

Birmingham

ISSUE 452 SEPTEMBER 2024

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BOOK BY STEVEN LEVENSON
MUSIC & LYRICS BY BENJ PASEK & JUSTIN PAUL
DIRECTED BY ADAM PENFORD

inside:

BECOMING NANCY
new musical debuts at The Rep
feature inside...



TO THE MOON...
Female empowerment at the
heart of BRB's latest ballet



CHORIZA MAY
brings big drag energy to
Midlands Arts Centre



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'THE BEST COMEDY
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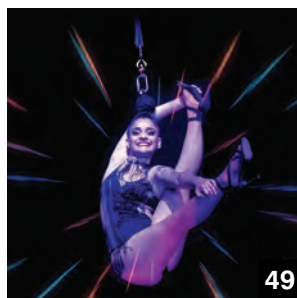
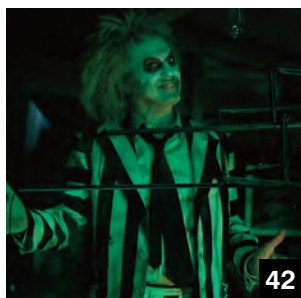
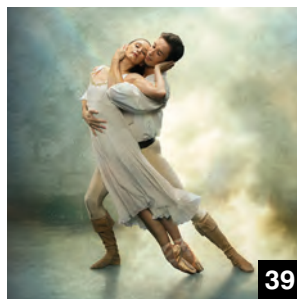
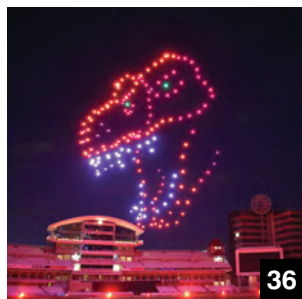
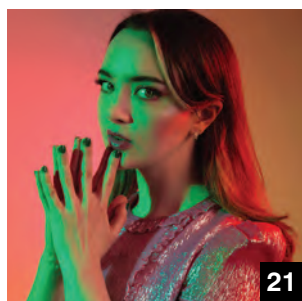
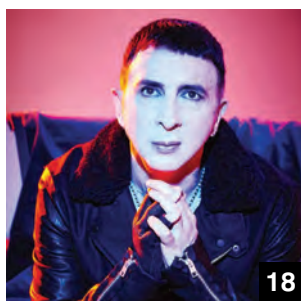
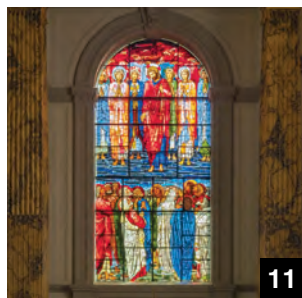
'THIS EXPERIENCE IS A
MUST'
THEATRE AND ARTS REVIEWS



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What's On

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Hippodrome launches new bespoke artist development programme

Birmingham Hippodrome has launched a bespoke artist development programme for theatre makers from the West Midlands. Hippodrome Origins will provide local writers and makers with artistic development support via workshops, resources and a platform on which to share their work. The Hippodrome is looking for artists in the West Midlands who can demonstrate a commitment to making theatre and can talk about an idea that they're hoping to develop. Applications for Hippodrome Origins close on Monday 16 September at midday. To find out more about how to apply, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

A tale of creeping terror at Stourbridge Town Hall...

A tale of creeping terror, written by Dracula creator Bram Stoker, is visiting Stourbridge Town Hall just five days before Halloween (Saturday 26 October).

Performed by West Midlands-based theatre company NeuNoir, *The Judge's House* takes place in a desolate and fortified Jacobean manor once owned by a cruel and merciless 'hanging judge'.

For further information about the show, visit the website: neunoir.wordpress.com

A new season of concerts

University of Birmingham Music & Concerts has announced its 2024/25 season, with a rich mix of performances for classical music fans to enjoy. As well as the return of the Barber Evening and Lunchtime



Concert series, the programme features Groove Onto The Moon (Saturday 12 October), a concert experience created for children aged three to seven.

The autumn line-up of entertainment also includes a show featuring the retro-futuristic pop of Birmingham-based multi-instrumentalist Rosie Tee and the Sekine Quartet (pictured, Friday 18 October).

To check out the whole 2024/25 programme, visit birmingham.ac.uk/musicevents

Solihull venue launches new youth theatre group

Solihull arts venue The Core is launching a new theatre group for aspiring young actors aged between seven and 16.

Kickstarting on Thursday 12 September, the Core Youth Theatre will offer children and young people the chance to develop their theatre skills and explore their creativity in a fun and engaging environment.

For further information, visit the website at thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk



Musicals by candlelight at The Old Joint Stock...

Birmingham's Old Joint Stock Theatre is this month presenting a show dedicated to musical theatre opening numbers.

The candlelit event takes place on Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 September.

To find out more, visit oldjointstock.co.uk

Fawlty - sorry, Faulty - Towers returns to the city

A critically acclaimed tribute to classic 1970s BBC TV sitcom *Fawlty Towers* is making a welcome return to the Banqueting Suite at Birmingham's Council House next month (Wednesday 23 October - Sunday 3 November).



Offering audiences the chance to enjoy 'a three-course meal and five-star comedy', the highly interactive *Faulty Towers: The Dining Experience* has been seen by over a million people across the world.

To find out more and book tickets, visit interactivetheatre.com.au

Niyo Fest celebrates the city's thriving tech scene

Niyo Group, the collective of disruptive tech, hair & beauty brands, is to host a three-day festival at Birmingham's Millennium Point from Thursday 3 to Saturday 5 October.

Bringing together 'innovators, investors, industry leaders and enthusiasts from around the world', Niyo Fest is combining tech, beauty, fashion, fitness and culture to create 'a festival of networking, opportunity and inspiration'. To find out more about the event, visit niyofest.com

Claire Richards Steps out at Birmingham Town Hall

Claire Richards is bringing 'the ultimate disco party' to Birmingham Town Hall this autumn (Sunday 3 November).

Taking the title *Everybody Dance!*, the show sees the

Steps star and a company of 'dynamic dancers' perform 'the greatest dance and disco hits of all time'. For further information and to book tickets, visit bmusic.co.uk



Russell to tour historic buildings

Russell Watson will this autumn perform shows in some of the country's most stunning and historic abbeys and cathedrals - including three in the Midlands.

The popular tenor will be taking his Magnificent Buildings Tour to Stoke Minster (Friday 27 September), Warwick St Mary's Church (Saturday 16 November) and Shrewsbury Abbey (Friday 22 & Saturday 23 November). To find out more about the tour and book tickets, visit russellwatson.com



Fizzogs in Wicked Wizard return

Multi-award-winning company Fizzog Productions are making a welcome return this autumn with their brand-new show, The Return Of Wicked Wizard Of Fizzog.

Promising belly laughs, jaw-dropping special effects, singing and dancing, the production is a parody of Wicked and The Wizard Of Oz. It shows at Halesowen Town Hall on Thursday 3, Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 October. To find out more and book tickets, visit thefizzogs.com



Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery to reopen next month

Birmingham Museums Trust has announced the next stage in its phased reopening of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Several gallery spaces will reopen to the public on Thursday 24 October, after essential maintenance work to the heating, electrics, lifts

and roofing was completed on schedule across the whole Council House complex. The Round Room Gallery, Industrial Gallery, Bridge Gallery and Edwardian Tearooms are among the spaces which will be reopening in time for October's school half-term week.

Wolverhampton show of strength



If you like your entertainment to be of the 'seriously muscle-bound' variety, then be sure to catch the Strongman Champions League 2024 tour when it stops off at The Hangar in Wolverhampton this month (Saturday 28 September).

The show features five epic feats of strength and a world-record attempt by Welsh strongwoman Rebecca Roberts.

Tickets to the event are available via eventbrite.co.uk

Love and war on stage at The Rep

Birmingham Repertory Theatre will present a brand-new stage adaptation of Birdsong, Sebastian Faulks' international bestselling novel, early next year.

Telling the story of one man's journey through an all-consuming love affair and into the horrors of the First World War, the production shows at the venue from Monday 27 January to Saturday 1 February. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: birmingham-rep.co.uk



Citizens' Jury launched by Birmingham Museums

Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) has launched the UK's first Citizens' Jury in a museum, to ask what the city needs and wants from its museums. Comprising 30 randomly selected Birmingham residents, the jury will deliberate for approximately 30 hours over six sessions in October and November, hearing from expert commentators and discussing the future of the city's museums. The initiative is part of BMT's multi-year transformation towards becoming 'a world-class, socially purposeful and entrepreneurial organisation'.

New clay shooting venue to open in the city

Premier clay shooting destination Clays is opening its third venue this autumn, in Birmingham's historic Piccadilly Arcade. Clays Birmingham will be home to eight traditional shooting pegs, four of which will be in private rooms. Each of the pegs will have their own designated area, allowing plenty of space for shooting, eating and entertaining. Guests will be able to order food & drink direct to their peg, from their very own kiosk. The venue will open in November. To find out more, visit clays.bar

Come to the fair(s)...

Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park in Warwickshire is this month hosting The Print Fair (Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 September), a celebration of the best in print design, illustration and paper-based crafts. Later-season highlights of the venue's autumn programme include The Textile Fair (Friday 8 - Sunday 10 November) and The Gift Fair, making its Christmas debut from Friday 6 to Sunday 8 December. To find out more, visit comptonverney.org.uk



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Strictly star Nikita to visit the region on first solo tour

International champion and Strictly Come Dancing star Nikita Kuzmin is heading out on his first-ever solo tour next year. The touring show, *Midnight Dancer*, will see Nikita joined by 'a sharp and chic cast of talented dancers and vocalists... for an evening bursting with happiness, euphoria, and of course, world-

class dance'.

Nikita visits Stoke's Regent Theatre on Fri 2 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday 11 May and Birmingham Hippodrome on Saturday 17 May. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the venue's websites.

Commemorating Partition at Midlands Arts Centre

Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre is next month commemorating the 77th anniversary of the Partition of the Indian subcontinent by hosting a ground-breaking and multi-disciplinary musical theatre production. Showing at the venue on Wednesday 30 & Thursday 31 October, *Partition Of The Heart* delves into 'a moment in history that continues to shape the lives of millions'. For more information and to book tickets, visit macbirmingham.co.uk

Literature festival set to mark its 75th anniversary

Much-loved actors Dame Judi Dench and Miriam Margolyes are among the well-known celebrities making a contribution to this year's Cheltenham Literature Festival. The hugely popular event, the world's longest-running of its kind, is this year celebrating its 75th anniversary and takes place at various venues around the town from Friday 4 to Sunday 13 October. As usual the festival will be presenting the best new voices in fiction and poetry alongside literary greats and high-profile speakers.

To find out more about the event and check

who's appearing where and when, visit cheltenhamfestivals.org

New shows on sale at the Coventry Belgrade

Early-autumn shows at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre include *Buffy Revamped* (Wednesday 4 September) - a fast-paced retelling of all seven TV seasons of *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* - and *Cirque: The Greatest Show* (Friday 13 September) - a circus-inspired spectacular featuring 'amazing performances, incredible contortionists and thrilling feats of agility and flair'.

To check out the whole of the theatre's autumn season, visit belgrade.co.uk

Touring political podcast heading to Birmingham

A popular political podcast is stopping off in Birmingham as part of an autumn tour. *The Rest Is Politics* brings together former Downing Street Director of Communications & Strategy, Alastair Campbell, with one-time cabinet minister Rory Stewart. The show takes to the stage at the city's Utilita Arena on Wednesday 9 October. To find out more and book tickets, visit utilitaarenabham.co.uk

B:Music

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

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Sarah Millican: Late Bloomer
Various Dates | Symphony Hall



**Toscana Strings: Little Red Ridings
H.O.O.D & Monkey Puzzle**
01 Sept | Symphony Hall



**Tim Peake: Astronauts - The Quest
to Explore Space**
04 Sept | Symphony Hall



The Horne Section's Hit Show
11 Sept | Symphony Hall



**Celebrating Meat Loaf ft The
Neverland Express & Caleb Johnson**
13 Sept | Symphony Hall



**Professor David Wilson & Marcel
Theroux: Killer Books**
13 Sept | Town Hall



**Rob Lamberti
Presents Perfectly George**
14 Sept | Symphony Hall



Marc Almond
16 Sept | Symphony Hall



Little Big Town
17 Sept | Symphony Hall



Paul Carrack
22 Sept | Symphony Hall



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**B:Eats at Symphony Hall for fresh,
seasonal & delicious meals & snacks**
11am-4pm Mon-Sat & pre-show

bmusic.co.uk

There's something for
everyone this September!

Follow the yellow brick road this Christmas...

The Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA) Group will be following the yellow brick road this Christmas when they present a brand-new production of *The Wizard Of Oz* at the city's Old Rep Theatre. The show, which is being produced in collaboration with the Crescent Theatre, runs from Tuesday 26 November to Tuesday 31 December. Tickets are now available at crescent-theatre.co.uk

Ghoulish Halloween fun at the RSC for half term

There's plenty of Halloween-inspired ghoulish fun to enjoy in Stratford-upon-Avon next month, courtesy of the Royal Shakespeare Company.



During autumn half-term week (Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November), the RSC will be uncovering 'the tricks and treats of Shakespeare and the theatre' via a number of workshops and drop-in activities. Participants will then be invited to bring what they've learnt and created to a final event: *The Twilight Takeover!...* To find out more, visit the website at rsc.org.uk

Autumn concert season at the Conservatoire

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's autumn concert season gets under way this month, with Pablo Held's Buoyancy Band (pictured) giving a Thursday 12 September performance in the Eastside Jazz Club.

Mezzo-soprano Hannah Morley then kicks off the regular and free-to-attend Monday lunchtime series on the 23rd (in the Recital Hall). A late-month highlight is a performance by singer-songwriter Ásgeir (Sunday the 29th), whose textured and thoughtful brand of folk-pop has made him one of Iceland's most successful exports. To check the complete autumn-season programme, visit bcu.ac.uk/concerts



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West End thriller Ghost Stories to visit the Midlands

Critically acclaimed West End show *Ghost Stories* will visit the Midlands next year as part of a UK tour.

The hit production, which promises to be 'a fully sensory and electrifying encounter', stops off at The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 May;

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 1 to Saturday 5 July and Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, from Tuesday 15 to Saturday 19 July.

For further information and to book tickets, visit ghoststoriesplay.com

SIX's Brummie star Alexia back home for Christmas

Birmingham's own Alexia McIntosh will take the title role in Birmingham Hippodrome's festive family musical *The Jingleclaw*.



Alexia previously appeared at the Hurst Street-located theatre in *SIX The Musical* and the 2021 pantomime production of *Goldilocks And The Three Bears*. Created with three- to seven-year-olds in mind, *The Jingleclaw* is set in a cosy village in the snowy mountains and tells the story of a young musician named Astrid and the mischievous forest creature of the title. The production will show in the Hippodrome's Patrick Studio from Thursday 12 December to Saturday 4 January. Further information and tickets are available at birminghamhippodrome.com

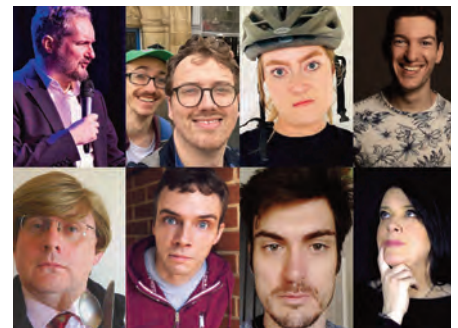
Podcast launched for the visually impaired

The day-to-day experience of visually impaired people in Sandwell is being explored in a new documentary-style podcast.

Produced by Black Country Touring in collaboration with Sandwell Visually Impaired, *Blathering With SVI* features 'a warm-spirited review and discussion of a given theme' every week. It can be found on all major podcast platforms, as well as at bctouring.org.uk

Free half-dayers at city's comedy festival

Fancy a laugh, free of charge? If so, you'll surely want to take advantage of the 'free half-day' offer at next month's Birmingham Comedy Festival (Friday 4 - Sunday 13 October). The offer applies to comedy gigs being performed at two city-centre venues - Cherry Reds and The Victoria - on the Sunday afternoons of the 6th and 13th of October (from 1pm). There's no need to book in advance - just turn up and enjoy as many performances as you like. Check out bhamcomfest.co.uk for more details.



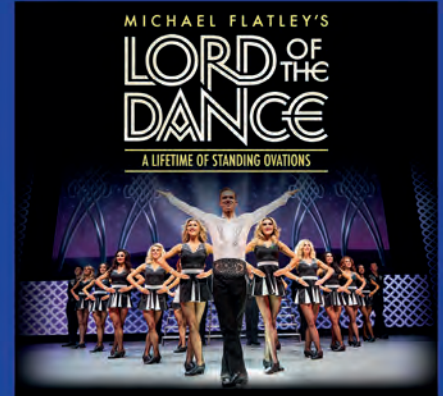
A SENSATIONAL SEASON AWAITS...



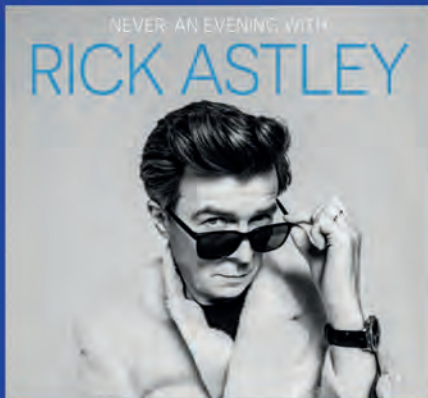
Mon 23 Sep



Wed 25 Sep



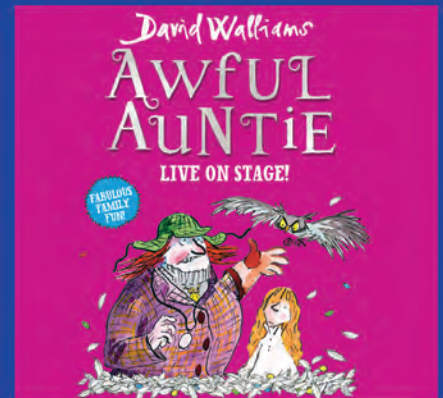
Mon 30 Sep – Sun 6 Oct



Fri 11 Oct 🐾



Mon 14 Oct



Thu 17 – Sat 19 Oct

R Fri 18 Oct 6.30pm



Tue 22 – Sat 26 Oct

CAP Sat 26 Oct 2.30pm



Sat 9 – Sat 30 Nov

AD 🎧 Wed 20 Nov 7.30pm

🐾 Thu 21 Nov 7.30pm



Tue 3 – Sat 28 Dec

CAP Sat 7 Dec 2.30pm

AD 🎧 Sat 14 Dec 2.30pm

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The return of Birmingham Heritage Week...

Birmingham Heritage Week is back, returning for a 10th year from Friday 6 to Sunday 15 September. Shining a spotlight on the city's fascinating history, the popular festival will see some of Brum's most important heritage locations and unique buildings opening their doors to members of the general public. Here are just some of the week's highlights...

8km Street Art Running Tour

Start and end at Eagle & Ball Pub, Gopsal St, Birmingham B4 7RJ

Uncover Birmingham's beautiful, inspiring and unknown street art on a 8km run. Take a secret route along the decorated canals to Digbeth, the epicentre of Brum's street-art scene, then on to Southside and some less-known areas. You'll stop to admire, photograph and learn all about the graffiti and street art in Birmingham, and the home-grown artists behind it.

Fri 13 Sept | 6-8pm. £18, booking required.



Birmingham Bingo By Night Walking Tour

Roundhouse Birmingham, The Roundhouse, 1 Shepcote St, B16 8AE

Explore by night in search of the amazing innovations, music and culture the city has produced, all while ticking off some brilliant Birmingham Bs on your bingo card as you go. The route takes in some beautiful Birmingham landmarks that look even better when illuminated at night.

Wed 11 Sept | 6-8pm. £14, £10 concession, £8 B16 resident, booking required.

Coffin Works Taster Tour

The Coffin Works 13-15 Fleet Street, Jewellery Quarter, B3 1JP

Focusing on the Courtyard and Stamp Room of the Newman Brothers' Victorian Manufacturing, these Taster Tours give an insight into the early history of the factory and include the chance to see demonstrations with working Victorian machinery. Tours last around 30 minutes and take place every half hour.

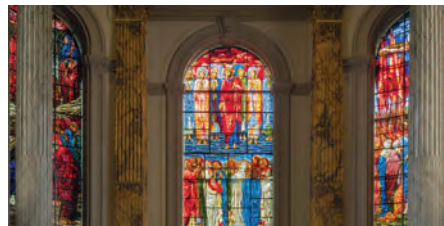
Sun 8 Sept | 11am-3pm. Free, booking required.

Divine Beauty stained-glass window tour

Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, B3 2QB

Explore the oldest building in Birmingham city centre still used for its original purpose. Learn about its history and treasures (including four of the world's most remarkable stained-glass windows) on a free 30-minute tour led by a knowledgeable guide. A perfect way to find out what makes the UK's third smallest cathedral so special, and to learn about its importance to the city.

Tues 10 Sept | 12.30pm-1.15pm & 1.15pm-2pm. Free, booking required.



The Macabre Museum: Stories Of Murder and Mayhem

The West Midlands Police Museum, The Lock-up, 40 Steelhouse Lane, B4 6BJ

For one day only, the West Midlands Police Museum will become The Macabre Museum, presenting 'stories of murder and mayhem'. In the atmospheric setting of the Victorian Lock Up, you'll walk the same steps as the criminals, hear tales of the real Peaky Blinders, find out about Birmingham's connection to Jack the Ripper, and see some of the most notorious items in the museum's archives.

Sun 8 Sept | Tours starting every 15 minutes from 11am. Last tour at 3.15pm. £15, booking required.



Museum Collection Centre Open Day

Museum Collection Centre, 31 Dollman Street, Nechells, B7 4RH

Enjoy a fun-filled day at the Museum Collection Centre, Birmingham Museums' 1.5-hectare store, holding over 80 percent of the city's collection all under one roof. Explore a mix of objects, many of which offer a real insight into life in Birmingham and the West Midlands over the centuries. Amongst the hundreds of thousands of items in the collection, you will find steam engines, sculptures, giant spider crabs, and even the kitchen sink!

Sat 14 Sept | 10am-4pm. £11 adult, £6 concession, children up to 15 and carers free, booking required.



Woodcock Street Baths: Guided Tour & Swim

The Sir Doug Ellis Woodcock Sports Centre, Woodcock Street, B7 4BN

Woodcock Street Baths - now known as the Sir Doug Ellis Woodcock Sports Centre - is the oldest operational swimming pool in Birmingham (1902). This guided tour will show how Aston University, which took over the grade 2 listed building in 1980, has refurbished and redeveloped the venue into a modern sports centre for the local community.

The building tour lasts approximately 30 minutes, after which there will be an opportunity to enjoy a free swim.

Fri 6, Mon 9 & Fri 13 Sept | 10.45am-11.45am. Free, booking required.



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University Music & Concerts

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Barber Evening Concerts 24/25

Join us in the Elgar Concert Hall for a spectacular line-up of internationally acclaimed ensembles and recitalists.

Saturday 2 November, 7.30pm
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Joseph Middleton piano

Friday 15 November, 7.30pm
Septura brass ensemble

Wednesday 12 February, 7.30pm
James Ehnes
Piano Quartet

Saturday 15 March, 6.30pm
BBC Singers
feat. Birmingham University Singers

Wednesday 26 March, 7.30pm
Britten Sinfonia
feat. James Newby baritone

Friday 9 May, 7.30pm
Ronald Brautigam piano
Christian Poltéra cello
Esther Hoppe violin



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barber.org.uk/concerts



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Splash! | Sat 26 Oct



Mr Sleepybum | Sun 27 Oct



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The return of Heritage Open Days...

This month also sees the return of Heritage Open Days, a nationwide festival of history & culture (Friday 6 to Sunday 15 September). The annual event offers people the chance to check out hidden places and sample new experiences - all for free. Here are some Birmingham-located options to enjoy...

Acocks Green Heritage Trail

Warwick Road, Acocks Green, B27 6RH

Take a walk and find out all about Acocks Green, its religious history, street scene, buildings, transport changes, and the creation of The Green in the 1930s. The walk follows boards one to five of the eight boards that make up the Acocks Green Heritage Trail. At the end of the walk, participants can visit boards six and seven, which are a few minutes' walk away. Board eight at Fox Hollies is best visited by car afterwards.

Thurs 12 Sept | 10.30am-12pm, pre-booking required

Birmingham Honey Show

Winterbourne House & Garden, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, B15 2RT

Winterbourne has seven acres of stunning botanical garden for you to explore - but this particular event is all about its 'buzzing' residents, the honey bees. The Honey Show includes a chance to see the bees in glass observation hives, attend live bee demonstrations (weather permitting) and meet local beekeepers. Stalls for all the family, activities and plant sales also feature.

Sat 7 & Sun 8 Sept | 10.30am-5pm, no pre-booking required



Bournville Model Boat Club

Valley Parkway, Bournville Lane, Bournville, B30 1QS

Bournville Model Yachting Club was founded in 1923 at Rowheath Park. By 1926, George Cadbury had commissioned an area of marshland to be reclaimed, and the Valley Pool officially opened in 1933. The sailing of yachts and power boats has taken place there on a regular basis since then. Visitors will have the opportunity to see the updated boathouse, historical artefact & photographic display, and get up close to the model boats in action.

Sat 14 Sept | 10am-4pm, no pre-booking required

Cadbury Archives

Mondelez International, Bournville Lane, Bournville, B30 2HP

The Cadbury Archives have undergone a refurbishment to mark Cadbury's 200th anniversary this year. They serve as a treasure trove of historical artefacts, documents and memorabilia, showcasing the evolution of the Cadbury business and brand from its beginnings through to the present day. Featuring nearly 50,000 Cadbury items, including ones dating as far back as 1842, the archives are home to some of the rarest Cadbury documents and artefacts in the world.

Sat 14 Sept | 10am-4pm, pre-booking required



Manor Farm Park Heritage Trail

389 Bristol Road South, Northfield, B31 2AB

This 2km walking trail takes visitors to 10 sites in the beautiful Manor Farm Park, showing the changes from farmland in the 16th century, to the development of a country estate and ownership by the Cadbury Family, to the creation of a public park in 1955. Each site has a QR code which, when scanned on a smartphone, allows visitors to access information about it. A printed guide and map will be available for self-guided tours, but visitors can instead choose to book one of two guided tours.

Sat 14 Sept | 10am-4pm, pre-booking required



West Midlands Police Museum Collections Store Tour

West Midlands Police Museum, The Lock Up, 40 Steelhouse Lane, B4 6BJ

The West Midlands Police Museum is now located in the old Victorian Lock Up on Steelhouse Lane in Birmingham city centre. In the atmospheric setting of a building that was opened in 1891, the museum tells the fascinating story of policing in the region, going right back to the 1830s. On this special tour, the museum manager will take you behind the scenes into the archives, where some of the oldest and most precious items can be found. The tour includes the chance to see some of the very earliest mugshots taken in the UK, criminal records going back over 150 years and a number of delicate items that are unsuitable to be on display.

Fri 13 & Sat 14 Sept | 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, pre-booking required

Moor Pool Heritage Festival

Moor Pool Hall, 37 The Circle, B17 9DY

A unique opportunity to discover the Moor Pool Estate, one of the last remaining intact garden suburbs in the UK - and one of Birmingham's best-kept secrets. The festival boasts a packed programme, highlighting the range of activities that regularly take place around the estate, and features performances by the Sovereign Brass Band.

Sun 15 Sept | 11am-3pm, no pre-booking required



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FINDING LOVE IN THE 1970s

Brand-new musical *Becoming Nancy* is set to make its UK debut
at Birmingham Repertory Theatre



Acclaimed director & choreographer Jerry Mitchell looks set to add another triumph to his portfolio of hit shows when his latest offering receives its UK premiere at Birmingham Repertory Theatre next month. Adapted from Terry Ronald's bestselling novel of the same name, *Becoming Nancy* is a coming-of-age musical, set in 1979, about family, first love and finding yourself.

What's On recently caught up with Jerry to find out more about his new show...

When award-winning director Jerry Mitchell picked up a book to while away a long-distance flight, he had no idea it would lead to him directing a new musical based on its story. And that musical, *Becoming Nancy*, will have its UK premiere at Birmingham Rep next month.

"I was in the West End working on *Kinky Boots* and flying back from London to New York," Jerry recalls. "I had read all my books and wanted something to read for the plane, so I ran into the Waterstones right by the hotel and grabbed this book called *Becoming Nancy*."

"I read it on the plane and I loved it so much that by the time I got off the plane I rang my lawyer and said 'Get me the rights to this book, I'm going to turn it into a musical!'"

Written by Londoner Terry Ronald, *Becoming Nancy* tells the story of gay teenager David Starr, who, when offered the role of Nancy in school musical *Oliver!*, faces a terrible dilemma - does he take the part or not? While his friends and family all weigh in with their views, David is uncertain he's ready to put his head above the parapet.

Jerry, who's directed West End and Broadway musicals including *Legally Blonde*, *Hairspray* and the new production of *The Devil Wears Prada*, felt the novel had all the ingredients for a hit show.

"I fell in love with the lead character of David immediately, and I felt myself in the book in the character of both David and his friend Maxie Boswell. There were so many similarities to my own life growing up, even though I grew up in Michigan in the United States. As a 17-year-old trying to find out who I was, I was one half Maxie and one half David."

Set in 1979 London, the story's action takes place against a backdrop of National Front marches and the Rock Against Racism movement - another element that Jerry felt made the show incredibly current, given the emergence in recent times of Black Lives Matter.

"With what's going on at the moment, it feels so relevant. The third lead in the show is

Frances Bassey, David's best friend, who is a young black girl, and what was happening in London at that time is so similar to what has been going on in America.

"And the other element is looking at what kids go through in school about being the 'other' person, and how these young people can find out who they are and also respect someone who isn't like them. I thought it was such a beautiful story about that."

The show premiered in Atlanta in 2019, with original songs by hit-writing duo George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, whose successful shows have included the Cameron Mackintosh/Disney *Mary Poppins*, *The Wind In The Willows* and the National Theatre's *Honk!*. The book was adapted by Elliot Davis, whose previous shows include *What I Go To School For* - *The Busted Musical* and *Loserville*.

The book's author, Terry Ronald, also formed part of the team. As well as being an author, Terry is a playwright, musician, songwriter, vocal arranger and coach, and during a distinguished career has worked with stars including Kylie Minogue, Kim Wilde, All Saints and Elaine Paige.

"When we did the show in Atlanta," Jerry continues, "I was shocked at how quickly the young people who saw it fell in love with David and Maxie and got on their side. I think many of them saw themselves in a story about young people who are struggling with their identity and their place, and they recognised the racial tensions and the importance of friendship."

"And the flip side of that is that mothers and fathers were coming out crying because they were seeing themselves. One of the things I loved about it was that the mother and father are dealing with their son, who they don't know how to help. And so they're in the dark, and they have to manoeuvre their way through the story and make the decisions to become great parents."

The show aims to capture the spirit of Britain at the end of the 1970s - a time when both politics and music were at the forefront of the lives of young people.

"Another thing that was fabulous about the story was that David has this admiration for pop music and uses the artists like Sting, Kate Bush and Debbie Harry. He talks to these artists as if they're his friends because he can't talk about what he's going through with anyone else. It's such a wonderful theatrical device."

The Birmingham production has new songs, written by George Stiles, Elliot Davis and Terry Ronald, and includes a couple of Olivier Award winners in the cast.

"We have really great people playing great parts. We wanted fresh talent for the school kids, as fresh talent is what is going to infuse the story with truth. And then we have some sensational people playing the adults."

"The UK was where I always wanted to do *Becoming Nancy*. I've been coming to the UK since I was 26 years old, when I was an associate choreographer with Cameron Mackintosh on *Follies*, with Diana Rigg, Julia McKenzie and a host of incredible British stars."

And Jerry is convinced British audiences will take *Becoming Nancy* to their hearts.

"I have a funny feeling that this show is going to be a huge success in the UK. I've seen other shows like it, such as my own show, *Kinky Boots*, or *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*. These are other shows that have a similar sort of leading character, with issues that I think are very much what's happening today."

"I hope the audience will be the whole family. It's empowering for them because young people leave the theatre thinking 'It's okay to be who I am,' and the parents leave the theatre thinking 'I want to help my kid feel confident and strong in who they are, so that they can succeed, as opposed to being afraid to be who they are.'"

.....
Becoming Nancy shows at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Wednesday 2 October to Saturday 2 November



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Sun 20 Oct

Beethoven's 5th



Fri 25 Oct

Interstellar: Tribute to Hans Zimmer



Fri 1 Nov

Supersonic: Bohren & Der Club of Gore



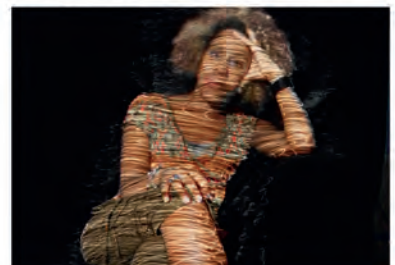
Sat 9 Nov

Manchester Collective & Abel Selaocoe



Tue 12 Nov

Errollyn Wallen and Thallein Ensemble



Fri 22 Nov

Classical music from across the region...



CBSO: Kazuki conducts Beethoven 9

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 19 September

Inspired by Friedrich Schiller's 1785 poem, Ode To Joy, and premiered in Vienna 300 years ago, Beethoven's ninth - his final completed symphony - is widely considered to be his greatest-ever composition. The work is here presented in a programme

of music that also features Stravinsky's Symphonies Of Wind Instruments and Strauss' Metamorphosen. CBSO Music Director Kazuki Yamada leads the orchestra in a concert which also features the CBSO Chorus.

CBSO: Mozart & Shostakovich

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 25 September

This Fabien Gabel-conducted concert kick-starts with ballet music from Idomeneo, Mozart's story of kings, queens and gods. The evening is brought to a close by Shostakovich's ninth symphony, a work which has been described as going from sprightly to feverish to downright raucous. The programme is completed by Mozart's Concerto For Bassoon - featuring the CBSO's Nikolaj Henriques - and the UK premiere of Mark Simpson's Concertino For Trumpet & Orchestra, performed by the CBSO's Jason Lewis.



Armonico Consort: Naked Byrd 2

Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick, Sat 28 September

Founded by organist & conductor Christopher Monks in 2001, Armonico are one of the largest organisations of their kind in the UK. Using authentic period instruments, the baroque consort regularly perform with some of the best solo musicians in the world.

This latest concert sees them presenting the second part of a collection of choral music from the last 800 years. The programme is linked via timeless chants by 11th century Abbess, Hildegard of Bingen.

Kidderminster Male Choir & Aled Jones

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 6 September

Having notched up 120 glorious years, Kidderminster Male Choir's 'men in red' here team up with Aled Jones for an anniversary concert.

The boys are joined for the occasion by all-female choir the Kidderminster Valentines. By comparison with the Male Choir, the Valentines are veritable spring chickens - they've been making beautiful music together for a mere 36 years!



BCMG: Lunar Dreams

CBSO Centre, Birmingham, Sun 15 September

The ever-magnificent Birmingham Contemporary Music Group make a welcome return with this celebration of the 150th anniversary of Arnold Shoenberg's birth.

Presenting what they describe as a dreamlike, ethereal event, BCMG will perform the composer's most celebrated and frequently performed work, Pierrot Lunaire, in the first half of the concert, following on after the interval with compositions that 'embrace the theme of night, transitions and freedom in sound'. Tom Kemp conducts. Soprano Yeree Suh (pictured) contributes to the evening's entertainment.





Marc Almond

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Mon 16 September

Although he's extremely well established as a solo artist, the elfin Marc Almond probably remains best known for his Soft Cell collaborations - particularly 1981's Tainted

Love - with the far more anonymous-looking Dave Ball.

Living life to excess brought the Soft Cell days to an end, but they're now back in the saddle and writing new material.

Marc is flying solo in Birmingham this month, though, visiting the city in support of his latest album, I'm Not Anyone.

Kid Congo And The Pink Monkey Birds

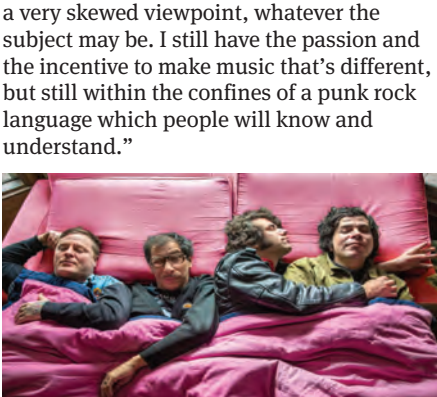
Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,
Sat 21 September

Living legend Kid Congo Powers co-founded The Gun Club and played guitar for The Cramps and Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds.

Now, he's yet again teaming up with The Pink Monkey Birds for a gig at Birmingham's iconic Hare & Hounds pub in Kings Heath.

"I think the Pink Monkey Birds conjures up all the best aspects of primal rock'n'roll," Kid Congo told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"Lyrically, I'm speaking in images, and from a very skewed viewpoint, whatever the subject may be. I still have the passion and the incentive to make music that's different, but still within the confines of a punk rock language which people will know and understand."



Astrid Williamson

Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham,
Wed 25 September

Classically trained pianist Astrid Williamson has been going solo for the better part of 30 years, having previously found fame as the frontperson of Scottish trio Goya Dress.

Boasting a distinctive and beautifully haunting voice, she visits Birmingham as part of a short autumn tour.

Marseille

Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham,
Fri 27 September

They may be called Marseille, but this high-energy indie rock band actually hail from, er, Derby!

Describing their sound as combining 'the baggy era' of the 90s Madchester scene, the soundscapes of Shoegaze and a hint of 60s psychedelic jangle pop, the quintet have been hitting all the right notes with their output for the last couple of years. Along the way they've chalked up a host of attention-grabbing songs, including Brightest Star, Monkey In The Middle and Freedom.

The boys are stopping off in Birmingham this month as part of a short autumn tour.

Yot Club

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Tues 24 September

Daydreamy, sun-blasted Polaroid-pop is the music of preference for Ryan Kaiser's alter ego, Yot Club. The Brooklyn-based indie sensation came to prominence in 2019 when his song YKWIM? created a splash on TikTok and made him rethink his plan to play music just as a hobby.

He's touring to Birmingham this month in support of his second full-length album, Rufus. "The album's not meant to serve as an eloquent story where there's characters and side characters and betrayal and heartbreak," he says. "It's just 13 separate episodes that restart and don't necessarily match each other, but I wanted to give it a character to wrap it all together."



Texas

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Fri 13 September

"My big dream from the start was to write good songs that would stand the test of time," says Sharleen Spiteri, lead singer of Scottish band Texas. In partnership with ex-Altered Images veteran Johnny McElhone, Sharleen has certainly been living her dream, releasing 10 studio albums and selling more than 40 million albums worldwide.

Boasting strong and carefully crafted songs, a stunning live presence, and a sense of originality and sheer joy, the band this month appear in Birmingham as part of their Very Best Of 1989 - 2023 tour. KT Tunstall offers support.





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Comedy previews from across the region...

Fern Brady

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 24 September; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 4 October

Feminism and existential despair are among the subjects which Fern Brady contemplates during her stand-up shows. Along the way she deploys her acerbic wit to recount highly personal stories about her mental-health issues, her sexuality and even her interest in amateur pornography. She stops off in the Midlands this month with latest touring show I Gave You Milk To Drink.



Katherine Ryan

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 28 September; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 31 January; The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton, Sat 8 February; Utilita Arena Birmingham, Sat 10 May

Taking a wry, warped and witty look at the world around her, Katherine Ryan often writes and performs material which proves that even the darkest of subject matter can have a funny side.

Katherine hits the road this month with a brand-new stand-up offering. "My new show is called Battleaxe, because it means a tyrant and a loud, outspoken feminist," Katherine recently told BBC TV's The One Show. "And those are all positive terms for me, not negative ones. And I like reclaiming words; especially words about women that are negative."



Sarah Keyworth

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 28 September; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 11 October

What does acceptance look like? From whom does it matter? Is it okay to dance around your family kitchen with your new nipples out?

These questions and others sit at the heart of non-binary comedian Sarah Keyworth's brand-new show, a 100-minute presentation (including interval) titled My Eyes Are Up

Here.

The tour seems likely to further enhance Sarah's fast-growing reputation. The Nottingham-born comic has previously made a significant splash on numerous television shows, including Mock The Week, 8 Out Of 10 Cats and Live At The Apollo.



Robin Morgan

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 27 September

Cheeky and engaging Welsh comedian Robin Morgan is back on the road with a brand-new offering.

"His previous shows have dealt with a proposal, marriage, kids and a vasectomy," reads the publicity for this latest outing, "but this show focuses on 'the spark'. It's about how to keep the spark alive in marriages, and how to keep the spark alive in you."

Shaparak Khorsandi

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Thurs 19 September

A regular contributor to radio and television programmes, Iranian-born comedian Shaparak Khorsandi describes herself as a 'spit and sawdust' stand-up comic, happily pulling on her wellies and trudging through muddy fields to perform at any and every music festival that boasts a comedy tent. She visits the region this month with latest show Scatterbrain.



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Comedy previews from across the region...

Simon Brodkin

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sat 8 September; Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Wed 6 November

Former medical doctor Simon Brodkin is perhaps best known as the creator of comedy character Lee Nelson, a bling-wearing Stella-swiggling South London geezer. Simon has also hit the headlines for his unwavering commitment to the business of being a top-quality prankster: he famously handed Prime Minister Theresa May her P45 at the Conservative Party Conference. This latest tour sees him ripping into celebrity culture, social media, the police, Putin, Prince Andrew and God.

**Hal Cruttenden**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 24 September

If you're thinking of heading along to a Hal Cruttenden gig but don't quite know what to expect from the experience, fear not - the man himself is a past master at describing his act. "It's funny, obviously," says Hal, "but it's also catty, surprising, angry, cleverish and chubby!"

Hal performs in Shrewsbury this month alongside two support acts, neither of whom had been announced at the time of writing.

**Tez Ilyas**

The Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 12 September; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 16 & Sat 19 October

Silly, smart and subversive humour is the name of Tez Ilyas' comedy game. And as the rapid growth of his fanbase ably illustrates, he's extremely good at what he does. Tez's political stand-up has been likened to candyfloss with a razorblade hidden inside, while his television work has brought him to the attention of a whole new audience. The fact that he's been able to hit the right notes with so many people comes as no surprise to Tez himself: "It doesn't matter what walk of life we're from, I think we're all united by the British sense of humour. "Whatever creed, colour, sexual orientation or gender type we are, we have a connection based around a mutual appreciation of that sort of comedy."

**Gary Meikle**

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 1 September; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 4 September; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 21 September

Cold showers, mosquitoes on holiday, rejection issues, and how it's okay for men to be overtly feminine nowadays are just some of the topics under consideration in Gary Meikle's currently touring stand-up show. Gary's fast-paced delivery and playfully dark style of humour have seen him score a massive hit with audiences, most notably online, where numerous video rants about subjects including eyebrows, hair extensions and 'dick pics' have gone viral.

**Dom Joly**

The Regal, Evesham, Sun 22 September; Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 28 September; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 11 October; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Tues 15 October

From a launchpad provided by Trigger Happy TV, Dom Joly has led an intriguing and extraordinary life. Some of his more memorable experiences include world

drinking, skiing down volcanoes, holidaying in Chernobyl, and trying to fly across the Grand Canyon strapped to an eight-foot rocket...

...Oh, and he's also eaten from the pants of Dr Gillian McKeith (remember her?) while imprisoned in the Australian jungle during a series of I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here!... Some guys have all the luck.

Lloyd Griffith

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 17 September; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Tues 24 September; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 25 September; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 8 October

A fire-engine fanatic and classically trained one-time choirboy, Lloyd Griffith loves being a stand-up comedian. "It allows me to sit at home in my Grimsby Town shorts all day," he explains, "eating soup and writing jokes. What's not to like?"

Lloyd visits the Midlands this month with brand-new show Baroque And Roll.



TAKING ON THE BARD

Matt Cardle talks about starring as the world's most famous playwright in a touring production of hit musical & Juliet...



Matt Cardle first found fame winning the seventh series of The X Factor in 2010. A Christmas number one and UK Platinum album followed, as did other well-received records. Roles in musicals Jesus Christ Superstar, Strictly Ballroom and Memphis (opposite the Midlands' very own Beverley Knight) took his career in another direction and earned him significant acclaim. Now, he's playing William Shakespeare in hit musical & Juliet. What's On recently caught up with him to find out more...

If there's one person who epitomises theatre, it's William Shakespeare - and singer Matt Cardle is delighted to be portraying the Bard in the current touring production of hit West End musical & Juliet.

Matt's Shakespeare is slightly different from the one we're used to. In the show, the bard has written the most tragic of endings for his play Romeo & Juliet - but then his wife, Anne, dares to suggest maybe a slightly more optimistic finale would be a better option! And so the musical, which comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in October, tells a different story of Juliet, a woman who decides she can actually survive without Romeo and sets off on her own journey, both in love and life.

Premiered in 2019, featuring a string of hits by Max Martin - including Baby One More Time, Since U Been Gone, It's My Life, I Want It That Way and Roar - & Juliet has gone on to become a massive success across four continents, picking up three Olivier Awards and six WhatsOnStage Awards during its West End run.

Matt couldn't resist having a go at playing Shakespeare. He's joined in the cast by Gerardine Saccalan as Juliet, Lara Denning as Anne and Dr Ranj Singh as Lance.

"Shakespeare is such an icon, so just to get the opportunity to play him in any format was amazing. Then I could see what an amazing role it was and what an amazing show it was."

Matt says audiences needn't worry if they're not Shakespeare aficionados; the play is a totally new take on Juliet.

"People will have assumptions because the show is about Juliet. If you like Shakespeare and his plays, then great, you'd come along, but if you have any fear that it might be Shakespearean and you're not into that, then that's fine because it's not anything to do with Shakespeare. It's spawned from one of his plays, but that's as far as it goes. There's a mention of it at the beginning, but the rest is absolutely brand new - and a joy.

"Throughout the rehearsal period you have to find your Shakespeare. I have to find how he sits in my body and how he sits in my voice and all those kinds of things, which is so much fun. We get to play and have a lot of fun finding out who he is within the

guidelines of the script. I didn't want to delve too deep into researching the real Shakespeare because this is a comedy. The show is so far removed from anything Shakespearean that it's good to have a fresh take on everyone."

In the role, Matt has the chance to perform some hit pop songs.

"The first song I sing is Larger Than Life by the Backstreet Boys. There's a lot of Shakespeare's ego at play during that first song, and I don't feel that I have much of an ego, if at all, so shooting off like I have one is probably the biggest challenge for me in that song.

"Then I sing Backstreet's Back by the Backstreet Boys, which is part of the boy band scene, which is absolutely hilarious. I never thought I'd be doing that, but it's an amazing song. Then I sing Can't Stop The Feeling by Justin Timberlake.

"The way the production seamlessly uses the music of Max Martin is really quite something. Two or three of the songs come in almost as if they were the punchline of a joke. I'd never thought that would happen with Oops!...I Did It Again or I Kissed A Girl. It's hilarious."

Matt first shot to fame when he won television talent show The X Factor in 2010. His first single, When We Collide, charted at number one and has sold more than a million copies. In 2015 he branched out into acting, taking the role of DJ Huey Calhoun in the musical Memphis alongside Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight.

"It was very much a baptism of fire when I did Memphis. It's an incredible show, and it was an incredible role. It was ginormous! I was barely ever off stage in that show. I'd done little bits of acting along the way as I was growing up - not in a professional sense or barely in an amateur sense - so it was something that I didn't know I had in me. I absolutely fell in love with it - the acting is one of the, if not *the*, most important parts of this whole process for me."

Going on to play Wally Strand in Strictly Ballroom and Pontius Pilate in Jesus Christ Superstar, Matt is keen to try his hand at more stage or screen work in the future.

"I love musical theatre, but I also love theatre as a whole, and I definitely would do a straight play or drama. I would love to do

anything like that, but the opportunity has to be right and has to fit right with what I'm doing at the time."

Alongside acting, Matt has continued his musical career and has been working on a new recording.

"My fifth studio album will be out on January the 10th and I can't wait! It's my best album by far to date, and I'm just really excited for people to hear it."

Matt is thankful for the opportunities his X Factor win has provided. "The X Factor has done many wonderful things for me, and I look back with great fondness. It's a tough industry, and I would say to anyone that if it really is all you've ever wanted and all you can do, then go for it - but you need that 'never ever give up' mindset. It's really tough, but when it works out, it's the best thing you can imagine."

For now, Matt is looking forward to the next few months on the road with & Juliet.

"I've toured all over the UK and Ireland and Europe so much in my life. I usually tour with just a band and a crew and people from the management and the label - and that's like a small family - but with & Juliet, this is like a ginormous family coming with us. It's lovely to get round and be with that family unit. And it's great to be with this show. It was so successful in the West End and around the world. It's won so many awards and gained so much of a following - it has a huge fan base unlike any other I've known.

"This is one of the most joyous two hours you'll spend in a long time. It will have you laughing, it will have you crying, it will have you up dancing. The message that runs through the show is that love is love - you can love whoever you want, you can be whoever you want - set to the most iconic pop tunes of the last 20 years. I defy anyone not to have the best time ever."

.....

& Juliet shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday 7 to Saturday 12 October. The hit musical then returns to the region in 2025, showing at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 22 April to Saturday 3 May, and then at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Monday 12 to Saturday 17 May



Hairspray Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 16 - Sat 21 September; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 3 - Sat 8 February

Theatre-goers looking for a memorable night of singalong fun should definitely catch this high-energy bubblegum musical when it stops off in the region this month.

A show which has retained its popularity despite doing the rounds for many a year now, *Hairspray* is set in 1960s Baltimore and follows the trials and tribulations of the lovable Tracy Turnblad, a young girl whose dreams of dancing on national TV lead her somewhat

unexpectedly to fighting a battle against racial segregation. Boasting hit numbers including *Welcome To The 60s*, *You Can't Stop The Beat* and *Good Morning Baltimore*, this latest touring version of the show features former *Strictly Come Dancing* star Joanne Clifton as Velma von Tussle and is directed by *Hairspray* veteran Brenda Edwards.

Here You Come Again: The Dolly Parton Musical

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 10 - Sat 14 September

'Rollicking and joyous new musical' *Here You Come Again* features the music of Dolly Parton and centres around the character of diehard Dolly fan Kevin, who finds solace in his own imagined version of the woman herself.

"The show is very funny," says Steven Webb, who plays Kevin. "It's a really touching journey of self-discovery and self-healing, and comes with the awesome back-catalogue of Dolly Parton's songs. It's not a 'jukebox musical'; it's just me and Dolly Parton in an attic, listening to her music."



Wonder Boy

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 30 Sept - Wed 2 October; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 3 - Sat 5 October;

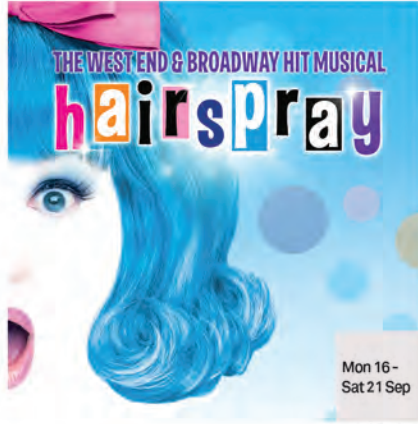
Life is tricky for 12-year-old Sonny. Struggling with a stammer in a world of confusing consonants, vicious vowels and sometimes super-slick small talk, he's certainly not living his best life. Indeed, he's so socially compromised that his one and only friend is Captain Chatter, a comic-book hero of his own creation. Things certainly need to change - but will his headteacher casting him in a school production of *Hamlet* prove to be a welcome turning point or a nightmare of unimaginable proportions?...

Olivier Award-winning director Sally Cookson helms this heartwarming and well-reviewed Bristol Old Vic production.





Tue 10 - Sat 14 Sep



Mon 16 - Sat 21 Sep



Sat 21 Sep



Wed 25 - Sat 28 Sep



Thu 26 - Sat 28 Sep



Wed 2 - Sat 5 Oct



Thu 3 - Sat 5 Oct



Wed 9 Oct - Sun 3 Nov



Fri 11 Oct



Sat 12 Oct



Tue 29 - Thu 31 Oct



Wed 6 - Sat 9 Nov





An Officer And A Gentleman The Musical

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Tues 23 - Sat 28 September

If you're a nostalgia buff with a soft spot for the 1980s, this is a night out at the theatre not to be missed.

Based on the same-named Academy Award-winning film starring Richard Gere and Debra Winger, Leicester Curve's well-reviewed show tracks the heady romance that develops between Zack Mayo - a United States Navy Aviation Officer Candidate - and a young, captivating and seriously fiery woman named Paula Pokrifki.

The story unfolds against a backdrop of classic 1980s pop songs from the likes of Blondie, Bon Jovi, Cyndi Lauper and Madonna. It also features the Oscar-bagging hit, Up Where We Belong, which was recorded by Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes.

Boy Out The City

The Rep, Birmingham,
Wed 4 - Sat 7 September

Moving to the countryside during lockdown came at a price for Declan Bennett. When his boyfriend left on a six-month work placement abroad, Declan found himself with plenty of time on his hands. Time in which to ruminate on his previous life experiences...

...And not everything that he recalled made for a comfortable memory...

Taking audiences on an often-turbulent journey through his earlier years - and in the process bringing them face-to-face with challenging issues such as toxic masculinity, homophobia and men's mental health - Boy Out The City is Coventry-reared Declan's debut play.



Please Do Not Touch

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 11 - Sat 21 September; Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury, Tues 24 September; Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire, Fri 27 - Sat 28 September

The Belgrade here teams up with China Plate to present an ambitious play which not only shines a light on the criminal justice system but also aims to ask important questions

about colonial legacy, contested heritage and how stories are told.

Written by former Birmingham Poet Laureate Casey Bailey - who previously made a splash as a playwright with the critically acclaimed Grimeboy - Please Do Not Touch follows the fortunes of committed activist Mason. A young man who finds himself incarcerated, he determines to keep fighting injustice, even as the system against which he rails seeks to shut him down...

The Enfield Poltergeist

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton,
Wed 4 September; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 14 September

When single mother Peggy Hodgson contacted police in the summer of 1977 to claim that she and her daughters were experiencing paranormal activity in their council house in Enfield, she kickstarted a news story which, almost half a century later, continues to capture the imagination.

This new presentation follows the fortunes of troubled characters - thrown together within the walls of the supposedly haunted house - who must not only solve the mystery of the poltergeist but also come to terms with their own tragic pasts...



Hancock's Half Hour: The Lost TV Episodes

Malvern Theatres, Sat 21 September; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Thurs 3 October; Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 4 October; Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent, Wed 6 November

The extraordinary mid-20th-century success of Hancock's Half Hour is hard to convey some 70 years after it premiered on BBC radio. Suffice to say that with scripts supplied by an early-career Galton & Simpson, and with its star, Birmingham-born comedian Tony Hancock, at the very peak of his powers, the show quickly became the stuff of legend - and particularly after it transferred to television in 1956...

Award-winning theatre company Hambleton Productions here pay homage to the show by recreating, live on stage, three 'lost' episodes from the original TV series: The Bequest, The Auction and The Russian Prince.

The Very Best Of Tommy Cooper (Just Like That)

Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Wed 4 September; Halesowen Town Hall, Thurs 19 September; Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Fri 20 September

With his comedy fez and dodgy magic tricks, Tommy Cooper was one of Britain's best-loved entertainers - and this 90-minute one-man show pays loving tribute to him. Starring West End performer Daniel Taylor as Tommy, the production is out on tour having made a big impact at last year's Glastonbury Festival.

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MON 7 - SAT 12 OCT '24
& JULIET



SUN 27 OCT '24
THE ELVIS YEARS



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Theatre previews from around the region



An Inspector Calls

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 25 - Sat 28 September, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 4 - Sat 8 February; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 4 - Sat 8 March; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 6 - Sat 10 May

When Inspector Goole calls unexpectedly on the prosperous Birling family, his startling revelations not only shatter the foundations of their lives but also challenge them to examine their consciences...

Anybody who's seen a production of JB Priestley's classic 1945 play will have no trouble understanding why it's been such a long-time worldwide hit.

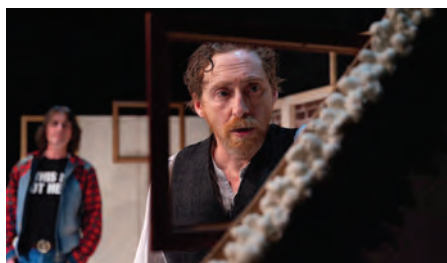
Presented by the National Theatre, Stephen Daldry's epic production has won 19 major awards and been seen by more than five million theatregoers worldwide.

When Vincent Met John

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 18 September; Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 25 & Thurs 26 September; Coach House Theatre, Malvern, Sat 28 September

An intriguing new play by Nick Wilkes, *When Vincent Met John* imagines a meeting between two hugely famous and widely celebrated artists.

Vincent van Gogh and John Lennon both experienced profound change during their final years, with the former renouncing his religious ambitions and the latter, sex, drugs and rock & roll. With the clock ticking, and with each man straining for something, is there a way forward for either of these passionate, unpredictable, temperamental and volatile artists?



Krapp's Last Tape

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sun 22 September

This memorable one-act offering explores the character of a 69-year-old man who is described by the play's writer, Samuel Beckett, as 'filled up to his teeth with bitterness'.

Listening to a tape he made on his 39th birthday, Krapp revisits fragments of his own life and contemplates how the fires of

passion which he felt as a young man have been transformed into a simple "burning to be gone".

National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company actor David Westhead plays Krapp in a production directed by Academy Award nominee Stockard Channing.

The pair will take part in a 30-minute post-show Q&A



Rita Sue And Bob Too

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 21 September

When best friends Rita and Sue are given a lift home by married-man Bob after they've spent the evening babysitting his kids, they find themselves embarking on a sexual adventure that swiftly spirals out of control...

By the time Andrea Dunbar was 20, she had written two critically acclaimed plays - *The Arbor*, at the age of 15, and the wickedly funny *Rita, Sue And Bob Too*, four years later. Hailed a genius straight from the slums, Dunbar spent time in a Women's Aid refuge, had three children by three men, developed a serious addiction to alcohol and died of a brain haemorrhage at the age of 29. Both of her plays, but particularly *Rita...*, are shining examples of an extraordinary talent that burned brightly for all too short a time...

Play On!

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 23 September - Sat 5 October; Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 6 - Sat 9 November

As retellings of Shakespeare plays go, this one is seriously jazzed up - literally!

A clever reimagining of *Twelfth Night* that brings together street dance choreography with the music of Duke Ellington, Talawa theatre company's *Play On!* focuses on the character of songwriter Vy as she looks to make it big in the male-dominated world of 1940s Harlem.



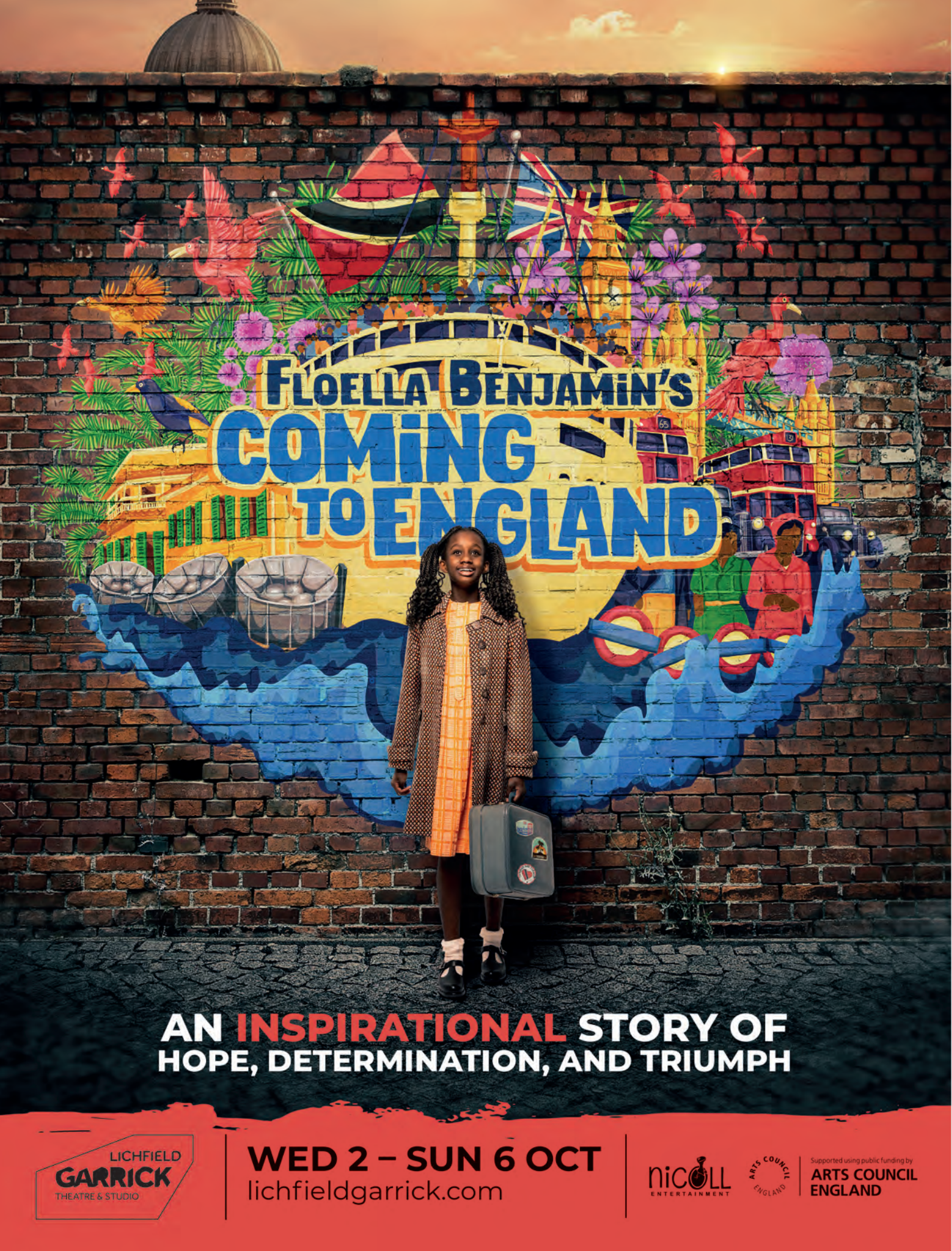
Pericles

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 21 September

A rarely performed Shakespeare play - perhaps in part because of questions over its authorship - *Pericles* sees the title character fleeing for his life after learning of an incestuous relationship between King Antiochus and his daughter...

This new Royal Shakespeare Company production is helmed by Tamara Harvey, who last year became the RSC's co-artistic director.





FLOELLA BENJAMIN'S COMING TO ENGLAND

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Theatre for younger audiences



The Magic Flute

The Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 5 September

The highly talented Wild Arts return with a new production of Mozart's final work. The Magic Flute tells the story of Prince Tamino, who, having fallen in love with Pamina - the kidnapped daughter of the Queen of the Night - must battle the forces of darkness and light in order to rescue her... Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne and Opera North regular James Hurley directs.



The McDougalls In Toyland: A Singalong Adventure

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 21 September

Scottish music & theatre favourites The McDougalls are bringing their Toyland train to the Midlands. The highly rated creatives, who cleverly blend education and entertainment in their shows, are here inviting audiences to join them in 'a magical land over the rainbow, full of talking teddies, jolly jigsaws and dancing dollies'... Sounds like an opportunity not to be missed...



Charlie Cook's Favourite Book

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 27 - Sun 29 September; Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 18 - Sun 20 October; Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 26 & Sun 27 October

Given the success of so many other stage adaptations of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's hugely popular stories (see, for example, The Gruffalo, elsewhere on this page), it's a real no-brainer to mount a live version of Charlie Cook's Favourite Book. Presented via the ever-popular combination of clever puppetry and enchanting songs, the show follows Charlie's attempts to get his sister to read.



Peppa Pig's Fun Day Out

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 18 & Thurs 19 September; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 September; Malvern Theatres, Wed 16 - Thurs 17 October

If you've taken your little ones to any of the previous Peppa Pig stage shows - and enjoyed the experience of watching them having a fantastic time - you'll be in no doubt whatsoever that this latest production is well worth catching. The show sees Peppa, along with her family and friends, enjoying a fun-packed day at the zoo and the beach. Parents are advised to prepare their children for all manner of cracking capers, including singing and dancing with colourful scarecrows, feeding penguins, building big sandcastles, and swimming in the sea!... Looks like an oinktastic time is going to be had by all!

In The Night Garden Live

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 4 - Thurs 5 September

Youngsters who are big fans of much-loved CBeebies television series In The Night Garden are certain to adore this live version as well. And it's not only kids who love the stage shows; according to audience surveys and parents' reviews, nine out of 10 adults consider In The Night Garden Live to be a five-star theatrical experience. The show lasts for 55 interval-free minutes, sees Igglepiggle looking for his friends in the Night Garden (by following their funny sounds), and features a very special visit from 'the amazing flying Pinky Ponk'.

Dear Zoo

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 28 & Sun 29 September; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 2 November

First published in 1982, Dear Zoo - a lift-the-flap book by Rod Campbell - has delighted generations of children and accumulated millions of sales worldwide. This hugely popular stage version of the story features music, puppets and lots of audience participation.



The Gruffalo

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 24 & Wed 25 September

Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's delightful children's book is once again brought vividly to life, this time to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its publication. The stage show is presented by award-winning theatre company Tall Stories, who've garnered an excellent reputation in terms of performing Donaldson & Scheffler's work. Their imaginative retelling of the much-loved story comes complete with talented cast, catchy songs and magical characters.



TELLING STORIES

Former Birmingham Poet Laureate Casey Bailey talks about his new play, *Please Do Not Touch*, which is making its debut at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre this month...



Whenever Birmingham writer Casey Bailey visited historic houses, he would see signs saying, 'Please do not touch'. But these signs were often on artefacts which had been plundered from other nations over the centuries. Which set him to thinking - when is it okay to touch, when is it forbidden, and what happens when you break the rules? It was these strange juxtapositions which sparked his latest play, *Please Do Not Touch*, which premieres at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre this month.

"My wife and I would go to National Trust houses or English Heritage houses, and I started to become conscious of the fact that I would walk into these houses, these spaces, these galleries, and would see things that would have signs saying 'Please do not touch'. But at the same time, they were things which should never have been touched *in the first place*."

"It was seeing these signs on plates from China, furniture from India, artefacts from Africa - that got me to thinking: what are the real stories of these things? How have they ended up here? And why are they still here?" In having such thoughts, Casey was tapping into the current international debate about the restitution of items taken from across the world by Western explorers, archaeologists and historians in previous centuries. Many such items now feature in the collections of museums, galleries and historic houses.

"As you can imagine, that is a huge thing all over the country and all over the world. It's the Benin Bronzes, the Koh-i-Noor diamond - once you start looking, you just see it everywhere."

Casey, who grew up in Nechells in Birmingham and was Birmingham Poet Laureate from 2020 to 2022, first explored these ideas in his verse collection, *Please Do Not Touch*, which was published in 2021. Then, together with Jade Samuels, the associate producer of Birmingham-based theatre-producing studio China Plate, he began developing the ideas within the poetry collection into a drama featuring a central character named Mason, a social justice TikToker who asks these questions.

"The play is about a boy who's in prison because he challenged the system. We then try and look at the parallels and the layers of the criminal justice system, layered on top of colonialism, layered on top of the prison system, with this idea of heritage and legacy filtering through it all."

"So a boy goes into a house where a man travelled all round the world and took millions and millions of pounds worth of things and became a hero. How then does a boy go in there and touch something and become a criminal? At what point did the rules change, or who are the rules different for?"

A co-production by the Belgrade and China Plate, *Please Do Not Touch* is directed by award-winning theatre maker Gail Babb. The role of Mason is taken by Tijan Sarr, who most recently played DC Jason Kennedy in two series of UKTV's *The Marlow Murder Club*.

Casey researched the work through interviews and workshops with different organisations and people.

"We've worked with a variety of heritage organisations, including Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, different heritage houses and the National Trust. That work was done in workshop-based settings where we would present parts of the play, we would tell the story, we would take questions and answer questions, and we would talk about the crux of this issue that the play is getting at. Those conversations were challenging at times but really useful."

"Then I spent some time in Winson Green Prison. I went into Swinfen Hall and did some work with the young men there, and I went to Felton and did some work there."

"Those sessions were perhaps the most inspirational sessions, and they really helped me to focus in on the story of this young man. He's not the vehicle for the story; he is the story."

"I grew up around Winson jail. Lots of people I grew up around went to jail, so I was confident I had an idea of what that was like. But going in and talking to some really articulate, really well-measured and thoughtful young men who are going through a difficult time gave me an insight that I couldn't have got elsewhere. That was really important."

"The final factor, outside the creative team, has been community. We've done some work with Free@Last, which is an amazing charity based in Nechells. They just tap into that community where the young people might not normally go to the theatre; they might not engage with these kinds of houses and places. I wanted the perspective of people who sit totally outside of this world that I'm creating and the things I'm writing about."

"So I got the young people to come in and hear some readings, ask questions, interrogate the piece. It was a blessing. It's always good to work with Free@Last, and their insight has been really useful."

Alongside being a successful writer, Casey is also a teacher. Having previously worked at Coundon Court School in Coventry, he is currently assistant headteacher at Idsall School in Shifnal, Shropshire.

His previous drama, *GrimeBoy*, played to sell-out houses at Birmingham Rep, and he very much enjoys the process of theatre-making.

"For me, especially being a poet turned playwright, for years I have written things and performed them, or written and



published them, and it's just me doing that.

"In this theatre world, I write these things, and then I watch Tijan, the actor, bring them to life and I'm like, 'How does this feel so much better than the thing I wrote down?'"

"It's really exciting to see. And with the production, there's a whole process around how does the lighting work to tell the story, how does the physical aspect of the stage tell the story?"

Casey feels that the Belgrade is the perfect venue in which to premiere *Please Do Not Touch*.

"I have a good relationship with the Belgrade's creative director, Corey Campbell, and I really love the venue. I love Coventry. I used to teach in Coventry and pass the Belgrade every day, and I've been there to perform before."

"I think that where the Belgrade is - in terms of their genuine openness to explore beyond the surface, and to ask difficult questions, and to put on new and inspiring work - means that it is *absolutely* the theatre where I see a play like *Please Do Not Touch* - which is challenging and asks lots of questions - being performed."

After the premiere, Casey hopes the play will find additional audiences.

"I would love to see it tour or have a run at another venue. I think it's a story for Birmingham, for Manchester, for London, for Liverpool or for Bristol. I would love to see it in some of these places and see what people make of it."

"But at the moment, I'm working with an amazing team, and the key thing for us is that we make this the best play we can for the audiences at the Belgrade."

.....
Please Do Not Touch shows at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, from Wednesday 11 to Saturday 21 September



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Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham



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Light entertainment from around the region



Come What May

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 27 September; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 10 October

As films go, 2001's Moulin Rouge might be considered a real 'Marmite' movie; cinemagoers tended either to love it with all their heart or hate it with an unbridled passion... If you're a fully paid-up member of the former category, this currently touring show is definitely a night out at the theatre well worth catching!

AJ and Curtis Pritchard top the bill in a production which aims to transport its audience 'to the dazzling world of the Moulin Rouge'.

Alongside iconic songs from the film, the two-and-a-half-hour extravaganza (including interval) also features a selection of 'timeless hits from other modern movie musicals'...

Su Pollard: Still Fully Charged

The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 12 September; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sun 29 September; Stourbridge Town Hall, Tues 1 October; Malvern Theatres, Sat 5 October; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 22 March 2025

Nottingham-born actress & singer Su Pollard shot to fame in the early 1980s when she scored a huge hit as chalet maid Peggy Ollerenshaw in the popular BBC TV sitcom *Hi-de-Hi!*.



Well known for her eccentric personality and quirky dress sense, she's out on the road this autumn with a production in which she looks back at her 50 years in the entertainment industry. Expect songs from the shows, backstage secrets from her diaries, and maybe even the appearance of one or two familiar characters!

The Noise Next Door

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 28 September; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 26 October; Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, Sun 10 November

Praised for presenting their audiences with 'a superior kind of chaos', The Noise Next Door is a quartet of improvising comedians who've been garnering critical praise for a good few years now. Big in Edinburgh at festival time, they pride themselves on their originality and quick-wittedness (the latter being pretty much essential in the world of

improvisational comedy!).

Their previous on-stage endeavours have included a mini-musical embracing the uncomfortable bedfellows of pantomime, folk music and death-metal, and a surreal adventure in which the Magic Roundabout's Zebedee leads the forces of good against Darth Vader, who's holed up in Worcester Cathedral. Check 'em out.

An Evening Without Kate Bush

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 13 September; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Sat 28 September; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 27 October

With Kate Bush less than enthusiastic about performing live, cabaret stalwart Sarah-Louise Young has stepped into the breach to present this lively stand-in offering. It's not a tribute show in the conventional sense of the word, but it certainly has more than enough for Bush lovers to enjoy, including impressive renditions of their idol's greatest hits.



Defying Gravity: West End Women

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Fri 13 September; Malvern Theatres, Sat 16 November

This celebration of talented women who've made their mark on the West End stage sees a cast of exceptional vocalists being joined by

an all-female band. Expect an evening filled with backstage anecdotes, fascinating insights and - perhaps most importantly - showstopping songs from award-winning productions, including *Wicked*, *Les Miserables*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Waitress*.

Danny Beard

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Fri 6 September

"He's high fashion, hilarious and hairy," says Graham Norton in talking about Danny Beard.



"What's not to love?" Former Drag Race UK winner Danny is stopping off in Birmingham this month with a show that's being publicised as 'a five-star night of killer vocals, snappy comedy, put-downs and pick-me-ups'.

The Choriza May Show

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Wed 11 September; Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 20 September

Big drag energy. Lots of laughs. Breathtaking lip syncs. Dazzling costumes. Fruitilicious music. Yep, that's right, Choriza May is painting the town red this month and inviting an ever-growing army of fans to join in the fun. There may even be an appearance from everybody's favourite owl...





ALL THE SKY'S A STAGE

An epic drone light show featuring hundreds of animated drones will debut at Birmingham's Edgbaston Stadium this autumn (Saturday 26 October). Created by local experiences company, Yuup, and Celestial - a multi-award-winning company specialising in drone entertainment - Evolution: The Drone Light Show promises to take audiences on a wild journey through time and space, telling the story of the birth of the universe and the beginnings of life on Earth.

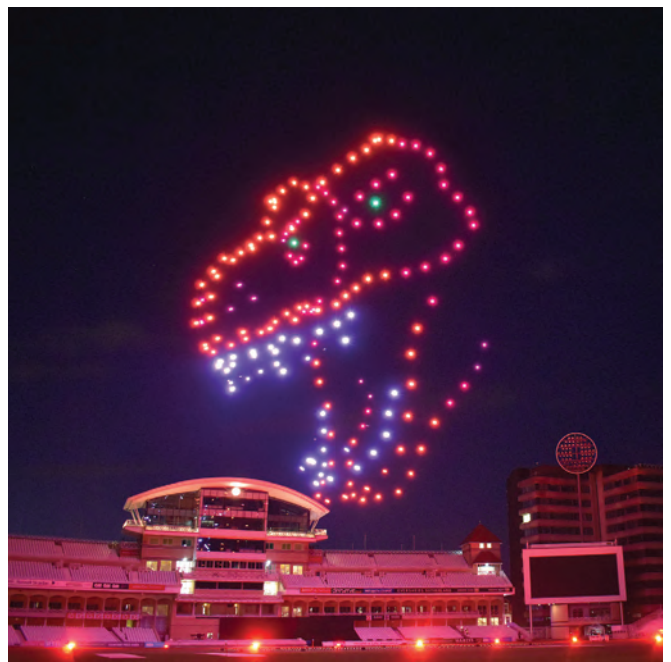
What's On recently caught up with Ella Hogan from Edgbaston Stadium and Dominic Mills from Yuup to find out more about this innovative form of entertainment, and what audiences can expect...

What makes Edgbaston the perfect venue to host Evolution: The Drone Light Show?

Edgbaston Stadium is ideal due to its spacious layout and state-of-the-art facilities, which can comfortably accommodate large crowds while ensuring everyone has a clear view of the show. The venue's history of hosting major events also means it is well-equipped to handle the logistical demands of a large-scale drone show, providing amazing food and drink along the way.

What's behind the venue's decision to move away from traditional firework displays in favour of this form of entertainment?

The decision aligns with growing trends towards sustainability and innovation. Drone light shows offer a visually stunning, eco-friendly alternative to fireworks, reducing noise pollution and the environmental impact of smoke and debris typically associated with pyrotechnics.



Environmentally friendly • Good for people with sensory needs • Both educational and entertaining

Tell us about the audience experience. What can they expect?

This is a fantastic evening for all the family. The food village will provide a wide range of food and drink options to enjoy before the show, and then it's time to take your seats for a spectacular evening of entertainment like nothing you've experienced before. The audience will watch an extraordinary story from the dawn of time. Evolution is the very latest in creative entertainment, with an epic celebration of life on Earth told through hundreds of animated drones. The show recreates monumental moments in history - from the Big Bang and reign of the dinosaurs, right through to the modern-day moon landings and life as it is today. Expect cutting-edge technology and immersive storytelling of epic proportions, along with a powerful cinematic soundtrack.

“ A wonderful experience that drew on the imagination of all ages ”

How long does the performance last?

This is a 45-minute experience comprising an 18-minute pre-show entertainment and a 27-minute drone light show.

What else can visitors see and do on the night?

The host for the evening will be Ed James, from Heart FM's Drivetime show. During the build-up to the event, Ed will be getting the audience excited with music, conversation and lots of interaction before the countdown to the start of the show itself. Immediately before the main show, there will be a short intro to Celestial, the show's creators, and an exciting new pre-show experience featuring drone racing.

Any new additions to the show for 2024?

Yes, the drone show itself has doubled in length (now 27 minutes of flight time) and features a new voiceover and many more drone animations than the original iteration of the show first performed in 2023. Plus, there's the brand-new pre-show drone racing.

Is it a seated or standing event?

Edgbaston will provide all spectators with seats for the show, with every seat having an amazing view of the entertainment. Wheelchair-accessible seating is available, and the venue is fully equipped to accommodate guests with disabilities, offering flat ground seating in designated areas. We also have sensory rooms to offer an interactive safe space for our guests.

How many drones make up Evolution?

The show features hundreds of drones, with multiple drone swarms launching throughout the show.



How inclusive is the event for audiences with sensory needs and people with physical disabilities?

Edgbaston is a fully accessible venue and tickets are available for wheelchair users in dedicated areas. Blue badge parking is available but must be pre-booked. Complimentary tickets are available for carers. Sensory Rooms are available for children and adults with sensory processing issues so that they can watch the show in a calm environment. More information about these facilities is available by contacting Edgbaston Customer Services.

What measures will the venue put in place to ease footfall/traffic flow as people enter and exit the show?

We open the gates two hours before the pre-show, giving spectators plenty of time to arrive, grab food and drinks, and find their seats. To ensure a safe arrival and exit for all guests, road closures will be in place, with parking available just a short walk away. Multiple entry points will be available, with stewards and staff on hand to ensure everyone can enter quickly and safely. A shuttle bus service will be available from New Street Station from 5.30pm, providing a direct service to the stadium. This shuttle service will also be operational post-event for the return journey to New Street. *Ella*

Evolution - The Drone Light Show visits Edgbaston Stadium on Saturday 26 October.
Tickets start at £21 and are on sale now at yuup.co/evolution

Value for money - drone show and additional entertainment • Easily accessible venue

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Director Carlos Acosta

Luna

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The creation of *Luna* is possible thanks to a five-year package of support of the Oak Foundation. *Luna* has also received grants from H Steven and P E Wood Trust, The John S Cohen Foundation, The Oakley Charitable Trust and the RPS Drummond Lockyer Fund for Dance.

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Dance previews from across the region

Romeo & Juliet

Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Thurs 19 - Sat 28 September

This first chance in decades to experience a ballet performed on the Royal Shakespeare Theatre stage sees Northern Ballet presenting Sergei Prokofiev's much-loved version of the greatest love story ever told. The Leeds-based company has developed a reputation for producing work which focuses not only on dancing but also storytelling - a fact very much in evidence in this particular show, one of the ensemble's most beloved and critically acclaimed productions.



Giselle

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Fri 6 & Sat 7 September

Premiered in Paris in 1841, Giselle tells the story of a peasant girl who dies of a broken heart when she finds out that the man with whom she has fallen in love, a nobleman named Albrecht, is engaged to another woman.

After Giselle's funeral, Albrecht finds himself in mortal danger: The Wilis, a sisterhood of ghosts who in life were jilted by their lovers, have returned to take their terrible revenge... Adolphe Adam's surreal romantic ballet is here presented by the award-winning English Youth Ballet.



Lord Of The Dance

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 6 - Sunday 8 September; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 30 September - Sun 6 October

Since catapulting Irish dance into the limelight back in 1996, Michael Flatley's Lord Of The Dance has become an international phenomenon. The production presents a tale of good versus evil, in the process combining precision dancing with cutting-edge technology. For those who're interested in the story as well as the dancing, the show recounts the journey of the Lord Of The Dance as he travels through a mythical universe of love, danger and desire to protect his people from the evil powers of Don Dorcha, the Dark Lord.

BRB: La Fille mal gardée

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Wed 25 - Sat 28 September

Frederick Ashton's 1960 version of La Fille mal gardée is a firm family favourite. A choreographed exploration of rural life, it tells the simple and engaging story of Lise - the daughter of Widow Simone - and her mother's attempts to find her a wealthy suitor.

The production features live music by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, not to mention 'slick comedy', a clog-dancing dame and a super-cute pony!



TO THE MOON AND BACK

Birmingham Royal Ballet's brand-new production, *Luna*, champions women as creators, innovators and activists...



Female empowerment is at the heart of Birmingham Royal Ballet's Luna, which premieres in the city next month. The final installment in Carlos Acosta's trilogy of ballets paying homage to Birmingham, the production comprises six scenes created by five internationally renowned choreographers. Producer Caroline Davis recently spoke to What's On about the forthcoming show...

Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) will next month premiere *Luna*, a production which turns the spotlight on the role of women as creators, innovators and activists, both in the history of Birmingham and in a global context.

The work has been inspired by Louise Palfreyman's critically acclaimed book, *Once Upon A Time In Birmingham: Women Who Dare To Dream*, and has been created by an all-female team featuring choreographers, designers, a composer and a producer. Comprising six scenes created by five internationally renowned choreographers, *Luna* aims to give a sense of the experience of all women in overcoming barriers and driving forward positive change, rather than simply picking out individual stories.

Showing at Birmingham Hippodrome in early October, the production forms part of a trilogy of Birmingham-inspired ballets conceived by BRB's director, Carlos Acosta, as a homage to the city. The other two productions in the trilogy are *City Of A Thousand Trades* and the box-office smash, *Black Sabbath - The Ballet*.

Luna is a two-hour ballet, with each of its scenes approximately 15 minutes long and based around the theme of female empowerment.

"Louise Palfreyman's book was very much the start of the idea," says the show's producer, Caroline Davis. "It allowed us to look at a rich picture of what brilliant things women are doing in the city, and to look at it with a much more female lens. What you end up with is something really exciting.

"It's an opportunity to think about a different side of the city, about people who are empowering other women, overcoming adversity, dreaming about educating themselves here for a better life and for children and the future."

Luna begins with *Terra*. Created by Dutch choreographer Wubkje Kuindersma, the work features the song *I Am I Say*, performed by a group of local children who were recruited through an open call earlier in the year.

Over the past few months, 30 young people have worked with composer Kate Whitley and received training from BRB's Learning, Engagement, Access & Participation department and the education team at Birmingham choir Ex Cathedra. They will take to the stage at various points throughout the work, acting as a Greek chorus and bringing together some of the themes.

"It's been a huge opportunity for these children," says Caroline. "This element is

about including children who are representative of the city. It's about their natural voice coming through, so they are singing about the future and climate change."

The second piece, *Daring To Dream Big*, has been created by British choreographer Seeta Patel and looks at education as a force for positive change.

"What's really interesting," says Caroline, "is that having given the book to them all as a creative stimulus, Seeta has very much focused on the power of education. It's about what education unlocks in terms of emancipation and dreams and hopes.

"We have something very different in this piece with Seeta because of her Bharatanatyam artform approach. She's not trying to choreograph in that style on a classical ballet company, but her approach is very different, and she has pulled out this idea of how books and studying can unlock you to become a teacher, a conductor, a doctor and an activist.

"And the really lovely part of it is that the book has beautiful illustrations in it, and what Seeta wanted us to do was to involve schoolchildren and some of the *Luna* children in collecting some of their drawings, which will feature as part of the animation. So there has been a lovely way for us to involve, as part of Carlos' trilogy, the city's children in the production of the piece."

The final scene before the interval, *Overcoming Adversity*, has been choreographed by Cuba's Thais Suárez and features a pas de deux set to a new arrangement of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*.

"In Thais' piece there's a father figure, and it's about the role of the community and the responsibility of supporting women to go out there and make their lives.

"So choreographically she has divided the stage into three with lines. The choreography will begin at the back. One dancer moves forwards, and there is a point where she has to cross the threshold without that familial support. So it's about overcoming adversity and memory and the support of family and broader community in doing that."

After the interval, the audience will see British choreographer Arielle Smith's *Empowerment*. Featuring eight female dancers, the work is preceded by the children performing another new song, created by Kate, called *There Is Silence*.

"Arielle is much in demand as a choreographer. She's just been working with San Francisco Ballet and the London City

Ballet, and is choreographing English National Ballet's *Nutcracker*. Her piece is all about empowerment; about how women can lift women up.

"Then we're into Act Two Scene Two, which has been choreographed by Iratxe Ansa, who is a Spanish choreographer. Her work is exceptional - it's a good challenge to the company. It's very contemporary movement. So it's one female, the same lead as in Thais' piece, returning with the eight corps de ballet, and she struggles against dancers in masks. So we really see the struggles of a lone woman played out in a patriarchal society."

The finale, *Luna*, again created by Wubkje Kuindersma, features the children and dancers reunited in a positive future.

"The finale is dreaming about a better life, and for the future for these children, and this idea that we are now on the moon. We haven't yet had a woman on the moon and hopefully that might change."

All of the pieces are set against a waxing and waning moon in a design which features costumes by Imaan Ashraf, projection by Hayley Egan and lighting by Emma Jones. One of the aims of the project has been to bring together and foster a female team of creators.

"It is really important that we ensure we give women representation in the arts. The fact that BRB has said 'We are going to put this commissioning and production money into an all-female creative team' is hugely important. We need to make sure we develop that pipeline, and that people get the opportunity to have their interpretations told on these fantastic stages that we've got, both in Birmingham and London.

"And the result will be a really special production. I hope that, particularly for female audiences, they can see elements of their personal lives, hopes, dreams and struggles played out on the stage. And that people also go away thinking about the feminine identity of the city and the female population, who are working to keep the city going and to provide a better life for the children. And I hope they will also go away thinking that they have seen something rather spellbinding and beautiful."

.....
BRB present *Luna* at Birmingham Hippodrome from Thursday 3 to Friday 5 October. The company will also perform *La Fille mal gardée* at the venue from Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 September

Film highlights in September...



Beetlejuice Beetlejuice CERT tbc (104 mins)

Starring **Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder, Catherine O'Hara, Justin Theroux, Jenna Ortega, Monica Bellucci**
Directed by **Tim Burton**

As sequels go, this one's taken a considerable amount of time to find its way to cinema screens. The original Beetlejuice movie landed way back in 1988 and earned plenty of praise for its just-starting-out director, Tim Burton, and its title-role actor, a pre-Batman Michael Keaton. Both are back in the saddle for Beetlejuice Beetlejuice, and are joined by fellow original cast members Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara. Here's the official synopsis: "After an unexpected family tragedy, three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life is turned upside down when rebellious teenage daughter Astrid discovers the mysterious model of the town in the attic, and the portal to the Afterlife is accidentally opened. With trouble brewing in both realms, it's only a matter of time until someone says Beetlejuice's name three times and the mischievous demon returns to unleash his very own brand of mayhem." **Released Fri 6 September**



Lee CERT 15 (116 mins)

Starring **Kate Winslet, Alexander Skarsgård, Andy Samberg, Marion Cotillard, Josh O'Connor, Andrea Riseborough**
Directed by **Ellen Kuras**

Kate Winslet here stars as pioneering frontline war correspondent Lee Miller, a fashion model turned photographer who is perhaps best known for her Second World War photos. Her portfolio included impactful images of the London Blitz and the liberation of Paris, while she also used her camera to record the concentration-camp horrors of Buchenwald and Dachau. "To me, she was a life force to be reckoned with," says Winslet in talking about the New York-born Miller. "This photographer, writer, reporter, did everything she did with love, lust and courage, and is an inspiration of what you can achieve, and what you can bear, if you dare to take life firmly by the hands and live it at full throttle."

Released Fri 13 September



Speak No Evil CERT 15 (110 mins)

Starring **James McAvoy, Mackenzie Davis, Scoot McNairy, Aisling Franciosi, Alix West Lefler, Kris Hitchen** Directed by **James Watkins**

When an American family is invited to spend the weekend at the idyllic country estate of a charming British family they befriended on vacation, what begins as a dream holiday soon warps into a snarled psychological nightmare...

James McAvoy turns in a riveting performance as the charismatic, alpha-male estate owner whose untrammelled hospitality masks an unspeakable darkness. The film is a remake of a 2022 Danish movie of the same name.

Released Fri 13 September

Firebrand CERT 15 (121 mins)

Starring **Alicia Vikander, Jude Law, Sam Riley, Eddie Marsan, Erin Doherty, Ruby Bentall, Bryony Hannah** Directed by **Karim Ainouz**

Set in blood-soaked Tudor England and screened at Cannes last year, Firebrand failed to ignite any great amount of excitement among the critics.

The film finds Katherine Parr, the sixth and final wife of King Henry VIII, taking on the role of Regent - while her tyrannical husband is fighting overseas - and doing everything she can to push for a new future based on her radical Protestant beliefs. But when an increasingly ailing and paranoid Henry returns, he focuses his fury on the radicals, and Katherine soon finds herself in a desperate fight for survival...

Released Fri 6 September



Wolfs CERT tbc (108 mins)

Starring **Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Amy Ryan, Austin Abrams, Poorna Jagannathan** Directed by **Jon Watts**

Wolfs sees superstars George Clooney and Brad Pitt teaming up for a fifth time, having previously shared big-screen space in Steven Soderbergh's three-movie Ocean's Eleven franchise and then teaming up for Joel & Ethan Coen's 2008 feature, Burn After Reading.

This latest collaboration is an action comedy in which both play lone-wolf fixers who separately turn up at the same address with instructions to cover up the same high-profile crime. Forced to work together, they soon find their night spiralling out of control in ways that neither of them expected...

Released Fri 20 September



The Substance

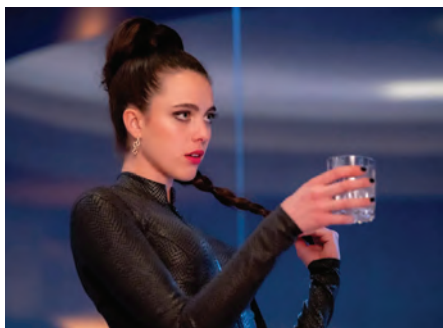
CERT 18 (140 mins)

Starring **Margaret Qualley, Dennis Quaid, Demi Moore, Hugo Diego Garcia, Alexandra Papoulias Barton, Joseph Balderrama** Directed by **Coralie Fargeat**

Publicised as a 'be careful what you wish for' fable, The Substance sees past-her-prime one-time A-lister Elisabeth Sparkle taking drastic action to turn her fading fortunes on their head. Suddenly fired from her fitness TV show by the repellent studio head, she decides to take advantage of a mysterious new drug known as The Substance. With one single injection, she is reborn, albeit temporarily, as a gorgeous twentysomething. But with life starting to look a little rosier, Elisabeth needs to abide by one essential rule connected to The Substance: time needs to be split - exactly one week in one body, then one week in the other. No exceptions. A perfect balance.

What could possibly go wrong?...

Released Fri 20 September



Hellboy: The Crooked Man

CERT tbc

Starring **Jack Kesy, Jefferson White, Leah McNamara, Adeline Rudolph, Joseph Marcell, Martin Bassindale** Directed by **Brian Taylor**

Mike Mignola's comic-book character makes a welcome return in a second reboot of the film franchise. The first left fans of the original Guillermo Del Toro movies feeling seriously underwhelmed, so there's a significant amount riding on this latest offering. Hellboy enthusiasts will no doubt feel somewhat reassured by creator Mignola's take on the new film. "[My favourite thing was] to see how close it is to the comics," he told Screen Rant. "There are several shots in there that are panels from the comics and your fear is always... that it's going to lose something. But all my favourite moments from the comic are in there..."

Released Fri 27 September

Never Let Go CERT 15 (101 mins)

Starring **Halle Berry, Christin Park, Matthew Kevin Anderson, Stewphanie Lavigne, Anthony B Jenkins, Mila Morgan** Directed by **Alexandre Aja**

With only their house and the ties that bind them together as protection, a mother and her twin sons battle against demonic forces that have taken over the world beyond their front doorstep. But when one of the boys questions whether the evil is real, the family's bond is broken - a development that then triggers a terrifying fight for survival... A psychological thriller from visionary director Alexandre Aja, Never Let Go finds Halle Berry in excellent form. But according to The Hollywood Reporter, the Oscar-winning actress recently admitted that making the film was no walk in the park: "There was no electricity, no lights, my character skinning squirrels, and they're eating bugs and frogs - raw frogs - in the woods. It was a challenge!"

Released Fri 27 September





The Reflected Self: Portrait Miniatures, 1550 - 1850

Compton Verney, Warwickshire,
Sat 21 September - Sun 23 February

Across a period exceeding 300 years, portrait miniature paintings created in Britain performed numerous functions. Not only did they serve as emblems of love and loyalty, they were also used as markers of royal favour and exchanged as diplomatic gifts between foreign courts.

Compton Verney's new exhibition celebrates these exquisitely painted portable portraits, bringing together artwork from the gallery's own collection with important loans from the Dumas Egerton Trust Collection and private lenders.

The exhibition also includes specially commissioned films, bringing to life the highly personal nature of the portraits. Work by contemporary artists - demonstrating the miniatures' ongoing relevance and ability to captivate - also features.



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Festival of Glass
23-26 August 2024

Image: French Tarts by Sarah Brown. Photo by Tas Kyprianou



British Glass Biennale 2024

Furnace Auditorium, Glasshouse Arts Centre, Stourbridge, until Sat 28 September

The flagship exhibition of the International Festival of Glass, the Biennale showcases some of the world-class glass currently being made in the UK and features work by 121 selected artists. The return of the People's Prize Award

allows families to get involved by voting for their favourite piece, while the Young Collectors' Award sees the winning child receive a piece of contemporary glass to start their very own collection.

New Horizons

Stourbridge Glass Museum, until Sat 16 November

This popular returning exhibition, presented by the Contemporary Glass Society, showcases a selection of work by 20-plus talented artists employing both traditional and modern methods of glass making. Processes including hot glass, casting, kiln formed, pâte de verre, lampworking, neon and stained glass are featured, with the works on display 'challenging and exploring the boundaries of glass'.



Claudette Johnson: Darker Than Blue

The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham, until Friday 15 September

Darker Than Blue is Claudette Johnson's first solo show in the Midlands. The Turner Prize nominee's work often takes the human figure as its subject and in particular explores the experience of Black women - including herself. "It's wonderful that Claudette has been nominated and recognised for her incredible work," says the Barber's director, Professor Jennifer Powell. "It is really powerful, with striking and confident line work - and her figures always hold your gaze."



Joy... Inspired By Nature

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 22 September

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum's free-to-enjoy exhibition comes complete with giant flowers, bursts of rainbow colours, and sounds and smells that awaken inner tranquillity.

Joy...Inspired By Nature sees acclaimed artists Nicola Richardson and Marianne Taviner create 'an eye-popping wonderland that playfully reconnects us to nature'.

The exhibition features two special commissions: a scentscape by Gemma Costin and a soundscape by Ashley James Brown. Local artist Abeda Begum joins the team in crafting the final installation.



The Year Was 1944

National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, until Sun 3 November

Autumn visitors to the Arboretum are invited to take an immersive journey back in time via this fascinating World War Two exhibition.

Nineteen forty-four was, of course, the year of the D-Day landings in Normandy. Back in Britain, the war continued to dictate the way in which people lived their lives...

The exhibition revolves around the wartime home of the Ball family, providing an insight into life on the home front during what was to prove a pivotal year in the long-running conflict.

No Going Back

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, until Sun 2 March

A thought-provoking and, for visitors of a certain vintage, memory-stirring exhibition, No Going Back is presented by North Staffs Miners Wives and revisits the Miners' Strike of 1984/85.

Featuring photographs and memorabilia recalling an event which radically changed Britain's industrial landscape forever, the display will remain available to view until early March, its closure coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the end of the strike.



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Events previews from around the region



A Place In The Sun Live NEC, Birmingham, Fri 20 - Sun 22 September

If you're looking to invest in overseas property, *A Place In The Sun Live* offers the perfect opportunity to find out pretty much everything you'll need to know. Estate agents will be flying in from around the world to showcase hundreds of overseas properties, while lawyers, currency specialists, tax experts and specialist

advisers will be on hand to answer house hunters' questions. The hit Channel Four TV series' presenters will be in attendance too, offering visitors not only their property expertise but also the chance to discover some of the long-running programme's behind-the-scenes secrets.



Malvern Autumn Show

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Fri 27 - Sun 29 September

The UK's biggest harvest-season celebration is back this month with a jam-packed programme. Crowd-pleasers such as the CANNA UK Giant Vegetables Championship and the colourful RHS Flower Show will make a welcome return, taking their place alongside the Gardening Village, the World of Animals

Arena and the Great Taste Food & Drink Market. Presenter Nicki Chapman will be hosting the Garden Theatre, where she will be joined by various high-profile experts, including BBC Gardeners' World's Adam Frost, Rachel De Thame and Arit Anderson.

Retro Truck Show

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire, Sat 7 & Sun 8 September

The Retro Truck Show returns for another bumper weekend this month, bringing together more than 300 trucks manufactured between 1971 and 2001. The hugely popular show, one of the biggest in the calendar, is dedicated to some of the world's most iconic truck manufacturers, including DAF, Scania and Volvo. Entry to the British Motor Museum and Collections Centre is included in the ticket price.



The Strongman Open

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Sat 7 September

There'll be plenty of muscle in the Midlands early this month when the Strongman Open visits Utilita Arena for the very first time. Presented by the aptly named Giants Live, the show features some of the world's largest and most powerful competitors, battling it out in 'mind-blowing feats of strength'. Impossibly heavy weights will be lifted, carried and thrown in five gruelling events, as participants compete not only for the prestigious Open title itself but also to qualify for the World's Strongest Man Finals.

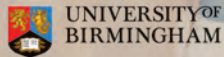
Peaky Blinders Night

The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 28 September

Dust off your flat caps and finest frocks - Peaky Blinders Night is returning to the Black Country Living Museum! Walk in the footsteps of the television show that put Birmingham on the map. Explore Charlie's Yard and other historic streets that make up one of the series' key sets... Visitors can also take a shot at vintage fairground games, place their bets at the race night, or check out a historic 'bout of strength' at the wrestling ring. Plus, Kal's Kats will be performing on stage at the Workers' Institute.



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Events previews from around the region



Autumn Steam Gala Severn Valley Railway, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 September

Severn Valley Railway will be hosting a selection of guest locomotives alongside its home steam engine fleet at this month's Autumn Gala.

An intensive timetable, featuring early morning and late evening services, will operate each day, with the 'stars' of this

year's four-day get-together including LMS Jubilee, 45596 Bahamas, GWR Saint, 2999 Lady Of Legend and Class 108 DMU. Other Gala highlights include Tallyllyn Railway's Douglas, on display in The Engine House, and RailArt at Kidderminster Railway Museum.



Gandey's Circus' Hollywood Spectacular

Tudor Grange Park, Solihull, Sat 7 - Tues 10 September;
Pype Hayes Park, Birmingham, Wed 25 September - Sun 6 October

Step onto the red carpet and into the Big Top as Gandey's Circus presents 'a seamless blend of circus magic and glittering Hollywood glamour' in its latest production. Ringmaster Joel Hatton and the ever-popular Bippo The Clown will lead the full-scale

spectacular, which brings together comedy, acrobatics and 'dazzling' choreography. Gravity-defying roller skating and edge-of-the-seat feats on the Double Space Wheel feature among the production's numerous highlights.

Coventry Brick Festival

Coventry Building Society Arena,
Sat 14 September

The very first Coventry Brick Festival is a celebration of all things Lego. Suitable for fans of all ages, the event features speed building competitions, large-scale displays, traders selling loose bricks, new and retired Lego sets, minifigures and accessories, plus a dedicated building area.



The Good Clothes Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 20 - Sun 22 September

A brand-new event for 2024, The Good Clothes Show aims not only to highlight the impact the fashion industry is having on the climate, but also to help visitors who are striving to dress more sustainably. Attractions at the show include a makers' market featuring an array of vintage, pre-loved, street style, glam and handmade items. Workshops, clothing swaps, and opportunities to discover and learn about the sustainable-fashion movement also feature.

Miniatura

NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire,
Sat 14 & Sun 15 September

One of the longest-established and best-loved dolls' house shows in the world, Miniatura brings together devoted enthusiasts with some of the very best miniature modellers. Event highlights include workshops, the chance to buy tools and materials, and an impressive line-up of craftspeople and makers, with thousands of miniatures in tow.



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Your week-by-week listings guide
September 2024



BRB: La Fille mal gardée - Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 25 - Sat 28 September

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

What's On

Sun 1 - Sun 8 September



Michael McIntyre -
Birmingham Hippodrome
Sat 7 September

Mon 9 - Sun 15 September



Bianca Del Rio -
Symphony Hall
Sun 15 September

Mon 16 - Sun 22 September



Sampad Shirley Takeover -
Shirley Park, Solihull
Sat 21 September

Mon 23 - Mon 30 September



Ed Gamble -
The Alexandra
Thurs 26 September

VISUAL ARTS IN BIRMINGHAM

Barber Institute of Fine Arts

THE HIDDEN LIVES OF PLANTS

Exhibition of botanical illustrations, on tour from London's Victoria & Albert Museum, marking the first project in a new annual exhibition partnership, until Mon 10 Nov

UNSTILL LIFE Exhibition exploring global mobility and consumerism in still-life paintings which convey changing attitudes towards globalisation, capitalism and consumer culture over time, until Sun 26 Jan 2025

WOMEN IN POWER: COINS FROM THE BARBER COLLECTION Spanning nearly 2,000 years and more than 2,500 miles, the exhibition focuses on historical women who have appeared on coins, until Sun 26 Jan 2025

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

IN PURSUIT OF REPETITIVE BEATS A 'euphoric, interactive VR adventure' that transports audiences back to the West Midlands in 1989, during the early days of the Acid House movement, until Sun 1 Sept

VICTORIAN RADICALS Exhibition presenting works by 19th-century artists, designers & makers, from the Pre-Raphaelites to the arts & crafts movement, until Thurs 31 Oct

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

LOUISE BOURGEOIS: NATURE STUDY Explore the exceptional career of Louise Bourgeois (1911-2010), one of the most influential artists of modern times, until Sun 6 Oct

THE TAOTIE After an 18-month residency, Gayle Chong Kwan presents an exhibition of her new work alongside the venue's renowned Chinese collection, until Tues 31 March 2026

The Exchange, Centenary Square, Birmingham

THRIFT RADIATES HAPPINESS

Photographic display of images of the Birmingham Municipal Bank, whose headquarters were once located at the Exchange, until October 2024

AFRICANIZE Project addressing the lasting effects of historical power imbalances, using museum objects and art as catalysts for meaningful conversation, until Fri 1 Nov

WE NEED 2 TLK: EXODUS CROOKS A new work by Midlands-based artist Exodus - intersecting with a University of Birmingham Archive Project - which seeks to expand public engagement with the work of celebrated Jamaican British academic & cultural theorist

Professor Stuart Hall, until Sat 2 Nov

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

DION KITSON: RUE BRITANNIA Solo exhibition dissecting British class and identity, reshaping its visual hallmarks and traditions across sculpture, installation, film and found objects, until Sun 8 Sep

NATIONAL TREASURES: ARTEMISIA IN BIRMINGHAM & JESSE JONES: MIRROR MARTYR MIRROR MOON As part of the National Gallery's bicentennial celebrations, Ikon hosts Artemisia Gentileschi's masterpiece, *Self Portrait As Saint Catherine Of Alexandria*. Jesse Jones explores the entwined histories of Gentileschi, Saint Catherine and the pagan philosopher Hypatia, until Sun 8 Sep

Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham

TEREZA BUSKOVA: HIDDEN MOTHERS Installation following a project which aimed to empower women - especially migrant mothers facing isolation - and drew inspiration from Victorian photography, until Sun 29 Sept

PAULINE FARRAR: CELEBRITY ROBOTS Hotfoot it down to MAC with friends and family this month to meet a unique line-up of A-list 'celebrities' who'll be popping up throughout the building, until Sun 29 Sept

RUBBISH REDESIGNED: INNOVATIVE DESIGNERS FROM THE MIDLANDS Group exhibition exploring the rise of imaginative approaches to circular design and waste innovation across the West Midlands, and addressing the pressing need to reconsider how we utilise and recycle our planet's resources, Sat 28 Sept - Sun 2 Mar

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

RBSA PRIZE Biennial celebration showcasing work at the cutting edge of contemporary art. This all-media exhibition includes artwork created using a range of artforms and techniques, and encourages contemporary practices, Tues 3 Sep - Sun 13 Oct

Elsewhere:

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY VISUAL ART GROUP Exhibition of prints by members of the society, until Mon 9 Sep, The Courtyard Gallery, The Core Theatre, Solihull

STOLEN MOMENTS: PORTRAITS IN JAZZ Exhibition of photographs by Garry Corbett, offering a window into Birmingham's vibrant jazz scene, until Fri 13 Dec, Bramall Hall, University of Birmingham



Fisherman's Friends - Symphony Hall

Gigs

PALEHOUND Sun 1 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

TRICKY MC Sun 1 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE COLD STARES + RAMBLIN' PREACHERS Sun 1 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY + GAZELLE TWIN + MELT BANANA + EMMA RUTH RUNDLE Sun 1 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE RIONS + PACIFIC AVENUE Sun 1 Sept, O2 Academy

THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO Sun 1 Sept, Tower Of Song, Pershore Rd

THE FROG BAND Sun 1 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Pershore Rd

THE MERSEY BEATLES

Sun 1 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DAISTAR Mon 2 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

RINGO DEATHSTARR Mon 2 Sept, O2 Academy

GROOVY SHIRT CLUB Tues 3 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

WILLY TEA TAYLOR Tues 3 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

SEEUOUSPACECOWBOY + KILLING ME SOFTLY + BONEFLOWER Tues 3 Sept, The Asylum, Hampton Street

JO CARLEY & THE OLD DRY SKULLS Wed 4 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

RVG Wed 4 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

GODSTICKS + AXIOM Wed 4 Sept, The

Asylum, Hampton St
INDIGO MARSHALL Wed 4 Sept, Symphony Hall

AINSLEY HAMILL (WITH SAM KELLY AND TOBY SHAER) Wed 4 Sept, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

MAXI PRIEST Wed 4 - Thurs 5 Sept, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr



THE ALLERGIES Thurs 5 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

K-TRAP Thurs 5 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth

VENUS GRRRLS Thurs 5 Sept, The Victoria, John Bright Street

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS



G Flip - O2 Institute, Digbeth

Thurs 5 Sept,
Symphony Hall

DELTA FUSE Thurs 5
Sept, Joe Joe Jims,
Pershore Road

**TIA LAMB + FLUOXETINE
+ RIVIERA + CERY'S
CURTIS** Thurs 5 Sept,
The Rainbow, Digbeth

THE GO 90S Fri 6 Sept,
Hare & Hounds, Kings
Heath

**NECKLACE + SHORTWAVE
+ STUCK ON VIOLET +
THE ACHILLES + MORE**
Fri 6 Sept, The
Rainbow, Digbeth

JESSIE DESAI Fri 6 Sept,
The Sunflower Lounge,
Smallbrook Queensway



**LANDSLIDE: FLEETWOOD
MAC TRIBUTE** Fri 6 Sept,
Actress & Bishop,
Ludgate Hill

MASTERS OF SABBATH Fri
6 Sept, The Night Owl,
Digbeth

G FLIP Fri 6 Sept, O2
Institute, Digbeth

**THE LUKE COMBS
EXPERIENCE** Fri 6 Sept,
O2 Academy

**HE SAID, SHE SAID +
CLOUDS OF EVERMORE +
SPLIT SECOND +
DUNEBUG + MINERVA** Fri
6 Sept, O2 Academy

BELMONDO Fri 6 Sept,
The Victoria, John
Bright Street



UNDER THE COVERS Fri 6
Sept, The Rhodehouse,
Sutton Coldfield

RED LEMONS Fri 6 - Sat 7
Sept, The Jam House,
Jewellery Quarter

**GO YOUR OWN WAY -
FLEETWOOD MAC
TRIBUTE** Fri 6 - Sat 7
Sept, Sutton Coldfield
Town Hall

MIKI BERENYI TRIO Sat 7
Sept, Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath

THE JOHNNY CASH

**EXPERIENCE + THE CASH
CATS** Sat 7 Sept, The
Night Owl, Digbeth

**SKI MASK THE SLUMP
GOD** Sat 7 Sept, O2
Institute, Digbeth

**THE TESKEY BROTHERS +
LIZ STRINGER** Sat 7
Sept, O2 Academy

BRUM PUNX PICNIC 2024
Sat 7 Sept, Castle &
Falcon, Balsall Heath

**SOLARS + AV SUNSET +
AXIOM + JEREMIAH AD**
Sat 7 Sept, The
Flapper, Cambrian
Wharf

**LEGEND: THE MUSIC OF
BOB MARLEY** Sat 7 Sept,
Birmingham Town Hall

KARAN AUJLA Sat 7
Sept, Resorts World
Arena

MISTER WOLF Sat 7
Sept, Tower Of Song,
Pershore Road

DEBORAH BONHAM BAND
Sat 7 Sept, Joe Joe
Jims, Pershore Road

THE WHITE LAKES Sat 7
Sept, The Rainbow,
Digbeth

KILLERSTREAM Sat 7
Sept, The Rhodehouse,
Sutton Coldfield

ROD STEWART STORY Sat
7 Sept, Dudley Town
Hall

JOHNNY2BAD Sat 7 Sept,
The Robin, Bilston

DAS KOOLIES Sun 8
Sept, Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath

SADIE JEAN Sun 8 Sept,
O2 Institute, Digbeth

**GAYE BIKERS ON ACID +
DAEMONIK FONCE** Sun 8
Sept, Castle & Falcon,
Balsall Heath

LIFE Sun 8 Sept, Joe
Joe Jims, Pershore
Road

**ARRIVAL: THE HITS OF
ABBA** Sun 8 Sept,
Lichfield Garrick

THE LYDIA RAE QUARTET
Sun 8 Sept, The Hub at
St Mary's, Lichfield

THE OFTEN HERD Sun 8
Sept, The Kitchen
Garden, Kings Heath



Classical Music

PAUL CARR ORGAN CONCERT

Programme includes works by
Hollins, Mozart, Tchaikovsky,
Hakim, Handel & Suppé, Sun 1
Sept, Holy Trinity Church,
Wordsley, Nr Stourbridge

**KIDDERMINSTER MALE CHOIR &
ALED JONES: 120TH ANNIVERSARY
GALA CONCERT** Featuring the
Kidderminster Valentines, Fri 6
Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

**NATIONAL YOUTH BRASS BAND OF
GREAT BRITAIN: CHILDREN'S BAND**
Featuring Lynda Nicholson
(leader), Cory Band & Black
Dyke Band, Sun 8 Sept,
Jennifer Blackwell Performance
Space, Symphony Hall,
Birmingham

BRASS GALA 2024 Featuring the
Cory Band, Black Dyke Band,
Philip Harper & Nick Childs
(conductors), Sun 8 Sept,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

SARAH MILLICAN Sun 1 Sept,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GARY MEIKLE Sun 1 Sept, The
Glee Club, Birmingham

TOM BALLARD Wed 4 Sept, The
Glee Club, Birmingham

**PADDY MCDONNELL, STEVE
SHANYASKI, LOUISE YOUNG &
FREDDY QUINNE** Wed 4 Sept,
Herbert's Yard, Birmingham

DYLAN MORAN & FIONA ALLEN
Wed 4 Sept, Walsall Arena &
Arts Centre

NICK WHITE Thurs 5 Sept, The
Glee Club, Birmingham

**NICK PAGE, DALISO CHAPONDA,
ALEX CAHILL & CHRIS BROOKER**
Thurs 5 Sept, Lichfield Sports
Club



ADRIAN POYNTON Thurs 5 Sept,
The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

MYRA DUBOIS Thurs 5 Sept, The
Glee Club, Birmingham

**MICHAEL FABBRI, EMMANUEL
SONUBI, BARRY DODDS, JOURDAIN
FISHER & ALEXIS ROY** Fri 6 Sept,
The Glee Club, Birmingham

TAT VISION Fri 6 Sept, The Glee
Club, Birmingham

MATT RIFE Fri 6 Sept, Utilita
Arena Birmingham

**SCOTT BENNETT, MATT PRICE,
KEVIN DANIEL & WAYNE BEESE** Fri
6 Sept, Katie Fitzgerald's,
Stourbridge

**JOSH HOWIE, SHARON WANJOHI,
LOUISE LEIGH & TOM TOAL** Sat 7
Sept, Rosies Nightclub, B'ham

**MICHAEL FABBRI, EMMANUEL
SONUBI, BARRY DODDS &
JOURDAIN FISHER** Sat 7 Sept,
The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOE LYCETT Sat 7 Sept, The Glee
Club, Birmingham

MICHAEL MCINTYRE Sat 7 Sept,
Birmingham Hippodrome



BABY WANTS CANDY Sun 8 Sept,
The Glee Club, Birmingham

SIMON BRODKIN Sun 8 Sept, The
Alexandra, Birmingham

Theatre

AS YOU LIKE IT A 'joyful' 80-
minute version of
Shakespeare's timeless
comedy, until Sun 1 Sept, The
Holloway Garden Theatre, Nr
Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-
Avon

FLYING THEATRE: BRAVO, BRAVO!
An immersive family show that
features performers flying
through the air, until Sun 1 Sept,
The Royal Air Force Museum
Midlands, Cosford



THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL New
production of Sheridan's biting
comedy of manners, promising
an 'exuberant feast of big wigs
and even bigger laughs', until
Fri 6 Sept, Royal Shakespeare
Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR
Richard Goulding and
Samantha Spiro star in a new
production of Shakespeare's
tale of mischief and double
dealing, until Sat 7 Sept, Royal
Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-
upon-Avon

PERICLES The RSC's co-artistic

director, Tamara Harvey, helms
this rarely performed tale of
love, hope and miracles, until
Sat 21 Sept, Swan Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon

BODY 115 A tale of broken
hearts, old flames and open
roads, written and performed
Jan Noble, Wed 4 Sept, Old
Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

THE ENFIELD POLTERGEIST
Dramatisation focusing on the
infamous 1970s case of
paranormal activity in a
supposedly haunted council
house in Enfield, Wed 4 Sept,
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton

BOY OUT THE CITY Coventry-born
Declan Bennett takes audiences
on a raw, brutal and often funny
journey into the messy,
turbulent world of toxic
masculinity, homophobia and
men's mental health... Wed 4 -
Sat 7 Sept, The Rep, B'ham

THE MAGIC FLUTE Magic,
romance and music combine in
a surreal tale of lovers, bird
catchers and operatic queens,
Thurs 5 Sept, The Rep, B'ham

THE LAST TIME I SAW CAILEIGH A
'dark, funny and heartfelt' one-
act play exploring queer erasure
through the lens of an unsolved
mystery, Thurs 5 - Fri 6 Sept,
Old Joint Stock Theatre,
Birmingham

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES
Amateur version of Sir Arthur
Conan Doyle's celebrated
Sherlock Holmes story, Thurs 5
- Sun 8 Sept, Dudley Little
Theatre

RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE Action-
packed interactive adventure
during which young visitors can
interact with animal puppets
from the rainforest and jungle,
play musical instruments, bang
a drum, sing along and have
heaps of fun... Fri 6 Sept,
Smethwick Heritage Centre

AUTIN DANCE: THE GIANT WHEEL A
moving performance inspired by
'the beauty, power and impact
of people from different walks of
life coming together'... Fri 6
Sept, Coventry City Centre

THE GONDOLIERS Illyria present
an outdoor version of Gilbert &
Sullivan's lighthearted operetta,
Fri 6 Sept, Birmingham
Botanical Gardens

OUT OF THE DEEP BLUE Autin
Dance Theatre tell the magical
story of Eko, a sea giant who
rises from the depths of the
ocean and encounters a young
girl named Violet, Sat 7 Sept,
Walsall Maker Fest



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Dance

GISELLE English Youth Ballet presents its production of the romantic ballet with a haunting storyline, Fri 6 - Sat 7 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Light Entertainment

TOAD ON THE ROAD: AN EVENING WITH NEIGHBOURS STAR RYAN MOLONEY Join Toadie as he reminisces about some of his biggest stories in the Aussie soap and reveals behind-the-scenes secrets... Tues 3 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

BUFFY REVAMPED A fast-paced production showcasing the entire 144 episodes of hit 1990s TV show Buffy The Vampire Slayer, Wed 4 Sept, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND: THE MUSIC OF VICTORIA WOOD Paulus the Cabaret Geek presents 'an evening of pure joy filled with Victoria's best-loved songs', Thurs 5 Sept, Wednesbury Library

DANNY BEARD 'An evening of scandalous behaviour, laughs aplenty, and an honest insight into what life's really like as a Z-list celeb', Fri 6 Sept, The Alexandra, Birmingham

FRANKENSTEIN (ON A BUDGET) 'Comedy musical Hammer homage horror' featuring 'one actor, dodgy backdrops, weather-based puns, cardboard props and more hats than you can throw a stick at'... Fri 6 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

BELLA MACKIE IN CONVERSATION WITH JOE LYCETT Join the freelance journalist, columnist & Sunday Times bestselling author as she celebrates the release of her new book, What A Way To Go, Sun 8 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

ONE NIGHT ONLY Wolverhampton Youth Music Theatre present a jam-packed performance of musical theatre, Sun 8 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE D-DAY JUNIORS Following in the footsteps of The D-Day Darlings, the Juniors capture the imagination of a new generation and aim to keep the wartime spirit alive, Sun 8 Sept, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Talks & Spoken Word

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH: A CELEBRATION An afternoon celebrating the power of poetry, music and art in a tribute to the much-loved Birmingham poet, activist and actor. The line-up of

special guests includes Birmingham Poet Laureates Casey Bailey and Jas Gardosi, Sun 1 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

TIM PEAKE: ASTRONAUTS - THE QUEST TO EXPLORE SPACE Join Tim as he recounts stories from his journey into space and 'brings to life' iconic and ground-breaking missions from the past, Wed 4 Sept, Birmingham Symphony Hall

Events

SANDWELL COURTYARD FAIR Meet the local makers, sellers and craftspeople of Sandwell, Sat 31 Aug - Sun 1 Sept, Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, West Bromwich

STONELEIGH HORSE SHOW Featuring a variety of Horse Of The Year Show qualifiers, Sat 31 Aug - Sun 1 Sept, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

LOCOMOTIVE 4566'S 100TH BIRTHDAY Featuring a variety of activities for visitors of all ages, Sat 31 Aug - Sun 1 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

DRAGON TAMERS SURVIVAL SCHOOL Find out about the mythical beasts as you're guided through the castle, until Sun 1 Sept, Tamworth Castle

BEYOND VAN GOGH Immersive experience bringing together more than 300 of Van Gogh's paintings with cutting-edge technology and a specially curated musical soundtrack, until Sun 1 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

THE BEACH Featuring sand, decking, deck chairs, children's activities, refreshments and more, until Sun 1 Sept, Lichfield Cathedral

FLYING THEATRE: BRAVO, BRAVO! An immersive family show that features performers flying through the air, until Sun 1 Sept, The Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford

JURASSIC PLAYGROUND Featuring specially designed artworks 'in a world of sensory spaces'. Inspired by Dippy, the Natural History Museum dinosaur currently on loan at the Herbert, until Sun 1 Sept, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

SUMMER FAMILY FUN Packed line-up of interactive exhibits and workshops along the railway, until Sun 1 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

AMAZING UNDERSEA ADVENTURE Meet amazing creatures, learn to see them through merpeople's eyes, and discover what you can do to show your love for our oceans, until Sun 1 Sept, National SEA LIFE Birmingham

GET THE PICTURE - SUMMER OF DESIGN Dive deep into the world of car design via a range of activities, until Mon 2 Sept, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

MARCH OF THE ELEPHANTS Free public

art trail featuring 60 elephant sculptures, until Sun 8 Sept, Lichfield, Tamworth and Sutton Coldfield

LEGO® DREAMZZZ™ Awaken your imagination with a dream creature hunt, until Sun 8 Sept, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

STREETS OF COV Imagineer bring free performances of circus, dance, music, storytelling, physical theatre and water-based pyrotechnics to the city streets, until Sat 21 Sept, across Coventry city centre

SOLIHULL FAIRTRADE TRAIL Featuring colourful art and poetry from school children across the borough, until Sun 22 Sept, Solihull town centre

BIKE 4 LIFE Event bringing together more than 6,000 bikers to raise funds for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, Sun 1 Sept, Weston Park, Shropshire

COLOUR BOX: THE JUNGLE BOOK Screening of Disney animated feature The Jungle Book, to tie in with MAC's celebration of Birmingham's Benjamin Zephaniah, Sun 1 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

T-SHIRT PRINTING WITH DAVE SPRINGER Screen print a t-shirt with lyrics from Benjamin Zephaniah, Sun 1 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

34TH ROTARY CLUB EXTRAVAGANZA A mixture of stalls from various charities, live entertainment and food, Sun 1 Sept, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BRIDGNORTH BEER FESTIVAL Featuring 40 cask ales from local Shropshire breweries and further afield, Thurs 5 - Sat 7 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

TAMWORTH BEER FESTIVAL Featuring 75-plus ales, including festival specials and new entries, plus the usual cider and perry bar, Thurs 5 - Sat 7 Sept, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

LOUISE BOURGEOIS: FILM SCREENING AND CURATOR TOUR Experience the world of Louise Bourgeois 'like never before', Fri 6 Sept, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE Action-packed adventure in which young visitors can interact with animal puppets from the rainforest and jungle, play musical instruments, bang a drum, sing along and have heaps of fun... Fri 6 Sept, Smethwick Heritage Centre

BUSFEST The world's largest VW transporter show, Fri 6 - Sun 8 Sept, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

CHILDREN'S DRAMA WORKSHOP Learn about the cathedral's history while creating a brand-new drama to be performed at the end of the day, Sat 7 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

GARDENS LATES: HERITAGE WEEK SPECIAL Enjoy a rare opportunity to visit the gardens and glasshouses

after hours, Sat 7 Sept, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

END OF SUMMER SILENT DISCO Dance the night away with a silent disco in the unique surroundings of the cloisters area and grounds, Sat 7 Sept, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS Enjoy a day of history-based tours and talks as part of this year's Heritage Open Day celebrations, Sat 7 Sept, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

THE STRONGMAN OPEN 2024 'The largest and most powerful men and women on earth' battle it out in 'mind-blowing feats of strength', Sat 7 Sept, Utilita Arena Birmingham

WALSALL MAKERFEST Featuring makers, artists, crafters, creatives, designers, food artisans and more, Sat 7 Sept, Walsall Town Centre

TOUGH MUDDER Featuring 20-plus challenging obstacles across a 10-mile route, Sat 7 Sept, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

ALTERNATIVE WRESTLING WORLD PRESENTS RE-LOADED Sat 7 Sept, Halesowen Town Hall

SUDS FEST 2024 Birmingham's own homegrown festival, dedicated to celebrating craft beer, Sat 7 Sept, Uffculme Centre, Moseley

HAVE-A-GO-HISTORY WEEKEND Family fun with Colonel Nicholas Devereux's regiment, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Sept, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

RETRO TRUCK SHOW Discover over 300 modern classic trucks, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Sept, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

WE LOVE TAMWORTH 2024 Featuring stalls, live music and plenty of family fun, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Sept, Tamworth Castle Grounds

GANDEYS HOLLYWOOD SPECTACULAR Featuring circus magic and Hollywood glamour, Sat 7 - Tues 10 Sept, Tudor Grange Park, Solihull

HERITAGE OPEN DAY Explore Aston Hall and take a historical journey from the 17th century through to the Victorian era, Sun 8 Sept, Aston Hall, B'ham

THE MACABRE MUSEUM - STORIES OF MURDER AND MAYHEM Hear about some of the darker stories from the Lock Up's history, Sun 8 Sept, West Midlands Police Museum, B'ham

Festivals

BROMYARD FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Oysterband, Spiers & Boden, Fay Held Trio, Thurs 5 - Sun 8 Sept, Bromyard, Herefordshire

ONBOARD THE CRAFT Line-up includes Krankschaft, Peter And The Test Tube Babies, Punishment Of Luxury, Thurs 5 - Sun 8 Sept, Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club, Worcester



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The Bygones - Castle & Falcon

Gigs

TENILLE ARTS Mon 9 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

JON SPENCER Tues 10 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

FIRST TIME FLYERS Tues 10 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

MEGAN MORONEY + WESTON LONEY Tues 10 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK Tues 10 Sept, Symphony Hall

KERRI COLBY + MIRAGE AMURO! Tues 10 Sept, XOYO, Digbeth

LUNATRAKTORS Tues 10 Sept, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

MOCK TUDORS Wed 11 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

BEEBE QUINTET Wed 11 Sept, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

CHARLIE BENNETT Wed 11 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

ANDREW WASYLYK & TOMMY PERMAN Thurs 12 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG Thurs 12 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

VALA Thurs 12 Sept, The Victoria, John Bright Street

PABLO HELD AND THE BUOYANCY BAND Thurs

12 Sept, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

WE MAVERICKS Thurs 12 Sept, Bromsgrove Folk Club

ESPEN ERIKSEN TRIO Thurs 12 Sept, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

THE GLAM ROCK SHOW Thurs 12 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

MAJOR TOMS Fri 13 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

BLACKBERRY SMOKE + BONES OWENS Fri 13 Sept, O2 Academy

OLD TIME SAILORS Fri 13 Sept, O2 Academy

LIVE UNDEAD + HELLBOUND - SLAYER & PANTERA TRIBUTES Fri 13 Sept, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

THE NEVERLAND EXPRESS + CALEB JOHNSON - CELEBRATING MEAT LOAF Fri 13 Sept, Symphony Hall

TEXAS + KT TUNSTALL Fri 13 Sept, Utilita Arena Birmingham

FULL TILT Fri 13 Sept, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

THE 3 SIXTIES Fri 13 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Pershore Road

MONKEY BUSINESS Fri 13 Sept, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

DETROIT SOUL COLLECTIVE Fri 13 - Sat 14 Sept, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr

THE HEAD HUNTERS + THEE ACID TONGUE Sat 14 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

DAY FEVER Sat 14 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BARS AND MELODY Sat 14 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE PISTOLS + THE RAMONAS + BUZZKOCKS Sat 14 Sept, O2 Academy

THE BYGONES Sat 14 Sept, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

BOLLYWOOD SPECIAL Sat 14 Sept, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

ROB LAMBERTI - PERFECTLY GEORGE Sat 14 Sept, Symphony Hall

SWEETPOOL Sat 14 Sept, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

THE STARVING DOG Sat 14 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Pershore Road

SUPER DUPER 70S SHOW Sat 14 Sept, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PET SHOP BOYS, ACTUALLY Sat 14 Sept, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

EBAN BROWN Sat 14 Sept, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MEGSON Sat 14 Sept, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

WILL YOUNG + RACHAEL SAGE Sat 14 Sept, The Wulfrun at The Halls, Wolverhampton

BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY - THE MUSIC OF FRANKIE VALLI Sat 14 Sept, Lichfield Cathedral

THE VAMPS Sat 14 - Sun 15 Sept, O2 Academy

JONAS BROTHERS + MIMI WEBB Sun 15 Sept, Utilita Arena B'ham

DRACULA'S GARAGE Sun 15 Sept, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

DIZZY LIZZY Sun 15 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Pershore Road

FLEETWOOD SHACK Sun 15 Sept, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Sun 15 Sept, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Classical Music

CATHY LAMB ORGAN RECITAL Tues 10 Sept, Lichfield Cathedral

LUNCHTIME RECITAL Featuring music students from the Blue Coat School, Fri 13 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: MENDELSSOHN AT THE MANOR Featuring David Le Page (director). Programme comprises Mendelssohn's Octet Op. 20, Fri 13 Sept, Armscote Manor, Warwickshire

LUDLOW ENGLISH SONG: YOUNG COMPOSERS 2024 Featuring Harriet Burns (soprano), George Robarts (baritone) & Thomas Eeckhout (piano). Programme includes new compositions and a selection of the singers' favourite, better-known English Songs, Sat 14 Sept, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE SIXTEEN: THE CHORAL PILGRIMAGE 2024 Featuring Harry Christophers (conductor). Programme includes works by Lassus, Casulana, Josquin & more..., Sat 14 Sept, Tewkesbury Abbey

BCMG: LUNAR DREAMS Featuring Yeree Suh (soprano) & Thomas Kemp (conductor). Programme includes works by Schoenberg, Param Vir, Bethan Morgan Williams & Julian Anderson, Sun 15 Sept, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Comedy

BEN ELTON Mon 9 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



TEZ ILYAS Thurs 12 Sept, The Rep, Birmingham

FRANKIE BOYLE, SCOTT BENNETT, DAWN BAILEY, MICK FERRY & HASAN AL-HABIB Fri 13 Sept, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

FRANKIE BOYLE, MARKUS BIRDMAN, MAUREEN YOUNGER & WAYNE BEESE Sat 14 Sept, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

VITTORIO ANGELONE Sun 15 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

A CHORUS LINE Nikolai Foster directs a new version of the hit Broadway show. Adam Cooper and Carly Mercedes Dyer star, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

HERE YOU COME AGAIN - THE NEW DOLLY PARTON MUSICAL The story of a die-hard Dolly fan whose fantasy version of the international icon gets him through trying times, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Sept, The Alexandra, B'ham

THE KING'S SPEECH Amateur production telling the story of King George VI's struggle to overcome his speech impediment, Tues 10 - Sat 21 Sept, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH UK premiere of Casey Bailey's play following the story of Mason, a social justice TikToker who visits heritage houses to uncover the true stories behind the objects that lie within, Wed 11 - Sat 21 Sept, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

TRUST A script-in-hand sharing of an emotional drama, penned and performed by local writer Liz John, Fri 13 Sept, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THOSE IN GLASS HOUSES A celebration of glass and all its fragilities. Brace yourself for swinging bricks, comedic catapults and a glass-shattering domino run in an adventure of controlled destruction, Fri 13 Sept, Coventry Cathedral

BLEAK EXPECTATIONS The Crescent Theatre Company present the story Charles Dickens might have written after drinking too much gin! Sat 14 - Sat 21 Sept, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

PEPPER AND HONEY The Notnow Collective present a timely play about 'cultural differences and the conflict of upholding tradition and embracing change', Sun 15 Sept, Thimblemill Library, Smethwick

Dance

MIDDAY MANTRA: BOLLYWOOD SPECIAL Sing and dance along to Bollywood music old and new with Sampad South Asian Arts & Heritage, Sat 14 Sept, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BLACK VICTORIANS A look at the complex and often forgotten Black presence in pre-Windrush Britain; a powerful dance performance that celebrates previously hidden figures and questions both old and new perceptions, Sat 14 Sept, Coventry Cathedral

Light Entertainment

CANDICE BRATHWAITE: MANIFESTO In-conversation event in which Candice explains exactly what manifesting looks like, Mon 9 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

EMILY CHAPPELL'S EPIC TALES OF CYCLING ADVENTURE Join the inspirational adventurer and endurance cyclist as she shares stories from her epic travels, Tues 10 Sept, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE DAVINCI MICHELANGELO EXPERIENCE Join Mark Rodgers, director of The DaVinci Machines & Michelangelo Exhibitions for a unique journey through the glory of Italian Renaissance, Wed 11 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall



JENNY 'THE VIXEN' RYAN: OUT OF THE BOX Join The Chase's 'dream-crushing brainbox' for a journey through her life and times via some of her favourite tunes, sung live, Wed 11 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

LEE MEAD: THE BEST OF ME Join the West End leading man for an evening of musical theatre favourites and contemporary hits, Wed 11 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BOX OF FROGS An evening of high-octane, improvised comedy nonsense, based entirely on audience suggestions, Wed 11 Sept, 100 Trades, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

SOLVE-ALONG-A-MURDER-SHE-WROTE Unique evening of entertainment featuring an interactive screening, games and lots of audience participation, Wed 11 - Fri 13 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

SU POLLARD: STILL FULLY CHARGED One-woman show in which the Hi-De-Hi star recounts stories from her 50 years in showbiz, Thurs 12 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE EVERLY BROTHERS BY CANDLELIGHT Tribute to the duo who defined an era of music, Thurs 12 Sept, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE OPERA BOYS: A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS Fri 13 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

PROFESSOR DAVID WILSON & MARCEL THEROUX: KILLER BOOKS Novelist & presenter Marcel Theroux is joined by criminologist David Wilson to discuss books that have motivated murder, and how fiction can sometimes become fact, Fri 13 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

AN EVENING WITHOUT KATE BUSH Award-winning show which pays homage to the music, fans and mythology of one of the most influential voices in British music, Fri 13 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

CIRQUE - THE GREATEST SHOW Musical theatre showstopper and circus spectacular featuring 'thrilling feats of agility and flair', Fri 13 Sept, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

DEFYING GRAVITY: WEST END WOMEN Celebration of women who made their mark on the West End stage. Michelle Pentecost, Maggie Lynne, Tasha Sheridan, Jodie Nolan and Ellie Verkerk star, Fri 13 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MICHAEL AUGER - O WHAT A NIGHT Join the former Collabro vocalist for an evening of musical theatre favourites

and pop songs, Sat 14 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH GRAHAM NORTON Join the TV host as he discusses his new book, shares tales from his star-studded sofa, and answers your questions live, Sat 14 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

AN EVENING WITH GUY CHAMBERS Guy shares stories and songs from his 40-year career as one of the UK's most successful songwriters, Sat 14 Sept, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

BIANCA DEL RIO The self-proclaimed 'clown in a gown' returns to the stage to present an evening of witty entertainment, Sun 15 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



JUST NAACH A live celebration of South Asian music & dance, Sun 15 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE OLD JOINT STOCK PRESENTS

A STEADY RAIN

A PLAY WRITTEN BY KEITH HUFF DIRECTED BY LIAM ALEXANDRU

16TH - 19TH OCTOBER
THE OLD JOINT STOCK | BIRMINGHAM

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I SCREAMED A SCREAM

A Villains Cabaret

30 OCT - 1 NOV
THE OLD JOINT STOCK

7:30PM | THEOLDJOINTSTOCK.CO.UK | £16

Talks & Spoken Word

WILLIAM DALRYMPLE: HOW ANCIENT INDIA TRANSFORMED THE WORLD Join the historian and co-host of chart-topping podcast *Empire* as he talks about India's role as a cultural and scientific superpower in the ancient world, Thurs 12 Sept, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ROGER MCGOUGH: ALIVE AND GIGGING Performance poet Roger brings his best pieces to the stage 'for new and old audiences alike', Sat 14 Sept, The Rep, Birmingham

Events

CINEMA AND SUTTON COLDFIELD An illustrated talk about the history of the newly refurbished Royal Cinema, the art deco gem at Maney Corner, Birmingham Road in Sutton, Mon 9 Sept, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

CATHEDRAL GUIDED TOUR Explore the oldest building in Birmingham city centre still used for its original purpose, Mon 9 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

GAYDON GATHERING Featuring 'all sorts of vehicles', Tues 10 Sept, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

TOUCH SCREEN: MUM Join artist Sarah Hamilton Baker for a sensory journey through film, Tues 10 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

HERITAGE OPEN DAY - COLLECTIONS STORE TOUR Delve into the archives and see some of the museum's oldest and most precious objects, Tues 10 Sept, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

DIVINE BEAUTY STAINED-GLASS WINDOW TOUR Learn about the historic Baroque cathedral and its treasures on a free 30-minute tour, Tues 10 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

BRINDLEY EATS Two street-food trucks and a 'Wellness Wagon' provide a selection of lunchtime goodies, Wed 11 Sept, Central Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL CHURCHYARD TOUR Free guided tour, led by a knowledgeable volunteer, Thurs 12 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral



SANDWELL PRIORY HERITAGE WALK Dr Mike Hodder guides visitors around the remains of Sandwell Priory, the landscape around Sandwell Hall and

other parts of Sandwell Valley, Thurs 12 Sept, Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, West Bromwich

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM TOUR Guided tour of a selection of Birmingham-built objects, Thurs 12 - Fri 13 Sept, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

EXPLORE BLAKESLEY: HERITAGE OPEN DAY Take advantage of free entry to the house & gardens, built in 1590 by Richard Smalbroke, Fri 13 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

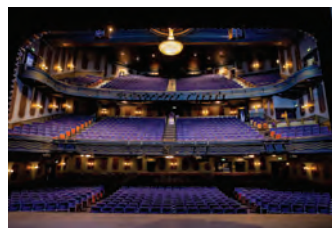
WOMEN'S HISTORY TOUR Celebrate International Women's Day by learning about the history of women who lived and worked in Birmingham in the 1800s, Fri 13 Sept, Birmingham Back to Backs, Birmingham

YARDLEY HERITAGE WALK: BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE WEEK Join local expert Mike Byrne for a leisurely stroll around the village of Yardley, Fri 13 Sept, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS Enjoy a day of history-based tours and talks as part of this year's Heritage Open Day celebrations, Fri 13 - Sat 14 Sept, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL Be spoilt for choice with stalls made up of local restaurants, coffee shops, bars and hotels, Fri 13 - Sat 14 Sept, Victoria Square, Birmingham

THEATRE TOUR Check out the dressing rooms, visit the backstage areas and step out onto the stage, Sat 14 Sept, The Alexandra, Birmingham



HERITAGE OPEN DAY - COLLECTIONS STORE TOUR Delve into the archives and see some of the museum's oldest and most precious objects, Fri 13 - Sat 14 Sept, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

FISE XPERIENCE WOLVERHAMPTON Featuring BMX, scooter and breaking contests, initiations and exhibitions, Fri 13 - Sun 15 Sept, Market Square, Wolverhampton

MUSEUM COLLECTION CENTRE OPEN DAY Day of family-friendly activities and a chance to explore the artefact-packed warehouse, Sat 14 Sept, Museum Collection Centre, Nechells, Birmingham

FIREWORKS CHAMPIONS Four firework displays light the night sky over the lakeside, Sat 14 Sept, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

BRICK FESTIVAL Featuring speed building competitions, large-scale



Heritage Days at the West Midlands Police Museum

displays, activities, traders and more, Sat 14 Sept, Coventry Building Society Arena, Coventry

HERITAGE OPEN DAY: EXPLORE SAREHOLE MILL Enjoy the sights and sounds of a traditional 18th-century water mill for free, Sat 14 Sept, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

MOTHERS WHO MAKE: BIRMINGHAM AND COVENTRY HUB Relaxed social gathering with an exhibition tour, Sat 14 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

FAMILY HERITAGE OPEN DAY Family-friendly day exploring the heritage of The Exchange, formerly Birmingham Municipal Bank, Sat 14 Sept, The Exchange, Centenary Square, Birmingham

THE CAT SHOW LIVE Three globally recognised cat registries come together under one roof, Sat 14 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

MINIATURA AUTUMN SHOW The ever-popular dolls' house show returns, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Sept, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

INTERNATIONAL N GAUGE SHOW

Featuring a full range of modern image, steam, continental and American layouts, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Sept, Warwickshire Event Centre, Coventry

THE PRINT FAIR Meet printmakers and artists from across the region, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Sept, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

SUTTON COLDFIELD FOOD FESTIVAL Featuring 100 diverse food stalls, celebrity chef demonstrations, live music and children's entertainment, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Sept, Sutton Coldfield town centre

MIDLANDS COMMUNITY DAY Featuring dance, music, spoken word, exhibitions and activities for children, Sun 15 Sept, The Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford

DR1VR SHOW Bringing together modern and classic stance, track builds and timeless classics, Sun 15 Sept, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

HERITAGE OPEN DAY Celebrate local heritage, Sun 15 Sept, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch



The Print Fair - Compton Verney, Warwickshire

Gigs

KEN CARSON Mon 16 Sept, O2 Academy
MARC ALMOND Mon 16 Sept, Symphony Hall
LYLOYD COLE Mon 16 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall
POLITE BUREAUX Tues 17 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
CONNIE TALBOT + KITTY BELLA Tues 17 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway
OCEAN ALLEY + HOCKEY DAD Tues 17 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth
KALANDRA + LILI REFRAIN Tues 17 Sept, The Asylum, Hampton Street
LITTLE BIG TOWN Tues 17 Sept, Symphony Hall
CHARLIE PARR Tues 17 Sept, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath
EDDY SMITH + THE 507 + JAKE O'NEIL Wed 18 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
JIMMY CARPENTER Wed 18 Sept, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr
SURVIVALIST + PERPETUAL PARADOX + DESOLANCE + ANY GIVEN REASON Wed 18 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway
NORTHLANE + NOVELISTS + TEN56 Wed 18 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth
ANDI Wed 18 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth
NEEDTOBREATHE Wed 18 Sept, O2 Academy
OSIAH + DRACONIAN REIGN + EXISTENTIALIST + BEYOND EXTINCTION + TO OBEY A TYRANT Wed 18 Sept, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf
PHIL BEER Wed 18 Sept, Red Lion Folk Club
HEATHER PEACE Thurs 19 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
THE THREE DEGREES Thurs 19 Sept, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr
THE LAFONTAINES Thurs 19 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth
LAST GANG + SPLIT DOGS + LAST HOUNDS +

CLOBBER Thurs 19 Sept, O2 Academy
STAND ATLANTIC + HONEY REVENGE + SLOWLY SLOWLY Thurs 19 Sept, XOYO, Digbeth
AIDAN POPE OCTET Thurs 19 Sept, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
FILKIN'S DRIFT Thurs 19 Sept, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath
THE JAMES BROWN STORY Thurs 19 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
GOLDIE LOOKIN' CHAIN Fri 20 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
GRATEFUL DUDES Fri 20 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
THE UNIVERSAL + THE GOOD WATER Fri 20 Sept, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill
TAKE THE FIFTH + HEAVY SOL Fri 20 Sept, The Night Owl, Digbeth
AZEALIA BANKS Fri 20 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth
AC/DC UK + DIZZY LIZZY Fri 20 Sept, O2 Academy
JOSHUA BASSETT + THOMAS DAY Fri 20 Sept, O2 Academy
FURY Fri 20 Sept, The Flapper, Birmingham
FLINT MOORE Fri 20 Sept, The Victoria, John Bright Street
MELANIE MARTINEZ + ELITA Fri 20 Sept, Utilita Arena Birmingham
BIG WOLF BAND Fri 20 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Pershore Road
PJ BAKER'S BLUES IRREGULARS Fri 20 Sept, The Core Theatre, Solihull
ELO ENCOUNTER Fri 20 Sept, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
FLEETWOOD MAD Fri 20 Sept, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield
WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Fri 20 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
SUBTERRANEANS Fri 20 - Sat 21 Sept, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr
JIVE TALKIN' - BEE GEES TRIBUTE Fri 20 - Sat 21

KID CONGO & THE PINK MONKEY BIRDS + BLACK MEKON Sat 21 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
ROSA CAELUM + ALICE LILY + TOM AUTON + CHARM + LEAH WILCOX + VIENNA + A WEEK FULL OF MONDAYS Sat 21 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway
THE DEADSHOTS LIVE Sat 21 Sept, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill
KIOKO + LLOYD MCGRATH COLLECTIVE + LOBSTER + YOUNG CULTURE BAND Sat 21 Sept, The Night Owl, Digbeth
GOOD KID + DUTCH CRIMINAL RECORD Sat 21 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth
THE SILVER LINES + HEADSHRINKERS + THE MOOD Sat 21 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE DANGEROUS SUMMER + BROADSIDE Sat 21 Sept, O2 Academy
SWAMP COFFIN + A HORSE CALLED WAR + GORGONCHRIST Sat 21 Sept, Dead Wax, Digbeth
ALISHA CHINAI + KAVITA KRISHNAMURTI + ALKA YAGNIK + ANURADHA PAUDWAL Sat 21 Sept, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham
THE JUDY BLU BAND Sat 21 Sept, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road
MADE IN TENNESSEE Sat 21 Sept, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
SYNTH Sat 21 Sept, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield
ALICE ZAWADZKI Sat 21 Sept, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton
THE ULTIMATE BOYBAND PARTY SHOW Sat 21 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
NEW HOPE CLUB Sun 22 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth
ELECTRIC BLACK Sun 22 Sept, Subside Bar, High Street
PAUL CARRACK Sun 22 Sept, Symphony Hall
JILL ANDREWS Sun 22 Sept, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

Classical Music

DAVID SAINT ORGAN RECITAL Tues 17 Sept, Lichfield Cathedral
CBSO: KAZUKI CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN 9 Featuring the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Kazuki Yamada (conductor), Lucy Crowe (soprano), Jennifer Johnston (mezzo soprano), Joshua Stewart (tenor), Jonathan Lemalu (baritone) & CBSO Chorus. Programme includes works by Stravinsky, Strauss & Beethoven, Thurs 19 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: A BEAUTIFUL THREAD Featuring David Le Page (music director), Judy Reaves (director), Lucia Bonbright & Anton Lesser (narrators). A celebration of Thomas Hardy, accompanied with works by Holst, Finzi, contemporary folk & more..., Thurs 19 Sept, The Courtyard, Hereford

Comedy

ANDY ASKINS, RAY BRADSHAW & HAYLEY ELLIS Wed 18 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham
COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, NINA GILLIGAN & RAY BRADSHAW Thurs 19 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ANDREW RYAN Fri 20 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ANDREW O'NEILL, ANDREW MAXWELL, NINA GILLIGAN, RAY BRADSHAW & BAB Fri 20 Sept, The Glee Club, B'ham
JONNY COLE Fri 20 Sept, Churchill's, Wednesbury
TOM STADE Fri 20 Sept, Bilston Town Hall
VLAD ILICH, MARTIN WESTGATE, JASON STAMPE & JON PEARSON Sat 21 Sept, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham
ANDREW O'NEILL, ANDREW MAXWELL, NINA GILLIGAN & RAY BRADSHAW Sat 21 Sept, The Glee Club, B'ham
FIN TAYLOR Sun 22 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham



numbers and dance routines. Strictly's Joanna Clifton stars as Velma von Tussle while Hairspray royalty Brenda Edwards makes her directing debut, Mon 16 - Sat 21 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome
HURLY BURLY THEATRE: YOU ARE THE SUN A first opera for babies and grown-ups that explores the magic of nature through a fusion of singing and sensory play, Tues 17 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham



CHICAGO Amateur version presented by Lichfield Musical Youth Theatre, Tues 17 - Sat 21 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

CAN'T WAIT TO LEAVE 'A biting frank portrayal of loneliness and self-discovery', Wed 18 - Thurs 19 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

FRANKENSTEIN All & Sundry present an amateur stage version of Mary Shelley's gothic horror story, Fri 20 - Sun 22 Sept, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE COMPANY OF WOLVES Theresa Heskins and Vicki Amedue co-direct an imaginative staging of Angela Carter's gripping horror story... Fri 20 Sept - Sat 12 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

RITA, SUE AND BOB TOO Andrea Dunbar's semi-autobiographical drama, offering a snapshot of 1980s northern working-class life, Sat 21 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

KRAPP'S LAST TAPE David Westhead stars in a new production of Samuel Beckett's exploration of the human soul. A post-show Q&A with David and the show's director, Stockard Channing, also features, Sun 22 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Dance

ROMEO & JULIET Northern Ballet bring Shakespeare's love story to life, accompanied by Prokofiev's glorious score, Thurs 19 - Sat 28 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Light Entertainment

THE STARS OF IRISH COUNTRY SHOW Sean Wilson, Shawn Cuddy, Curtis Magee & Stephen Smyth showcase their trademark singalong songs,

accompanied by a backing band, Wed 18 Sept, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ALED JONES: FULL CIRCLE One-man show in which the classical crossover artist looks back on his remarkable career, Wed 18 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE VERY BEST OF TOMMY COOPER (JUST LIKE THAT!) A glimpse into the life of one of Britain's best-loved comedians, featuring one-liners, dazzling wordplay and celebrated tricks, Thurs 19 Sept, Halesowen Town Hall

PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY BANGERS LIVE! Join James B Partridge for a nostalgic evening of singalong tunes to take you back to your primary school days, Fri 20 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



THE CHORIZO MAY SHOW Join the RuPaul Drag Race star for an evening of big drag energy, lip syncs, dazzling costumes, music and laughter, Fri 20 Sept, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

THE OPERA BOYS: A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS Fri 20 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE SOUL OF BOLLYWOOD Bollywood's best-loved anthems get the Shaft treatment in what's promising to be 'an unforgettable fusion of music, culture and pure entertainment', Sat 21 Sept, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

SAMPAD SHIRLEY TAKEOVER - FRESH AIR THEATRE Free programme of live music, dance and spoken word showcasing South Asian culture, Sat 21 Sept, Shirley Park, Solihull



JOE LYCETT'S ART HOLE LIVE Join Joe as he reads some of his favourite stories from his new book and showcases the paintings that were inspired by them, Sat 21 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

DAD'S ARMY RADIO SHOW Three episodes of Perry & Croft's classic BBC comedy are brought to life in a production that sees two actors play 25 characters, Sat 21 Sept, Bridge

House Theatre, Warwick

MUSICALS BY CANDLELIGHT: OPENING NUMBERS EDITION Featuring a selection of musical theatre classics, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SAM RABONE'S BIG BOSTIN' VARIETY SHOW Featuring comedian Ben Langley (Britain's Got Talent), vocalist Lorraine Brown and comedian and occasional musician Herbie Adams, Sun 22 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

ROBIN INCE AND CLARE FERGUSON-WALKER 'A tour around two marvellous minds via the vehicles of poetry, storytelling, jokes and general silliness', Sun 22 Sept, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Talks & Spoken Word

TOP HAT SPOKEN WORD OPEN MIC NIGHT Hosted by Joss Musgrove Knibb, Wed 18 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

POETRY JAM LIVE! Monthly open-mic platform, Thurs 19 Sept, Justham Family Room & Jane How Room, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Events

LIVING LAKES IN MOTION Enjoy a drink from the bar and get creative in the Banking Hall during this one-off evening workshop, Thurs 19 Sept, The Exchange, Centenary Square, Birmingham

NATURAL DYEING WORKSHOP Creative two-day course on using garden-grown and locally foraged plants to dye fabrics, yarns and more, Thurs 19 - Fri 20 Sept, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

AUTUMN STEAM GALA Four-day festival of steam starring 2999 'Lady of Legend', 45596 'Bahamas', Black Five 44932 and L&Y 51456, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

BABIES ADVENTURES IN MUSIC Interactive performance for babies, featuring a host of instruments, gentle movements and stimulating sounds, Fri 20 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

SUMMER SUNDOWN Featuring country music, food and family activities, Fri 20 - Sun 22 Sept, Cotswold Farm Park

A PLACE IN THE SUN LIVE Everything you need to know about buying overseas, Fri 20 - Sun 22 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

THE GOOD CLOTHES SHOW Find high-end sustainable clothes, meet designers and discuss the future of fashion, Fri 20 - Sun 22 Sept, NEC, Birmingham



A Place In The Sun Live - NEC, Birmingham

MEDIAeval EXPERIENCE WEEKEND Join the Beaufort Company to learn about an important period in British History, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Sept, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

AQUAH The UK's largest reptile and aquatic event, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Sept, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

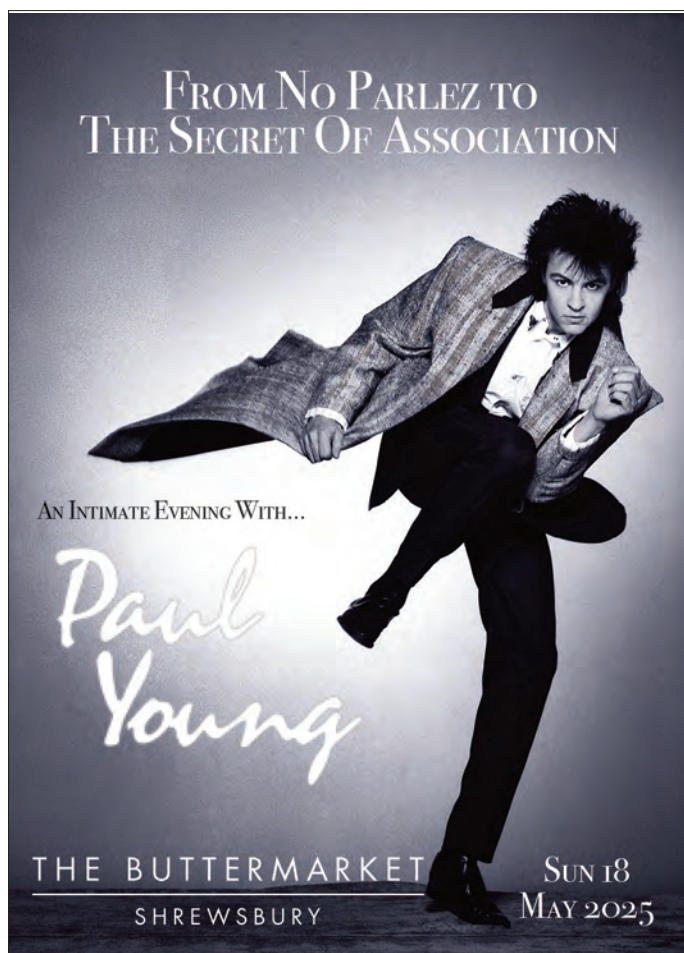
TAMWORTH WARGAMES CLUB A day of tabletop battle tactics and wits, Sun 22 Sept, Tamworth Castle

JAGUARS AT GAYDON Featuring

hundreds of Jaguar cars from a wide range of different Jaguar clubs and individuals, Sun 22 Sept, British motor Museum, Gaydon

Festivals

HEAL FESTIVAL Embrace, Tom Meighan, The Farm, Fri 20 - Sat 21 Sept, Greenhous West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury



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Birmingham ISSUE 40 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

PLAY | COMEDY | THEATRE | DANCE | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS

DEAR EVAN HANSEN
"THE MUSICAL OF ITS GENERATION, FOR ALL GENERATIONS"
BOOK BY STEVEN ALVENSONSON | MUSIC & LYRICS BY BENJI PACER ALVENSONSON & JUSTIN PAUL
DIRECTED BY ADAM ROYLAND

INSIDE:
BECOMING NANCY
New musical debuts at The Rep, featuring Middle...

TO THE MOON...
Female empowerment at the heart of 2024's best seller

CHORIZA MAY
Bring big drag energy to Richard's Arts Centre

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Wolverhampton & Black Country ISSUE 40 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

PLAY | COMEDY | THEATRE | DANCE | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS

THERE IS LIFE AFTER ROME!

JULIET
THE HIT MUSICAL
MUSIC BY BENJI PACER ALVENSONSON & JUSTIN PAUL
BOOK BY STEVEN ALVENSONSON
DIRECTED BY ADAM ROYLAND

INSIDE:
WORKING WONDERS
A musical one day wonder - the songs of 2024's best seller

TO THE MOON...
Female empowerment at the heart of 2024's best seller

LOVE IN THE BOB
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What's On

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SHROPSHIRE OktoberFest
4 & 5 OCTOBER 2024
SHROPSHIRE PARK
Shropshire's biggest party with over 150+ beers, ciders, gin, fizz & cocktails, plus the best in live music, comedy & street food!

INSIDE:
WORKING WONDERS
A musical one day wonder - the songs of 2024's best seller

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Female empowerment at the heart of 2024's best seller

IT'S A BARD'S LIFE
Mel Corrie talks about playing Shakespeare in a jiffy!

shropshireoktoberfest.co.uk

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Worcestershire ISSUE 40 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

PLAY | COMEDY | THEATRE | DANCE | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS

ROCKY HORROR SHOW
THE ORIGINAL ROCK-ROLL MUSICAL
A GUARANTEED PARTY
MUSIC BY GUY CHATT
BOOK BY GUY CHATT & JOHN LYONS
DIRECTED BY GUY CHATT

INSIDE:
IT'S A BARD'S LIFE
Mel Corrie talks about playing Shakespeare in a jiffy

TO THE MOON...
Female empowerment at the heart of 2024's best seller

DEAR ZOO
Children's favourite on stage is back on the West Midlands

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Staffordshire ISSUE 40 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

PLAY | COMEDY | THEATRE | DANCE | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS

THE RECORD-BREAKING WEST END MUSICAL COMEDY

ONLY FOOLS ON THE HORSES
THE MUSICAL
MUSIC BY GUY CHATT
BOOK BY GUY CHATT & JOHN LYONS
DIRECTED BY GUY CHATT

INSIDE:
NYAMADY KOUYATE
A musical one day wonder - the songs of 2024's best seller

TO THE MOON...
Female empowerment at the heart of 2024's best seller

THE GRUFFALO
A musical one day wonder - the songs of 2024's best seller

DIRECT FROM THE WEST END

REGENT THEATRE STAFFORD | **ATC** | **MON 2 - SAT 7 DEC 2024**
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Coventry & Warwickshire ISSUE 40 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

PLAY | COMEDY | THEATRE | DANCE | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS

BELGRADE THEATRE

ROMEO & JULIET
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
THE ORIGINAL PLAY, ORIGINALLY SCORED - WITH PAP AND DEE
21 Feb - 8 Mar 2025
bolgrade.co.uk

INSIDE:
PERICLES
The BBC presents a starring cast of film, TV and theatre

SARAH KEYWORD
Bring excitement and a whole lot of energy to the stage

TO THE MOON...
Female empowerment at the heart of 2024's best seller

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WHAT'S ON SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE - 01743 281714 OR EMAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS@WHATSONLIVE.CO.UK

Gigs

MEEKZ Mon 23 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth

DIRTY SOUND MAGNET Mon 23 Sept, The Victoria, Birmingham

YOT CLUB + LATE NIGHT DRIVE HOME Tues 24 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BEVERLEY KNIGHT Tues 24 Sept, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

ACOUSTIC SESSIONS Wed 25 Sept, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr

CLAVISH Wed 25 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth

MEGAN WYNN Wed 25 Sept, Dead Wax, Digbeth

JOHNNY COPPIN + STEVE & JULIE WIGLEY Wed 25 Sept, Red Lion Folk Club

MERCURY - QUEEN TRIBUTE Wed 25 Sept, The Alexandra

BRÔGEAL Wed 25 Sept, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

ASTRID WILLIAMSON Wed 25 Sept, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

RYAN ADAMS Wed 25 Sept, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

ELVIS COSTELLO AND STEVE NIEVE Wed 25 Sept, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

ANOTHER SKY Thurs 26 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

DEL CAMINO Thurs 26 Sept, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

THE COURETTES Thurs 26 Sept, The Night Owl, Digbeth

ROCKY AND ROSS LYNCH + ALMOST MONDAY Thurs 26 Sept, O2 Academy

PARTY CANNON + PINTGLASS + STREET SOLDIER + FOETAL JUICE Thurs 26 Sept, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

BOSTON MANOR + TROPHY EYES + SPLIT CHAIN Thurs 26 Sept, XOYO, Digbeth

THE GUARDS BIG BAND WITH RBC JAZZ

ORCHESTRA Thurs 26 Sept, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

JACK GOODALL Thurs 26 Sept, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath



LOUISE AND CHRIS ROGAN Thurs 26 Sept, Bromsgrove Folk Club

90S LIVE Thurs 26 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

MARSEILLE Fri 27 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

NORTH ATLAS Fri 27 Sept, The Rainbow, Digbeth

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 27 Sept, The Night Owl, Digbeth

SENSES FAIL + SAVES THE DAY Fri 27 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

RUM JUNGLE Fri 27 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BATTLESNAKE Fri 27 Sept, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

NORTH ATLAS Fri 27 Sept, The Rainbow, Digbeth

JANET JACKSON + WYCLEF JEAN Fri 27 Sept, Utilita Arena Birmingham

UNDER THE COVERS Fri 27 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Pershore Road

JOHN SMITH Fri 27 Sept, The Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

BARRY STEELE'S THE ROY ORBISON STORY Fri 27 Sept, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THE SHIRES Fri 27 Sept, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

ALEXANDER O'NEAL Fri 27 Sept, Dudley Town Hall

THE THE Fri 27 Sept, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

NANNA RADLEYS Fri 27 - Sat 28 Sept, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr

KINGMAKER Sat 28 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings

Heath

THE VARUKERS + THE DREGS + COKE RODENT + RUBBER HUSBAND Sat 28 Sept, The Dark Horse, Moseley

BABY BUSHKA - KATE BUSH TRIBUTE Sat 28 Sept, The Night Owl, Digbeth

WSTR Sat 28 Sept, O2 Institute, Digbeth

CANNIBAL CORPSE + MUNICIPAL WASTE + IMMOLATION + SCHIZOPHRENIA Sat 28 Sept, O2 Academy

MARY SPENDER Sat 28 Sept, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

LIZZY FARRALL Sat 28 Sept, The Asylum, Hampton Street

LAUBROCK, RAINEY, POPE & HUNTER Sat 28 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

THE LAW OF THREE Sat 28 Sept, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

SKABUCKS Sat 28 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Pershore Road

BOTOWN Sat 28 Sept, The Core Theatre, Solihull

CON JOVI Sat 28 Sept, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MJ - THE LEGACY STARRING CJ Sat 28 Sept, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

SLADEST Sat 28 Sept, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

FAIRGROUND ATTRACTION Sat 28 Sept, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE UK ROCK SHOW Sat 28 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

ÁSGEIR Sun 29 Sept, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE CROSSROADS BLUES Sun 29 Sept, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

THE BUSH PILOTS Sun 29 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Pershore Road

DAVID RODIGAN Sun 29 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE VAMPS Sun 29 Sept, O2 Academy,

NICK LOWE & LOS STRAITJACKETS Mon 30 Sept, O2 Academy

Classical Music

THOMAS TROTTER ORGAN CONCERT

Programme includes works by JS Bach, Curzon, Volans, Gershwin & Liszt, Mon 23 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: MOZART & SHOSTAKOVICH

Featuring the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Fabien Gabel (conductor), Nikolaj Henriques (bassoon) & Jason Lewis (trumpet). Programme includes works by Mozart, Simpson & Shostakovich, Wed 25 Sept, Birmingham Symphony Hall

LUNCHTIME RECITAL Featuring music students from the Blue Coat School, Fri 27 Sept, Birmingham Cathedral

BRODSKY QUARTET: SHOSTAKOVICH CYCLE

Six concerts comprising the complete string quartets of Dmitri Shostakovich, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Sept, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington

LUNCHTIME MUSIC

Matthew Pandya (baritone), Yeeching Lau (piano) & Elliot Gaston Ross (percussion). Programme includes works by Hahn, Liszt, Holst, Finzi & more..., Mon 30 Sept, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROBIN MORGAN Fri 27 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JONNY COLE Fri 27 Sept, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

KANE BROWN Fri 27 Sept, Bilston Town Hall

NISH KUMAR Sat 28 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



DAVID EAGLE, KATE MARTIN, DAVE LONGLEY & COMIC TBC Sat 28 Sept, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

JOSH PUGH, MARK MAIER, JONNY AWSUM & COMIC TBC Sat 28 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DOM JOLY Sat 28 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

ALFIE MOORE Sat 28 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

JOHNNY COLE Sat 28 Sept, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

RUBY WAX Sat 28 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

SARAH KEYWORTH Sat 28 Sept, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ROUGH WORKS: NEW MATERIAL NIGHT Sun 29 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOMMY SANDHU, JANINE HAROUNI, PRINCE ABDI, RUNI TALWAR & ESHAAN AKBAR Sun 29 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MAX GOSH Sun 29 Sept, The Alexandra, Birmingham

TOMMY SANDHU, JANINE HAROUNI, PRINCE ABDI & DON BISWAS Sun 29 Sept, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

Comedy

FERN BRADY Tues 24 Sept, The Alexandra, Birmingham

NEIL DELAMERE Wed 25 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHRISTOPHER HALL Wed 25 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT BRAGG Thurs 26 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOSH PUGH, SAM SERRANO & COMICS TBC Thurs 26 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ED GAMBLE Thurs 26 Sept, The Alexandra, Birmingham



FIN TAYLOR, LOUISE ATKINSON, MIKE RICE, PHIL CHAPMAN & FREDDY QUINNE Thurs 26 Sept, Hockley Social Club, Birmingham

JOSH PUGH, MARK MAIER, JONNY AWSUM & JOE KENT-WALTERS Fri 27

Theatre

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN Hit musical based on the award-winning 80s movie. Featuring a smash-hit soundtrack including songs by Madonna, Bon Jovi, Cyndi Lauper and Blondie... Mon 23 - Sat 28 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

PLAY ON! A new jazz musical based on Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, presented as part of Talawa Theatre Company's Black Joy season, Mon 23 Sept - Sat 5 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

thelist

WHEN VINCENT MET JOHN Imagine what would have happened if Vincent Van Gogh and John Lennon met... Wed 25 - Thurs 26 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DESTINY Award-winning monologue following the story of a teenage girl growing up on a rural Wiltshire council estate, Thurs 26 Sept, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

AUTIN DANCE: THE GIANT WHEEL A moving performance inspired by 'the beauty, power and impact of people from different walks of life coming together'... Thurs 26 Sept, Redditch Town Centre

PEOPLE SHOW: THE DIVINERS 'Electrifying and strangely topical' story in which four broken AI entities try and make sense of the world but no longer have the correct information, Thurs 26 - Fri 27 Sept, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham



FOUR FELONS AND A FUNERAL GOYA Theatre Company present a feel-good musical concerning four dysfunctional friends on a road trip to scatter their mate's ashes, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Sept, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

AFTER ALL Heartfelt exploration of death rituals and the role that dancing might play in healing, Fri 27 Sept, Thimblemill Library, Smethwick

AUTIN DANCE: THE GIANT WHEEL A moving performance inspired by 'the beauty, power and impact of people from different walks of life coming together'... Fri 27 Sept, Walsall Arboretum

MATILDA JR Amateur version presented by Script Youth Musical Theatre Company, Sat 28 Sept, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

CONFETTI The story of Felix, an uptight and unlucky-in-love 'mate of honour' at his best friend's wedding, Sat 28 Sept, Dorothy Parkes Centre, Smethwick

ALL MY SONS The Crescent Theatre Company present an amateur version of Arthur Miller's classic play, Sat 28 Sept - Sat 5 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Kid's Theatre

THE GRUFFALO Production based on Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's much-loved picture book, Tues 24 - Wed 25 Sept, Lichfield Garrick

PEPPA PIG'S FUN DAY OUT Join Peppa, her family and friends as they go to the zoo and beach for a special party, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

Dance

BRB: LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE Comedy, ballet and clog dancing combine in Birmingham Royal Ballet's staging of Sir Frederick Ashton's classic, Wed 25 - Sat 28 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome



LORD OF THE DANCE - A LIFETIME OF STANDING OVATIONS A revival of the iconic dance extravaganza, Mon 30 Sept - Sun 6 Oct, The Alexandra, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

PSYCHIC SALLY Evening of mediumship, Mon 23 Sept, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE GIRLS BATHROOM PLANET TOUR Internet favourites Sophia and Cinzia bring their chart-topping podcast to the stage, Mon 23 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SHAUN RYDER - HAPPY MONDAYS, AND FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS, AND SUNDAYS Spoken-word show presented in support of Shaun's new book. Expect 'an entertaining evening of wild tales and improbable truths', Wed 25 Sept, Stourbridge Town Hall

BOX OF FROGS Evening of high-octane, improvised comedy nonsense, based entirely on audience suggestions, Wed 25 Sept, 100 Trades, Jewellery Quarter, B'ham

ELTON JOHN BY CANDLELIGHT

A WEST END CAST & LIVE BAND PERFORM:
ROCKET MAN
I'M STILL STANDING
TINY DANCER
CROCODILE ROCK
AND MANY MORE BY CANDLELIGHT!

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CONCERTS BY CANDLELIGHT *FEES APPLY

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Sister Act

Music by **ALAN MENKEN**
Lyrics by **GLENN SLATER**
Book by **CHERI STEINKELLNER** and **BILL STEINKELLNER**

Additional Book Material: **DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE**

Based on the Screenplay by Michael Peters 'Sister Act' written by Joseph Howard. This amateur production is presented in agreement with Music Theatre International. All financial performance statistics are copyrighted by WTI www.wti.com

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Choreographers by Doug Besteman. Vocal and Instrumental Music Arrangements by Michael Kozlowski. Produced on Broadway by Broadway Casting & Light Entertainment in association with The Shubert Organization and Other Theatrical Productions. Originally Produced by Creative Artists Agency in association with Peter Schneider & Michael Kean and Produced by Stage Entertainment. World Premiere Produced by Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena CA and Atlantic Theatre, Atlanta GA. Director Susan V. Booth, Artistic Director Lisa White. Executive Director Ron Pichel. Managing Director Tom Hove. Promoting Director.

FLEETWOOD MAC BY CANDLELIGHT

Featuring a cast of West End singers and a live band, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 Sept, Lichfield Cathedral

MR. B - THE GENTLEMAN RHYMER

An upbeat cabaret show featuring 'cleverly twisted rap at its most inoffensive', Fri 27 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



THE POLDARK SHOW - EL MISTICO

Evening of magic, mind-reading and comedy hypnosis, Fri 27 Sept, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY BANGERS LIVE!

Join James B Partridge for a nostalgic evening of singalong tunes to take you back to your primary school days, Fri 27 Sept, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

TRIBUTE TO HANS ZIMMER & FILM FAVOURITES ILLUMINATED: LATE SHOW

Cinema's most iconic music, performed live by the London Film Music Orchestra, Fri 27 Sept, Coventry Cathedral

LINE DANCING WITH THE DOUBLE

DOLLYS Lisa Bond and Tracey Collins present an evening of Dolly Parton's hits and raucous comedy, Fri 27 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE SOUL OF BOLLYWOOD Bollywood's best-loved anthems get the Shaft treatment in what's promising to be 'an unforgettable fusion of music, culture and pure entertainment', Sat 28 Sept, The Core Theatre, Solihull

AN EVENING WITHOUT KATE BUSH

Award-winning show paying homage to the music, fans and mythology of one of the most influential voices in British music, Sat 28 Sept, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SHIRLEY & SHIRLEY: GERIATRIC MUMS

Observational humour, sketches and impressions from the award-winning double act, Sat 28 Sept, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

THE EVERLEY BROTHERS BY CANDLELIGHT

A homage to 'the legendary duo who defined an era of music', Sat 28 Sept, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET

The creme de la creme of the cabaret world take to the stage to surprise and delight... Sat 28 - Sun 29 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

WHY BRITAIN ROCKED

Elizabeth Sharkey delves deep into Britain's history to explore how rock became roll and took over the world... Wed 25 Sept, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

GREG BYRON #STANDUP POET

Join Greg as he delivers verses on life and the universe, Fri 27 Sept, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE MAGIC OF TERRY PRATCHETT

Join author & comedian Marc Burrows as he journeys through the life and work of the fantasy novelist, Sat 28 Sept, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL PALIN

New show in which the bestselling author and comedy legend unlocks volume four of his life and times, from 1999 to 2009, Sat 28 Sept, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Events

GANDEYS HOLLYWOOD SPECTACULAR

Featuring circus magic and Hollywood glamour, Wed 25 Sept - Sun 6 Oct, Pype Hayes Park, Erdington, Birmingham

BRINDLEY MARKET

Featuring everything from hot lunchtime meals and takeaway treats, to jewellery and art, Thurs 26 Sept, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

SLADE FANS CONVENTION

Experience wall-to-wall 1970s hard rock and glam in the spiritual birthplace of the Black Country Fab Four, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Sept, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

CLASSIC CAR AUCTIONS

Autumn sale of classic cars, Sat 28 Sept, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

MALVERN AUTUMN SHOW

One of the UK's biggest annual harvest-season celebrations, Fri 27 - Sun 29 Sept, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

PEAKY BLINDERS NIGHT

Enjoy a night of entertainment courtesy of the Peaky Blinders, Sat 28 Sept, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

THE MURDER OF EDWARD CATES A

1920s-inspired night that will test your detective skills and immerse you in 'a thrilling whodunnit experience', Sat 28 Sept, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

RUSTIVAL 2

A classic, retro and young-timer car & vehicle show, hosted by YouTubers Ian and Carly from HubNut, Matt from Furious Driving and Steph from idriveaclassic, Sat 28 Sept, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

GIN TRAINS

Try a selection of gins on a luxury train journey, Sat 28 Sept,



Malvern Autumn Show - Three Counties Showground

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

STAFFORD RAILWAY CIRCLE ANNUAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Model railway exhibition featuring traders and demonstrations, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Sept, Staffordshire County Showground

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP - RAILWAY REENACTMENT

Pick up tips and tricks with Lee Chapman of Chappers Photography, Sun 29 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

TOY COLLECTORS FAIR

Featuring more than 500 stalls packed with thousands of for-sale collectables, Sun 29 Sept, NEC, Birmingham

SPECIALIST GLASS FAIR

Run by Premier Glass Fairs, Sun 29 Sept, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

HOME RUN HOUNDS: THE GREAT GLOBAL GREYHOUND WALK

Annual dog-walking event that brings together greyhounds, lurchers and other

sighthounds, Sun 29 Sept, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

HOME RUN HOUNDS: THE GREAT GLOBAL GREYHOUND WALK

Annual dog-walking event that brings together greyhounds, lurchers and other sighthounds, Sun 29 Sept, Beacon Park, Lichfield

END OF SEASON TRAIL

Look for clues around the grounds on the last Sunday open day of the season, Sun 29 Sept, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

ANYTHING GOES DIESEL GALA

Special event in which every available diesel will be in action on a frequent timetable, with photo opportunities and the chance of some rare diesel haulage, Sun 29 Sept, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

SING AND PLAY DAY

A day of 'joyful musicmaking' to kickstart the new academic year, Sun 29 Sept, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall, University of Birmingham



Rustival - British Motor Museum, Gaydon

WIN! with What's On...

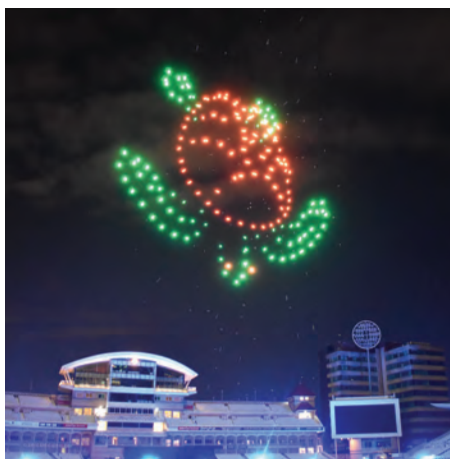
Enter now at whatsonlive.co.uk to be in with a chance of bagging one of these fabulous prizes!



Win! A night out at The Arcadian for two - courtesy of Birmingham Comedy Festival!

Birmingham Comedy Festival is back next month - and to celebrate, we're giving one lucky reader the chance to win a night out for two at the city's Arcadian centre!
The fabulous prize includes a dining experience at Indian restaurant

Blanc NRI Birmingham, free parking at The Arcadian and two tickets to enjoy The Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award 2024 event at The Glee Club on Thursday 10 October...
Competition closes Friday 27 September



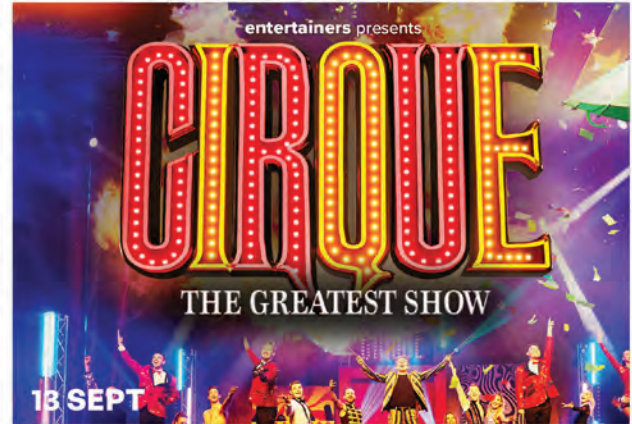
Win! A premium family ticket to see Evolution: The Drone Light Show at Edgbaston Stadium!

An epic drone show telling the story of time and space is making its debut at Edgbaston Stadium next month. Providing audiences with a greener alternative to fireworks, Evolution: The Drone Light Show offers a front-row view of the world's biggest stage (the sky!) and features more drones than ever before. The narrated story starts with the explosive birth of the universe and then journeys

through life on Earth. Tailored for all ages, the event also provides accessible seating options and facilities for those with sensory needs. We have a premium family ticket to give away to the show on Saturday 26 October...
Competition closes Monday 14 October

For your chance to WIN! with What's On, visit:
whatsonlive.co.uk

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