midlands with 2014 having already seen them headline the Celtic Connections festival in Scotland and play numerous London shows.

### The Delegates

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Thurs 4 September

The Delegates are often compared to The Supremes - and it's easy to see why the South London ensemble are being hailed as a modern-day incarnation of the legendary 1960s group. Lead vocalist Janet Kumah is a powerful onstage presence with a voice that commands attention, whilst the five-piece all-male band behind her generate a sound that incorporates rocksteady, ska and early reggae. Regulars at festivals such as Glastonbury, they here perform songs from their latest album, All Aboard.



### DragonForce

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 26 September

Not to be confused with the PS2 game, DragonForce is a seriously heavyweight UK metal band. Taking the scene by storm in 1999, they're celebrating this year's fifteenth anniversary with the release of their sixth studio album, Maximum Overload. Playing the longest, fastest guitar solos around, the band are also known for their fantasy lyrics and retro video game sound. The new album features Trivium's Matt Heafy and a cover of Johnny Cash's Ring Of Fire. They're playing an epic twenty-date UK tour this autumn before heading for Europe and Tokyo.



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**UK BLUES ROCK ARTISTE  
DANNY BRYANT**

THU 4 SEP CLASSIC TULL  
**THE MARTIN  
BARRE BAND**

FRI 5 SEP + SUPPORT E.L.A  
FEATURING MARCOS RODRIGUEZ  
**VIVA SANTANA**

SAT 6 SEP  
**G2 DEFINITIVE  
GENESIS**

SUN 7 SEP LIVE & UNBROKEN 2014  
**SISTER SHOTGUN  
ROBIN TAYLOR  
MALLEN - STONE BROKEN**

MON 8 SEP  
**MYSTERY  
+ DEEEXPUS**

WED 10 SEP 11 WHITE LIPS, PRIDE OF BATHING  
**MIKE TRAMP  
SOLO ACOUSTIC TOUR**

THU 11 SEP + SUPPORT SMALL CHANGES  
**STACKRIDGE**

FRI 13 SEP  
**THE  
SUPERSKAS**

SAT 13 SEP + SUPPORT SHYNYE  
**DIRTY DC  
THE TRIBUTE TO AC/DC**

SUN 14 SEP ON STAGE 8.30pm  
**THE SIMON &  
GARFUNKEL STORY**  
STARRING TOM ELLIOTT AND SHARON WELCH

TUE 16 SEP ALL SEATED SHOW  
BILLY MITCHELL & DAVE LAIDLAW  
**THE LINDISFARNE  
STORY**

WED 17 SEP + SUPPORT THE NIGHTFALL  
EX-SAMMY / STREETWALKER FRONTMAN  
**ROGER CHAPMAN  
& THE SHORTLIST**

THU 18 SEP + SUPPORT ON STAGE 8.30pm  
THE BLACK HEARTS 2014 A NIGHT OF ROCK, BLUES  
AND THE SOUND OF THE 1960S  
**BROTHERS  
GROOVE**

FRI 19 SEP ON STAGE 8.45pm  
**BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN  
TRIBUTE  
GLORY DAYS**

SAT 20 SEP  
**COUNTERFEIT  
STONES**

SUN 21 SEP + SUPPORT THE GIBSONIAN EXPRESS  
**OTWAY AND  
BARRETT**  
MOVIE STARS LIVE ON STAGE

MON 22 SEP  
**WAYNE HUSSEY  
THE SONGS OF CANDLELIGHT  
& RAZORBLADES TOUR**

TUE 23 SEP + SUPPORT GARY & THE VAMPIRES  
COUNTRY ROCK LEGENDS  
**ALBERT LEE  
& HOGANS HEROES**

WED 24 SEP THE MUSIC OF  
**LOU REED  
AND THE VELVET UNDERGROUND  
MAGIC & LOSS**

THU 25 SEP ALL SEATED SHOW  
**NIK KERSHAW  
ME, MYSELF AND I  
A SOLO RETROSPECTIVE**

FRI 26 SEP WHEN HELL FREEZE OVER  
**ULTIMATE EAGLES  
DANNY VAUGHN (TYKETTO)**

SAT 27 SEP  
**THE BUSBY BABES  
ANNUAL CHARITY BASH**

SUN 28 SEP ON STAGE 8.30pm  
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# Music LISTINGS

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## MON 1 SEP

**THE STRAY BIRDS** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**CRYPTOPSY, DISGORGE & JUNGLE ROT** The Robin, Bilston  
**THE GHOST OF A SABER TOOTH TIGER** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## TUE 2 SEP

**JESSY LANZA** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**FREDDIE GIBBS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**TAZ TAYLOR BAND** The Robin, Bilston  
**UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE** The Jam House, B'ham

## WED 3 AUG

**DANNY BRYANT** The Robin, Bilston  
**ROLAND GIFT** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**JULES RENDELL** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

## THU 4 SEP

**THE MARTIN BARRE BAND** The Robin, Bilston  
**MARTHA REEVES & THE VANDELLAS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**ANDREW COMBS TRIO WITH MATT MCCLOSKEY** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**THE DELEGATORS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**CONSTANTINE, ARMONIGHT, CAPTAIN HORIZON & VALOUS** The Roadhouse, B'ham

## FRI 5 SEP

**ROCKET** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**VIVA SANTANA** The Robin, Bilston  
**LISA STANSFIELD** Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**COLD OCEAN LIES, MISTERNOTHING, PHUSSY AND THE USUAL SUSPECTS** Lichfield Garrick  
**JOE MCELDERY** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**SIMIAN MOBILE DISCO** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**HATS OFF TO LED ZEPPELIN** Lichfield Garrick  
**SOUL JUNCTION** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**THE SOUL SURVIVORS** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE DANSETTE DAYS** Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**CLOUDBUSTING - A TRIBUTE TO KATE BUSH** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**TREDEGAR TOWN BAND** Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham  
**WINSTON'S BIG BROTHER** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**CASINO** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**THE REBELLION** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**KING ROCKER** Route 44, Birmingham  
**KAZABIAN** The Oobleck, Birmingham  
**DETECTIVE, SCREAMING QUAYS, HOLLOW PEOPLE & ELLIE DOWEN** O2 Academy, Birmingham

## SAT 6 SEP

**G2 - DEFINITIVE GENESIS** The Robin, Bilston  
**ED RUSH** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**SURFIN' USA** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**THINK FLOYD** New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**LABOUR OF LOVE - UB40 TRIBUTE** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE 162ND BRITISH OPEN BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**XVII** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**THE OLDEST HOUSE** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**STRAIGHTEN OUT - STRANGLERS TRIBUTE** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**BENJAMIN BOOKER** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**BARE JOHN, HOPE STREET, THE BAD FLOWERS, DUKE RED LIGHT, THE NICS, SOUR SCARLET & PLASTIC FACTORY** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**RE-COVERED** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**DIRTY MONEY NO.5** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE NOTORIOUS BROTHERS** Route 44, Birmingham  
**ALEX RAINSFORD** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**PSYENCE & ELEC-TROSHOCK THERAPY** Gladstone Pottery Museum, Staffordshire

## SUN 7 SEP

**ABBA REUNION** Crewe Lyceum  
**ART GARFUNKEL** New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**BRASS BAND GALA CONCERT** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**JOE BROWN** Lichfield Garrick  
**SISTER SHOTGUN, ROBIN TAYLOR, MALLEN & STONE** Broken The Robin, Bilston  
**HOUSE OF HATS, BETH PRIOR & FIDDLES SMITH** Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury  
**GREY WOLF** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

## MON 8 SEP

**JOE BROWN** Lichfield Garrick  
**JESUS JONES** O2 Acad-

emy, Birmingham  
**MYSTERY** The Robin, Bilston  
**RED BIRD SKY** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

## TUE 9 SEP

**PEARL JEM** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**KENT DUCHAINE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**KODIAK JACK** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**ROB HERON & THE TEA PAD ORCHESTRA** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

## WED 10 SEP

**GOSPEL CENTRAL** The Jam House, B'ham  
**THREE STEP MANOEUVRE**  
**FUNKY ORGAN TRIO** The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham  
**NIK KERSHAW** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**MIKE TRAMP** The Robin, Bilston

## THU 11 SEP

**STACKRIDGE** The Robin, Bilston  
**ROACHFORD** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS** Lichfield Garrick  
**TONY BENNETT** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**AS IT IS & LIKE TORCHES** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**PATRICK DUFF** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**DURAN: THE TRIBUTE** The Roadhouse, B'ham

## FRI 12 SEP

**SOLID SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**FALLING RED** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**RUTS DC, EVIL BLIZZARD & BLACKBOMBERS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY** Crewe Lyceum  
**THE WEDDING PRESENT** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS** The Place, Oakengates Theatre  
**THE SUPERSKAS** The Robin, Bilston  
**COASTS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**THE STARS FROM THE COMMITMENTS** Lichfield Garrick  
**A VISION OF ELVIS** Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent  
**FUNKNIGHT FEATURING INCOGNITO, JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET & ROTUNDA OF WONDER** Birmingham Town Hall  
**STEVE TROMANS' AXIS POINT** Birmingham Town Hall  
**THE PARADE** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**GENERATIONS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**DIZZY LIZZY** Route 44, Birmingham

## SAT 13 SEP

**SOLID SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**DIRTY DC** The Robin,



Electric Swing Circus - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**Bilston PLAYLOUNGE & KINGS OF CATS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE BUDDY PRESLEY SHOW** Tamworth Assembly Rooms  
**SWEDE DREAMZ - ABBA TRIBUTE NIGHT** The Great Barr Hotel, Birmingham  
**SOUL LEGENDS** Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**AC/DC TRIBUTE - HELLS BELLS** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**BENEATH THE REMAINS** O2 Academy, B'ham  
**THE DECADES BAND** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**LEO APPEYARD QUINTET** The Hive, Shrewsbury  
**SAM SWEENEY'S FIDDLE** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**LUKE WYLDE & THE JAPES** The Slade Rooms, W'hampton  
**TALONS** The Flapper, Birmingham  
**DANGEROUS GIRLS REUNITED** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**PICKERING WHITE** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**REVEREND RONNIE & THE SKA COMMUNION** Route 44, Birmingham  
**ROSE REDD** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**BLONDIE** O2 Academy, Birmingham

## SUN 14 SEP

**THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY** The Robin, Bilston  
**THE PSYCHEDELIC WARLORDS** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**CASH (JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE)** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**CHRIS WOOD** Lichfield Guildhall  
**THE STONES** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**RED SHOES** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**LITTLE JIMMY** Irish Centre, Birmingham

## MON 15 SEP

**THE SATURDAYS** National Indoor Arena, B'ham  
**GRUFF RHYS** The Glee Club, Birmingham

## TUE 16 SEP

**BILLY MITCHELL AND RAY**

**LIDLAW: THE LINDSFARNE STORY** The Robin, Bilston  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Crewe Lyceum  
**THE MAGIC NUMBERS** The Institute, B'ham  
**JASPER CARROT'S STAND UP AND ROCK** Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**MARTIN STEPHENSON** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**RICHARD DURRANT** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE RAY BUTCHER TRIO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**KRIS DREVER WITH EAMONN COYNE** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

## WED 17 SEP

**SAM LEE AND MEMBERS OF THE UNTHANKS** Birmingham Town Hall  
**JANE MCDONALD IN CONCERT** Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**JASPER CARROT'S STAND UP AND ROCK** Crewe Lyceum  
**NATHAN CARTER** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire  
**THE DOWLING POOLE** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**DOUG MACLEOD** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE CARPET CRAWLERS** Lichfield Garrick  
**ROGER CHAPMAN & THE SHORTLIST** The Robin, Bilston  
**IGUDESMAN & JOO: BIG NIGHTMARE MUSIC** Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**ANI DIFRANCO** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**SALLY BARKER** The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire  
**BEARTOOTH** O2 Academy, Birmingham

## THU 18 SEP

**THE REAL THING** The Jam House, B'ham  
**JONNY COLE** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MARTIN STEPHENSON** Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury  
**MILES AND ERICA** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**BROTHERS GROOVE** The Robin, Bilston  
**AN ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH ANDY CAIRNS** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**BEVERLEY CRAVEN** mac -

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**SHAWN KLUSH - ELVIS WORLD TOUR** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**SYD ARTHUR** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**BLAST BEAT** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**THE DIRTY OLD FOLKERS** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

## FRI 19 SEP

**TRU GROOVE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**DEFINITELY MIGHTBE** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**CHAS AND DAVE** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**JILTED GENERATION** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**GLORY DAYS - BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTE** The Robin, Bilston  
**TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES** Birmingham Town Hall  
**MARTHA REEVES & THE VANDELLAS** The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury  
**THE BURNING HELL** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**AC/DC UK** Lichfield Garrick  
**THE BOHEMIANS - A NIGHT OF QUEEN** Tamworth Assembly Rooms  
**OLLIE HUGHES AS ROBBIE WILLIAMS** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**MAMMA MIA!** Sabrina Boat, Shrewsbury  
**ELECTRIC BOYS** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**MODERN BASEBALL** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**INTO THE SHADOWS** Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton  
**JULIET KELLY SPELLBOUND STORIES** Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**BEAU TRAP** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**JEFFERSON HAMER AND KRISTIN ANDREASSEN** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**THE PERSONAS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**BOX O SNAKES** Route 44, Birmingham  
**ELECTRIC SWING CIRCUS** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**GUTI** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

## SAT 20 SEP

**TRU GROOVE** The Jam House, Birmingham



# LIVE MUSIC SHOWS



**GRUFF RHYES**  
Mon 15 Sept



**ANI DIFRANCO**  
Wed 17 Sept



**THE PIERCES**  
Wed 24 Sept



**TOM BAXTER**  
Tue 28 Oct



**NERINA PALLOT**  
Wed 29 Oct



**ROGER MCGUINN**  
Sun 2 Nov

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## what's on...

### Classical

**English String Orchestra**

*A String Pilgrimage*  
8 October 2014 7.30pm  
Tickets from £8

**Birmingham  
Philharmonic Orchestra**

*Romantic Favourites*  
19 October 2014, 7.30pm  
Tickets from £5

**Orchestra of the Swan**

*Mozart and the Czech  
Connection*  
20 November 2014, 7.30pm  
Tickets from £5

### Jazz

**Brilliant Corners**

2 October 2014  
FREE EVENT - 5.00pm

### Comedy

**Chris Turner, Jonny Awsump  
and Zoe Lyons**

9 October 2014, 8.00pm  
Tickets from £5

**Kate Smurthwaite, Gary  
Delaney and Stephen Grant**

6 November 2014, 8.00pm  
Tickets from £5

A full list of events can be found at: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall)  
Box Office: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall) or call: 0121 345 0492

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Sat 11 Oct **TEWKESBURY** Roses Theatre  
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**ALSO ON TOUR WITH "THE WAY OF THE DRUM"**  
Mon 24 Nov **NOTTINGHAM** Lakeside Arts  
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Tue 25 Nov **WARWICK** Bridge House Theatre  
01926 776 438 [www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk)

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Featuring from Belarus  
**The White  
Russian  
Central Band**  
(formerly the  
Red Army Band)

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Tues 25th November at 7.30pm  
**Marine Hall, FLEETWOOD**  
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Wed 26th November at 7.30pm  
**Town Hall, LEEDS**  
Box Office 0113 224 3801

**Special Guest Soloists  
from The Bolshoi**

**Dancers from the  
Belarussian National  
Folk Dance Academy**

Thurs 27th November at 7.30pm  
**Oakengates Theatre, TELFORD**  
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Fri 28th November at 7pm  
**Town Hall, KIDDERMINSTER**  
Box Office 01562 732158 & 748095

**SPECTACULAR  
GRAND FINALE**  
Last Night of the  
Russian Proms

Mon 1st December at 7.30pm  
**Leas Cliff Hall, FOLKESTONE**  
Box Office 0844 871 3015



# Music LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## THE COUNTERFEIT

**STONES** The Robin, Bilston  
**LIVEWIRE - TRIBUTE TO AC/DC** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**UK FOO FIGHTERS** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE ILLEGAL EAGLES** Crewe Lyceum  
**THE MOONS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE MERCY** Tamworth Assembly Rooms  
**UNITED RHYTHMS** The Drum, Birmingham  
**KICK UP THE 80'S** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE WALL OF FLOYD** Wulfrun Hall, W'hampton  
**JAWS** The Obleck, Birmingham  
**LULO REINHARDT** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**HI-ON MAIDEN** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**VO FLETCHER AND RIC SANDERS** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**HIGHTOWER, SAVANNAH & REASIDE** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**IAN STOREY** Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shropshire  
**INCARCERATE** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**QUOMOTION** Route 44, Birmingham

## SUN 21 SEP

**SHOWADDYWADDY** Birmingham Town Hall  
**BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BAND** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**OTWAY & BARRETT** The Robin, Bilston  
**KAZ HAWKINS** Lichfield Guildhall  
**CHRIS CLEVERLEY** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

## MON 22 SEP

**JOE MCELDERRY** Lichfield Garrick  
**DARLIA** The Institute, Birmingham  
**WAYNE HUSSEY** The Robin, Bilston  
**ALT-J** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**FAMY** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**GOSSLING** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**LISBEE STAINTON** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

## TUE 23 SEP

**ALBERT LEE & HOGAN'S HEROES** The Robin, Bilston  
**SHARON CORR** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**LAURYN HILL** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE DUNWELLS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE GLAMOPHONES** The Jam House, B'ham

## WED 24 SEP

**ALEXANDER O'NEAL** The Jam House, B'ham  
**MOTOWN'S GREATEST HITS - HOW SWEET IT IS** Lichfield Garrick  
**MY SWEET PATOOTIE** The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham  
**THE BAY CITY ROLLERS** Crewe Lyceum  
**MAGIC & LOSS - THE MUSIC OF LOU REED** The Robin, Bilston  
**PANUFNIK CENTENARY** Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**ME VS HERO** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE PIERCES** The Glee Club, Birmingham

## THU 25 SEP

**DEL CAMINO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**THE FORIEGN EXCHANGE** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**DIESEL PARK WEST** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**NIK KERSHAW** The Robin, Bilston  
**ANATHEMA** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**KING KRAB** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**KING 810** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**WATSKY** The Institute, Birmingham  
**WOMAN'S HOUR** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**CIGDEM ASLAN** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**ROB LYNCH** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**ASHESTOANGELS, IN DANTE'S ECLIPSE, THE ACID BALLET, THE DEAD XIII & ALMOST EASY** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**ROD AND THE FACEZ** Route 44, Birmingham  
**THE JACARANDAS** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

## FRI 26 SEP

**THE SUBTERRANEANS** The Jam House, B'ham  
**FIRES THAT DIVIDE** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**THE ULTIMATE EAGLES** The Robin, Bilston  
**JAMES TAYLOR** LG Arena, Birmingham  
**JOEL GION** The Institute, Birmingham  
**DRAGONFORCE** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE BORN AGAIN BEATLES** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**THE CARPET CRAWLERS** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**BACK TO BROADWAY** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**DESPERADO - THE VERY BEST OF THE EAGLES** Theatre On The Steps,

Bridgnorth  
**HONEYBLOOD** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**DJ YODA** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**MARTHA REEVES & THE VANDELLAS** Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock Chase, Staffs  
**IVOR & LYNN'S CLASSIC ROCK NIGHT** Route 44, Birmingham  
**MADBALL, BREAKING POINT & GOLDBURN** The Obleck, Birmingham  
**OLD'S COOL** The Ludlow Brewery, Shropshire

## SAT 27 SEP

**THE SUBTERRANEANS** The Jam House, B'ham  
**DESPERADO - THE VERY BEST OF THE EAGLES** Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth  
**BROOKS WILLIAMS** Birchmeadow, Broseley  
**THE BUSBY BABES** The Robin, Bilston  
**QUADROPHENIA NIGHT FEATURING THE ATLANTICS AND DJ DREW STANSALL (THE SPECIALS)** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**BITE SIZE BROADWAY** Lichfield Garrick  
**GUNS VS ROSES** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**THE FRAY** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**DRAGONFORCE** The Institute, Birmingham  
**MOTOWN SOUL SPECTACULAR WITH THE LOVE SUPREMES** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**STEVE CRADOCK** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**SUPREME QUEEN** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**AMONG THE ECHOES, VILE ELECTRODES, ANALOG ANGEL & KIRA** The Actress & Bishop, B'ham  
**CHAMPION MC'S AND LOVERS ROCK FEATURING GENERAL LEVI, TOP CAT, TIPPA IRIE AND MORE** The Drum, Birmingham  
**BEN MARWOOD** The Flapper, Birmingham  
**MARSHALL JEFFERSON & MAURICE FULTON** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**GRANT NICHOLAS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**KOBRA AND THE LOTUS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE SCOPYONS** Route 44  
**CHICKS DIG JERKS** The Obleck, Birmingham

## SUN 28 SEP

**VANCE JOY** The Institute, Birmingham  
**ROXX TO RUIN** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**HATS OFF TO LED ZEPPELIN** O2 Academy, B'ham  
**THE SEARCHERS** Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock Chase  
**MICHAEL NESMITH** Birmingham Town Hall  
**FRAGILE FEATURING CLAIRE HAMILL - TRIBUTE TO YES** The Robin, Bilston  
**THE URBAN VOODOO MACHINE** O2 Academy, Birmingham

The Fray - O2 Academy, Birmingham



**TOSELAND** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**VIN GARBUTT** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham  
**SOUTHERN** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**SLEEPY SUN** The Obleck, Birmingham  
**EZRA VINE** The Institute, Birmingham

## MON 29 SEP

**THE HORRORS** The Institute Birmingham  
**THE 1975** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**THIS WILD LIFE** The Asylum, Birmingham

**ANDREA BALENCY & NLF3** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**JULY TALK** The Institute, Birmingham  
**JESS KLEIN** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**MAX JURY** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

## TUE 30 SEP

**WHEATUS** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE PHANTOM BAND** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**JAKE ISAAC** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**CARRIE ELKIN** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

**CRAFT SPELLS** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**IVOR & LYNN'S CLASSIC ROCK DISCO** Route 44, Birmingham  
**STAKEOUT** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**MYTH CITY** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**TROOPS OF MAFEKING** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs  
**SYPHOR, SINATE & LEGION OF WOLVES** Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham  
**SALVATORE LEONE** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

## Music Venues Box Office Across The Midlands

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### Shropshire

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 LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS 01584 878141  
 THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY 01743 281281  
 THE PLACE, OAKENGATES, TELFORD 01952 382382  
 WEM TOWN HALL 01939 232299

### Staffordshire

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 THE SUGARMILL, HANLEY STOKES-ON-TRENT 01159 454 593  
 TAMWORTH ASSEMBLY ROOMS 01827 709618  
 VICTORIA HALL, HANLEY 0870 060 6649  
 STAFFORD GATEHOUSE 01785 254653

### Warwickshire

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 NAILCOTE HALL, BERKSWELL 02476 46 6174  
 STRATFORD CIVIC HALL 01789 207100  
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### Worcestershire

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 THE RIVER ROOMS, STOURBRIDGE 01384 397177

For additional information and to find out What's On at these venues, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)



## Nicola Benedetti Plays Vivaldi

Stafford Gatehouse, Fri 19 September

Mesmerising audiences and critics alike with her musicality and poise, Scottish-born violinist Nicola Benedetti is one of classical music's most sought-after performers, her road to fame beginning when she won Young Musician of the Year in 2004. The tenth anniversary of her success was celebrated in July with the release of her album, *Homecoming - A Scottish Fantasy*, featuring folk musicians Julie Fowles, Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain.

Awarded an MBE in the 2013 New Year's Honours list, Benedetti went on to make chart history by becoming the first Scottish classical artist to break into the UK Top Twenty. She also played a patriotic role at the opening ceremony of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

This Stafford concert sees her joining forces, for a programme of contrast, with the acclaimed Manchester Camerata, conducted by the orchestra's Music Director, Gábor Takács-Nagy. The featured works are: Vivaldi's much-loved masterpiece, *The Four Seasons*; Mozart's *Linz Symphony*; Arvo Part's *Silouan's Song*, 'My soul yearns after the Lord'; and Vivaldi's *Concerto in F*, RV 569.

## The Sixteen

St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, Thurs 18 September

Recognised as one of the world's greatest ensembles, The Sixteen were formed by conductor Harry Christophers thirty-five years ago with the aim of providing a fresh insight into Baroque, early classical and more contemporary music. With over one hundred recordings under their belt and numerous accolades to their name, they return to the Midlands this month to perform *The Choral Pilgrimage*.

An annual tour aiming to bring back music to the buildings for which it was written, *The Pilgrimage* sees Christophers direct the ensemble in a programme of works by English composers. Featured pieces are: John Sheppard's *Gaude, gaude, gaude Maria*; William Mundy's *Adolscentulus sum ego*; Richard Davy's *O Domine caeli terraeque*; Sheppard's *Libera no I and II*; Sheppard's *In manus tuas I*; Davy's *Ah, mine heart, remember thee well*; and Mundy's *Vox patris caelestis*.



## Birmingham Bach Choir: Unfinished Remembering

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 13 September

Commemorating the 1914 outbreak of the First World War, Paul Spicer's *Unfinished Remembering* is a new choral symphony, written especially for Birmingham Bach Choir to perform with full orchestra, semi-chorus and soloists.

Spicer's work both opens and closes this special evening of remembrance, which also features Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* - a plea for peace, composed in 1936 amid growing fears of a new war. Spicer's second featured work is *A Shared Singing*, with libretto by Euan Tait. A song of hope dedicated to the British Legion, it sees the composer and choir joined by the Orchestra of the Swan, the Midlands Military Community Choir, soprano Johane Ansell and baritone William Dazeley.

## CBSO: Beethoven's Symphony Cycle

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 16, Thurs 18, Fri 20 & Sat 21 September

This month sees Andris Nelsons kick off his final season as CBSO Music Director with his critically acclaimed cycle of Beethoven symphonies. Last performed in Birmingham during the Orchestra's 2012/13 season, the cycle sees all nine symphonies staged during four performances. *Symphony No 1* (dedicated to an early patron of the composer), *Symphony No 2* (written in four movements when Beethoven's deafness was becoming more pronounced) and *Symphony No 3, Eroica* (a work expressing the classical style of eighteenth century compositions), all come together in the performance on the 16th. *Symphony No 4* - considered to be one of Beethoven's lighter offerings and recalling the work of Haydn - and *Symphony No 5*, one of his most played pieces, are performed on the afternoon of the 18th. The third concert (20 Sept) comprises *Symphony No 6, Pastoral* (written in five movements and inspired by the composer's love of nature), and *Symphony No 7* (described by Wagner as 'the apotheosis of dance'). A final concert on 21 September brings together Beethoven's shortest symphony (referred to by the composer as 'my little symphony in F') with his final symphony (No 9). The latter sees the orchestra joined by soprano Annette Dasch, mezzo-soprano Lioba Braun, tenor Ben Johnson, bass Vuyani Mlinde and the CBSO Chorus.



## Doric String Quartet

Henderson Hall, Moor Park, Ludlow South Shropshire, Sat 27 September

Highly rated by the influential Gramophone magazine, the Doric are one of a bright new generation of British string quartets. Since their formation in 1998, the quartet have toured extensively, collaborating with some of classical music's finest performers. They've received plenty of plaudits for their recordings too, which include Schubert's *Rosamunde* and *Death Of The Maiden* quartets in 2012. Comprising Alex Redington and Jonathan Stone (violins), Hélène Clément (viola) and John Mysercough (cello), the quartet this month appear in South Shropshire to perform works by Haydn, Ades and Beethoven as part of Ludlow Arts classical series.





# Classical LISTINGS

For full listing information on classical concerts, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**TREDEGAR TOWN BAND IN CONCERT** Fri 5 Sept, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

**BOURNVILLE STRING ORCHESTRA** Programme features works by Mozart, Britten, Webern & Beethoven, Sat 6 Sept, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**ORGAN PROM** Sat 6 Sept, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT FEATURING BYRAM-WIGFIELD** Mon 8 Sept, Coventry Cathedral

**BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: UNFINISHED REMEMBERING** Sat 13 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**WILLARD WHITE: FROM MOZART TO MUSICALS**, Sat 13 Sept, Malvern Theatres

**CHANDOS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA THE YOUNG MUSICIAN SHOWCASE**. Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor) and Toby Hughes (double bass), Sun 14 Sept, Malvern Theatres

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT FEATURING BEN CHEWTER** Mon 15 Sept, Coventry Cathedral

**CBSO BEETHOVEN WEEK: THE EROICA** Programme includes; Beethoven - Symphony No 1, No 2 and No 3, Tue 16 Sept

**CBSO BEETHOVEN WEEK: THE FIFTH SYMPHONY** Programme includes Beethoven's Symphonies No 4 and 5, Thurs 18 September, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**JUICE VOCAL TRIO** Thurs 18 Sept, Maidment Hall, Shrewsbury School

**THE SIXTEEN: THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE** Featuring a programme of music by English composers. Thurs 18 Sept, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

**A FUNDRAISER CONCERT WITH ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN** Featuring works by Handel, Mozart, Bach and Pachelbel. In aid of Stratford's new cancer and eye hospital, Fri 19 Sept, Stratford Arts House

**CBSO BEETHOVEN WEEK: THE PASTORAL** Programme includes Beethoven's Symphonies No 6 & 7, Sat 20 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CBSO BEETHOVEN WEEK: THE CHORAL SYMPHONY** Programme includes Beethoven's Symphonies No 8 and 9, Sun 21 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**ALDWYN VOICES (AUTUMN IN MALVERN)** Programme includes Commemoration I - Son String Quartet & The Path To Peace - Siegfried Sassoon & Malvern, Choral music by William Byrd, John Blitherman, Thomas Tomkins, Hulbert Parry, Edward Elgar, John Ireland, William Walton and String Quartet - Edward Elgar, Opus 83, Sun 21 Sept, Great Malvern Priory

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT FEATURING TOM CORNS**, Mon 22 Sept, Coventry Cathedral

**THE COULL QUARTET** Programme includes works by Mozart, Beethoven & Smetana, Wed 24 Sept, Evesham Arts Centre

**CBSO: PANUFNIK CENTENARY** Programme includes works by Stravinsky, Beethoven, Panufnik & Wagner, Wed 24 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**RODERICK WILLIAMS AND SUSIE ALLAN** Featuring Britten songs and proverbs of William Blake, Thurs 25 Sept, Malvern Theatres

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**HAM & CO CONCERT** Music from around the world, Thurs 25 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

**LYNDON JENKINS: MAINLY FOR PLEASURE** A special concert to celebrate the life of THSH's Music Advisor, Lyndon Jenkins, Thurs 25 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

**MUSIC FOR LUNCH RECITAL WITH JONATHAN ALLSOP** Fri 26 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

**THOMAS TROTTER: CONCERT FOR ORGANFEST** Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Stimpson, Thalben-Ball, Jonathan Dove & Elgar, Sat 27 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

**A PROM FOR ALL WITH THE ST MICHAEL'S SINGERS** Featuring Paul Ledington Wright & Kerry Beaumont (conductor), the Coventry Cathedral Orchestra & the Coventry Cathedral Choristers, Sat 27 Sept, Coventry Cathedral

**ORGAN PROM** Sat 27 Sept, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**DORIC STRING QUARTET** Programme includes works by Haydn, Ades & Beethoven, Sat 27 Sept, Henderson Hall, Moor Park, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT FEAT. KERRY BEAUMONT** Mon 29 Sept, Coventry Cathedral



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# Comedy

## Bridget Christie

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
Weds 24 September

Bridget Christie describes herself as 'a female person' and 'the only stand-up to have been billed alongside both Lionel Blair and Naomi Wolf'. She could just as easily have described herself as a comedian whose career is heading for the stars at breakneck speed. Married to fellow laughter merchant Stewart Lee since 2006, her CV includes numerous television appearances and ten critically acclaimed Edinburgh Festival shows, a number of which have also enjoyed runs at London's prestigious Soho Theatre.



## Mitch Benn

Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffordshire,  
Thurs 4 September

A regular contributor to BBC Radio Four's The Now Show and BBC Radio Two's It's Been A Bad Week, Mitch Benn is one of the UK's most accomplished writers and performers of comic songs. The recipient of numerous awards, Mitch recently had his first novel published and toured the country with the intriguingly titled Mitch Benn Is The 37th Beatle.

## The Axis Of Awesome

Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 16 September

The Axis Of Awesome's name is a play on President George W Bush's 'axis of evil' phrase, and very much sets the tone for the group's slick combination of music, comedy and parody. Aussie funny-men Jordan Raskopoulos, Lee Naimo and Benny Davis formed the act in 2006, having been heavily involved in improvisational theatre at the University of Sydney, and caught a big break the following year when they released a number of rap parodies lampooning the Australian Federal Election. "We leave men laughing and women gasping (and also laughing)," they say of themselves. "Before long you'll be laughing and/or gasping too, depending on your gender."



## Lee Evans

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Weds 17 - Sun 21 September

With a career behind him that's almost as long as a Ronnie Corbett joke, the sweaty fellow is nowadays one of the UK's best-established comedians. Evans was initially hailed as the new Norman Wisdom, presenting a style of buffoonish slapstick humour that recalled a more innocent age. With time, however, he's proved himself to be much more than just a one-trick pony, but has also managed to retain the zany, high-energy delivery that originally endeared him to the UK's comedy-loving audience.



## Lee Mack

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 7 September; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 8 - Weds 10 & Fri 12 September; De Montfort Hall, Leicester, Fri 19 - Mon 22 September

Finely crafted one-liners and quick ad-libs are the stuff of Lee Mack's comedy, and his mastery of them has recently seen him making significant in-roads into the lucrative world of television. A BAFTA-winning contribution to The Sketch Show, his role in Not Going Out and regular appearances on Would I Lie To You have ensured he's become a well-established goggle-box face. As you'd expect, though, it's away from the constraints of the telly that Lee's at his funniest, which is why catching him on this live tour should ensure you enjoy a funny and memorable night out.

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# Comedy LISTINGS

For full listing information on comedy gigs including times and dates visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**BRIGHT CLUB COMEDY NIGHT HOSTED BY MRS BARBARA NICE** Mon 1 Sept, The REP, B'ham  
**WILL FRANKEN & AARON TWITCHEN** Mon 1 Sept, Old Joint Stock Pub, Birmingham  
**TIG NOTARO** Tues 2 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall  
**PATRICK MONAHAN, ADAM KAY, ARCHIE MADDOCKS, RICH WILSON** Thurs 4 Sept, The George Hotel, Lichfield  
**JASON JOHN WHITEHEAD, JOEL DOMMETT & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 4 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**JASON JOHN WHITEHEAD, JOEL DOMMETT, NICK DIXON & CHARLIE BAKER** Fri 5 - Sat 6 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT** Thurs 4 Sept, Stourbridge Town Hall  
**MITCH BENN, CAIMH MCDONNELL, STEVE GOODHALL, JAY ISLAAM & PETER MCCOLE** Thurs 4 Sept, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**RO CAMPBELL, DANA ALEXANDER, CHRISTIAN REILLY & ERIC LAMPAERT** Fri 5 - Sat 6 Sept, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**KATIE MULGREW, PAUL CURRIE, ALEX SMITH** Fri 5 Sept, Hereford Courtyard Theatre  
**STEPHEN K AMOS & JOHN SIMMIT** Fri 5 Sept, The Drum, Birmingham  
**DAVE JOHNS, ROMESH RANGANATHAN, JOE BLOOR & COMIC TBC** Sat 6 Sept, Players Bar, Birmingham  
**LEE MACK** Sun 7 Sept, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**SEVERN JESTERS** Sun 7 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**JETHRO** Mon 8 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**LEE MACK** Mon 8 - Wed 10 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**GEE & MAUREEN YOUNGER** Wed 10 Sept, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**DOC BROWN & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY**

**ROBINSON** Thurs 11 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**DOC BROWN PLUS THREE COMICS TBC** Fri 12 - Sat 13 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**LEE MACK** Fri 12 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**TOM STADE** Fri 12 Sept, Theatr Hafren, Newtown, Powys  
**BRYAN LACEY, MICK FERRY, JESSICA FOSTEKW & PHILBERTO** Fri 12 - Sat 13 Sept, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**JIM DAVIDSON** Fri 12 - Sat 13 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**ROY CHUBBY BROWN** Sat 13 Sept, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**TOM STADE** Sat 13 Sept, Civic Hall, W'hampton  
**ROMESH RANGANATHAN, ANDY ASKINS, ROGER MONKHOUSE & COMIC TBC** Sat 13 Sept, Players Bar, B'ham  
**MILTON JONES & PAUL ZERDIN** Sun 14 Sept, The Glee Club, B'ham  
**LEE EVANS** Wed 17 - Sun 21 Sept, National Indoor Arena, B'ham  
**JOHN BISHOP - WORK IN PROGRESS** Thurs 18 Sept, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**IAIN STIRLING, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY**

**ROBINSON** Thurs 18 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**IAIN STIRLING, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, PIERRE HOLLINS & HOLLY WALSH** Fri 19 - Sat 20 Sept, The Glee Club, B'ham  
**ROSS NOBLE - WARM UP SHOWS** Thurs 18 - Fri 19 Sept, The Place, Oakenngates Theatre, Telford  
**STEVE BUGEJA, TOM CRAINE, LUKE HONORATY** Fri 19 Sept, Hereford Courtyard Theatre  
**HARDEEP SINGH KOHLI** Fri 19 Sept, mac, Birmingham  
**WINDSOR, CHRIS MCCAUSLAND, TEZ ILYAS & FELICITY WARD** Fri 19 - Sat 20 Sept, Highlight Comedy Club, B'ham  
**COMEDY IN THE MET** Sat 20 Sept, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**JOHN BISHOP - WORK IN PROGRESS**, Sat 20 Sept, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**LOL COMEDY CLUB MC DAMION LARKIN** Sat 20 Sept, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, TIFFANY STEPHENSON, PAUL TONKINS & JOHN FOTHERGILL** Sat 20 Sept, Players Bar, Birmingham  
**BRIDGET CHRISTIE** Wed 24 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**PAUL ZERDIN** Thurs 25 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**IAN MOORE, ADAM BLOOM & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 25 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**IAN MOORE, ADAM BLOOM, GEORGE EGG & JOE BOR** Fri 26 - Sat 27 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**DANNY BHOY** Fri 26 Sept, mac, Birmingham  
**MIKE WILKINSON, JEFF INNOCENT, DR GEORGE RYEGOLD & COMIC TBC** Fri 26 Sept, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**MIKE WILKINSON, JEFF INNOCENT, KIERAN LAWLESS & COMIC TBC** Sat 27 Sept, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**PADDY LENNOX, RO CAMPPELL, LIAM SPIERS & ALAN DONEGAN** Fri 26 Sept, The George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent  
**NICK REVELL, STOOLPIGEON, MATT BANKS, LEWIS SCHAFFER & CHRIS NORTON WALKER** Fri 26 Sept, National Brewery Centre, Burton-upon-Trent  
**SHORT & GIRLIE SHOW, HANNAH BRACKENBURY, LARA A KING & MAUREEN YOUNGER** Fri 26 Sept,



Tom Stade

Memorial Hall, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**KATE LUCAS, OLA & ERICH MCELROY** Sat 27 Sept, Tamworth Assembly Rooms  
**JOJO SMITH, ERICH MCELROY, NICK DIXON & DAVE FULTON** Sat 27 Sept, Players Bar, Birmingham  
**THE LAUGHTER CREWE** Sun 28 Sept, Crewe Lyceum  
**THE LAUGHING SOLE - COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS** Sun 28 Sept, mac, Birmingham  
**RICHARD BLACKWOOD, SLIM, RUDI LICKWOOD & JOHN SIMMIT** Sun 28 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MARK STEEL** Mon 29 Sept, Hereford Courtyard Theatre

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# Theatre



## Dirty Dancing

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tue 23 September - Sat 11 October

Seen by millions across the globe, Eleanor Bergstein's worldwide smash-hit musical tells the classic story of Baby and Johnny, two fiercely independent young spirits from different worlds who come together for what will prove to be the most challenging and triumphant summer of their lives. Hit numbers include Hungry Eyes, Hey Baby, Do You Love Me? and I've Had The Time Of My Life. If

you've not seen the show before, it's well worth checking out - its celebrity fans include Sir Ian McKellen, Dame Judy Dench, Emma Forbes, Naomi Campbell, Alan Shearer, Graham Norton and Joanna Lumley, to name but a few. So if you enjoy the show, you'll certainly be in exalted company!



## War Horse

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 24 September - Sat 11 October

Described as 'the theatrical event of the decade' when it opened in the London West End, War Horse has continued to garner great praise in the ensuing years. Based on Michael Morpurgo's hugely popular 1982 novel, it tells the story of a young man named Albert whose horse, Joey, is sold to the cavalry and shipped to France at the beginning of the First World War. Joey's subsequent adventures lead to him finding himself alone in a no-man's land - but Albert is in no mood to give up on his beloved companion, and sets out to find him and take him home to Devon...

The production has been widely praised for its effective use of lifesize horse puppets, and has picked up numerous coveted awards since premiering in 2007, including an Olivier Award and five Tony Awards. It's not been to everybody's liking, however, with several of its critics feeling that, while the plot worked effectively as a children's book, it lacked sufficient substance to carry an evening of theatre, particularly one endeavouring to present the atrocities of war.

## Cats

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 9 - Sat 27 September

A spectacular and captivating adaptation of TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats, this Andrew Lloyd Webber production has been performed in over three hundred cities in more than twenty countries around the world. It's also widely considered to be the show that redefined the modern musical, paving the way for a seemingly relentless stream of blockbuster hits. All in all, then, one helluva theatrical experience...





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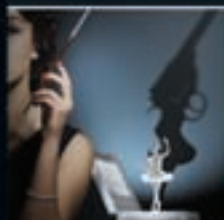
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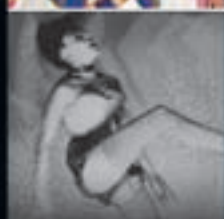
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## The Perfect Murder

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
Mon 15 - Sat 20 September

Based on the international best-selling crime thriller by Peter James, *The Perfect Murder* finds Victor Smiley in the mood to bring his long and no longer satisfactory marriage to an end in emphatic style. As young detective Roy Grace starts to investigate his very first homicide case, dark forces intervene, and Grace begins to fear that nothing is quite as it seems... Robert Daws (*The Royal*, *Roger Roger*) heads a cast of familiar television faces, including Dawn Steele, Gray O'Brien, Thomas Howes and Simona Armstrong.



## Happy Birthday Sunita

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,  
Tues 23 - Sat 27 September

With successful offerings *Britain's Got Bhangra* and *Break The Floorboards* to their name, it's fair to say the producers of this brand new comedy-drama know a thing or two about putting on a show. It's Sunita's birthday, and her family are hosting a surprise party - but the guest of honour is nowhere to be found. As the evening progresses, forty years-worth of family drama comes bubbling to the surface, and it soon becomes apparent that nothing will ever be quite the same again...



## Avenue Q

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

Described by *The Times* as 'the best musical of the decade', the Tony Award-winning *Avenue Q* focuses on subjects such as dating, racism, being gay and finding your purpose in life. At the centre of the story is Princeton, a bright-eyed college graduate with a tiny bank balance who's easily distracted by a busty blonde and a plethora of weird and wonderful friends... The show contains themes of an adult nature and is probably not suited to those who're easily offended.



## Rudy's Rare Records

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 4 - Sat 20 September

Dudley-born laughter merchant Lenny Henry here returns to the Midlands to star in the stage version of the popular BBC Radio Four series. A touching comedy set in an old Birmingham reggae record shop at risk of redevelopment, *Rudy's Rare Records* was co-created by Henry, who also starred in the original radio version.

"I've performed comedy gigs many times in Birmingham over the years, but this is my first straight acting role in the city and the first time I've been on stage at The REP," says the former *Tiswas* and *New Faces* star. "Growing up in Dudley, I would come into Birmingham every Saturday to hang out in a record shop not too dissimilar to *Rudy's*, so it's a play that's very close to my heart." *Read our interview with Lenny at whatsonlive.co.uk*

## Billy The Kid: His Life In Music

AE Harris, Birmingham, Fri 12 September;  
Boards Head, Kidderminster, Sun 14 September;  
New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,  
Tues 16 September

For two ageing cowboys without much to brag about, making the claim that they once knew legendary outlaw, gunman, gambler and rustler Billy The Kid - even though they didn't - offers the best chance they'll ever have of achieving the fame and notoriety they crave... This lively fusion of music, theatre and comedy was first presented at the Brighton Fringe in 2013, and is co-written by and co-stars Rex Horan, best known as a member of multi-award-winning jazz band The Neil Cowley Trio



## Open All Hours

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 20 - Sun 21 September

Roy Clarke's BBC TV series about the comic misadventures of shopkeeper Albert Arkwright and put-upon errand boy Granville - as played by Ronnie Barker and David Jason - is the latest in a now-significant line of telly sitcoms to be adapted for the theatre. This

stage version has been specially commissioned to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the series' television premiere, and brings together memorable moments from over twenty classic episodes.

## Jasper Carrot's Stand Up And Rock

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 16 September;  
Crewe Lyceum, Wed 17 September;  
Dudley Town Hall, Tues 16 October; Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 21 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 26 October; Lichfield Garrick, Tues 11 - Sat 15 November

Jasper Carrott's been plying his trade now for many a decade, with career highs including numerous television series and a chart-busting mid-'70s hit with the hugely amusing *Funky Moped*. He's retreated into the shadows a little more of late, but here returns with a new stand-up routine that promises to be twenty-four carrot - sorry, carat - gold, not to mention a handful of top musical chums - namely, Bev Bevan, Trevor Burton of *The Move*, the *Rockin Berries'* Geoff Turton, and celtic rock band Quill's Joy Strachan-Brain.





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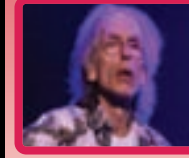
## BROMSGROVE'S THEATRE, CINEMA, LIVE MUSIC AND COMEDY VENUE

SEPTEMBER  
2014

Thursday 11th  
September  
**HARDEEP SINGH  
KOHLI**  
TOP COMEDIAN ASKS  
'HARDEEP IS YOUR LOVE'



Sunday 14th  
September  
**STEVE HOWE**  
SOLO TOUR FROM THE  
GUITARIST FROM YES



Wednesday 17th  
September  
**20,000 DAYS ON  
EARTH** (15)  
SCREENING OF NICK CAVE  
FILM & CONCERT



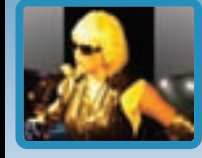
Thursday 18th  
September  
**A STREETCAR  
NAMED DESIRE** (12A)  
NT LIVE SCREENING  
STARRING GILLIAN ANDERSON



Tuesday 23rd  
September  
**BRIDGET  
CHRISTIE**  
EDINBURGH FESTIVAL STAR  
WITH A BIC FOR HER



Friday 26th  
September  
**ATOMIC BLONDIE**  
TRIBUTE CONCERT IN AID OF  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS



FORTHCOMING CINEMA: Hector & The Search For Happiness (15)  
Of Horses & Men (15) // Boyhood (15) // Bright Days Ahead (15)  
Begin Again (15) // Mood Indigo (12A) // The Grand Seduction (12A)



The new Artrix brochure is available to download on [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)

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## ARENA THEATRE WOLVERHAMPTON

Mon 22 September, 7.30pm

**THE COMEDIAN'S  
COMEDIAN  
PODCAST**  
WITH STUART GOLDSMITH  
FEATURING TOM STADE

Tickets: £5.00



Tue 23 - Sat 27 September, 7.30pm  
Sat Mat 1.30pm

**Happy Birthday Sunita**

rifco



Tickets: £10/£8 concs / £5 mat

Tues 14 October, 7.30pm

**LET ME  
STAY**

Tickets: £10/£8 concs



Thurs 16 & Fri 17 October, 7.30pm  
Fri Mat 1.30pm

**WAR  
CORRESPONDENTS**

Tickets: £10/£8 concs / £5 mat



THE LITTLE VENUE WITH BIG IDEAS Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE

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For full programme, visit: [arena.wlv.ac.uk](http://arena.wlv.ac.uk)



## Chinn And Chapman's Blockbuster The Musical

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

The storyline of this show sees Mickey Block sent back in time after being told he can turn his life around by performing two selfless deeds - but it's the music of legendary song-writing team Nicky Chinn and Mike Chapman that's the real oxygen of this all-action production. Chinn and Chapman churned out chartbuster after chartbuster back in the 1970s and '80s, with Sweet, Suzi Quatro, Smokie, Tina Turner and Mud all featuring on the long list of high-profile artists to have benefitted from the duo's collective ear for a hit sound. So if songs like Tiger Feet, Mickey, Living Next Door To Alice, Some Girls and Can The Can give you a warm, nostalgic feeling deep inside, then this is a night out at the theatre you'll definitely want to catch. Much-loved star of stage and screen Paul Nicholas takes top billing alongside former Emmerdale actress Suzanne Shaw.



## Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 16 - Sat 20 September

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's classic musical tells the story of a boy driven into slavery by his calculating brothers, who're all envious of his coat of many colours. Joseph's ability to predict the future from his dreams, however, ultimately frees him and wins him a place among the highest in the land... This long-time hit show is an ensemble triumph, with terrific energy put in by all concerned. X Factor finalist Luke Daniels stars as Joseph, with Dancing On Ice finalist Matt Lapinskas as Pharaoh.



## The Kite Runner

The REP, Birmingham, Mon 22 September - Sat 4 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 20 - Sat 25 October

This stage version of Khaled Hosseini's international bestselling novel and film has enjoyed some excellent reviews since premiering last year. Taking its audience on a journey across time and continents, it



## Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 22 - Wed 24 September

If you love the Horrible Histories series - and why the heck wouldn't you?! - then Barmy Britain is a show well worth catching, presenting 'terrific tales and fascinating facts' from the extensive annals of UK history. Alongside providing answers to such searching questions as 'what would happen if a Viking moved in next door?' and 'would you stand and deliver to dastardly Dick Turpin?', the show also invites its audience to escape the clutches of Burke and Hare, move to the groove with the partying Queen Victoria and prepare to do battle in the First World War. In short, and as its publicity says, it's 'a truly horrible history of Britain - with all the nasty bits left in!'.

encompasses both the traumas of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the horrors of 9/11 some twenty-two years later. At its heartland, though, is the story of the friendship that exists between two youngsters - Amir, a well-to-do Pashtun boy, and Hassan, a Hazara who's the son of Amir's father's servant. The boys spend their days happy in one another's company and kite flying together - until, that is, their friendship is devastated and their lives shattered by a display of shameful cowardice on Amir's part...



## Blind Hamlet

mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Wed 24 September

Iranian writer Nassim Soleimanpour is best known for the play White Rabbit, Red Rabbit, which has been presented around the world in no fewer than fifteen languages. This latest thought-provoking work finds the playwright confronting the slow loss of his sight and the fact that he's never read Hamlet. With tragedy looming, 'he chooses to play with the truth and fiction, chance and fate'... The production is here presented by Actors Touring Company, winner of a 2013 Fringe First Award with The Events, which was also voted Best Play Of 2013 by critics in The Guardian.

## Love's Labour's Lost

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Tues 23 September - Sat 14 March

Set in the summer of 1914, this latest version of Love's Labour's Lost forms part of the RSC's commemoration of the centenary of World War One, and is being shown as one of a pair alongside Love's Labour Won (better known as Much Ado About Nothing). One of Shakespeare's lesser performed works, it gained in popularity for a while courtesy of Kenneth Branagh's Hollywood musical version. Taking as its theme men's preoccupation with the opposite sex, it's a work which has much to offer in the way of chuckleworthy entertainment, a claim which can't necessarily be made for all of the Bard's comedies. Eager to pursue loftier pastimes, four young lads decide to boot their wenching ways into touch for a whole year. As luck would have it, four young beauties unexpectedly arrive on the scene, and put the boys' resolve well and truly to the test! Read the interview with Love's Labour's Lost and Love's Labour's Won director Christopher Luscombe at [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)





**FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**

**JIM DAVIDSON  
NO FURTHER ACTION**

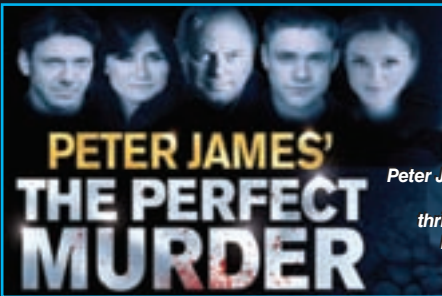


16+

LATE NIGHT SHOW EDITION  
10.45pm Start

This special late night edition will be being filmed for Jim's latest DVD release.

**MONDAY 15 - SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**



**PETER JAMES'  
THE PERFECT  
MURDER**

The new stage hit from the best selling author Peter James. This highly entertaining dark comedy thriller has been acclaimed by audiences and critics around the country.

**MON 22-WED 24 SEPT**



WE ALL WANT TO MEET PEOPLE FROM HISTORY... THE TROUBLE IS EVERYONE IS DEAD

**WED 24 SEPT**



**BRIDGET CHRISTIE**  
A Bic For Her

**FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**



**BACK TO  
BROADWAY**

The all-singing, all-dancing, theatrical sensation that invites you to take a breathtaking journey through the magical world of musicals!

**TUESDAY 7 - WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER**

**RICHARD  
ALSTON**

RICHARD ALSTON DANCE COMPANY returns with a knock-out programme... REJOICE IN THE LAMB, HOLD-ERLIN'S FRAGMENTS and ILLUMINATIONS.



What's on...



Fri 12th Sept  
**ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS**  
Time: 7.30pm



Wed 17th Sept  
**NATHAN CARTER**  
Time: 7.30pm



Thurs 18th & Fri 19th Sept  
**ROSS NOBLE WARM UP**  
Time: 8.00pm



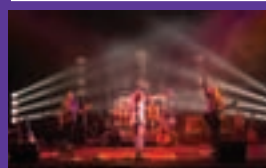
Sat 20th September  
**OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM**  
Time: 2.30pm



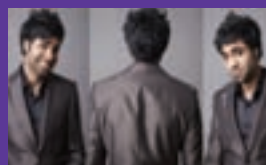
Thurs 25th September  
**MARCUS COLLINS**  
Time: 7.30pm



Fri 3rd October  
**LET'S HANG ON**  
THE WORLD'S NO. 1 TRIBUTE TO  
FRANKIE VALLI AND FOUR SEASONS  
Time: 7.30pm



Sat 4th October  
**A WHOLE LOTTA LED**  
Time: 7.30pm



Wed 8th October  
**PAUL CHOWDHRY**  
Time: 8.00pm



Fri 10th October  
**PAUL ZERDIN**  
Time: 7.30pm



# Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Week Commencing MON 1 SEP

**THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA** Full staging of Shakespeare's exuberant romantic comedy until Thurs 4 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**HENRY IV PARTS I & II** RSC Associate Artist Antony Sher returns to the Company to play the infamous comic knight Falstaff, until Sat 6 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE 39 STEPS** until Sat 6 Sept, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**WICKED** Hit West End musical flies into Brum... until Sat 6 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

**THE ROARING GIRL** Jo Davies directs Lisa Dillon as the dynamic, cross-dressing heroine in a new version of Thomas Middleton & Thomas Dekker's Jacobean comedy, until Tue 30 Sept, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**ARDEN OF FAVERSHAM** Polly Findlay makes her RSC debut, directing this darkly comic thriller which focuses on a husband, wife and lover who find themselves locked within a deadly game, until Thurs 2 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**THE WHITE DEVIL** Maria Aberg directs a new production of John Webster's violent tragedy, considered by many to be one of the great works of Jacobean theatre, until Sat 29 Nov, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EX 2** Brand new theatrical experience where the

audience is the author! Funny, scary, sad and uplifting, this is a play for everyone who's been in love - or still is, Tue 2 - Sat 6 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham  
**THE ADDAMS FAMILY** New musical comedy presented by Wolverhampton Youth Music Theatre, Tues 2- Sat 6 Sept, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: RSC SCREENING** Shakespeare's exuberant romantic comedy Wed 3 Sept, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire

**THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: RSC SCREENING** Shakespeare's exuberant romantic comedy, Wed 3 Sept, Artrix, Bromsgrove; mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**TWELFTH NIGHT** Liverpool's PurpleCoat Productions present their award-winning take on Shakespeare's bitter-sweet comedy, Wed 3 Sept, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**UGLY DUCK** Claybody Theatre's warm-hearted Potteries comedy, written & directed by Deborah McAndrew, Wed 3 - Sat 13 Sept, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE WITH JOHN COOK** Thurs 4 Sept, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**AN AUDIENCE WITH DES O'CONNOR** Thurs 4 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**MEDEA** A National Theatre Live screening of Euripides' powerful tragedy, Thurs 4 Sept, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire

**GROUNDLED** Gate Theatre's production of George Brant's gripping new play, which targets

our assumptions about war, family, and what it is to be a woman, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Sept, The REP, Birmingham  
**RUDY'S RARE RECORDS** Lenny Henry stars in the world premiere of Danny Robins' comedy, based on the successful Radio 4 series, Thurs 4 - Sat 20 Sept, The REP, Birmingham  
**THE FIGHT GAME & THE HUMAN ROCKET** Shropshire-based Owen Lewis Portable Theatre Company presents a double-bill of one-act plays, Fri 5 Sept, Apple-tree Theatre, Ludlow, South Shropshire  
**13: A NEW MUSICAL** Young Performers Theatre Group present a high-energy musical about discovering that cool is where you find it, and sometimes where you least expect, Sat 6 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**BEN NORRIS: THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE FAMILY** UK All-Stars Poetry Slam Champion Ben Norris presents a work-in-progress performance of his debut one-man theatre show, Sat 6 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

## Week Commencing MON 8 SEP

**BRITISH SCIENCE FESTIVAL: HELA** A powerful performance by Iron Oxide spans race and poverty in 1950s America to current ethical debates about who owns our DNA, Mon 8 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**AN EVENING WITH GERVAISE PHINN** Hilarious tales in a brand new show about the life of a schools inspector in the Yorkshire Dales, Tue 9 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**BRITISH SCIENCE FESTIVAL: A CURE FOR AGEING** A performance about being young and foolish, and becoming old and wise, Tues 9 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts

Centre, Birmingham  
**FAULTY TOWERS: THE DINING EXPERIENCE** A fully immersive, highly improvised and site-specific comedy which sees audience members waited upon by Basil, Sybil & Manuel, Tue 9 - Sun 14 Sept, The REP, Birmingham  
**CATS** New production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's smash-hit musical, Tue 9 - Sat 27 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**BRITISH SCIENCE FESTIVAL: CHRONICLES OF MEMORY FORETOLD - REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES** Award-winning theatre company Jugular present a darkly comic play about the disastrous consequences of 'forgetting' in relationships, Wed 10 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**THE RUSSIAN DOCTOR** World premiere of Andrew Dawson's theatrical response to Anton Chekhov's self-imposed exile to the remote Tsarist penal colony of Sakhalin Island, Wed 10 - Sat 13 Sept, The REP, B'ham  
**BLESS 'EM ALL** Nostalgia show. Thurs 11 Sept, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**THE SECRETS OF STONEY LIGHTHOUSE AND THE THRILL OF LOVE** Wolverhampton's Central Youth Theatre present a double bill of work by Laura Sambrooks & Amanda Whittington, Thurs 11 Sept, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**AN AUDIENCE WITH COLIN FRY** Fri 12 Sept, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

**RUBBLE AND MARRIAGE** Central Youth Theatre present a double bill of works by Arzhang Pezhman & Nikolai Gogol (stage adaptation by Tom Parry), Fri 12 Sept, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**BILLY THE KID: HIS LIFE IN MUSIC** Fusion of theatre, music and comedy featuring re-enactments of moments from cowboy history, written by and starring musician Rex Horan (Neil Cowley Trio) and writer/performer Chris Johnston, Fri 12 Sept, AE Harris, Birmingham

**FIRST DO NO HARM** Tea And Tenacity present Hilary Spiers' drama, which examines a forgotten corner of history, encouraging discussion on the future of our health & welfare system, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Sept, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**SOMEWHERE ELSE** A play written by Gari Jones, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**AN EVENING WITH TONY JACKLIN** A Q&A session



The White Devil - The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

and a meet'n'greet with the former British Open champion. Hosted by Willie Thorne, Sat 13 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**SIGHTLINES** Central Youth Theatre present Tash Dummelow's three short children's stories, celebrating the many types of creativity, Sat 13 Sept, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE FIGHT GAME & THE HUMAN ROCKET** Shropshire-based Owen Lewis Portable Theatre Company presents a double-bill of one-act plays, Sat 13 Sept, The Assembly Room, Welshpool Town Hall, Powys

**THE PLAY'S THE THING** Central Youth Theatre present Joseph Twilley's exploration of the less-than-glamorous world of Black Country theatre, Sat 13 Sept, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**LORD OF THE FLIES** The Crescent Theatre Company present Nigel Williams' stage version of William Golding's dystopian novel, Sat 13 - Sat 20 Sept, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**PROPAGANDA SWING** Belgrade Theatre & Nottingham Playhouse present the true story of German jazz musician, Karl 'Charly' Schwedler, and his mission to keep big band music alive in 1930s Berlin, Sat 13 - Sat 27 Sept, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**BILLY THE KID: HIS LIFE IN MUSIC** Fusion of theatre, music and comedy featuring re-enactments of

moments from cowboy history, written by and starring musician Rex Horan (Neil Cowley Trio) and writer/performer Chris Johnston, Sun 14 Sept, Boars Head, Kidderminster

## Week Commencing MON 15 SEP

**HIGH TALES FROM THE MP3** Young People from award-winning 20 Stories High tell each other's true stories straight from their MP3 players. As they hear the words in headphones, the performers deliver line for line to the audience what they are hearing - live, Mon 15 - Tue 16 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**THE PERFECT MURDER** Peter James' best-selling crime thriller, Mon 15 - Sat 20 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Rock'n'roll spectacular combining music from the 50s, 60s & 70s with wacky comedy routines, Tue 16 Sept, Crewe Lyceum

**BILLY THE KID: HIS LIFE IN MUSIC** Fusion of theatre, music and comedy featuring re-enactments of moments from cowboy history, written by and starring musician Rex Horan (Neil Cowley Trio) and writer/performer Chris Johnston, Tues 16 Sept, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme  
**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** Amateur produc-



First Do No Harm - The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham





### A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

Tues 16 Sept

The fastest-selling production in the Young Vic's history, Tennessee Williams' timeless masterpiece A Streetcar Named



7.00pm, £12.50, £10 students/unemployed

Desire will be broadcast live from their London home by National Theatre Live. With Gillian Anderson (The X-Files, The Fall) as Blanche DuBois, Ben Foster (Lone Survivor, Kill Your Darlings) as Stanley and Vanessa Kirby (BBC's Great Expectations, Three Sisters at the Young Vic) as Stella.

### MADAMA BUTTERFLY ON SYDNEY HARBOUR

Thurs 18 Sept

One of the world's most spectacular events, Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, is returning to cinema screens with a modern retelling of Puccini's tale of love and honour, Madama Butterfly. This year is the third opera to be staged on the magnificent water stage, suspended over the harbour against a backdrop of the Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge.



8.00pm, £16

### MANCHESTER CAMERATA: BENEDETTI PLAYS VIVALDI

Fri 19 Sept

One of the world's most phenomenal violinists, Scottish-born Nicola Benedetti joins Camerata's Music Director Gábor Takács-Nagy to lead the orchestra in Vivaldi's well known masterpiece, The Four Seasons, and Mozart's effervescent Linz Symphony. Experience the stilling and film-like sound world of Silouan's Song – a breathtaking hymn for string orchestra, written by the famed Estonian contemporary composer and Camerata favourite, Arvo Part.



7.30pm, £16/£14 concs / Under 26s £5 / Under 18s £3

### WHAT THE LADYBIRD HEARD

Sun 21 & Sun 22 Sept



Various Times, £11 Buy 10 get 1 free

Make sure you book early for this glittering family treat! Join the woolly sheep, the hairy hog, the fat red hen and the dainty dog in this brand new stage adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks' colourful farmyard adventure. With live music, puppetry, plenty of audience participation and lots of laughs!

### AXIS OF AWESOME

Thurs 25 Sept

The Axis of Awesome are The World's Most Awesomest Comedy Band. In the incredible time that they have been together, they have done literally so much stuff. They have blown audiences away around the world, including the prestigious invite-only Montreal Just for Laughs Festival and four sold out seasons at the world's largest arts festival, the Edinburgh Fringe. Their last tour was a sell-out success so book in early!



14+

8pm, £15/£13 concs

### THE NOISE NEXT DOOR

Sat 4 Oct

The UK's most exhilarating comedy act! The Noise Next Door will be delivering explosive doses of their trademark off-the-cuff comedy directly into the funny bones of the nation. Six time sell-out veterans of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and one of the country's most sought after comedy club headliners, The Noise Next Door leave audiences everywhere in awe of their lightning quick wit and totally original comedic talents.



8pm, £12

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Aldridge Musical Comedy Society present;

An Amateur production by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Ltd

# JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Lyrics by TIM RICE Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Tickets Adults £12 Concession £10 Child £6

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# Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

tion presented by Get Your Wigle On, Tue 16 - Wed 17 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**NOT I/FOOTBALLS/ROCKABY** Lisa Dwan performs a triple bill of works by Samuel Beckett, Tue 16 - Sat 20 Sept, The REP, Birmingham

**AVENUE Q** Tony Award-winning musical that centres on a group of loveable yet hopeless characters on a downtown New York street, Tue 16 - Sat 20 Sept, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical, Tue 16 - Sat 20 Sept, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**AUSTEN'S WOMEN** One-woman production which sees Rebecca Vaughan revisit some of the most rewarding moments from the Austen canon, Wed 17 Sept, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**THE FIGHT GAME & THE HUMAN ROCKET** Shropshire-based Owen Lewis Portable Theatre Company presents a double-bill of one-act plays, Fri 19 Sept, The Adam Ballroom, The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury

**GHOSTS** A New Vic Production of Henrik Ibsen's tale of public virtue and private guilt, Fri 19 Sept - Sat 4 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM** Presented by People's Theatre Company, Sat 20 Sept, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**TWO DEGREES** An inti-

mate and interactive experience for twelve audience members which promises to surprise, engage and stir both the imagination and the emotions, Sat 20 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** Lyngo Theatre presents its version of the classic fairytale, Sat 20 September, The REP, Birmingham

**OPEN ALL HOURS** Critically acclaimed stage version of the hugely popular BBC television series, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

**THE LITTLE MERMAID** Amateur production presented by Get Your Wigle On, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**MY BOY JACK** Presented by the Crescent Theatre Company, Sat 20 - Sat 27 Sept, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**MEDEA** A National Theatre Live screening of Euripides' powerful tragedy, Sun 21 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**Week Commencing MON 22 SEP**

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: BARMY BRITAIN** A brand new show featuring 3D Bogglevision effects which bring historical figures and events to the stage. Presented by Birmingham Stage Company, Mon 22 - Wed 24 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THE KITE RUNNER** Haunting tale of friendship which spans cultures and continents while following one man's

journey to confront his past and find redemption, Mon 22 Sept - Sat 4 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

**PAUL ZERDIN: NO STRINGS** The master ventriloquist returns with a brand new show featuring much-loved sponge characters, stand-up and 'wicked' audience participation, Thurs 23 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

**CHINN AND CHAPMAN'S BLOCKBUSTER THE MUSICAL** Paul Nicholas stars as Crazy Max in the world premiere of a major new British musical featuring the chart-busting hits of legendary songwriting team Nicky Chinn and Mike Chapman, Tue 23 - Sat 27 Sept, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUNITA** Rifco Arts present a new comedy-drama about family life, Tue 23 - Sat 27 Sept, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**DIRTY DANCING** Eleanor Bergstein's smash-hit West End musical tells the classic love story of Baby and Johnny, Tue 23 Sept - Sat 11 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST** Christopher Luscombe directs a new production of Shakespeare's sparkling comedy, Tue 23 Sept - Sat 14 March, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BLIND HAMLET** Actors Touring Company present an innovative piece of game-theatre where audiences can help shape the course of the evening, Wed 24 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**SMASHED** Award-winning performance of circus and theatre exploring lost love and afternoon tea. Presented by Gandini Juggling, Wed 24 Sept, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**TWEET TWEET** A play by young people for young people which explores how casual viral actions can have serious real-life consequences Wed 24 Sept, The REP, Birmingham

**WAR HORSE** Acclaimed West End drama based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, Wed 24 Sept - Sat 11 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Rock'n'roll spectacular combining music from the 50s, 60s & 70s with wacky comedy routines, Thurs 25 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ELVIS MCGONAGALL** Stand-up poet, arm-chair revolutionary and recumbent rocker, Thurs 25 Sept, Theatre



Open All Hours - Lichfield Garrick

Severn, Shrewsbury

**FOGHORN IMPROV: THE SHERLOCK TOMES** Step into Baker Street for an evening of improvised sleuthing, Thurs 25 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**ENCHANTED BURLESQUE** Panache comedy, burlesque, variety and lashings of glitters, Sat 27 Sept, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**THE FIGHT GAME & THE HUMAN ROCKET** Shropshire-based Owen Lewis Portable Theatre Company presents a double-bill of one-act plays, Sat 27 Sept, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**ONE WOMAN IN HER TIME** Laughter, tears and powerful poetry in a performance based on a young woman's impulsive decision to try an intensive medita-

tion retreat, Sun 28 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**Week Commencing MON 29 SEP**

**MICHAEL PALIN: TRAVELLING TO WORK** Brand new two-part stage show which looks back at twenty-five years of exploring the world and nearly fifty years in radio, television, books and films, Tue 30 Sept, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**CATS** Amateur production presented by Lichfield Garrick Youth Theatre, Tue 30 Sept - Sat 4 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

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## SNOW WHITE

Thu 25 - Sat 27 Sept, 7.30pm, Sat Mat 2.30pm  
Lichfield Garrick Theatre 01543 412121 / [www.lichfieldgarrick.com](http://www.lichfieldgarrick.com)

## THE NUTCRACKER

Sat 4 Oct, 7.30pm / Matinee 2.30pm  
Artrix, Bromsgrove. 01527 577330 / [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)

Fri 24 Oct, 7.00pm  
Oakengates Theatre (The Place) Telford.  
01952 382382 / [www.thelacetelford.co.uk](http://www.thelacetelford.co.uk)

Tue 28 Oct, 7.30pm  
The Little Theatre, Leicester.  
0116 255 1302 / [www.thelittletheatre.net](http://www.thelittletheatre.net)

Thu 6 Nov, 7.30pm  
William Aston Hall @ Glyndwr University, Wrexham  
[glynrw.ticketstolve.com/venues/25544392/shows](http://glynrw.ticketstolve.com/venues/25544392/shows)

Sat 8th Nov, 7.30pm  
Bacon Theatre & Prince Michael Hall, Cheltenham  
01242 258002 / [www.bacontheatre.co.uk](http://www.bacontheatre.co.uk)

Fri 19 & Sat 20 Dec, 7.30pm / Sat Mat 2.30pm  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham  
01386 446944 / [www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk](http://www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk)

Austen's Women - Ludlow Assembly Rooms





# Theatre REVIEWS

Below are reviews of theatre productions we checked out last month. For further theatre reviews, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time

Reviewed at The Gielgud Theatre, London, ahead of it showing at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in February.

Mark Haddon's groundbreaking book was an unlikely novel with an even less likely leading lad. What at first appeared to be a naïve narrative soon revealed itself to be the personal testimony of a fifteen-year-old boy with Aspergers syndrome. The central character, Christopher, is shocked to find his neighbour's dog has been skewered to her lawn with a garden fork. His uniquely logical mind is baffled by the incident and he sets out to solve the murder...

Literary reviewers hailed the book's unusualness, and declared its detailed exposition of an Aspergers mind to be unfilmable. A stage adaptation was unthinkable. But in the modern theatre, the unthinkable has a habit of happening, and the National Theatre took the challenge to playwright Simon Stephens. Together they came up with one of the most remarkable productions in the whole history of the South Bank.

Christopher is a very special character to play and, in the performance I saw, his 'separateness' was beautifully handled by a rather gawky, finger-twisting Abram Rooney. I hope he tours, because his understanding of an Aspergers mind is acutely perceptive.

And there is love in the play too; the irrational, unmanageable love of Christopher's exasperated parents, and the cool, caring, professional love of his teacher, Siobhan. Narrating the play, she is his guardian angel; his still small centre of certainty - and the relationship between the wonderfully wise teacher and the seriously struggling student is deeply affirming. It's Siobhan who effectively creates the show we see by suggesting Christopher's diary be turned into a school play. And every so often the elastic of the imagination is wittily snapped back to this underlying, practical concept. Not only has the National Theatre achieved the unthinkable; it has done so in triumph.

The book has been translated into forty-four languages and the play seen by over two hundred thousand people so far. It opens on Broadway this autumn and arrives in the Midlands next year. I urge you to see it. And if you do, take my advice and stay seated when you think it's all over.

Chris Eldon Lee ■■■■■



## The Gruffalo Birmingham Town Hall

It's not summer in Birmingham without one of Julia Donaldson's delightful tales being brought to life at the city's Town Hall. And surely one of the best of the adaptations is that of the multi-million-selling children's classic, *The Gruffalo* - brilliantly adapted for the stage by award-winning theatre company Tall Stories.

Tall Stories' storytelling approach doesn't rely on flamboyant costume but instead uses actors as storytellers, so that children are aware of the tale being told before them. So via just a trio of performers, some basic costumes and a minimal set, youngsters and their families were transported to the Deep Dark Wood, to join the mouse on his journey to meet the fox, the snake, the owl and, of course, the elusive Gruffalo. In this magical show, the fox becomes a ska-loving Cockney wideboy, sending children squealing with laughter; the owl is a ditzy pilot, donning goggles; the snake is a salsa-loving, sequined dancer who uses hypnosis to try and lure the mouse to his log-pile house. But the gutsy mouse outwits them all, with the help of the very willing children, who revel in some well-directed audience participation.

And youngsters were on the edge of their seats for the much-anticipated arrival of *The Gruffalo* himself, bounding on stage complete with his all-important purple prickles and death-defying roar.

Julia Donaldson fans will absolutely adore this imaginative retelling of the much-loved book, complete with talented cast, catchy songs and well-constructed characters.

Fiona McCartney ■■■■■

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ROSE THEATRE,  
01562 743745  
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WORCESTER  
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## Celebrating twenty-five-years of Miss Saigon

A twenty-fifth anniversary gala performance of Boublil & Schönberg's award-winning Miss Saigon will this month see members of the original company take to the stage alongside the show's current cast. Tickets for the 22 September Prince Edward Theatre gala are now on sale at 1989 prices, ranging from £13.50 to £22.50. The original production of Miss Saigon opened at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane a quarter-century ago and ran for a decade. The show has since been seen by over forty million people worldwide. A new production of the musical opened to great critical acclaim at the Prince Edward Theatre in May this year. With record advance bookings, it's received an audience response which is said to be 'just as rapturous as the original'. The gala performance will be recorded by BBC Radio and broadcast in its entirety on Sunday 28 September.

## Lyndsay to join Lindsay at Playhouse Theatre

Shrek: The Musical actor Nigel Lindsay and The West Wing's Richard Schiff are to join Lindsay Lohan when she makes her West End debut in David Mamet's Speed-the-Plow at the Playhouse Theatre this month. The duo play high-powered producers Bobby Gould and Charlie Fox in Mamet's satirical dissection of Hollywood's movie industry, with Lohan playing their temporary secretary, Karen. The American actress has said she feels 'very lucky and excited and nervous' about making her West End debut, adding: "There's a different standard to it here. It seems more prestigious. It seems a bit more serious, and that's something that I really want to experience."

Speed-the-Plow opens at the Playhouse Theatre on 24 September and runs until 29 November.



Nigel Lindsay



Lindsay Lohan



Richard Schiff

## No more Perfect Nonsense in the West End

It's been announced that Olivier Award-winning comedy Jeeves And Wooster In Perfect Nonsense is to finish its West End run earlier than planned. The show, currently starring John Gordon Sinclair and James Lance, had been taking bookings until next January but will now end on 20 September. It will begin a UK tour a few days later in Guildford.

Of their decision to cut short its London run, producers Mark Goucher and Mark Rubenstein said they felt it was best to close the West End show 'on a high' until they could 'find a cast to match the three brilliant Jeeves and Woosters that we've had the honour to present'. They added that they were looking forward to taking the production out on tour. Alas, there are no current plans to bring the show to the Midlands...

# GREAT DAYS OUT THIS AUTUMN

From 34 local pick up points!

Sat 13 Sep	Duxford Air Show
Mon 15 Sep	Cadbury's World Heritage Tour
Tue 16 Sep	Clandon Park & Hatchlands Park
Wed 17 Sep	Greenwich & The Cutty Sark
Fri 19 Sep	River Dee Cruise, Cheshire
Mon 22 Sep	CATS at Birmingham Hippodrome
Tue 23 Sep	Sidmouth with cream tea
Wed 24 Sep	Chartwell House, Kent
Thu 25 Sep	Samlesbury Hall with guided witch tour
Sat 27 Sep	Malvern Autumn Gardening Show
Mon 29 Sep	Harry Potter Studio Tour
Tue 30 Sep	Churchill War Rooms, London
Thu 2 Oct	West Somerset Railway Gala
Thu 2 Oct	War Horse at New London Theatre
Fri 3 Oct	Peterborough Festival of Antiques
Sat 11 Oct	Knitting & Stitching Show, London
Sat 18 Oct	BBC Media City, Salford
Tue 21 Oct	Wicksteed Park Musical Variety Show
Thu 23 Oct	Westminster Abbey with Guided Tour
Thu 30 Oct	Stourhead Autumn Colours
Sat 1 Nov	Peak Railway, Derbyshire
Sun 2 Nov	Disney on Ice at NIA
Sun 16 Nov	London Shopper

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# Dance



## Riverdance

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Tuesday 23 - Thursday 25 September

When a show's been seen by millions of people across thousands of performances on no fewer than four continents, it's fair to say it's one mother of a hit! Such are the statistics behind the mesmerising Riverdance, Michael Flatley's breathtaking dance extravaganza that's been wowing audiences around the globe for a staggering two decades. Riverdance started out as a seven-minute interval piece at the Eurovision Song Contest in 1994. Within a couple of years, it had become the brand new craze, not only bringing traditional dance to a contemporary audience but also inspiring slick'n'sexy spin-off shows such as Spirit Of The Dance and Lord Of The Dance.

If it's been a while since you last sampled its delights or, perish the thought, you've never before witnessed its magnificence, these twentieth anniversary shows offer an opportunity not to be missed.

## Inala

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 30 September; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 30 October

When a group of talented musicians find their way into the public consciousness via a baked beans advert, it says a lot about both the state of the world and the power of advertising. Such was the case with South African singers Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Still, don't be fooled - Ladysmith had been around a long time before they provided that memorable Heinz soundtrack, having recorded over forty albums and sold over six million records worldwide. They're also much in evidence on Paul Simon's Graceland album, using their Zulu harmonies and unique sound to provide some unusual and interesting additions to his music.

This latest presentation sees them collaborating with multi-award-winning choreographer Mark Baldwin and nine world-class dancers - including talent from the Royal Ballet - to present a live storytelling experience that embraces an exhilarating fusion of South African and Western cultures.



## Beauty And The Beast

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 30 September - Sat 4 October

Although not universally acclaimed when first performed in 2003, David Bintley's gothic fairytale has since become recognised as an intelligent ballet of monumental beauty.

Phillip Prowse's storybook set of forests and castles helps create a breathtaking atmosphere, while the two lead roles offer plenty of opportunity for the principal dancers to explore a relationship that's both rich in tenderness and laden with threat. Add to the mix two outrageously haughty sisters, a grumpy grandmother who's been described as 'worthy of Roald Dahl' and a supporting cast of delightfully engaging animals, and you've got a show that has all the necessary ingredients with which to cast a profound and powerful spell.



# Dance LISTINGS

For full listing information on dance, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## RHYTHM OF THE DANCE

Featuring thirty dancers, a traditional full Irish band and the 'dashing' Young Irish Tenors, Sat 6 Sept, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

## THE POWER OF COMPASSION

Eight Tibetan monks present a moving and inspirational insight into the world of sacred music and monastic dance, from the contemplative, mesmerising chant of Buddhist texts to majestic, brocade-costumed masked dances, Sat 6 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

## AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE

Tantalising, camp and colourful, Fri 12 Sept, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

## JALEO FLAMENCO

Andalusian dance, song & guitar, Sun 14 Sept, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Presented by English Youth Ballet, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

## JORDON SCHOOL OF DANCE & PERFORMING ARTS: ELECTRIFY

Sun 21 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham



Inala - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## JALEO FLAMENCO

Andalusian dance, song & guitar, Sun 21 Sept, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

## RIVERDANCE 2014

Tue 23 - Thurs 25 Sept, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

## THE BLACK ALBUM

Avant Garde Dance present a triple bill of works comprising three distinctly different hip-hop choreographies, Thurs 25 - Fri 26 Sept, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham

## JALEO FLAMENCO

Andalusian dance, song & guitar.

Sat 27 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Choreographed by

BRB's Artistic Director, David Bintley, Tue 30 Sept - Sat 4 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

**INALA** A zulu ballet featuring dancers from Royal Ballet & Rambert, Tue 30 Sept, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



The Power of Compassion - mac, Birmingham

## Dance Box Office

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From  
FRI 5  
SEPT

## The Hundred Foot Journey CERT PG (112 mins)

Starring Helen Mirren, Om Puri, Manish Dayal, Charlotte Le Bon Directed by Lasse Hallström (USA)

Produced by Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey, this is the much anticipated adaptation of the 2010 novel by Richard C Morais. Although set across a mere hundred feet of boulevard in Midi-Pyrénées, in France, the tale encapsulates the extremes of global culture today. When Hassan Kadam (Manish Dayal) and his family are displaced from their native India, they set up a new restaurant in the South of France. However, Madame Mallory (Helen Mirren), the proprietress of a traditional French restaurant down the street, is determined to give the new upstarts hell. The screenplay is by Steven Knight, who previously scripted Dirty Pretty Things, Eastern Promises and Locke, while the director Lasse Hallström has brought us The Cider House Rules, Salmon Fishing In The Yemen and, significantly, the French-set adaptation of Joanne Harris's Chocolat. Oscar buzz is already humming.

## TOP 5 FILM BOX OFFICE

- 1 The Inbetweeners 2 (15)
- 2 Guardians Of The Galaxy (12a)
- 3 The Expendables 3 (12a)
- 4 How To Train Your Dragon 2 (12a)
- 5 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes (12a)



FROM  
FRI 19  
SEPT

## Serena CERT tbc

Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, Rhys Ifans, Sean Harris, Toby Jones, Sam Reid, David Dencik, Ana Ularu Directed by Susanne Bier (USA/Czech Republic)

The last time that Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper played a couple, they ensnared an Oscar nomination apiece, for Silver Linings Playbook, for which Ms Lawrence walked off with the main prize. Here, Cooper plays George Pemberton, a tycoon who moves from Boston to Depression-Era North Carolina to build a timber empire. Initially met with hostility by the locals, his wife, Serena (Lawrence), soon proves that she can hold her own, hunting rattlesnakes and keeping the men in line. But then a secret from George's past threatens to undermine their union... Susanne Bier previously directed the award-winning Open Hearts, After The Wedding and Love Is All You Need, while her 2011 thriller In A Better World won the Oscar for best foreign language film. Serena is based on the 2008 novel by Ron Rash.



The Inbetweeners 2



## Film NEW RELEASES

Released from Fri 5 September

### Before I Go to Sleep

CERT 15 (92 mins)

Starring **Nicole Kidman, Colin Firth, Mark Strong, Anne-Marie Duff, Dean-Charles Chapman** Directed by **Rowan Joffé (UK/USA)**

Christine Lucas (Nicole Kidman) has anterograde amnesia, which means that every time she wakes up she's forgotten everything from the day before.

So she starts a journal, a daily record that begins to unearth some frightening truths. Based on the 2011 novel by SJ Watson.



### They Came Together

CERT 15 (81 mins)

Starring **Paul Rudd, Amy Poehler, Cobie Smulders, Christopher Meloni, Max Greenfield, Bill Hader** Directed by **David Wain (USA)**

With a title like this, it's a wonder Judd Apatow wasn't involved. But this is actually a parody of the romantic comedy and apparently Paul Rudd and Amy Poehler knock sparks off each other.



From  
WED 3  
SEPT

### Life Of Crime

CERT 15 (99 mins)

Starring **Jennifer Aniston, Mos Def, Isla Fisher, Will Forte, Tim Robbins, John Hawkes** Directed by **Daniel Schechter (USA)**

When the wife of a wealthy man is kidnapped, the husband decides he doesn't want to pay the ransom... Based on the novel by Elmore Leonard.



### Sex Tape

CERT 15 (94 mins)

Starring **Cameron Diaz, Jason Segal, Rob Corddry, Ellie Kemper, Rob Lowe** Directed by **Jake Kasdan (USA)**

Having directed Cameron Diaz and Jason Segal in the surprisingly funny *Bad Teacher* (2011), Jake Kasdan now teams them in another carnal romp. This time they play a married couple whose private sex tape ends up in cyber space. Very sporting of Rob Lowe to appear in a supporting role.

For full film listings,  
showings  
and booking links  
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View the latest trailers on line



Released from Fri 12 September

## A Most Wanted Man

CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rachel McAdams, Willem Dafoe, Robin Wright, Daniel Brühl, Nina Hoss**  
Directed by **Anton Corbijn (UK/USA/Germany)**

The photographer Anton Corbijn has proved himself to be a first-class filmmaker (cf. *Control*, *The American*) and would seem a good choice to direct this adaptation of John le Carré's 2008 novel. And it's bang up-to-date, set in the world of the war on terror and featuring a half-Chechen, half-Russian Muslim who turns up in Hamburg with a claim to a huge fortune. Good cast, too.



## Boxtrolls

CERT PG (97 mins)

Featuring the voice of **Isaac Hempstead-Wright**, **Ben Kingsley**, **Elle Fanning**, **Toni Collette**, **Jared Harris**, **Simon Pegg**, **Nick Frost**  
Directed by **Graham Annable and Anthony Stacchi (USA)**

From the company (Laika) that brought us *Coraline* and *ParaNorman*, this is the story of an orphan boy (Egg) who is brought up by subterranean trash collectors. Brought to life using stop-motion animation, the film is based on the heavily illustrated children's novel *Here Be Monsters!* by Alan Snow. In 3D.



## Pride

CERT 15 (120 mins)

Starring **Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton, Dominic West, Paddy Considine, Andrew Scott, George MacKay**  
Directed by **Matthew Warchus (UK)**

Based on actual events, this is the story of how a group of LGBT activists attempted to raise money to help families affected by the 1984 miners' strike. This should appeal to those who lapped up *Made In Dagenham* and its ilk. Expect strong language and Welsh accents.



From **FRI 19 SEPT**

Released from Fri 19 September

## The Riot Club

CERT tbc

Starring **Max Irons, Sam Claflin, Douglas Booth, Holliday Grainger, Freddie Fox, Natalie Dormer, Jessica Brown Findlay, Sam Reid**  
Directed by **Lone Scherfig (UK)**

For *Riot Club* read the *Bullingdon Club*, the Oxford University establishment known for its ram-bunctious rituals and elaborate banquets. Adapted by Laura Wade from her own play *Posh* and helmed by Lone Scherfig, the Danish director who brought us *An Education* and *One Day*.



## Think Like A Man Too

CERT 12a (106mins)

Starring **Meagan Good, Regina Hall, Taraji P. Henson, Gabrielle Union, Kevin Hart**  
Directed by **Tim Story (USA)**

*Think Like A Man* (2012), based on Steve Harvey's book *Act Like A Lady, Think Like A Man*, grossed over \$100million worldwide, so a sequel was inevitable. Here, the various couples from the first comedy convene for a wedding in Las Vegas and, also inevitably, nothing goes to plan.



## Magic In The Moonlight

CERT 12a (98 mins)

Starring **Eileen Atkins, Colin Firth, Marcia Gay Harden, Simon McBurney, Emma Stone, Jackie Weaver**  
Directed by **Woody Allen (USA)**

Set in the 1920s on the French Riviera, Woody Allen's latest - his forty-third film as writer-director - features Colin Firth as Stanley, a curmudgeonly illusionist. Stanley is then asked to help unmask a clairvoyant (Emma Stone) who has managed to dupe a rich American family on the Côte d'Azur.

## Grand Piano

CERT 15 (90 mins)

Starring **Elijah Wood, John Cusack, Tamsin Egerton, Kerry Bishé, Alex Winter**  
Directed by **Eugenio Mira (Spain)**

When a pianist (Wood) struck with stage fright decides to make a comeback in Chicago, he becomes the attention of a sniper. The deal is that if he plays one wrong note, the sniper will kill him...



## A Walk Among The Tombstones

CERT tbc

Starring **Liam Neeson, Dan Stevens, Boyd Holbrook, Sebastian Roché**  
Directed by **Scott Frank (USA)**

It sounds like a Western but it's actually a crime drama based on the novel by Lawrence Sanders. When his wife is kidnapped, a New York drug tsar (Dan Stevens) hires a former cop (Liam Neeson) to get her back...





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Released from Fri 26 September

## Get On Up

CERT 12a (139 mins)

Starring **Chadwick Boseman, Nelsan Ellis, Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Dan Aykroyd**  
Directed by **Tate Taylor (USA)**

Tate Taylor directed the Oscar-winning *The Help* (2011), so it's reasonable to expect great things from this biography of James Brown. Brown, of course, was the Godfather of Soul, and *Get On Up* chronicles his rise from poverty to celebrity. The script is co-written by Jez Butterworth, he who penned the award-winning play *Jerusalem*.



## Maps To The Stars

CERT 18 (112 mins)

Starring **Julianne Moore, Mia Wasikowska, John Cusack, Robert Pattinson, Olivia Williams, Sarah Gadon**  
Directed by **David Cronenberg (Canada/USA)**

The world of Hollywood is excavated with typical voyeuristic precision by David Cronenberg, a director not known for pulling his punches. For her role as an ageing, unhinged movie star, Julianne Moore won the best actress award at Cannes this year.



## The Equaliser

CERT tbc

Starring **Denzel Washington, Marton Csokas, Chloë Grace Moretz, David Harbour, Bill Pullman, Melissa Leo**  
Directed by **Antoine Fuqua (USA)**

One may not immediately associate Denzel Washington with Edward Woodward, but the former is recreating the role that the Croydon-born actor made his own on TV in the late-1980s. Here, Robert McCall (Denzel), an ex-black ops commando, has been relocated to Boston and comes out of retirement to help a teenage girl (Moretz) in the clutches of a gang of Russian gangsters.



## The Good Lie

CERT 12a (110 mins)

Starring **Reese Witherspoon, Corey Stoll, Sarah Baker, Maria Howell**  
Directed by **Philippe Falardeau (USA)**

Based on true events, this is the story of a brassy American woman (Witherspoon) who assists in the relocation of four young Sudanese refugees. Corey Stoll, the male lead, previously played Ernest Hemingway in Woody Allen's *Midnight In Paris*.



## Human Capital

CERT tbc

Starring **Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Matilde Gioli, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi**  
Directed by **Paolo Virzi (Italy)**

Two families whose respective lives would've been far simpler had they been kept apart don't get so lucky. Instead, a road accident draws them together in ways that compromise the very foundation-stones of their existence. Adapted from Stephen Amidon's novel, director Paolo Virzi's character-driven movie shifts the action from moneyed Connecticut to Italy's wealthy north, and focuses on the uncomfortably intertwined lives of the Bernaschis - a family of elegant capitalists - and the Ossolas - a brood of struggling middle-classes. The title of the movie, by the way, is a formal legal term, designating an accident victim's net worth in terms of compensation claims. Just so you know.

## What We Did On Our Holiday

CERT 12a (95 mins)

Starring **Rosamund Pike, David Tennant, Ben Miller, Amelia Bullmore, Billy Connolly, Celia Imrie**  
Directed by **Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin**

When Abi (Pike) and Doug (Tennant) are invited to the Scottish Highlands for the birthday of Doug's father (Billy Connolly), they are determined to keep their impending divorce a secret. But Abi and Doug take along their three children, and you know what children are like... A comedy from the creators of TV's *Outnumbered*.

## This Is Where I Leave You

CERT 15 (103 mins)

Starring **Jason Bateman, Tina Fey, Adam Driver, Rose Byrne, Corey Stoll, Kathryn Hahn, Jane Fonda**  
Directed by **Shawn Levy (USA)**

Based on the 2009 novel by Jonathan Tropper, this is the comedic story of four siblings who return to their childhood home following the death of their father. Sounds like August: Osage County - with a Yiddish makeover.





# Film A-Z LISTINGS

All films are currently on general release unless otherwise stated. For full listing information, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out Of The Window And Disappeared 15

Allan Karlsson is bored to tears in his old folks' home, so on his one hundredth birthday he climbs out of his window and embarks on a most unlikely adventure. Robert Gustafsson & Ivar Wiklander star. *Showing at Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 2 Sept*

## Arthur And Mike 15

This is the story of a former professional golfer who fakes his own death in order to escape a life of failure. Then, in his new incarnation as Arthur Newman, he encounters a woman who is also fleeing her old identity. *Showing at Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 9 - Weds 10 Sept*

## Begin Again 15

Keira Knightley plays a singer-songwriter who moves to New York with her boyfriend, only to be cheated on by him. She then meets Dan (Mark Ruffalo), a disillusioned music executive... *Showing at Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 12 - Sun 14 Sept; Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Fri 12 - Thurs 18 Sept; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 12 - Fri 19 Sept*

## The Book Thief 12a

A young girl sent to live with a foster family in World War Two Germany learns to read, with encouragement from Max, a Jewish refugee who they're hiding under the stairs. *Showing at Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 1 Sept*

## Boyhood 15

This is one film that lives up to its title. Started in the summer of 2002, the drama continued production through to October 2013, having shot for a few weeks every year in-between. The film is the story of Mason Jr and fol-

lows him from the age of six to eighteen. Stars Patricia Arquette, Ellar Coltrane. *Showing at Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Fri 5 - Sat 6 & Mon 8 Sept; Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Sat 6 - Tues 9 Sept*

## Bright Days Ahead 12a

Caroline, a sixty-year-old retired dentist, is given a trial membership for an activity centre for old people. After finding the courses dull and the company grating, Caroline gets chatting to the handsome IT teacher Julien with whom she starts a secret affair. Fanny Ardant & Laurent Lafitte star. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 21 - Mon 22 Sept*

**WATCH THE FILM TRAILERS AT [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)**

## Captain Phillips 12a

Tom Hanks plays the eponymous Captain Richard Phillips, who was abducted by Somali pirates in 2009. It's a tale ripped straight from the headlines, based on the book by Captain Phillips himself in collaboration with Stephan Talty. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 12 Sept*

## Cinema Paradiso 12a

A middle-aged man's reflection on his past, in particular the Sicilian cinema (and its projectionist) that formed his dreams. Stars Philippe Noiret. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 12 Sept*

## Citizen Kane u

A fascinating portrait of America's love of power and materialism and the

corruption it sometimes fosters. Stars Orson Wells. *Showing at Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Mon 15 Sept*

## The Congress 15

The story of an ageing Hollywood beauty (Robin Wright) who can no longer get work due to her reputation for being 'difficult.' So, in order to continue her career, she sells the rights to her 'digital image.' Stars Robin Wright. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 4 Sept; Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Tues 23 - Thurs 25 Sept*

## Cycling With Molière 15

A misanthropic actor has turned his back on the stage. Then the grumpy thesp is approached by another actor to make a comeback in a production of Molière's *The Misanthrope*. Unfortunately, it's not the leading part... Fabrice Luchin & Lambert Wilson star. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 5 & Mon 8 Sept*

## Fading Gigolo 15

Comedy drama about a couple of friends who set up a gigolo business to help the lonely women of New York. Stars Woody Allen, John Turturro. *Showing at Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Mon 1 - Weds 3 Sept*

## Finding Fela 15

A compelling portrait of the late, great Fela Kuti, Nigeria's answer to Bob Marley. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Sept; Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Weds 24 - Thurs 25 Sept*

## Finding Vivian Maier 12a

The story of a mysterious nanny who secretly took over one hundred thousand photographs which were hidden and then discovered decades later. Vivian Maier's strange and riveting life and art are revealed through never-before-seen photographs, films, and interviews. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Weds 3 - Thurs 4 Sept*

## Fruitvale Station 15

On New Year's Eve 2008,

Oscar Grant III was shot at point blank range by a police officer while being restrained by another. The mobile phone footage has been seen by millions of people. This drama traces Oscar's last twenty-four hours. Michael B Jordan & Melonie Diaz star. *Showing at Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Mon 15 - Weds 17 Sept*

## The Galapagos Affair: Satan Came To Eden tbc

A documentary of the true-life story of the eccentric human wildlife that first settled in the Galapagos Islands in the 1930s, expecting a utopian garden of Eden. But as bohemian lifestyles and a free love ethos give way to personality clashes and Darwinian impulses, people begin to disappear and an intriguing murder-mystery unfolds. *Showing at Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 28 Sept*

## The Grand Budapest Hotel 12a

The adventures of the legendary concierge Gustave H. Played here by Ralph Fiennes, Gustave H is a wonderful comic character, an articulate, manipulative and brazen fellow who abuses his position with startling zeal. Accused of murder and chased all over the shop, the fellow never loses his nerve. *Showing at Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Mon 8 Sept*

## Grand Central 15

The story of a decontamination sub-contractor at a nuclear power plant in the lower valley of the Rhone, Grand Central deals with the everyday problem of radiation contamination and stars two of France's hottest young performers: Tahar Rahim & Léa Seydoux. *Showing at Courtyard Theatre, Mon 22 - Tues 23 Sept; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Weds 24 Sept*

## The Grand Seduction 12a

The story of a remote fishing village that has to ensnare a doctor in order to land a factory contract and thus stabilise the local economy. Stars Brendan Gleeson. *Showing at mac,*

*Birmingham, Fri 12 - Thurs 18 Sept; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 26 & Mon 29 Sept; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 30 Sept*

## The House Of Magic u

Thunder, an abandoned cat seeking shelter from a storm, stumbles into the strangest house, owned by an old magician. When the magician falls ill, his nephew sees a chance to cash in by selling the house, Thunder enlists the help of the magician's assistants to protect his new home. With the voices of Cinda Adams, Grant George. *Showing at Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept*

## Jersey Boys 15

Before The Beatles, the most popular rock band of all time was The Four Seasons. The Broadway musical that chronicled their amazing career and won four Tony awards has been brought to the big screen by Clint Eastwood. Stars John Lloyd Young. *Showing at Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, until Thurs 4 Sept; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 1 - Sat 6 Sept*

## Joe 15

Joe is a no-nonsense supervisor of a crew of lumberjacks who finds work for a troubled teenager. As Joe takes him under his wing, he discovers that Gary lives under the tyranny of a drunk and abusive father, and soon finds himself torn between his fierce protective instincts and his need to avoid the violence of his past. Stars Nicolas Cage. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 1 - Thurs 4 Sept; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 18 Sept*

## Lilting 15

Junn is a Cambodian-Chinese woman who lives in London who cannot speak English and is totally dependent on her son to understand the community in which she lives. Then he dies unexpectedly, severing her links with the outside world... Stars Ben Whishaw, Cheng Pei Pei. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly rooms, South Shropshire, Weds 10 -*

*Thurs 11 Sept; Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Fri 12 - Thurs 18 Sept; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 19 Sept*

## The Love Punch 15

The story of two divorcees who, after reuniting at a wedding, decide to team up to retrieve the retirement money stolen from them. Pierce Brosnan & Emma Thompson star. *Showing at Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 15 Sept*

## The Lunchbox pg

Middle-class housewife Ila is trying once again to add some spice to her marriage, this time through her cooking. She hopes that a new recipe will arouse some kind of reaction from her neglectful husband. She prepares a special lunchbox to be delivered to him at work, but, unbeknownst to her, it's mistakenly delivered to another office worker. Irrfan Khan & Nimrat Kaur star. *Showing at Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 22 Sept*

## Mood Indigo 12a

Set in a charmingly surreal Paris, wealthy bachelor Colin spends his time developing a cocktail-making piano. When he learns that his best friend has a new American girlfriend, our lonely hero attends a friend's party in hopes of falling in love himself. *Showing at Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Sat 13 - Thurs 18 Sept; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Weds 24 - Thurs 25 Sept*

## Mr Morgan's Last Love 12a

Michael Caine stars as retired philosophy professor Matthew Morgan, who, living in Paris, 'takes up' with a French dance instructor. *Showing at Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 15 - Tues 16 Sept; Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Fri 19 - Thurs 25 Sept*



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### Mrs Brown's Boys D-Movie 12a

Mrs Brown's fruit & veg stall is threatened by developers, so she enlists the help of a troupe of blind Ninja assassins and a barrister with Tourette's Syndrome. Brendan O'Carroll & Eilish O'Carroll star. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 1 - Tues 2 Sept; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 8 - Tues 9 Sept*

### Mystery Road tbc

Detective Joe Swan is a native Australian tasked to investigate the murder of an Aboriginal girl in his old home town; but his career choices have distanced him from the Aboriginal community, and the white folk don't trust him either. Aaron Penderson stars. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Weds 24 - Thurs 25 Sept*

### Night Will Fall 15

A documentary exploring the Allied forces liberation of the Nazi concentration camps in 1944-45. Their terrible discoveries were recorded by army and newsreel cameramen, revealing for the first time the full horror of what had happened. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sun 21 - Mon 21 Sept*

### Of Horses And Men 15

Set against the stunning landscapes of Iceland, this

off-beat film weaves together interlinking stories based around different horses. Ingvar Eggert Sigurdsson & Charlotte Bøving star. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 7 - Mon 8 Sept*

### One Direction - Where We Are Tour - Concert Film

Recorded in Milan's iconic San Siro stadium, this must for One Direction fans features fifteen minutes of backstage footage and exclusive interviews. *Showing at Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Sept; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Sept*

### Planes 2: Fire And Rescue U

Dusty Crophopper (voiced by Dane Cook) returns for more aerial adventures, although when his engine is damaged he realises that he may never race again. *Showing at Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, until Sun 7 Sept; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 6 Sept*

### Point Blank 15

An adrenaline-fuelled action thriller about a man on the run, desperately trying to save his pregnant, kidnapped wife in a race against time. Gilles Lelouche stars. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 26 Sept*

### The Police Officer's Wife tbc

A young couple lead a modest provincial existence with their small daughter. The husband is a policeman. The wife stays at home and cares for their little girl. This seemingly ordinary family live a frugal life. It is also a life of increasing violence, measured by the dark bruises of the police officer's wife. Alexandra Finner & David Zimmer-schied. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Mon 15 - Tues 16 Sept*

### Polyester 15

John Water's cult classic stars Divine as a suburban housewife whose world falls apart when her pornographer husband admits he's serially unfaithful to her, her daughter gets pregnant, and her son is suspected of being the foot-fetishist who's been breaking local women's feet. Tab Hunter also stars. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 20 & Tues 23 Sept*

### A Promise 12a

The protege of a wealthy industrialist is sent abroad when it becomes apparent that he's fallen in love with the industrialist's wife. But before he goes, she makes him a promise. Rebecca Hall & Alan Rickman star. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre,*

*Coventry, until Thurs 4 Sept; mac, Birmingham, Fri 5 Sept; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Sept; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 29 - Tues 30 Sept*

### The Railway Man 15

Based on the autobiography of Eric Lomax who, as a POW for the Japanese, helped build the Thai-Burma Railway. Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman star. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 25 Sept*

### The Rover 15

With society in decline, the rule of law has disintegrated and life is cheap. Hardened loner Eric (Guy Pearce) travels the desolate and dangerous Australian outback. When a brutal gang of thieves steal his car and only remaining possession, they leave behind the wounded Rey (Robert Pattinson) in their wake. Forcing Rey to help track the gang, Eric gives chase. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 13, Weds 17 - Thurs 18 Sept*

### Saving Mr Banks PG

Biog of PL Travers, the author of Mary Poppins, Saving Mr Banks is divided between Travers' early years in Australia and the later negotiations with Disney to make a film of her popular children's

novel. Emma Thompson & Tom Hanks star. *Showing at The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich Spa, Weds 10 Sept*

### She Monkeys 12a

When Emma meets Cassandra, they initiate a relationship filled with physical and psychological challenges with Emma doing whatever it takes to master the rules of the game. Mathilda Paradeiser & Linda Molin star. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Thurs 25 Sept*

### Sin City 2: A Dame To Kill For 15

The much-anticipated sequel based on Frank Miller's graphic novels. The town's most hard-boiled citizens cross paths with some of its more reviled inhabitants. Jessica Alba & Powers Booth star. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 4 Sept*

### Tracks 12a

Director John Curran brings to screen the 1980 memoir of Robyn Davidson, which chronicles her one thousand, seven hundred-mile trek across the Australian Outback with just a dog, four camels and the National Geographic photographer Rick Smolan. Mia Wasikowska stars. *Showing at Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 16*

*& Thurs 18 Sept*

### Two Days, One Night 15

Sandra has one week to convince her workmates to give up their bonuses so that she can keep her job. Marion Cotillard & Fabrizio Rongione star. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Sept; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 22 - Tues 23 Sept; Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Mon 29 - Tues 30 Sept*

### Wakolda 12a

Set in Patagonia 1960, this true story follows a family who're befriended by a charismatic German man, who they welcome into their home and their hearts, little knowing that he's notorious war criminal Joseph Mengele. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Tues 2 - Thurs 4 Sept; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 15 - Thurs 18 Sept; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 22 Sept*

### Walking On Sunshine 12a

After a whirlwind romance, Maddie is preparing for her dream wedding to gorgeous Italian Raf. But, unbeknownst to her, Raf is an ex-holiday flame of her sister's and the love of her life. *Showing at Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Sept*

## DVD NEW RELEASES

### Plastic 15

Based on real events, this comedy thriller focuses on a group of students whose credit card fraud lands them in hot water with a ruthless crime boss who gives them two weeks to raise £2million. Stars Ed Speleers and Andy Allen. **Released 8 September**



### Blue Ruin 15

Dwight Evans is an outsider whose quiet life is disturbed when, seeking vengeance, he proves himself an amateur assassin and ends up in a fight to protect his estranged family. Stars Macon Blair. **Released 8 September**

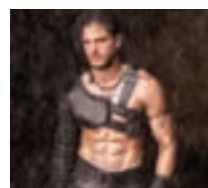


### After Earth 12a

After Earth has been laid waste by cataclysmic events, a father and son find themselves back on the planet, which is a very changed place, a millennium after events forced humanity to escape. Stars Will Smith. **Released 15 September**

### Pompeii 12a

It's 79AD and former slave Milo is now a gladiator and in love with Cassia, who is betrothed to the corrupt senator. And then all hell breaks loose when Mount Vesuvius erupts. Stars Kit Harington. **Released 15 September**



### Jimmy's Hall 12a

Barry Ward plays the real-life political activist Jimmy Gralton, who becomes the only Irishman ever to be deported from Ireland. This is the story of the dance hall he built. Also stars Simone Kirby and is directed by Ken Loach. **Released 29 September**



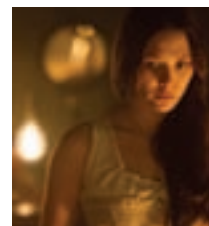
### Bad Neighbors 15

Here, the deal is that family man Seth Rogen (with new-born baby girl) moves next door to a frat house run by the unruly, beer-swilling Zac Efron. Expect some pretty strong language, nudity and 'crude sex references'. **Released 8 September**

### In Secret 15

Set in 1860s Paris, Therese Raquin is trapped into a loveless marriage to her sickly cousin by her domineer-

ing aunt. But after she meets her husband's alluring friend, Laurent, she embarks on an illicit affair that leads to tragic consequences. Based on the novel by Emile Zola and starring Elizabeth Olsen. **Released 29 September**

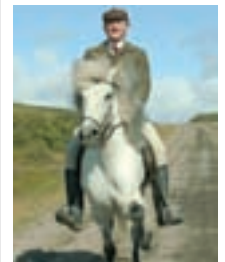


### The Wind Rises PG

Hayao Miyazaki is one of the leading talents in animation today, having won countless awards and even an Oscar (for his peerless 2001 fantasy Spirited Away). Here, he's adapted his own manga comic, a fictionalised biography of the aircraft designer Jiro Horikoshi. The Wind Rises was the highest grossing Japanese film in Japan last year and earned Miyazaki another Oscar nomination this year. **Released 29 September**

### Of Horses And Men 12a

Set against the landscapes of Iceland, this off-beat film weaves together stories based around different horses. Directed by Benedikt Erlingsson. **Released 29 September**





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# Festivals

## Zoo Project

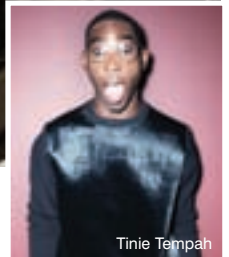
Donington Park, Fri 12 - Sun 14 September

With its very own culture, the Zoo Project takes place deep within the forest at Donington Park and brings a whole new dimension to the festival experience. In addition to live acts across eighteen stages - this year's line-up includes Groove Armada, Steve Lawler and Acid Mondays - Zoo Project also features a roaming team of party animals providing a programme of alternative, improvised entertainment. Attractions include mischievous monkeys climbing up trees and taking refuge in bushes, an eccentric Witch Doctor and his mysterious Fire Birds and Voodoo Princesses, and a twelve-foot King Kong.

Styling and body-painting areas, high-energy artists, creative costumes and circus-style acts also form part of this unique presentation. Remember, 'There's no Zoo without YOU!'



Shed Seven



Tinie Tempah

## Shrewsbury Fields Forever

West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury, Fri 12 - Sun 14 September

Multi-award-winning hip-hop artist Tinie Tempah takes top billing at this latest festival to grace Shrewsbury's West Mid Showground. Growing in popularity and stature, Shrewsbury Fields sees over one hundred acts - including legends from indie rock, punk, alternative and the electronic live music scene - programmed alongside some of the country's freshest new talent. An uber-cool comedy line-up, a silent disco, pop-up parties and a funfair further add to the festival's appeal.

Multiple arenas feature across the site, with the main stage hosting The Cribs, Shed Seven, Chloe Howl, John Power, Superfood, Ghetts and Etta Bond. Sunday's comedy angle comes courtesy of Russell Kane, Lee Nelson, Justin Moorehouse, Ivan Brackenbury, Ninia Benjamin and Micky D.

Shrewsbury's very own Blues Boy Dan, Just Josh and Stressful Tony provide the entertainment on the site's acoustic stage.

## Festival LISTINGS

For full listing information on Festivals, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**FESTIVAL NO.6** Featuring Pet Shop Boys, Beck, London Grammar, Bonobo & Martha and the Vandellas, Fri 5 - Sun 7 Sept, Portmeirion, North Wales  
**ONBOARD THE CRAFT FESTIVAL** Featuring Pre-Mad, Harvey Bainbridge, Leatherat, Underground Zero & Flutacious, Fri 5 - Sat 6 Sept, Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove  
**WHITWELL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC** Featuring Doctor and the Medics, James Warner Prophecies, Dirtbox Disco & I Set The Sea On Fire, Fri 5 - Sun 7 Sept, Community Centre, Whitwell, Derbyshire  
**OAKFEST** Featuring Bad Manners, From The Jam & The Troggs, Sat 6 Sept, Hartshill Park, Telford, Shropshire  
**ZOO PROJECT** Featuring Groove Armada, Mr Scruff, Ten Walls, Steve Lawler &

Ben UFO, Fri 12 - Sun 14 Sept, Donington Park, Derbyshire  
**SHREWSBURY FIELDS FOREVER FESTIVAL** Featuring Tinie Tempah, The Cribs, Shed Seven, Superfood, New York Tourists & Blues Boy Dan Own, Fri 12 - Sun 14 Sept, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury  
**BROMYARD FOLK FESTIVAL** Featuring Oysterband, Vin Garbutt, The Old Dance School & Whapweasel, Fri 12 - Sun 14 Sept, Various locations around Bromyard  
**SNODFEST** Featuring Skewwhiff, Shatter Effect, Ronin & Crazy 88s, Sat 13 Sept, The Park, Worcestershire



Bad Manners



Oysterband

## Bromyard Folk Festival

Various locations, Bromyard, Fri 12 - Sun 14 September

Described as the best 'folk festival/cultural event in the Welsh Border area', Bromyard Folk provides over one hundred-and-seventy hours of traditional music, song and dance within a single weekend. Oysterband (Friday), We Banjo 3 (Saturday) and Vin Garbutt (Sunday) share top billing, with performances from Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman, The Old Dance School, Les Barker and Blackbeard's Tea Party also featuring. Add into the mix a plethora of ceilidhs, dance displays and various off-site events - including a torchlit Morris procession - and you've got yourself the makings of yet another fine folk festival.



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AT A STUNNING VENUE

over 70 local producers - live music  
hot food - bars - chef demos - kids area  
artisan talks - cookery classes

MEN v FOOD CHALLENGES    **CaKe-Off**    Open 10:30am to 5:30pm

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FOOD - DRINK - MUSIC  
[www.greatbritishfoodfestival.com](http://www.greatbritishfoodfestival.com)

Join us for fun and feasting. Stroller tickets give entry to 5 venues with 200+ exhibitors, children's activities and chef dems. Plus 40 individually ticketed special events.

- Adult day stroller tickets from just £8.00\*.
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# ABERGAVENNY FOOD FESTIVAL

20 & 21 SEPTEMBER 2014  
GWYL FWYD Y FENNI

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\* Individual adult Sunday stroller ticket after 31 Aug: £8 (Sat: £10)

[ABERGAVENNYFOODFESTIVAL.COM](http://ABERGAVENNYFOODFESTIVAL.COM)



# Food Festivals

## Birmingham Independent Food Fair

Millennium Place, Birmingham, Sat 13 September

The latest addition to Birmingham's culinary calendar, the Independent Food Fair presents a rich taste of the city's vast gastronomic offering, with more than forty producers, restaurants, drinks merchants and street food vendors showcasing their wares. Thai Edge, Le Truc Cafe, Min Min Noodle Bar and Epi Restaurant will be handing out samples of their cuisine, while event sponsor Don Diego Bar de Tapas is operating a pop-up restaurant specialising in authentic Spanish paella, tapas and churros.

Organised by local food guide Dine Birmingham, the one-day event features culinary delights from Greece, Poland and Indonesia, while wood-fired pizzas, handmade chocolates and gluten-free confectionery is complemented by a craft beer bar, cocktails from Bitters'n'Twisted - the company behind Island Bar and Bodega - and a wine & spirits section sponsored by Langley's Gin.

## Abergavenny Food Festival

Various locations, Abergavenny, Sat 20 - Sun 21 September

Still riding high after being declared Best Event In Wales at the National Tourism Awards For Wales in 2013, Abergavenny Food Festival has set its bar pretty high in 2014.

Celebrity chef/food writer Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall opens the event and will then be in conversation with journalist Joanna Blythman, talking about his latest book, *River Cottage Light And Easy - Healthy Recipes For Every Day*. Also featuring in the event's line-up of chefs and food experts are Incredible Spice Men Cyrus Todiwala and Tony Singh, C4's *Simply Italian* hosts The Chiappa Sisters, top pastry chef Claire Clark and wine expert Jancis Robinson.

A rolling programme of demonstrations in the market hall, a children's food academy at the castle (sponsored by Organic Centre Wales), and numerous street food (and non-food) traders ensure visitors of all ages have plenty to sink their teeth into at this year's festival.



Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

## Other food events coming up in the Midlands...

**GIN FESTIVAL** Debut event for novices & enthusiasts, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, The Bond Company, Birmingham

**TESCO WINE FAIR** Bringing hundreds of quality wines and thousands of wine fans together under one roof, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

**ATTINGHAM PARK FOOD FAIR** Annual event to tantalise your tastebuds, showcasing what's on offer from local food traders, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

**BIRMINGHAM CHILLI FESTI-**

**VAL** The heat is on to find eighteen people to brave it out and eat the hottest chilli, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Sept, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM OKTOBERFEST** German beer, food, music & fun, Wed 15 - Sun 19 Oct, Cannon Hill Nature Park, Birmingham

**VEGAN FEST** Talks, demos & live entertainment, Sat 25 Oct, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

**BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW WINTER** Feat top tips from a host of celebrity chefs, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Nov, NEC, Birmingham



## The Great British Food Festival

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, Sat 13 - Sun 14 September

Warwickshire's Ragley Estate provides a perfect backdrop for this month's Great British Food Festival (GBFF). A must for the region's foodies, the two-day event features over eighty local producers, celebrity and local chef demos, cookery lessons, talks and live music. For those wishing to show off their baking skills, the festival hosts a Cake Off competition with three distinct categories - Victoria Sponge, Chocolate Delicious and Signature Bake. Free admission to the festival is available for all entrants, and there's a 'fantastic foodie prize' for the winner. For those feeling brave enough, GBFF offers various Men Vs Food Challenges for both men and women throughout the weekend. So if you think you can sink a foot of chilli sausage, beef it up with half-pound burgers, keep your cool with suicide sauce or down a pint of cider, then pop along and have a go. You never know, a Man V Food Champion t-shirt could be yours...

## Ludlow Food Festival

Various locations, Ludlow, Shropshire, Fri 12 - Sun 14 September

Now in its twentieth year, the Ludlow Food Festival regularly delights huge crowds. This year's event certainly promises to carry on that tradition, with attractions including more than one hundred-and-eighty artisan food producers, top chefs and an abundance of demonstrations and activities catering for all ages.

Shropshire celebrity chef Marcus Bean this year takes on the responsibility of organising Top Chef Friday. Previously co-ordinated by Will Holland, the event features some of the UK's most talented cooks, with Marcus keeping their identity under wraps until nearer the time.

A festival is always a good platform on which to launch a new book, and county entrepreneur Sam Gray does that very thing with *Doing It In Wellies*, the story of her journey from boardroom to smallholding.

Meanwhile, Claire Bosi, founder of the town's Michelin-starred Hibiscus restaurant, invites younger audiences to share in her joy of creating with *Gastronomical!*, an illustrated cookery book for children.

Last but not least, Marcus Bean showcases his 'must-have' cookbook, *Chicken: New Classics*. Regular attractions - including a kids' area with cookery lessons, a quiz and a pudding tasting - take place within the castle grounds, while the always-popular sausage, ale and bread trails and a Sunday producers market take place out in the wider town.



Marcus Bean

## Royal Leamington Spa Food And Drink Festival

Royal Pump Rooms Gardens, Leamington Spa, Sat 6 - Sun 7 September

A mouthwatering line-up of entertainment awaits visitors to the biggest festival on the Leamington events calendar. Ready Steady Cook chef Brian Turner CBE is joined by a plethora of local food and drink aficionados at the Live Kitchen in the Royal Pump Room Gardens. The popular television cook will also be drawing on his expertise to judge the festival's inaugural Aubrey Allen Home Cook Of The Year competition.

Michelin-starred chef and local food hero Andreas Antona joins Brian on the judging panel.

Other gastronomic highlights over the two days include the hugely popular Taste Trail, the Star & Garter BBQ Area - featuring beer and food pairing, breadmaking, butchery and BBQ demonstrations - and a Make & Bake Kids Cookery School. Non-food-related entertainment comes in the shape of live music in the bandstand and a Stagecoach Theatre Arts School show inspired by the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.





# RBSA



## RBSA Presents

### A Place for Art

The Story of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists  
**Wed 8 October - Sat 15 November**  
Exhibition on show in Galleries 1 & 2

This exhibition explores the history and development of the RBSA from its landmark exhibition in 1814, 200 years ago, to the present day.

- + Visit [rbsa.org.uk](http://rbsa.org.uk) to find out more, discover the associated events and pre-order the catalogue!

Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and by the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

Royal Birmingham Society of Artists  
RBSA Gallery, 4 Brook Street, St Paul's, Birmingham, B3 1SA  
T 0121 236 4353 W [www.rbsa.org.uk](http://www.rbsa.org.uk)

Image courtesy of the Birmingham Museums Trust

## Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum



A Celebration of Style 1920 - 1945  
UNTIL 13 SEPTEMBER 2014

Free entry

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10.30am - 4.30pm  
Closed Bank Holiday Monday 25 August

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and click on Summer Fun

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum  
Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1DT

MUSEUMS WORCESTERSHIRE  
Art • Heritage • Events

## Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry



# THE GREAT WAR:

## COVENTRY'S STORY

1 AUGUST 2014 – 1 FEBRUARY 2015

**ADMISSION FREE**

[www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org)

Exhibition sponsored by  
Fellows Auctioneers

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# Visual Arts

## Voices Of War Exhibition

Library of Birmingham,  
Mon 29 September - Wed 31 December

The experiences of men at the Front, the impact of war on children and families, the contribution of black and Asian soldiers, and the role of women on the Home Front are among the themes explored in this enlightening World War One exhibition. The Library's rich archive, photography and special collections have yielded plenty of fascinating material connected to the Great War, with other subjects under the microscope including Birmingham's industrial support for the war effort, and debates around patriotism and pacifism in the city. Voices Of War is complemented by a programme of talks and events, online resources and an accompanying book.



## Exposed: The Body In Art from Durer to Freud

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery,  
Mon 15 September - Mon 29 December

Exploring artistic responses to the human body, this touring exhibition features at its heart Burne-Jones' pre-raphaelite Pygmalion series, presenting ideals of love and aspiration. Via works by Albrecht Dürer, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Barbara Hepworth, Helen Chadwick, Francis Bacon, Gillian Wearing and Lucian Freud, Exposed reinforces Jones' five themes: the body as focus for the artist's observation; the creation of the 'ideal' body; the mutation of the body; art as a means of preserving and memorialising the body; and the body as a vehicle for the artist's imagination and fantasy.



Olafur Eliasson, The Forked Forest Path, 1998, installation (c) Olafur Eliasson, courtesy Turner, Eastbourne

## The Making Of Mordor

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 20 September - Sat 17 January

Although it's the various images from JRR Tolkien's sketchbooks which are this exhibition's real pull, The Making Of Mordor also features works by a selection of other twentieth century writers and artists, all of whom, like The Lord Of The Rings author, were influenced in their work by the industrial powerhouse of the West Midlands. Works by Turner Prize nominee Richard Billingham, photographer Brian Griffin and internationally acclaimed installation artist Olafur Eliasson all feature in a presentation that also includes archive film.

## Craft And Conflict

Bilston Craft Gallery,  
Sat 13 September - Sun 23 November

The themes of war and remembrance are here explored via a collection of both contemporary and historical items. Presented to coincide with the hundredth anniversary of the First World War, the exhibition focuses on the endeavours of local manufacturing companies as they assisted with the war effort - with items such as grenades, helmets and service vehicles all being made in the Midlands region. Work by contemporary craftmakers also features, exploring themes of both conflict and peace.





## Further exhibitions

### The Fields Of Battle 1914 - 1918: Paintings And Drawings By Robert Parry

Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford,  
Sat 6 September - Sun 2 November

Described as thought-provoking and original, Robert Parry's works act as a direct response to nature. His mobile studio enables him to produce large-scale pieces entirely on location. During the past twenty years, the Midlands-based artist has been a frequent visitor to the Somme and Verdun, the result of which is a series of 'atmospheric' images depicting the landscape as it is today, where nature and time have played their part in erasing the scars of war. On show for the first time, this major exhibition features a series of commissioned works depicting Messines and the links with Cannock Chase.



### Black Country Echoes: In Pictures

Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton,  
Mon 1 September - Fri 31 October

Bringing together the works of five post-war Black Country documenters - spanning the period from the 1960s to the present day - Black Country Echoes comprises one hundred images, projected larger-than-life onto four walls at the Light House Media Centre. Forming part of the region-wide Black Country Echoes Festival, each piece records the ever-changing face of both landscape and manufacturing in the area. Works by Nick Hedges, Arthur Lockwood, John Bulmer, Peter Donnelly and Jubilee Arts Archive all feature.



Image credit: Arthur Lockwood

For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**ILLUSTRATE** A showcase of work by local artists comprising differing styles of illustration, until Mon 1 Sept, The Drum, Birmingham

**COME CREATE** Exhibition to inspire visitors to explore and demonstrate their creativity through displays, hands-on interactives and fun activities, until Sun 7 Sept, Thinktank, Birmingham

**EIGHT CENTURIES OF HISTORY** Exhibition looking at the life and times of the Earls of Dudley, who lived at Himley Hall, until Sun 7 Sept, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**40 YEARS OF WATCHING PAINT DRY** Featuring the work of fine artist, cartoonist and comedy writer Geoff Tristram, until Sun 7 Sept, Himley Park & Hall, Dudley

**ARTIST ROOMS: ROBERT THERRIEN** Exhibition from the American artist renowned for his monumental sculptures which transform everyday objects into fantastical installations, until Sun 7 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**CERAMIC EMPIRE: THE TRADE IN STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERY** Exhibition exploring the supply and representation of the Empire in Staffordshire pottery, until Sun 7 Sept, Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**MARKO MÄETAMM** Installation by acclaimed Estonian artist Marko Maetamm, until Tues 9 Sept, Fletcher's Walk, Birmingham

**SECRET GARDEN CRAFT EXHIBITION** Collection of jewellery, textiles & ceramics exploring fairytales & narratives, until Sat 13 Sept, RBSA, Birmingham

**NOEMIE GOUDAL: THE GEOMETRIC DETERMINATION OF THE SUNRISE** Noemie's first solo exhibition featuring new examples of the kind of work for which she's become well known, until Sun 14 Sept, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

**THE ART OF MARY WORRALL & SUSAN DAVIES** until Sat 20 Sept, Harborne Art Gallery, Birmingham

**TRACED** Exhibition tracing the success of art & design in Wolverhampton, and bringing together works by local artists from the

museum's collection, until Sat 20 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**SHARIF WAKED - CHIC POINT: FASHION FOR ISRAELI CHECKPOINTS** Exhibition documenting the 'thousands of moments in which

Palestinians are daily forced to nude themselves in the face of interrogation and humiliation, as they attempt to move through the intricate and constantly expanding network of Israeli checkpoints', until Sat 20 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**MARVELLOUS MACHINES: THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ROWLAND EMETT** The largest ever display of Emmett's work, telling the story of the innovator's life in Birmingham, until Sun 21 Sept, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**QUILT ART EXHIBITION** until Sat 27 Sept, Dudley Museum

**LASTING IMPRESSIONS** Third in a collaborative series with the National Portrait Gallery, London, until Sun 28 Sept, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**CONVERSATIONS** A display which spans four centuries of printmaking and features works by Rembrandt, Goya, Cezanne & Picasso, until Sun 5 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**BESIDE THE SEA** Exhibition which revisits the halcyon days of the British seaside, until Sun 5 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**USHA KHOSLA RBSA** Featuring handmade textural ceramics, described by Usha as '3D paintings', inspired by the Canadian Rockies and Australia, until Sat 11 Oct, RBSA, Birmingham

**GILLIAN WEARING: WE ARE HERE** New single-screen video work which sees the artist return to the area in and around Sandwell where she grew up, until Sun 12 Oct, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

**ALBEL SINGH: PHOTOS OF WINTERBOURNE** Showcasing Albel's favourite photographs, taken in the gardens at Winterbourne, until Tues 14 Oct, Winterbourne House & Gardens, Birmingham

**STAFFORD AND THE GREAT WAR** History exhibition highlighting the work of local people on the home front and within the armed services, until Sat 18 Oct, Ancient High House, Stafford

**MADE IN SHREWSBURY** until Sun 19 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

**LIFE ON THE EVE OF WAR** Unique exhibition focusing on the golden age of the stately home, until Fri 24 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

**A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT** Works on paper from the Barber's collection, until Sun 26 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**STRANGE WAYS: CRASH TEST DUMMIES** Multi-disciplinary practice steered by Elena Cassidy-Smith, Harmee Chagger-Khan and Helen Grundy, until Sun 26 Oct, New Art Gallery, Walsall

**TOM, FRANK AND MAY** Original material, uniforms, handling activities and a short film which demonstrates the role played by the Merry family during World War One, until Sun 2 Nov, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**SYMMETRY IN SCULPTURE** Focusing on the recent work of one of the UK's most exciting British Asian artists, Zarah Hussain, until Sun 2 Nov, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**LETTERS HOME** Exhibition exploring different elements of letters written during the

First World War, until Sun 2 Nov, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

**TRUE TO LIFE? NEW PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST** until Sun 2 Nov, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**BACK TO FRONT: 40 PERMANENT COLLECTION GEMS** Exhibition which celebrates the fortieth anniversary of the gallery's Garman Ryan collection, until Sat 16 Nov, New Art Gallery, Walsall

**DEALING WITH DREAMS: THE GARMAN RYAN COLLECTION 40TH ANNIVERSARY** Exhibition which tells the story of the Garman Ryan collection, from its conception to the present day, with previously unseen archive material and artworks, until Sun 16 Nov, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

**WALSALL'S GREAT WAR** Exhibition marking the centenary of World War One and the impact of the Home Front on Walsall, until Sat 29 Nov, Walsall Local History Centre

**BRIAN YALE: FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELD PAINTINGS** until Sat 29 Nov, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**FAITH AND FORTUNE** Exploring the early histories of two of the world's great religions, until Sun 30 Nov, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**THE JEWELLERY QUARTER DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR** until Sun 14 Dec, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**STATIC: STILL LIFE RECONSIDERED** until Wed 31 Dec, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**CRAFTSENSE** Featuring over one hundred of the world-renowned Bilston enamels, until Wed 31 Dec, Bilston Craft Gallery

**SENSING SCULPTURE** Featuring new sculptures alongside old favourites, until Wed 31 Dec, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**POP EUROPE!** until Sat 7 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery



Last Post: Remembering The First World War - Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge, Shropshire



# VisualArts LISTINGS

For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**LAST POST: REMEMBERING THE FIRST WORLD WAR** until Fri 27 Mar, Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**THE JEWELLERY QUARTER DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR** Exhibition of artefacts, images and oral histories relating to the recruitment of soldiers from the Jewellery Quarter, until Sat 27 June, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**SOLDIERS STORIES: BIRMINGHAM AND THE ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT 1914 - 1918**

Exhibition which commemorates the centenary of the First World War and recounts the experiences of Birmingham men who served in the regiment between 1914 and 1918, using personal objects, medals & memorabilia, until Sun 26 July, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT** Works on paper from the Barber's Collection, until Sun 26 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**SIMON REDGRAVE'S HIRED HANDS: PORTRAITS FROM THE WORKPLACE**

Pop-up exhibition comprising period photography from Nick Hedges and John Bulmer which tells the stories of people who laboured together every day throughout their working lives, Mon 1 Sept - Wed 1 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**CHUBB** An exhibition focusing on former employees of Chubb and Sons Ltd, showcasing the group's personal experiences of the lock and safe works, Mon 1 Sept - Fri 31 Oct, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

**BLACK COUNTRY ECHOES: IN PICTURES** Exhibition which brings together the work of five documenters of the post-war era in the Black Country, Mon 1 Sept - Fri 31 Oct, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

**AUSTERITY TO PROSPERITY** Exploring life and work in Walsall from the

austerity of the late-1940s to the heyday for local industries in the 1950s, Wed 3 Sept - Sat 10 Jan, Walsall Museum

**MARCIA FAROUHAR: LARGER THAN LIFE** Sat 6 Sept - Fri 7 Nov, Grand Union, Birmingham

**YINKA SHONIBARE** The fourth in a series of five exhibitions presented in Ikon's Tower Room as part of the gallery's birthday celebrations, Wed 10 Sept - Sun 9 Nov, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**CRAFT AND CONFLICT** Exhibition bringing together historic and contemporary works that reflect on war and remembrance, Sat 13 Sept - Sun 23 Nov, Bilston Craft Gallery

**DAVID A HUNT** Light, Landscapes, Pastels And Me, Mon 15 Sept - Sat 4 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**NEWCASTLE REMEMBERS** Centenary exhibition to mark 100 years since the start of WWI, Sat 20 Sept - Wed 12 Nov, Newcastle Borough Museum & Art Gallery, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**RAFAL ZAR EXHIBITION** Showcase of new paintings by Sandwell-based Polish artist Rafal Zar, who was awarded the

2014 ESP Members Open Show, Sat 20 Sept - Sat 6 Dec, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

**SUSAN PHILIPSZ - BROKEN ENSEMBLE: WAR DAMAGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (BRASS SECTION)** New site-spe-

cific work from Turner Prize-winning artist Susan Philipsz, which promises to fill the gallery with the sounds of instruments damaged in World War I, Sat 20 Sept - Sat 6 Dec, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

**IN THE LEATHER: REFLECTIONS ON WALSALL PAST AND PRESENT** Artists and local urban sketchers showcase images from Walsall's post-war leather trade, Sat 20 Sept - Sat 10 Jan, Walsall Leather Museum

## Museums & Art Galleries

### Birmingham

ARTIFEX Sutton Coldfield

0121 323 3776

BARBER INSTITUTE

0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

0121 303 2834

CASTLE GALLERIES

0121 248 8484

GRAND UNION

0121 643 9079

IKON GALLERY

0121 248 0708

NUMBER NINE THE GALLERY

0121 643 9099

RBSA GALLERY

0121 236 4353

STRYX GALLERY, DIGBETH

[stryxarts@gmail.com](mailto:stryxarts@gmail.com)

THREE WHITE WALLS GALLERY

0121 200 3328

### Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE

WOLVERHAMPTON

01902 552195

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY

01902 552507

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS

MUSEUM, DUDLEY

01384 812745

DUDLEY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

01384 815575

LIGHT HOUSE MEDIA CENTRE

WOLVERHAMPTON

01902 716055

THE NEW ART GALLERY

WALSALL 01922 654400

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE

01384 812750

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

01902 552055

### Shropshire

BEAR STEPS GALLERY,

SHREWSBURY

01743 344994

SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

01743 258885

TWENTY TWENTY GALLERY,

MUCH WENLOCK

01952 727952

THE WILLOW GALLERY,

OSWESTRY

01691 657575

### Staffordshire

NEWCASTLE BOROUGH

MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

01782 232323

THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY, STOKE-ON-TRENT

01782 232323

SHIRE HALL GALLERY

STAFFORD 01785 278345

STAFFORDSHIRE MUSEUM,

SHUGBOROUGH

01889 881388

### Warwickshire

COMPTON VERNEY GALLERY

01926 645500

HERBERT ART GALLERY

COVENTRY 02476 832386

MEAD GALLERY WARWICK

02476 524524

ROYAL PUMP ROOMS

01926 742700

RUGBY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

01788 533201

### Worcestershire

WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY

01905 25371

Visit [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk) for venue website details

shire hall gallery, stafford

The Fields of Battle 1914-18  
Paintings and drawings by Robert Perry RBSA

Saturday 6 September – Sunday 2 November

Illustrated talks by Robert Perry - 11 & 15 October – contact Gallery for details

View near Aile Range Corner, Cannock Chase

Shire Hall Gallery, Market Square, Stafford ST16 2LD  
Tel: 01785 278345 [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/arts)



# Stafford Arts Festival



**Saturday 6th September 2014**  
10.30am - 4pm in Stafford Town Centre

Art, Crafts, Dance, Music,  
Workshops and much more...

Stafford Arts Festival is now in its 4th year, the streets and Market Square come alive with dancers, musicians and artists! Exhibitions, workshops, music activities and much more. Have a go at free art and craft sessions.

For latest programme details visit  
[www.stafford-towncentre.co.uk](http://www.stafford-towncentre.co.uk)

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# Events



## Black Country Night Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 13 September

The Black Country Living Museum here follows up its Black Country Weekend with its first ever Black Country Night. The brand new event features a range of entertainment from across the region, including plenty of shenanigans from Stourbridge favourites Fizzog and performances from local internet sensation The Empty Can, who rose to prominence with their evocative song, I Vow To Thee Black Country.

The event also provides the chance to sample some typical Black Country fare, including the museum's tasty tapas, featuring scratchings, pork pies, rabbit stew and faggots, all of which can then be washed down with a pint or two of Peaky Blinders ale. In short, this could very well prove to be an absolutely, er, bostin night out.

## Stafford Arts Festival

Various venues, Stafford, Sat 6 September

Stafford's fourth Arts Festival this month sees dancers, musicians and artists taking to the streets to provide passers-by with a range of free entertainment and activities to enjoy. Participants in this year's event include Stafford Operatic Society, the town's largest musical theatre group, presenting a showcase of songs from their upcoming production of Annie; The Crooked Bawbees, performing traditional folk music featuring Northumbrian pipes, fiddles and piano; and Art Brasil, performing Brazilian percussion, song and dance. Artists will be 'in residence' in the town to produce work that captures 'the essence of the day', while street theatre presentations include freestyle hula hoop performances and balloon-modelling by a performer on stilts. Free-to-participate arts & crafts workshops, meanwhile, ensure there's plenty of opportunity for children to get hands-on.



## British Science Festival Various locations, Birmingham, 6 - 11 September

Workshops, hands-on exhibitions, science shows, discussions about the latest scientific breakthroughs, quizzes, science-based comedy and drama and even science buskers on the streets all feature in this year's British Science Festival. Highlights of the event include an Ancient People Of The Midlands walk, an Applied Geology Of Kinver Edge outing (offering the chance to discover Triassic sandstones that were deposited around two hundred-and-fifty million years ago), and a chance to learn about the archaeology, geology and geography of Ironbridge Gorge. Arts-based attractions, meanwhile, include Forty Years Of Star Wars, a cosmic filmmaking exploration, and the Festival Of The Spoken Nerd, an event which sees a mathematician, songstress, sketch comedian and stand-up present a show that's jam-packed with science demos, numerical delights and, er, ballads!





**WESTON PARK  
INTERNATIONAL THREE  
DAY EVENT**



Thursday, Friday & Sunday  
£5  
Saturday  
£10

**9th – 12th October 2014**

This October Weston Park will host the International 3-day event along side the National under 18 BE100 Championships. Something for the whole family, watch an exciting competition unfold while walking in a thousand acres of rolling parkland, shop in the Trade Stands or picnic in the park.

• Dressage • Cross Country •  
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**Stafford Bingley Hall**

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## mac Open Weekend

mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 6 - Sun 7 September

Having opened over half a century ago, mac (Midland Arts Centre) is nowadays one of Birmingham's best-known arts destinations, running a wide range of courses throughout the year. This sure-to-be-popular open weekend provides visitors with the opportunity to find out exactly what the venue has to offer, with baby toddler and craft sessions, and Zumba, yoga and capoeira classes all available to sample. For those who're interested in artistic performance, drama and comedy stand-up classes are also taking place during the course of the weekend, which also sees New Art West Midlands and mac resident artist Anna Smith unveil a brand new installation piece entitled Swing.



## Cycle Show

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 25 - Sun 28 September

With cycling's profile in the UK at an all-time high, this hugely popular show looks set to improve on its record attendance of 2013. Boasting a bumper crop of 2015 bikes and products, the show also features freestyle MTB dirt jumping with Monster's Sam Pilgrim, elite cyclocross racing, a 'devil takes the hindmost' four-man roller-race, and a BMX spine ramp comp. The premium road bike track makes a welcome return, along with three other test tracks.



## Continental Circus

Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, Wed 10 - Sun 14 September

Continental Circus Berlin is promoting itself as 'a breath of fresh air' in an era that's profoundly dominated by electronically created entertainment. And the company is certain that its line-up of performers will prove splendidly adept at eliciting jaw-dropping gasps of amazement from its UK audiences. Among the circus' more intriguing-sounding acts are: Keyla Ramache, the gyrating Spanish Hula Hoop Queen; hand-balancing wonders Zel & Zorka; the back-flipping, fire-limboing African Warriors; and the UK's very own



## Shropshire Truck Show

Oswestry Showground, North Shropshire, 6 - 7 Sept

The Shropshire Truck Show this month returns to the Oswestry Showground after a year's absence, bringing with it main-arena entertainment that includes a presentation by motorcycle display team the Royal Signals White Helmets. Back Draft, the world's only wheelie fire engine, also puts in an appearance, as do Coronation Street stars Georgia May Foote and Jack P Shepherd. Commenting on the event, Show Director Jason Lunn said: "Last year's break from the Oswestry site has allowed them to develop the showground, improving the roadways and toilets, and we're pleased to see a new grandstand in place for the main arena. We've had fantastic comments from everyone about our return to the venue, and look forward to our new September date, which we hope will give us better weather!"

Rowan Caeron-Brown, who does his thing on a flying cloud swing. Add into this a supporting soundtrack of chart-topping hits from the past four decades, and the company is confident they're offering an evening of entertainment that should appeal to even the most dedicated of modern technology worshippers.

## UK National Drum Fair

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, Sat 6 September

Promoted and managed by drummers for drummers, this annual event is taking place for a twelfth time and this year includes over sixty stalls selling custom and vintage drums, cymbals and accessories. The show also features free workshops, clinics and drum sheds, and pays special tribute to Ringo Starr, fifty years after The Beatles performed on The Ed Sullivan Show and conquered America.

## Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Festival

Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire, Sat 20 September

The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Festival is an annual celebration of the area's designation as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986. The event this year once again offers its winning blend of heritage talks and walks, craft and food markets, live street entertainment and family activities. Numerous hands-on art activities for younger visitors also feature, as does an Embarrassing Bears Clinic, where, for a small fee, minor repairs can be made to any teddy bears in need of some TLC. An inter-

active talk about the Iron Bridge itself is a new addition for 2014. Visitors to the event will also be able to explore the many riverside shops, pubs, cafés, antique shops, craft centres, restaurants and museums in the town, many of which will be offering special promotions for the day.

## Midland Game Fair

Weston Park, Staffordshire, Sat 21 - Sun 22 September

If traditional country pursuits are your passion, the well-established Midland Game Fair makes for a rewarding weekend. The premier event of its kind in the country, the show features a wide range of attractions, with everything from world-class clay pigeon shooting to game and coarse fishing demonstrations. Gun dog competitions, falconry displays, ferret racing, fine arts and rural crafts also feature, as do over six hundred trade stands catering for a wide range of visitors' countryside shopping needs.

## Word Up!

Library of Birmingham, Tues 30 September

A special event for young people and adults featuring bestselling writer and poet Benjamin Zephaniah in conversation with Steve Camden is the highlight of this day-long event. Taking place throughout the library, Word Up! is a celebration of books, the joy of reading and the Library of Birmingham's first birthday, and brings together activities, performances, music, poetry and plenty of 'reading-related fun'.







SEPTEMBER | 2014  
- DECEMBER

**BLACK COUNTRY ECHOES FESTIVAL**  
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**FREE**

# Wolverhampton Heritage Open Days

Thursday 11 September - Sunday 14 September

Tel: 01902 552055  
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- Dance
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Sessions will be available for all ages so bring the whole family.

\*Each activity will have a maximum capacity so make sure you arrive in plenty of time to secure your place.

NB: Please note that event may be subject to change and may not be available on both days. Full timetable of events to be confirmed and may be subject to change.



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# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

from  
**MON 1 SEP**

## SUMMER TREASURE

**HUNT** Holiday fun, where participants can solve the clues around the park to win a medal, until Fri 5 Sept, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Weston-under-Redcastle, North Shropshire

## NATURE EXHIBITION

Interactive exhibition for the holidays, until Sat 13 Sept, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

## GUIDED TOUR

With Heritage Manager Jane McArdle, Mon 1 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

**STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD CONSERVATION STUDIO TOUR** An exclusive tour of the Staffordshire Hoard to find out about the latest developments and go behind the scenes to meet the experts. Advance booking essential!, Tue 2 Sept, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

**ROBOT BUILD OFF** Create your own junk robot at home and take it along to the museum to be judged. Prize for winning entries, Tues 2 Sept, Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

## TILE DECORATING

**WORKSHOPS** Drop-in sessions where participants use the technique known as tube lining to decorate their very own tile to take home, Tue 2 Sept, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## LUNCHTIME TALK:

**LETTERS HOME** Tue 2 Sept, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

## CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS

Tue 2 Sept, Bilston Craft Gallery

## BOULTON'S BIRTHDAY

**BASH** Celebrate Matthew Boulton's 286th birthday in style, with talks, storytelling and children's crafts throughout the day, Wed 3 Sept, Soho House, Birmingham

## BAT WALK

An introductory talk by the site's bat expert, followed by a walk around the ruins with a bat detector to see what you can find, Wed 3 Sept, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

## ARTFORUM GOLD CLUB

Art club for young people aged 14-25, Wed 3 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

## BEER FESTIVAL

Thurs 4 - Sun 7 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

## DIGBETH FIRST FRIDAY: AWAY FROM ALL SUNS

## EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC

**PROJECT Giant Axe** take over the gallery to perform a live and improvised audio visual reworking of Jindrich Polak's pioneering 1963 film, Ikarie XB 1, Fri 5 Sept, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

## MUCH WENLOCK WALKING FESTIVAL

Featuring a range of walks over four days, Fri 5 - Mon 8 Sept, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**FARMER'S MARKET** Sale of local food, drink, craft and produce, Sat 6 Sept, The Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

**LICHFIELD PROMS** Free annual outdoor concert for the whole family, Sat 6 Sept, Beacon Park, Lichfield

## SPECIALIST TALK:

**WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE PRE-RAPHAELITES** Join the house steward for a relaxed tour following a walking tour of the collection, Sat 6 Sept, Wightwick Manor & Gardens, Wolverhampton

**LADIES EVENING** A glamorous evening at the races, Sat 6 Sept, Wolverhampton Racecourse

**THE SHERIFF'S RIDE AT LICHFIELD CITY** Historic ride around the rural city boundary. Riders must register in advance of the day, Sat 6 Sept, Lichfield City Centre

## EVENING SCENIC

**SPECIALS** A scenic evening ride with the added option of traditional fish and chip supper, Sat 6 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

## FESTIVAL OF FIREWORKS

Family night out & premier event for fireworks enthusiasts, Sat 6 Sept, Catton Hall, Staffordshire

## BIG MOTOR SHOW

A weekend of motoring madness arrives in Stoke, Sat 6 Sept, Britannia Stadium, Stoke-on-Trent

## KNIGHT SCHOOL

Chance to learn the art of sword fighting and combat skills, Sat 6 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

## VINTAGE VEHICLES AND VIEWS

Swallow Doretti sports cars celebrate their 60th anniversary, Sat 6 Sept, Aldridge Airport, Walsall

## CRAZY SCIENCE AT SOHO

Sat 6 Sept, Soho House, Birmingham

## YOUNG ARTISTS

Learn how to draw, create paintings and make

sculptures, Sat 6 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**GALLERY TOUR** An informal tour of the gallery Sat 6 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

## CRAFTPLAY SESSIONS

Award-winning creative play project for under-sevens. Free but booking recommended, Sat 6 Sept, Bilston Craft Gallery

## WORLD WAR WEEKEND

Nostalgia with music, stalls, displays, activities and fun for all the family, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

## SHROPSHIRE TRUCK SHOW

Trade stands, exhibitions & stalls, parade of trucks and much more... Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, Oswestry Showground, North Shropshire

## FOOD FAIR

Tickle your tastebuds with an assortment of foodie treats from more than thirty local traders who'll be on hand to showcase their delicious offerings, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

## GUILDEX

A popular event for model railway enthusiasts, featuring specialist trade sales, demonstrations, models and layouts, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

## TESCO WINE FAIR

Opportunity to compare and contrast a variety of different types and styles of wines, with experts on hand to offer advice, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

## THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT

Meet the site's larger-than-life Punch & Judy characters and enjoy an end-of-the-pier show, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

## STEAM GALA

Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, Chasewater Railway, Brownhills, Staffs

## SOOTY'S WACKY WORKSHOP

Taking time out from his CITV show to visit Birmingham, Sooty is joined at Cadbury World by friends Soo and Sweep, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, Cadbury World, Birmingham

## WORLD WAR WEEKEND

Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

## SHUGBOROUGH: THE BROKEN BITS

Exhibition highlighting the work of Staffordshire County Council to preserve the collections at Shugborough, Sat 6 - Tue 30 Sept, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

## UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS: BEHIND THE SCENES



That's The Way To Do It - Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**TOUR** Revealing what goes on behind the scenes of a stately home, this unique tour takes in some of the site's twenty-eight bedrooms and offers a chance to learn about the Weston Park Foundation, the charitable trust that owns and maintains the venue, Sun 7 Sept, Weston Park, Staffordshire

## ON THE BUSES

Featuring a superb display of historic vehicles from all parts of the country, Sun 7 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

## CLASSIC VEHICLE SHOW

Motorcycles to buses, cars to trucks. Hundreds of classic vehicles on display, Sun 7 Sept, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

## UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

**COMMUNITY DAY** Sun 7 Sept, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham

## CASTLE BROMWICH

## HOLISTIC & SPIRITUAL

**EVENT** Featuring complementary therapies and healing, retail stands, professional psychics and more, Sun 7 Sept, Arden Hall, West Bromwich

## BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUZ

**TOUR** Sun 7 Sept, Aston Hall, Birmingham

## BOOKSALE & FREE ENTRY

Check out the wide selection of books on offer and watch on as millers display their skills at grinding wheat and producing Sarehole flour, Sun 7 Sept, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

## WOMEN ON WHEELS

## SOCIAL RIDE

Sun 7 Sept, Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

## TRANSTAR CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Sun 7 Sept, Himley Hall, Dudley

## KNIGHTS' SCHOOL & JUNIOR JOUSTING

Become a prince or princess for the day and learn how to joust in the mini-tiltyard, try on real armour made especially for children, hear tales of medieval chivalry and finally take up arms as you clash swords and join in a fun'n'frantic medieval battle, Sun 7 Sept, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

## DAVELEE ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR

Monthly event, Sun 7 Sept, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

## ROTARY COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Charity event where visitors can show off their line dancing skills, Sun 7 Sept, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

## Week Commencing

## MON 8 SEP

## SALLY MORGAN: PSYCHIC

**SALLY ON THE ROAD** Tue 9 Sept, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

## TILE DECORATING

**WORKSHOPS** Drop-in sessions where participants use the technique known as tube lining to decorate their very own tile to take home, Tue 9 Sept, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge

## RUN IN THE PARK

Tue 9 Sept, Donington Park

## CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS

Tue 9 Sept, Bilston Craft Gallery

## A FAMILY CONCERN: THE JEWELLERY QUARTER AT WAR

First World War drama performances at the Smith & Pepper Factory. Booking essential! Tues 9 - Sat 13 Sept, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

## MINE IT, MAKE IT, MOVE IT

Wed 10 Sept, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## WWI HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Series of free guided architectural talks, history walks and much more... Thurs 11 - Sun 14 Sept, Leek, Staffordshire

## CRAFTSPACE IN:SITE

Graduate festival of creativity, Fri 12 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

## LUDLOW FOOD FESTIVAL

Recognised as the foremost food festival in Britain, the Ludlow Food and Drink features the very best of local fare, talks & demonstrations from the region's top chefs, and the now-famous Ludlow Sausage Trail, Fri 12 - Sun 14 Sept, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

## WWI MAGIC LANTERN SHOW AND POETRY READINGS

Pre-booking essential! Sat 13 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

## CRAFT & GIFT FAYRE

Sat 13 Sept, Severn Centre, Highley, Shropshire

## LUNAR CONNECTIONS

**WALK AND TALK** Free event as part of Heritage Open Days, Sat 13 Sept, Soho House, Birmingham



**BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM**

## Black Country Night

Sat 13 Sep 6.30pm-10pm

Join us for a fun-filled night of Black Country entertainment!

Following on from a hugely successful Black Country Day in July, we're bringing the Museum alive with a whole host of entertainment from across the region in our very own Black Country Night celebrations.




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ADVANCE TICKET DEADLINE 4 SEPT 2014  
\* 2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN

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# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## PIKES AND MUSKETS!

Experience the English Civil War with a living history re-enactment, complete with musket fire, Sat 13 Sept, Aston Hall, Birmingham

## HERITAGE OPEN WEEK-END

Discover the history of Birmingham Cathedral at this special event, which also features stained glass-making activities inspired by the cathedral's Burne-Jones stained glass windows, Sat 13 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

## CENTURY OF WEST BROMWICH BUSES

Sat 13 Sept, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

## BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT

Featuring musicians, comedians and performers, Sat 13 Sept, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

## HERITAGE OPEN DAY GOES GREEN

Featuring a plethora of locally produced food as well as the return of the Bourneville Bake Off, Sat 13 Sept, Selly Manor, Birmingham

## YOUNG ARTISTS

Learn how to draw, create paintings and make sculptures, Sat 13 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

## VINTAGE CLOTHING & CRAFT FAYRE

Vintage clothing, crafts and handmade gifts for sale, Sat 13 Sept, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

## EVENING SCENIC SPECIALS

A scenic evening ride with the added option of traditional fish and chip supper, Sat 13 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

## VINTAGE RETRO FAIR

Unique and original clothes, accessories, homeware, jewellery and crafts for sale, Sat 13 Sept, St Thomas'

Church Hall, Stourbridge

## HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Annual event with apple pressing by the stables, Sat 13 Sept, Sunnycroft, Wellington, Shropshire

## SHREWSBURY SEPTEMBER ABSEIL

Charity event in aid of the Churches Conservation Trust, Sat 13 Sept, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

## VIKING FAMILY FUN

Enjoy fancy dress, craft stalls, glass making and more, Sat 13 Sept, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley

## CHARACTER WEEKEND

Get snapped with some of Cadbury's most colourful characters, including Caramel Bunny, Freddo, Creme Egg and Mr Cadbury's Parrot, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Sept, Cadbury World, Birmingham

## DEER STUDY WEEKEND

Sat 13 - Sun 14 Sept, Trentham Monkey Forest, Stoke-on-Trent

## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Opportunity to visit Blakesley for free, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

## FLAXMILL MALTINGS HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Guided tours available at regular intervals throughout the week-end, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Sept, Flax Mill Maltings, Shrewsbury

## BPM - DJ SHOW

The world's largest event dedicated to DJing, electronic music production and club culture, Sat 13 - Mon 15 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

## LORD HILL OPEN DAY

Rare opportunity to visit the top of Lord Hill's Column, Sun 14 Sept, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury

## OPEN DAY 2014

Browse vintage stalls, buy a

record, fly a kite, explore backstage and discover how theatre is made... Activities and entertainment for all ages, Sun 14 Sept, The REP, Birmingham

## CARRIAGE PARADE AND HEAVY HORSE DEMONSTRATION

Experience a horse-drawn carriage presentation and heavy horse demos, Sun 14 Sept, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

## HARE AND TORTOISE FUN RUN

Sun 14 Sept, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

## HUNTERS AND FARMERS: PREHISTORIC BIRMINGHAM

Dr Mike Hodder talks about a fascinating period of Birmingham's history as part of the Hall's Second Sunday Talks, Sun 14 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

## CIRCUS ACADEMY: WHEEL AROUND THE WAREHOUSE

See the professionals show off their skills on the German Wheel, learn how to unicycle or hula hoop, and see the finale from CircusMASH, Sun 14 Sept, Museums Collection Centre, Birmingham

## BAKING BREAD

Sun 14 Sept, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

## ROOFTOP TOURS A

Heritage Open Day, Sun 14 Sept, Soho House, Birmingham

## 1940S ROOM: OPEN DAY

Sun 14 Sept, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

## WEOLEY CASTLE FESTIVAL

Popular local community event, Sun 14 Sept, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

## HERITAGE OPEN DAY & CRAFT STALLS

Event where visitors can visit Gladstone free of charge and browse stalls manned by local craftspeople in the cobbled courtyard, Sun 14 Sept, Gladstone Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

## SUMMER FUN DAY

Whizz over the Valley Lawn on



Knight School - Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

the castle zip wire and take part in garden games, Sun 14 Sept, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

## Week Commencing MON 15 SEP

**OTTER WEEK** Themed events and fundraising activities to raise awareness (and funds) for an otter conservation project with the Canal & River Trust, Mon 15 - Sun 21 Sept, The National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

## CURATORIAL GALLERY TOUR: BIRMINGHAM WOMEN AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Led by history curator, Jo-Ann Curtis, Tues 16 Sept, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

## TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS

Drop-in sessions where participants use the technique known as tube lining to decorate their very own tile to take home, Tue 16 Sept, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS

Tue 16 Sept, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

## MEET ME @ BANTOCK

Regular conversation club for people aged fifty and over offering a chance to relax and enjoy a chat about the topic of the month, supported by objects from the handling and reminiscence collections, Tue 16 Sept, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

## ARTFORUM GOLD CLUB

Art club for young people aged 14-25, Wed 17

Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

## AUTUMN STEAM GALA

Featuring an impressive line-up of iconic locomotives. A great day out for steam enthusiasts, Thurs 18 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

## AFTERNOON TEA DELIGHT

Discover hidden treasures in the site's ceramic store on this behind-the-scenes tour, then enjoy afternoon tea in the cafe, Thurs 18 Sept, Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

## CANNOCK CHASE BEER FESTIVAL

Featuring sixty ales, ten ciders/perries and entertainment on Friday night and Sat afternoon, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 Sept, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

## BAT NIGHT

Fri 19 Sept, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

## ART SPEAKING

Free audio-described tour of a Vikings Guide To Deadly Dragons, with Cressida Cowell. An event for people with visual impairment, Fri 19 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

## LOCAL HISTORY TALK: THE MUSIC MAN

Fri 19 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

## BIRMINGHAM CHILLI FESTIVAL

Featuring cooking demonstrations, live music and stalls selling chilli-related produce, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Sept, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

## OPEN COCKPITS EVENING

An annual event which allows visitors the chance to get up close and personal to the workings of a wide

range of the museum's aircraft. Enthusiasts young and old will be able to get a feel for what it was like to fly these much-loved machines, as well as gain out-of-hours access to the museum, Sat 20 Sept, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

## CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS

Sat 20 Sept, Bilston Craft Gallery

## BLACK COUNTRY ECHOES FESTIVAL LAUNCH DAY

Sat 20 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

## MOSAIC IN A DAY WORKSHOP

Sat 20 Sept, Bilston Craft Gallery

## PAST LIVES

Film Premier, Sat 20 Sept, Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## MEREFEST 14

A new event for Shropshire featuring more than thirty activities, including canoeing, pond dipping, crafts & fishing, Sat 20 Sept, Cremorne Gardens, Ellesmere, Shropshire

## MUD RUN

Sat 20 Sept, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Weston-under-Redcastle, North Shropshire

## THE HOUSE OF THE BLACKSTAR

Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, Whittington Castle, North Shropshire

## MIDLAND GAME FAIR

An event for those interested in country pursuits, including world-class clay pigeon shooting, gundog competitions, falconry displays, ferret racing, fine arts, rural crafts, and hundreds of trade stands, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, Weston Park, Staffordshire



Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Festival, Shropshire



TONY HOPKINS for BBC presents

# Billy SMART'S

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Europe's Biggest and Best  
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**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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**bff Bromyard FOLK festival**  
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*Via Garbutt*

- Les Barker • Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman • The Gren Bartley Band •
- Whapweasel • Remi Harris Trio • The Old Dance School •
- Blackbeards Tea Party • Blue Horyzon • The Will Pound Band • James Findlay Trio • Jess Morgan •
- Keith Donnelly • Tom Lewis • Kayna • Jaywalkers • Winter Wilson • Roisin Ban • Jimmy Reed •
- The Maccaferri Club • Mitchell & Vincent • Jo Moore • Dr Sunshine • Montys Maggot •
- Arthur Mills and the Black Eye Friday • Paul & Liz Davenport • Double Dichotomy • Graeme Knights •
- Jim Mageean • Granny's Attic • Andy Davies • Heather Knights • Bob Hall & Hilary Blythe •
- Hilary Herbert • Phil Basindale • Will Hall • Infinite Cherries! • Bordewey/Young Band • Elliott Morris •
- Jan Edgecombe's Blackboard Van • Tunewrights • Rowan Robinson • Soft Option • Speake & Lowe •

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[www.bromyardfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.bromyardfolkfestival.co.uk)

**AFO**



# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## WINTER PREPARATIONS

Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## AZTEC WEEKEND

Explore the origins of the cocoa bean and take part in numerous themed crafts inspired by the Aztec tribe, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, Cadbury World, Birmingham

## MINIATURA - THE INTERNATIONAL DOLLS' HOUSE MODELLING SHOW

Miniatura is a highly specialised visitor attraction event established in 1983 and entirely dedicated to the amazing hobby of domestic modelling in 1/12th and related scales. The 'one-inch-to-the-foot' scale, as it's always been known, is now complemented by other related scales. If you've ever thought that dolls' houses are only toys for children, think again! Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

## THE BIRMINGHAM CRUISE SHOW 2014

Providing inspiration and advice, the Cruise Show provides an opportunity to meet with all the major and specialist cruise liners under one roof and find out what's new for 2015, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

## IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS...

Search the quiet corners of Moseley Old Hall to find the various minibeasts lurking there, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

## ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR

Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, Oswestry Showground, North Shropshire

## WWI WEEKEND

Uniformed re-enactors recreate the experience

of trench life in the site's WWI trench system, providing an insight into what life was like for soldiers during the Great War, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, Staffordshire Regimental Museum, Lichfield

## THE NATIONAL PET SHOW

Promising a fun day out for animal lovers, and showcasing a plethora of animals, pet displays, famous faces and excellent shopping, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

## 1940S ROOM: OPEN DAY

Sun 21 Sept, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

## 3RD ANNUAL CHILLI FESTIVAL

Featuring cooking contest, an eating contest and a Best Chilli Sauce contest, Sun 21 Sept, Dorothy Clive Garden, Nr Market Drayton, Shropshire

## CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Clown around and have a go at juggling, stilt-walking, tightrope-walking, plate-spinning & more...

Sun 21 Sept, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

## STUDLEY MIND BODY SPIRIT EVENT

Featuring complementary therapies and healing, retail stands, talks and more, Sun 21 Sept, Queen Alexandra College, Birmingham

## BLACKHURST GARAGES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

CLASSIC CAR & BIKE SHOW Free family day out with all proceeds going to the Midlands Air Ambulance, Sun 21 Sept, Blackhurst Garages, Whitchurch Business Park, Shropshire

## FALCONRY DAY

Watch hawks and other birds take flight over the castle ruins, Sun 21 Sept, Weoley Castle,



Midland Game Fair - Weston Park, Shropshire

## Birmingham SKYRIDE COVENTRY

A 5.5km traffic-free city route for people of all ages to cycle, Sun 21 Sept, Coventry City Centre

## Week Commencing MON 22 SEP

### TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS

Drop-in sessions where participants use the technique known as tube lining to decorate their very own tile to take home, Tue 23 Sept, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

### THE CYCLE SHOW

The UK's biggest cycling event, Thurs 25 - Sun 28 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

### PRIDE OF BIRMINGHAM AWARDS

Join Gaby Roslin and a host of celebrities as they present the first ever Pride Of Birmingham Awards. The evening celebrates the most courageous and inspiring people of the region, and also features a diverse programme of live music and comedy routines, Fri 26 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

### LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET

The local produce market at Brindleyplace makes a comeback, with live music and demonstrations on how to cook creatively, plus a wide choice of fresh fruit and veg, cakes and pastries, Fri 26 Sept, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

### FRIDAY TWILIGHT: A NIGHT WITH THE GODS

Dress up as your favourite god or monster and discover the Ancient Greek world of myth and legend in this out-of-hours event, Fri 26 Sept, Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

## BOWMAN ANTIQUE FAIR

Featuring up to four hundred stands selling antiques, curios, vintage, retro & collectables, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Sept, Stafford Bingley Hall

## 1940S CABARET

Period entertainment with music & comedy, Sat 27 Sept, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

## THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD: BATTLEFIELD SPOIL & HIGH ART IN EARLY ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

New insights, from Chris Fern, the Anglo-Saxon specialist, leading the analysis of the largest ever hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold, Sat 27 Sept, Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

## KAROLINE RERRIE SCREEN PRINTING WORKSHOP

British illustrator & printmaker Karoline Rerrie demonstrates and teaches participants to make their own hand-cut stencils and how to use them to create a series of multi-coloured prints, Sat 27 Sept, Weston Park, Staffordshire

## HARVEST FAIR & APPLE WEEKEND

See the apple press working and buy freshly pressed juice from the orchard, Sat 27 Sept, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

## RAG RUG WORKSHOP

Learn about the history of the craft with specialist Jessie Lindon, Sat 27 Sept, Birmingham Back to Backs

## AN INTRODUCTION TO WICKER BASKETRY

Join expert Jonathan Ridgeon and learn how to weave a small-to-medium-sized multi-purpose basket. Booking essential! Sat 27 Sept, Selly Manor, Birmingham

## INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR COMPACT CAMERAS

Sat 27 Sept, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

## BLACK COUNTRY VEHICLES SHOW

Sat 27 Sept, Stone Square, Dudley Town Centre

## CAMRA'S 29TH NATIONAL BREWERIANA AUCTION

Chance to bag yourself a slice of brewing history with over 150 auction lots, including a Marston's snuff box and a bust of Manchester's JW Lees, up for grabs, Sat 27 Sept, Town Hall, Burton-upon-Trent

## ALL ABOARD FOR AUTISM

Charity walking event, Sat 27 Sept, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Staffordshire

## SOOTY'S WACKY WORKSHOP

Fun-filled show brimming with magic, music and mess, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Sept, Cadbury World, Birmingham

## THE LAUGHTER CREWE

Comedy and curry night, Sun 28 Sept, Crewe Lyceum

## 1940S ROOM: OPEN DAY

Sun 28 Sept, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

## AUTUMN WEDDING FAIR

Sun 28 Sept, Patshull Park, Pattingham, Shropshire

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Join the townsfolk at Blists Hill Victorian Town as they celebrate the annual harvest in traditional fashion, Sun 28 Sept, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## MAC FOOD MARKET

Indulge yourself with tasty treats and specialist goods at mac's monthly food market, Sun 28 Sept, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

## WOOD FAIR

Celebrate the shift into autumn, find out how the site's woods are managed and see traditional craftsmen at work, Sun 28 Sept, Dudmaston

## Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

## TOY COLLECTORS FAIR

Described as 'Britain's biggest' event of its kind and featuring thousands of for-sale collectables from the UK's leading specialist dealers, Sun 28 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

## THE ORIGINS OF MIDDLE EARTH WALK

A guided walk exploring the surroundings that inspired JRR Tolkien, Sun 28 Sept, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

## BLACK COUNTRY MOTORBIKE GATHERING

Sun 28 Sept, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

## CLASSIC BUS RUNNING DAY

Rally & running day held by the Potteries Omnibus Preservation Society, Sun 28 Sept, Gladstone Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

## BELIEF AND SUPERSTITION

Delve deeper into the mysterious history of folklore and customs with a fascinating tour and talk around the venue, Sun 28 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

## WEDDING FAYRE

Free entry, Sun 28 Sept, Alton Castle, Staffordshire

## BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE STRING DAY

Sun 28 Sept, Birmingham Conservatoire

## Week Commencing MON 29 SEP

### TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS

Drop-in sessions where participants use the technique known as tube lining to decorate their very own tile, Tue 30 Sept, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire



The National Pet Show - NEC, Birmingham



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# Eating Out

## Shropshire restaurant supports forces charity

A popular Indo-Bengal restaurant in the heart of Shrewsbury is offering free meals in support of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA), a charity which has been supporting British forces and their families since 1885. This month's event at The Masala follows the success of an initial fundraiser at the restaurant last year. Venue owner John Mustafa came up with the idea following the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby, with diners being required to pay only for drinks and make a donation to the Rigby cause. The evening raised £2,500. This time around, Mr Mustafa is commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the First World War, and is hoping to raise an impressive amount over two evenings (9 and 16 September). To find out more and support this worthy cause, call The Masala on 01743 235900



Mike McCabe from SSAFA with Chef Faysal Ahmed and restaurant owner John Mustafa

## Francois' farewell wine dinner at Hotel Du Vin

Head Sommelier Francois Bourde is leaving the Hotel Du Vin this month, and will be bidding adieu with a Farewell Wine Dinner at the popular Birmingham venue on 19 September. Hosted by Sky Sports TV presenter Gary Newbon, the event will see Francois talking guests through a carefully chosen selection of his favourite wines from around the world. The evening menu includes an aperitif, canapés, a four-course dinner and five accompanying wines. Tickets are priced at £79 per head. For further information and to book, contact the Events team on 08447 364 250.

## Something fishy in Brindleyplace...

A one hundred-and-sixty-seater restaurant and cocktail bar has opened in Birmingham's Brindleyplace. Promising the widest choice of fish in the city, Le Monde Fish Bar & Grill allows customers to choose their shellfish, fish, poultry and steaks from a special display and then watch their selected dishes being prepared and cooked in an open kitchen. Catering for both intimate dinners and large parties, Le Monde also features an extensive bar area with an express menu, and a private area for events and meetings.



## Taste explosion in Uffington...

### REVIEW

Trying to find a great place to eat on a busy Friday night was no easy task. My friend Faye and I were looking for somewhere that was good value for money whilst at the same time delivering exceptional food. We'd tried booking at all of our favourite restaurants within Shrewsbury town centre, but to no avail. So casting our search a little wider, we settled on The Corbett Arms, just ten minutes outside of Shrewsbury in a little village called Uffington. Upon arriving at the venue, we were warmly greeted at the front door by the smart and smiley staff, who promptly directed us to our table on the edge of the restaurant; far enough away from the hustle and bustle of a busy Friday night, but close enough to still experience the atmosphere. With our drinks delivered to us quickly, we spent a few minutes looking over a mouthwatering menu. To

start, I decided to go for a classic dish - the chicken liver and garlic pate, served with toast and onion jam (£5.95). You can't really go wrong with pate, and I was delighted not only by its great taste but also by the generous accompanying salad. Faye eventually settled on the crispy goats cheese arrancini, served with spiced apple puree (£5.95). This perfectly-sized starter was well cooked, smelt great and literally melted in the mouth - or so I was told. Time for round two - our highly anticipated main courses. For £10.95, Faye settled on a good old-fashioned steak & ale pie, with hand-cut chips and fresh garden peas. When it arrived at the table, we both gasped at the size of it. Whilst she managed to polish off the pie (along the way commenting on the richness of the sauce and how perfectly the steak was cooked), she was too full to manage the side order of chips, which was left untouched.

I had a craving for fish, so was happy to see that one of my favourites was on the menu. The grilled fillet of sea bass was the perfect choice, and was served with new potatoes, a samphire salad and a lemon & chive cream sauce. The fish just flaked apart and, when combined with the other flavours on the plate, made for a taste explosion. With both of us having our fair share of food in the previous two courses, we decided to share a pudding and opted for a raspberry bakewell tart. It proved to be the perfect way to end a great meal.  
*Ryan Humphreys*

Food:       
Service:       
Ambience:       
Overall value       
**OVERALL**

**The Corbett Arms**  
Uffington  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY4 4SN  
01743 709232



# Restaurant LISTINGS

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit: [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Birmingham

**AALTO RESTAURANT** Hotel La Tour, Albert Street, Birmingham B5 5JT 0121 718 8000  
**AIR RESTAURANT LG** Arena, Bickenhill Rd, 0844 338 0333  
**BANK** 4 Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 633 4466  
**BAR ESTILO** 10-114 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B1 1RF 0121 643 3443  
**BARAJEE** 265 Broad Street, B1 2DS 0121 643 6699  
**BELLA ITALIA** 102 New Street, B2 4HQ 0121 643 1548  
**BLUE MANGO** Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 633 4422  
**BLUE PIANO RESTAURANT AND BAR** 24-26 Harborne Rd, B15 3AA 0121 454 6877  
**BUONISSIMO** 1 Albany Rd, Harborne, B17 9JX 0121 426 2444  
**CAFE OPUS** 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 248 3226  
**CARLUCCIO'S** The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace B1 2HP 0121 633 9262  
**CENTENARY BAR & BRASSERIE** Broad Street, B1 2EP 0121 245 2080  
**CHUNG YING** 16-18 Wrottersley Street, B5 4RT 0121 622 5669  
**CHUNG YING GARDEN** 17 Thorpe St, B5 4AT 0121 666 6622  
**CIELO** 6 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 632 6882  
**COAST TO COAST** 9 Brindleyplace, Broad Street, B1 2HJ  
**COTE** The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587  
**CUCINA RUSTICA** 24 Ludgate Hill, B3 1DX 0121 233 2277  
**DEL VILLAGGIO** Unit 528, Middle Mall, The Bullring, B5 4BE 0121 643 1400  
**EDMUNDS** 6 Brindley place, B1 2JB 0121 633 4944  
**FLEET STREET KITCHEN** Fleet Street, Islington Gates, B3 1JH 0121 236 0100  
**ITHAAS** 18 Fleet St, B3 1JL 0121 212 3383  
**JAMIE'S ITALIAN** Middle Mall, Bullring Shopping Centre, B5 4BE 0121 270 3610  
**JIMMY SPICES** Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 643 2111  
**LAS IGUANAS** Arcadian Centre, Hurst St, B5 4TD 0121 622 4466  
**LASAN** 3-4 Dakota Buildings, James St, St Paul's Square, B3 1SD 0121 212 3664  
**THE LOFT LOUNGE** 143 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG 0121 622 2444

**LOVES** The Glasshouse, Browning St, B16 8FL 0121 454 5151  
**MECHU** 47 - 59 Summer Row, B3 1JJ 0121 212 1661  
**METRO BAR & GRILL** 73 Cornwall St B3 2DF 0121 200 1911  
**MOUNT FUJI** The Bullring, B5 4BH 0121 633 9853  
**OPUS** 54 Cornwall St, B3 2DE 0121 200 2323  
**THE ORIENTAL** The Mailbox, 128-130 Wharfside St, B1 1RQ 0121 633 9988  
**PEACHYKEENS** 1741 Coventry Road, B26 1DS 0121 764 5519  
**PENNY BLACKS** The Mailbox, 132-134 Wharfside St, B1 1XL 0121 632 1460  
**PICCOLINO** 9 Brindleyplace B1 2HS 0121 634 3055  
**PITCHER & PIANO** Brindleyplace, B1 2HP 0121 643 0214  
**POPPY RED** Arcadian Centre, Birmingham B5 4TD 0121 687 1200  
**PURNELL'S** 55 Cornwall St, B3 2DH 0121 212 9799  
**PURNELL'S BISTOR & GINGER'S BAR** 11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY, 0121 2000 1588  
**RED PEPPERS** 117 Wharfside St, B1 1RF 0121 643 4202  
**SAN CARLO** 4 Temple St, B2 5BN 0121 633 0251  
**SHIMLA PINKS** 215 Broad St, B15 1AY 0121 633 0366  
**SIMPSONS**, 20 Highfield Rd, Edgbaston B13 3DU 0121 454 3434  
**THE SLUG AND LETTUCE**, Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2HL 0121 633 3049  
**STRADA** 109-111 Wharfside St, The Mailbox B1 1XL 0121 643 7279  
**THAI EDGE** 7 Oozells Sq, B1 2HL 0121 643 3993  
**WAGAMAMA** Brindley Place, Birmingham B1

## Black Country

**ARBOUR LIGHTS** 127-128 Lichfield Street, Walsall WS1 1SY 01922 613361  
**BANKS BISTRO** Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton WV1 4EP 01902 238433  
**BELLA** 82 Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton. 01902 427555  
**BENGAL FUSION** 174 High St, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8LN. 01384 891111  
**BILASH** 2 Cheapside, Wolverhampton, WV1 1TU 01902 427762  
**THE BLUE BRICK** Broad Gauge Way, Wolverhampton WV1 1AA 01902 875301  
**BRAVACCIOS** 4 Upper Green, Wolverhampton WV6 8QQ 01902

756052  
**CAFE CHAMPAGNE** 253-255 Bilston Road, Wolverhampton WV2 2JN 01902 458024  
**CASA CASITA** Upper Gornal, Dudley. DY3 1UP 01902 676754  
**CAPELLANI'S** 6 School St, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LR 01902 428928  
**CINNAMON COURT** Bentley Mill Way, Walsall WS2 0BP 0121 568 6664  
**THE COWSHED** Clive Farm Clive Rd, Pittingham, WV6 7EN 01902 701888  
**THE CROOKED HOUSE** Coppice Hill, Himley DY3 4DA 01384 238583  
**THE DITCH** 1 Town Hill, Walsall, WS1 2EU 01922 643215  
**DON SALVO** 25 Darlington Street, Wolverhampton WV1 4HW 01902 712819  
**DUNSLEY HALL** Dunsley Rd, Kinver, DY7 6LU 01384 877077  
**FARADAYS** The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, Dudley, DY5 1UR 01384 482 882  
**FIVE RIVERS** Vicarage Place, Walsall WS1 3NA 01922 646164  
**FOUR STONES** Adam's Hill, Clint, Stourbridge, DY9 9PS 01562 883260  
**FRANZLS** 151 Milcote Rd, Smethwick, B67 5BN 0121 429 7920  
**FRENCH CONNECTION** 3 Coventry St, Stourbridge DY8 1EP 01384 390940  
**FRENCH HEN** Bromsgrove Rd, Cleat, Stourbridge DY9 9PY 01562 883040  
**GOLDEN MOMENTS** 2-3 Ablewell St, Walsall WS1 2EQ 01922 640363  
**THE HUNGRY BISTRO** 81 Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1EQ 01902 546336  
**LE BRASSERIE** 5 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster. DY11 6UU 01562 744976  
**MADE IN THAI** Darlington St, Wolverhampton WV1 4HW 01902 312512  
**PARADISE BALTI** 7 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster DY11 6UU 01562 60479  
**THE PIE FACTORY** 50 Hurst Lane, Tipton DY4 9AB 0121 557 1402  
**RED FORT** Fold St, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LP 01902 424440  
**RISTORANTE ROMAGNA** 4 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8QQ 01902 756052  
**SAFFRON** Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury B69 4RR 0121 552 1752  
**SIMON'S** 520 Chester Rd, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0PU 0121 580 9293  
**SPICES** Hollywell Rd, Wednesbury. WS10 7PA 0121 502 0720  
**THE SPRINGHILL** Warstones Rd, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 4LB 01902 342530  
**THE SUMMERHOUSE** 92 Gospel End Rd, Dudley DY3 4AN 01902 676 102  
**THORNESCROFT** Bridgnorth Rd, Wolverhampton, WV6 7EQ 01902 700 253  
**THE WOODMAN** Claverley, Wolverhampton WV5

7DG 01746 710 553

## Shropshire

**AFTAB** 25 High St, Ironbridge TF8 7AD 01952 432055  
**ALBRIGHT HUSSEY** Ellesmere Rd, Shrewsbury, SY4 3AF 01939 290 523  
**BISTRO JACQUES** 77/77a Mardol, Shrewsbury SY1 1PZ 01743 272586  
**BUFFALO STEAK HOUSE** 125 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8JX 01743 537523  
**BUTLERS** Park St, Shifnal, TF11 9BA 01952 460662  
**CASA NARANJO** Barracks Passage, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 01743 588165  
**CASA RUIZ** 45 High Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX 01746 218 084  
**CHEZ MAW** Best Western Valley Hotel, Buildwas Rd, Ironbridge, TF8 7DW 01952 432247  
**THE COTTAGE** Tern Hill, Market Drayton TF9 3PX 01630 638984  
**CROMWELLS** 11 Dogpole, Shrewsbury SY1 1EN 01743 361440  
**DA VINCI'S** 26 High St, Ironbridge, TF8 7AD 01952 432250  
**DORRINGTON OLD HALL PERSIAN CUISINE** Main Road, Dorrington, Shropshire SY5 7JD 01743 719100  
**DRAPERS** 10 St Mary's St Shrewsbury, SY1 1DZ 01743 344679  
**THE FEATHERS** Brockton, Much Wenlock TF13 6JR 01746 785200  
**FENNELS** 8 Market Place, Shifnal TF11 9AZ 01952 463020  
**THE FOX INN** 46 High St, Much Wenlock TF13 6AD 01952 727292  
**FRANK CAFE BAR** 129 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8JX 01743 354422  
**THE GOLDEN CROSS** 14 Princess St, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LP 01743 362507  
**GRANARY BAR & GRILL** Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Nr Shifnal, TF11 8LE 01952 852107  
**THE GLUTTON CLUB** 165-167 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8LG 01743 361672  
**HADLEY PARK HOUSE** Hadley Park, Telford TF1 6QJ 01952 677269  
**THE HAYWARDS** At The Lion Hotel, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1UY 01743 353107  
**HENRY TUDOR HOUSE** Barracks Passage Shrewsbury SY1 1XA 01743 361666  
**HILL VALLEY HOTEL** Tarporley Road, Whitchurch SY13 4HA 0844 879 9049  
**THE INN AT GRINSHILL** The High Street, Grinshill, Shrewsbury, SY4 3BL 01939 220410  
**KING & THAI** Avenue Rd, Broseley, Telford TF12 5DL 01952 882004  
**THE KNIGHTON HOTEL** Broad Street, Knighton,

Powys LD7 1BL 01547 520530

**LA BÉCASSE** 17 Corve St, Ludlow, SY8 1DA 01584 872 325  
**LA DOLCE VITA** 35 Hills Lane, Shrewsbury SY1 1QU 01743 249126  
**LA LANTERNA** The Old Vestry, St Julian's Church, Shrewsbury SY1 1UH 01743 233552  
**LION & PHEASANT** 50 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1XJ 01743 770345  
**THE LION QUAYS** Moreton, Oswestry SY11 3EN 01691 684300  
**LOCH FYNE** Talbot House, Market Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1LG 01743 277140  
**LUDLOW KITCHEN** Bromfield, Ludlow, SY2 2JR 01584 856020  
**THE MALTHOUSE** The Wharfage, Ironbridge TF8 7NH 01902 433712  
**MORGANS** 1 Bellstone, Shrewsbury SY1 1HU 01743 239114  
**MR UNDERHILLS** Dinham Weir, Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1EH 01584 874431  
**THE MYTTON & MERMAID** Atcham, Shrewsbury, SY5 6QG 01743 761220  
**THE OLD ORLETON INN** Holyhead Rd, Wellington, TF1 2HA 01952 255011  
**THE OLD RECTORY HOTEL & RESTAURANT** Lowe Hill Road, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5UA 01939 233233  
**THE PEACH TREE** 21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE 01743 355055  
**THE PLUME OF FEATHERS** Harley, Shrewsbury SY5 6LP 01743 727360  
**PORTER HOUSE** 15 St Mary's St, Shrewsbury, SY1 1EQ 01743 358870  
**THE POUND AT LEEBOTWOOD** Leebootwood, Nr Church Stretton SY6 6ND 01694 751477  
**RENAISSANCE**, 29a Princess St, Shrewsbury, SY11LW 01743 354289  
**ROMOLO** Victoria Avenue, shrewsbury SY1 1HH 01743 233244  
**SARACENS** Shrewsbury Rd, SY4 4AG 01939 210877  
**SEBASTIANS** 45 Willow St, Oswestry SY11 1AQ 01691 655444  
**SHALIMAR** 23 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6AE 01743 366658  
**SHERAZ** 79 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1UT 01743 242321  
**THE SILVERTON** The Old Dairy, 9-10 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8JY 01743 248000  
**TIN TINS** Wellington Road, Telford TF2 8AJ 01952 608688  
**THE WALLS** Welsh Walls, Oswestry SY11 1AW 01691 670970  
**ZIZI RISORANTE** 39-40 High Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1SF 01743 353232

## Staffordshire

**NO 5** Gaol Mews, Stafford ST16 3AN 01785 22 9900  
**95 HIGH GREEN** Cannock. WS11 1BH 01543 573905  
**1709 THE BASSERIE** 3-5 Lombard St, Lichfield. WS13 6DP 01543 257986  
**BELLA ITALIA** 20 Greengate St, Stafford, ST16 2HS 01785 211968  
**CHANDLERS** Corn Exchange, Conduit St, Lichfield, WS13 6JU 01543 416688  
**THE CORNER HOUSE** Second Avenue, Burton-On-Trent DE14 2WF 01283 542321  
**CURRY KUTEER** 31 Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HY 01785 253279  
**ESSENCE OF THE ORIENT** 27 Broad Eye, Stafford ST16 2QB 01785 229988  
**FOUR SEASONS** Swinfen Hall Lichfield, WS14 9RE 01543 481494  
**THE GREEN ROOM** Castle Dyke, Lichfield WS13 6HR 01543 412121  
**INDIAN VILLAGE** 8 Lombard St, Lichfield. WS13 6DR 01543 253415  
**INDICA** Virage Park, Cannock. WS11 0HN 08712 070417  
**LA DOLCE VITA** 19 Stafford St, Stone ST15 8QW 01785 817 985  
**THE LODGE** 24 Birmingham Road, Shenstone. WS14 0LQ 01543 483334  
**MALABAR** 1-2 Water Street, Stafford, ST16 2AG 01785 227 500/600  
**MARLOES** 13 London Road, Newcastle under Lyme, ST4 1LQ 01782 661983  
**THE MILL** 1 Mill St, Stone, ST15 8BA 01785 818456  
**THE NAVIGATION INN** Newport Road, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0BN 01785 822327  
**OLD VICARAGE** 2 Main St, Branston, Burton, DE14 3EX 01283 533222  
**PASCAL AT THE OLD VICARAGE** 2 Main Street, Branston, Burton-upon-Trent 01283 533222  
**PASTICHE BISTRO** 1 - 2 Mill Street, Stafford, ST16 2AJ 01782 263 737  
**THE PEAR TREE** Swinfen, Nr. Lichfield, WS14 9QR 01543 481807  
**PORTOFINO** 38-40 Marsh St Stoke-On-Trent, ST1 1JD 01782 209444  
**THE RED ROOM** 7 Newcastle Road, Congleton CW12 4HN 01260 297871  
**THORNBURY HALL, RASOI** Lockwood Rd, Kingsley Holt, Stafford ST10 2DH 01538 750831  
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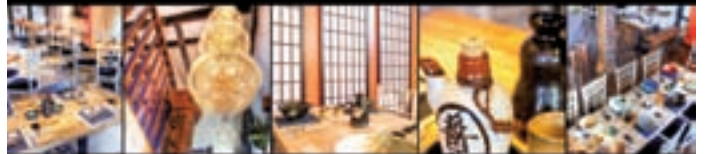
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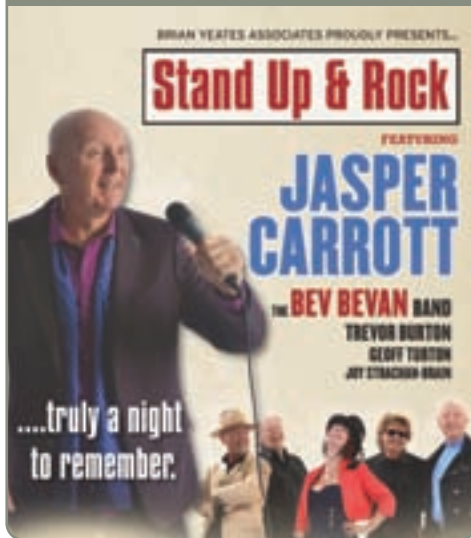


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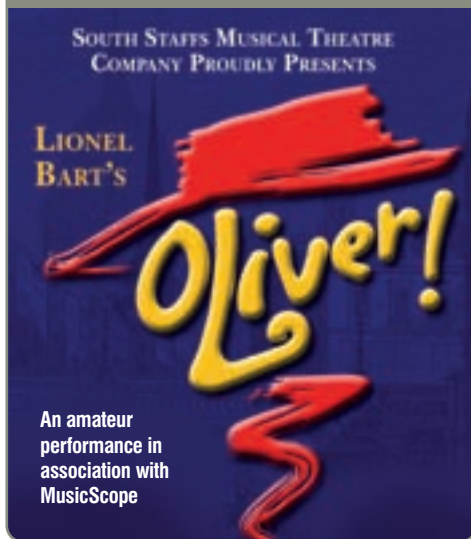
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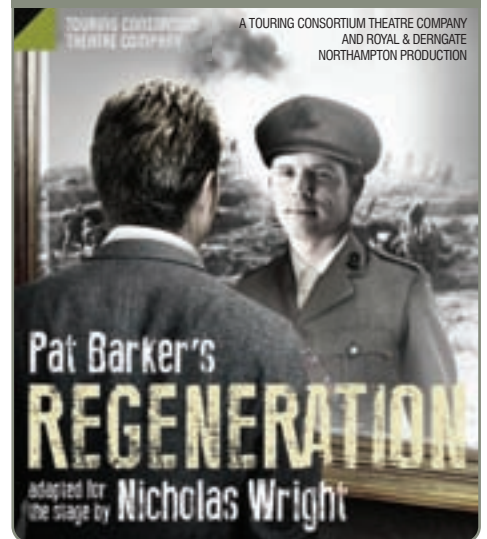
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TUES 4 - SAT 8 NOV



TUES 11 - SAT 15 NOV



TUES 18 - SAT 22 NOV



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