

Worcestershire

ISSUE 452 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

FILM | COMEDY | THEATRE | GIGS | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS

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 A GUARANTEED PARTY

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malvern theatres

inside:

IT'S A BARD'S LIFE

Matt Cardle talks about playing Shakespeare in *& Juliet*



TO THE MOON...

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DEAR ZOO

children's favourite on stage at Worcester's Swan Theatre



DIRECT FROM LONDON

THE MUST SEE SHOW RETURNS



'OUTRAGEOUSLY
FUNNY'

BROADWAY BABY



'THE BEST COMEDY
SHOW'

SUNDAY EXPRESS



'THIS EXPERIENCE IS A
MUST'

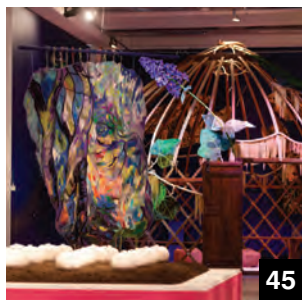
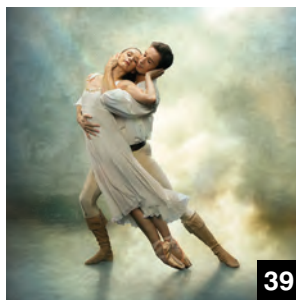
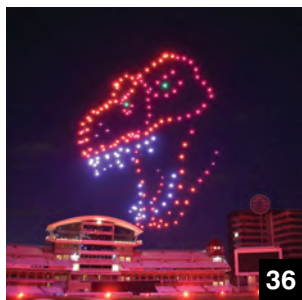
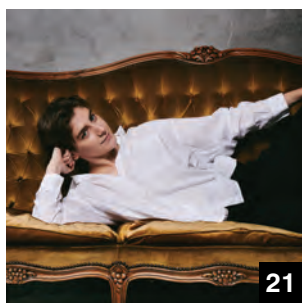
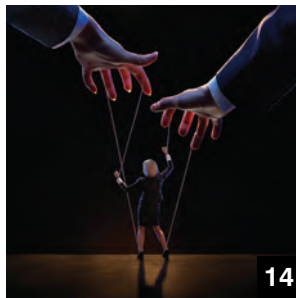
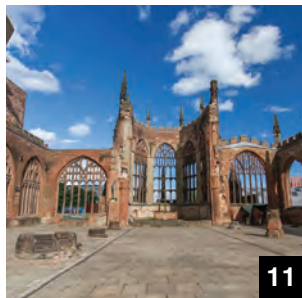
THEATRE AND ARTS REVIEWS



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Managing Director: **Davina Evans** davina@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281708
 Sales & Marketing: hello@whatsonlive.co.uk
 Editorial: **Lauren Foster** lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281707 : **Brian O'Faolain** brian@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281701 : **Abi Whitehouse** abi@whatsonlive.co.uk :
Jessica Clixby jessica@whatsonlive.co.uk Subscriptions: subscriptions@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714
 Contributors: Graham Bostock, Diane Parkes, Patsy Moss, Steve Adams, Sue Hull, Reggie White, Sue Jones, Liz Day
 Publisher and CEO: **Martin Monahan** Accounts Administrator: **Julia Perry** julia@21stdc.com 01743 281717

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Art, circus and vampires 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'. October shows include the 20th-anniversary production of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys* and a new version of Yasmina Reza's *Art* (pictured), starring Seann Walsh, Chris Harper and Aden Gillett... To check out the whole autumn-season programme, visit the venue's website at belgrade.co.uk

Railway's 'resilience fund' raises £73,000

The Severn Valley Railway's (SVR) Resilience Fund - set up in May to access widespread support to meet the visitor attraction's ongoing costs - has so far received donations totalling £73,000.

Commenting on the news, SVR's managing director, Jonathan Dunster, said: "The response from the public to our appeal really has exceeded our expectations. We're hugely grateful to everyone who's responded. It's heartening to see that they clearly understand the sheer expense of running a heritage railway like the Severn Valley." To make a donation, visit svr.co.uk

Wedding wonderland set to visit NAEC Stoneleigh

NAEC Stoneleigh will host the National Wedding Fayre in the new year. Taking place at the venue on Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 January, the event will provide couples with a one-stop shop for all their wedding planning needs. To find out more, visit: naecstoneleigh.co.uk/events



Immersive and interactive: new art at the Herbert

An interactive artwork designed for people of all ages to enjoy is coming to Coventry next month.

Presented at the city's Herbert Art Gallery & Museum with the aim of encouraging experimentation and collaborative play, *Microworld* is an immersive space filled with digital creatures that communicate with each other and the audience.

The artwork shows from Saturday 26 October to Sunday 23 February. To find out more, visit the venue's website: theherbert.org



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

Dad's Army and Dracula heading to Warwick!

Warwick's Bridge House Theatre launches its autumn season this month with *Dad's Army* Radio Show.

The popular production, which shows at the venue on Saturday 21

September, sees two actors playing 20-plus characters and bringing to life three episodes of the much-loved 1970s sitcom.

The Bridge House Theatre's season then continues with *Austen's Women: Lady Susan* (pictured) on Monday 7 October, *Woyzeck* (Thursday 10 October) and *Dracula* (Tuesday 15 & Wednesday 16 October).

To find out more about the shows, visit the website: bridgehousetheatre.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

Nathan to rock up in Rocky Horror

Comedian Nathan Caton will turn his hand to narrating Richard O'Brien's legendary rock & roll musical, The Rocky Horror Show, when it visits Malvern Theatres next month. The iconic show, featuring a host of much-loved songs, including Sweet Transvestite, Dammit Janet and The Time Warp, rocks up at the Worcestershire venue from Monday 7 to Saturday 12 October.



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



Outdoor arts festival takes over the streets of Coventry

Imagineer Productions' six-week Streets Of Cov festival continues to run in Coventry on Fridays and Saturdays until Saturday 21 September. The family-friendly outdoor arts event is bringing free pop-up performances of circus, dance, music, theatre and water-based pyrotechnics to the city's streets. Performances

take place in numerous iconic locations, including Broadgate, Coventry Cathedral, the Canal Basin, London Road Cemetery, St Mary's Guildhall and Lower Precinct. Further information about the event, including the full programme of performances, can be found at imagineer-productions.co.uk



Political podcast heading to Brum

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 the website at utilitaarenabham.co.uk

Hayward touring exhibition to open at Coventry venue next month

An ambitious group exhibition is opening at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre next month. A Hayward Gallery Touring presentation, Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists And Textiles explores how simple everyday materials are being used to surprise and provoke, 'creating worlds and telling stories ranging from the personal to the cosmic'. The exhibition opens in the venue's Mead Gallery on Wednesday 9 October and shows until Sunday 15 December. For further information, visit warwickartscentre.co.uk



New photography exhibition at the cathedral

A touring and free-to-view photographic exhibition is visiting Coventry Cathedral at the end of the month (Friday 27 - Sunday 29 September).

A New Face For Leprosy is a collection of thought-provoking images by photographer Tom Bradley which aim to encourage people to see past the disease. The images are presented alongside interviews by leading leprologist Professor Diana Lockwood. The exhibition has been mounted to mark the 100th anniversary of UK-based charity Lepra, which supports vulnerable communities affected by neglected tropical diseases such as leprosy.

A Sampad takeover in Solihull's Shirley Park

South Asian Arts & Heritage organisation Sampad is hosting a free programme of live music, dance, spoken word and 'fun workshops' in Solihull's Shirley Park on Saturday 21 September. The special event is being held in celebration of South Asian Heritage Month. To find out more, visit thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk

Disco Inferno as Claire Steps out in the Midlands

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



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A feast of fairs this autumn/winter at Compton Verney

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

The DR1VR Show returns to the Motor Museum

The DR1VR Show returns to the British Motor Museum in Gaydon, Warwickshire, for a second year on Sunday 15 September.



Visitors to the event can enjoy a relaxed day out spent admiring hundreds of modified cars and listening to live music. To find out more about the show, visit the website: britishmotormuseum.co.uk

Tree & timber show back at Ragley this month

The UK's largest trees & timber show visits Alcester's Ragley Estate this month (Thursday 19 - Saturday 21 September). Boasting 300 exhibitors and celebrating trees, timber, woodland and forestry, the biannual event - back at Ragley for the seventh time - features a wide range of entertainment, from top-class competitions, have-a-go tree climbing and axe throwing, to basket weaving, rake making and holding the reins of a huge timber horse. For further information, visit afexhibition.co.uk

Interactive theatre show to visit Coventry venue

An interactive theatre show blending live performance, film, projection, dance and music is stopping off at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Wednesday 6 November as part of an autumn tour. Exploring 'the different lenses through which we are told, and connect to, stories in the modern digital world', Feel Me asks audiences, via their mobile phones, who and what they care about from the production unfolding live on stage. For further information about the show and to book tickets, visit warwickartscentre.co.uk



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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



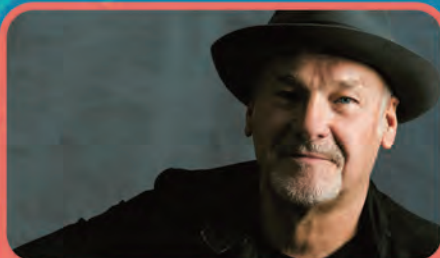
**Rob Lamberti
Presents Perfectly George**
14 Sept | Symphony Hall



Marc Almond
16 Sept | Symphony Hall



Little Big Town
17 Sept | Symphony Hall



Paul Carrack
22 Sept | Symphony Hall



Pop in & try!

**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!

This Town inspires Our Town at music museum

Fans of *This Town*, the hit Midlands-based BBC drama series created and written by Stephen Knight - the man behind *Peaky Blinders* - can check out an exhibition at Coventry Music Museum which has been inspired by the show.

Taking the title *Our Town*, the display features costumes and memorabilia from the series. To find out more, visit the venue's website at covmm.co.uk



Niyo Fest celebrates 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

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery set to reopen

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.



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Stratford Literary Festival returns next month

Stratford Literary Festival returns next month with, as usual, an array of well-known faces (Friday 25 - Sunday 27 October).

High-profile contributors to the event include politician Jess Phillips, broadcaster Adrian Chiles, BBC Gardeners' World presenter Carol

Klein, *Strictly* favourite Anton Du Beke, dog expert Graeme Hall and journalist Jonathan Dimbleby.

To check out the full line-up and purchase tickets, visit the event's website at stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

SIX star Alexia in festive return to the Hippodrome

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

Orchestra to celebrate women in music

Stratford-upon-Avon's Orchestra of the Swan kickstarts its 2024/25 season this month. Taking the theme of *Stories, Journeys And Dreams*, the programme of concerts celebrates the orchestra's commitment to storytelling and highlights women in music. One of the season's standout shows is *George Eliot In Words And Music*, featuring RSC favourite Harriet Walter and celebrating

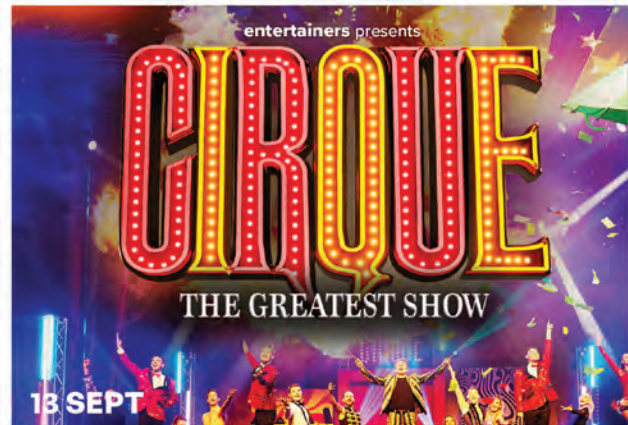
the work of numerous 21st-century female singer-songwriters, including Kate Bush, Florence Welch, PJ Harvey and Joan Armatrading. To check out the whole programme, visit orchestraoftheswan.org

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



BELGRADE



Book now belgrade.co.uk

Upcoming Exhibition

Herbert
Art Gallery & Museum

www.theherbert.org
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Jordan Well, Coventry CV1 5QP



Microworld Coventry

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum | 26
October 2024 - 23 February 2025 | 10am -
3.15pm | Book via DippyinCoventry.co.uk

Microworld is an immersive space filled with digital creatures. The creatures communicate with each other and the audience. Sensors in the space create an engaging and intuitive digital ecosystem with cascades of actions and reactions.

Each Microworld is a celebration of a new type of living art that encourages experimentation and collaborative play.

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ENGLAND



The return of Heritage Open Days...

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, taking place every September and involving thousands of local volunteers and organisations. Stories are told, traditions explored and histories brought to life. The festival provides members of the general public with the chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences. And what's more, it's all absolutely FREE. The event returns this year from Friday 6 to Sunday 15 September - and here are just some of the venues you can explore around the region...

Warwickshire

Coventry Cathedral

Priory Street, Coventry, CV1 5AB

Coventry Cathedral is a place where medieval history meets modern architecture.

Internationally recognised as a beacon of hope, the venue embodies a spirit of peace and reconciliation in a truly breathtaking setting.

Explore the ruined cathedral, destroyed in the Coventry Blitz during World War Two, and the iconic 'new' cathedral, featuring works by some of the greatest artists of the 1950s and 60s. Transport yourself back to 1940s Coventry in the Blitz Museum, or climb 180 steps up the tower for 360° views of the city.

Mon 9 - Sun 15 Sept | Mon-Sat 10am-4pm & Sun 12pm-3pm, no pre-booking required



Coughton Court

Coughton Court, Coughton, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5JA

Coughton Court has been home to the Throckmorton family for more than 600 years. Visitors can find out all about their story - including their link to the Gunpowder Plot - and also check out the gardens, enjoy a riverside walk and admire the beautiful display of roses in the walled garden. Coughton Court remains open despite currently being the subject of a £3.3million building conservation project. Explore its history and collections via new displays in the house, and learn more about the ongoing project in the Through The Roof exhibition.

Sat 7 Sept | 11am-5pm, no pre-booking required

Daimler Powerhouse

Sandy Lane Business Park, Coventry, CV1 4DQ

Daimler was one of the first car factories in Britain and is an important part of the history and heritage of Coventry. The Daimler site was destroyed during the Blitz - the building known as 'the Powerhouse' is all that remains. The site itself is now a cultural creation centre, continuing to be a place for inventiveness, excellence and creativity.

Sat 7 Sept | 10am-4pm, no pre-booking required



Lunt Roman Fort Tours

Coventry Road, Baginton, Coventry, CV8 3AJ

Join Roman soldiers Rufus and Gnaeus as they lead groups on a two-hour tour around this historic site, dating back to 60AD. Climb up the newly renovated ramparts to enjoy the view, experience the gyrus - where it's believed Ancient Roman soldiers trained their cavalry - explore the reconstructed granary, and learn about the Roman legions, their armour and the other items on display from Culture Coventry's collections.

Sat 14 Sept | 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm, pre-booking required



Pop Up Vintage Patchwork Exhibition

Avondale Nursery, Russell's Garden Centre, Baginton, Coventry, CV8 3AG

For one day only, you can check out beautiful patchwork from the Jane Cobbett Collection of Historical Textiles in a compact and self-contained garden setting. Available to view will be a selection of small and full-sized quilts, pretty fabric colours and designs, and late summer blooms. There will also be a craft sales table and tombola to raise money for charity.

Sat 14 Sept | 11am-3pm, no pre-booking required



Rugby Theatre

Central Hall, Henry Street, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 2QA

After last year's successful open days, Rugby Theatre is once again offering members of the general public the chance to go behind the scenes at the venue. Have a go at plotting lighting and sound effects, watch sets get built, and check out all the backstage areas in action as the theatre gears up for its autumn season.

Full tours are available for people who are really interested in a particular area, and you can stay as long as you want. If you thoroughly enjoy your visit, take the opportunity to find out how you can get involved at the theatre.

Sat 7 & Sun 8 Sept | 9am-5pm, tours from 10am, pre-booking preferred

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES | TIMESRADIO | Cheltenham 4-13 October 2024
Literature Festival

A 75th anniversary celebration featuring...

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 Geri Halliwell-Horner • Russell Kane
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 Michael Rosen • Richard Ayoade
 Neneh Cherry • Rupert Everett**

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THE COVENTRY MUSIC MUSEUM
<http://www.covmm.co.uk>

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 THE OLD JOINT STOCK

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The return of Heritage Open Days...

**Treasures of the Archives -
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**

**Herbert Art Gallery, Jordan Well, Coventry,
CV1 5QP**

Explore the treasures of Coventry Archives via a guided behind-the-scenes tour. As well as being provided with an overview of the collections and resources, visitors will also get the chance to see some of the more exclusive and precious items in the museum's historic collections.

Sat 7 Sept | 11am & 1pm, pre-booking required



Worcestershire

Avoncroft Museum

**Redditch Road, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire, B60 4JR**

Avoncroft Museum offers families a unique opportunity to join in with members of Colonel Nicholas Devereux's Regiment in the grounds and buildings of the venue. The immersive weekend event features displays, demonstrations and plenty of opportunities to get hands-on with history.

**Sat 7 & Sun 8 Sept | 10am-4pm,
no pre-booking required**



The Commandery

Sidbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU

Set in the heart of historic Worcester, The Commandery is famous for having been the Royalist headquarters during the 1651 Battle of Worcester - the deciding confrontation of the English Civil War.

Visitors can enjoy the museum and beautiful gardens for free. Highlights include the Civil War Story - explaining Worcester's vital role in the conflict - the magnificent medieval Painted Chamber and the Great Hall.

Sun 15 Sept | 10am-3pm, no pre-booking required



Great Malvern Station Walk

**Great Malvern Station, Malvern,
Worcestershire, WR14 3AL**

Enjoy a one-hour walk around the station, led by Dr Michael Pritchard, chairman of the Malvern Railways Group. The walk will include details of the renovation work carried out over the past three years, including the replacement of the clock mechanism, new replica lights and the repainting of the station.

Tues 10 Sept | 10.30am, pre-booking required

Historic Graffiti Tour

**Worcester Cathedral, Worcestershire,
WR1 2LA**

This guided tour of the historic graffiti of Worcester Cathedral explores the marks left by those who built it, and by those who have worshipped and visited there, from the Middle Ages to the present day.

The graffiti shows the changing nature of belief, practice and worship across the centuries, in the process revealing the personalities, thoughts and fears of those who visited the venue. The guided tour of the

graffiti, both inside and outside the cathedral building, lasts approximately one hour and 15 minutes.

Sat 14 Sept | 12pm & 3pm, no pre-booking required



Knapp and Papermill Walk

Knapp and Papermill Reserve, Bridges Stone, Alfrick, Worcester, WR6 5HR

Enjoy a one-hour walk with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust around this flagship reserve, which hosts the Leigh Brook, home of otters. The trail around the Knapp and Papermill starts in an apple orchard with old lichen-encrusted trees that attract nuthatches and green woodpeckers. Keep an eye out for red admiral and peacock butterflies, or birds like fieldfare and redwing as they feast on the fallen fruit.

Fri 13 Sept | 10.30am, pre-booking required

The Tudor House Museum

**16 Church Street, Upton-upon-Severn,
Worcester, WR8 0HT**

Upton's historic Tudor House Museum has recently been refurbished and is ready to welcome visitors on both Heritage Open Day weekends for an informative one-hour guided history walk around the town.

Guides will cover a range of topics during the walk, including the battle of Upton in 1651, the role that the river played in influencing trade, the floods, and celebrated personalities. After the walk, visitors can explore the museum and garden, which are cared for by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Sat 7 & Sun 8 and Sat 14 & Sun 15 Sept | 1.30pm, no pre-booking required





KEEPING IT REAL

Acclaimed local playwright David Edgar is going full circle with his new political thriller, which is premiered by the RSC next month...

Birmingham-based David Edgar is one of the UK's greatest living playwrights, not to mention one of the most prolific. He tells What's On about his latest work, *The New Real*, which premieres in Royal Shakespeare Company venue *The Other Place* next month...

It's safe to say that theatrical greasepaint courses through the veins of Birmingham-based playwright David Edgar. His parents met at the Birmingham Rep, he's been writing plays professionally since 1971 - more than 60 in total - and has had more work premiered by the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) than any other playwright. These include *Destiny* (1976), *Maydays* (1983), *Pentecost* (1994), *The Prisoner's Dilemma* (2001) and *Written On The Heart* (2011), as well as his memorable adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, performed in 2017, 2018 and 2022.

The near 50-year relationship with the RSC came about through luck rather than judgement, he says. *Destiny*, his play about the rise of the National Front, had been commissioned but then rejected by the Birmingham Rep and only ended up in Stratford-upon-Avon after David spent quite a bit of time "hawking it around".

"It only ended up at the RSC because a director at *The Other Place* persuaded Trevor Nunn, then the RSC's artistic director, to read it," recalls the 76-year-old, who says Nunn's decision to stage it - and then move it to a larger theatre in London - effectively kick-started his career.

David shows no signs of slowing up, with two new plays currently in production. Here *In America* premieres in London this month; *The New Real* brings him back to Stratford two weeks later. He'll be commuting between rehearsals - mercifully both in London - but is more excited than daunted by the hectic schedule.

"It's going to be mad for a while, so I'm trying to pace myself. I'm thrilled to have now done so much work for the RSC. I've always lived in Birmingham, and it's one of what I regard as my home theatres."

The New Real brings things full circle in more ways than one. Like his RSC debut, it will premiere in *The Other Place* (recently refurbished and celebrating its 50th anniversary this year), although the parallels between David's first RSC production, his latest one, and the recent race-fuelled riots in the UK are rather less encouraging.

"'Unleashing Demons' could easily be the title of the play. It's absolutely about the dangers of mainstream politicians coming up with theories and false facts that then play themselves out on the streets. So it does go back to *Destiny*, and also *Maydays*, which was about people moving from left to right

politically, and which the RSC revived in 2018.

"2024 sees probably the biggest-ever battle between mainstream politics and populist insurgents, around the world. I'm delighted the RSC are presenting my new play about the origins of this titanic struggle, in the most tumultuous of times.

"I hope it's not my last play for the Company, but it certainly does continue, or echo, some of the themes of my earlier work."

David says *The New Real* is ostensibly a political thriller, but with plenty of humour along the way, largely of the 'fish-out-of-water' variety, as the main protagonists, two American political strategists, pitch up on opposite sides of an election in an unnamed former Eastern Bloc country in the early 2000s.

The former investigative journalist came up with the idea after reading a book about how American political consultants were spreading their practice throughout the world, and particularly in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

"Lots of people wanted to advise the Eastern Europeans how to do liberal democracy. There was a particular election in Ukraine in 2010 in which there were American political consultants on both sides of the presidential election. I thought that was fascinating in a way that so many stories - fundamentally Westerns - are, where you've got the white hat and the black hat coming into town, into a place they don't know or understand, in order to rescue it from the villains surrounding it."

Far from going in to teach, Edgar says the strategists ended up learning how the Eastern Europeans were doing elections, as well as how they were being influenced by the worst of Western electoral practices.

"It seemed a fascinating way of looking at what's happened to world politics this century, and most obviously the rise of national populism and what we've seen with Brexit, Donald Trump, and now with Marine Le Pen in France, Viktor Orbán in Hungary and Giorgia Meloni in Italy. It's a whole new form of politics that is very polarising - people who you imagine would traditionally have voted for social democratic parties are increasingly voting for right wing populist parties.

"It seemed interesting to combine those two ideas. It's two political consultants who have run a company together in America, split up



rather acrimoniously, and they end up on opposite sides of the same election in a faraway country. So it's a kind of grudge match thousands of miles away from home. There's comedy in it, but also it's a way of looking at how the new politics has been constructed, and how it's spread throughout the world."

Conspiracy theories and 'fake news' are also key themes of the play - hence its title - but they go beyond the simplistic claims of Donald Trump.

"Fake news rumbles underneath the play, and there's also some quite interesting East European varieties of fake news in politics. Political parties that aren't really political parties, and various ways of manipulation which the West might see as being in its infancy."

David's "big and complicated political play" is rather more sophisticated than that, and includes an array of video and technological wizardry that may or may not be visible to all of the audience. It's a deliberate ploy, as the play, which is being directed by Holly Race Roughan, will be performed in traverse; the stage will effectively be a corridor in the middle of the auditorium, with the audience on both sides.

"Holly's very keen on the idea that it'll be a bit like Parliament, very polarised, and literally split down the middle. There are some quite interesting possibilities about what one side sees but the other side doesn't, or sees in a different way. I think it's a very exciting metaphor for a play about how society has become polarised."

.....
The New Real shows at the RSC's *The Other Place*, Stratford-upon-Avon, from Thursday 3 October to Saturday 2 November

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Classical music from across the region...



Brodsky Quartet: Shostakovich Cycles 1 to 6

Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Sat 28 & Sun 29 September

The hugely admired Brodsky Quartet have performed more than 3,000 concerts and released in excess of 60 recordings since their formation in Middlesborough way back in the early 1970s. And fairly remarkably for an ensemble of such longstanding, the quartet still features two original members - Ian Belton (violin) and Jacqueline Thomas (cello), while a third, viola player Paul Cassidy, has been on board since 1982. These Leamington Music appearances see Brodsky performing all 15 of Shostakovich's

string quartets across six concerts in one weekend. "Come and revel in the personal diaries of one of the world's greatest-ever musicians," the quartet urge Midlands classical music lovers. "Initially inspired by life - the birth of his son - and finishing with our collective demise, Shostakovich's masterpieces address family, friends, enemies and lovers, with every conceivable emotion explored. We promise you a rollercoaster. Take the ride!"

Orchestra Of The Swan: Mendelssohn At The Manor

Armscote Manor, Warwickshire, Fri 13 September

Armscote Manor's beautiful barn provides the setting for the Orchestra of the Swan's principal string players as they perform Felix Mendelssohn's Octetis - a work written by the legendary German composer at the tender age of just 16. Alternatively intimate and symphonic, the half-hour-long piece is not only a real favourite with string players but also came top of the list with Mendelssohn himself when he assessed his own body of work.



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.

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 (pictured) leads the orchestra in a concert which also features the CBSO Chorus.



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 Schoenberg'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.





Robinson-Stone

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester,
Sat 28 September

Worcestershire singer-songwriter Clifford T Ward would have been 80 this year. Diagnosed in his early 40s with multiple sclerosis and passing away from pneumonia

at the age of 57, the Stourport-on-Severn-born musician was best known for his 1973 album *Home Thoughts* and hit singles *Gaye* and *Scullery*. In homage to him, Celtic folk and vintage Americana sibling trio Robinson-Stone are performing this special concert of his music. Expect not only the hits but fan favourites and hidden gems.

Deadletter

Coventry Central Library, Sat 14 September

The darker side of existence is thoroughly explored via the vehement post-punk sound of Deadletter, a Yorkshire band who've now relocated to South London. Playing music which has been described as channelling the droll fury of Gang Of Four and the lopsided rhythms of Talking Heads, the talented six-piece have been touring like there's no tomorrow over the last couple of years. They're stopping off in Coventry this month in support of their debut album, *Hysterical Strength*.



18 whatsonlive.co.uk

The Selector

hmv Empire, Coventry, Sat 28 September

Coventry-based 2 Tone ska revival band The Selector formed back in 1979. Fronted by the iconic Pauline Black, they're best known for their politically connected and controversial lyrics.

"It's a way of being," explains Pauline, "a way of life and a way of identifying yourself. 2 Tone unified all those different groups, and we can still do that. We can go anywhere, and that's the beauty of 2 Tone. It's the hybrid nature of it that makes everything possible."

A Different Thread

Marrs Bar, Worcester, Sun 29 September

Transatlantic duo A Different Thread (Robert Jackson is from Lichfield, Alicia Best hails from North Carolina in the US) met while busking on the streets of Galway and have since garnered widespread praise for their hair-raising vocal harmonies, intricate guitar, soulful fiddle and playful harmonica. Writing songs that delve into themes of change, counter culture and travel, they're joined in Worcester by double bassist Mike Seal for a show that promises a unique blend of folk, blues and Americana.

Mim Grey

Temperance, Leamington Spa,
Mon 16 September

When it comes to superstar endorsements, Mim Grey is surely leading the way. Sir Paul McCartney is a devoted admirer, while Sir Tom Jones has declared her his favourite singer. Michael Ball's been effusive in his praise too, hailing her "the most beautiful voice to come out of the UK in a very long time".

A talented performer who's comfortable making music using guitar, piano and percussion, Mim visits Leamington in support of third studio album *The Garden Of Me*.



India Electric Company

The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry,
Thurs 19 September

Traditional instruments, folk melodies and subtle electronic influences are beautifully combined in the output of India Electric Company, two extraordinary musicians from the West Country whose breathtaking talent has seen them described as true folk-music pioneers. The pair play Coventry in support of their third studio album, *Pomegranate*, released earlier in the year.





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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 Brodtkin

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

Former medical doctor Simon Brodtkin is perhaps best known as the creator of comedy character Lee Nelson, a bling-wearing Stella-swigging 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

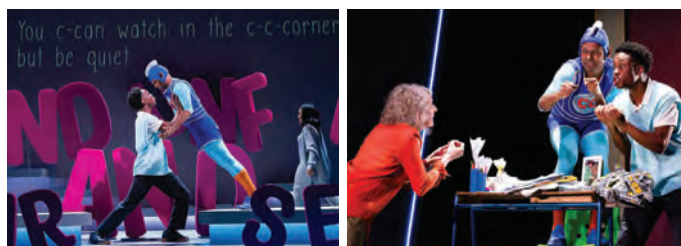
unexpectedly to fighting a battle against racial segregation. Boasting hit numbers including *Welcome To The 60s*, *You Can't Stop The Beat* and *Good Morning Baltimore*, this latest touring version of the show features former *Strictly Come Dancing* star Joanne Clifton as Velma von Tussle and is directed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

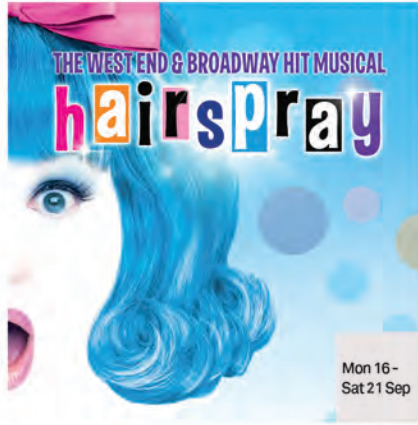
Olivier Award-winning director Sally Cookson helms this heartwarming and well-reviewed Bristol Old Vic production.





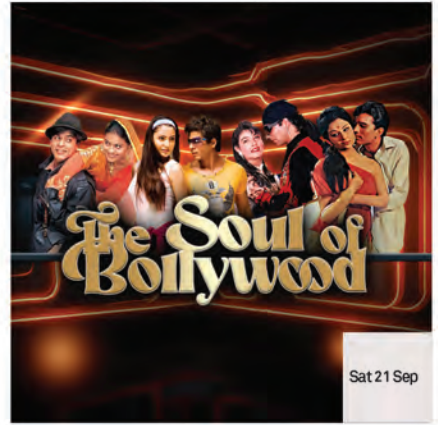
Tue 10 - Sat 14 Sep

CAP



Mon 16 - Sat 21 Sep

CAP



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

CAP R



Fri 11 Oct



Sat 12 Oct



Tue 29 - Thu 31 Oct



Wed 6 - Sat 9 Nov

CAP



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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What will you see next?



THU 3 - SAT 5 OCT '24
WONDER BOY



MON 7 - SAT 12 OCT '24
& JULIET



SUN 27 OCT '24
THE ELVIS YEARS

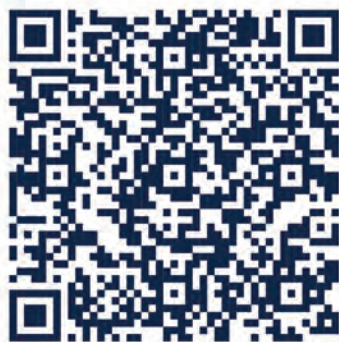


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Theatre previews from around the region



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.





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Theatre for younger audiences



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'.

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!

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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yuup.co/Evolution/birmingham

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.

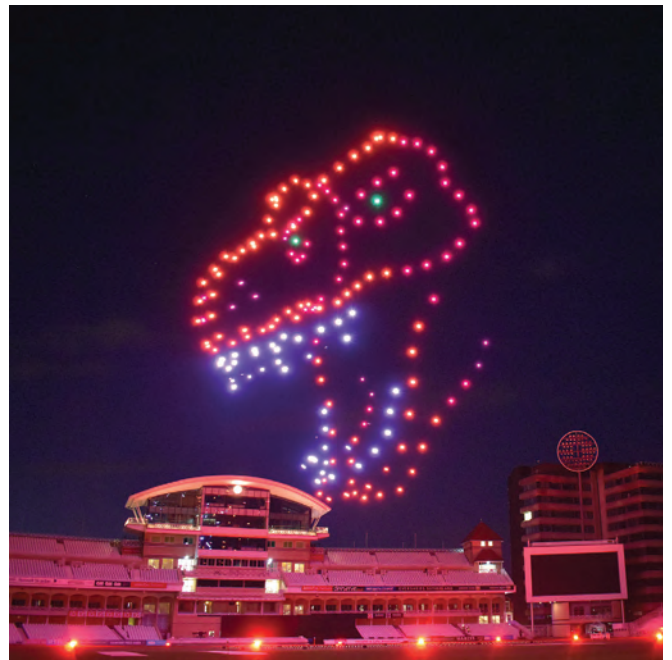
What's On recently caught up with Ella Hogan from Edgbaston Stadium and Dominic Mills from Yuup to find out more about this innovative form of entertainment, and what audiences can expect...

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](https://www.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



Firebrand CERT 15 (121 mins)

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

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



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

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

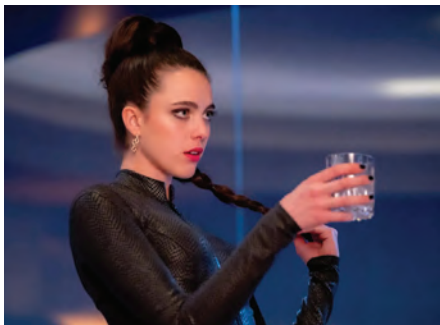
CERT 18 (140 mins)

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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www.glassbiennale.org

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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.

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.



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.



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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 Talyllyn Railway's Douglas, on display in The Engine House, and RailArt at Kidderminster Railway Museum.

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.



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.

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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September 2024



Northern Ballet's Romeo and Juliet - Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, 19 - 28 September

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

What's On

Sun 1 - Sun 8 September



Buffy Revamped -
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
Wed 4 September

Mon 9 - Sun 15 September



Black Victorians -
Coventry Cathedral
Sat 14 September

Mon 16 - Sun 22 September



Dad's Army Radio Show -
Bridge House Theatre, Warwick
Sat 21 September

Mon 23 - Mon 30 September



Yasmina Reza's Art -
Malvern Theatres
Tues 24 - Sat 28 September

VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

A SPIRIT INSIDE A selection of works from the Women's Art Collection and the Ingram Collection, exploring how women and non-binary artists have grappled with the notion and sense of 'spirit', until Sun 1 Sept

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

REUNITED: THE LAMENTATION ALTERPIECE After 30 years of its central panel being housed in the National Gallery of Scotland's collection, this is a chance to see a rare masterpiece, reunited, until Fri 28 Feb 2025

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

Coventry Music Museum

OUR TOWN A tribute to This Town through the eyes of a supporting artist, including memorabilia and costumes. The museum also features tributes to The Specials' Terry Hall and Roddy 'Radiation' Byers.

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

COVENTRY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY Exhibition exploring a community history that dates back to the 12th century, until Mon 30 Sept

COLLECTING COVENTRY Exhibition reflecting the museum's collection practice, via a catalogue of objects accumulated since the founding of the Herbert in 1949 and Coventry Transport Museum in 1980, until Sun 27 April 2025

WARWICKSHIRE'S JURASSIC SEA Discover the amazing creatures that lived in Coventry & Warwickshire during the time of the dinosaurs, until Sat 21 Feb 2026

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

LEAMINGTON SPA AND THE BLACK ATLANTIC Exhibition highlighting Leamington's historic links to exploitation and enslavement, the legacy of which is still visible in the town today, until Sun 15 Sept

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

CUSP Exhibition of Cyanotype artworks by Anne Guest showing the beauty and fragility of nature 'at a time when we appear to be on the cusp of losing so much', until Sat 14 Sept

ENDANGERED AND EXTINCT 'Extraordinary' works by Val Hunt, showing her ingenuity and skill at using discarded materials to create creatures that are on the edge of extinction or gone forever, until Thurs 21 Sept

WALKING WITH TREES Series of paintings by Hilary Morris reflecting the vast variety of local trees and how they change throughout the seasons, until Sat 28 Sept

Rugby Art Gallery

JASON AND HIS ARGONAUTS Exhibition of works from 'super-cool digital artist' Jason Wilsher-Mills, including 2D images, 3D sculpture and 'digital surprises', until Sat 7 Sept

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

CONNECTIONS Featuring artworks - selected by community groups in 2023 and '24 - from Worcester's own collection, the exhibition explores people's different responses to art and the emotions and perspectives it can evoke, Sat 14 Sept - Sun 20 Oct

WALKS THROUGH WORCESTERSHIRE Explore the county through the brushwork of one of the city's finest artists, Harry Adams, who was born in Worcester in 1868, until - Sun 3 Nov

Elsewhere:

SMALL PEOPLE, BIG WORLD Local artist Steve Roach presents a macro photography exhibition centred around models of people and animals at 1/76 scale in locations across the UK. Places used for backdrops include Worcester city, the Malvern Hills, Dartmoor, Brecon and Offa's Dyke Path, Sat 21 Sept - Sat 5 Oct, The Hive, Worcester

WILD IMAGINATION A new animation and accompanying soundtrack by artist Sarah Taylor Silverwood, presented in creative response to Croome's Pages From Nature theme, until Sun 2 March 2025, Croome Park, Worcestershire

PLEIN AIR EVENT WITH WARWICKSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS Visitors are invited to wander around the artists as they engage with their surroundings to produce a creative piece in response to any 2D or 3D artform, Sun 8 Sept, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire



Fisherman's Friends - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Gigs

PALEHOUD Sun 1 Sept, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

TRICKY MC Sun 1 Sept, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

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

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

THE RIONS + PACIFIC AVENUE Sun 1 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO Sun 1 Sept, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

THE FROG BAND Sun 1 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

STEVIE WATTS ORGAN TRIO Sun 1 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

DAISTAR Mon 2 Sept, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

RINGO DEATHSTARR Mon 2 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BROTHER BROTHERS Mon 2 Sept, The Robin, Bilston

GROOVY SHIRT CLUB Tues 3 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WILLY TEA TAYLOR Tues 3 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SEEU SPACECOWBOY + KILLING ME SOFTLY + BONEFLOWER Tues 3 Sept, The Asylum, Birmingham

SARAH MCQUAID Tues 3

Sept, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

DAWN LANDES Tues 3 Sept, West Malvern Social Club

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

RVG Wed 4 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

GODSTICKS + AXIOM Wed 4 Sept, The Asylum, Birmingham

INDIGO MARSHALL Wed 4 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

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

THE DUNWELLS Wed 4 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

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

THE ALLERGIES Thurs 5 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

K-TRAP Thurs 5 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

VENUS GRRRLS Thurs 5 Sept, The Victoria, Birmingham

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS Thurs 5 Sept, Symphony Hall, B'ham

DELTA FUSE Thurs 5 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

TIA LAMB + FLUOXETINE + RIVIERA + CERYS CURTIS Thurs 5 Sept, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

AFTER THE FLOOD + DAN PLEWS Thurs 5 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

TORIN DAVIES QUARTET Thurs 5 Sept, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE GO 90S Fri 6 Sept, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

NECKLACE + SHORTWAVE



The Dunwells - Temperance, Leamington Spa

+ STUCK ON VIOLET + THE ACHILLES + MORE Fri 6 Sept, The Rainbow, Birmingham

JESSIE DESAI Fri 6 Sept, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LANDSLIDE: FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE Fri 6 Sept, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

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

G FLIP Fri 6 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE LUKE COMBS EXPERIENCE Fri 6 Sept, O2 Academy, B'ham

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

BELMONDO Fri 6 Sept, The Victoria, B'ham

LIONEL - THE MUSIC OF LIONEL RICHIE Fri 6 Sept, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC Fri 6 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

DELTA FUSE Fri 6 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

HARRY'S HOUSE OF GOSPEL Fri 6 Sept, hmv Empire, Coventry

MARK STANWAY'S KINGDOM OF MADNESS Fri 6 Sept, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

WHAT NOW MY LOVE? - A TRIBUTE TO THE TIJUANA BRASS Fri 6 Sept, Regal, Tenbury Wells

WALK LIKE A MAN - THE MUSIC OF FRANKIE VALLI Fri 6 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

VERY SANTANA Fri 6 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

MIKI BERENYI TRIO Sat 7 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE JOHNNY CASH EXPERIENCE + THE CASH CATS Sat 7 Sept, The Night Owl, Birmingham

SKI MASK THE SLUMP GOD Sat 7 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

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

BRUM PUNX PICNIC 2024 Sat 7 Sept, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

SOLARS + AV SUNSET + AXIOM + JEREMIAH AD Sat 7 Sept, The Flapper, Birmingham

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

KARAN AUJLA Sat 7 Sept, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

MISTER WOLF Sat 7 Sept, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

DEBORAH BONHAM BAND Sat 7 Sept, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

THE WHITE LAKES Sat 7 Sept, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

MAN MADE MOON + STYLUSBOY Sat 7 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

DIZ 'N' ROX Sat 7 Sept, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

AFTER DARK Sat 7 Sept, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

BEATLEMANIA Sat 7 Sept, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE MERSEY BEATLES Sat 7 Sept, Albany Theatre, Coventry

TEN Sat 7 Sept, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

SACK SABBATH Sat 7 Sept, Marrs Bar, Worcester

FRANKIE'S GUYS Sat 7 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE SOUNDS OF ROD STEWART Sat 7 Sept, Malvern Theatres

REMI HARRIS HOT CLUB TRIO Sat 7 Sept, West Malvern Social Club

DAS KOOLIES Sun 8 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SADIE JEAN Sun 8 Sept, O2 Institute, B'ham

GAYE BIKERS ON ACID + DAEMONIK FONCE Sun 8 Sept, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

EASY 3 Sun 8 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

A BEAUTIFUL NOISE - NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE Sun 8 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Classical Music

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

MATTHEW LARKIN ORGAN RECITAL Fri 6 Sept, St Mary's Church, Warwick

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 Cory Band, Black Dyke Band, Philip Harper & Nick Childs (conductors), Sun 8 Sept, Birmingham Symphony Hall

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 Wed 4 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch



NICK WHITE Thurs 5 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MYRA DUBOIS Thurs 5 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

STAND UP & ROCK WITH STAN BOARDMAN, SCOTT BENNETT & THE SUBTERRANEANS Thurs 5 Sept, Stratford Playhouse

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

MICK MILLER Fri 6 Sept, Two Gates Club, Tamworth

JOE AVATI Fri 6 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

EVERY BRILLIANT THING Inspiring story about achieving hope by focusing on life's smallest miracles, until Sat 7 Sept, Criterion Theatre, Coventry

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

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 STRANGER Amateur version of Agatha Christie's gripping play, Wed 4 - Sat 14 Sept, Priority Theatre, Kenilworth

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

HMS PINAFORE AND TRIAL BY JURY New production presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company, Thurs 5 Sept, Malvern Theatres

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, B'ham

EXTRA ORDINARY Emily Henry's debut play about an ordinary couple living ordinary lives - until, that is, something extraordinary turns everything upside down, Thurs 5 - Sat 7 Sept, Malvern Theatres

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

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE Presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company, Fri 6 Sept, Malvern Theatres

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES Illyria present an outdoor version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's celebrated Sherlock Holmes story, Sat 7 Sept, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Worcestershire

THE GONDOLIERS The Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company present a tale of love and mistaken identity, Sat 7 Sept, Malvern Theatres

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

FROM HOLLYWOOD TO THE WEST END Featuring songs from Les Miserables, Phantom Of The Opera, West Side Story, Evita and many more... Tues 3 Sept, Albany Theatre, Coventry

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



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... Thurs 5 Sept, Malvern Theatres

THE DAVINCI MICHELANGELO EXPERIENCE Join Mark Rodgers, director of The DaVinci Machines & Michelangelo Exhibitions, for a unique journey through the glory of Italian Renaissance, Thurs 5 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

STUART MICHAEL - THE PSYCHIC MEDIUM Thurs 5 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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, B'ham

JOE AVATI: WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE!!! New show in which Joe offers an insight into how times have changed, for better or worse, since his teenage days back in the 1980s, Fri 6 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

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

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

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

WHERE'S MY SHADOW? QUEST Help trusty guard dog Noble search for his shadow in the grounds and gardens, until Sun 1 Sept, Witley Court and Gardens, Worcestershire

HANDS ON HISTORY Selection of activities for youngsters to enjoy,



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Carol Klein
Sir David Spiegelhalter

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi
Hugo Rifkind
Ashley John-Baptiste
Danny Wallace
Jess Phillips
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including sword school, storytelling and junior jousting, until Sun 1 Sept, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

BESIDE THE SEA - SUMMER FAMILY TRAIL Holiday-themed trail around the castle, until Sun 1 Sept, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

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

THE GREAT SUMMER ADVENTURE Family fun featuring a maize maze and foam party, until Mon 2 Sept, Hatton Adventure World, Warwick

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

SUMMER FUN Listen to stories and enjoy creative activities and fun family trails, until Thurs 5 Sept, The Commandery, Worcester

DISCOVER THE STORY OF HAMNET Explore hidden stories of love, loss and Tudor healing in the beautiful surroundings that inspired Maggie O'Farrell's novel, Hamnet, until Thurs 5 Sept, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

FAMILY TRAIL - BACK IN TIME: AGE OF THE DINOSAURS See if you can match the dinosaurs to their silhouettes, until Sun 8 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

DINOSAURS ON THE DOORSTEP See giant dinosaur skeletons, touch real fossil bones and check out original fossils from 150 million years ago, until Sun 8 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

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

MULTI-HOUSE FAMILY TRAIL Discover the remarkable stories of the women in Shakespeare's family, until Sun 3 November, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Shakespeare's New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

DINO FAMILY FUN DAY Watch out for roaming raptors, a triceratops, baby dinosaurs, and other ferocious beasts, Sun 1 Sept, Worcester Racecourse

FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT & AUTOJUMBLE Featuring 400-plus classic cars and motorcycles, up to 80 autojumble stalls, live music and food & drink, Sun 1 Sept, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

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

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

THE BIG WORCESTER QUIZ Get your team together for a fun-packed evening hosted by Worcester Life Stories author Sheena Payne-Lunn, Fri 6 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

ADVENTURE CINEMA Open-air screenings of The Greatest Showman, Grease and Pretty Woman, Fri 6 - Sun 8 Sept, Croome Park, Worcester

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

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

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

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

RIVER FESTIVAL COVENTRY Immerse yourself in a celebration of the city's river, community, art and nature, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Sept, FarGo Village, Coventry

HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2024 Discover the world-class art collection at Upton House & Gardens, with free entry this weekend only, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Sept, Upton House and Gardens, Warwickshire

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

GANDEYS HOLLYWOOD SPECTACULAR Featuring circus magic and



Dinosaurs On The Doorstep - Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

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

A poster for the play 'A Steady Rain'. It features two police officers in uniform crouching in a crime scene on a rainy street. A yellow 'CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS' tape is stretched across the foreground. The background is dark with rain and blurred lights.

THE OLD JOINT STOCK PRESENTS
A STEADY RAIN
A PLAY WRITTEN BY
KEITH HUFF
DIRECTED BY
LIAM ALEXANDRU

16TH - 19TH OCTOBER
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TENILLE ARTS Mon 9 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JON SPENCER Tues 10 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FIRST TIME FLYERS Tues 10 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK Tues 10 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

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

CHARLIE PARR Tues 10 Sept, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

MOCK TUDORS Wed 11 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GO YOUR OWN WAY - FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE Wed 11 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

TEVE FERBRACHE + HOLLY AND THE HOUNDS Wed 11 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ANDREW WASYLYK & TOMMY PERMAN Thurs 12 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG Thurs 12 Sept, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

WE MAVERICKS Thurs 12 Sept, Bromsgrove Folk Club

MAJESTY - QUEEN TRIBUTE Thurs 12 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

GO YOUR OWN WAY - THE FLEETWOOD MAC LEGACY Thurs 12 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

MAJOR TOMS Fri 13 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLACKBERRY SMOKE + BONES OWENS Fri 13 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

OLD TIME SAILORS Fri 13 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LIVE UNDEAD + HELLBOUND - SLAYER & PANTERA TRIBUTES Fri 13

Sept, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

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

TEXAS + KT TUNSTALL Fri 13 Sept, Utilita Arena Birmingham

LIONEL: THE MUSIC OF LIONEL RICHIE Fri 13 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa


GILES ROBSON - TRIBUTE TO MUDDY WATERS AND HOWLIN' WOLF Fri 13 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

AMY A TRIBUTE Fri 13 Sept, hmv Empire, Coventry

ROMEO'S DAUGHTER + BLACK STAR BULLET Fri 13 Sept, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

GO NOW - THE MUSIC OF THE MOODY BLUES Fri 13 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

PINK LIVE STARRING VICKY JACKSON Fri 13 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch



DAY FEVER Sat 14 Sept, O2 Institute, B'ham

BARS AND MELODY Sat 14 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

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

THE BYGONES Sat 14 Sept, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

ROB LAMBERTI - PERFECTLY GEORGE Sat 14 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

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

CARRIE MARTIN Sat 14 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ALEX HARRY Sat 14 Sept, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

THE ROY ORBISON STORY Sat 14 Sept, Stratford

Playhouse

EBAN BROWN Sat 14 Sept, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

UPTOWN JOEL Sat 14 Sept, The Henrician, Evesham

BRAIN OF J + NOT RADIOHEAD Sat 14 Sept, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BAND Sat 14 Sept, Regal, Tenbury Wells

THE DEBORAH BONHAM BAND Sat 14 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THE ULTIMATE COMMITMENTS & BLUES BROTHERS EXPERIENCE Sat 14 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

TRIGGER - THE STADIUM ROCK EXPERIENCE Sat 14 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

CON JOVI Sat 14 Sept, 45Live, Kidderminster

THE PONTIACS Sat 14 Sept, Malvern Cube

DAVID ESSEX Sat 14 Sept, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

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

THE VAMPS Sat 14 - Sun 15 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JONAS BROTHERS + MIMI WEBB Sun 15 Sept, Utilita Arena Birmingham

FLEETWOOD SHACK Sun 15 Sept, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MANOS PUESTAS TRIO Sun 15 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KODACLIPS + SOLARS + HOMEBREAD Sun 15 Sept, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

THE GLENN MILLER & BIG BAND SPECTACULAR Sun 15 Sept, Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE ELO ENCOUNTER Sun 15 Sept, The Henrician, Evesham

THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW Sun 15 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Classical Music

THE SIXTEEN: THE CHORAL PILGRIMAGE 2024 Featuring Harry Christophers (conductor). Programme includes works by Lassus, Casulana, Josquin & more..., Thurs 12 Sept, Hereford 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 Roberts (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

AUTUMN IN MALVERN: KING RICHARD III Featuring Gaudeamus (vocal ensemble) & Peter Sutton (narrator). The life of Richard III in words and music, Sat 14 Sept, Malvern Theatres

Comedy

BEN ELTON Mon 9 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



TEZ ILYAS Thurs 12 Sept, The Rep, Birmingham

RAW COMEDY Fri 13 Sept, Ecgwins Club, Evesham

VITTORIO ANGELONE Sun 15 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SIMON EVANS & FRIENDS Sun 15 Sept, Evesham Town Hall

Theatre

HOME, I'M DARLING The Nonentities present an amateur version of Laura Wade's dark comedy about sex,

cake and the quest to be the perfect 1950s housewife, Mon 9 - Sat 14 Sept, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

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, Birmingham

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

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD Amateur version of Thomas Hardy's story of love, lust, loyalty and obsession, Sat 14 - Sat 21 Sept, Rugby Theatre

Dance

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



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

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'... Wed 11 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

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

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, Fri 13 Sept, The Roses, Tewkesbury

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



KING RICHARD III: LOYALTY BINDS ME The life of Richard III in words and music, featuring vocal ensemble Gaudeamus and narrator Peter Sutton, Sat 14 Sept, Christ Church, Malvern

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

Talks & Spoken Word

THE MAKINGS OF A MURDERER 2 - THE REAL MANHUNTER Join Colin Sutton, the former head of a Metropolitan Police murder squad, as he shares stories of how he caught some of the UK's most evil murderers, Wed 11 Sept, Malvern Theatres

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



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

University Music & Concerts

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BARBER
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Monday 9 - Sunday 15 September

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

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

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

Events

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

LET'S DANCE Dancing, chatting and socialising aimed at those aged 50-plus, Tues 10 Sept, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

BITE-SIZE TALK: COSTUME HIGHLIGHTS Find out about Worcester City's extensive costume collection, Tues 10 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

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

GROUNDSEST 2024 Free event for grounds staff, greenkeepers and landscapers, Tues 10 - Wed 11 Sept, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

FAMILY MUSEUM DETECTIVES TRAIL Eight items on display have been chosen for you to find - but can you spot them all? Tues 10 Sept - Fri 25 Oct, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

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

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

DUNGEONS AFTER DARK Travel back in time and find out about some of Warwick Castle's most horrifying residents, Fri 13 Sept, Warwick Castle

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

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

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

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

MIDLANDS COMMUNITY DAY Featuring



The Print Fair - Compton Verney

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

VINTAGE AFTERNOON TEA Travel in style on a luxurious vintage carriage and indulge in a delectable spread, Sun 15 Sept, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

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

HERITAGE OPEN DAY Check out the Great Hall, the Tudor and Georgian rooms, beautiful gardens, medieval painted chamber and more, Sun 15 Sept, The Commandery, Worcester

MALVERN FLEA AND COLLECTORS FAIR With up to 250 exhibitors, Sun 15 Sept, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

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

WODS THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL COMEDY
presents
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 Daughters Pictures Motion Picture "Sister Act" written by Joseph Kehring
This musical production is presented by arrangement with Stage Entertainment
All authorized performers mentioned are also supported by WODS www.wods.co.uk

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Choreographed by Doug Beattie, Vocal and Instrumental Music Arrangements by Michael Koranyi.
Produced on Broadway by Miramax/Goldberg & Stage Entertainment in association with The Student Organization and Comedy Theatrical Productions.
Originally Produced Developed in Association with Peter Schneider & Michael Henu and Produced by Stage Entertainment.
World Premieres Produced by Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena CA and Atlantic Theatre, Atlanta GA. Resident Equity Artists: Director Susan K. Smith, Artistic Director Lyle White,
Executive Director Tom Pichler, Managing Director Tom Ware, Producing Director

Gigs

KEN CARSON Mon 16 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MARC ALMOND Mon 16 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LLOYD COLE Mon 16 Sept, Birmingham Town Hall

MIM GREY Mon 16 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

OCEAN ALLEY + HOCKEY DAD Tues 17 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LITTLE BIG TOWN Tues 17 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

OLD BABY MACKEREL Tues 17 Sept, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

EDDY SMITH & THE 507 + JAKE O'NEIL Wed 18 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NORHLANE + NOVELISTS + TEN56 Wed 18 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ANDI Wed 18 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

NEEDTOBREATHE Wed 18 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JUMPIN' HOT CLUB Wed 18 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

HEATHER PEACE Thurs 19 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE LAFONTAINES Thurs 19 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LAST GANG + SPLIT DOGS + LAST HOUNDS + CLOBBER Thurs 19 Sept, O2 Academy, B'ham

STAND ATLANTIC + HONEY REVENGE + SLOWLY SLOWLY Thurs 19 Sept, XOYO, B'ham

JAMES OLIVER BAND Thurs 19 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

INDIA ELECTRIC CO. Thurs 19 Sept, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

EMILY FRANCIS TRIO Thurs 19 Sept, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN Thurs 19 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE JAMES BROWN

STORY Thurs 19 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

GOLDIE LOOKIN' CHAIN Fri 20 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AZEALIA BANKS Fri 20 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AC/DC UK + DIZZY LIZZY Fri 20 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JOSHUA BASSETT + THOMAS DAY Fri 20 Sept, O2 Academy, B'ham

MELANIE MARTINEZ + ELITA Fri 20 Sept, Utilita Arena Birmingham

PJ BAKER'S BLUES IRREGULARS Fri 20 Sept, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE STORY OF SOUL Fri 20 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

KATIE SPENCER - JOHN MARTYN A CELEBRATION Fri 20 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

LEIGHTON TONGUE Fri 20 Sept, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

THE ROLLOCKS + CONCRETE FUN HOUSE + BRASS HIP FLASK + HOMBREAD Fri 20 Sept, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

THE MARLEY EXPERIENCE Fri 20 Sept, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE STYLE COUNCILLORS Fri 20 Sept, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MORETALLICA Fri 20 Sept, Marrs Bar, Worcester

CELEBRATING GEORGE MICHAEL Fri 20 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

ROVING CROWS Fri 20 Sept, Malvern Cube

WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Fri 20 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

JIVE TALKIN' - BEE GEES TRIBUTE Fri 20 - Sat 21 Sept, Civic, Stourport

KID CONGO & THE PINK MONKEY BIRDS + BLACK MEKON Sat 21 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE DEADSHOTS LIVE Sat 21 Sept, Actress &

Bishop, Birmingham

SWAMP COFFIN + A HORSE CALLED WAR + GORGONCHRIST Sat 21 Sept, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

GOOD KID + DUTCH CRIMINAL RECORD Sat 21 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE SILVER LINES + HEADSHRINKERS + THE MOOD Sat 21 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE DANGEROUS SUMMER + BROADSIDE Sat 21 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ALISHA CHINAI + KAVITA KRISHNAMURTI + ALKA YAGNIK + ANURADHA PAUDWAL Sat 21 Sept, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

BIG GILSON AND BLUES DYNAMITE FT STRAY'S DEL BROMHAM Sat 21 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KRAFTWERK - A TRIBUTE Sat 21 Sept, Drapers' Hall, Coventry

ELECTRIC CIRCUS Sat 21 Sept, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE ELTON JOHN SHOW Sat 21 Sept, The Benn Hall, Rugby

THE SEARCHERS EXPERIENCE FEATURING SPENCER JAMES Sat 21 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

G2 - DEFINITIVE GENESIS Sat 21 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE ULTIMATE BOYBAND PARTY SHOW Sat 21 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

NEW HOPE CLUB Sun 22 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PAUL CARRACK Sun 22 Sept, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE REDHILLS Sun 22 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KARA GRAINGER Sun 22 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE LOADED + THOSE AMONGST US ARE WOLVES + TOJAN PONY + JUST A MIRROR Sun 22 Sept, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry

Classical Music

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

SIMONA FRUSCELLA ORGAN RECITAL Fri 20 Sept, St Mary's Church, Warwick

ORCHESTRA PLAY DAY: BEETHOVEN'S NINTH Featuring Spire's Philharmonic Orchestra, Sat 21 Sept, Baginton Road URC, Coventry

ANGELA HEWITT PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Scarlatti, JS Bach & Brahms, Sun 22 Sept, Malvern Theatre

Comedy

ANDY ASKINS, RAY BRADSHAW & HAYLEY ELLIS Wed 18 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JIMMY CARR Wed 18 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, NINA GILLIGAN & RAY BRADSHAW Thurs 19 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ON THE SPOT COMEDY Thurs 19 Sept, Neighbourhood Social, Coventry

SHAPARAK KHORSANDI Thurs 19 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

MANFORDS COMEDY CLUB Fri 20 Sept, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

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

IGNACIO LOPEZ, PREET SINGH, COLIN MANFORD & COMIC TBC Sat 21 Sept, Macready Theatre, Rugby

FIN TAYLOR Sun 22 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STAND UP COMEDY Sun 22 Sept, BCM Craft Ale Bar, Evesham

Theatre

HAIRSPRAY A big, bold and beautiful musical filled with show-stopping 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



THE EFFECT Malvern Theatre Players present an amateur version of Lucy Prebble's 'intense and intoxicating' play about two people who fall in love whilst undergoing a clinical test for a new antidepressant, Mon 16 - Sat 21 Sept, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

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

MOSQUITOES Amateur version of Lucy Kirkwood's acclaimed play about sibling strife, Wed 18 - Sat 22 Sept, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

BROADWAY TO BROADWATERS Kidderminster Operatic & Dramatic Society present an evening of musical theatre favourites, Fri 20 - Sat 21 Sept, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

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 Amedume 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

KRAPPS 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

AN EVENING WITH LEGENDS OF SNOOKER An evening of stories past and present from Steve Davis, John Parrott, Dennis Taylor, Ken Doherty and John Virgo. The event also includes an audience Q&A, Tues 17 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

BAGA CHIPZ: THE MUCH BETTA TOUR! Expect crass blue comedy, live vocals, dazzling costumes, drunken antics and the tale of a single mum from the Black Country who became 'one of the nation's best-loved stars', Tues 17 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

RAVE ON A tour through some of music's most revolutionary decades. Featuring toe-tapping singalong classics and vibrant stage costumes, Wed 18 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE POLDARK SHOW - EL MISTICO Evening of magic, mind-reading and comedy hypnosis, Wed 18 Sept, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

DREAMBOYS Immersive and seductive dance show set to chart-topping

music. Strictly over-18s only, Thurs 19 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

BUFFY REVAMPED A fast-paced production showcasing the entire 144 episodes of hit 1990s TV show Buffy The Vampire Slayer, Thurs 19 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE FEMALE WARRIOR The true story of Worcester-born Hannah Snell, who, in the 18th century, disguised herself as a male soldier and ended up battling the French, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 Sept, Swan Studio, Worcester

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

WEST END MAGIC London's 'longest-running theatre magic show' takes to the road. Expect an evening of magic, illusion, comedy and variety, Fri 20 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Nostalgic show fusing comedy, impersonations and music from the 1950s through to the 1980s, Sat 21 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

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



WEST END MUSICALS BY CANDLELIGHT Live orchestra London Concertante are joined by some of the West End's greatest singers for a 'show-stopping



A Place In The Sun Live - NEC, Birmingham

musical concert', Sat 21 Sept, Worcester Cathedral

HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR - THE LOST EPISODES Three episodes of the legendary mid-20th-century sitcom, recreated live on stage: The Bequest, The Auction and The Russian Prince, Sat 21 Sept, Malvern Theatres

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

ALED JONES: FULL CIRCLE One-man show in which the classical crossover artist looks back on his remarkable career, Sun 22 Sept, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

WESTENDERS Featuring musical arrangements from the world's most popular musicals, including West Side Story, Phantom Of The Opera, Hamilton, Blood Brothers and more... Sun 22 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Talks & Spoken Word

AN EVENING WITH SIMON PARKER: A RIDE ACROSS AMERICA - COUNTDOWN TO THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION Join the award-winning travel writer, public speaker & filmmaker for 'a night of adventure', Thurs 19 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

SIR RANULPH FIENNES: MAD, BAD AND DANGEROUS Spend the evening with the world's greatest living explorer, Fri 20 Sept, Malvern Theatres

AN EVENING WITH SIMON PARKER: A RIDE ACROSS AMERICA - COUNTDOWN TO THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION Join the award-winning travel writer, public speaker & filmmaker for 'a night of adventure', Fri 20 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Events

ACTION RAYZ: MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE Part of the Always Proud series, celebrating LGBTQIA+ film, Thurs 19 Sept, Coventry Cathedral

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

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

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

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

WOODLAND PURSUITS Join the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust for some woodland activities and a fairy-door trail, Sun 22 Sept, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

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Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

Birmingham ISSUE 402 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

What's On Birmingham

INSIDE: **DEAR EVAN HANSEN** - THE MUSICAL OF ITS GENERATION, FOR ALL GENERATIONS. **BECOMING NANCY** - From musical theatre to the big screen. **TO THE MOON...** - From musical theatre to the big screen. **CHORIZA MAY** - From musical theatre to the big screen.

DEAR EVAN HANSEN
BOOK BY STEVEN LEVENSON
MUSIC & LYRICS BY BENJ PASEK & JUSTIN PAUL
DIRECTED BY ADAM ROYFORD

ALEXANDRA | TUE 22 - SAT 26 OCT 2024

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Wolverhampton & Black Country ISSUE 402 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

What's On Black Country

INSIDE: **THERE IS LIFE AFTER ROMEQ!** - A musical about the fall of Rome. **WORKING WONDERS** - A musical about the world of work. **TO THE MOON...** - From musical theatre to the big screen. **LOVE IN THE BOG** - A musical about the world of work.

THERE IS LIFE AFTER ROMEQ!
MUSIC BY KEVIN KANE
LYRICS BY KEVIN KANE
DIRECTED BY KEVIN KANE

MON 7 - SAT 12 OCT

Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

Shropshire ISSUE 402 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

What's On Shropshire

INSIDE: **SHROPSHIRE OktoberFest** - Shropshire's biggest party with over 1000 beers, ciders, gin, fizz & mocktails, plus the best in live music, comedy & street food! **WORKING WONDERS** - A musical about the world of work. **TO THE MOON...** - From musical theatre to the big screen. **IT'S A BARD'S LIFE** - A musical about the world of work.

SHROPSHIRE OktoberFest
4&5 OCTOBER 2024
SHROPSHIRE QUARRY PARK

shropshireoktoberfest.co.uk

Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

Worcestershire ISSUE 402 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

What's On Worcestershire

INSIDE: **IT'S A BARD'S LIFE** - A musical about the world of work. **TO THE MOON...** - From musical theatre to the big screen. **DEAR ZOO** - A musical about the world of work.

RICHARD O'BRIEN'S ROCKY HORROR Show
A GUARANTEED PARTY

MON 7 - SAT 12 OCTOBER

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Staffordshire ISSUE 402 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

What's On Staffordshire

INSIDE: **THE RECORD-BREAKING WEST END MUSICAL COMEDY** - A musical about the world of work. **NYTAMADY KOUYATE** - A musical about the world of work. **TO THE MOON...** - From musical theatre to the big screen. **THE GRUFFALO** - A musical about the world of work.

ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES THE MUSICAL

DIRECT FROM THE WEST END

MON 2 - SAT 7 DEC 2024

Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

Coventry & Warwickshire ISSUE 402 SEPTEMBER 2024

What's On

What's On Coventry & Warwickshire

INSIDE: **PERICLES** - A musical about the world of work. **SARAH KEYWORTH** - A musical about the world of work. **TO THE MOON...** - From musical theatre to the big screen.

BELGRADE THEATRE

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO & JULIET
THE ORIGINAL PLAY, ORIGINALLY SCORED - WITH RAP AND R&B

21 Feb - 8 Mar 2025

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Little Sparrow - *Temperance*, Leamington Spa

Gigs

MEEKZ Mon 23 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham
YOT CLUB + LATE NIGHT DRIVE HOME Tues 24 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham
BEVERLEY KNIGHT Tues 24 Sept, The Civic at The Halls W'hampton
CLAVISH Wed 25 Sept, O2 Institute, B'ham
MEGAN WYNN Wed 25 Sept, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham
JOHNNY COPPIN + STEVE & JULIE WIGLEY Wed 25 Sept, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
MERCURY - QUEEN TRIBUTE Wed 25 Sept, The Alexandra, B'ham
BRÛGEAL Wed 25 Sept, Mama Roux's, B'ham
BRAVE RIVAL Wed 25 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa
THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Wed 25 Sept, Malvern Theatres
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
THE COURETTES Thurs 26 Sept, The Night Owl, Birmingham
ROCKY AND ROSS LYNCH + ALMOST MONDAY Thurs 26 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham
LOUISE AND CHRIS ROGAN Thurs 26 Sept, Bromsgrove Folk Club
THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Thurs 26 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

ONE NIGHT IN DUBLIN Thurs 26 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester
LIONEL: THE MUSIC OF LIONEL RICHIE Thurs 26 Sept, Malvern Theatres
ELVIS TRIBUTE - MARK SUMMERS Thurs 26 Sept, 45Live, Kidderminster
SENSES FAIL + SAVES THE DAY Fri 27 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham
RUM JUNGLE Fri 27 Sept, O2 Institute, B'ham
BATTLESNAKE Fri 27 Sept, The Flapper, Birmingham
NORTH ATLAS Fri 27 Sept, The Rainbow, Birmingham
JANET JACKSON + WYCLEF JEAN Fri 27 Sept, Utilita Arena Birmingham
JIMMY CARPENTER Fri 27 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa
OMNI Fri 27 Sept, The Tin Music and Arts, The Canal Basin, Coventry
CHER TRIBUTE SHOW Fri 27 Sept, hmv Empire, Coventry
WHO'S NEXT + KEROZENE Fri 27 Sept, Queens Hall, Nuneaton
LIONEL: THE MUSIC OF LIONEL RICHIE Fri 27 Sept, Regal, Tenbury Wells
KINGSFOIL Fri 27 Sept, Marrs Bar, Worcester
THE DRIFTERS Fri 27 Sept, Palace Theatre, Redditch
Laura King As Madonna Fri 27 Sept, 45Live, Kidderminster
THE THE Fri 27 Sept, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

KINGMAKER Sat 28 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE VARUKERS + THE DREGS + COKE RODENT + RUBBER HUSBAND Sat 28 Sept, The Dark Horse, Moseley, B'ham
WSTR Sat 28 Sept, O2 Institute, Birmingham
CANNIBAL CORPSE + MUNICIPAL WASTE + IMMOLATION + SCHIZOPHRENIA Sat 28 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham
MARY SPENDER Sat 28 Sept, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham
BOTOWN Sat 28 Sept, The Core Theatre, Solihull
CON JOVI Sat 28 Sept, Artrix, Bromsgrove
HAWKSLEY WORKMAN Sat 28 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa
DAVID RODIGAN Sun 29 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE VAMPS Sun 29 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham
LOS CAMPESINOS! Sun 29 Sept, The Crossing, Digbeth, Birmingham
BATTLE BEAST + BRYMIR + SERENITY Sun 29 Sept, XOYO, Birmingham
CARA DILLON Sun 29 Sept, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
LITTLE SPARROW Sun 29 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa
BEX MARSHALL Sun 29 Sept, Temperance, Leamington Spa
ANANDA Sun 29 Sept, Stratford Playhouse
TAYLOR SWIFT TRIBUTE Sun 29 Sept, hmv Empire, Coventry
THE MADELEINE STEWART TRIO Sun 29 Sept, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham
A DIFFERENT THREAD Sun 29 Sept, Marrs Bar, Worcester
MIDLANDS METAL MAYHEM Sun 29 Sept, 45Live, Kidderminster
NICK LOWE & LOS STRAITJACKETS Mon 30 Sept, O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

THOMAS TROTTER LUNCHTIME 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, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ARMONICO CONSORT: NAKED BYRD 2 Featuring Christopher Monks (director), Sat 28 Sept, St Mary's Church, Warwick
BRODSKY QUARTET: SHOSTAKOVICH CYCLE Six concerts comprising the complete string quartets of Dmitri Shostakovich, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Sept, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa
LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring 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

Comedy

FERN BRADY Tues 24 Sept, The Alexandra, Birmingham
LLOYD GRIFFITH Tues 24 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
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
ALFIE BROWN Thurs 26 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
JOSH PUGH, MARK MAIER, JONNY AWSUM & JOE KENT-WALTERS Fri 27 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ROBIN MORGAN Fri 27 Sept, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JONNY COLE Fri 27 Sept, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham
MILTON JONES Fri 27 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
EN VAN DER VELDE, JAMES ELLIS & ESTHER MANITO Fri 27 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

PAUL FOOT Fri 27 Sept, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
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
RUBY WAX Sat 28 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



SARAH KEYWORTH Sat 28 Sept, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
THE COMEDY STORE ON THE ROAD Sat 28 Sept, The Albany Theatre, Coventry
ROUGH WORKS: NEW MATERIAL NIGHT Sun 29 Sept, The Glee Club, B'ham
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
ALFIE MOORE Sun 29 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

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
ROAD Amateur version of Jim Cartwright's award-winning seminal play, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Sept, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

thelist

ART Seann Walsh, Chris Harper and Aden Gillet star in a new version of Yasmina Reza's smash-hit comedy, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Sept, Malvern Theatres



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

SHIT FACED SHAKESPEARE: MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Acclaimed production combining an entirely serious adaptation of Shakespeare's classic with an inebriated cast member, Fri 27 Sept, Stratford Playhouse, Stratford-upon-Avon



RIVER TOURS: THE SEVERN Stan's Cafe

take visitors on a journey along Britain's longest river, Fri 27 Sept, Number 8 Arts, Pershore

WHEN VINCENT MET JOHN Imagine what would have happened if Vincent Van Gogh and John Lennon met... Sat 28 Sept, Malvern Theatres

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

LAURIE LEE: THE LOST RECORDINGS An illustrated talk by David Parker, Sun 29 Sept, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

LONDON ASSURANCE Amateur version of Dion Boucicault's comedy of mistaken identities and romantic entanglements, Mon 30 Sept - Sat 5 Oct, Talisman Theatre & Arts Centre, Kenilworth

Kid's Theatre

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

DEAR ZOO Puppetry, music and audience participation combine in a show based on Rod Campbell's classic children's book, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester



Dance

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

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

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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AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH...

Paul Young

THE BUTTERMARKE
 SHREWSBURY

SUN 18 MAY 2025

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

WONDERS OF OUR UNIVERSE Family-friendly and immersive exploration of the cosmos, Tues 24 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

BOX OF FROGS Evening of high-octane, improvised comedy nonsense, based entirely on audience suggestions, Wed 25 Sept, 100 Trades, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

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

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

CHRIS DEAN AND HIS SYD LAWRENCE ORCHESTRA: THE SONGS OF BENNETT & SINATRA Fri 27 Sept, Malvern Theatres

ANDALUCIA - FLAMENCO The award-winning Daniel Martinez Flamenco Company present a 'spellbinding production' in which classical music meets the passion and fire of flamenco, Fri 27 Sept, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

THE EVERLEY BROTHERS BY

CANDLELIGHT A homage to 'the legendary duo who defined an era of music', Sat 28 Sept, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR: FREEWHEELIN Brand-new show featuring gags, scenes and songs, all based on audience suggestions, Sat 28 Sept, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

MASTERS OF DECEPTION Evening of magic and illusion featuring Matrices Illusion and Britain's Got Talent winner Richard Jones, Sat 28 Sept, Benn Hall, Rugby

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

GARETH GATES SINGS FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS Sun 29 Sept, Malvern Theatres

Talks & Spoken Word

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

FINAL FRIDAYS X WELLNESS Evening dedicated to wellbeing, Fri 27 Sept, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

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



Malvern Autumn Show - Three Counties Showground

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, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

THE BIG BIRTHDAY WEEKENDER Featuring local live music across a variety of genres, Sat 28 - Sun 29 Sept, FarGo Village, Coventry

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

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



Rustival 2 - British Motor Museum, Gaydon

WIN! with What's On...

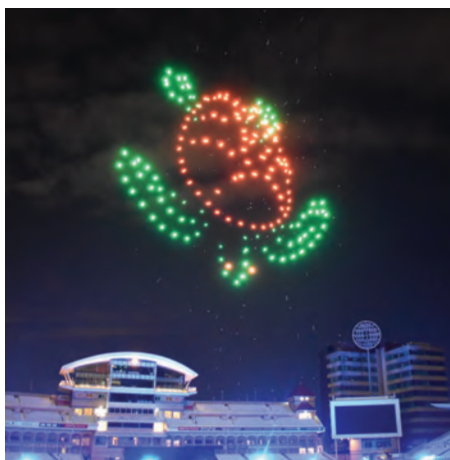
Enter now at whatsonlive.co.uk to be in with a chance of bagging one of these fabulous prizes!



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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'THE ULTIMATE ALL DAY FEEL GOOD PARTY'
THE 90's
REVIVAL TOUR
SAT 7 SEPTEMBER

SUN 08 SEP
FAULTY TOWERS
Original
the Dining Experience
SUN 10 NOV

MAGGIE MAY
★★★★ TONIGHTS THE NIGHT
★★★★ 'SIMPLY UNMISSABLE'
FRI 13 SEPT

Johnny 2 BAD SAT 14 SEPT
PLUS THE ALL DAY REGGAE PARTY
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PERFORMING ALL THE GREATEST HITS
FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER
HIGH ON ADAMS
Tribute to Bryan Adams

COMEDY AT THE CELLARS FRIDAY 20 SEPT
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Featuring a live tribute to
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+ Special Guests
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The Journeymen
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Celebrating the music of the
18 Grammy Award-Winning artist Eric Clapton
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Darts Live in concert
ORIGINAL LINE-UP
PERFORMING THEIR
GREATEST HITS
FRI 4 OCT

BOXING
ALL DAY CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING
SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2024
FEATURING:
DREW THOMAS, MIKE ROBERTS, ALAZAN, PAUL NEWCOMBE, JORDAN VALENTINE, LEON JONES, RYHIL BUTLER, KAYO McDONALD, ROBERT MADISON, JAMES HAINSTON, SHANNON SWYLL CLOVER, LUT JONES

WRESTLING
SUN 6 OCT
MEGASTAM
2024 LIVE TOUR

Joe McELDERRY
UP CLOSE & PERSONAL
THURS 10 OCT

FRI 11 OCT
Tasha Leaper as MADONNA

SAT 12 OCT
The Ultimate tribute to
AC/DC
DIRTY DC

SUN 13 OCT
Pink Princess Party
FEATURING AURORA from Sleeping Beauty
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST: Barbie
RAPUNZEL from Tangled

FLEETING RUMOURS
GREATEST HITS TOUR
FRI 18 OCT
SPECIAL GUESTS
FOREIGNERS
A JOURNEY

THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE SHOW
TAKE THAT
PERFORMED BY NO.1 TRIBUTE: RULE THE WORLD
PLUS VERY SPECIAL GUEST:
OLLY MURS
PERFORMING BY NO.1 TRIBUTE: HYMAN ELLIOTT
SAT 19 OCT

DIRECT FROM LONDON'S WEST END
THE CARPENTERS
SONGBOOK
SUN 20 OCT

THE LEGACY
STARRING CJ
24 OCT

ESSENTIALLY CHER
FRI 25 OCT

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