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Asian award hope for Belgrade Bollywood production

Coventry's Belgrade Theatre is celebrating after its smash-hit show, *Bring On The Bollywood*, was nominated for an Asian Media Award.

The high-energy musical, which showed in the venue's B2 auditorium earlier this year, received its nomination in the Media Awards' Best Stage Production category. Winners will be announced on Thursday 27 October.

Commenting on the nomination, the show's director, Samir Bhamra, said: "Over the last decade, Bollywood has been revitalised by a new generation of visionaries presenting contemporary stories coloured with the vibrancy of India. We wanted to take British audiences on a journey to one of the most romantic locales, the Valley of Flowers, and fill it with the comedy that comes from a dysfunctional Indian family."



Phillip, Holly and This Morning to visit the region

A lifestyle show inspired by ITV1's *This Morning* programme will make its debut at Birmingham's NEC next spring.

Featuring live appearances by Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby - the presenters of the popular daytime television series - the event will also feature numerous lifestyle elements, including fashion & style, food & drink, home, gardening, pets, beauty, and health & wellbeing.

Commenting on the new four-day show, Emma Gormley, ITV Daytime Managing Director, said: "This Morning is one of ITV's most loved and iconic brands. With our fantastic presenting talent and the wonderful mix of content that we'll be taking on the road, this event promises to delight fans of the show across the country."

This Morning Live takes place at the NEC from 18 to 21 May.

Josie Lawrence headlines Birmingham's first improv festival

Birmingham is hosting its first Improv Festival this month.

The brand new three-day event, comprising 10 shows and eight workshops, sees Dudley-born actress and 'improv queen' Josie Lawrence making a welcome return to the Midlands.

Presented in the intimate setting of the Jewellery Quarter's Blue Orange Theatre - from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 October - the festival features plays, musicals, sketches, puppets and costume dramas.

Commenting on the event, its director, Jon Trevor, said: "This is a unique opportunity for people to be part of the first festival of its kind in what I believe to be a great festival city. Audiences can expect the unexpected, with lots of twists and turns. In fact, nobody knows how each performance will pan out - it really is relying on audience participation. I want people to immerse themselves and just have a really memorable and fun night out."

The festival culminates in a special charity showcase in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital.



Twist the night away at Solihull venue

A brand new show featuring the powerhouse vocals of retro king Si Cranstoun visits Solihull's Core Theatre this month.

Twisting The Night Away sees the Sussex-born crooner using his distinctive high tenor voice to present a unique blend of doo wop, rock'n'roll and early soul music.

Often compared to singers like Jackie Wilson and Sam Cooke, Cranstoun was signed by music giants Warner having spent the better part of 20 years busking on the streets.

It was while he was busking that Si met the woman who would one day become his wife. He was also, on one occasion, given 30p by Prime Minister Tony Blair, who presumably recognised a real talent when he heard one! Twisting The Night Away is at The Core Theatre, Solihull, on Saturday 22 October.

Coventry Music Museum curator awarded MBE



The curator of Coventry Music Museum has been made an MBE. Music historian Pete Chambers received his Member of the British Empire medal, awarded for 'volunteering services to Coventry music', at a recent ceremony in Birmingham's Town Hall. In addition to running the museum, Pete has written six books on the subject of music in Coventry. He was also instrumental in music-related city initiatives such as the Walk Of Stars, the 2-Tone Trail and the Coventry Music Wall Of Fame. Commenting on the MBE, Pete said: "To say I'm thrilled is something of an understatement. Getting an honour like this is a unique thing, and being awarded it for Coventry music makes it even more amazing. I never dreamed that one day I would be on the Honours List and be able to use letters after my name!"

A fashionable show indeed!

The Midlands Fashion Awards take place in Birmingham this month. Now in its ninth year, the event offers a platform for local designers to showcase their collection to fashion industry professionals. "We've seen so many previous winners go on to develop their own careers," says show founder Jenny Eason. "We're giving creatives a chance to excel in their field as well as on their home turf. Often the pressure for designers and creatives to move to London is overwhelming, but there's so many potential opportunities right here in the Midlands. An event like this proves that there's a melting pot of talented individuals just waiting for their chance to shine."

The event takes place at the CBSO Centre on Friday 7 October. Tickets are available from midlandsfashionawards.co.uk



Discover China at popular Warwickshire venue

Warwickshire art gallery Compton Verney is this month hosting a number of activities related to its internationally important Chinese collection.

Attractions include Big Sunday! - an event featuring lion dancing and Chinese calligraphy - and a daily tour called Discover China!, exploring the history and stories behind the venue's collection of Chinese bronzes.

A half-day introductory workshop in how to design a paper cut using typographic and pictorial elements also features in the programme of events, as does a talk on the 2,000 objects unearthed in 1976 from the tomb of Lady Fu Hao.

For more information, including dates and times of events, visit comptonverney.org.uk

West End's Kara to star in psychological thriller

Former EastEnders favourite Kara Tointon, Merlin actor Rupert Young and one-time hellraiser Keith Allen visit the Midlands next year in a revival of Patrick Hamilton's 1938 psychological thriller, *Gaslight*. West End leading lady Kara, whose career has also seen her win *Strictly Come Dancing*, will take the part of Bella Manningham, the role memorably played by Ingrid Bergman in the classic 1944 film adaptation.

The UK tour of *Gaslight* begins at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, where it plays from 6 to 14 January.

House grime at Coventry Cathedral

A unique outdoor music event featuring major UK grime, house and drum'n'bass artists takes place in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral at the end of the month.

Entitled *Relic*, the concert boasts a stellar line-up of talent, including British grime pioneer Lethal Bizzle and D'n'B favourite Wilkinson. Prominent Midlands DJs Chris Lorenzo, Philip George and The Golden Boy will also be in attendance.

The event is expected to attract up to 2,000 revellers and also features fairground attractions, street food vendors and cocktail bars. *Relic* takes place on Friday 28 October from 4pm till 1am.

To purchase tickets, visit antiquityevents.co.uk.



Birthday celebrations at Resorts World

Popular leisure complex Resorts World Birmingham is this month celebrating its first birthday.

The Solihull-located visitor destination, which features shopping outlets, bars and restaurants, an 11-screen cinema, an international casino and a boutique hotel, is aiming to mark its first anniversary in style by presenting customers with 'a whole host of birthday treats', including a multitude of offers, giveaways and free parking. Other events celebrating the complex's birthday include the chance to climb inside a giant cake for a birthday photo opportunity (available from the 4th of the month) and the launch of a new art installation on Pendigo Lake.

To find out more about what's on offer, including the selection of birthday treats available on the first-anniversary day itself, Friday 21 October, visit resortsworldbirmingham.co.uk/latest-offers/birthday-offers

First Word

King Arthur comes to Warwick

One of the UK's leading theatre companies for younger audiences is visiting Warwick School's Bridge House Theatre this month. The award-winning Story Pocket Theatre will present a stage adaptation of War Horse author Michael Morpurgo's 2008 novel about the legend of King Arthur.

The Guildford-based company, of which Morpurgo is patron, bring both classic and original children's stories to the stage. They present their latest production on 22 and 23 October as part of Bridge House Theatre's autumn line-up of shows.

Other productions featuring in the venue's programme include In Our Hands - a show by award-winning puppetry and visual theatre company Smoking Apples - Goblin Theatre's Penguin! Elephant!, previewed in the Theatre section of this issue of What's On magazine, and a schools adaptation of A Midsummer Night's Dream. To check out Bridge House Theatre's whole programme of shows, visit bridgehousetheatre.co.uk



Stratford Music Festival comes of age...

Stratford Music Festival is this month celebrating its 21st anniversary with a programme that features both rising and internationally established stars. Well-known performers contributing to the 2016 edition of the festival include Lesley Garrett, Martin Roscoe, the Ronnie Scott's All-Stars and the Endellion String Quartet. The nine-day event, taking place from 14 to 22 October, also features a lunchtime concert series, a fringe festival and informal recitals in local hotels and tea rooms. For more information, visit stratfordmusicfestival.com



Coventry celebrates Black History Month

With diversity now high on the agenda for arts organisations across the country, Black History Month presents the ideal opportunity to stop and take stock of the contributions of minority communities to local culture over the years. Renowned as one of Britain's most multicultural cities, Coventry is marking the occasion with a range of exciting events and activities. This year, Birmingham-based Strictly Arts present two new productions at the Belgrade which explore issues affecting BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) people past and present - William Freeman and Green Leaves Fall. Alongside these, the theatre also hosts an exhibition, a multi-act concert and illuminating talks and workshops. Further afield, Birmingham venues are also joining the BHM celebrations, with events focusing on the theme of black music icons.

Here are just a few of our highlights...

Embodied Islands

Belgrade Theatre, Mon 3 – Fri 28 October
Teaming up with Warwick University's Centre for Caribbean Studies, the Belgrade brings together historical stereoview pieces with contemporary visual art in a photographic exhibition exploring Caribbean life from the 19th century to the present day. Warwick University Associate Professor Dr Fabienne Viala and award-winning photographer Jean-Francois Manicom host workshops and discussions alongside the exhibition.



Diversity Rocks

Belgrade Theatre, Sun 16 Oct
Marking 40 years since the Butts Stadium held its famous Festival Against Racism as part of the nationwide Rock Against Racism movement, the Belgrade presents a genre-busting music line-up headlined by Neville Staple of The Specials. Other acts include international hip-hop, bhangra and R'n'B collective Offlicence, award-winning bhangra dance group Gabhru Panjab De and Coventry ska band Ruder Than U, formed by performers from hit musical Three Minute Heroes.



Ira Aldridge & Paul Robeson: Setting Shakespeare Free

Belgrade Theatre, Thurs 20 Oct
With 'colour-blind casting' increasingly the norm in UK theatres, it's easy to forget just how groundbreaking BAME performances of Shakespeare plays on British stages once were. In this landmark year for Shakespeare, Tony Howard from Warwick University's Multicultural Shakespeare project looks back on two great actors who helped to shift the status quo.

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Jean-Michel Jarre

The godfather and pioneer of electronic music this month stops off in Birmingham as part of his world tour. What's On recently caught up with the music icon to find out more...



You're bringing your tour to Barclaycard Arena this month, Jean-Michel. What can your Birmingham audience expect from your upcoming show?

I've spent a lot of time working on what I believe to be an exciting stage design. I've always been involved in the visual aspect of my work. It's very important nowadays, with technology allowing us to push the boundaries even more than when I started out. It's a very exciting challenge to be able to explore different directions. On this new production, I want to share with the audience a totally different experience from what I've done in the past, and also, hopefully, a totally different experience from a usual electronic or rock music show. I want to immerse the audience in my music and performance. I'm going to do my best to deliver a show that will satisfy them beyond their expectations. I know how big their expectations are, so I'm going to try not to disappoint them.

This is your first live show for six years. Why the break?

Quite simply, I've spent the last few years in the studio and travelling the world to compose and produce my double Electronica album, with over 30 collaborators from the electronic music scene who are legends and/or newcomers, and with whom I share a common music DNA. Believe me, it was far from a break! The Electronica project took over my life these past few years, and I'm delighted to have worked with so many wonderful musicians and to have made great friends along the way.

“ *I’m addicted to making and performing my music - it consumes my life daily* ”

Your recent releases, *Electronica 1: The Time Machine* and *Electronica 2: The Heart Of Noise*, have seen you collaborate with an eclectic mix of artists, including Hans Zimmer, Moby, Massive Attack, Pet Shop Boys and Edward Snowden. Can you tell us a bit about how that came about?

The project came from an idea I started some time ago, gathering around me musicians, artists and collaborators who’ve been and who are an ongoing source of inspiration to me - linked, directly or indirectly, to technology and electronic music covering different generations. Because everyone said yes, the project became much bigger than I had imagined, and I decided to divide *Electronica* into two separate albums. Volume one was released in October 2015, and volume two in May 2016 with another bunch of great collaborators. The essence of the double album was to physically travel to meet with those artists I’d invited on board, spending time in their working environment and sharing a creative process physically - merging our DNA through a piece of music. I composed the first demo for every artist with my fantasy of their music and touch in mind, to start from something as a platform, while leaving enough space for him or her to add their part.

Electronic music festival *Sónar* saw the world premiere of your new show back in June this year. Why *Sonar*?

Sónar is one of the most renowned electronic music festivals in the world, and they kindly invited me to headline this year’s edition, showcasing my new music and kicking off my brand new stage production.

You’re the pioneer of electronic music and were the first to create the experi-

ence of the multimedia concert as we know it today. What was the original inspiration behind the idea?

With electronic music, you are not confined to the acoustics of a concert hall, and that inspired me to bring my music performance outdoors. Also, I’ve always been inspired by architecture and how we perceive our environment, whether man-made or natural.

That’s where the idea initially came from for my *Cities In Concert* concept - hijacking a public space for a night and deploying all the tools available to me to create a unique sound-and-vision spectacle and experience.

Before your professional career, you studied classical musical composition and fronted punk act *The Dustbins*. Classical, electronic and rock/punk are all completely different sounds. Why did you choose to go down the electronic music route?

I am an explorer, a sound-hunter. I love all genres of music, but with technology, I discovered that I could also create something new sound-wise. My classical education was a great foundation to compose with sounds I could record from nature, voices and other means, creating my own notes and personal sound.

You’ve played a countless number of concerts throughout your four-decade career. Can you name some particularly memorable shows and venues?

That’s not easy to answer for me, as all of my concerts and shows are quite singular and memorable, but this year is the 30th anniversary of the Houston concert which I did with NASA in front of the amazing downtown skyline of skyscrapers. The London Docklands concerts were also a most memorable moment, as was Millennium Night at

the Great Pyramids. Now Birmingham hopefully will be another great moment!

Your album, *Oxygène*, was released by a French independent label, having previously been turned down by every major record label. What were their reasons for rejecting it?

At the time, *Oxygène* was considered a totally ‘far out’ concept. What was ‘in’ at the time was disco, hard rock and the early days of punk. And moreover, *Oxygène* was instrumental. And I was French!

The album has since gone on to sell 12 million copies and was presumably one of the pinnacle moments of your career...

Oxygène was the meteorite that indeed launched my career, and this year is its 40th anniversary, for which I have plans to celebrate, but cannot say more at this moment. Watch this space!

You’ve compared music to a ‘hard drug’. Can you explain what you mean by this?

I’m addicted to making and performing my music - it consumes my life daily.

Your live concert is something spectacular, featuring synthesizers and large-scale audio-visual shows. Are there any plans to evolve it further?

I invite you to see the evolution on this tour!

And finally, what does the future hold for Jean-Michel Jarre?

The future is here and now.


.....
Jean-Michel Jarre plays Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, on Saturday 8 October.

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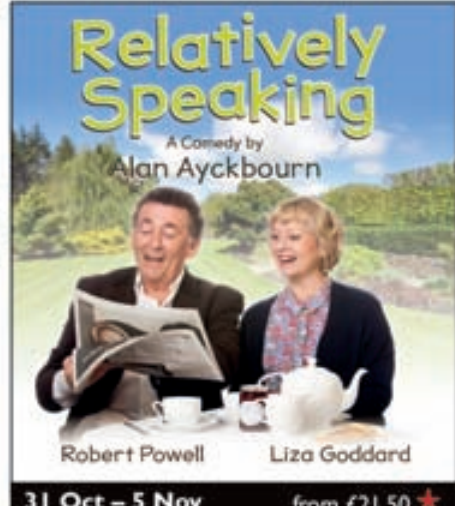
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Old Joint Stock Pub voted one of the best...

A Birmingham pub which hosts theatrical performances in its upstairs room has been voted one of the West Midlands' top hostelrys.

The Old Joint Stock on Temple Row West is the only Birmingham pub to be included in The Good Pub Guide 2017.

Commenting on the success, Jonathon Swaine, Managing Director of Fuller's Inns, which owns the pub, said: "This is an amazing accolade for The Old Joint Stock. Being crowned one of the best pubs in the country is fantastic, but to be the only Birmingham pub to be recognised demonstrates just how much hard work, enthusiasm and passion the team have put into ensuring that the pub is a cut above its competitors."



REVIEW: Tasca Dali, Warwick

A beautiful taste of Spain in the heart of Warwick



Tasca Dali is no ordinary Spanish restaurant. There's no menu as such. Instead you get five delicious and varied courses - all chosen by the chef - for £25, which sounds, and is, amazing value.

As soon as you arrive at the cosy eatery, you feel like you've been transported to somewhere on the Iberian Peninsula. The music is Spanish, the staff are Spanish and the food is most definitely Spanish. The majority of the seating is around large wooden barrels, with high stools, many in full view of the chef, creating a friendly and lively vibe.

The raw ingredients are sourced locally and, where practical, from Spain. This is a restaurant that cares about its food and wine, striving for an authentic dining experience. That said, you do have to buy into the concept of not choosing what you eat - it's different every day, depending on what's in season and, I hope, the mood of the chef. Of course, when booking, they will take note of any specific requirements, such as food allergies or if you prefer a vegetarian or vegan meal.

My dining partner and I were welcomed by Jorge, who hails

from Barcelona and was really knowledgeable about each of the dishes on offer that night. And because everyone is eating the same food in the restaurant, you can be sure that you will get each course just at the moment you'd want it.

So what of the food? After a delicious antipasto sharing platter (the Spanish cheese being a major hit), we enjoyed a stew of butter beans and chorizo, hearty and rich with just the right amount of kick. Our third course was a seafood paella. To be honest, I'm not a massive fan of paella, but I have to say the

depth of flavour was impressive, and I can't remember the last time I enjoyed king prawns so much!

Following a roasted pepper stuffed with beef and topped with cheese (very moreish), the last of the five courses arrived - a beautifully tender and flavour-some fillet steak, served with sliced potatoes (with a hint of cream and garlic) and mushrooms. It was simply superb.

If all that wasn't enough, the evening's proceedings were rounded off with a homemade chocolate cake, made with cherries, coconut and topped with small pieces of pineapple. Sumptuous - although by this point, I was starting to feel quite full!

The carefully selected wines are all Spanish of course, starting at £6 a glass and up to £53 a bottle. My Viero Viura white Rioja was wonderfully dry yet smooth, and without any acidic 'sting'. It may be my favourite new white wine!

Tasca Dali is a beautiful slice of Spain in the heart of Warwick. Go, but go with an empty stomach! *Jack Rolfe*

Food:
 Service:
 Ambience:
 Overall value
OVERALL

Tasca Dali
 15 High Street
 Warwick
 CV34 4AP
 Tel: 07445 223527

New app helps locate vegan restaurants

A brand new app is set to make dining out a whole lot easier for vegans and vegetarians in Warwickshire.

The free-to-use 'vanilla bean' is an interactive restaurant guide specialising in the needs of eco and health-conscious users, as well as people with food intolerances.

The app covers over 1,800 vegan and vegetarian restaurants across the UK, including dozens in Warwickshire. The vanilla bean is available as a free download on the UK app store and on Google Play.

For more information, visit vanillabean.com or follow them on Twitter at [@vanillabeanapp](https://twitter.com/vanillabeanapp).

Pasta and pizza helps victims of Italian earthquake

A company which operates three pub-restaurants in Warwickshire has raised more than £20,000 to help victims of the recent Italian earthquake. Oakman Inns & Restaurants, which runs The Globe in Warwick, The Beech House in Solihull and The Four Alls at Welford-on-Avon, raised the money from the net sale of its pizza and pasta dishes. Using the social media hashtag #EatForItaly, it encouraged its customers to show their support over a three-day period by ordering a pizza or pasta dish instead of one of the pub's other 40-plus dishes.

A cheque for £20,744 has been sent to the Italian Red Cross to support their relief efforts in Amatrice and the surrounding areas.



Michelin-starred Glynn Purnell to become Secret Chef

Michelin-starred Birmingham chef Glynn Purnell will host his own television show on ITV1 next year.

Secret Chef will see Glynn teaching a complete novice how to cook and prepare a lavish meal for their family and friends, entirely from scratch.

"This was probably the most difficult TV job I've had," says Glynn. "I've taught my children to chop vegetables and help out in the kitchen - and they are better cooks than the person I was teaching! I had six weeks to teach this person to cook. At the end of it, he had to surprise his friends and family with a meal they thought that I'd cooked!"

As well as his new TV show, Glynn is making a welcome return to BBC's Saturday Kitchen next month. He's also published a new cookery book, Rib Ticklers And Choux-Ins - available now, priced £19.99.



Marco's New York Italian launches new menu

Marco Pierre White's restaurant at Birmingham Airport's Holiday Inn has launched a new menu. Alongside old favourites such as Baked New York Italian Meatballs and Lasagne Bolognese Al Forno, diners at Marco's New York Italian can now enjoy a selection of new dishes. These include Chicken Milanese Burger, New Orleans Seafood Kebab, Classic Spaghetti Napoletana, Seared Seabream with Caponata and The Long Island Seafood Platter.

"If I had to choose only one cuisine to eat for the rest of my life, it would be Italian," says Marco. "My mother was Italian, and I spent a lot of time in Italy with her when I was a boy. My New York Italian is all about creating a comfortable environment for friends and family to relax and enjoy some of my favourite Italian and American foods."

For more information, visit mpwrestaurants.co.uk/restaurants/birmingham-airport



Award-winning Thai restaurant opens in Stratford-upon-Avon



Following the success of its two Birmingham restaurants, award-winning Thai eatery Sabai Sabai has branched out into Stratford-upon-Avon.

"We're really excited to be opening in Stratford, the artistic heart of Warwickshire," says Torquil Chidwick, joint owner of Sabai Sabai with his wife, Juree. "The location for the restaurant couldn't be more perfect. Our other restaurants are in the suburbs, but Wood Street is right in the centre of Stratford, just a stone's throw from the Royal Shakespeare Company."



Much-anticipated exhibition opens at the RSC's Swan Theatre...

This year marks 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare, and 137 years since a theatre was first dedicated to his works on the banks of the river Avon.

Over the last nine months, extensive regeneration work has seen the Swan's stunning gothic arches and beautiful stained-glass windows hidden away from public view. While every care has been taken to preserve the structure as it was (the match for bricks was so exact that new items had to be marked to ensure they would be paid for!) when it finally reopens this autumn, it won't look quite as you remember it.

Seizing the chance to make the most of the refurbished space, the RSC will open its first permanent exhibition, *The Play's The Thing*, on 22 October. Featuring state-of-the-art technology, spectacular props and costumes, multi-sensory displays and more, this immersive experience offers visitors a unique behind-the-scenes insight into the making and magic of theatre.

"The whole design of the space is about the coming together of old and new," says Director of Exhibitions Geraldine Collinge, as we enter what was once the Swan Wing's library. Located at the back of the theatre's ground-floor café-bar (itself decked out with interesting objects and stories) the old library has been plastered with RSC programme covers, some dating back as far as the 1950s.

"We haven't necessarily chosen particularly famous or important shows," she adds. "We just wanted to give a sense of how these plays have been approached in so many different ways over the years."

It's surrounded by this vibrant celebration of the company's history that visitors begin their journey. On one wall, replica books sur-

round a portrait of the old librarian, Alfred Wall, and at the moment, there's also a gap amongst the tightly packed programmes that will later serve as a screen for an introductory animation, after which a door will open onto the Swan's back stairs.

The windows alongside the stairs are just a taster of what's to come. At the back of the upstairs room is an area lit up with a host of stained-glass figures, installed by the Old Bensonians, the theatre's first resident acting company. It's here that, for the first few months, you'll be able to see an original 1623 First Folio, as well as the famous Chandos portrait, temporarily on loan from the National Gallery. Of course, measures must be taken to protect such old and delicate exhibits.

"One of the challenges of the whole project is that we have to make a listed Victorian space into something that could potentially house really valuable items," Geraldine explains. "You can see some of the pipework in the ceiling, but most of the climate-control mechanics are hidden behind displays."

After this, things start to get more interactive. Amidst incredible props and costumes worn by actors from Laurence Olivier to David Tennant, you'll find a full-size replica of Artistic Director Greg Doran's desk, as well as a set designer's toolkit for investigating how productions are put together.

Elsewhere, you'll be able to try your hand at acting, performing a scene from *Hamlet* with the help of a digital recording of the ghost. One electronic exhibit will enable you to don a costume of your choice and send a photo to yourself to share with friends. For those who prefer a more hands-on approach, there are also wigs and costumes specially made for dressing up, as well as drawers filled

with an A-to-Z of the various sights, smells and sounds of the stage.

As visitors exit the exhibition, they'll be confronted with Steven Follen's striking installation, *For All Time*, hanging above the Swan's main stairwell. Unveiled to coincide with the Shakespeare 400 celebrations in April, the piece takes the form of a giant face constructed from 2,000 folded metal stars. Turning left will take you to the theatre's Rialto Bridge, where an arresting new mural documents the history of Stratford's Shakespeare industry, with peepholes revealing amazing photographs from the company archive.

"This is such a connecting space," says Geraldine, "obviously connecting the exhibition to the theatre, but you can also see down the colonnade into the RST, and on the other side there's the view to the river and the rest of Stratford. I've always found this a bit of a soulless space that people just pass through, so we thought about that sense of connecting and place when we set out to give it more of an identity."

Soon, benches will move in, complete with headphones to hear audio recordings of interviews with RSC actors. As the theatre seasons roll by, there'll be plenty of new reasons to make return visits.

"(The exhibition) will change, with costumes being rotated, and we will want to reflect the RSC seasons and activity. I'm sure we'll also see new opportunities and developments for the exhibition that we will want to implement as we go forward."

The Play's The Thing opens at the RSC's Swan Theatre on Saturday 22 October.

Heidi Talbot

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 8 October

Former singer of Irish-American musical group Cherish The Ladies, Heidi Talbot is a well-known name in the folk world. She's currently touring her new LP, *Here We Go, 1, 2, 3*, for which she was joined by a host of musicians and co-writers, including Louis Abbott (Admiral Fallow), Duke Special and Boo Hewerdine.

"The title takes that idea of jumping," says Talbot, the recipient of 2008's Indie Acoustic award and multiple BBC Radio Two Folk Award nominations, "whether it's into new musical territories, new bands, a new studio, new label, new family - new everything, really. It's about taking a chance. I've written eight of the 10 songs on this album in some context, whether it's the lyrics or the music - that's the most I've ever contributed. And it's quite personal."



The Sunshine Underground

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 20 October



It's 10 years since Shropshire band The Sunshine Underground released their debut album, *Raise The Alarm*.

Although both that and second album *Nobody's Coming To Save You* showcased an indie rock sound, the boys took a different direction a couple of years back and focused on their first love - electronic music.

Following the release of their fourth (and last) album, *Luminescent*, the band is this month embarking on their farewell tour. Commenting on the split, lead singer Craig Wellington said: "Musically, we've become a very different band to the one we started out as, and 10 years since the debut album felt like the right time to say 'that was a good progression from album one to four, and now it's time to do something different'."

Read the full interview at whatsonlive.co.uk

Jean-Michel Jarre

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sat 8 October

The godfather and pioneer of electronic music makes a welcome return, six long years after his last live show.

Jarre came to prominence back in 1976, following the release of debut album *Oxygène*, and has since sold hundreds of millions of albums worldwide.

Famed for staggering visuals and the use of cutting-edge digital technology, his new live show promises to be a truly immersive musical journey, with Jean-Michel performing brand new music from two-part LP *Electronica* alongside classic material from previous albums.

Read our interview with Jean-Michel at whatsonlive.co.uk



Nickelback

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Fri 14 October

Comprising guitarist and lead vocalist Chad Kroeger, guitarist, keyboardist and backing vocalist Ryan Peake, bassist Mike Kroeger and drummer Daniel Adair, multi-platinum-selling Canadian rock band Nickelback bring their *No Fixed Address* world tour to Birmingham.

The band were originally due to play the city last November but were forced to cancel due to Chad needing an extended period of vocal rest following voicebox surgery.

Having sold more than 50 million albums worldwide and notched up the fourth best-selling song of the 21st century's first decade - 2001's *How You Remind Me* - the fellas are a must-see experience for any rock fan.

Buzzcocks

The Copper Rooms, Coventry,
Tues 18 October



Forming, along with the Sex Pistols and the Clash, the original holy trinity of British punk, Buzzcocks are genuine, twenty-four carat punk rock royalty. Superstar groups such as REM, Nirvana and Green Day have all been happy to acknowledge the influence which the Bolton-originated band had on their music. Influential in terms of both the independent record movement and the Manchester music scene, the band were once hailed 'the Beatles of punk', their sound being described as a fusion of pop craftsmanship and rapid-fire punk energy. They stop off in Coventry as part of their 40th Anniversary World Tour.

Jamie T

O2 Academy, Birmingham,
Sat 1 October

One of the most distinctive voices in British music, Jamie T released his debut album, *Panic Prevention*, in 2007 to great critical acclaim. Best known for singles such as *If You Got The Money, Sheila and Sticks'n'Stones*, the London-born singer-songwriter has since released a further three albums - *Kings & Queens* (2009), *Carry On The Grudge* (2014) and this year's *Trick*, a highly praised fusion of rock, punk, reggae, rap and pop, in support of which he's playing this gig and touring the UK.



Nell Bryden

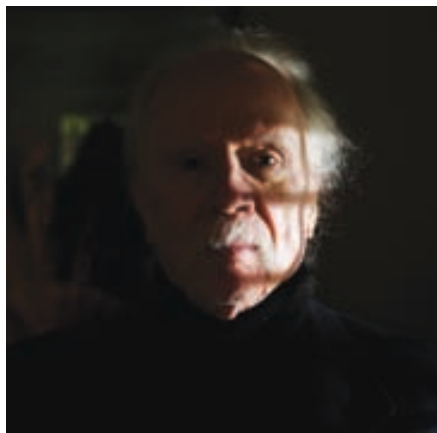
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
Sun 9 October; Huntingdon Hall,
Worcester, Fri 14 October

In 2012, Brooklyn-born singer-songwriter Nell Bryden released *Sirens* - a song based on her experiences of living in New York in the aftermath of 9/11. The track caught the

attention of many an artist - Gary Barlow, Jools Holland and Counting Crows, to name but a few. Nell has since become a Radio Two listeners' favourite, gaining plenty of acclaim for her powerful, soaring vocals and accomplished songwriting.

John Carpenter

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Thurs 27 October



John Carpenter is best known for his cult films, included among which are *The Thing*, *Assault On Precinct 13*, *Dark Star*, *Big Trouble In Little China*, *Halloween*, *Escape From New York* and *Starman*. Alongside his duties as movie director, producer, screenwriter and editor, he's also a musician and film music composer. Now, to support his album, *Lost Themes II*, the 'horror master' is hitting the road for the first time. Accompanied by musicians who previously backed Jack Black's *Tenacious D*, he's also joined by his son, Cody, and godson Daniel Davies - both film and TV composers of note whose credits include *Cigarette Burns*, *Zoo*, *Pro-Life* and *Condemned*.

Level 42

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Tues 11 October

To say '80s pop legends Level 42 have had a successful career would be an understatement. The band have released 27 albums, had 18 top-40 singles, sold out Wembley Arena for 21 nights and sold over 30 million albums worldwide. This month's Birmingham gig comes in support of their recently released EP, *Sirens II*, and showcases new material alongside a selection of their greatest hits.

Poliça

O2 Institute,
Birmingham,
Thurs 20 October



Pop-soul outfit Poliça play the Midlands in support of their latest album, *United Crushers*, following a triumphant performance at the BBC Radio 6 Music Festival last month. The band, which comprises Channy Leaneagh, dual drummers Drew Christopherson and Ben Ivascu, Chris Beirden on bass and producer Ryan Olson, collectively wrote the album in Minneapolis in the winter of 2015, during their first true break from touring in two long years. The new album builds on Poliça's signature synthesizer and percussion-heavy sounds with more complex arrangements and a bigger, crisper, hi-fi punch.



Jennifer Pike

Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 19 October

Highly rated English violinist Jennifer Pike joins the long-established Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra of Moscow for a concert that promises plenty of musical passion. A former BBC Young Musician of the Year, winning the title at the tender age of 12, Pike lends her talents to the orchestra's performance of Sibelius's Violin Concerto.

The piece is here presented alongside Vaughan Williams's supremely English Tallis Fantasia and Tchaikovsky's soulful Pathétique Symphony. The Russian composer's sixth symphony, the work was first performed just nine days before he died in 1893.

Tchaikovsky's death is traditionally attributed to cholera, but numerous scholars have suggested that he took his own life, and that the symphony was actually a form of 'suicide note'.

The concert is conducted by Sergey Polyanichk, a man whose musical talents were already so in evidence as a child that he was sent to a special school for gifted youngsters at the age of 11.

Lesley Garrett And Friends

Stratford ArtsHouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 14 October



Although many would claim that she's been displaced as Britain's best-loved soprano by Welsh wonder Katherine Jenkins, Lesley Garrett retains an army of appreciative fans and continues to produce superlative performances.

This Stratford concert sees the talented Yorkshire lass team up with 2015 Covent Garden debutant Roland Wood and pianist Anna Tillbrook to perform a programme of popular arias and songs.

Highlights include music from Mozart's The Marriage Of Figaro and The Magic Flute, works by Gershwin and Cole Porter, and much-loved numbers from the Rodgers & Hammerstein stable of musicals.

Stile Antico

St Mary's Church, Warwick, Tues 11 October

An innovative vocal ensemble of a dozen performers, Stile Antico work without a conductor, aim to shine new light on Renaissance music and are this year celebrating their 10th anniversary. The London-based group have a uniquely collaborative style of working, the members rehearsing and performing as chamber musicians, each contributing artistically to the musical results.

The ensemble are annual visitors to Warwick, and on this occasion present a programme to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.



Carducci String Quartet

Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Fri 7 October

Performing around 100 international concerts each year, Carducci are regarded as one of the most successful string quartets in the business. Indeed, the Washington Post described their performance in a recent concert as 'extravagantly beautiful'.

Winners of this year's Royal Philharmonic Society award for chamber music, the quartet here launch Leamington Music's 10th anniversary season. Their programme features Mendelssohn's Quartet in F minor Opus 80, Shostakovich's Quartet No 11 and Beethoven's Quartet in C Op 59 No 3.



The English Concert

Forum Theatre, Malvern, Fri 14 October



Given the fact that the English Concert was founded some 43 years ago, it's perhaps surprising that this is their very first visit to Malvern. Good things are worth waiting for, though, and this Forum Theatre performance seems certain to leave the audience hungry for more.

Boasting an unsurpassed reputation for their inspiring presentations of baroque and classical music, the talented chamber orchestra's concert features the following programme: Purcell's Suite from King Arthur; Corelli's Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 10; Telemann's Viola Concerto; Vivaldi's Concerto for Strings in G minor RV 157; Handel's Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 6; and Bach's Orchestral Suite No 3 BWV1066. The orchestra's artistic director, Harry Bicket, conducts.



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Virginia Ironside
The long-time *Agony Aunt* and writer advises how to grow old disgracefully and ensure that your sixties could be the best (and funniest) time of your life. £11



Wednesday 19 October 7.30pm
Living With Luke
Critically acclaimed play about a father coping with his sons' Autism. Set in a boxing ring there's a Q&A session after (14+). £16 (£14)



Thursday 20 October 8pm
Voodoo Room - Hendrix & Cream
Paying tribute to both Jimi Hendrix & Cream - Voodoo Room are a stunning new 'Power Trio' featuring some of the UK's finest musicians. £16



Friday 21 October 7.30pm
Sing-a-Long-a Grease
Now is your chance to don those pink jackets, grease up those quills and let your inhibitions go for an evening where you are the stars. And remember GREASE is the word... £15, £10 (child)



Saturday 22 October 7.30pm
Si Cranston - Twisting The Night Away
Modern day King of Vintage pop Si Cranston plus his band blend Doo Wop, Rock 'n' roll and Soul in a powerhouse show for everyone. £16



Thursday 27 October 7.30pm
Jo Caulfield
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Aneckxander

DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
Fri 7 October

Cartwheels and nudity combine in this solo performance by Belgian dancer and circus artist Alexander Vantournhout.

"Aneckxander questions the way in which identity can be reduced to physical characteristics," explains Vantournhout. "I have two short legs, two short arms and a long neck, and it's these disproportions that I make use of to provide a creative answer to the reduction of identity."

The piece sees Vantournhout performing all manner of gymnastics as a means of conveying the way in which the body exposes itself to prying eyes; eyes from which it also tries to escape...



Jasmin Vardimon: Pinocchio

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 29 October



"I find unique curiosity in rediscovering this original 1883 classic tale," says Jasmin Vardimon in speaking about Carlo Collodi's famous story of Pinocchio. "The original novel allows us to critically examine the assumptions of ourselves and others about what it means to be human."

Jasmin's company here combines physical theatre and quirky characterisation with innovative technologies, text and dance to create a hugely accessible work.

"We have so many audience members telling us it's the first time they've ever seen dance, and that they didn't realise they'd enjoy it so much," says Jasmin. "You can see that they're emotionally attached or intellectually engaged and want to speak and talk about it more. And that's exactly what I always hope to do with my art. I want to make people think and ask questions; I don't want to give answers. At the end of the day, I see myself as a storyteller and communicator about things that are important to me."

Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company: Inter_rupted

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Sun 30 October

"For kathak dance to be appealing to new audiences and young people," explains Indian dance revolutionary Aditi Mangaldas, "it's essential that their minds and their pre-conceived notions of classicism are challenged."

Mangaldas' latest kathak work is an exploration of 'fragility, disintegration and renewal'. Featuring seven dancers, it perfectly exemplifies the choreographer's ongoing commitment to the task of infusing traditional dance with modern sensibilities, combining 21st century sound, rhythm and light with an art form that's existed since at least 400 BCE.

"New audiences, young audiences, need to be drawn into a world of imagination," Aditi continues, "a world which engages them and demands their immediate attention."

Dance is different from a book, a painting or a piece of music in that it's intangible - it's presented and then it's over and finished with. That's why it's so important to transport young viewers and transform their minds. One of the best ways to do that is to refashion a traditional dance form like kathak by producing contemporary work which is based upon it."



Romeo And Juliet

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 20 October;
Palace Theatre, Redditch, Sat 22 October;
The Core Theatre, Solihull, Wed 26 October;
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Thurs 27
October; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 9
November; Crescent Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 19 January



Innovation is definitely the name of the game for Leicestershire dance company Ballet Theatre UK. The ensemble draw their inspiration from classical dance, theatre, popular culture and literature, all of which feed into their critically acclaimed productions of timeless ballets.

The company is this season joining the year-long celebrations to mark four centuries of Shakespeare's legacy by presenting this brand new version of Romeo And Juliet. Expect exquisite dancing, stunning costumes and imaginatively designed stage sets.

MICHAEL MORPURGO

talks about *Adolphus Tips*, the story of how 946 American soldiers lost their lives during World War Two...



At first glance *Adolphus Tips* seems a pretty grim story for a family audience. What made you choose it?

At first glance you're right. One of the great challenges of writing about serious subjects for young people is to find a way of telling the story without patronising, and without sentimentalising. In this case, I came across the story of a cat called Adolphus Tips who was owned by a farmer's daughter at Slapton. This cat had to be left behind when the family, along with hundreds and thousands of others, were moved from their homes and farms and villages so that the Americans could practise life-like landings from the sea on the beach at Slapton sands. The true story is that the families were gone from their houses over a year, and all that time Adolphus Tips, the family cat, was left in a live exercise area with bombs falling all around. The cat survived and was found again by the family when they came home after the D-Day landings, after all the American soldiers were gone. During these exercises, the US soldiers and local people got to know one another and to like one another, and it was during that year of exercises that Operation Tiger happened, during which German e-boats surprised the American ships and landed craft at sea and attacked them. Nine hundred-and-forty-six died, and this event was hushed up by the US and the British for a long time. So yes, a grim story, but on the other hand, a time when people from different lands and different cultures got to know one another well and when friendships were made. I concentrated my story on that family and the relationship between them and two black American GIs and their search for the missing cat, for the farmer's daughter. It was a way into telling the story, I felt, maintaining the seriousness of what happened, about the loss, but also about the love and the triumph of love over loss.



Michael Morpurgo



The story's about displaced people. Given the current situation regarding migrants and refugees, is there any significant message within Adolphus Tips that we may do well to heed in 2016?

Everyone in the story of Adolphus Tips is, for one reason or other, obliged to leave home. The Americans over here, thousands of miles from home and family. The farming families expelled from their houses and the evacuee children finding refuge in the village. So everyone in the story is in one sense a migrant, and everyone is supporting everyone else. Is there a message in that? I hope so.

Why Kneehigh?

What I love about Kneehigh is their wonderful inventiveness and the way they weave together wonderful acting and glorious music and song. And terrific dance, and a script that never puts a foot wrong.

Are the techniques and devices you use to engage a young reader different from the ones used to engage a young theatre-goer?

No difference. When you write or make a play for whatever audience, all that's important is that you mean it and that you write and act with total commitment, that you never talk down to any audience and treat them with the respect and sensitivity they deserve.

Earlier this year, Adolphus Tips was the first ever family-friendly production to be staged at the Globe, a theatre more usually associated with Shakespeare plays. What prompted the venue to choose the story for its first foray into family entertainment?

Emma Rice created the play last year for at

the Asylum at the wonderful Heligan Gardens in Cornwall, where Kneehigh put on some of their shows. It was a huge hit there, wonderfully received and universally acclaimed. Shortly afterwards, she was appointed as artistic director at the Globe, and I believe felt it important to reach out to a wider audience at that theatre, a brave and important decision. There will be many families who saw 946 at the Globe and loved the spirit and energy of it and will no doubt be back to see Shakespeare there.

For people who loved the stage version of War Horse and might be hoping that Adolphus Tips is a similar experience, in what ways will the production satisfy their desire?

In every way, but it is significantly different as a show, smaller in scale, more intimate, funnier, but like War Horse deals with serious issues. In War Horse, the puppets took centre stage and were huge. In 946, the puppets were important but not so significant in the production. They were also infinitely smaller, especially the sheep and the mice!

As with Adolphus Tips, you feature animals in a number of your stories. What do you feel they bring to your books?

I think for many children, an animal helps them go to places they would otherwise not venture into. With a dog, horse or cat as a companion, a young reader can empathise more readily, and so for a writer it does allow me to engage with subjects that might otherwise be too difficult or traumatic for younger readers. Also, I am fascinated by the relationship between animals and humans and how it affects us. How we can give and receive affection and trust.

Which of your books is your favourite?

All my books are special to me - they are all my babies if you like. Often it's the latest one that I've written that's my favourite. I'd been dreaming it for so long, living and breathing its story, so that when it finally arrives as a newly published book, smelling wonderful and fresh out of the box, there is nothing like it. However, if I was to mention some favourites, War Horse would be up there, and the prequel to War Horse - Farm Boy - and Private Peaceful. War Horse is my wife's favourite too and that means a lot.

Is there a children's book that you wish you'd written?

I wish I'd written The Iron Man, which I admire because of its epic quality, its economy of writing and the beauty of the language.

What advice would you give to a would-be writer of children's stories?

Write from the heart and get it down, without worrying too much. Settle on an idea that you care about, that you're really passionate about, then research around it and dream it out in your mind. Don't plan out the plot too much, rather let it emerge as you write. Try and live inside your story, hear and feel it all around you and become the characters.

.....

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips is at Birmingham Rep from Thursday 6 until Saturday 15 October and Warwick Arts Centre from Tuesday 8 until Saturday 12 November

Dane Baptiste

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 8 October;
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 30 October

With a new sitcom hitting TV screens recently and this touring show enjoying a positive response from critics and audiences alike, it's fair to say 2016 is working out well for Dane Baptiste.

It's certainly been a whirlwind couple of years for the London-born funnyman. In 2014, he became the first ever black comedian to be nominated for the Foster's Best Newcomer Award at the Edinburgh Fringe, a success achieved with his debut solo show, *Citizen Dane*.

"This is my second show," says Baptiste of the currently touring *Reasonable Doubt*, "so essentially it's like my second album. And the pressure's cranked up because the first show did so well. I've pretty much always wanted to be a comic, so there's no alternative for me - I've got to make sure this goes well..."



Six of the best...

Kerry Godliman

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 8 October; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 14 October

Comedian and actress Kerry Godliman's new



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

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

Kerry's TV work includes the Ricky Gervais comedies *Extras*, *Life's Too Short* and *Derek*. She appeared in the latter as care home manager Hannah.

Sam Simmons

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 14 October

Junkie seagulls, cherry tomatoes on a train station platform and the heavily medicated years of Brian Wilson featured among the subjects visited by Aussie funnyman Sam Simmons when he performed his latest show, *Not A People Person*, in Edinburgh this summer.

Having last year bagged the Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award and the Barry Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, great things were understandably expected at the 2016 Fringe - although the show did prompt a surprisingly mixed bag of reactions.

Sam's style of comedy is off the wall, to say the least. If you've enjoyed him before, this Midlands gig is an event not to miss; if you're a first-timer, get yourself along, take a suitably open mind with you and, in accordance with Sam's motto, embrace the chaos.



Miles Jupp

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 29 October

Once described by the Evening Standard as having the distracted air of bewilderment you might expect of a man 'who'd fallen asleep in the 1950s to the sound of cricket on the village green and had only very recently woken up', Miles Jupp wears tweeds and is posh. He's also a hugely popular stand-up comedian, entertaining his audience with a style of presentation that's disarmingly polite (given which fact, it's perhaps a little surprising that one of his best chums on the circuit is the bile-spewing Frankie Boyle!). Miles is visiting the Midlands with his latest touring show, *Songs Of Freedom*. Expect ungainly attempts at being laddish and opinions on all manner of subjects, from astronauts and poo to lost stuff and other stuff.



Rich Hall

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Mon 3 October; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 4 October; William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Thurs 6 October; Theatr Hafren, Newtown, Powys, Fri 7 October; The Place, Telford, Shropshire; Thurs 13 October; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 21 October

His official biography somewhat less than modestly describes American funnyman Rich Hall as 'a comic genius', albeit a 'grouchy, deadpan' one. It also explains that he 'quit his job as a hurricane-namer for the United States meteorological service' more than two decades ago - since which time, it's fair to say, the sun has been smiling rather warmly on the hugely talented Virginian.

With much of his comedy centring on making fun of life across the pond in his homeland, Rich is perhaps best known for his creation of Otis Lee Crenshaw, a bourbon-swilling red-neck jaillbird from Tennessee whose many wives have all been named Brenda.

Rich's jokes include: "A hotel mini-bar allows you to see into the future and find out what a can of Pepsi will cost in 2020".



Mark Watson

Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, Fri 7 October; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 13 October



A regular contributor to the

Edinburgh Fringe, Mark Watson has the curious distinction of having performed stand-up shows which have lasted for a period in excess of 24 hours.

"Comedy is certainly a time-consuming element of my life," he admits, "but then while I'm out touring and on stage, I'm not having to do the far less glamorous things at home. There have certainly been times when I've been very happy to say, 'Of course I'd like to stay and help out with that plumbing crisis, but Burton awaits!'"

Zoe Lyons

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 27 October

High on confidence and blessed with a razor-sharp wit, Zoe Lyons creates funny routines based on astute observation of life's absurdities.

Her latest show, titled Little Misfit, looks back on her experiences as the 'awkward gay kid at school' whose feeling of being different was heightened by a severe bout of alopecia and, consequently, a less-than-attractive comb-over. She also harboured secret desires for Charlie's Angels - "The blonde one mostly," she admits, "but with a comb-over, who can afford to be fussy? Described by one reviewer as 'Alan Bennett on speed', Zoe's jokes include: 'The old blind fisherman liked nothing more than coming home and putting on a pair of his favourite kippers.'"



Joel Dommett

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 21 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 29 October



"I absolutely love performing in small, intimate spaces," says Joel Dommett, once the face of MTV - until he was sacked at the age of 27 for being 'too old'. "I'd far rather do a small gig in front of 50 people, but be doing new stuff, than do old stuff in front of 5,000 people." Joe's extremely committed to the business of keeping his act fresh. "I'm working on material pretty much all the time," explains the one-time warm-up act for Justin Bieber whose television work includes Skins, Live In Chelsea and Impractical Jokers UK. "In fact, I try to put in something new every time I go on stage. If there's something new in there, it brightens up the whole set and gives it more energy and excitement."

Omid Djalili

talks about being a **Schmuck For A Night**



Award-winning funnyman Omid Djalili is probably one of the most subversive comedians currently doing the rounds on the UK comedy circuit. An actor as well as a comic, Omid has appeared in numerous box office blockbusters, including *Gladiator*, *The Mummy*, *Sex And The City 2* and the James Bond movie, *The World Is Not Enough*. He visits the Midlands this month with his brand new stand-up show, *Schmuck For A Night*. What's On met up with him to find out more...

Your new show's called *Schmuck For A Night*. Why *Schmuck*?

I like the word 'schmuck'. It means 'fool' or buffoon. You have to be a schmuck to do comedy in today's climate. I'm embracing the schmuck in me to take on the big issues of our day. Plus, it's a word that ends with 'uck', which can only be a good thing.

The show is mellow than your other tours. Is that fair to say?

I've become less frenetic. I used to dance every two minutes in between the stand-up. I can't even remember why. It was mentioned to me that when I danced, audiences were laughing at me, not with me. So it was either stop dancing or ban my manager from the gigs.

You touch on Brexit, ISIS and Trump in the show. It's a long tour - will the show change while you're on the road?

I think the show will change even while I'm on stage. It'll be so current sometimes that audiences won't laugh until they get home and turn on the TV.

Are you looking forward to that challenge?

Of course - although my main challenge is getting the audience in a good mood again after my support act, Boothby Graffoe, has been on. Sometimes people haven't finished booing until a few minutes into my act!

You produced a show known as the Iraq Out & Loud Project at the Edinburgh Fringe, which involved reading the Chilcot report in full, 24 hours a day. How did the idea come about?

I was on the phone to Boothby in July and said, "We should do a show at next year's Edinburgh Festival where we just read the Chilcot report 24 hours a day." He mentioned it to a promoter called Bob Slayer, rang me back and said, "There's a guy called Bob who's mad enough to do it this year." So while Bob was building a shed to stage it in, we were contacting all our friends in comedy to read it and kick the idea off. It took 285 hours and 1,444 people to read it. I read too. It was a truly one-off experience.

It was a great idea. The Edinburgh Comedy Awards judges certainly thought so, awarding it the Panel Prize.

At my age, winning an award! What a pleasant surprise - although I've found that when an idea is really good, it's no longer your idea. The idea belongs to the collaborators. In fact, the idea felt like it belonged to the comedy industry. Comics do nutty things all the time at the festival. Sometimes it's a 24-hour show, sometimes mad benefit gigs, but sometimes an idea really captures the zeitgeist. Comedians are very adept at smelling bs - by which I mean sensing when we're being fobbed off - so it was important to us that the readings were a simple, non-political, people-powered public service.

Did you find anything funny in such a serious report?

Yes. It was in the final moments of the readings, after 285 hours and 1,444 people. The very last paragraph of the Chilcot report is: 'How to read the Chilcot report!' It was a great punchline.

You were involved as executive producer on another project about similar subject

matter. The documentary We Are Many was about the 2003 protests against the war in Iraq. Are you proud of the film?

It's not a comedy, but you could easily say it's my crowning achievement so far. I've worked on the project for the last five years - countless edits, screenings, meetings, discussions. The fact that Universal Pictures bought it, that it's been so well received and hit number one on iTunes in about 10 different countries, you could say I'm very proud of it. A film promoting worldwide public opinion as a 'second superpower' has got to be doing good.

Will the film and the Chilcot report reading make a difference, do you think?

You can never quantify the impact of such things, but certainly it felt like they were important projects to be part of. In this life you're either a problem or a solution. I'd like to think these projects - which raise more questions than answers - are firmly entrenched in the solution camp. Or at least trying to be!

Your stand-up isn't particularly political or agenda-based, though...

Well, yes and no. I'm not party political, if that's what you mean. I have no party political agenda. But I'll talk about what's going on around us, trying to contribute to the discourse. In fact, that's what the show should have been called: Schmuck Talks About What's Going On Around Him, Trying To Contribute To The Discourse.

You've just been cast in The Nutcracker with Morgan Freeman and Keira Knightley. How's it going to feel, filming and then showing up at a theatre to do stand-up?

You'd think it'd be weird, but it has never fazed me. Once, in Barnet years ago, I was late, so didn't change and came straight to the theatre from the set of The Mummy at

Shepperton Studios. I walked straight on stage in my film costume. I went on stage in full 1930s Egyptian prison warden garb. I even heard an audience member say, "Well at least he's making an effort."

Away from stand-up, you have an impressive acting CV, having worked with Russell Crowe, Brad Pitt, Robert Redford, Johnny Depp, Mike Myers and Sarah Jessica Parker. Who's been the most fun to work with?

That's a tough one. I'd say - and anyone who's worked with him as an actor would agree - that Keith Richards from the Rolling Stones was probably the most extraordinary. He played the father of Captain Jack Sparrow - Johnny Depp - in Pirates Of The Caribbean 3. His character shoots and kills my character for no reason. This seemed to bother him. In fact, he shot me about 14 times, and after each take he'd come up to me and say, "Listen, you do know I don't mean this?" After every take. It was almost like a joke, but it wasn't. Bang! and he'd shuffle up and say, "Nothing personal mate, I hope you realise." Then, after another take, with the same sincerity and intensity, "It's all acting. You know that? You're not upset with me, are you?" On one occasion he shot me and just said, "Forgive them, Lord, they know not what they do." The final time he shot me, he just stood over me and mumbled, "We've all got issues. It's all about mummy, innit?" How right he was.

.....

Omid Djalili brings his Schmuck For A Night tour to Civic Hall, Wolverhampton on Sat 22 October; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa on Sat 29 October; Palace Theatre, Redditch on Fri 4 November and Huntingdon Hall, Worcester on Tues 15 November.

More dates at whatsonlive.co.uk

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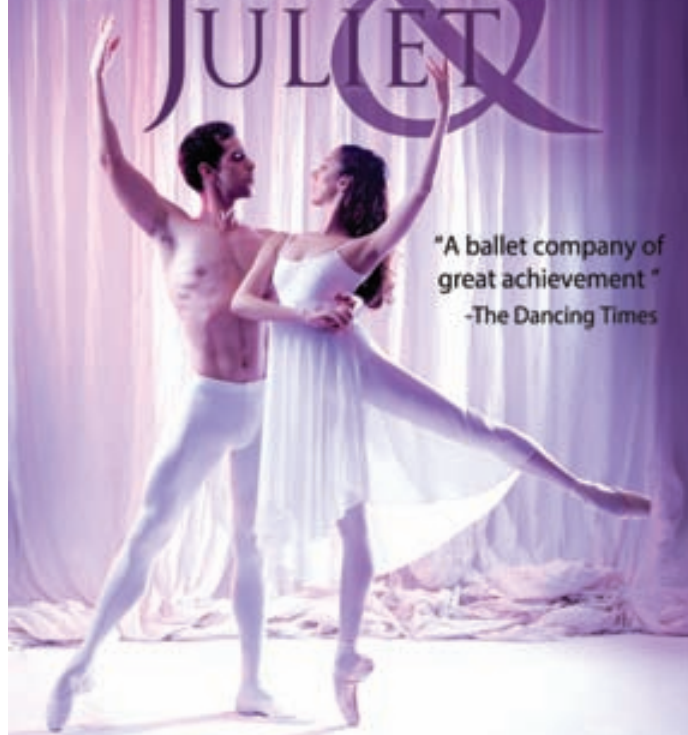
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Birmingham Comedy Festival

Tickling the ribs of Midlanders since 2001, this annual event is one of the longest-running comedy festivals in the UK. Previous contributors include Peter Kay, Lee Evans, Michael McIntyre, Lenny Henry, John Bishop, Miranda Hart and Jimmy Carr. The festival returns this month to provide another 10 days of marvellous mirth across the city, and features performances by Justin Moorhouse, Simon Munnery, Kerry Godliman, Tony Law, Jason Byrne and many more... Birmingham Comedy Festival runs from 7 to 16 October at various venues across the city.

Here are just a few of our festival favourites. For full listings visit whatsonlive.co.uk

Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award

The Glee Club,
Fri 7 October

Birmingham comedy legend Jasper Carrott is among the judges running the rule over a hand-picked selection of emerging acts from across the West Midlands. The competitors have been selected for their 'gag-writing skills, observational chops, deft delivery and potential to break out'.



STAND-UP

Barry Bling, Mr Velvet And The Orchestra Of Chaos

The Spotted Dog,
Digbeth, Fri 7 October

Local lads Barry Bling (on keyboards) and Mr Velvet, pictured, (on drums) are the rather small Orchestra Of Chaos, presenting an act that's often been described as 'Pulp Fiction meets Phoenix Nights'. Their Birmingham Comedy Festival appearance sees the boys performing their first ever musical odyssey, from the Swinging '60s to the 21st century.



MUSICAL ODYSSEY

Rough Works

The Glee Club,
Sun 9 October

A presentation of new material from Midlands comics, Rough Works is curated by Birmingham's very own Jo Enright. Alongside her stand-up career, Jo's also an actor, appearing in television comedy series including Phoenix Nights, I'm Alan Partridge and Life's Too Short.

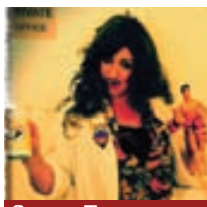


STAND-UP

Neighbourhood Watch

Cherry Reds,
Tues 11 October

The official publicity for Neighbourhood Watch carries the warning that 'this show will make you laugh out loud a lot!' Described as 'an eccentric, madcap, character comedy show', the production features Brassy Brenda, the Bumsville villagers, bingo, songs and ample opportunities for audience participation.



COMIC THEATRE

LoveHard: Murdered By Murder

The Victoria,
Tues 11 October

No strangers to the Birmingham Comedy Festival, madcap double-act LoveHard make a welcome return with a 1930s-set tale of a murder-mystery party that goes horribly wrong. Expect an absorbing night of laughter-inducing mayhem.



COMIC THEATRE

Simon Munnery

The Victoria,
Tues 11 October

Simon Munnery's latest show features 'an opening to die for, seven wry observations, a tone poem, four fresh skits and two new commandments'.

His bag of gags include: "Beware the smile of a waiter. It means he's pissed in your soup," and "In love, as in fighting, the winner has an eight-foot pole".



STAND-UP

Atomic Magic

The Electric Cinema,
Thurs 13 October

Thom Peterson's alter ego of The Amazing Guy isn't to be confused with your common-or-garden superhero. There's no catching of speeding bullets in his bare hands. What there is, however, is a level of mind-twisting, wow-factor magic that's seen him become a regular performer at Hollywood's world famous Magic Castle. And this being the BCF, you can expect plenty of 'uproarious comedy' too.



STAND-UP

Croft And Pearce

Old Joint Stock Theatre,
Sat 15 October

Hannah Croft and Fiona Pearce are certainly creating a splash in the sketch-show world at the moment. Much admired at the Edinburgh Fringe, the duo last year won the BBC Audio Drama Award for Best Scripted Comedy after participating in Radio Four's Sketchorama, a success that earned them their very own show.



SKETCH SHOW

Tony Law

The Station Pub,
Suttoncoldfield,
Fri 14 October

Zany alternative comedy is Canadian funnyman Tony Law's stock-in-trade, a fact which means his audience is guaranteed an evening of truly off-the-wall, boundary-defying stand-up. Jokes include: "My kid was looking at me with doey eyes - we'd been baking that morning".



STAND-UP

Memories Are Made Of This

Million Dollar Quartet, the Vegas, West End and Broadway hit, arrives in the Midlands

The fourth of December 1956. Record producer Sam Phillips makes musical history by uniting four rock'n'roll icons at his Sun Records Studio in Memphis, Tennessee.

Inspired by an astonishing real-life event, Million Dollar Quartet brings to life on stage the legends that are Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins.

Following successful runs in Vegas, the West End and on Broadway, this smash-hit musical is visiting Malvern Theatres and Birmingham Hippodrome this month as part of a new UK tour directed by Ian Talbot. We spoke to Talbot to find out more.

“What I've tried to do with this version is make it less like a concert and more like a play with music,” he says. “In previous productions on Broadway and in the West End, they've had stand mics down the front, which they'd go to every time they came to do a number. They don't do that in this version - it's more about exploring the relationships between the four singers and Sam Phillips. One of our cast members has been in the show in Vegas for four years, and our Musical Director, John Mayer, worked on it in London, and they both say that this production is entirely different.”

By placing the relationships between the characters centre stage, Talbot is able to explore each one individually in greater depth, drawing out the personalities behind the public personae.

“What I've tried to cultivate is distinct personalities. Carl is kind of the moody one, Johnny is the silent one, Jerry is really

bumptious and never shuts up, and at this point in his career, Elvis is still an extremely polite, shy young man. It's almost hard to believe it when you think of all those pictures of him at the end of his career, bloated and addled with drugs and so on. But that's what he was like at this point. Sam Phillips I see as quite a grisly, tough guy who wants to control them all. He's very possessive.”

It might create moments of inspiration or even genius, but to some extent, putting four megastars together in one room is bound to lead to clashes. For the most part, this is a laid-back jamming session where all of the musicians get their chance to shine, but it's certainly not without its tensions.

“I actually didn't know until I came to direct the play that Blue Suede Shoes was originally written and recorded by Carl Perkins, and that he'd already had a hit with it before Elvis did. One day, when Carl was on his way to perform the song on The Perry Como Show, he got caught in a really bad car accident. Later, while he was still lying in hospital, he was watching television and up came Elvis singing Blue Suede Shoes on The Ed Sullivan Show. Pretty much from then on, whenever Carl sang it, everybody thought he was covering Elvis. So there's quite a bit of animosity between them.”

Nevertheless, if there's one thing to unite people, it's a common grievance, and even Carl and Elvis are brought together by their mutual irritation with another member of the quartet.

“I think all of them would quite like to



bump Jerry Lee Lewis on the head,” laughs Talbot. “He’s just so cocky - any opportunity, he’ll pop up and say, ‘Oh, shall I play you another song?’ or ‘I’ve done this...’ or ‘I’m gonna be the best!’ And indeed he was, but he creates quite a lot of the humour in the piece.”

Nicknamed ‘The Killer’, Lewis was once described as ‘rock & roll’s first great wild man’ and is widely acknowledged to be one of popular music’s most influential pianists. At the age of 80, he’s now the one surviving member of the quartet, and remains musically active to this day.

“Apparently he’s still as erratic as ever. I think he’s cultivated that. From what I hear, he’s quite deaf, and when he’s waiting to give a performance he just sits in a corner quietly, until somebody comes and says, ‘Okay Jerry, you’re on’. Then suddenly this miracle happens and he leaps to the floor, plays the piano and then scuffles back and sits in his corner again.”

Lewis might ruffle a few feathers in his way, but there’s deeper trouble brewing at Sun Records. As an independent producer with relatively limited resources, Sam Phillips made himself the envy of the big guns like RCA and Columbia with his talent-spotting ability. Unfortunately, his work was such a soaring success that it wasn’t long before his boys became too big for him.

“The story really revolves around how Sam Phillips built Sun Records. At this point, he’s hoping to get Johnny Cash to renew his contract, but what he doesn’t know is that both Cash and Perkins are going off to Columbia

Of course, we also know that Elvis left Sun Records too, at which point the Colonel took over his career, and he started making what many people see as pretty awful movies - a lot of people would say that he sold out.

“Sun Records is very small in comparison with RCA and Columbia, but Phillips hangs on to it like a terrier with a bone. He really did discover all these stars, and during the play he also mentions that he’s just signed up a guy called Roy Orbison, so he obviously had this great knack for spotting people. All the big record companies want to know how he does it, and of course he won’t tell them, which amuses him no end.”

In addition to the five men, there’s also a sixth, female character - Elvis’ girlfriend who, within the context of the show at least, is a singer called Dyanne.

“Dyanne has come with Elvis because she’s going to meet his parents, and my take on her is that she’s the most sensible of the lot of them. When you get these five men together, there’s an element of them all behaving like overgrown schoolboys, whereas she’s got a wise head on her shoulders. It’s her that’s able to get Sam Phillips to calm down, and when Jerry Lee tries to come on to her, she gives him this withering put-down and he immediately sits down and feels rather silly. But she’s still ‘one of the boys’ in the sense that she’s got a fantastic voice, and she sings two hit numbers, Fever and I Hear You Knocking.”

This isn’t strictly true to life. In reality, the girlfriend Elvis brought with him to the recording session was a dancer from Vegas

called Marilyn Evans.

“I think she was probably more of a showgirl than the play indicates, but she stayed very quiet and never used the publicity. There’s an iconic photograph of her sitting on the piano, but after that she just sort of disappeared.”

But if Million Dollar Quartet takes some liberties with the truth, it’s all in the name of good storytelling and creating an exhilarating live experience that has thrilled audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. It might not be the first jukebox musical of recent years, but it might just be one of the most irresistible.

“I think a lot of [the rise of jukebox musicals] is about nostalgia - I know I love Jersey Boys because that was my era. But I think when they fail is when they take all those songs and try to pin them to a story that isn’t very good. This show has a great book, but also every song that’s sung is a huge hit. There’s a great sort of mega mix at the end which is in the form of a concert, culminating in Jerry Lee Lewis doing Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On, and I defy anybody to stay in their seat by the end. Above all, this is the sort of show that you can’t help coming out of with a big smile on your face, which I think is quite a nice thing in this time we live in.”

.....
Million Dollar Quartet is at Malvern Festival Theatre from Monday 17 until Saturday 22 October, and Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday 24 until Saturday 29 October.

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 6 - Sat 15 September;
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 8 - Sat 12 November

Lily Tregenza's life on a farm in Slapton is pretty idyllic, even though beyond the picturesque seaside village's boundaries the Second World War is raging. Lily's dad is away and her school is being attended by evacuee children - but other than that, her world remains untouched by the terrible conflict. Until, that is, the villagers are told to leave their homes so that the allies can use Slapton to practise their landings for D-Day. When Lily's cat finds her way beyond the 'keep out' signs and through the barbed wire, the 12-year-old girl thinks little of her own safety as she searches for her beloved pet...

Michael Morpurgo's delightful story is here presented by the ever-inventive Kneehigh theatre company, who cleverly combine music, puppetry and 'foolishness' to recount a tale that's been described by The Times as a life-affirming piece of theatre.



Method In Madness

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 20 - Friday 21 October



Any actress who accepts the role of Hamlet's Ophelia needs to be ready and able to undertake a necessary plunge into her own psyche. So when a young Hollywood starlet in Blitz-ravaged London struggles to connect with Shakespeare's enigmatic and ultimately tragic character, she turns for salvation to 'method acting', a technique that sees the actor aspire to complete emotional identification with the role they're playing. Her resulting performance is sensational - but it isn't long before the boundaries between theatre and her own reality become disturbingly blurred...

Fusing Shakespearean text and new writing with physical theatre, dance and mask/puppetry work, Method In Madness is presented against a soundtrack of haunting music by folk singer-songwriter Laura Marling.

The Rocky Horror Show

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Mon 10 - Sat 15 October

Hook up your fishnets, tighten your corsets and prepare to 'do The Time Warp again' - The Rocky Horror Show is returning to Birmingham.

Richard O'Brien's cult production tells the tale of the straight-laced Brad and the deliciously corruptible Janet, who arrive at the castle of alien transvestite Frank N Furter and witness the birth of the monster, Rocky. Along the way, they take the audience through a selection of love-'em-or-loathe-'em musical numbers, including Sweet Transvestite, Damn It Janet and The Time Warp.

Great fun's a guarantee - particularly if you get into the spirit of things and attend the show dressed in your very best stockings and suspenders (as many patrons do)!

This touring production stars The Voice's Liam Tamne as Frank N Furter, S Club 7's Paul Cattermole as Eddie/Dr Scott and comedian Steve Punt as the Narrator.



Fall Out

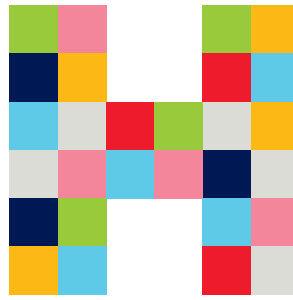
mac, Birmingham, Tues 11 - Wed 12 October;
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Wed 19 -
Thurs 20 October



This latest work from Midlands-based Highly Sprung Performance Co has been produced in response to what the company describes as a growing concern about young people becoming disempowered - 'no longer having a voice, or control over their own future'. The story focuses on three teenagers on the roof of a nightclub, thrown together through circumstance, who're all searching for an answer to the same question - who, if anybody, cares? A young revolutionary named Jay thinks he knows how to bring about change: "Thousands of us," he says, "on the last day of exams - we're all gonna jump. They'll have to listen to us then, they'll have no choice..."

Set in empty studio spaces, Fall Out combines physical theatre performance with the experience of a club night.

"Audiences are invited to enter a nightclub," Highly Sprung explain. "Dance becomes interspersed with story, movement and dialogue, and action takes place around and above the audience. It's a self-contained, interactive, promenade experience."



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The Sound Of Music

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Tues 4 - Sat 8 October

One of the most popular family musicals of all time, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound Of Music* is best known, of course, from its mid-1960s film version starring Julie Andrews. It tells the story of the Von Trapp family's World War Two flight across the mountains of Austria, along the way featuring hit songs including *My Favourite Things*, *Do-Re-Mi*, *Climb Every Mountain* and *The Lonely Goatherd*.

This touring version of the show stars The Voice's Lucy O'Byrne as Maria and former Coronation Street actor Andrew Lancel as Captain Von Trapp.



On The Edge Of Me

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
Thurs 13 October

"Stigmas such as gender, race and class are transcended by mental health issues," explains Yolanda Mercy, who fuses storytelling, poetry, live music and audience participation in this one-woman show. Although the production focuses on the subject of mental health in the context of graduate unemployment, Yolanda is keen to point out that she hopes the piece speaks to a wide audience. "It isn't a play that's exclusively for unemployed graduates," she says. "I hope *On The Edge Of Me* doesn't just re-educate but gives people something to identify with."



A Tale Of Two Cities

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Wed 19 - Sat 22 October

Charles Dickens' name is probably best known to the wider population via all manner of Christmas Carol adaptations and the hugely successful stage musical version of *Oliver Twist*. But it's *A Tale Of Two Cities* - an epic story of love, sacrifice and redemption set during the turbulent days of the French Revolution - which the author himself con-

sidered to be his finest work.

Using the struggles of one particular family as a focal point, Dickens' explores the human drama of the revolution in all its myriad forms. And having had such rich and dramatic subject matter at his disposal, it's hardly surprising that the resulting story makes for compelling theatre. The show's music is provided by Oscar-winning composer Rachel Portman.

Seriously Dead

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire,
Sat 15 October

Benidorm favourite Crissy Rock takes top billing in a new comedy that she co-wrote with Leah Bell, who also stars. When bank robber Albert Blunderstone returns home from abroad to attend a funeral, he runs into Betty, the former wife of his accomplice, a small-time crook called Nodger Wilson. Suddenly alert to the possibility of finally finding out what happened to his share of the loot, Albert befriends Betty and her husband, Billy Blenkinsopp. But as you might expect, the course of true crime never runs smooth...

One-time *Emmerdale* actor Frazer Hines and comedian Billy Pearce co-star.



Henceforward...

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Tues 11 - Sat 29 October

Not exactly one of Alan Ayckbourn's best known or most performed plays, *Henceforward...* is a curious offering that's set in a futuristic world devoid of human contact.

With both his family and his inspiration gone, lonely composer Jerome Watkins is a desperate man - and it's hard to imagine that his deranged android childminder is ever likely to help him regain the person who matters most to him...

Alan Ayckbourn himself directs this much-anticipated revival of the 1987 comedy. It's presented by Scarborough's Stephen Joseph Theatre, of which Ayckbourn is the long-standing artistic director.

The Hound Of The Baskervilles

Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock,
Thurs 13 - Fri 14 October

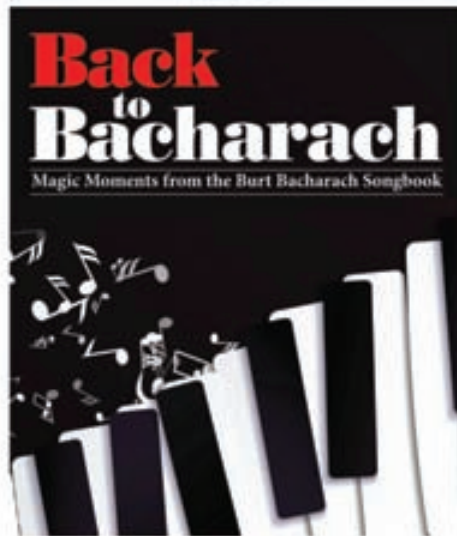
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes is one of literature's most enduring characters, *The Hound Of The Baskervilles* his most famous adventure. Yet no matter how many actors don the deerstalker and solve the mystery of the monstrous moorland beast, the story remains a popular choice for both stage and screen adaptation.

This latest version finds the ever-reliable Ambient Night Productions bringing a welcome dose of humour to the lonely wasteland of the desolate moors...

THU 27 OCT



FRI 28 OCT



SAT 29 OCT



TUE 1 - SAT 5 NOV



TUE 8 NOV



THU 10 NOV



FRI 11 NOV



SAT 12 NOV



TUE 15 - SAT 19 NOV



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Theatre

Blood Brothers

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Mon 10 - Sat 22 October

Although it's effectively a class-driven 'scouse melodrama', to describe Blood Brothers as such is to greatly underestimate the emotional response it produces within its audience.

This touring production stars one-time New Seeker Lyn Paul as Mrs Johnstone, an unfortunate mother compelled to give away one of her twins. The show also features adult actors playing children, a narrator who wanders through the scenes with warnings of impending doom, a good helping of sharp social awareness to counteract the sticky sentimentality and a raft of much-loved musical numbers, including Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotionally charged Tell Me It's Not True.



Paradise Of The Assassins

Belgrade Theatre,
Coventry,
Thurs 13 - Sat 15
October

The former associate artistic director of Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Anthony Clarke, is the man behind this chillingly resonant stage adaptation of a century-old tale. Clarke's company, Theatre Accord, has teamed up with Tara Arts to present the story, written by Abdul Halim Sharar in 1899. Sharar's novel focuses on a young man named Hussain who finds himself faced with the decision of a lifetime - whether to live without his beloved Zamurrud or to join her in Paradise. But choosing the latter comes with a heavy price attached - if he wishes to be reunited with her, he must first join The Assassins...

This thought-provoking reflection on the price people are willing to pay for Utopia contains scenes of a violent nature and sexual references. As such, it's not recommended for anybody under the age of 12



described by the RSC as 'A Midsummer Night's Dream meets Fight Club', and with troubled lovers, woodland scenes and mortal combat all playing a part, it's easy to see why.

When Duke Theseus of Athens is victorious in battle with King Creon of Thebes, the 'two noble kinsmen' - cousins and Thebans Palamon and Arcite - find themselves imprisoned. Looking from their window, they see a beautiful woman with whom they both fall instantly in love. In so doing, they set in motion a chain of events that will see one of them win her hand in marriage and the other lose his head...

Women's Hour

Warwick Arts Centre,
Coventry,
Tues 25 - Wed 26
October

The female-led Sh!t Theatre are quite open about the fact that their on-stage product is intentionally a little bit, er, sh!t. Their style of presentation aims to be reflective of life - and life, too, can sometimes be a little bit... well, you get the drift.

A cabaret piece of 'giddy, freewheeling silliness', Women's Hour takes the format of Radio Four's morning magazine programme of a similar name. Along the way it makes the point that dedicating 60 radio minutes per day exclusively to women hardly constitutes a prime example of equality in action...



The show was a massive success in Edinburgh this summer, where it made fun of the radio programme its name recalls - "Next: Judi Dench talking about her menstrual cycle" - and presented such concepts as the pink, gender-specific Kinder Egg, complete with the surprise 'gift' of a message informing the not-so-lucky recipient that she's fat.

Commissioned by Camden People's Theatre, the show promises an evening of imaginative sketch-based comedy that hits the funny bone far more times than it misses.

Shooting With Light

Bridge House Theatre, Warwick,
Tues 11 October

The long-neglected story of pioneering photojournalist Gerda Taro is here presented via the use of innovative staging, physicality and multimedia.

Fleeing from Germany to Paris in the early 1930s, Taro soon found herself using her camera to record the tyranny of fascism in the Spanish Civil War. But it was the fellow refugee with whom she undertook the dangerous project, a man called Robert Capa, whose name would become synonymous with compelling and provocative war photography. Taro, meanwhile, would be all but forgotten...

Presented by the highly rated Idle Motion theatre company.



The Two Noble Kinsmen

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
until Tues 7 February

Chaucer's Knight's Tale was Shakespeare's inspiration for this rarely performed tragicomedy, written in collaboration with John Fletcher only a couple of years before the Stratford bard's death.

This latest version of the play is being

JOHN BARROWMAN
as Dick Whittington

STEVE MCFADDEN THE KRANKIES
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Disney On Ice: Frozen

Disney On Ice: Frozen

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
Tues 25 - Sun 30 October

Disney On Ice's latest extravaganza brings the snowy wastelands of the hugely popular movie Frozen to the Midlands this month. The company promises a production replete with 'dazzling' special effects and 'astounding' skating - not to mention, of course, the cast of ever-popular characters from the Academy Award-winning film. But wait, there's more; Mickey and Minnie are on hand to host proceedings, with the Mouse House's beloved Princesses making guest appearances too. With characters from all-time favourites like Toy Story, Finding Nemo and The Lion King also getting their skates on, this is one winter wonderland that should definitely warm the cockles of any youngster's heart.

We're Going On A Bear Hunt

Old Rep, Birmingham,
Thurs 20 - Sat 22 October

Suitable for children aged two-plus, this Little Angel Theatre adaptation of Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury's popular picture book follows the exciting adventures of a family as they head out on an intrepid quest to find a bear. Catchy songs and enchanting puppets are combined with no shortage of swishy swashy grass and oozy, squelchy mud in a show that seems certain to keep youngsters entertained.

Dan TDM Tour

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 23 October

Coventry-based Daniel Middleton is one of the world's most viewed YouTube creators. A professional gamer who goes by the handle The Diamond Minecart (DanTDM), he has over 12 million subscribers and has accumulated around seven billion views across his two YouTube channels. Given such massive popularity, it's hardly



The Curious Adventures Of Pinocchio

surprising to find him embarking on his first ever live tour, bringing along with him his pugs, his close friend Dr Trayaurus and lots of other characters from his children-focused Diamond Minecart gaming channel. Plenty of bums on seats at these touring shows is pretty much a guarantee and will further swell an annual income that's estimated to be somewhere between £160,000 and £1.6million. Daniel's also got a graphic novel coming out this month - DanTDM: Trayaurus And The Enchanted Crystal.

The Adventures Of Walter Lemonface

mac, Birmingham, Sun 23 October

If you're looking for something a little different for your kids to enjoy, check this out. Walter Lemonface is a fun and friendly character with a lemon for a head. An older-than-the-hills adventurer, fearless inventor, connoisseur of carrots and hunter of rhubarb ogres, he lives in a purple shed at the bottom of a waterfall. And his adventures very much depend on the suggestions called out by the youngsters in the audience. The refreshingly imaginative 154 Collective are the company behind this hit show, a winning blend of live animation, music and storytelling that's suitable for children 'aged three to 93'.

The Curious Adventures Of Pinocchio

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Fri 28 - Sat 29 October

A singular visual flair, an inventive use of props and an interactive approach to performance are the trademark features of Lyngo theatre company's productions for children. This latest show brings to life the much-loved tale of the puppet-boy whose nose grows whenever he tells a porky-pie. CBeebies' Patrick Lynch is the man pulling the strings.



We're Going On A Bear Hunt

Penguin! Elephant!

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton,
Sun 2 October; Bridge House Theatre,
Warwick, Sun 16 October

"Goblin theatre company believes that imagination inspires imagination," says its founder and producer, Matt Borgatti, "so we aim to create shows that will make young people want to tell stories, be characters, make up songs and remember the experience long after the performance finishes." Goblin's currently-touring show for children aged three-plus is an energetic celebration of 'difference', telling the story of a selfish penguin that has its black-and-white world turned upside down by the arrival of a big, messy, colour-loving elephant. Food based-mess, a 'magical' balloon ride and a fish-finger rap add to the fun.

Gangsta Granny

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Wed 12 - Sun 16 October; Grand Theatre,
Wolverhampton, Wed 22 - Sun 26 March

The ever-popular Birmingham Stage Company make a welcome return with their critically acclaimed adaptation of David Walliams' best-selling book. Ben's no lover of Friday nights - and why would he be? After all, Friday night means having to stay at Granny's house, where he's not only bored senseless but also has to eat an unholy trinity of cabbage dishes - cabbage soup, cabbage pie and cabbage cake. But experiences can sometimes be deceptive, and Ben soon finds out that there's way more to his boring old Granny than he'd ever imagined...



Gangsta Granny

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 BIZET *Duet from The Pearl Fishers*
 RAVEL *Bolero*
 ROSSINI *Largo al factotum from The Barber of Seville*
 VERDI *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves*
 TCHAIKOVSKY *Finale from Swan Lake*

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BIRMINGHAM

Storms, spells & shipwrecks: Birmingham Royal Ballet present the world premiere of David Bintley's *The Tempest*

With 2016 marking one of the biggest Shakespeare milestones to date, it's little wonder that just about everyone's been getting stuck in to the 400th anniversary celebrations, particularly in the playwright's native West Midlands. Back in April, Birmingham Royal Ballet dancers Elisha Willis and Tyrone Singleton performed a preview from David Bintley's brand new Shakespeare Suite, which sets snapshots of Shakespeare's best-loved couples to a swinging Duke Ellington soundtrack. Then in July, the company revived John Cranko's lively 1969 ballet of *The Taming of the Shrew* to rave reviews

Now the BRB continues its focus on the Bard with a full season of shows inspired by some of Shakespeare's most iconic plays. Two sets of three short ballets sandwich the autumn season with a mix of new and established works by Bintley, José Limón, Frederick Ashton and Jessica Lang, but the jewel in its crown will be the world premiere of Bintley's full-length adaptation of *The Tempest*.

In some respects, it's hard to conceive a better choice to translate into a physical medium. Wild, wonderful and a little bit weird, Shakespeare's last solo play is set on an isolated island where Prospero, the former Duke of Milan, lives in banishment with his daughter, Miranda. There, he practises magic, conjuring island spirits to do his bidding, foremost among them the mysterious Ariel, whom Prospero rescues from captivity. Also under his command is the earthy island child Caliban, a "thing of darkness" born to the cruel witch Sycorax. Yet at the same time, *The Tempest's* complexity can make it an unwieldy and difficult piece to stage even as a play, let alone in other forms. Fortunately, the company's ever-inventive artistic director is well-equipped for the challenge.

"David is like a dramaturg as well as a

choreographer," says Iain Mackay, who plays the ageing magician Prospero. "He does allow us to find our own way, but he's so aware of the text and how he's going to bring out the story in dance that sometimes I think the best thing to do is just be led by him. If you want to understand how he wants it, one of the best things to do is just to watch him. He's amazing, especially with the acting: all of a sudden he just gets up and completely becomes the character – and then he does the other ones as well!"

"I think with a production like this, because the play is so complicated, probably half the people in the company have no idea what's going on for some of it!" says Jenna Roberts, who plays Miranda. "But when you're a lead character, you definitely need to know what the part entails and the emotions they're feeling. David did explain some of it – in the very first rehearsal we discussed what kind of person Miranda was, but I don't think he did that with everyone. I like to read about it, watch the play and watch movies so I can get a really good idea of them."

The storms, spells and shipwrecks that fill *The Tempest's* scenes demand bold creative choices – something at

which Bintley has always excelled. Among the more unusual aspects of this production is its extensive use of aerial choreography.

"We've done flying ballet before, but I guess that's what you'd call quite basic stuff. Generally you're up and off, like in *Aladdin* or *The Nutcracker*, whereas in this, it's very choreographic and there's the whole element of the character still moving in the way that he should," says Mackay.

"It seems difficult at first, but actually it's easier than I thought it was going to be. We have really, really good instructors," says Joseph Caley, who plays Prospero's shipwrecked nephew Ferdinand. "It's all about where you put your weight – the harness can really rub on your hips, but once you get the technique down, it's quite fun. I think for the Ariels, they have to do this sort of dive which can be quite difficult to control, just tipping your body and holding it there, whereas I do tumbling, so it's just somersaults."

"After I've done all my tumbling, we have these strange fish characters that grab on to me and start rocking me and moving me around. They've also put some bungee cord in so there's a kind of buoyancy effect to it. I'm sup-

ROYAL BALLET

posed to be drowning, basically – that's how I start," he adds.

"Just the thought of it's making me feel sick!" laughs Mackay. Fortunately for him, Prospero doesn't have to do any flying. In fact, as often as not, he's the one who's making other people fly.

In addition to the choreography, there's also the design to consider, and for this production, Bintley has assembled a stellar team, at the heart of which is award-winning War Horse designer Rae Smith.

"The designs are stunning. Hands down this is the best costume I've ever had!" says Mackay. "The first thing she showed me was a picture from a movie with Clive Owen in it, and I thought it was brilliant. I've got an amazing cloak, and there are all these incredible masks in it too. I think the guy who made them does things for Doctor Who and stuff like that. They're unbelievable!"

"I think they've tried to keep it sort of period-ish, but it's a stylised take on that," says Caley. "It can't be exact, because I've got to be able to move around and lift my arms up in it, but they're going for that look."

For most ballet dancers, starring in a world premiere would be something that happens only on an occasional basis, but at BRB, the company is accustomed to regularly taking on new creations and new challenges, keeping the dancers (quite literally) on their toes.

"It's part of what makes it good to be in this company – it's exciting, it's new and the rep's constantly changing," says Mackay. "If we did Swan Lake from now until next August we'd all be pulling our hair out, and I think so would the audiences."

"We've done quite a lot recently – we've had Cinderella and Aladdin too, but generally I guess it's not that common. We're really lucky to have David," Roberts agrees.

"The thing is, with a new production like this, we don't know how it's going to be. It's a journey for us as well. With anything else, you can go and watch YouTube videos of the dancers you love so you can see their take on it – I could go and look up how Carlos did something and wish that I could do it like him. Whereas if you've got something new that's come straight from the man at the front of the studio, you've got no idea what you're going to be doing," Mackay adds.

In this regard, the opportunities that BRB presents for young talent are almost unparalleled. Not only does being part of the company provide them with a steady position and a chance to work with one of Britain's most celebrated living choreographers, it's also a relatively small, tight-knit team where everyone gets a chance to shine on stage.

"We're not like the Royal Ballet – there's only 60 of us, and David often brings through young dancers. I've been here for 17 years now – I got my first principal role when I was 20," says Mackay. "It's a really talented company, and while David always picks whoever he thinks will be best for a role, he's got the luxury that everyone in the company is really strong. There are a lot of young members who are phenomenal, but also dancers that have been here a long time who are better than ever now."

Birmingham Royal Ballet perform The Tempest at Birmingham Hippodrome from Saturday 1 until Saturday 8 October.



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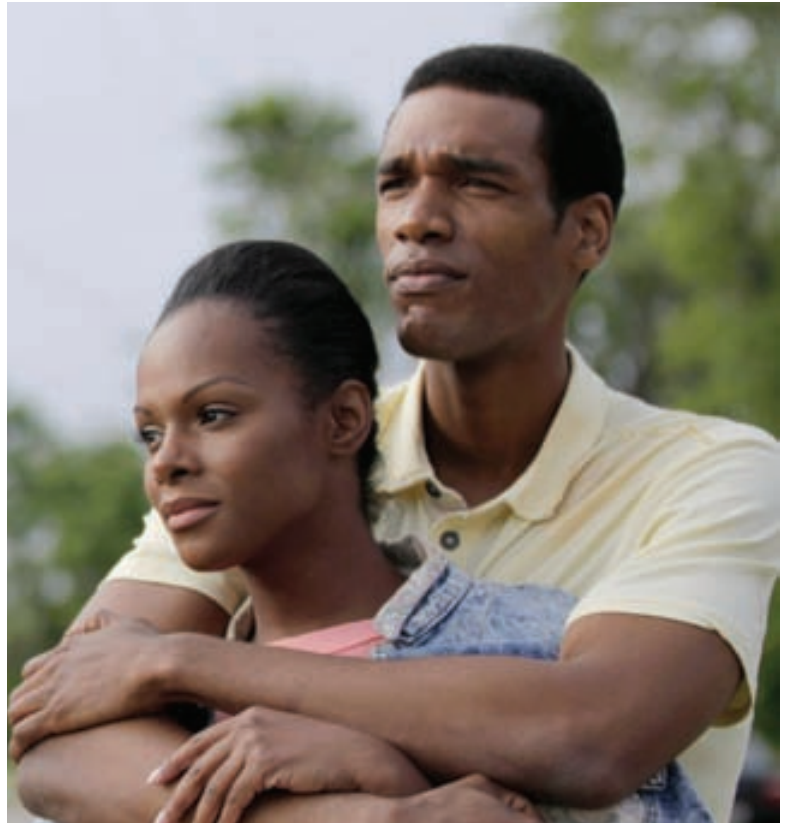
Film

Southside With You CERT 12a (84 mins)

Starring **Parker Sawyers, Tika Sumpter, Vanessa Bell Calloway** Directed by **Richard Tanne (USA)**

With just one month to go before the presidential blood-bath, this is one film that fans of the current administration will want to seek out. If you can imagine Richard Linklater's *Before Sunrise* trilogy peopled not by Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy but by Barack Obama and Michelle Robinson, then you will get the picture. It is 1989 on Chicago's Southside and the future commander in chief is working as a young law associate alongside the beautiful attorney Michelle. The young man is obviously smitten with his colleague and invites her out on a date disguised as a trip to a local community assembly. Throwing in a visit to an exhibition of Afro-Centric art and a picnic in the park, Barack has just a few hours to win the attorney's heart. If there's any justice in Hollywood, newcomer Parker Sawyers should be heading for an Oscar nomination for his performance as Obama - he not only nails the man's mannerisms but gives him a credible humanity, vulnerability and passion, to boot. The film - superbly written and directed by Richard Tanne - is also an intelligent look at what it was to be black and motivated in 1989 with no idea of what the future held.

Now showing



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in October...

The Girl On The Train

CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Emily Blunt, Rebecca Ferguson, Haley Bennett, Justin Theroux, Luke Evans, Édgar Ramírez** Directed by **Tate Taylor (USA)**

Not to be confused with the 2009 French film of the same name, this thriller is based on the 2015 novel by Paula Hawkins. Emily Blunt plays a divorcee who, on the same train each day, fantasises about the couple just down the street from where she and her ex-husband used to live together. Then she witnesses something quite shocking...

Tate Taylor previously directed the award-winning *The Help* (2011).

Released Wed 5 October



Blood Father

CERT 18 (88 mins)

Starring **Mel Gibson, Erin Moriarty, Diego Luna, Michael Parks, William H Macy, Elisabeth Röhm** Directed by **Jean-François Richet (France)**

It all sounds rather familiar. An ex-con on parole attempts to bond with his estranged 17-year-old daughter while saving her from the clutches of some very nasty drug dealers. Although the film is technically French, it was shot in English in New Mexico.

Released Fri 7 October

War On Everyone

CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Alexander Skarsgård, Michael Peña, Theo James, Tessa Thompson, Caleb Landry Jones, Paul Reiser** Directed by **John Michael McDonagh (UK/Ireland)**

The corrupt cops Terry Monroe (Skarsgård) and Bob Bolaño (Peña) don't mess around. If they can't catch their man, they'll frame him. Then they come across an adversary who's even meaner than they are. Possibly. We expect great things from this, as the director previously brought us *The Guard* and *Calvary*. Shot in New Mexico.

Released Fri 7 October



American Honey

CERT 15 (164 mins)

Starring **Sasha Lane, Shia LaBeouf, Riley Keough, Raymond Coalson, Arielle Holmes**
Directed by **Andrea Arnold (UK/USA)**

A new film from Andrea Arnold (Red Road, Fish Tank) is always worth seeking out. Here, she cast the waitress Sasha Lane as Star, a teenager from an abusive home who links up with a magazine subscription sales team. As they travel across the American Midwest, Star falls in with their hard-partying antics and brushes with petty crime... As usual with Arnold, much of the film was improvised. Winner of the Jury Prize at Cannes.

Released Fri 14 October



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Doctor Strange

CERT tbc

Starring **Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams, Benedict Wong, Mads Mikkelsen, Tilda Swinton, Michael Stuhlbarg, Benjamin Bratt**
Directed by **Scott Derrickson (USA)**

Scott Derrickson has made some pretty duff movies (The Day The Earth Stood Still, Deliver Us From Evil) but Doctor Strange is likely to change his fortunes. The film has certainly got an intriguing cast, with Benedict Cumberbatch as

Marvel Comics' Stephen Vincent Strange, the neurosurgeon-turned-sorcerer. And with Chiwetel Ejiofor and Tilda Swinton in the mix, it should certainly be more lively than Batman v Superman. Indeed, when the film's trailer was first released, it caused a storm in nerdland.

Apparently, even Benedict says he got the shakes watching it. Benedict Wong plays Wong, Doctor Strange's valet. In 3D.

Released Fri 28 October

Inferno

CERT 12a (121 mins)

Starring **Tom Hanks, Felicity Jones, Irrfan Khan, Omar Sy, Ben Foster, Sidse Babett Knudsen** Directed by **Ron Howard (USA)**

Dan Brown's Robert Langdon, Professor of Religious Iconology and Symbolology, is back in a new adventure. This time Langdon (Tom Hanks, for the third time) follows in the footsteps of Dory and Jason Bourne and wakes up with amnesia in an Italian hospital. Then, like Jason Bourne, he discovers that he is the target of a major manhunt. Luckily, our very own Felicity Jones is on hand to help out. In 3D.

Released Fri 14 October



Storks

CERT U (90 mins)

With the voices of **Andy Samberg, Katie Crown, Kelsey Grammer, Keegan-Michael Key, Jordan Peele, Jennifer Aniston** Directed by **Nicholas Stoller and Doug Sweetland (USA)**



While Amazon is revving up its drone infrastructure, this computer-animated fable has the eponymous birds delivering packages for the global internet giant Cornerstore.com. Then, when a mishap produces a real live baby, Junior (voiced by Andy Samberg) is forced to deliver the infant. Like in the old days. In 3D.

Released Fri 14 October

Queen Of Katwe

CERT PG (124 mins)

Starring **David Oyelowo, Lupita Nyong'o, Madina Nalwanga**
Directed by **Mira Nair (USA/South Africa)**

Just the presence of David Oyelowo (Selma) and the Oscar-winning Lupita Nyong'o (12 Years a Slave) alone should make this film worth seeking out. But the true-life story of Phiona Mutesi (Nalwanga), a poor girl from Uganda whose father died of Aids, sounds simply inspirational. With her family unable to afford her schooling, Phiona, aged nine, enrolled in a chess programme organised by the Sports Outreach Institute. And she turned out to be rather good at the game...

Released Fri 21 October



Jack Reacher: Never Go Back CERT tbc

Starring **Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders, Danika Yarosh, Robert Knepper** Directed by **Edward Zwick** (USA)

In spite of the first film's disappointing box-office (for a Tom Cruise vehicle, that is), Jack Reacher is back and in trouble. Here, he's accused of a 16-year-old homicide and must clear his name and uncover a major government conspiracy. Edward Zwick previously directed Cruise in *The Last Samurai* (2003).

Released Fri 21 October



Ouija: Origin Of Evil CERT tbc

Starring **Elizabeth Reaser, Annalise Basso, Lulu Wilson, Henry Thomas, Kate Siegel** Directed by **Mike Flanagan** (USA)

Time for another horror film, and a sequel at that. Set almost 50 years prior to the events featured in *Ouija* (2014), a mother and her two daughters introduce a new scam into their séance sessions. And, lo and behold, the younger daughter finds herself possessed by a very real entity...

Released Fri 21 October

Trolls CERT tbc

With the voices of **Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Zooey Deschanel, Russell Brand, James Corden, Gwen Stefani** Directed by **Mike Mitchell and Walt Dohrn** (USA)

After *The Boxtrolls* of 2014 we now just have *Trolls*. This cartoon musical animates the plastic so-called 'gonk trolls' available in every good toyshop. Here, a grouchy troll called Branch (voiced and sung by Justin Timberlake) teams up with the flighty Poppy (Kendrick), princess of the *Trolls*, to help save the future of Troll Town. In 3D.

Released Fri 21 October



Daniel Blake

CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Dave Johns, Hayley Squires, Dylan McKiernan, Briana Shann** Directed by **Ken Loach** (UK/France/Belgium)



Winner of this year's Palme d'Or at Cannes, Ken Loach's latest film features Dave Johns as the titular carpenter. When Daniel Blake falls foul of heart disease, he attempts to untie the red tape that would enable him to benefit from Employment and Support Allowance. And, along the way, he befriends a single mother who is also battling the system. Typical Ken Loach fare who, amazingly, is now 80 years old.

Released Fri 21 October

Keeping Up With The Joneses CERT tbc

Starring **Jon Hamm, Zach Galifianakis, Gal Gadot, Isla Fisher, Maribeth Monroe** Directed by **Greg Mottola** (USA)



Neighbours ain't what they used to be. Suburban couple Jeff and Karen Gafney (Galifianakis, Fisher) find themselves caught up in a world of espionage when they discover that their new neighbours are secret agents. Not to be confused with *The Joneses* (2009) in which Demi Moore and David Duchovny played suburbanites who were not entirely who they said they were...

Released Fri 28 October

After Love CERT tbc

Starring **Bérénice Bejo, Cédric Kahn, Marthe Keller, Catherine Salée** Directed by **Joachim Lafosse** (Belgium/France)

It's a tricky situation. After 15 years of marriage, Boris and Marie are in the process of divorce. However, they are forced to stay in the same house - until they can resolve their differences over the property. The Belgian writer-director Joachim Lafosse previously brought us the intelligent and absorbing *Our Children* (2012), which also dealt with people from different backgrounds sharing a confined space under unusual circumstances.

Released Fri 28 October

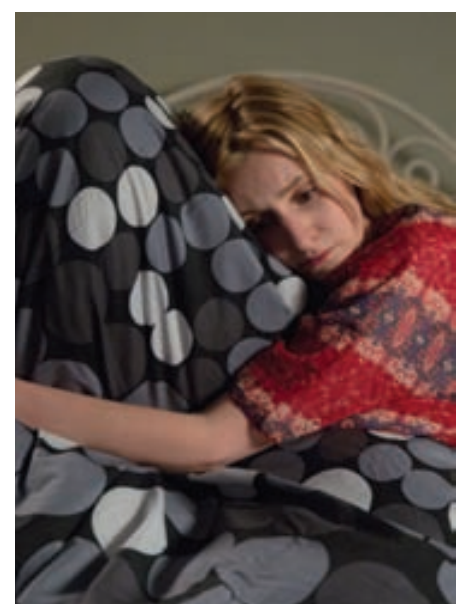


Burn Burn Burn CERT tbc

Starring **Laura Carmichael, Chloe Pirrie, Jack Farthing, Joe Dempsie, Hannah Arterton** Directed by **Chanya Button** (UK)

Marking the directorial debut of Chanya Button, this is a bittersweet road movie in which Seph and Alex set out across Britain with a singular mission in mind. They are accompanied by the ashes of their friend Dan, who has instructed them to scatter his remains across his favourite old haunts.

Released Fri 28 October





Jeremy Deller
The Battle of Orgreave

Until 26th November 2016

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Jeremy Deller, The Battle of Orgreave (An Injury to One is an Injury to All), 2001.
Courtesy The Artangel Collection. Photo: Martin Jenkinson

The Battle of Orgreave (An Injury to One is an Injury to All) is part of The Artangel Collection, an initiative to bring outstanding film and video works, commissioned and produced by Artangel, to galleries and museums across the UK.

For more information visit
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk



Žilvinas Kempinas

23 September – 27 November 2016



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ARTIST ROOMS: Roy Lichtenstein



22 October 2016 - 26 February 2017
Wolverhampton Art Gallery

www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk

Roy Lichtenstein, Reflections on Girl 1990.
ARTIST ROOMS Tate and National Galleries of Scotland.
Lent by The Roy Lichtenstein Foundation Collection 2015.
© Estate of Roy Lichtenstein/DACS 2016.

ARTIST ROOMS On Tour is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, Art Fund and the National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

Visual Arts

Roy Lichtenstein

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
Sat 22 October - Sun 26 February

Renowned for works based on comic strips and advertising imagery coloured with his signature Benday dots, Roy Lichtenstein was one of the most radical and influential artists of the 20th century and a leading figure in the Pop Art movement. This exhibition of his art is drawn from Artist Rooms, a collection of international modern and contemporary art owned by National Galleries of Scotland and Tate on behalf of the public.

Commenting on the show, Wolverhampton councillor John Reynolds, cabinet member for City Economy, said: "This is the fourth time the art gallery has hosted an Artist Rooms exhibition, and we're delighted the Lichtenstein works, newly added to the collection, are coming here this month. They were first displayed at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh in 2015, and this will be the first opportunity for visitors to see the works at an Artist Rooms associate venue."



Roy Lichtenstein Reflections on Crash 1990. ARTIST ROOMS, Tate and National Galleries of Scotland. Lent by The Roy Lichtenstein Foundation Collection 2015

Sara Barker

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,
until Sun 27 November



The boundary between sculpture, painting and drawing is the place where Sara Barker makes her art.

The Glasgow-based artist often draws on the written word for inspiration, dipping time and again into the works of Virginia Woolf, Gertrude Stein and Doris Lessing, authors who write about their own creative space. "It's also a crutch to coax the work," Sara told The List, "to distract away from the work, to allow my mind to think more clearly about what I need to do. It's very multiple." Sara here presents existing installations as well as a new work made especially for Ikon.

Peter Kennard: Off Message

mac, Birmingham, until Mon 27 November

"The point of my work," explains Peter Kennard, "is to use easily recognisable iconic images, but to render them unacceptable; to break down the image of the all-powerful missile, in order to represent the power of the millions of people who are actually trying to break them."

The image of the Broken Missile to which Kennard refers is perhaps the artist's most famous work, a 1980 photomontage he produced for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

Kennard is widely considered to be Britain's most important political artist, producing, for nearly half a century, images which have been deployed on placards and banners by activist groups and organisations throughout the UK. His distinctive photomontages have been published extensively in newspapers and magazines, while his collaborations with artists including Banksy offer evidence of a persisting desire to present art which is relevant and topical.

This new retrospective exhibition, produced by mac birmingham and curated by Craig Ashley, features examples of Kennard's work between 1968 and the present day.

The Human Document

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Fri 7 October - Sat 10 December



When it was created in 1937, the primary objective of the US's Farm Security Administration (FSA) was to combat Depression-era rural poverty. The agency attempted to do this by means of rural rehabilitation, farm loans and subsistence homestead programmes. For all of its good work in this regard, the FSA during this period is perhaps best known for its collection of photographs documenting rural conditions. The photos not only promoted the agency's programmes but also provided a record of the people, cultures and landscapes of rural America.

As well as presenting a selection of these famous photographs, The Human Document also explores the fascination of modern-day photographers with the FSA images - a collection created as much to awaken human emotions as to provide a historical record of a desperate period in 20th century American history.

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Events



Grand Designs Live

NEC, Birmingham, Wed 19 - Sun 23 October

The UK's leading contemporary home show makes its annual visit to Birmingham this month, with design guru Kevin McCloud once again presiding over proceedings.

Kevin hosts various events in the show's Grand Theatre, where guest speakers offer tips and advice on a variety of homebuilding issues. This year's show also features tons of inspiring ideas to help visitors create stylish interiors for their homes, state-of-the-art bathroom products, suggestions for making the most of available kitchen space, and 'must have' products for gardens and outdoor spaces.

Weston Park Horse Trials

Weston Park, Staffordshire,
Sat 18 - Sun 19 October

This annual two-day event features the Blue Chip Central North West BE80(T) Challenge and the Mitsubishi Motors Cup BE90 & BE100 Regional Finals.

Commenting on the show, internationally renowned course designer and Weston Park Horse Trials organiser Janet Plant said: "Every year we're faced with a slightly different course depending on the weather during V Festival in August, which always keeps the course interesting and different!"



Flame And Thunder

Santa Pod Raceway, Northants,
Sat 29 October



A regular on the Santa Pod calendar, the family-focused Flame And Thunder show brings together monster trucks, jet cars and drag cars for plenty of spectacular main-track action. Away from the circuit, entertainment comes courtesy of (alongside numerous other attractions) a wall of death, a funfair, helicopter pleasure flights and a kids' Halloween disco. The event is brought to a close with a 'huge' firework display and 'massive' bonfire.

Brick Live

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 October

This haven for LEGO fans boasts numerous interactive features. Attractions include brick pits - enabling visitors to showcase their inner master builder - a movie zone, a fan zone, LEGO Minecraft, a museum of LEGO history, a collection of well-known film and television characters recreated in LEGO, and race ramps on which to test custom-built cars.

New for 2016 is the LEGO League - in which teams compete to design, build and program an autonomous robot to solve a series of missions - and LEGO Mindstorms, demonstrating how to build a robot.





The Horse Of The Year Show

Genting Arena, Birmingham,
Wed 5 - Sun 9 October

A spectacle reminiscent of the traditional driving tasks asked of heavy-breed horses in a bygone era is making a welcome return to the Horse Of The Year Show.

The Musical Drive sees the jingling of the chains created by the heavy horses' majestic footing providing a harmonious accompaniment to military-style drill music. Last seen as

a display at the show in 2008, the Drive performance had previously been presented from the 1950s until 1999.

This year's Horse Of The Year Show also features international showjumping, the finals of the national Showing and Showjumping Championships, a line-up of equestrian entertainment and a performance by the West End cast of hit Abba musical Mamma Mia!

For more information, visit hoys.co.uk

Motorhome And Caravan Show

NEC, Birmingham, Tues 11 - Sun 16 October

Attracting huge crowds and filling numerous halls of the NEC, the Motorhome And Caravan Show is this year being opened by cyclist and Olympian Sir Bradley Wiggins.

The six-day event offers visitors the chance to check out all the new 2017 caravan, motorhome, holiday home, trailer tent and folding caravan models, as well as to access plenty of free help and advice on all aspects of touring.

The show also features a space in which visitors can enhance their motorhome manoeuvring skills, the opportunity to sample a virtual reality zipwire experience, and the chance to check out a wide range of accessories - many of which will be available at show-only prices.



World War One History Weekend

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire,
Sat 1 - Sun 2 October



The British Motor Museum this month joins in with the ongoing national World War One commemorations via this family-friendly weekend. Attractions include the opportunity to check out a 'Battle Bus' on loan from London Transport Museum, and to find out from a 'tommy' in the trenches what life was like for soldiers on the Front Line. There's also the chance to visit a Field Hospital and discover how injuries sustained in battle led to the discovery of new medical techniques, including plastic surgery. Numerous 'dynamic' displays and re-enactments also take place across the weekend, presented by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment 1914-1918 Living History Group.

Birmingham Oktoberfest

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham,
Wed 12 - Sun 16 October

Munich is coming to Birmingham this month. Well, sort of. Oktoberfest is the legendary Munich beer festival providing the inspiration behind this popular annual event, which organisers promise will be a 'truly unique' experience. Expect huge steins, Bavarian lager, German games, authentic German food and plenty of lederhosen...



Festival Of Flight Spectacular

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire,
Sat 1 - Sun 2 October

Top display pilots from around the world will be flying into the Midlands for this two-day family air show.

Featuring aerobatic displays on both days and a World War Two pyrotechnics display, the event also includes a craft fair, a small funfair for children, an on-site camping facility and a 'spectacular' fireworks and light show, illuminating the skies on the Saturday night.



Birmingham Literature Festival

Various locations across Birmingham, Thurs 6 - Sun 16 October

This annual event features appearances by a host of well-known names, this year including Hans Rosenfeldt - writer of hit Nordic noir television series *The Bridge* - and Elif Shafak, the most widely read woman writer in Turkey. The 2016 festival celebrates an impressive range of subjects - from the creativity of concrete to what makes Birmingham a great speech-making city.

Other festival highlights include an appearance by Waterstones Children's Laureate Chris Riddell and the National Poetry Day Gala. Launching the 11-day event, the gala features the announcement of the new Birmingham Poet Laureate and Young Poet Laureate.



Destination Star Trek Europe

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 7 - Sun 9 October



Birmingham is surely offering a special kind of heaven on earth for Trekkers this month. This homage to all things Star Trek beams into the city's NEC complete with interactive exhibits, two 50th anniversary parties and all manner of fascinating information about the long-running franchise's impact on science, space and technology.

The absolute highlight of the three-day event, though, must surely be the appearance of Captain James Tiberius Kirk himself, aka actor William Shatner...

'The Shat', as he's affectionately known by his legion of fans, will be taking to the stage on the Saturday night to present his hit one-man Broadway show, *Shatner's World*.

Other well-known actors from the Star Trek universe who're scheduled to appear at the event include Walter Koenig and George Takei (Mr Chekov and Mr Sulu in the original series) and Gates McFadden, Marina Sirtis and Will Wheaton (Dr Beverley Crusher, Deanna Troi and Wesley Crusher in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*).

Museums At Night

Various locations across the Midlands, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 October

This annual after-hours celebration of arts, history and heritage sees hundreds of museums and galleries across the UK staying open late and hosting special events.

Midlands highlights include a spooky trail around St John's House Museum in Warwick, code-cracking fun at Worcester's Infirmary Museum, and a line-up of ghoulish characters appearing and disappearing in the ghostly gaslight of Blists Hill Victorian Town in Shropshire.

For a full run-down on events taking place in the region, visit museumsatnight.org.uk



Dive Show

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 22 - Sun 23 October

Boasting over three hundred exhibitors - including manufacturers and retailers of diving equipment and travel agents offering dive holiday options - the Dive Show also features an unrivalled programme of guest speakers. Popular in-hall features include the Try Dive Pool, the Rebreather Pool, a photo zone and a new-product showcase.

Themed travel and dive training areas are also included.

The International Astronomy Show

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, Fri 14 - Sat 15 October

"We have a full lecture programme running both days of the show," says Martin Stirland, one of the organisers of this annual event. "We also have over 30 trade vendors from Europe and the UK selling all things astronomy - telescopes, binoculars, eye pieces, mounts, cameras, clothing. We even have meteorites and astro images available for sale - framed and ready to hang on your wall. There are also kids' booths, the purpose of which is to make space simple, and vendors selling space jewellery." Martin has been running the event with his friend, Graham Smith, since 2012. "It's very much a show organised by astronomers for astronomers," says Graham, "I've been an amateur astronomer for nearly 40 years and I've attended a lot of events, most of which are in London or near Scotland. We're proud to have created something that's far more central."

Diwali

Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, Sun 16 October

Diwali (the festival of lights) celebrations will be much in evidence across the Midlands this month, with the biggest event taking place in Handsworth, Birmingham.

Diwali is an ancient Indian festival which celebrates the triumph of good over evil. Its dates change each year in accordance with the Hindu lunar calendar. This Diwali celebration will include live performances from Punjabi artist Roshan Prince and local artist Jaz Dhani. As well as a variety of street food and Indian cuisine on offer, a fun fair and a range of family activities to enjoy.

LITTLE MONSTERS FUNFEST



24th - 30th October

Get your gory glad rags on and join us for some Halloween half term fun!

There will be: pond dipping, spooky trails, arts & crafts, bug hunting, live animals on Tuesday & Thursday and a bouncy castle on Sunday.

For more information please contact reception or visit birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

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Tamworth Castle




Curios, spooky fun and a bonfire night to remember...

Castle Collections Weekend

'Cabinets of Curiosities'
Sat 24th & Sun 25th September
11.30am-4.00pm

We have a superb Museum collection and this weekend we are bringing out some of the more curious and unusual pieces gathered from around the world.

Haunted Castle

Mon 24th to Fri 28th October
11.30am-4.00pm

A week full of ghostly goings on at the spooktacular haunted Castle. Come and be challenged by the hags to play ping pong eyeballs, make spells and much more.

Children's Halloween Evening

Sat 29th October 5.00pm-8.30pm

Bring all the family, get dressed up in your spookiest costume and enjoy the ghostly goings on around the Castle. Free pumpkin lantern for all paying children.

Ghost Search

Mon 31st October 7.30pm-Midnight

Join us for a night with a difference on our ghost walk around the Medieval Castle, with vigils conducted in reputedly haunted rooms.

Bonfire Night

Sat 5th November from 5.30pm (Fireworks 8.00pm)

This is a chance to visit Tamworth Castle after dark, before enjoying the ever popular breathtaking firework display in the Castle grounds.

Castle by Candlelight

Sat 12th November 5.30pm-8.00pm



Walk through the period rooms and meet the Castle characters who will explore the use of light through the ages.

Tamworth Borough Council



For more information please call 01827 709 618
www.tamworthcastle.co.uk

Tamworth Castle, The Holloway, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7NA

Halloween

spooky goings-on around the region

As the late American children's author Harry Behn observed in his famous poem, Halloween is the night 'when dead leaves fly like witches on switches across the sky'...

And it wasn't just broomstick-riding witches that Harry made reference to either, pointing out that 'ghoul and ghost and goblin host' were other supernatural entities that featured prominently in the All Hallows' Eve mix.

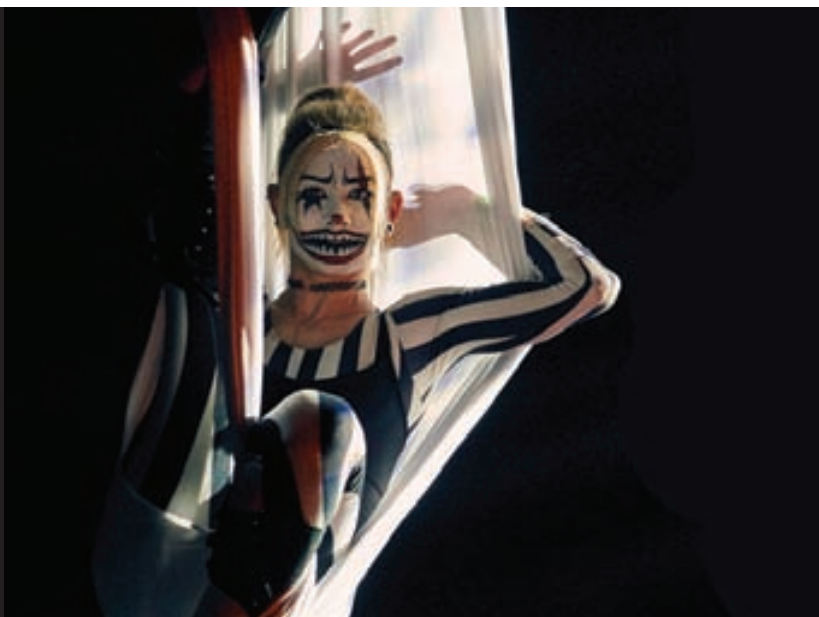
As you'd expect, there'll be no shortage of freaky and frightening other-worldly creatures and characters in evidence at Halloween happenings across the Midlands this month. Check out some of the region's eeriest events in the following few pages...

The Haunting

The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham,
Sat 29 October

Organisers of The Haunting are promising that their show will feature a haunted circus, a ghost train, a haunted house, black magic, voodoo witchcraft and more 'terrifying treats' than you can shake a witch's broomstick at.

More than 50 actors, acrobats and performers will ensure a real sense of the theatrical is much in evidence, while an impressive line-up of DJs is headed by Wilkinson. Attending in fancy dress is very much encouraged.



Ghostly Gaslight

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge,
Shropshire, Sat 29 October

A spine-tingling but family-friendly experience awaits visitors to Ironbridge Gorge's Blists Hill Victorian Town this half-term holiday. Included among the popular venue's Halloween-related attractions is a ghost story trail, providing participants with the chance to learn about the supernatural tales that were so beloved of the God-fearing Victorians. There's also the chance to find out about curious Halloween customs of the Victorian era, and to enjoy a selection of Shropshire ghost stories and spooky scenes from Sweeney Todd, courtesy of the Prince Albert Players.



Haunted Castle

Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire,
Mon 24 - Fri 28 October



Castles are great settings for spooky Halloween capers, as Tamworth's proves every October. End-of-month visitors to the venue will find themselves challenged by hags to make spells and play ping pong eyeballs. Ghoulish characters making their presence felt include St Editha and the eerie executioner.

Halloween Nights

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Fri 28 - Sat 29 October

With a well-established reputation for effectively evoking whatever atmosphere any one of its numerous themed events may require, the Black Country Living Museum is an obvious place to visit if you're looking for some hair-raising, spine-tingling, knee-trembling and utterly ghoulish fun this Halloween. Highlights of the event include the chance to descend into the depths of the venue's 'spooky' mine, a competition to decide who's the best-dressed ghoul in the Halloween costume parade, and performances by street entertainers, fire jugglers and magicians.



Halloween



Alton Towers Scarefest

Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire, Sat 8 - Sun 9, Sat 15 - Sun 16 and Fri 21 - Mon 31 October

Alton Towers' hugely popular Halloween attraction makes a welcome return this month. Highlights of this year's Scarefest include Altonville Mine Tours - presenting 'the chilling tale of the Skin Snatchers' - Sub-Species: The End Games - featuring a post-apocalyptic, sewer-dwelling community infested by a species from another world - and Terror Of The Towers,

in which small groups venture through the darkened corridors of a forgotten ruin and discover the terrifying secret of 'what lies within'. Featured alongside the three mazes are two equally spine-tingling scare zones. Dark Apocalypse sees quarantine procedures implemented as a deadly virus gets out of hand. Freak Show, meanwhile, dares visitors to walk among the freakishly fascinating misfits of a travelling circus sideshow.

Dudley Canal Trust

Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Mines, Dudley, Fri 28 - Mon 31 October

What better way can there be to get into the Halloween spirit than by exploring Dudley Canal Trust's naturally spooky tunnels and caverns?

The Trust is running special children's boat trips lasting between 45 minutes and an hour this half-term holiday (28 to 31 October), during which youngsters will encounter some truly impressive glow-in-the-dark Halloween puppets. The boat trips are 'spooky' but not scary, and should be suitable for children over three years of age.

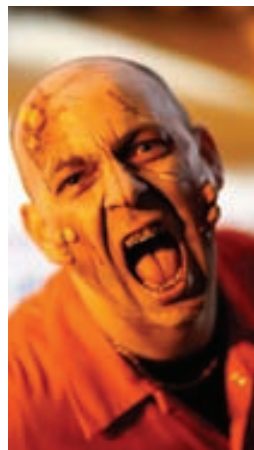
And the fiendish fun doesn't end there. On the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings of half-term week (25 - 27 October), families can enjoy a 45-minute heritage boat trip and get creative with a selection of Halloween-themed craft activities. Each child will get to make a witch or wizard hat, have a go at creating an animal superpower potion and add a spooktacular creation to the Trust's truly ghastly ghostly gallery.

Lockdown II - Sanatorium

Dana Prison, Shrewsbury, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 October

If you fancy scaring the living daylight out of yourself, Shrewsbury's former prison, the Dana, could well be the venue for you this Halloween. Part of a three-event story arc called Lockdown, Sanatorium presents participants with the challenge of finding the formula for a 'cure', after the country has been plunged into a post-apocalyptic nightmare. The only trouble is, the clues to the formula's whereabouts lie with the inhabitants of Sanatorium, all of whom have been driven to insanity...

This 90-minute zombie fest is followed by a short Scare Maze experience, bringing to life the origins of the Lockdown story arc.



Creepy Carnevil

Waterworld, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 27 - Fri 28 October

Waterworld is evidently intending to make a big splash this Halloween - and judging by its line-up of creepy characters, the popular Stoke-on-Trent visitor attraction has every chance of doing just that.

Killer clowns, insane ringmasters, psychotic puppet masters, supernatural puppets, zombie showgirls and crazy fortune-tellers are all present and correct in a show that's being advertised as 'not for the fainthearted'.

Halloween at Hickman Park

Hickman Park, Bilston, Sat 29 October

It's time to get out your needle and thread and start sewing - the organisers of Hickman Park's Halloween event will be on the lookout for the best-dressed ghoul, ghost or witch when they host this family-friendly get-together at the end of the month. The best costume will win a prize, with categories for under eights, under 16s and adults. Other highlights of the event include a pumpkin parade for youngsters and their families, the lighting of a dozen cauldrons prior to an 'impressive' firework display, and plenty of family entertainment from Signal FM breakfast show host Dicky Dodd and his team.

Red Ditch Halloween Film Festival

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Oct

Big Frog Films are the organisation behind this cinematic spookfest, promising not one but two evenings of 'the best short horror films from around the world'. The event is hosted by Redditch undertaker Weird Mortimer Balmer. Guests who dress to scare 'may be rewarded'...

Seance

Centenary Square, Birmingham,
Tues 18 - Sat 29 October

“We won’t prey upon the paranoid, the bereaved, the credulous, the wide-eyed, the weak or the inbred,” promise performers David Rosenberg and Glen Neath of Seance, their third collaboration, “but in return we ask that you proceed with an open mind. Seance is an *entertainment only*, and we cannot hold the medium responsible for the outcome.” Having previously scored successes with projects Ring and Fiction, Rosenberg and Neath present this 15-minute ‘event’ (for up to 20 people) in a shipping container, in complete darkness. Expect a tingle or several in the region of your spine...

Note: Seance is recommended for ages 18-plus and, as stated above, is an entertainment only.

Spooky Science Night

Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham,
Sat 29 October

Thinktank is calling on all mad scientists, witches and wizards to come together for a spooky party featuring tricks, treats and optical illusions.

Highlight of the venue’s Halloween offering is its Science Of Fright show, ‘where making a monster is all a matter of choosing the right ingredients’. Visitors can also make their own family light photos and create their own sample of blood to take home, while those in fancy dress have the opportunity to be entered into a ‘fantastic’ prize draw.



Spookfest

Lower Drayton Farm, Nr Stafford,
Sat 22 - Sun 30 October

Award-winning horror-maze creators Twisted Attractions have designed a Halloween show especially for very young children to enjoy. SpookFest is a daytime event with a ‘boo factor’ designed to keep little ones happy and engaged, but without running the risk of keeping them awake at night. Highlights of the show include three ‘scary’ attractions, children’s entertainers, a soft-play area and the chance to enjoy the popular Halloween practice of pumpkin carving.



Drayton Manor More Trick Than Treat

Drayton Manor Theme Park, Staffordshire, Sat 15 - Sun 30 Oct

Drayton Manor Park is inviting families to dust off their broomsticks and batwings and treat themselves to some ghoulish Halloween fun this month.

As well as providing ‘creepy arts and crafts, spooky sweet treats and pumpkin donuts’, the Staffordshire venue is also staging a fireworks spectacular, presenting ‘the animals of the night’ and transforming its popular Thomas Land attraction into the ‘spooktacular’ Island of Sodor. And if that little lot isn’t enough to give you the heebie jeebies, you can always give yourself the fright of your life by trying out one of the theme park’s stomach-churning white-knuckle rides!

Halloween Pokemon Go

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham,
Sat 29 October

This Halloween-themed charity fundraiser follows on from the Pokémon Go-inspired walk that took place in July. As with the inaugural walk, donations are in aid of Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

“We love how the Pokéwalk team have taken the latest social media craze and ingeniously turned it into a fundraiser,” says Miranda Williams, Public Fundraising Manager at Birmingham Children’s Hospital Charity. “The money donated from the last Pokémon Go walk will make a massive difference to our brave young patients and their families, so we’re certainly excited about this Halloween event!”

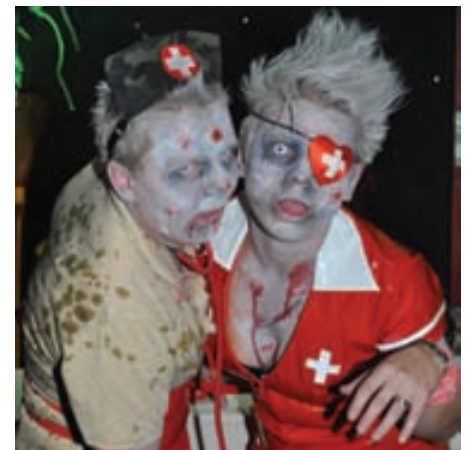
The Halloween Pokéwalk takes place in Birmingham on Saturday 29 October from 1pm, with an open-to-all, family-friendly after-party at Second Cup cafe from 5pm until midnight.

For more information about the event, visit birminghampokewalk.com

The Haunting

Heart of England Conference and Events Centre, Coventry, Fri 28 - Sat 29 October

With an arrival cocktail, three-course carvery meal, music and party games all featuring on The Haunting’s programme of entertainment, there’s certainly more than a ghost of a chance that you’ll head for home at the end of the night having had a thoroughly enjoyable experience. And in true Halloween spirit, the event also features a seance. Guests are invited to help a medium make contact with the restless spirit of a lady who drowned her children in the lake, burying them somewhere in the grounds before hanging herself in the boathouse. Fancy dress, by the way, is compulsory...





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AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION

the list

Your week to week
listings guide

October 2016



Breakfast at Tiffany's at Malvern Theatres - Mon 10 to Sat 15 October

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

What's On

Sat 1 to Sun 9 October



The Enemy at The Empire,
Coventry
Thurs 6 - Sat 8 October

Mon 10 to Sun 16 October



Stratford on Avon Music Festival
across Stratford-upon-Avon
Fri 14 - Sat 22 October

Mon 17 to Sun 23 October



Zoe Lyons at Artrix, Bromsgrove
Thurs 27 October

Mon 24 to Mon 31 October



Little Shop of Horrors at Belgrade
Theatre, Coventry
Wed 26 - Sat 29 October

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Visual Arts

Artrix, Bromsgrove

NEW FINDING FRESH PATHS: 5 CUBED Exhibition by a group of four mature, contemporary artists who trained together and exhibit regularly, Wed 26 Oct - Sun 20 Nov

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY IN 130 YEARS The story of the Museum & Art Gallery, told via a special anniversary exhibition, until Sun 27 Nov

BIRMINGHAM PEOPLE AND CHANGE IN THE INNER-CITY Birmingham People explores the ways in which ordinary Brummie folk have been represented in art during the 20th and 21st centuries. Change In The Inner-City focuses on the four inner-city wards of Ladywood - Nechells, Soho, Aston and Ladywood, until Fri 31 Mar 2017

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

CELEBRATING GANESHA A touring exhibition across seven venues around the UK. Part of the British Museum's National Programmes, until 8 Jan

Compton Verney Gallery, Warwick

BBC FACES OF COMEDY Celebrating 60 side-splitting years of the 'TV sitcom', with an exclusive glimpse of some of Britain's greatest comedians at work, until Sun 2 Oct

BRITAIN IN THE FIFTIES: DESIGN AND ASPIRATION Examining the crucial role of design in shaping the 'brave new world' of post-war Britain, until Sun 2 Oct

NEW PICASSO ON PAPER Picasso was one of the most inventive and prolific printmakers of the 20th century. Each technique - including etching, lithography, aquatint and linocut - inspired new directions in his work, Sat 15 Oct - Sun 11 Dec

NEW QUEEN VICTORIA IN PARIS: WATERCOLOURS FROM THE ROYAL COLLECTION Forty-four watercolours of Queen Victoria's 1855 visit to Paris, some of which were given to her as gifts, others which she later commissioned herself, Sat 15 Oct - Sun 11 Dec

Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

MADE IN BRITAIN: CONCEALED Some of Britain's best-known and most respected textile artists showcase their work, until Sun 23 Oct

NEW REDDITCH: ITS FARMING HISTORY Exhibition by the Redditch Local History Society using maps, photographs and images, to illustrate its forgotten landscape, Wed 26 Oct - Sun 27 Nov

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

NATURE NOTES Multisensory exhibition with beautiful artworks and real natural history specimens, until Sun 20 Nov

BRICK WONDERS Exhibition of over 70 models, including the Great Wall of China and Niagara Falls, until Sun 15 Jan 2017

The Hive, Worcester

NEW PICTURE THIS! Prize-winning entries in the World Wide Picture Book Competition. The show features three winning UK illustrators and three winning illustrators from the other participating countries, The Netherlands and Germany, Tues 4 Oct - Mon 31 Oct, The Hive, Worcester

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

CONCEALMENT AND DECEPTION: THE ART OF THE CAMOUFLEURS OF LEAMINGTON SPA IN WW2 Presenting the work of the camouflage staff - often known as 'camoufleurs' - against the backdrop of life on the Home Front during World War Two, until Sun 16 Oct

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

JEREMY DELLER: THE BATTLE OF ORGREAVE On loan from the Artangel Collection at Tate, the exhibition includes a documentary film, objects, images and audio recordings from the artist's archive of research materials for the reenactment of the battle, until Sat 26 Nov

Other VISUAL ARTS

EMBROIDERERS GUILD EXHIBITION - BROWN AT BERRINGTON Hand-crafted textiles inspired by the Capability Brown-designed Berrington parkland, until Sun 6 Nov, Berrington Hall, Nr Leominster

NEW THE HUMAN DOCUMENT A new exhibition exploring artists' enduring fascination with the work of a group of photographers who were commissioned by the Farm Security Administration Programme (FSA) in Depression-era America to document the plight of rural workers, Fri 7 Oct - Sat 10 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre

NEW THE PLAY'S THE THING Family-friendly exhibition full of treasures from the archives and the museum collection, including rarely seen props, costumes and original set designs, Sat 22 Oct - Sat 11 Feb, The Swan Theatre Stratford

Gigs

LET'S ROCK'N'ROLL WITH THE PONTIACS Sat 1 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE Sat 1 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE ENGLISH BEAT Sat 1 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DARK SIDE OF THE WALL Sat 1 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE MEHARIS Sat 1 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

UK GUNS N' ROSES Sat 1 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

THE MAGIC GANG Sat 1 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ADDICTIVE TV: ORCHESTRA OF SAMPLES Sat 1 Oct, Coventry Cathedral Ruins

70'S V 80'S - ONE STOP BOOGIE! Sat 1 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

SHAPES Sat 1 Oct, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

JAMIE T Sat 1 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

POP WILL EAT ITSELF Sun 2 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

LEE MEAD - SOME ENCHANTED EVENING Sun 2 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

NANCY KERR AND THE SWEET VISITOR BAND Sun 2 Oct, mac, Birmingham

LOYLE CARNER Sun 2 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MARTIN CARTHY Sun 2 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Evesham, Worcestershire

THEM HEAVY PEOPLE - KATE BUSH TRIBUTE Sun 2 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

LOUIS FORDE Sun 2 Oct, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

MOOSE BLOOD Mon 3 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CLARE MAGUIRE Mon 3 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARIANAS TRENCH Mon 3 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

IL SOGNO DEL MARINAIO Mon 3 Oct, The Marr's

Bar, Worcester
ALVAREZ KINGS Mon 3 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE BIRTHDAY MASSACRE, THE RED PAINTINGS, AMONG THE ECHOES & THE DEAD BETAS Tues 4 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WILLE & THE BANDITS Tues 4 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLUE ROSE CODE Tues 4 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

FEEDER Tues 4 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE HUNNA Tues 4 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

ULTIMATE PAINTING Tues 4 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

YOUNG KATO Wed 5 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MARZY'S JAMMING NIGHT Wed 5 Oct, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

JAKE QUICKENDEN Wed 5 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FIREBALL - FUELLING THE FIRE TOUR Wed 5 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

GABRIEL BRUCE Wed 5 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MURA MASA Wed 5 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

ANDY MORTON'S JAZZ BALLADS Wed 5 Oct, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

THE COMPUTERS Thurs 6 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WESTROCK Thurs 6 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

THE ENEMY Thurs 6 Oct - Sat 8 Oct, The Empire, Coventry

THE KILLS Thurs 6 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

DREADZONE Fri 7 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

FRED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE BAND TO LED ZEPPELIN Fri 7 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BLOOD YOUTH Fri 7 Oct, The Asylum, B'ham

SECRET AFFAIR Fri 7 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

THIS FEELING Fri 7 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

'OLLY MURS & BRUNO MARS' WITH ROBBIE GLENN Fri 7 Oct, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire

THE FOOD FIGHTERZ Fri 7 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

KATE RUSBY Fri 7 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BOB MOULD Fri 7 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

THIS BURNING AGE Fri 7 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AURORA Fri 7 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MOTOR CITY DRUM ENSEMBLE Fri 7 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE WEDDING PRESENT Sat 8 Oct, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

DIRE STREETS (TRIBUTE TO DIRE STRAIGHTS) Sat 8 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE TOP TEN BEATLES Sat 8 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

UB40 Sat 8 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

THE DEMON BARBERS XL Sat 8 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THROUGH THE DECADES Sat 8 Oct, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

JEAN-MICHEL JARRE Sat 8 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE REGULARS Sat 8 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HEIDI TALBOT - HERE WE GO, 1, 2, 3 Sat 8 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

REDFACES Sat 8 Oct, Kasbah, Coventry

MOSTLY AUTUMN Sun 9 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

FIVE STAR SWING: THE BIG BAND Sun 9 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JANE MCDONALD Sun 9 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

NELL BRYDEN Sun 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SORORITY NOISE Sun 9 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DUA LIPA Sun 9 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ANGE HARDY & LUKAS DRINKWATER Sun 9 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE QUINPHONIC FESTIVAL 3 Sun 9 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

BABEHEAVEN Sun 9 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Classical Music

ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN: MARVELLOUS MOZART Sat 1 Oct, St John's Church, Bromsgrove

CELEBRATION GALA CONCERT Featuring Roderick Williams & Orchestra Of The Swan Sat 1 Oct, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

DUO KARADYS Featuring Carol Hubel-Allen (viola) & Alan MacLean (piano). Programme includes works by Bliss, Delius & Holst, Sun 2 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SUNDAY CLASSICS Presenting a range of young stars of the future from the classical world, ranging from opera singers to violinists to harpists at the very start of their careers, Sun 2 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Bach (arr. M. Dupre), Bach, J. Francaix, C.H Parry & Rossini (arr. Trotter), Mon 3 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

MONDAY SHOWCASE: HANDEL, WARLOCK, MAHLER & SCHUMANN Featuring Joanne Sealey (piano) & Tommy Hill (oboe), Mon 3 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

TAMSI WALEY-COHEN IN RECITAL Featuring Huw Watkins (piano). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Elgar, Ravel & Gershwin (arr. Heifetz), Mon 3 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: FOUR LAST SONGS Featuring Alpesh Chauhan (conductor) & Talise Trevigne (soprano). Programme includes works by Humperdinck, R. Strauss & Bruckner, Thurs 6 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE SACCONI QUARTET Featuring Freddy Kempf (piano) & Double Bass. Programme includes Elgar's Piano Quintet & Schubert's Piano Quintet in A Major 'The Trout', Fri 7 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH JAMES TURNBULL & CLARE HAMMOND Programme includes works by Poulenc, Thomas Hyde, Ninfea Cruttwell-Reade, Robert Saxton & Dutilleux, Fri 7 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

BEASTDOME: EMERGENCE Featuring guest artist Denis Smalley, Fri 7 Oct, The Dome, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham University

CARDUCCI STRING QUARTET Featuring Matthew Denton and Michelle Fleming (violins) Eoin Schmidt-Martin (viola) & Emma Denton (cello). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn Shostakovich & Beethoven, Fri 7 Oct, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

THE HALLE ORCHESTRA Programme comprises Dvorak's The Golden Spinning Wheel Op.109; Liszt's Piano Concerto No.2 in A major & Beethoven's Symphony No.6 in F Op.68 Pastoral, Sat 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LUNCHTIME CONCERT BY EBORACUM

BAROQUE Sat 8 Oct, Great Malvern Priory

ENGLISH STRING ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Bochmann (violin), Graeme Adams (oboe) & Corrine Frost (cello). Programme includes works by Mozart, Bach & Holst, Sun 9 Oct, The Roses, Tewkesbury

THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: SYMPHONY OF THE GODDESSES Sun 9 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

ELLIE TAYLOR Sat 1 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PAUL TONKINSON, PHIL NICHOL, LLOYD GRIFFITH & ALLYSON SMITH Sat 1 Oct The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL MCCAFFERY, JARLETH REGAN, GARETH RICHARDS & KANE BROWN Sat 1 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ANDREW LAWRENCE Sat 1 Oct, The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

BARRY CASTAGNOLA, DOMINIC WOODWARD, SIMON CLAYTON & FREDDIE FARRELL Sat 1 Oct, Coventry Showcase

RICH HALL Tues 4 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JAMES ACASTER Wed 5 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MANILLA ROAD COMEDY Thurs 6 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

PAUL F TAYLOR, ANDY ASKINS & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 6 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ADAM HESS, RHYS JAMES Thurs 6 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MATT FORDE Fri 7 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

PAUL F TAYLOR, ANDY ASKINS, ANDRE VINCENT, DARIUS DAVIES & GUZ KHAN Fri 7 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL BREAKING TALENT AWARD Fri 7 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROGER MONKHOUSE, SCOTT BENNETT, BRENNAN REECE Fri 7 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

OH DEAR DIARY Fri 7 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JOHN HEGLEY Fri 7 Oct, mac, B'ham

BARRY BLING MR VELVET AND THE ORCHESTRA OF CHAOS Fri 7 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

DAN NIGHTINGALE, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, MARLON DAVIS & BEN BRIGG Fri 7 - Sat 8 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

RICE N PEAS N CAVIAR (SECOND HELPINGS!) Sat 8 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DANIEL SLOSS, KAI HUMPHRIES Sat 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ROMESH RANGANATHAN Sat 8 Oct, Malvern Theatres

PAUL F TAYLOR, ANDY ASKINS, ANDRE VINCENT & DARIUS DAVIES Sat 8 Oct The Glee Club, Birmingham

KERRY GODLIMAN Sat 8 Oct, Artrix,

Bromsgrove
SIMON MUNNERY Sat 8 Oct, mac, Birmingham

MARTIN HUBURN Sat 8 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

VINCE ATTA, BEN VAN DER VALDE, TOM TOAL & LIAM PICKFORD Sat 8 Oct, Coventry Showcase

ROMESH RANGANATHAN Sun 9 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

SEANN WALSH Sun 9 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

PAUL RICHARDS Sun 9 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

LUCY PORTER Sun 9 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL HALF-DAYER - PART 1 Sun 9 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

ADHAM FISHER Sun 9 Oct, Six Eight Cafe, Birmingham

Theatre

DIAL M FOR MURDER Blue Orange Arts present Frederick Knott's erotic tale of betrayal, passion and murder - best known from its 1954 Alfred Hitchcock-directed film version starring Ray Milland and Grace Kelly, until Sat 1 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

DEAD SHEEP Steve Nailon and Graham Seed star in Jonathan Maitland's tale of love, honour, loyalty and revenge, which charts the story of how Mrs Thatcher, once the most powerful woman in the world, was brought down by Geoffrey Howe, her one-time friend and political soul mate, with one of the greatest speeches ever made, until Sat 1 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

LADY ANNA: ALL AT SEA Until Sat 1 Oct, Malvern Theatres

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION Examination of desperation, injustice, friendship and hope in the claustrophobic setting of a maximum security facility. Based on Stephen King's 1982 novella, until Sat 1 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

NIGHT MUST FALL Gwen Taylor and Daragh O'Malley star in a new staging of Emlyn Williams' psychological thriller, until Sat 1 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

DISCO PIGS A furious, funny and violent dash through a lifelong friendship at the moment of its savage destruction, until Sat 1 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

FREEMAN Strictly Arts Theatre present a brand new collaboration with award-winning writer Camilla Whitehill, until Sat 1 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

LADY GREGORY One-woman play which recalls the greatest moments in the life of one of Ireland's best-known dramatists, until Sat 1 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

CYMBELINE Melly Still directs

Shakespeare's rarely performed romance, until Sat 15 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

KING LEAR RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran directs Antony Sher in the title role, until Sat 15 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

THE ROVER Aphra Behn's anarchic restoration comedy, rich with seduction, intrigue and danger, is set in the topsy-turvy world of the carnival, until Sat 11 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

ROMEO & JULIET Amateur staging of Shakespeare's classic tale, Fri 30 Sept - Sat 8 Oct, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

OSADIA Part street performance, part artistic hairscutting show, Osadia offers an original and provocative exhibition of hair art, with the active participation of the audience as volunteers, Sat 1 Oct Coventry Cathedral

TEATRO TASCABILE DI BERGAMO VALSE Large-scale outdoor performance featuring beautiful costumes, powerful visual imagery and a waltz on stilts to the music of Johann Strauss, Sat 1 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

YE GODS A new show by the Whalley Range Allstars, Sat 1 Oct, University Square, Coventry

THE HARBINGER OF HUSSAIN Richhayatullah Theatre present a two-part play exploring the life and times of the seventh century CE Muslim ibn Aqeel, who served as a selfless emissary to deliver a message of peace and unity to lands in Mesopotamia, Sat 1 Oct, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

URBAN ASTRONAUT Highly Sprung combine a unique travelling flying machine with simple storytelling to provide a glimpse of a possible future... Sat 1 Oct, University Square, Coventry

ACROJOU - WHEELHOUSE Acrobatic promenade show, Sat 1 Oct, University Square, Coventry

OLD HAUNTS Don't Go Into The Cellar present an original one-man show based on MR James' Ghostly Tales Of Edwardian Menace, Sat 1 Oct, Stratford Artshouse

WILLIAM AND THE PIRATES Presented by STAC Children's Theatre, Sat 1 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

ROSA PARKS: THE HIDDEN JOURNEY Thought-provoking exploration of the civil rights movement, performed by a community cast, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, mac, Birmingham

ABIGAIL'S PARTY Solihull Theatre Company present an amateur production of Mike Leigh's satirical com-

edy play, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, The Core, Solihull

MONKEY: JOURNEY TO THE WEST

Created by Emily Jane Quash, presented by Playbox Theatre and based on the much-loved Chinese novel, Sun 2 Oct, The Dream Factory, Warwick

THE SOUND OF MUSIC Timeless family musical starring Lucy O'Byrne from BBC's *The Voice* and former Coronation Street actor Andrew Lancel, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SUNSET BOULEVARD Amateur production presented by Lichfield Garrick Youth Theatre, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD Presented by Swan Theatre Amateur Company, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

NIGHT MUST FALL Gwen Taylor and Daragh O'Malley star in a new staging of Emlyn Williams' psychological thriller, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, Malvern Theatres

ONE-MAN STAR WARS TRILOGY Actor Charles Ross single-handedly plays all the characters, sings the music, flies the ships, fights the battles and condenses the plots of three films into just 60 minutes! Wed 5 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PEPPA PIG'S SURPRISE Peppa Pig, George and their friends return with a brand new live stage show, Wed 5 - Thurs 6 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

RHUM & CLAY: 64 SQUARES A story about memory, free will and how the choices of our past define who we are in the present. Accompanied by a live jazz percussive score, Thurs 6 Oct, mac, Birmingham

AN EVENING OF MEDIUMSHIP WITH TONY STOCKWELL Thurs 6 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

ELEPHANT IN THE GARDEN Stage version of Michael Morpurgo's children's novel, Thurs 6 Oct, Malvern Theatres

THE RUBY DOLLS The acclaimed cabaret ensemble here use unique arrangements of songs by Nick Cave, Amy Winehouse and Rage Against the Machine to tell the centuries-old folk tale of Bluebeard, Thurs 6 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE COMPLETE DEATHS Spymonkey present a solemn and funny tribute to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Thurs 6 - Fri 7 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

HIM Actor Tim Barlow reflects on life at 80 in a new collaborative work by writer/theatre-maker Sheila Hill and photographer/videographer Hugo Glendinning, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

GREEN LEAVES FALL Strictly Arts Theatre present a visceral portrayal of life after the 1981 Brixton riots, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

946: THE AMAZING STORY OF ADOLPHUS TIPS Kneehigh Theatre fuse music,

puppetry and foolishness to tell Michael Morpurgo's tale of war, prejudice and love, based on his novel of the same name, Thurs 6 - Sat 15 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

WHOSE SARI NOW? Rasa Productions present a multifaceted one-woman show that looks at the sari in fresh and unexpected ways, Fri 7 & Sat 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE HAUNTING OF EXHAM PRIORY Spine-chilling drama which follows the fate of Mr Delapore, who retires to England to restore his ancestral home only to discover there's more to its past than he could ever have imagined, Fri 7 Oct, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Box Tale Soup presents its version of Shakespeare's enchanting story, Sat 8 Oct, Alveley Parish Memorial Hall, Alveley, Worcestershire

SETH KRIEBEL: A HOUSE REPEATED Interactive performance-game combining the simplicity of bare-bones storytelling with the limitless possibilities of contemporary open-world computer games, Sat 8 Oct, mac, Birmingham

RICE N PEAS N CAVIAR (SECOND HELPINGS!) Character comedy taking a satirical look at the lives of ladies from the British Afro-Caribbean community and a little further afield, Sat 8 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

Dance

HUMANHOOD: ZERO New full-length work exploring the relationship between memory, space and time and choreography, lighting and sound, Sat 1 Oct, mac, Birmingham

BRB: THE TEMPEST An original new ballet in celebration of Shakespeare's 400th anniversary, Sat 1 - Sat 8 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE NUTCRACKER The Russian State Ballet of Siberia present this world famous classic, set to Tchaikovsky's mesmerising score, Fri 7 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

ANECKXANDER Choreographed by Alexander Vantournhout & Bauke Lievens, this is a solo show in a minimal setting for one acrobatic body, a handful of carefully selected objects and three variations on a piece of piano music by Arvo Pärt, Fri 7 Oct, DanceXchange, Birmingham

Talks / Spoken Word

BIRMINGHAM - BRICK LANE - BANGLADESH Emerging local writers share their narratives, exploring their family lives and personal journeys, Sun 2 Oct, mac, Birmingham

QUEER'SAY A showcase of queer spoken word, to be recorded for

Resonance FM's award-winning LGBT magazine show. With Jasmine Gardosi, AJ McKenna & Rosie Wilby, Fri 7 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JOHN HEGLEY - NEW & SELECTED

POTATOES Performance poet, comedian and musician John hits the road, mandolin in hand, to present meditations on subjects such as family, celery and happier Daleks, Fri 7 Oct, mac, Birmingham

IN THE SPACE WITH NIKKI TAPPER BBC radio presenter Nikki Tapper hosts an evening of live music and conversation accompanied by dance and poetry, Fri 7 Oct, mac, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

HELL OR HIGH WATER (15) Chris Pine has already been through hell and high water this year (in the water-logged *Finest Hours*), but here the title proves to be a little more metaphorical. He plays a Texan farmer whose business is facing foreclosure, so he and his brother, an ex-con, set about acquiring some major cash by somewhat unorthodox means... Also Stars Jeff Bridges. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Thurs 6 Oct

BRIDGET JONES'S BABY (15) Twelve years on and Bridget is still composing her diaries. And this time she really does have something to write about: her bump. Scripted by the redoubtable triumvirate of Emma Thompson, Helen Fielding and Dan Mazer, the romcom sees Bridget battling with her 40s but settling down to a contented routine with her reliable circle of friends. And then a dashing American enters her life... Starring Renée Zellweger & Colin Firth. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 7 - Tues 11 Oct

CAFÉ SOCIETY (12A) Woody Allen's 45th feature as writer-director sees Jesse Eisenberg as a young man who leaves New York for Hollywood, where he falls in love with the secretary of his uncle (Steve Carell). Bruce Willis was originally cast as the uncle, but Woody fired him on account of his prima donna behaviour. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Thurs 6 Oct; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 3, Thurs 6 - Fri 7 Oct

ZOOTROPOLIS (PG) Disney's 55th 'official' animated feature film, Zootropolis is set in an anthropomorphic metropolis, obviously. Here, the leading characters are a red fox who's a con artist (Jason Bateman) and a rabbit who's a rookie cop (Ginnifer Goodwin). Together, they team up to try and uncover a conspiracy. Idris Elba is the voice of a cape buffalo, obviously. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 1 Oct

ALICE IN WONDERLAND (U) Lewis Carroll's beloved fantasy tale is brought to life in this Disney animated classic. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 2 Oct

ROOM (15) Held captive for years in an enclosed space, a woman (Brie Larson) and her young son (Jacob Tremblay) finally gain their freedom, allowing the boy to experience the outside world for the first time. Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 7 Oct

JULIETA (15) Julieta is a teacher of 55. She writes a long letter to her estranged daughter trying to explain the secrets kept from her over the last 30 years. But once she's finished her confession, she doesn't know where to post the letter... Stars Emma Suárez & Adriana Ugarte. Foreign language, subtitled. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 7 - Thurs 13 Oct; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 9 Oct

FANTASTIC MR. FOX (PG) Mr and Mrs Fox (George Clooney and Meryl Streep) live a happy home life with their eccentric son Ash and visiting nephew Kristofferson. That is until Mr Fox slips into his sneaky old ways and plots the greatest chicken heist the animal world has ever seen. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 8 Oct

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 5 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN (15)

Released from Fri 7 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

THE GREASY STRANGLER (tbc)

MY SCIENTOLOGY MOVIE (15)

WAR ON EVERYONE (15)

Events

THE NATIONAL FRANCHISE EXHIBITION Showcasing a huge range of national franchise opportunities for anyone looking to run their own business, until Sat 1 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

LITTLE WARRIOR WEEKENDS Teach your little warriors the skills required to conquer fierce dragons and fight mediaeval battles, until Sat 1 Oct, Warwick Castle

THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW With over 300 wedding specialists from bridal boutiques and florists to jewellers and photographers, this event is the ultimate wedding shopping experience, until Sun 2 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

SHAKESPEARE RE-FASHIONED until Sun 2 Oct, The Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham

SCULPTURE TRAIL Exhibition of dramatic sculptures using a range of media, until Tues 4 Oct, The Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Bromsgrove

FLATPACK FESTIVAL - BIRMINGHAM ON FILM until Sat 15 Oct, Various locations throughout Birmingham

THE SOOTY SHOW: SOOTY IN SPACE Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

Saturday 1 - Sun 9 October

KINGS HEATH FARMERS MARKET Sat 1 Oct, All Saints' Church, Kings Heath, Birmingham

KEEP IT REAL PRESENTS GHOST TOWN Featuring live DJs, beers, live dance and pop-up street artists who'll be creating brand new works inspired by the Festival Of The Dead, Sat 1 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

CLASSIC VIRGINS EXPERIENCE DAY This one-day workshop is designed to encourage and assist potential British classic car owners, Sat 1 Oct, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

WORLD WAR I HISTORY WEEKEND Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

MINIATURA - THE INTERNATIONAL DOLLS' HOUSE MODELLING SHOW

Featuring workshops, old favourites and skilled exhibitors from the UK and further afield, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT SPECTACULAR

Family air show featuring top display pilots from around the world, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

BIRMINGHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2016 Sat 1 - Sun 16 Oct, Birmingham City Centre

FESTIVAL OF THE DEAD Events, craft workshops and talks exploring cele-

brations, rituals and curiosities surrounding death, Sat 1 - Mon 31 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

SPOOKY SPECTACULAR Witches, ghosts and eerie tales, Sat 1 - Mon 31 Oct, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Worcestershire

JAPSHOW FINALE The final round of Jap and FWD Drag series. Featuring a Jap only RWYB competition, Jet Car, club displays, Show & Shine, Sun 2 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

RAF WALKS Be shown where, in 1940, a substantial part of Croome Park was requisitioned for the building of a new airfield, known as RAF Defford, Sun 2 Oct, Croome Park, Worcestershire

WORKSHOP: HERBAL REMEDIES

THROUGH THE AGES Explore how medieval herbal remedies were prepared, and find out more about the beliefs that surrounded them, Sun 2 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

CACTUS SHOW See a display of beautiful cacti, with experts on hand to answer your questions, Sun 2 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

DROITWICH MODEL BOAT CLUB Hand-crafted model boats sail on the big pool, Sun 2 Oct, Bodenham

Arboretum, Kidderminster

RELAXED @ NEWMAN BROTHERS A factory tour designed specifically for people on the autistic spectrum and their families, Sun 2 Oct, Coffin Works, Birmingham

FLATBREAD MAKING Fun and informal baking class, Sun 2 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

SILVERSTONE TIME TRIAL CHALLENGE Sign up and enjoy the experience of cycling on one of the most famous tracks in the world, Sun 2 Oct, Silverstone Circuit, Northants

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW Wed 5 - Sun 9 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

MURDER THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS "Murder Through the Looking Glass", is a murder-mystery game that takes place at the Mad Hatters Tea/Dinner party, Fri 7 Oct, Fargo Village, Coventry

LITTLE WARRIOR WEEKENDS Teach your little warriors the skills required to conquer fierce dragons and fight medieval battles, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Oct, Warwick Castle

DESTINATION STAR TREK Featuring special guests, props, sets, talks, photo shoots, autographs and more, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

GREYFRIARS' HARVEST FESTIVAL Sat 8 Oct, Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcestershire

BAVARIAN EVENINGS Featuring a Bavarian Oompah band and a Bavarian buffet feast, Sat 8 Oct, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Worcestershire

CARS & COFFEE BREAKFAST CLUB An opportunity for classic car and motorcycle owners to show off their vehicles directly in front of the museum, Sat 8 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

AZTEC WEEKEND Sat 8 - Sun 9 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

SCAREFEST Sat 8 - Sun 9 Oct, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

GREAT ELECTRIC TRAIN SHOW

Featuring more than 25 layouts and 30 traders taking part, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Oct, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

APPLE PRESSING DAYS Sat 8 - Mon 10 Oct, Croome Park, Worcestershire

GTI FESTIVAL RWYB event for water-cooled VWs, show'n'shine, car clubs, an auto jumble and more, Sun 9 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants



LET THE BRAMALL ENTERTAIN YOU!



An Audience With...

Allan Lamb

Thursday
6 October, 6.30pm

Spend the evening with cricket legend, Allan Lamb, to hear about the life of one of the most successful batsmen of his generation.



Comedy

Comedy Night

Thursday
13 October, 8.00pm

We have a stellar line up of comedians in October, including radio, TV presenter and voice-over artist Tom Wigglesworth.



World Music

Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers

Thursday
20 October, 7.30pm

Experience the rhythms of thundering drums and spellbinding displays of choreography.



Popular Music

Shaun Escoffery

Friday
28 October, 7.30pm

Soul sensation Shaun Escoffery will perform his favourite hits - including Radio 2 Record of the Week "When the Love is Gone".



An Audience With...

Sir Ranulph Fiennes

Wednesday
2 November, 6.30pm

Hear more from the World's Greatest Living Explorer as he tells us about his attempt to become the first mountaineer to reach both poles and the highest mountain on every continent.

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UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Gigs

THE LEYLINES Mon 10 Oct, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

PETULA CLARK Mon 10 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ADY SULEIMAN Mon 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY Mon 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CHIP TAYLOR Mon 10 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

OCTOBER DRIFT Mon 10 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

OTIS GIBBS Tues 11 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

HEY YOU GUYS Tues 11 Oct, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

TWIN ATLANTIC Tues 11 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LEVEL 42 Tues 11 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MYSTERY JETS Tues 11 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

FRANKIE BALLARD Tues 11 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GAVIN JAMES Tues 11 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LLOYD COLE Wed 12 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE PIGEON DETECTIVES Wed 12 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE REMI HARRIS PROJECT Wed 12 Oct, Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

FIFTH HARMONY Wed 12 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

KERBDOG Wed 12 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE DUKE SPIRIT + JOE GIDEON Wed 12 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

SUBROSA, DARKHER, KROC, BAYONNEBLEEDER Wed 12 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

DERVISH Thurs 13 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

CHRISTY MOORE WITH DECLAN SINNOTT & JIM HIGGINS Thurs 13 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SUZANNE VEGA Thurs 13 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

SONIC BOOM SIX Thurs 13 Oct, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

AKALA Thurs 13 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

NINA NESBITT Thurs 13 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GOO GOO DOLLS Thurs 13 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MY DARLING

CLEMENTINE Thurs 13 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE ELO EXPERIENCE Fri 14 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW Fri 14 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

LEFTFOOT & MOSTLY JAZZ FESTIVAL Fri 14 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE JANOSKIANS Fri 14 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

MONEY FOR NOTHING Fri 14 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

KANO Fri 14 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FLEETWOOD BAC Fri 14 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

NELL BRYDEN Fri 14 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

NICKELBACK Fri 14 Oct, Genting Arena, B'ham

ALL SAINTS Fri 14 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

KARKOSA Fri 14 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CC SMUGGLERS Fri 14 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS + BOSSK Fri 14 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

RICHARD SMITH Fri 14 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

RISCAS + VEDA + THE COMMON SOUNDS Fri 14 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

YASHIN + VAMPIRES EVERYWHERE Fri 14 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

OLIVER COATES Fri 14 Oct, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

WILKO JOHNSON Sat 15 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

BROKEN WITT REBELS Sat 15 Oct, The Rainbow Venues,

Birmingham

WINTER WILSON Sat 15 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

LOGICALTRAMP Sat 15 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

ROBIN TROWER Sat 15 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

TONY HADLEY Sat 15 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MAMA PRESENTS AN EVENING OF GENESIS Music Sat 15 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

REMI HARRIS Sat 15 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE OVERTONES Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

ABSOLUTE BOWIE Sat 15 Oct, The Copper Rooms, Coventry

JIMMY OSMOND Sat 15 Oct, Malvern Theatres

BABBU MAAN Sat 15 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE NEW RUFFIANS Sat 15 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

LE BUTCHERETTES Sat 15 Oct, Kasbah, Coventry

THE LOST NOTES Sat 15 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TAKE THAT SHOW WITH FAKE THAT Sat 15 Oct, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell

DEAD LETTER CIRCUS Sat 15 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

ENEMY FEAT. KIT DOWNES, PETTER ELDH, JAMES MADDREN Sat 15 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

SONIC BOOM SIX Sun 16 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

TRIAXIS Sun 16 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

RAGLANS Sun 16 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

JAMIE LAWSON Sun 16 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE FEELING Sun 16 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

EVERY THREAD Sun 16 Oct, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

DIVERSITY ROCKS Headlined by local legend and 2 Tone icon, Neville Staple and his Band, Sun 16 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Classical Music

MONDAY SHOWCASE: MOZART, BARTOK & MESSIAEN Featuring Georgia Hughes (flute) & Joanne Sealey (piano), Mon 10 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN Featuring Lucia Caruso (piano) & David Curtis (conductor). Programme includes works by Salieri, Mozart & Haydn, Tues 11 Oct, Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

STILE ANTICO: THR TOUCHES OF SWEET HARMONY Featuring an enticing programme of classics for Shakespeare's 400th anniversary, Tues 11 Oct, St Mary's Church, Warwick

ELSABE RAATH (VIOLA) Featuring Robert Markham (piano). Programme includes works by Enescu, Brahms & Hinemith, Tues 11 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN Featuring Lucia Caruso (piano) & David Curtis (conductor). Programme includes works by Salieri, Mozart & Haydn, Wed 12 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Verdi, Mozart, Strauss, Berlioz & Tchaikovsky, Wed 12 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LESLEY GARRETT & FRIENDS Featuring Roland Wood (baritone) & Anna Tilbrook (piano), Fri 14 Oct, Stratford ArtsHouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

TCHAIKOVSKY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Borodin & Tchaikovsky, Fri 14 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE ENGLISH CONCERT Conducted by Harry Bicket. Programme includes works by Purcell, Corelli, Telemann, Vivaldi, Handel & Bach, Fri 14 Oct, Malvern Theatre

SHAKESPEARE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES Featuring Joel Williams (tenor) & Duncan Appleby (piano). Programme includes works by Dowland, Purcell arr. Benjamin Britten, Britten, Parry, Robert Busiakiewicz & Quilter, Fri 14 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

REGER CENTENARY FESTIVAL: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT Members of Birmingham Conservatoire Organ Department perform works by JS Bach, Mendelssohn Schumann & Reger, Fri 14 Oct, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

MAX REGER CENTENARY FESTIVAL Visit bcu.ac.uk for full listings, Fri 14 - Tues 18 Oct, Birmingham Conservatoire

FONTANELLA RECORDER QUINTET Programme includes Vivaldi's La Pastorella; Anon's Greensleeves; Shearing's Lullaby of Birdland; Byrd's The Woods So Wild Byrd & This Sweet and Merry Month of May, Sat 15 Oct, St Helen's Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

SUNDAY CLASSICS Presenting a range of young stars of the future from the classical world, ranging from opera

singers to violinists to harpists at the very start of their careers, Sun 16 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor) & Alison Roddy (soprano). Programme includes works by Wagner, Cantaloube & Bartok, Sun 16 Oct, Bramall Music Building, Elgar Concert Hall, Birmingham University

ENDELLION STRING QUARTET Programme includes works by Mozart, Haydn & Beethoven, Sun 16 Oct, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall



Comedy Gigs

LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 10 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ROADHOUSE COMEDY NIGHT: BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FEST SPECIAL Mon 10 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

FREEWHEELERS IMPROV COMEDY NIGHT Mon 10 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE Tues 11 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

GRIMM UP NORTH PRESENTS - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Tues 11 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

VODKA, KGB AND MIND TICKLES Tues 11 Oct, Everyman Theatre, B'ham

LOVEHARD - MURDERED BY MURDER Tues 11 Oct, The Victoria, B'ham

ROMESH RANGANATHAN Wed 12 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ANNETTE FAGON, JOANNA NEARY, ALICE FRICK & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 12 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

JONATHAN MAYOR Wed 12 Oct, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

DIRTY WHITE BOYS Wed 12 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ALEX AND SARAH Wed 12 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

JACOB LOVICK Wed 12 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

NINA CONTI Thurs 13 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MARK WATSON Thurs 13 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

NATHAN CATON Thurs 13 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, MICHAEL LEGG & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 13 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PATRICK MONAHAN Thurs 13 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ANDREW O'NEILL Thurs 13 Oct, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

thelist

THE BIRMINGHAM COMEDIANS CHOIR

Thurs 13 Oct, mac, Birmingham

ALEX HYLTON Thurs 13 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

SHIP OF FOOLS Fri 14 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

ROMESH RANGANATHAN Fri 14 Oct Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CHRISTIAN REILLY, DAVID TRENT, BEN SCHOFIELD & SCOTT BENNETT Fri 14 Oct, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

KERRY GODLIMAN Fri 14 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NAOMI PAUL Fri 14 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

TIERNAN DOUIEB, JEREMY FLYNN, ISZI LAWRENCE, LOU CONRAN & ROGER SWIFT Fri 14 Oct, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

AHIR SHAH Fri 14 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

SAM SIMMONS Fri 14 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BEST OF BRUM COMEDY SHOWCASE Fri 14 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

CANNON & BALL Fri 14 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, MICHAEL LEGG, HARRIET DYER & JOE WELLS Fri 14 - Sat 15 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

RUDI LICKWOOD, JIM SMALLMAN, BARRY DODDS & ANDY ASKINS Fri 14 - Sat 15 Oct, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS Sat 15 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

KATHERINE RYAN, PATRICK MONAHAN, KEITH FARNAN, LLOYD GRIFFITH & HOWARD REED Sat 15 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

CHRISTIAN REILLY, SAM HARLAND, LLOYD GRIFFITH & JOSH PUGH Sat 15 Oct, Coventry Showcase

LEE NELSON Sun 16 Oct, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

JASON BYRNE Sun 16 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

KANE BROWN Sun 16 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PANEL BEATERS Sun 16 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL HALF-DAYER: PART 2 Sun 16 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

Theatre

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Starring Diana Vickers as Janet, Ben Freeman as Brad, Richard Meek as Eddie/Dr Scott and Kristian Lavercombe as Riff Raff, Mon 10 - Sat 15 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S Ex-Coronation Street actress Georgia May Foote stars as Holly Golightly in a stage version of the hit film, Mon 10 - Sat 15 Oct, Malvern Theatres

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's acclaimed musical, set in his native Liverpool and starring Lyn Paul in the iconic role of Mrs Johnstone, Mon 10 - Sat 22 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE - GROWING OLD DISGRACEFULLY One-woman grannie stand-up which addresses unlimited free drugs, fun funerals, grandchildren and sex at 60, Tues 11 Oct, The Core, Solihull

SHOOTING WITH LIGHT Idle Motion use innovative staging, physicality and multimedia to piece together the life of an exceptional woman, glimpsed through the lost photographs she risked her life to take, Tues 11 Oct, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

ALL OR NOTHING: THE MOD MUSICAL New stage show based on the life and music of The Small Faces, Tues 11 - Wed 12 Oct, Malvern Theatre

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Musical romp through the youthful days of rock-'n'-roll, Tues 11 - Wed 12 Oct, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

FALL OUT Highly Sprung Theatre explore the story of three young people whose night out leads to a journey of self-discovery that tests friendships and questions notions of identity and loyalty, Tues 11 - Wed 12 Oct, mac, Birmingham

BARDOLPH'S BOX An interactive rollercoaster ride through Shakespeare's stories - perfect for kids aged eight to 12 and their families, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Oct, Malvern Theatres

9 TO 5 - THE MUSICAL South Staffs Musical Theatre Company celebrates its 80th birthday with this stage version of the hit Dolly Parton movie, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS St John's Players present an amateur production of Richard Bean's version of Goldoni's classic Italian comedy, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE Frantic Assembly and State Theatre Company of South Australia present Andrew Bovell's story about a



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OLD HAUNTS

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TONY CHRISTIE

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STRATFORD JAZZ - REMI HARRIS

Wed 12th October, From £6.00



LESLEY GARRETT AND FRIENDS

Fri 14th October, £18.00



RONNIE SCOTT'S ALL STARS

Sat 15th October, £18.00



MARCUS BRIGSTOCKE

Mon 17th October, £15.00



HOW WE LOST IT

Wed 19th October, £9.00



MIDGE URE

Fri 21st October, From £18.00



KEN CLARKE - IN CONVERSATION

Fri 28th October, From £15.00



JOE LONGTHORNE IN CONCERT

Sat 29th October, £21.00

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family and marriage through the eyes of four grown siblings struggling to define themselves beyond their parents' love and expectations, Tues 11 - Fri 21 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

STARTING OUT New piece of political theatre that shines a light on the experiences of young women entering the world of work in 2016, Wed 12 - Sat 15 Oct, The REP, B'ham

MERCHANT OF VENICE Amateur production presented by Birmingham School of Acting, Wed 12 - Sat 15 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

SISTER ACT Amateur production presented by The Norbury Players, Wed 12 - Sat 15 Oct, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

THE WEST END OF BROADWAY Crescendo Musical Theatre present an evening of 'musical magic', featuring music from the 1940s to the current day, Thurs 13 Oct, The Core, Solihull

AN EVENING WITH BARRY FRY & BIG RON ATKINSON Thurs 13 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

FRANKO B: MILK & BLOOD An uncompromising performance that responds to personal traumas, societal ills, corrupt politics and barbaric conflict, Thurs 13 Oct, mac, B'ham

RATS' TALES Reworking of original stories by Carol Ann Duffy, collecting enchanting and mysterious folk tales from around the world. Suitable for family audiences, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Oct, The Dream Factory, Warwick

ANYTHING GOES Amateur production of the Cole Porter classic, Thurs 13 - Sat 22 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

HOUSE OF ORPHANS: A BED OF SHARDS The story of Ronnie and Button, two tower-block residents whose eviction to a brand new bungalow reveals dark truths about their relationship, Fri 14 Oct, mac, Birmingham

TWO Bear Pitt Theatre present Jim Cartwright's pub-set play, Fri 14 - Sat 22 Oct, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

INVISIBLE FRIENDS An Ayckbourn double bill, presented by Dick & Lottie. Never played before as a pair, Invisible Friends is often described as a complementary play to Woman In Mind. Both feature a protagonist who creates an imaginary family to escape her real one, Sat 15 Oct, Malvern Theatres

WOMAN IN MIND An Ayckbourn double bill, presented by Dick & Lottie. Never played before as a pair, Invisible Friends is often described as a complementary play to Woman In Mind. Both feature a protagonist who creates an imaginary family to escape her real one, Sat 15 Oct, Malvern Theatres

PENGUIN! ELEPHANT! New show combining original songs, physical comedy and dance. Suitable for young audiences, Sun 16 Oct, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

Dance

WRIGGLE DANCE THEATRE: THE COLOUR OF ME Interactive dance theatre performance for young audiences, Sun 9 Oct, mac, Birmingham

RUN 2 Faced Dance present a triple bill choreographed by Tamsin Fitzgerald, Lenka Vagnerova and Rebecca Evans, with original music by Angus MacRae and Tomas Vychytil, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Oct, DanceXchange, Birmingham

SNOW WHITE Presented by Vienna Festival Ballet, Sun 16 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Talks / Spoken Word

DAVID STARKEY: THE KING IS DEAD The UK's leading constitutional historian talks about royal death and succession under the Tudors, Sat 15 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BELLOWS POETRY COLLECTIVE Showcase Birmingham's first young poetry collective touches on themes of identity, compassion and history, Sat 15 Oct, mac, Birmingham

BRUCE O'NEILL: BROMSGROVE WORDS The Director of Music at the Royal Shakespeare Company considers the importance of music in Shakespeare's plays and its influence on Stratford productions, Sun 16 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Film

INDEPENDENT CINEMAS:

MY SCIENTOLOGY MOVIE (15) Incomparable British broadcaster Louis Theroux hits the big screen in his first feature documentary. Following a long fascination with the religion, and with a lot of experience dealing with eccentric human behaviour, Louis won't take no for an answer when his request to enter the Church of Scientology's Los Angeles headquarters is turned down. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 10 Oct

JULIETA (15) Julieta is a teacher of 55. She writes a long letter to her estranged daughter trying to explain the secrets kept from her over the last 30 years. But once she's finished her confession, she doesn't know where to post the letter... Stars Emma Suárez & Adriana Ugarte. Foreign language, subtitled. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 11 - Thurs 13 Oct

BRIDGET JONES'S BABY (15) Twelve years on and Bridget is still compos-

ing her diaries. And this time she really does have something to write about: her bump. Scripted by the redoubtable triumvirate of Emma Thompson, Helen Fielding and Dan Mazer, the romcom sees Bridget battling with her 40s but settling down to a contented routine with her reliable circle of friends. And then a dashing American enters her life... Starring Renée Zellweger & Colin Firth. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Oct

THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS (15) Adapted by MR Carey from his own novel, this is another sci-fi thriller set in a post-apocalyptic dystopian future. When a fungal infection wipes out most of mankind (check your toenails!), a teacher and a scientist set out on a journey of survival - with a young teenage girl (Nanua) unlike normal human beings... Stars Gemma Arterton & Paddy Considine. Warwick Arts Centre, Fri 14 - Thurs 20 Oct

THE SNARLING (16) The movie, shot in Studley and Redditch, centres around a crew making a zombie horror movie - but then, in a case of life imitating art, the crew-created mauled bodies and severed limbs scenarios become a reality and the police move in to investigate. Palace Theatre, Redditch, Sat 15 Oct

THE BFG (PG) The last time Steven Spielberg and the screenwriter Melissa Mathison collaborated on a film was on ET The Extra-Terrestrial, 34 years ago. This one is a live-action adaptation of Roald Dahl's story of the lonely giant (played here by Mark Rylance) who kidnaps a little girl (Ruby Barnhill) to help him outwit the man-eating giants that have been plaguing the human world. Also stars Ruby Barnhill & Dame Penelope Wilton. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 15 Oct

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 14 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

AMERICAN HONEY (15)

INFERNO (tbc)

KATE PLAYS CHRISTINE (tbc)

STORKS (U)

Events

RICK STEIN SIGNING Rick's in store to sign copies of his new book, Long Weekends, Tues 11 Oct, Waterstones, High St, Birmingham

THE MOTORHOME AND CARAVAN SHOW Tues 11 - Sun 16 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

OKTOBERFEST Wed 12 - Sun 16 Oct, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

GEORGE CADBURY - HERITAGE TALK Bournville Village Trust Chairman Duncan Cadbury gives a talk on businessman and philanthropist



Woman In Mind - Malvern Theatre

George Cadbury, focusing on his contribution to the creation of a flourishing community in Bournville, Thurs 13 Oct, Selly Manor, B'ham

REVEREND RICHARD COLES SIGNING The Reverend Richard Coles signs copies of his new book, Bringing In The Sheaves, Thurs 13 Oct, Waterstones, High St, Birmingham

BOOK TO THE FUTURE University of Birmingham's annual festival of the written and spoken word, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Oct, The University of Birmingham

LITTLE WARRIOR WEEKENDS Teach your little warriors the skills required to conquer fierce dragons and fight mediaeval battles, Fri 14 - Sat 15 Oct, Warwick Castle

STRATFORD ON AVON MUSIC FESTIVAL Fri 14 - Sat 22 Oct, Various locations in Stratford-upon-Avon

LAND ROVER BREAKFAST MEET Sat 15 Oct, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

SPARK YOUNG WRITERS GROUP A monthly writing group for young people interested in creative writing, Sat 15 Oct, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

EXTREME PERFORMANCE BIKE WEEKEND Weekend of full-throttle thrashing on Europe's most famous dragstrip, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

CADBURY CHARACTER WEEKEND Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

VINTAGE IN THE VILLAGE Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct, Fargo Village, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL RECORD FAIR Sun 16 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME FILM SCREENING Imperial War Museum's UNESCO-listed film screening, Sun 16 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS - SERVICE AREA & STABLE YARD Sun 16 Oct, Witley Court, Worcestershire

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS - CELLAR Sun 16 Oct, Witley Court, Worcestershire



WHAT'S ON

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER



Ballet Theatre UK: Romeo and Juliet
Thursday 20 October, 7pm



Joe McElderry Northern Light Tour
Thursday 27 October, 7.30pm



Paul Carroll's Music Hall Tavern
Thursday 3 November, 7.30pm



Queen II Greatest Hits Tour
Friday 4 November, 7.30pm



Pride and Prejudice
Monday 21 November, 7.30pm

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AUTUMN 16

OCTOBER

MICROHOUSE

Scattered
Tue 4 & Wed 5 Oct



SPYGLASS
The Complete Deaths
adapted and directed
by Tim Crouch
Thu 6 & Fri 7 Oct

Kate Rusby
Fri 7 Oct



Seann Walsh:
One For The Road
Support from Mark Simmons
Sun 9 Oct

Nina Conti
In Your Face
Thu 13 Oct



POCKET THEATRE IN ASSOCIATION
WITH LITTLE LIGHTS PRESENTS
**Molly's
Marvellous
Moustache**
By Andrea Heaton
Sun 23 Oct

BASED ON PETER ERIC CARLE BOOKS
**The Very Hungry
Caterpillar Show**
by Jonathan Rockefeller
Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct



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Gigs

JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR

Mon 17 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

STEVE MASON Mon 17 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE HYENA KILL Mon 17 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BACKBEAT SOUND SYSTEM Mon 17 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE BAY RAYS + ALIBIS Mon 17 Oct, Kasbah, Coventry

JUSTIN BIEBER Mon 17 - Tues 18 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE LIFE & MUSIC OF JIM REEVES Tues 18 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BUZZCOCKS Tues 18 Oct, The Copper Rooms, Coventry

WE ARE SCIENTISTS Tues 18 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

SPRING KING Tues 18 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JAY BRANNAN Tues 18 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BARB WIRE DOLLS Tues 18 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND Tues 18 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

HOMELANDS Tues 18 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

MELLOW MARIMBAS AND VIBRANT VIBES Tues 18 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III Tues 18 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall



THE TRAVELLING BAND Wed 19 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JOE MCELDERRY Wed 19 Oct, Palace Theatre,

Redditch

STEEL PANTHER Wed 19 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

BILLY TALENT Wed 19 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE DIVINE COMEDY Wed 19 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

GREGORY PECK'S JAZZ, FUNK AND SOUL OPEN MIC NIGHT Wed 19 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

BELINDA O'HOOLEY & HEIDI TIDDOW Wed 19 Oct, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

AUSTIN LUCAS & DREAMING SPIRES Wed 19 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KEYWEST Thurs 20 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE SUNSHINE UNDERGROUND Thurs 20 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

POLICA Thurs 20 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

FIELD STUDIES Thurs 20 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

DUNE RATS Thurs 20 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

SUPER HANS Thurs 20 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HEAVEN 17 Fri 21 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

MIDGE URE Fri 21 Oct, Stratford Artshouse

LOVELY THE BRAVE Fri 21 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

NINA KRAVIZ PLUS BODDIKA & ADAM SHELTON Fri 21 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE OFFICIAL RECEIVERS Fri 21 Oct, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

AQUILO Fri 21 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE MODFATHERS Fri 21 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

MICHAEL KIWANUKA Fri 21 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BAD COMPANY Fri 21 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham

FORTY SHADES OF GREEN MEETS COUNTRY ROADS Fri 21 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry

ONE NIGHT OF ROCK Fri 21 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BROTHERS OF THE

MOMENT Fri 21 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CALLUM PICKARD & THE THIRD LOOK Fri 21 Oct, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

BACK TO THE 60'S PARTY WITH REVOLVER Fri 21 Oct, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire

ALL TVVINS Fri 21 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE UNDERTONES Sat 22 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

THE DECADES BAND Sat 22 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE CHRISTIANS 30TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR Sat 22 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SI CRANSTOUN Sat 22 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

GORGON CITY Sat 22 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE UNDERCOVER HIPPIE Sat 22 Oct, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

HIDDEN CHARMS & THE VRYLL SOCIETY + THE LIZARDS Sat 22 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MAXIMUM RNB WITH THE MANFREDS Sat 22 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

KORN AGAIN + ST IFF BIZKIT - FAMILY VALUES TRIBUTE Sat 22 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

BIG JIM AND THE BLACK CAT BONES Sat 22 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

TRIBUTE TO OTIS REDDING PERFORMED BY MUDIBU & THE JEZEBEL SEXTET Sat 22 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CLEAN CUT KID Sat 22 Oct, Kasbah, Coventry

KIKO BUN Sun 23 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

SIXTIES GOLD THE SEARCHERS, BRIAN POOLE & THE TREMELOES, P.J. PROBY & GARY PUCKETT Sun 23 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRDY Sun 23 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BROKEN TEETH Sun 23 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

BLACK FOXES + BIG SPRING Sun 23 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Classical Music

THE ALAUDA STRING QUARTET

Programme includes new works by Chloe Knibbs, Mon 17 Oct, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER; REMEMBERING MAX RAGER Mon 17 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

YU-CHENG AND SHIH-HAN LEE

Programme includes works by Chopin, Piazzolla and Ravel with more contemporary works by Anders Koppel, Ivan Trevino, Stephen Whibley, Emmanuel Sejourne and Avner Dorman, Tues 18 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

EMILY SUN (VIOIN) & JENNIFER HUGHES (PIANO) Programme includes new works by Ivan Cancalosi, Tues 18 Oct, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall

STRATFORD CHAMBER CHOIR

Programme includes works by Palestrina and his contemporaries, Tues 18 Oct, The Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon

CBSO SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

Featuring Nicholas Collon (conductor) & Vilde Frang (violin). Programme includes works by Ravel, Couperin, Korngold & Berlioz, Wed 19 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TCHAIKOVSKY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Tallis, Sibelius & Tchaikovsky, Wed 19 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

YUANFAN YANG Wed 19 Oct, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall

BERLIN PHILHARMONIC WIND QUINTET

Programme includes works by Mozart (arr. Hase), Kalevi Aho, Tomasi & Paul Taffanel, Wed 19 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

MARTIN ROSCOE Programme includes works Schumann, Beethoven & Debussy, Thurs 20 Oct, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall

LA VOCE Thurs 20 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

ELGAR'S STRING QUARTET Programme includes works by Bax & Elgar, Thurs 20 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

GEMMA LOIS SUMMERFIELD (SOPRANO) Featuring Sebastian Wybrew (piano), Thurs 20 Oct, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall

ULYSSES'S HOMECOMING English Touring Opera present a new staging of Monteverdi's 'crowning achievement', Thurs 20 Oct, Malvern Theatre

CONTEMPORARY CONSORT Programme includes works by Oliver Knussen, Purcell & Handel, Fri 21 Oct, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall

FRONTIERS TRIO Featuring David Le Page (violin), Mark Ashford (guitar) & Nick Stringfellow (cello). Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Paganini, Monti & Piazzolla, Fri 21 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

THE PELLEAS ENSEMBLE Programme includes works Rameau, Chopin,

Rossini, Debussy & new work by Roché van Tiddens, Fri 21 Oct, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall

RICHARD JENKINSON & DAVID LE PAGE Programme includes works by Kodaly & Ghys/Servais, Fri 21 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

LA CALISTO English Touring Opera present a new version of Cavalli's baroque opera. Timothy Nelson conducts & directs, Fri 21 Oct, Malvern Theatre

LA BOHEME Ellen Kent present a brand new production of Puccini's tragic tale, Sat 22 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

TIPPETT STRING QUARTET Featuring Emma Abbate (piano). Programme includes works by Dvorak & Britten, Sat 22 Oct, The Great Hall, Malvern College

CBSO: THE SPIRIT OF ENGLAND Programme includes works by Ravel, Elgar & Berlioz, Sat 22 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

XERXES English Touring Opera present a revival of Handel's comic masterpiece set in 1940 during the Battle of Britain, Sat 22 Oct, Malvern Theatre

THE SPIRIT OF ENGLAND Programme includes works by Ravel, Elgar & Berlioz, Sat 22 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

VILLIERS STRING QUARTET Sun 23 Oct, Evesham Arts Centre

AMICANTUS: SONGS FOR AN AUTUMN EVENING Featuring a programme of various musical themes including songs from the classical, musical theatre and pop genres, Sun 23 Oct, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

Comedy Gigs

HAL CRUTTENDEN Wed 19 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ELIS JAMES & JOHN ROBINS EXPERIENCE Wed 19 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SIMON EVANS Thurs 20 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JOJO SMITH, MIKE WILMOT & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 20 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

ANGELOS & BARRY Thurs 20 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JOEL DOMMETT Fri 21 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANGELOS & BARRY Fri 21 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JOJO SMITH, MIKE WILMOT, JONNIE PRICE & MATT PRICE Fri 21 - Sat 22 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT Sat 22 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PAJAMA MEN Sat 22 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SIMON BLYTH Sat 22 Oct, Coventry Showcase

Theatre

DOMESTICA Highly anticipated new work from Sleepwalk Collective which asks what we might cling to and what we might love in an ever-louder, ever-accelerating new century the we already seem to be leaving, Mon 17 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Smash-hit musical starring Jason Donovan as record producer Sam Phillips. The story of how four stars made rock-'n'-roll history, Mon 17 - Sat 22 Oct, Malvern Theatres

BLOWN AWAY Metta Theatre presents a stage adaptation of Rob Biddulph's award-winning children's book, featuring acrobatic penguins, 'magical' puppetry and live music, Tues 18 Oct, Malvern Theatres

SOUTH PACIFIC Amateur production presented by Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Society, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

KING JOHN Worcester Repertory Company present Shakespeare's play about one of medieval England's most controversial monarchs, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Oct, Worcester Cathedral

HOW WE LOST IT Cheap Date Dance Company fuse choreography and comedy in a coming-of-age story which weaves together tales of youth, love, sex and growing up, Wed 19 Oct, Stratford Artshouse

LIVING WITH LUKE Critically acclaimed play about a father coping with his son's autism, Wed 19 Oct, The Core, Solihull

URSULA MARTINEZ: FREE ADMISSION Following on from the success of My Stories, Your Emails, Olivier Award-winning performance provocateur Ursula Martinez attempts to make sense of the absurdity of modern living, Wed 19 - Thurs 20 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

DEAD SHEEP Steve Nailon and Graham Seed star in Jonathan Maitland's tale of love, honour, loyalty and revenge, which charts the story of how Mrs Thatcher, once the most powerful woman in the world, was brought down by Geoffrey Howe, her one-time friend and political soul mate, with one of the greatest speeches ever made, Wed 19 - Sat 22 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SISTER ACT Amateur production presented by the Norbury Players, Wed 19 - Sat 22 Oct, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

PSYCHIC SALLY - CALL ME PSYCHIC Thurs 20 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

ULYSSES'S HOMECOMING English Touring Opera present a new version of Monteverdi's 'crowning achievement', Thurs 20 Oct, Malvern Theatre

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT Little Angel Theatre bring Michael

Rosen's much-loved children's book to life in a new puppetry production featuring music and lyrics by renowned singer-songwriter Barb Jungr, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Oct, The Old Rep, Birmingham

METHOD IN MADNESS Fusion of Shakespearean text and new writing with physical theatre, dance and mask/puppetry work, Thurs 20 Oct - Fri 21 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MONOLOGUESLAM UK Check out the brightest new acting talent and see actors go head-to-head to be crowned the winner of their respective rounds, Fri 21 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

CABARET XXL - EAST END CABARET Featuring alternative, award-winning, filth-mongering musical comedy duo Bernie & Vicky, Fri 21 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

ROMEO & JULIET The Pantaloons present Shakespeare's tale of ill-fated love with a twist. Featuring live music, audience interaction and, of course, the bit with the balcony, Fri 21 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LA CALISTO English Touring Opera present a new production, sung in English, of Cavelli's opera, charting the relationship between men, women and gods, Fri 21 Oct, Malvern Theatre

LOST DOG: PARADISE LOST (LIES UNOPENED BESIDE ME) One-man staging fusing theatre, comedy and movement to retell Milton's epic poem in just 75 minutes, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Oct, mac, Birmingham

THE EXORCIST Unleashed for the first time in a uniquely theatrical experience, Fri 21 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

LENNON: THROUGH A GLASS ONION Part concert, part biography, this Off-Broadway success celebrates the genius and music of John Lennon, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

PAJAMA MEN: 2 MAN 3 MUSKETEERS Two comedians attempt to stage an epic historical romance novel in under an hour, Sat 22 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre

TONY'S LAST TAPE Inspired by the diaries of Tony Benn - one of Britain's most respected, inspiring but divisive politicians, Sat 22 Oct, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

LOVERS ROCK MONOLOGUES Janet Kay, Carroll Thompson and Victor Romero Evans fuse timeless music and theatrical storytelling to present an account of the Lovers Rock lifestyle, Sat 22 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

DON'T DRIBBLE ON THE DRAGON The People's Theatre Company present a musical adventure about growing up and the importance of family, Sat 22 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC London Contemporary Theatre present a stage show for young audiences, fusing live music and puppetry, Sat 22 Oct, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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KING ARTHURS Sat 22 - Sun 23 Oct, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

DAN TDM ON TOUR One of the world's biggest YouTubers takes to the road with his pugs, Dr Trayaurus and lots of other friends, Sun 23 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

MOLLY'S MARVELLOUS MOUSTACHE Fidget Theatre fuse an original music score and playful interaction in a new theatrical production of the original storybook, written by Andrea Heaton and illustrated by Talya Baldwin, Sun 23 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Dance

ROMEO AND JULIET Ballet Theatre UK present a passionate and innovative recreation of the world's greatest love story. Thurs 20 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry

FAGIN'S TWIST Avant Garde Dance Company shed new light on Dickens' Oliver Twist, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

AN EVENING WITH IAN WAITE & CAMILLA DALLERUP An evening of dance, songs and stories from the Strictly Come Dancing Live stars, Sat

22 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry

ROMEO AND JULIET Ballet Theatre UK present a passionate and innovative recreation of the world's greatest love story, Sat 22 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

Events

AN EVENING WITH SIMON GARFIELD Simon takes a look at the worldwide obsession with keeping time, Tues 18 Oct, Waterstones, High St, Birmingham

READ YOUR MIND: THE IDIOT BRAIN BY DEAN BURNETT Wed 19 Oct, Waterstones, High St, Birmingham

GRAND DESIGNS LIVE Wed 19 Oct - Sun 23 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

DIG FOR VICTORY: HARVEST COOKING DEMO Thurs 20 Oct, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

HALLOWEEN TRAIL Follow clues round the park to find Frankenstein's monster, Thurs 20 - Sun 30 Oct, Croome Park, Worcestershire

GARDEN TOURS Fri 21 Oct, Witley Court, Worcestershire

MARTINA COLE SIGNING Martina Cole signs copies of her latest book,

Betrayal, Fri 21 Oct, Waterstones, High St, Birmingham

BAVARIAN EVENINGS Featuring a Bavarian Oompah band and a Bavarian buffet feast., Fri 21 - Sat 22 Oct, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Worcestershire

TWISTED BARREL BREWERY TOURS 2016 Meet the team behind Twisted Barrel Ale on this exclusive tour. Learn how the brewing process works and sample ales and food, Sat 22 Oct, Fargo Village, Coventry

BEAR GRYLLES PRESENTS ENDEAVOUR Sat 22 Oct, Genting Arena, B'ham

CARS THROUGH THE LENS Learn to utilise the different settings on your camera so that you can create stunning car photographs, Sat 22 Oct, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

GCCF 40TH SUPREME CAT SHOW Sat 22 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

DIVE 2016 The UK's biggest event for divers, Sat 22 Oct - Sun 23 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

THE GRUB CLUB Bringing together bakers, growers, grillers and brewers, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Oct, Fargo Village, Coventry

SON ET LUMIÈRE: A NIGHT AT THE ABBEY Join a black dog, a golden lion, white monks and Indigo Arts for

an illuminating tale about one of the most significant Cistercian abbeys of its time, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Oct, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN 2016 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities, Sat 22 - Sun 30 Oct, Baddesley Clinton, Solihull

CROOME ENCOUNTERS Follow actors around the court as they tell Croome's spookier stories, Sat 22 - Sun 30 Oct, Croome Park, Worcester

FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN 2016 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities, Sat 22 - Sun 30 Oct, Packwood House, Solihull

THE HAUNTED CASTLE Wondrous witches, Horrible Histories and the return of the spectacular fire joust, Sat 22 - Mon 31 Oct, Warwick Castle

OCTOBER HALF TERM Celebrate 400 years of Shakespeare's creative and cultural legacy at the Shakespeare Family Homes, Sat 22 - Mon 31 Oct, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CARS Workshop demonstrating how to take the perfect car photograph, Sun 23 Oct, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

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Thurs 27th October

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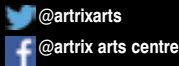
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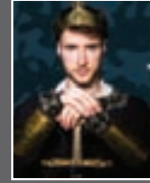
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11 OCT, 7PM,
SHOOTING WITH LIGHT

Renowned company Idle Motion piece together the life of an exceptional woman, glimpsed through the lost photographs she risked her life to take.



22 & 23 OCT, 2.30PM,
MICHAEL MORPURGO'S KING ARTHUR

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15 OCT, 7.30PM,
TONY'S LAST TAPE

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16-19 NOV, 7PM,
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

An insane fairy-go-round of a play in which, as in a dream, people can turn themselves invisible and make others fall in love with the first person they see when they wake.



16 OCT, 11AM & 2PM,
PENGUIN! ELEPHANT!

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23 NOV, 7PM,
IN OUR HANDS

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Gigs

JAKE BUGG Mon 24 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

SOUTHERN TENANT FOLK UNION Mon 24 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

ABC Mon 24 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

WARD THOMAS Mon 24 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

JUSTIN BIEBER Mon 24 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham

THE DIVINE COMEDY Mon 24 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

JAPANESE BREAKFAST Mon 24 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SOUTH EX THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH Tues 25 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

FAITHFUL CITY SHOWS Tues 25 Oct, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

MATT BERRY & THE MAYPOLES Tues 25 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

MADDIE & TAE Tues 25 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LISA HANNIGAN Tues 25 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LEO STANNARD Tues 25 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MARTHA FFION Tues 25 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TYGERS OF PAN TANG Tues 25 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

GOLD CLASS Tues 25 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

MASSMATIKS + RORY INDIANA Tues 25 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

NASTY + AVERSIONS CROWN + MALEVOLENCE + VITJA + SAND Tues 25 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MARZY'S JAMMING NIGHT Wed 26 Oct, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

STEELEYE SPAN Wed 26 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

BAY CITY ROLLERS STARRING LES MCKEOWN Wed 26 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

FOUR TOPS AND THE TEMPTATIONS Wed 26 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham

DMA'S Wed 26 Oct, O2

Institute, Birmingham

EMMA BLACKERY Wed 26 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ANDREA VICARI WITH MORNINGTON LOCKETT Wed 26 Oct, Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

JOE MCCLDERRY Thurs 27 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry

IAN PARKER & HIS BAND Thurs 27 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

LUKE JACKSON Thurs 27 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

COOPE, BOYES AND SIMPSON Thurs 27 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SIMONE FELICE Thurs 27 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

VULA VIEL Thurs 27 Oct, mac, Birmingham

ALIEN ANT FARM Thurs 27 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

LADY LESHURR Thurs 27 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ED GEATER + LADY SANITY + ALEX RAINSFORD Thurs 27 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

CHRIS BOURNE Thurs 27 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

PUBLIC ACCESS TV Thurs 27 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE WICKED WHISPERS Thurs 27 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KIRSTY BROMLEY Thurs 27 Oct, Evesham Arts Centre

OZZMOSIS Fri 28 Oct, Route 44, Birmingham

THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Fri 28 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

ALUNAH, TEMPLE BLACK, ABANDONED LIFE & LONGFALLBOOTS Fri 28 Oct, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

GEKO Fri 28 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SUNSET SONS Fri 28 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GEORGE BENSON - STEVIE WONDER PARTY WITH NAT AUGUSTIN Fri 28 Oct, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire

DETROIT MAGIC Fri 28 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

ASYLUMS Fri 28 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

CC SMUGGLERS Fri 28 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

BADFINGER Fri 28 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BONDAX Fri 28 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MAETLOAF Sat 29 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Sat 29 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JP COOPER Sat 29 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

NICK HARPER Sat 29 Oct, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

BARS AND MELODY Sat 29 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WILDHEARTS HALLOWEEN HOOTENANNY 3 Sat 29 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

GEHTIKA Sat 29 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Sat 29 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SMOKIN PILCHARDS Sat 29 Oct, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

MAXWELL & MARY J BLIGE Sat 29 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham

BEV BEVAN'S ZING BAND Sat 29 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

OAS-IS Sat 29 Oct, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

PAUL GILBERT Sat 29 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

AN EVENING WITH SHIRLEY ACOUSTIC GUITAR CLUB Sat 29 Oct, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

CABBAGE Sat 29 Oct, Kasbah, Coventry

THEATRE OF HATE Sun 30 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FM - INDISCREET 30 TOUR Sun 30 Oct, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE FUREYS Mon 31 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PILE Mon 31 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Classical Music

CBSO: SHOSTAKOICH'S EIGHT Featuring Cristian Măcelaru (conductor) & Akiko Suwanai (violin). Programme includes works by Liadov, Mendelssohn & Shostakovich, Wed 26 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE ENGLISH CONCERT: BAROQUE MASTERS Programme includes works by Purcell, Corelli, Telemann, Vivaldi, Handel & JS Bach, Wed 26 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CONCERT CLUB: IMOGEN COOPER (PIANO) Programme includes works by Beethoven, Schumann, Debussy & Albeniz, Thurs 27 Oct, Malvern Theatre

THE BEETHOVEN QUARTETFEST Featuring Kryssia Osostowicz & Oscar Perks (violins), Yuko Inoue (viola) & Richard Jenkinson (cello), Fri 28 - Sun 30 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), John Suchet (presenter), Mihkel Poll (piano) & Zoë Beyers (violin). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Uematsu, Rachmaninov, Elga, Sibelius, Grieg, Bruch & Shore, Fri 28 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ENSEMBLE 360: ROALD DAHL'S CIN- DERELLA & DIRTY BEASTS Featuring Juliette Bausor (flute), Adrian Wilson (oboe), Matthew Hunt (clarinet), Amy Harman (bassoon), Naomi Atherton (horn) & Tim Horton (piano), Sun 30 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

ENSEMBLE 360: ROALD DAHL'S EDWARD THE CONQUEROR Featuring Cordelia Williams (piano) & Sara Kestelmann (narrator), Sun 30 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA: THE WOODEN PRINCE Featuring Cristian Măcelaru (conductor), Martin James Bartlett (piano) & the CBSO Youth Orchestra. Programme includes works by Copland, Gershwin & Bartok, Sun 30 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ALDWYN VOICES Featuring Adrian Lucas (conductor) & Fenella Humphreys (solo violin). Programme includes works by Bach, Rory Boyle & Baloue, Sun 30 Oct, Great Malvern Priory

Comedy Gigs

HANS TEEUWEN Mon 24 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOSH WIDDICOMBE Tues 25 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

FELICITY WARD Wed 26 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

NICK DIXON, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 27 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JO CAULFIELD Thurs 27 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BETH VYSE Thurs 27 Oct, Warwick

Arts Centre, Coventry

ZOE LYONS Thurs 27 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DAMIEN CLARK & LARRY DEAN Fri 28 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

NICK DIXON, PHIL ELLIS, EDDY BRIMSON COMIC TBC Fri 28 - Sat 29 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ALISTAIR BARRIE, MIKE NEWALL, CAIMH MCDONNELL & IVO GRAHAM Fri 28 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

TALENTS OF BRITAIN Fri 28 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

MORGAN AND WEST Sat 29 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MILES JUPP Sat 29 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ALISTAIR BARRIE, CAIMH MCDONNELL & IVO GRAHAM Sat 29 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

GARY DELANEY, SY THOMAS, ALISTAIR BARRIE & GEORGE RIGDEN Sat 29 Oct, Coventry Showcase

NINA CONTI Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

DANE BAPTISTE Sun 30 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Theatre

BARD'S BEST BITS OF ROMEO & JULIET Oddsocks fuse their signature comedy and clowning in a 90-minute version of the world's greatest love story, Mon 24 Oct, The Core, Solihull

HEADS WILL ROLL Told By An Idiot explore the themes of delusion, vanity and the corruption of power, Mon 24 - Wed 26 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

BRUMMEGEM PALS New play written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean about two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of war, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

RELATIVELY SPEAKING Alan Ayckbourn play starring Robert Powell and Liza Goddard, Mon 24 - Sat 29 Oct, Malvern Theatre

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Smash-hit musical starring Jason Donovan as record producer Sam Phillips. The story of how four stars made rock-'n'-roll history, Mon 24 - Sat 29 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome *See page 24 for details*

SHARK IN THE PARK Family musical following Timothy Pope and his telescope, Tues 25 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

WOMEN'S HOUR Sh!t Theatre present a cabaret piece of 'giddy, freewheeling silliness' about what happens when women are given just one hour a day to think about what it is to be a woman, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

DISNEY ON ICE: FROZEN Tues 25 - Sun 30 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE TELL-TALE HEART Tin Robot

Theatre present a new adaptation of Edgar Allen Poe's psychological thriller, Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

Jonathan Rockefeller's critically acclaimed show for children which weaves together four Eric Carle stories: The Artist Who Painted A Blue Horse, Mister Seahorse, The Very Lonely Firefly and The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MIDLAND OPERA PRESENT CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA & I PAGLIACCI Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct, The Old Rep, B'ham

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Charming, kooky and hilarious 1950s musical sci-fi spoof, Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

A BLACK COUNTRY FAIRYTALE... AY IT! Fizzog Productions weave together various fairytales in one 'spectacular' production, Thurs 27 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

A MUSICAL MEDLEY An evening of entertainment and laughter inspired by Dr Terry Gasper, Thurs 27 Oct, Stratford Artshouse

THE ADVENTURES OF SINBAD Puppetry, music and sound effects bring to life the story of Sinbad and his epic encounters with a whale, a giant bird and an ogre, Thurs 27 Oct, The Core, Solihull

BRUMMEGEM PALS A new play written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean telling the moving story of two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of war, Thurs 27 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING: THE TRIBUTE SHOW Homage to 'the greatest movie soundtrack of all time', Thurs 27 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

CINDERELLA High Time present Rossini's intoxicating opera, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

FIRST STAGES: MAVIS SPARKLE M6's cosmic new production, mixing magic, animation and laughter, urges its audience to dust away doubts, follow their dreams and reach for the stars. Age recommendation is four-plus, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

WHAT SHADOWS Roxana Silbert-directed play starring Ian McDiarmid as Enoch Powell, Thurs 27 Oct - Sat 12 Nov, The REP, Birmingham *Read more on page 26*

THE NOSE THAT NOBODY PICKED Surreal yarn for all the family, with songs and, we're reliably informed, 'snot'! Suitable for children aged five-plus, Fri 28 Oct, mac, Birmingham

TALENTS OF BRITAIN Fri 28 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

SORRY! NO COLOURED, NO IRISH, NO DOGS Gazebo returns with one of its most powerful plays - an exploration of racism and migration, presented in response to events taking place across the UK and internationally, Fri 28 Oct, Albany Theatre,

Coventry

THE CURIOUS ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO Lyngo Theatre bring the much-loved children's classic to life, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

DR. FAUSTUS Tewkesbury Arts & Drama Society present a new version of the Christopher Marlowe classic, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Oct, The Roses, Tewkesbury

DRACULA: THE MUSICAL Amateur production presented by Blue Orange Arts and Night Project Theatre, Fri 28 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

MORGAN AND WEST - PARLOUR TRICKS Brand new show from the time-travelling magic duo, Sat 29 Oct, The Core, Solihull

VAMPIRES ROCK: GHOST TRAIN Sequel to the phenomenally successful Vampires Rock Musical Concert, Sat 29 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CAPTAIN FLINN AND THE PIRATE DINOSAURS 2: THE MAGIC CUTLASS Les Petits present an action-packed adventure for children, a sequel to Captain Flinn And The Pirate Dinosaurs, which, in turn, is based on the popular book by Giles Andarea and Russell Ayto, Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

SPOOKTACULAR A cast of professional singers and dancers perform to all the best spooky classics such as ghostbusters, thriller, spell on you and many more... Sun 30 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE MOUSETRAP Touring production of Agatha Christie's famous thriller - the longest-running show in the history of British theatre, Mon 31 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

RELATIVELY SPEAKING Alan Ayckbourn play starring Robert Powell and Liza Goddard, Mon 31 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



Dance

ROMEO AND JULIET Ballet Theatre UK present a passionate and innovative recreation of the world's greatest love story, Wed 26 Oct, The Core, Solihull

ADITI MANGALDAS DANCE COMPANY: INTER_RUPTED Mangaldas's latest piece contemplates fragility, disintegration and renewal. The show features seven dancers, with musicians live on stage, Sun 30 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE ROSES

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Image: Ockham's Razor

Top 10 Things To Do At The Roses...

- 1 See a film. We show everything from blockbusters to old classics.
- 2 Laugh with top comedians Rich Hall, Jon Richardson, Chris Ramsey or Jeremy Hardy.
- 3 Eat, Drink & Be Merry at our Port & Sherry (4 Oct) or Festive Wine (3 Nov) Tastings.
- 4 Feast your eyes on one of the many exhibitions up in our bar.
- 5 Shop at our very first artisan Christmas Market (on Saturday 12 November).
- 6 Rack your brains at our monthly quiz (last Wednesday of the month; 7.45pm)
- 7 Relax on a Sunday afternoon with some smooth jazz (30 Oct and 13 Nov; 2pm)
- 8 Get creative at a workshop - Scandinavian crafts, Paper Cutting or Christmas Wreaths
- 9 Support your local theatre - as a charity we need your help. You can make a real difference simply by coming to see a film!
- 10 Have the time of your life at our traditional family pantomime - this year it's Robin Hood & The Babes in the Wood.

Visit rosetheatre.org for full programme

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Talks / Spoken Word

LEVEL UP SEASON 4.5 VS TONGUE FU Featuring some of the sharpest poets, storytellers, rappers and comedians around, accompanied by a live soundtrack from the Tongue Fu Band, Tues 25 Oct, The REP, B'ham

KEN CLARKE IN CONVERSATION Join the Tory Grandee as he talks about his autobiography, Kind Of Blue, which charts his rise from a working-class background and 46 years as an MP, Fri 28 Oct, Stratford Artshouse

Events

GHOSTS AND GHOULS Be scared silly with spooky tales and enjoy getting hands-on with creepy crafts and activities, Mon 24 - Fri 28 Oct,

HALLOWEEN FUN Discover the rare and wonderful world of bats, Mon 24 - Fri 28 Oct, Witley Court, Worcestershire

SPECIAL EFFECTS MAKE-UP Workshop with professional make-up artist Kate

Griffiths, Tues 25 Oct, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

SHADOW PUPPETS WORKSHOP For children aged between four and seven, Thurs 27 Oct, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

CROOME AFTER DARK Thurs 27 Oct, Croome Park, Worcestershire

BIRMINGHAM BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Oct, New Bingley Hall, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN FRIGHT NIGHTS Hear tales of ghostly apparitions, dastardly deeds and ghoulish goings-on, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

BRICKLIVE Celebrating all things LEGO, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Oct, NEC, Birmingham



BADDESLEY GHOST TOUR Creepy tales and ghostly goings-on, Fri 28 Oct, Baddesley Clinton, Solihull

REDDITCH HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL Fri 28 - Sat 29 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE MONSTER BALL Fri 28 - Sat 29 Oct, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Worcestershire

FRIGHT NIGHTS AT ASTON HALL An immersive horror experience, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Oct, Aston Hall, B'ham

HALLOWEEN FUN Carve a pumpkin or have your face painted, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Oct, Croome Park, Worcestershire

PUMPKIN FLOTILLA Watch pumpkins float across the Mill Pond at twilight, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

STEVE BACKSHALL'S WILD WORLD Illustrated with photos and films from his expeditions, Sat 29 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

DOWN UNDER LIVE The UK's number one emigration event, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

ELIZABETHAN LIVING HISTORY EVENT Reenactments of Elizabethan life, with costumes, music and dancing, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Oct, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

FEMALE KING: THE LIFE & TIMES OF HATSHEPSUT Profile of a woman who, 3,000 years ago, took the throne of Egypt, Sat 29 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

FLAME & THUNDER Action-packed day featuring motorsport stunts and drag racing, Sat 29 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

GHOST WALK Sat 29 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN Featuring spooks, spiders, pumpkin carving, face painting and pumpkin pie, Sat 29 Oct, Chedhams Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

TORCH-LIT PUMPKIN WALK Sat 29 - Mon 31 Oct, Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster

SPOOKY HALLOWEEN Dress in your best costume and be prepared for some spine-tingling fun, Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

DIVALI - CELEBRATION MUSIC, FOOD & DANCE FESTIVAL Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

TALES OF THE SUPERNATURAL KIND Adults-only evening ghost walk around the castle, Mon 31 Oct, Croft Castle, nr Leominster

HALLOWEEN TOURS Tales of ghostly apparitions, dastardly deeds and ghoulish goings-on, Mon 31 Oct, Kenilworth Castle

GHOST SEARCH A ghost walk around the medieval castle, with vigils conducted in reputedly haunted rooms, Mon 31 Oct, Tamworth Castle

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