

Coventry & Warwickshire

ISSUE 454 NOVEMBER 2024

What's On

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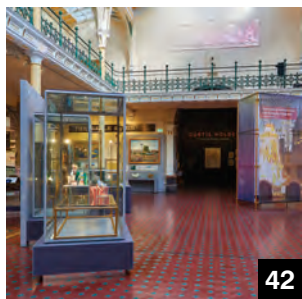
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What's On

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An imaginative season at the Coventry Belgrade

Hit musical SIX will return to Coventry's Belgrade Theatre next July as part of the venue's spring/summer season. The internationally acclaimed production takes its place in an eclectic line-up of shows that also features an adaptation of Malorie Blackman's novel, Pig Heart Boy (pictured). Other shows include: Driftwood - Tim Foley's inspiring story of love, hope and belonging; an innovative new version of Romeo & Juliet - originally scored with rap and R&B; and Matthew Xia's production of David Harris' provocative satire on capitalism and black performance, Tambo & Bones. To find out more, visit the website: belgrade.co.uk

Wet Wet Wet take to the road with Heather Small

Wet Wet Wet will visit Birmingham next year as part of a UK tour.

Featuring founding member Graeme Clark, accompanied by long-standing guitarist Graeme Duffin and frontman Kevin Simm, the band will play Symphony Hall on Friday 17 October. The boys will be joined by special guest star Heather Small. For further information and tickets, visit bmusic.co.uk



Annual Christmas festival returns to the region

The annual Raymond Gubbay Christmas Festival returns to the Midlands next month (Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sunday 15 - Sunday 29 December).

From epic orchestral tributes celebrating legendary film composers Hans Zimmer and John Williams, to lively carol singalongs and dancefloor classics in a Ministry Of Sound Classical show, the series of concerts is promising 'something for everyone'...

To check out the whole programme, visit the website rg.live



British Motor Museum shortlisted for local award

The British Motor Museum in Gaydon, Warwickshire, has been shortlisted as a West Midlands Tourism Awards finalist.

The venue has been nominated in the Accessible & Inclusive Tourism category. The award winners will be announced at a special ceremony early next year.

First acts revealed for Mostly Jazz festival 2025

Birmingham's Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival's 2025 line-up will include US funk/jazz/jam legends War.



DJ Craig Charles (pictured) has also been announced for the three-day event, taking place at the city's Moseley Park & Pool from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 July. Tickets are available now by visiting the website: mostlyjazz.co.uk

Major tour of Handbagged to stop off in the Midlands

An award-winning play examining - and imagining - the relationship between two of history's most powerful women, Margaret Thatcher and Queen Elizabeth II, is heading to two Midlands venues as part of a national tour.

Moira Buffini's Handbagged stops off at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Thursday 27 February to Saturday 1 March, and then visits the Coventry Belgrade from Tuesday 29 April to Saturday 3 May. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the theatres' websites.

Beer guide 2025 entry for Severn Valley Railway pub

Staff are raising a glass at the Severn Valley Railway's King & Castle pub after finding out that the venue has yet again won recognition in the Good Beer Guide.

Housed within the heritage railway's Kidderminster station, The King & Castle has long been a favoured spot for members of the Campaign for Real Ale, the organisation which has published the prestigious guide.

The Sisterhood comes to Warwick Arts Centre

Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre is this month hosting a special show celebrating '12 female stars who dominated the singing and songwriting of the 20th century'.

Singer Sarah Jane Morris' The Sisterhood (Tuesday 12 November) pays tribute to Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, Miriam Makeba, Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin, Joni Mitchell, Patti Smith, Rickie Lee Jones, Annie Lennox, Kate Bush and Sinéad O'Connor.

For more information and tickets, visit the website at warwickartscentre.co.uk



Midlands return for Andre Rieu

World-famous Dutch violinist & conductor André Rieu will return to the West Midlands next year as part of a UK tour. 'King of Waltz' André will be joined by the Johann Strauss Orchestra and international soloists when he makes a stop-off at Birmingham's bp pulse LIVE venue on Monday 12 May. For further information and to book tickets, visit André's website at andrierieu.com



Coventry date for comic Suzi Ruffell

Suzi Ruffell will visit the region next year with critically acclaimed stand-up offering *The Juggle*.

The Hampshire-born comic's Autumn 2025 tour includes stop-offs at two Midlands venues: Hereford's Courtyard (Friday 19 September) and Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre (Saturday 15 November). Tickets for the shows are available at suziruffell.com



Cathedral hosts Blitz-inspired art

Coventry Cathedral is this month hosting an exhibition of paintings inspired by the Blitz. The work of local artist Iain White, *Moonlight Sonata* can be viewed from Friday 1 to Friday 29 November.



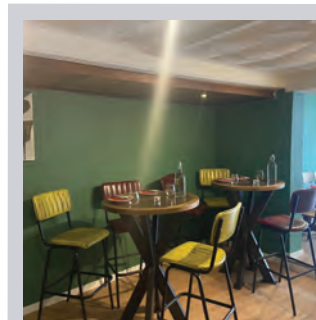
Moulin Rouge to can-can into the Midlands next autumn

Hit musical *Moulin Rouge* will visit the Midlands next autumn as part of a global tour.

Inspired by Baz Luhrmann's critically acclaimed film, the multi-award-winning show stops off at

Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday 15 October to Saturday 15 November.

For more information and to book tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com



Spanish eatery makes a move

A Warwick-based Spanish restaurant has moved to a new site in the town's main square, where it promises to continue delivering its 'unique brand of hospitality'. The award-winning *Tasca Dali* has been able to welcome more diners through its doors since reopening in the Market Place-located unit previously occupied by *Totally Thai*. To find out more about the popular eatery and check out its menu, visit tascadali.com

Seminal Radiohead album to feature in 'dynamic' new version of Hamlet

A 'dynamic' new version of *Hamlet*, in which Shakespeare's words are illuminated by seminal Radiohead album *Hail To The Thief*, will show at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon next summer. Running at the venue from Wednesday 4 to Saturday 28 June, the production will see the deconstructed album - reworked by Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke - performed live on stage by a cast of 20 musicians and actors. To find out more about *Hamlet Hail To The Thief* and book tickets, visit rsc.org.uk



Olly Alexander and Sugababes to play Brum

Sugababes (pictured), Olly Alexander, Ella Henderson and Tom Walker are among the performers taking to Birmingham's bp pulse LIVE stage this month when Hits Radio Live makes a welcome return (Friday 22 November). The line-up also features Leigh-Anne, Sigala and Joel Corry. Tickets for the show can be purchased at hitsradio.co.uk



A book extravaganza at the Belgrade Theatre

The free-to-attend Coventry Book Extravaganza makes a welcome return to the city's Belgrade Theatre on Saturday 16 November. The event will feature a diverse selection of stalls, with independent publishers, local authors, comic creators and literary societies among those in attendance... Visit belgrade.co.uk for more information.

Innovative collaboration at Coventry venue

Coventry's LTB Showrooms venue is this month hosting a special event featuring folk, electronic and minimalist music performed live in collaboration with videographers and artists. Titled Somewhere In The Middle and taking place on Friday 8 November, the show includes contributions from, among others, Nick Allen - performing a new version of Steve Reich's Cello Counterpoint with video - and folk-songwriter trio Alkevan. For more information and to book tickets, visit eventbrite.co.uk

Kate Mosse to unlock the secrets of Labyrinth

Novelist Kate Mosse is bringing the story behind her bestselling historical adventure, Labyrinth, to the stage.

Kate's one-woman tour, which celebrates the 20th anniversary of the novel's publication, stops off at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Saturday 15 March. To find out more about the show and book tickets, visit labyrinthlive2025.com



A Night To Remember with Strictly's Jeanette & Aljaž

Strictly Come Dancing favourites Aljaž Škorjanec and Janette Manrara have announced that they will be returning to the Midlands in 2025 with their brand-new show, A Night To Remember.

The popular pair will make a Birmingham Symphony Hall stop-off on Friday 23 May. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website: ANightToRememberShow.com

Stage writing competition launched by theatres

Malvern Theatres and Cheltenham's Everyman Theatre have teamed up to launch a new stage writing competition for creatives working in the counties of Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. All competition entries must have a significant 'sense of place' in relation to Malvern and/or Cheltenham. The winning entry will be workshopped in Malvern, before being performed in both Malvern and Cheltenham. To find out how to enter, visit: [Three Counties Talent Hub - Malvern Theatres \(malvern-theatres.co.uk\)](http://ThreeCountiesTalentHub-MalvernTheatres.com)

Rodgers & Hammerstein tribute visits the Midlands

Midlands fans of legendary composers Rodgers & Hammerstein should make a beeline for Birmingham's

Symphony Hall next summer (Friday 27 June), where John Wilson & Sinfonia of London will be presenting a concert of the duo's timeless music. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the website: sinfoniaoflondon.com



Fancy singing Messiah with Armonico Consort?

Warwick-based choir & instrumental ensemble Armonico Consort are inviting Midlandsers to join them for a rehearsal and performance of Handel's Messiah on Saturday 23 November. More information is available via the website at armonico.org.uk



Beer festival back in the region after 42-year break




The Great British Beer Festival will be hosted in the West Midlands next year for the first time since 1983.

The Campaign for Real Ale's flagship event, which 'celebrates the best of UK brewing and beyond', will take place at Birmingham's NEC from Tuesday 5 to Saturday 9 August.

The well-established festival, now in its 47th year, features hundreds of beers as well as bars dedicated to cocktails, real cider and perry.

B:Music

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08 Nov | Symphony Hall



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14 Nov | Symphony Hall



Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra
17 Nov | Symphony Hall



Monty Don
18 Nov | Symphony Hall



Austenatious
24 Nov | Town Hall



Penguin Cafe: Music from The Penguin Cafe Orchestra
25 Nov | Town Hall



Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues Band
27 & 28 Nov | Symphony Hall



Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra with Jeneba Kanneh-Mason
30 Nov | Symphony Hall



B:Eats at Symphony Hall: Home of the Brummie Bacon Cake®
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bmusic.co.uk

There's something for everyone this November!

Family-friendly Christmas experience at Twycross

Warwickshire's Twycross Zoo is this month launching a family-friendly Christmas experience (Saturday 16 November - Tuesday 24 December).

The venue's Gruffalo Discovery Land will be offering youngsters the chance to enjoy Santa shows, meet the man himself, get creative with seasonal crafts, and say a big hello to both The Gruffalo and The Gruffalo's Child. For more information and to book tickets, visit twycrosszoo.org

Bedlam in Birmingham

A two-day celebration of the arts, mental health and wellbeing will take place in Birmingham Rep studio space The Door at the end of the month (Thursday 28 & Friday 29 November).

Featuring comedy, dance, spoken word and drama, Bedlam Arts & Mental Health Showcase will be presented by professional artists alongside participants in projects supported by the Bedlam partners: Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Sampad, MAC, Red Earth Collective and The Rep. To find out more, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk

New Christmas ballet to debut at The Dovehouse

Local writer Anna Kelly is set to see her recently published book, Christmas Eve: A Story Of Nostalgia And Dreams, adapted for the stage - as a ballet!

Taking place on Christmas Eve 1960 in the Yorkshire home of the Leigh family, Anna's story will next month be performed by Rosettas Ballet Dancers at Solihull's Dovehouse Theatre (Thursday 12 December). To find out more and book tickets, visit the website soundlighting.uk/dovehouse

'Murder most foul' event coming to Coventry

A 'true crime' talk featuring a live psychopath test is coming to Coventry. Presented by research psychologist & psychopathy expert Cheish Merryweather, Murder: Staged will also include in-depth forensics, reconstructed real-life crime-scene walk-throughs, and a deep dive into cases 'that have not been seen on stage live before'.

The event takes place at Coventry Building Society Arena on Friday 6 December.

To find out more and book tickets, visit the venue's website.

08 whatsonlive.co.uk



After-hours Baroque disco fun at Compton Verney

Warwickshire venue Compton Verney is this month hosting an after-hours 'larger-than-life Baroque disco extravaganza'.

Led by drag queen Fatt Butcher and exploring themes of body adornment and identity, the Friday 29 November event

features walkabout drag performers, workshops exploring symbols, portraits and identity, and DJ Moon Odyssey performing 'an eclectic mix of smooth sounds' in the café. Further information is available by visiting comptonverney.org.uk

You're (Saint) Nicked!

Father Christmas will come into contact with the long arm of the law next month when he spends two days in his festive grotto at West Midlands Police Museum.

The popular Birmingham visitor attraction will play host to St Nicholas on Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 December.

As well as providing an opportunity to say hello to Santa, the event also offers visitors the chance to follow a family-friendly trail around the venue and get involved with a festive craft activity. To find out more, visit the museum's website.

Nick aiming to intercept scams in the Midlands

Nick Stapleton, from BBC TV series Scam Interceptors, is heading to the region with a brand-new live show next year.

Nick will be visiting five Midlands venues with How To Beat Scammers, a show designed to help audience members learn how best to protect themselves against an increasing number of clever and complex scams. The show's stop-offs include Palace Theatre, Redditch (Wednesday 5 March) and Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry (Friday 14 March).



Early-morning theatre at the RSC's Other Place

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) will team up with the Royal Court Theatre next year to present 4.48 Psychosis, the final play written by Sarah Kane before she committed suicide in 1999 at the age of 28.

Plunging the audience into the mind of an unnamed protagonist grappling with severe depression, the play will be performed at The Other Place in Stratford-upon-Avon next summer, from Thursday 10 to Sunday 27 July. The production will reunite the original cast, which included Daniel Evans, who is now co-artistic director of the RSC.

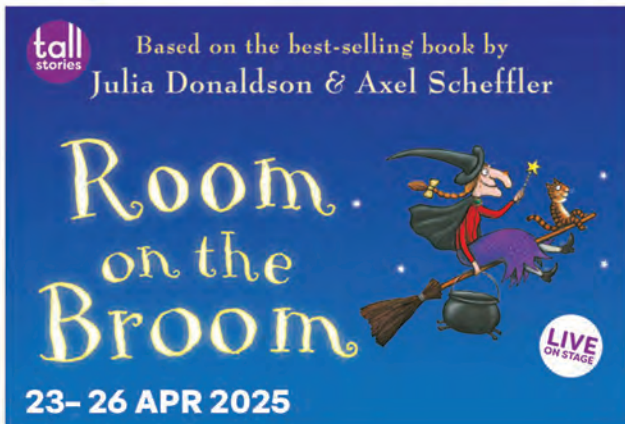
The final performance has been scheduled to take place at 4.48am on the morning of Sunday 27 July. It will be followed by a post-show discussion with the cast and creative team over breakfast.

To find out more about the production and purchase tickets, visit rsc.org.uk

Celebrating 150 years of Coventry Rugby Club

A new display celebrating 150 years of Coventry Rugby Club has gone on show at the city's Herbert Art Gallery & Museum. The exhibition, which features artefacts, photographs and objects from across the club's history, is available to view at the venue until next autumn.

BELGRADE



Book now **belgrade.co.uk**

THE RISE TO DAME

Iain Lauchlan talks panto...



Iain Lauchlan is a familiar sight at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre during the Christmas period, not only appearing on stage as the beloved Dame in the annual pantomime, but also writing and directing the show. This year, he'll be donning the frilly apron of Sarah the Cook to star in the venue's production of Dick Whittington. What's On spoke to him about his life in Pantoland...

Iain - You've been a regular fixture at the Belgrade for over 30 years. How did that come about?

There's something about the Belgrade. I love it as a theatre. It brought me south, actually. In 1980, I was an actor and did most of my work in Scotland, but I wanted to move south. Bob Hamlin was running the Belgrade at the time; it was his first season at the theatre. He saw me in a TV series which was networked from Scotland, and asked me to play John Shand in What Every Woman Knows to open the season. Basically, I never went back to Scotland!

I stayed for the panto, in which I was the back of the cow, and I played half the Giant - it was a two-headed, three-legged giant. That was my beginning, and Bob kept asking me back to do parts. I did some lovely shows - Barefoot In The Park and A Little Night Music - then he offered me panto. He said "I'm offering you two pantos. Everybody only gets offered two - after two pantos, I change and move on to somebody else." I said "That's lovely, thank you very much," - and I'm still here!

You now write, direct and star in the panto. What's your process when you write the show?

Well, I like to try and do a fresh script each time with panto. You have to stick to the story - some companies don't, but I like to. I finish the panto run in the first week of January, and then the synopsis for the next panto has to be in by the end of March. I do quite a full synopsis - about 20 odd pages, quite detailed. The show gets designed from the synopsis, so they have to know what's going to be happening.

Dick Whittington is one of the biggies - it's quite different from the others because it's got a very strong storyline. Some of the pantos can take place anywhere really, whereas this one most definitely takes place in London. Dick can come from wherever you want - this year we've got him coming from Coventry. The thing about Dick Whittington is that there are so many locations, so it's quite an expensive panto to stage!

Can you think of a moment when you were really proud to see one of your ideas come to life on the panto stage?

It kind of happens every year. Once the actors get hold of it, take it off the page and actually

make the moments work, it's just so satisfying. There's a particular one - I think it was Sleeping Beauty, and I played the nanny, Nanny Nora. I did the old Mary Poppins thing of bringing thousands of big things out of my bag when I arrived. I brought this tailor's dummy out of my bag and set it up on the side of the stage. I put clothes on it and a wig. It was when Alexa had just come out, and I said "This is the Scottish Alexa; it's actually called Morag, and you can ask it anything." Morag had a real attitude! We had such a lot of fun out of that - that went 10 times better than I thought it would.

This year's cast includes Craig Hollingsworth, playing Idle Jack. It's his 13th Belgrade panto. What's your on-stage relationship like?

Very good. I trust him a hundred percent, and I think he trusts me as well. We have a really fruitful relationship on stage - we just clicked. I auditioned him about 17 years ago. I was looking for a new comic, and he was a young lad at the time, with blonde tips in his hair - he'd just been doing Butlins, I think. I just loved him. I was very impressed with him when he auditioned - he had exactly what I wanted. We get on; we just know what each other is going to do.

You perform in many different types of shows throughout the run - from school groups to the busy festive period. Do you have a favourite?

I do love the busy time between Christmas and New Year, and leading up to Christmas, when everybody just wants to come out and have a nice time. The audience is truly different every night, and most audiences are just brilliant...

But there's nothing to beat the school shows! They're the hardest of all because we have to be up and ready with the makeup on for 10 o'clock in the morning, which doesn't really fit in with our lifestyle! But the reaction from the kids is just amazing. You get so much back from them - the volume of reaction from them is so loud, it's great.

You're directing the show again this year. How do you approach that particular task, especially when you're appearing on stage at the same time?

I don't know if I could do it any other way now - I've been doing it that way for so long.

I've got an assistant director, Vicki Stevenson, who is very good. She's got her own dance school in Hinckley. She was one of my smallest Belgrade Babes when she was little - she came on stage at eight years old - and she went right through the pantos every year. Then her oldest daughter was in it, and now her youngest daughter's in it! She's a really good assistant director, because she'll sit back and leave me to do it, and then interject at the right time when I need help or when she doesn't think something's right. I have to think about Craig, because we have quite a lot of work together, and if I'm not around, he doesn't have much chance to rehearse. My choreographer, Jenny Phillips, has been doing it for years. She's very good as well - she will take care of all the children's performances. It's a really good team.

If someone was hoping to begin working in panto, what's one piece of advice you'd give them?

I audition new people every year - I like new people in the shows, as well as bringing people back. It's very useful when people are a triple threat - who sing, dance and act - and I think any young person coming through and doing pantomime has to concentrate and try to do that. If you want to be a straight actor, you don't particularly need to be a triple threat, but if you want to do pantomime, it's very useful to be able to sing, move, and of course act. Once you can, people want you, and you're a great addition



to the cast.
Dick Whittington shows at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre from Wednesday 20 November until Saturday 4 January

ARMONICO CONSORT

'PURE PLEASURE' THE GUARDIAN
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 ★★★★★ BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE
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Classical music from across the region...



Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 30 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 6 December

With Riccardo Frizza appointed as chief conductor in 2023 - their 80th-anniversary year - Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra are heading into the future with a renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

They are joined for this concert by Jeneba Kanneh-Mason (pictured). A rising star who is following in the footsteps of her celebrated

elder siblings, Isata and Sheku, she will be performing Chopin's Piano Concerto No.2. The programme also features Kodály's Dances Of Galánta (at Symphony Hall only), Liszt's Mephisto Waltz and, to send audience members home with a definite spring in their step, Beethoven's effervescent Seventh Symphony.



Spires Philharmonic Orchestra

United Reformed Church, Coventry, Sat 23 November

"We are acoustic adventurers," explain Spires Philharmonic Orchestra & Chorus, a community of ambitious musickmakers from Coventry. "We seek out unheard gems and then programme them alongside classics we know and love, crafting concerts that are not only outstanding to listen to but that we love to perform too."

The choir and pro/am orchestra's latest outing sees them presenting a programme featuring Vaughan Williams' Five Variants Of Dives And Lazarus, a rare performance of Saint-Saëns' Oratorio de Noël, Handel's Dixit Dominus and Bach's Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring.

Orchestra Of The Swan: Midwinter

Heightington Village Hall, Bewdley, Sat 30 November; Number 8, Pershore, Tues 3 December

Orchestra of the Swan deliver an evening of 'the ancient and the contemporary, the religious and the secular, the familiar and the unknown' in a concert presenting 'an intriguing tapestry of winter music and words'... The orchestra's director, David Le Page (pictured), is the man at the helm.



The Binchois Consort

St Mary's Church, Warwick, Tues 12 November

Franco-Flemish composer Guillaume Du Fay was the dominant figure in European music during the second half of the 15th century, so it's hardly surprising that his notable anniversaries are seen as suitable occasions to acknowledge.

This year is the 550th anniversary of his death, a landmark which is here being commemorated by the always-value-for-money Binchois Consort. The all-male ensemble are joined for the concert by slide-trumpet star Jamie Savan.

Orchestra Of The Age Of Enlightenment

Malvern Theatres, Wed 6 November

Much-loved period-instrument ensemble the Orchestra Of The Age Of Enlightenment head to Malvern early this month to present five of Bach's six famous Brandenburg Concertos (numbers two to six). Written from 1708 to 1721, the compositions are considered by many to offer the uninitiated a perfect gateway into the world of Baroque music.



Worcester Festival Choral Society

Worcester Cathedral, Sat 23 November

Worcester Festival Choral Society's 140 voices take on the challenge of choral and orchestral classics by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Gabriel Fauré, here presented in the magnificent surroundings of Worcester Cathedral.

Appearing alongside the Society are internationally acclaimed soloists Brittany King (soprano), Frances Gregory (mezzo soprano), Greg Tassell (tenor) and Peter Edge (baritone). Director of music Samuel Hudson conducts, with accompaniment coming from the Meridian Sinfonia.



Dancing Queen

Hans Christian Andersen's dark fairy tale is reimagined for a contemporary audience at the RSC's Swan Theatre

Canadian theatre director Kimberley Rampersad has traded Stratford, Ontario, for Stratford-upon-Avon to take the reins of a new production of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Red Shoes* at the RSC. Helming the company's festive show is something of a dream - or fairy tale - come true, she tells *What's On...*

An all-new 'reimagining' of one of Hans Christian Andersen's darkest fairy tales hits the stage of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon this month, marking the RSC debut of Canadian director Kimberley Rampersad, who usually plies her trade in the town of Stratford, Ontario.

One of Canada's top young directors and choreographers, Kimberley is associate artistic director of the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake and directed a production of *King Lear* at the Stratford Festival last year. But she admits she's still pinching herself to be working at the home of the Bard.

"It's such an important institution, and a place where even the mythology of English-speaking theatre and our great canon comes from," she says, just about keeping a lid on her enthusiasm. "Great people have trod the boards, directed, designed, done incredible technical and other things that are part of theatre craftsmanship. So yeah, it is very important to me... and important for my family too."

Kimberley's UK debut is also likely to be important to the RSC's new co-artistic directors, Daniel Evans and Tamara Harvey, since they've entrusted her with one of their inaugural season's festive productions - always a key element of the theatrical calendar. Although it turns out that directing a Christmas show was Kimberley's idea.

"When they asked me to be a part of their first season, they asked what I would like to do, and I said I'd love to do the holiday show. I love holiday shows and holiday programming. I love young people - they are my favourite, and I love making theatre for them.

"I also love making theatre for families because I love multi-generational audiences. It's such a bonding and beautiful moment when people from across generations can come to the same place and have a theatrical experience."

Having families and youngsters in the audience changes - and improves - the dynamic and energy levels in any theatre, says Kimberley, but it does bring occasional challenges too.

"I love young people because they are so honest - if they're in it, they're onside with you, and if they're not, they let you know! There's something incredibly chastening about that, and I love the idea of people over

generations just spending time together in a dark room - I just think that's community-building and terrific."

The 'dark room' of the Swan Theatre could potentially be even darker this festive season, as *The Red Shoes* is a fairly gruesome fairy tale, not least because the hero has her feet cut off. Playwright Nancy Harris (who adapted *The Magician's Elephant* for the RSC in 2021) says she has reimagined the story for a contemporary audience "without whitewashing the darker elements found in the original". And that's exactly how it should be, according to Kimberley.

"It is really dark, but so many fairy tales are dark when you read their first iteration, especially before they have been shined, polished, defanged or Disneyfied.

"Look at something like *Cinderella*, where the stepsisters cut off their toes to try to fit into the glass slipper, or some of Hans Christian Andersen's other fairy tales, like *The Little Mermaid*, where the witch cuts out the tongue of the mermaid. When you actually read them, all these fairy tales are wicked, dark and gross."

Which makes them sound more like nightmares than fairy tales, but Kimberley thinks winter and yuletide are the perfect times for darker pieces, citing *A Christmas Carol* ("a scary ghost story") as the classic example.

"I think it's such an important part of the time of year. When it gets to Christmas, darkness is descending on this half of the planet, and in the darkness, that's when a single light shines the most."

But before any potential ticket buyers start having second thoughts, she's quick to point out that there's plenty of light to balance the shade in what she confidently says will be a family-friendly production full of "dance, music and magic".

"There are such moments of delight, and it's the juxtaposition of those naughty and bright moments amidst the darkness that makes this a really delicious piece.

"Nancy has incredible humour and wit - her retelling invites those of us with past relationships to the story to meet it anew, and welcomes children to meet it for the first time."

Kimberley admits she wasn't previously familiar with the book, but the 1948 film version has always been a touchstone in her life, given her background in dance and choreography.

"Dance is my first love and how I came into theatre, and the movie sat in a really particular place in the mythology of dance for me. It's about the cost of dance, and the over-glorification of 'if it costs you everything, that's okay', or 'that's what the true artist has to do' type of thing.

"For me, the story is really touching because it's a dance story. I also love a female hero, and the thing I love about this fairy tale, and particularly Nancy's retelling of it, is that she is imperfect, and I really cherish a hero who can still be imperfect. Like *Hamlet*, there's something incredibly endearing about a character with imperfections and foibles."

Dancer and rising star Nikki Cheung ("she's just so talented and bright") makes her RSC debut in the lead role as Karen, but the entire cast are "wonderful movers", according to their director and choreographer. And as a qualified dance teacher who spent six years as dance clinician with the Winnipeg School Division, she should know.

"Most of the actors had a movement call as part of the piece, not because they need to be dancers, but they do need to move, and dance is a physical language that's deeply steeped in our play.

"I really love the amount of dancing in the show. I'm a dancer and a choreographer, so to be able to bring the things that I love and do most naturally to this piece is very exciting."

She clearly wants everyone else to be excited too, and sums things up with the perfect sales pitch.

"Come and see it because it's both naughty and nice - just like the season. Come and see it the same way you see *The Nutcracker*, where there's a hero who dances and there's a godfather that conjures - we have those same things in *Sylvester*, our shoemaker. There are families on the stage that love each other and don't know how to love each other; there is magic and wonder; there's beautiful music... and it's at the Royal Shakespeare Company! In Stratford!"

And just for clarification, that's Stratford-upon-Avon, not Stratford, Ontario...

.....

The Red Shoes shows at The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, from Thursday 7 November to Sunday 19 January

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Live music from across the region...

Freya Beer

Drummonds Bar, Worcester,
Thurs 14 November

Drawing on influences including Kate Bush and Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, Gothic-pop sensation Freya Beer visits Worcester this month with her rising-star status having been confirmed by a support slot for punk poet Dr John Cooper-Clarke on his UK tour. Freya's Midlands gig comes on the back of her latest single, False Hope, a song inspired by "individuals who promise the world to you but fail to present".



Ellie Gowers

The Tin at The Coal Vaults, Coventry,
Sat 9 November

Ellie Gowers has made a name for herself by writing and performing songs with sociological, ecological and personal themes in mind. Boasting a strong voice full of expression and maturity, her sensitive and tender yet powerful and thought-provoking compositions hint at the music of Joni Mitchell, Nick Drake and Laura Marling. The Warwickshire-born singer-songwriter performs in her home county this month having recently released brand-new material.



Turin Brakes

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Fri 22 November

With seven top-40 singles, six top-40 albums and more than one million worldwide sales to their name, London indie four-piece Turin Brakes make a welcome

return to Coventry.

"We couldn't ignore all the love we got for the first acoustic tour," explain the band. "We ended up doing about 50 shows when we originally planned to do just one or two! So we decided to do it again and make it another very special and intimate performance. We honestly can't wait!"

Kris Drever

Malvern Cube, Sun 24 November

Scottish contemporary folk musician, songwriter and BBC Radio Two Folk Awards winner Kris Drever came to prominence in 2006 with the release of debut solo album Black Water, since which time he's continued to impress with an output that successfully blends the contemporary with the traditional.

Kris is out on tour following the recent release of a 36-song anthology double album featuring three new compositions: Catterline, Punchbag and Dust In Light.

Phil Beer Trio

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Sat 9 November;
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 17
November

Joined for this Worcester appearance by Miranda Sykes, on bass guitar, and Sian Monaghan, on percussion, multi-instrumentalist Phil Beer is promising an evening of "songs and random anecdotes, this time from the bluesy side of the street". Fans of the music of Blind Willie Johnson, The Rev Gary Davis, Davy Graham and John Mayall will not be disappointed.

The Brand New Heavies

hmv Empire, Coventry, Sat 9 November

Pioneers of the London acid jazz scene, The Brand New Heavies have been responsible for some of the UK's biggest R&B and soul tracks (think Dream On Dreamer, Never Stop, Dream Come True and Midnight At The Oasis).

The band visit Coventry as part of a tour to celebrate the 30th anniversary of million-plus-selling album Brother Sister, which they will be performing in full.



Upcoming Exhibition

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IN THE PINK

After a difficult couple of years in the wake of the Covid pandemic, Manchester indie rock band Courteeners have been back in the groove, celebrating the anniversary of debut LP St Jude, playing their biggest-ever shows and writing new music. A conscious shift towards a poppier sound, new album Pink Cactus Café is the act's strongest set of songs since their debut - and fans are in for a treat on their upcoming tour, singer Liam Fray tells What's On...

I can't believe it's been 16 years since St Jude came out. Thanks for making me feel so old.

We've just had our 18th birthday as a band, so you're not the only one, bud. I've felt old for about 10 years.

The time has obviously flown by. Have you managed to learn anything or gain any perspective along the way?

Do you know what, even the big shows we've done recently [the band played a number of UK festivals this summer], you build up to it and there's a lot of nerves and excitement, and almost as soon as it's done, it's like 'Okay, what's next?' There's never really a time to sit back and take it in.

You played shows celebrating the 15th anniversary of St Jude last year, which obviously involved nostalgia and looking back. Did they inform how you approached the new album and the 'what's next' you mentioned?

I think we changed from the first to the second record, the second to the third, and so on. We've always been a band that moves on. Look, I know what those songs [from St Jude] mean to people, but if you try to make your debut album again and again and again, first, it'd be pretty weird to have old blokes singing about standing at the corner of the bar, but also you have to stay true and honest to yourself.

You clearly have been thinking about it, in terms of how you see your sound evolving.

Yeah, it's quite difficult when you're playing live and seeing how much those songs mean to people - you've got to trust your gut and think [the fans] trust us. We've still got that 'last gang in town' mentality, and it's more to do with that rather than the sonics of the record. And people's tastes evolve as well - you have to give them more credit than to think they just want what they were spoon-fed first time around again and again. That's the joy of the tightrope as well - that's the balancing act. How do we retain what we are, pushing forward and keeping it interesting for everybody, the listener and the band?

New album Pink Cactus Café definitely feels a bit fresher, and sounds, dare I say it, poppier...

Yeah, but it's still us as well; it's still got that heart, guts and soul - it's not scared to wear its heart on its sleeve. And if that means

being a bit more delicate in delivery so more people hear it, then that's half the battle. You make the same record as the first one and nobody new comes along for the ride, and I want to reach as many people as possible. I don't just want to play to people in my front room; I want to play to everybody's front room.

Which in some ways is the opposite of the isolated way it came together. Is it true that when you were writing material, you weren't sure whether it might be a solo record or some sort of side project?

Because we were in lockdown, it was the first time I've ever just spent time writing with no real plan. I didn't know when I was gonna see the guys again, so I thought I'd just keep writing so at least there'd be enough for when we did get back together. But it could've been three years, who knows?

And after writing in solitude, you've ended up with an album that features lots of collaboration with other artists. Were you just happy to see as many people as possible?

I'm lucky enough to call some of the people on the record friends - James Skelly [The Coral], Theo [Hutchcraft, from Hurts], DMAs... Brooke Combe. I think everybody in bands that has mates in other bands will tell you they've said 'Oh yeah, we should do a tune together'. I just thought, let's follow this up. It ended up being the most rewarding and collaborative thing we've ever done.

Friends or not, was it a challenge to offer up your tunes to other people?

"Yeah, it was really daunting. There's a definite fear of falling, and am I gonna expose myself as a bad songwriter in front of people I really respect? But when something clicks and something works, it's a real rush.

And you end up with something greater than the sum of its parts?

It's more of a relief, to be honest! But yeah, definitely. People think that all artists are super confident, but I'd argue it's the opposite. When you go on stage, you put on that armour, but when you're in the studio, these [lyrics] are like diary entries - they come from my heart and soul; they're not made up. The lyrics are lived, not just platitudes to serve the song.

That sense of authenticity has often been cited as one of the reasons the band has such a strong connection to the fans, and your gigs become almost spiritual events.

We've got these arena shows coming up, and there's nothing like having 10,000 people in a room all bouncing or all singing one of the slow ones. Someone said it's a bit like going to a football match but everyone supports the same team, and I love that - everyone's in it for the same reasons. We're in rehearsals now, and it sounds massive; we're raring to go.

Speaking of arenas, the upcoming tour is your biggest UK trek in terms of venue sizes, but it sounds like ticket sales are going well, including the Utilita Arena show in Birmingham...

Birmingham has always been so good to us, but everywhere has - even when we go down south, where people think we're just this northern phenomenon. Until now the biggest venue we've ever done in Birmingham is the Academy, but tickets are flying out. We're absolutely made up. That show is the last one of the tour as well, so out with a bang!

.....
Courteeners play Utilita Arena Birmingham on Saturday 23 November





Omid Djalili

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 1 & Sat 2 November; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Fri 22 & Sat 23 November; Dudley Town Hall, Fri 21 February; Stratford PlayHouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 22 February; Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 16 May; The Regal, Evesham, Sat 20 September; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 9 October

A fella who's been referred to as "the thinking person's Iranian comedian", Omid Djalili is probably one of the most subversive comics currently doing the rounds on the UK

comedy circuit.

"I've been breaking away from the Middle Eastern pigeonhole that you people [journalists] have unfairly put me in. I'm a citizen of the world, and I will not be defined by cultural stereotypes. I have a specific viewpoint, which many call 'Djalili-esque', and I think my material reflects that now. Would you like a carpet? Visit my website. I also sell fried chicken, mayonnaise, motorcycle insurance and viagra, very fine price."

Tom Ward

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 7 November; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 24 November

Having recently made the decision to eat healthily during the week - "*Saturday nights* are for colon carnage" - Tom Ward has put together a show that's all about rethinking everything. "The thinness of reality is the theme of *Choose Your Delusion*," he says. He then goes on to further explain that the evening will see him reflecting on "all the big topics of our time: masculinity, three-star hotels, erectile dysfunction, reality TV, adverts, mental health and virtue-signalling w**kers".

Tom's visits to the Midlands this month form part of his second-ever UK tour.

Amy Matthews

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Fri 8 November

A train journey between Glasgow and Manchester saw Amy Matthews suffer an

unexpected existential crisis. During the course of the three-hour trip, she found herself ruminating on the price that people have paid as a result of the ever-increasing pace of modern life. Her train-journey reflections provided the springboard for stand-up offering *Commute With The Foxes*, a show which she is this month bringing to Birmingham on the back of summer success at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Mark Thomas

Glee Club, Birmingham, Thurs 7 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 13 November

Mark Thomas is no ordinary comedian. Hugely witty and as savage as a rabid dog when it comes to putting hecklers in their place, he takes to the stage with the intention not only of making people laugh but also exposing governmental and corporate exploitation in its many and varied forms. Mark's latest show, *Gaffa Tapes*, sees him promising an evening of 'jokes, rants, politics, play, and the occasional sing song'.

Mark Watson

Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Fri 1 November; Stourbridge Town Hall, Sat 2 November; Evesham Town Hall, Sun 3 November

Well established on the UK comedy circuit, Mark Watson was born in Bristol to Welsh parents and initially delivered his act with a Welsh accent, claiming he felt "more comfortable talking in a voice that I didn't quite recognise as my own".

"Comedy is certainly a time-consuming element of my life," he admits, "but then while I'm out touring and on stage, there are people at home doing far less glamorous things. There have certainly been times when I've been very happy to say, 'Of course I'd like to stay and help out with that plumbing crisis, but the Midlands awaits!'"



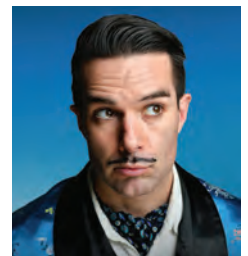
Troy Hawke

The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton, Sat 30 November

Erudite and home-schooled 1930s throwback Troy Hawke lists his hobbies as playing scrabble, conspiracy theories and calling Manchester City's Erling Haaland "a tremendous Nordic meat shield".

The foppish Errol Flynn-lookalike (Troy, that is, not Erling) - as played by Milo McCabe - had been out and about on the comedy circuit for a good few years before finally hitting the online jackpot and going viral on TikTok.

Troy is visiting Wolverhampton this month with *The Greeters Guild*, a show in which he 'examines his unlikely genesis, and explores exactly why a well-dressed man simply being nice to people has caused such a kerfuffle'.



Ivo Graham

Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent, Thurs 21 November

Seriously posh and admirably self-deprecating, Ivo Graham won plenty of new fans in 2019 when one of his gags was nominated for the coveted 'best joke of the Edinburgh Fringe' award: "I've got an Eton-themed advent calendar," explained Ivo, "where all the doors are opened for me by my dad's contacts."

The Tokyo-born Oxford alumnus visits the Midlands with Grand Design, a show which is described by its publicity in the following way: No ball games, no blind alleys, no backstage printers this year; just one of the best stand-ups of his generation, back to prove he's not just Taskmaster's yardstick for failure.



Paddy McGuinness

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 23 November; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Fri 28 February; The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton, Sat 1 March

Best known as Peter Kay's sidekick in the hit TV shows Phoenix Nights and Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere - and more recently as a co-presenter of BBC TV series Top Gear and the critically panned Road Tripping - Paddy McGuinness is one of the UK's most popular comedy talents.

This new tour marks a return to stand-up after a break of eight years, with Paddy having openly admitted he's hitting the road because "the money's run out". "I'm looking forward to getting back in front of a live audience," said the 51-year-old before embarking on the tour, "along with running the gauntlet of cancel culture, click bait and fake news!"



Grace Campbell

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 9 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 21 November

Describing herself as the funniest person she has ever met and "famous in North West London", Grace Campbell is a comedian with a fast-growing following and wit to spare.

The daughter of one-time Downing Street director of communications Alistair Campbell, Grace visits the Midlands this month with a new show in which she reflects on numerous significant life changes, from turning 30 and becoming a dog owner, to giving non-monogamy a go and then trying out celibacy. Expect answers to 'big questions about the world, her vagina, and her obsession with making her new dog her entire brand...'



Kane Brown

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 14 & Fri 15 November; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 23 November

Parenthood, family life, relationships and British culture are among the subjects to which Kane Brown regularly returns during his live shows.

The one-time direct-sales executive kickstarted his current career back in 2006 when he enrolled in a two-week course in standup-comedy, since which time he's honed his rib-tickling talents to excellent effect.

Kane visits the region this month with his acclaimed show, Don't Listen To Me.



Carl Hutchinson

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sun 24 November; Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 16 February; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 21 May

Observational comedian Carl Hutchinson makes a welcome return with a show that covers all manner of common-or-garden topics. Prior to becoming a full-time stand-

up, Carl was a maths teacher. "There are certainly comparisons between the two professions," says the popular Geordie funnyman, "but the definite advantage with comedy is that if you have a bad gig, you can rest assured that you don't have to see the same audience the next day at 10am!" Carl visits the region this month with new show Today Years Old.

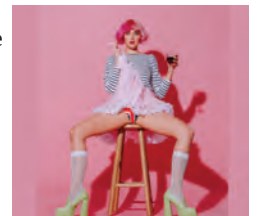
Tatty McCloud

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 15 November

Born in Zimbabwe and raised in France to British parents, London-based Tatty McCloud shot to fame on social media, making a significant splash

with her witty observations about the differences between French and British culture.

Tatty has now hit the road with a debut hour of comedy that turns the spotlight on the subject of 'belonging'. Or, to be more precise, the business of 'finding your tribe, or not, and how to be okay with that'.



SPREADING THE WORD

Hit show *The Book Of Mormon* returns to the Midlands for Christmas



Outrageous musical satire *The Book Of Mormon* strides into the region next month for a festive run at Birmingham theatre *The Alexandra*. Hailed ‘the funniest musical of all time’ and a massive hit wherever it lands, the show features a clever script written by three exceptional talents: *South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone, and *Avenue Q* co-creator Robert Lopez...

First staged in 2011 on New York’s Broadway, *The Book Of Mormon* was an instant success. Written by *South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone with *Avenue Q* co-creator Robert Lopez, the musical takes a firmly tongue-in-cheek look at what happens when two young Mormon men go on a mission to Uganda.

Leaving behind the familiarity and security of their homes in Salt Lake City, Elder Price and Elder Cunningham discover life doesn’t always meet expectations when they land in Africa and meet the locals.

Trey, Matt and Robert created the book, music and lyrics for *The Book Of Mormon*, and with all three having a proven background in off-the-wall comedy, there’s little wonder the show is packed with humour and great songs.

Winning nine Tony Awards on Broadway, it opened in London in 2013, set the record for the highest single day of sales in West End history, and went on to win four Olivier Awards, including Best New Musical.

The Book Of Mormon has since been performed across three continents, picking up more than 30 awards and breaking box office records in the US, UK and Australia.

So how does a show about a couple of Church of Latter-day Saints members embarking on a mission become such a hit? Somewhat bizarrely, the musical was born from a fascination with the Mormon church which the trio discovered they shared when they met in 2003. Trey and Matt had been to see *Avenue Q*, and over drinks afterwards they asked Robert about his future projects. They were surprised to hear him say he’d like to create something linked to Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormons - not least because it was a subject they were already considering.

“I remember reading about Smith in an American history textbook in eighth grade and just having to read it twice because I couldn’t believe what I was reading,” says Robert. “When Trey and Matt asked me what I would like to do next, I said ‘I want to do something on Joseph Smith’. And they said ‘What? That’s what we wanna do, too!’”

The Book Of Mormon is just one of a string of

hit shows Robert has worked on. Together with his wife and collaborator, Kristen Anderson-Lopez, he wrote songs for Disney films *Frozen* and *Coco* - including the international sensation *Let It Go*. He and Kristen also adapted *Frozen* into the stage spectacular.

Robert’s talents have been recognised so many times that, to date, he is the only double ‘EGOT’ winner, meaning he’s won all four major US entertainment awards - Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony - twice.

He says that while it was important for *The Book Of Mormon* to be funny, it also needed to convey the humanity of its characters.

“We were trying to make a show that was about the way we felt about the best parts of religion. We were writing a show about it that was sort of for atheists and believers at the same time, because it summed up how we felt about it - that whether or not the stories are true, they do something that’s good. Believing in something impossible makes you do impossible things.

“People are so quick to laugh at Mormons - and we wanted, in the end, to be able to turn it around on them. Because, really, any belief in anything impossible is sort of funny - but also, it’s very inspiring and empowering. And I think that’s why the show sings so much.”

Perhaps not surprisingly, given that it’s from the creators of anarchic television series *South Park*, *The Book Of Mormon* does skate close to the edge where its comedy is concerned. But, says Trey, this is their way of exploring subjects.

“It’s what a lot of not-funny people don’t understand. They don’t get that funny isn’t a tool to attack - it’s a tool to process a thing and to communicate. I think the most profound things I’ve ever heard about life have come out of a comedian’s mouth.”

Despite being the butt of many of the jokes, the Church of Latter-day Saints didn’t protest about the musical. Instead, the Mormons chose to embrace it, even placing adverts in programmes for the actual *Book Of Mormon*, their tenet of faith.

“Everyone beforehand was like, ‘are you worried?’” Trey recalls. “And we were like

‘no’, because we know Mormons. Mormons are nice people and they’re smart people.” That said, he hadn’t expected the response they did get. “We didn’t think they’d go so far as to take out ads in our programme. They trumped us, really.”

Trey also stresses the plot of the musical is more about the culture clash between the Mormons and the supposed beneficiaries of their mission than about poking fun at the beliefs of the Church of Latter-day Saints.

“It’s specifically a Mormon thing that when you’re 18 you get paired with someone who’s your sudden ‘best friend’ and sent somewhere crazy in the world,” Trey explains.

“So this show is really two kids coming out of high school, basically going out into the world, and thinking they’ve kind of got it and they know it all. And getting their asses handed to them. And I think anyone around the world can relate to that a little bit.”

Trey and Matt met when they were students at the University of Colorado. Together they wrote and directed the film *Cannibal! The Musical* before creating *South Park*. Debuting on Comedy Central in 1997, *South Park* was rapidly an international phenomenon, picking up five Emmys and the Peabody Award.

The duo’s films include *South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut*, the superhero comedy *Orgazmo*, and the marionette action thriller *Team America: World Police*.

For Matt, jokes are an essential element in their storytelling.

“Humour is how we deconstruct the world. There is an element to comedy that is ‘laugh at these people’. *The Book Of Mormon* uses that mockability of the Mormons - and then tries to tell you a larger story, and rope you in and open it up. Laughter breaks down your defences, you know? And then you’re open to a different story.”

.....
***The Book Of Mormon* shows at *The Alexandra*, Birmingham, from Tuesday 3 to Saturday 28 December**



Come From Away Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 5 - Sat 9 November

This Olivier and Tony Award winner tells the incredible real-life story of 7,000 air passengers who were grounded in Canada in the wake of 9/11...

As evidenced by its aforementioned success in the glittering-prizes stakes, the show has proved to be an enormous international hit, with audiences on their feet night after night. It returns to the region this month having enjoyed a stellar success on its first visit to the Midlands earlier in the year.

The show was written by husband & wife team Irene Sankoff and

David Hein, who freely admit that condensing the story into a stage production was no easy task: "The very first draft, we were working with students, and we had about four hours of material, were around 100 pages in, and the people still weren't off the planes!" recalls Irene. "So it was just a constant peeling away to get to the spine of the story, the truth of the story. There are some amalgamated characters, and some things happened to different people than we portrayed in the musical, but that was in an effort to get it into a succinct story."

Ghost The Musical

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 12 - Sat 16 November; Malvern Theatres, Tues 26 - Sat 30 November; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 1 - Sat 5 April

The ever-popular stage version of the award-winning film makes a welcome return to the Midlands. For those not in the know, the production tells the story of a ghost named Sam, who, caught between this world and the next, desperately attempts to communicate with girlfriend Molly and warn her that she's in mortal danger from his murderer...



A timeless tale about the power of love - and beautifully blending the genres of romance and comedy - Ghost features The Righteous Brothers' Unchained Melody and numerous songs co-written by Eurythmics' Dave Stewart. The cast includes Les Dennis.

Here & Now: Steps Musical

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sat 9 - Sat 30 November

Iconic songs from pop group Steps' repertoire provide the backdrop for this brand-new musical premiering at The Alexandra.

A celebration of love and friendship, Here & Now is helmed by former Birmingham Rep artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh.

The show focuses on four friends - Caz, Vel, Neeta and Robbie - as they steer their way through a summer filled with happiness, heartache, hurt and humour.

"Here & Now is a completely original story with new characters," says Rachel. "It's not about Steps, but we use their songs to tell the story. It's brilliant for people who love Steps, but I think that even if you don't know the songs, you'll still enjoy it."



PLAY ON!

Wed 6 - Sat 9 Nov

BACK TO JOY

Audio Described Performance CAP

RUSSELL KANE

HYPER ACTIVE

Fri 15 Nov

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Sir Peter Wright's **The Nutcracker**

Fri 22 Nov - Sat 14 Dec

Audio Described Performance R

Chosen

By Talyo Yoshida & Dominic Varney

REWRITES

Fri 22 - Sat 23 Nov

YOUR FAVOURITE HIT SONGS FROM INDIAN CINEMA

Bollywood Time Machine

PERFORMED LIVE WITH DANCERS

Sat 7 Dec

MY FIRST MUSICAL

THE JINGLECLAW

Fri 13 Dec - Sat 4 Jan 2025

R

ALISON HAMMOND MATT SLACK DANNY MAC

Peter Pan

THE HIGH-FLYING PANTO ADVENTURE

Sat 21 Dec - Sun 2 Feb 2025

Audio Described Performance CAP R

10 NIGHTS

Thu 6 - Sat 8 Feb 2025

NEW ADVENTURES

'THE SHOW THAT CHANGED THE DANCE LANDSCAPE FOREVER'

MATTHEW BOURNE'S

SWAN LAKE

THE NEXT GENERATION

Thu 6 - Sat 15 Feb 2025

Audio Described Performance

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Cinderella

Wed 19 Feb - Sat 1 Mar 2025

Audio Described Performance R

A TRULY SCRUMPTIOUS NEW PRODUCTION

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

Tue 4 - Sun 9 Mar 2025

Audio Described Performance CAP

THE WHIP CRACKIN' MUSICAL CLASSIC

ON AND IRELAND TOUR

CALAMITY JANE

STARRING CARRIE HOPE FLETCHER

Tue 18 - Sat 22 Mar 2025

Audio Described Performance CAP



Chicago

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 25 - Sat 30 November; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 14 - Sat 19 April; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 23 - Sat 28 June

Featuring formation dancing, vaudeville influence and no shortage of fishnet tights, Broadway and West End hit Chicago delves into the dark and decidedly murky underbelly of the Windy City during the Jazz Age.

Kander & Ebb's legendary musical, based on real-life events in the Roaring '20s, centres on the character of Roxie Hart, a nightclub singer who shoots her lover. Together with her cell-block rival, double murderess Velma Kelly, Roxie battles to stay off Death Row - an endeavour in which she is ably assisted by smooth-talking lawyer Billy Flynn... Coronation Street's Faye Brookes and former Strictly Come Dancing favourite Kevin Clifton take the lead roles.

Play On!

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.



The Girl In The Green Room

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 6 & Thurs 7 November

The Girl In The Green Room's reputation on the pub-theatre circuit has been considerably enhanced by a host of five-star reviews and its nomination for numerous off-West End Awards.

Based on a 1925 Walter De La Mare 'ghost story for Christmas', the play follows the fortunes of a young writer who discovers a

secret room in a bookshop. Investigating further, he soon finds that there's plenty more to the situation than meets the eye...

Rotten

The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 15 & Sat 16 November

The cost of living, capitalism, mental health and social media are among the topical subjects under the spotlight in this brand-new comedy-thriller - a show which is being publicised as 'Hitchcock meets Lord Of The Flies'.

At the centre of the story are three young regional actresses struggling to survive in London. When they realise that, via their grotty living-room window, they have a front-row seat from which to observe the life of an Instagram 'celebrity', the trio find themselves suddenly involved in a get-rich-quick scheme that soon spirals out of control...

The Comedy Of Terrors

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 14 November

Rumpus Theatre Company are the creatives behind this fast-moving farce, described by its publicity as a madcap comedy of multiple mistaken identity. The play's storyline is way too discombobulating to explain here; suffice to say the show features the character of a budding actor who turns up for an audition at a theatre but then finds herself in line to become a human sacrifice!

Audiences are being advised to expect a show that not only features plenty of mayhem but also a bad attack of, er, wind...

Birdsong

Malvern Theatres, Tues 19 - Sat 23 November; The Rep, Birmingham, Mon 27 January - Sat 1 February

Sebastian Faulks' epic and bestselling novel is set both before and during the Great War. It follows the fortunes of the young Stephen Wraysford as he embarks on a passionate and dangerous affair with the beautiful Isabelle Azaire... This stage version was written by Rachel Wagstaff, who claims she got the nod from Faulks to adapt his novel after she impressed him by knowing the most recent result of his beloved football club, West Ham United.



Othello

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 23 November

Shakespeare's tragic tale of lost handkerchiefs, ruined reputations and mistreated wives has always been one of theatre's most powerful stories. When Iago is overlooked for promotion by Othello, his Machiavellian mind turns to thoughts of vengeance. Othello's willingness to be led by the nose is all grist to Iago's mill, and fatal consequences ensue... John Douglas Thompson stars as Othello.



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Christmas shows opening in November



Beauty And The Beast

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Sat 30 November - Sunday 5 January

When a young woman is captured by a hideous beast, she finds herself facing a life of isolation in his mysterious palace. The Beast, too, is trapped - seemingly forever - inside the grotesquery of his physical appearance, the consequence of a spell cast upon him by an evil witch. Only Beauty's ability to look beyond his ugliness and see the person within can save him... So that's the storyline - but what about the panto element? Well, there's plenty of that in evidence in this fun family production, which brings together Gladiator's Giant with Six star Jarneia Richard-Noel and panto favourites Tam Ryan and Ian Adams.

The Red Shoes

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Thurs 7 November - Sun 19 January

Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's dark fairy tale about a pair of enchanted shoes that take their wearer to places she doesn't want to go, The Red Shoes has here been adapted by Nancy Harris and brought into the 21st century.

The production is helmed by Kimberley Rampersad, making her Royal Shakespeare Company debut, and carries an age recommendation of seven-plus, with parental discretion advised for children younger than 12.

The Three Musketeers

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Fri 15 November - Sat 25 January

There's plenty of swashbuckling fun to be had at the New Vic Theatre this festive season, courtesy of an imaginative stage version of Alexandre Dumas' classic



adventure novel The Three Musketeers. The story has been adapted by New Vic Artistic Director Theresa Heskins, who reveals that the show was chosen after the theatre had engaged with prospective audience members: "Christmas is a time of year when our local families and schools look forward to the treat of a theatre outing together, and so we asked them what they would like to see this year. The answer came back loud and clear. Theatre-in-the-round loves action, so their choice of an all-action adventure is perfect for the New Vic's unique space."

Sleeping Beauty

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Fri 29 November - Sun 12 January

If you're a dyed-in-the-wool fan of the Theatre Severn panto experience, you'll be delighted to know that this year's offering is following the usual recipe for success.

What does that mean in practice? Well, to put some meat on the bone, it means Telford-born Paul Hendy is writing it, Evolution is producing it, and Brad Fitt is starring in it...

Actually, Brad's taking the directorial reins as well, and not for the first time either, having helmed the Theatre Severn pantomime both last year and in 2022.

"There are pantos out there that go a bit near the knuckle - but I don't think ours does, really," says Brad. "I would never tell a joke that was offensive or rude. Sometimes you can use a double entendre - but then that's in your mind, that's not me. You have to blame yourself!"



Jack And The Beanstalk

Lichfield Garrick, Friday 22 November -
Sun 12 January

In common with Theatre Severn's pantomime production of Sleeping Beauty (see above), the Garrick's Jack And The Beanstalk has been written by Paul Hendy and is produced by Evolution.

And also in common with Theatre Severn, the Garrick has a 'Dame of longstanding' taking centre-stage in its show... Sam Rabone has spent many a festive season in a nice frock or several at the venue, and this year returns to star as Dame Trott. Ben Thornton is back too, with the cast also

including Gill Jordan - better known as 'lazy cow' Doreen Tipton - who will be taking on the role of Fairy Sugarsnap.

Dick Whittington

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Wed 20 November - Sat 4 January

The story of a young man who heads for London in search of fame and fortune is one of the most popular of all pantomimes, not least because of the top adventures in which the happy-go-lucky Dick finds himself involved.

This Belgrade Theatre version of the terrific tale, coming complete with 'breathtaking sets, lavish costumes' and a typically fun-filled script by Iain Lauchlan, is the fastest-selling panto in the venue's history, so best bag yourself a seat or several as soon as possible.

The Wizard Of Oz

The Old Rep, Birmingham,
Tues 26 November - Tues 31 December

This classic story from the pen of L Frank Baum has been delighting children for over a century. A marvellous mix of magic, mayhem and munchkins, it tells the story of Dorothy Gale and her unexpected trip over the rainbow to the wonderful land of Oz. There, she meets a scarecrow, a tin man and a cowardly lion, heads off on a journey along the yellow brick road to find the Emerald City, and has more than one unpleasant encounter with the Wicked Witch of the West... If ever a ruby-slipped girl was in need of a wonderful wizard...

The BOA Group is the company behind the show. The Wizard Of Oz is their ninth Christmas production at the Old Rep Theatre.

Finding Santa



Wed 20 Nov - Sun 29 Dec | Ages 4+

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Theatre for younger audiences



The Smeds And The Smoos

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Tues 26 November - Sun 29 December

Another Tall Stories adaptation of a picture book by award-winning collaborators Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, *The Smeds And The Smoos* tells the intergalactic tale of a young Smed and a young Smoo who fall hopelessly in love. Problem is... the red-coloured Smeds and the blue-coloured Smoos never mix, causing Romeo & Juliet-style complications for the star-crossed lovers... Created for children aged three-plus, this theatrical presentation of Donaldson & Scheffler's delightful space romance comes complete with a powerful but gently conveyed message about difference and tolerance.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Tues 5 & Wed 6 November; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 7 & Fri 8 November

Eric Carle's 1969 story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has been translated into more than 60 languages, selling in excess of 50 million copies.

This stage version of Carle's much-loved tale is presented alongside three other popular children's stories by the same author: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*; *10 Little Rubber Ducks*; and *The Very Busy Spider*. The show features no fewer than 75 'lovable' puppets.



Disney On Ice Live: Road Trip Adventures

Utilita Arena Birmingham,
Wed 30 October - Sun 3 November & Fri 8 - Sun 10 November

Grab your mouse ears and get your skates on - Disney On Ice is back in Birmingham with a brand-new show. Featuring new and classic tales, breathtaking skating, high-flying acrobatics and up-close character interactions, *Road Trip Adventures* offers families the chance to take 'a wild ride' to a host of popular Disney destinations,

including Moana's sun-soaked Motunui and Simba's Pride Lands from *The Lion King*. Fun with *Mary Poppins*, *Aladdin*, *Woody* and *Forky*, among others, also features.

Sophie Nüzel: Stories Of A Watersprite

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham,
Thurs 7 - Sat 9 November

When 'things that clinker and clatter' start cluttering up the pond, its inhabitants are left with precious little space in which to play, swim and slither.

Perhaps a little watersprite can save the day? German choreographer and dance maker Sophie Nüzel is the creative force behind this gentle production for audiences aged four-plus.

The performances are suitable for both neurodiverse and neurotypical children, with access-needs for deaf and blind/visually impaired children also addressed.



How A Jellyfish Saved The World

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Sun 10 November

'Clyde the jellyfish needs a forever friend,' explain talented theatre ensemble Jam Jar in describing the storyline of their latest show. 'When he mistakes a plastic bag for a total jellybabe, will he discover a life in plastic is not so fantastic?'

How A Jellyfish Saved The World has been garnering plenty of praise on its travels and carries an age recommendation of three-plus.



Dinosaur World Live

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 31 October - Sat 2 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Tues 22 - Thurs 24 April

Dinosaurs are once again roaming the Midlands this autumn, thanks to this interactive show for all the family to enjoy. Youngsters get to meet a host of impressive prehistoric creatures - including, of course, every child's favourite flesh-eating giant, the Tyrannosaurus Rex. A special meet & greet after the show provides the perfect opportunity to make a new dinosaur friend.

HOUNDED BY THE DEAD

**Ebenezer Scrooge may not like it, but he's about to be saved -
by Rufus Hound as the ghost of Jacob Marley!**



Mark Gatiss' acclaimed retelling of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is visiting Birmingham Rep for the festive season. Featuring 'spine-tingling' special effects, the production sees comedian Rufus Hound star as the ghost of Jacob Marley, returning on Christmas Eve to haunt his one-time business partner, the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge. What's On caught up with Rufus to find out more...

I chat to Rufus Hound online on the very first day of rehearsals for A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story at the Birmingham Rep, and immediately clock that he's immersed himself in the show - by wearing his Muppet Christmas Carol jumper.

It is mid-October, so well before most of us have dug the sequins out of the wardrobe, but with the show opening in November, the team are already feeling festive.

He then says to me: "Don't ask any difficult questions, as we've literally just started." Fortunately I was planning a more general discussion about the show. Adapted by Mark Gatiss, it premiered at Nottingham Playhouse, transferred to London, and now comes to Birmingham Rep for nearly two months.

So rather than quiz Rufus on the symbolism of the fourth scene, I ask him why he wanted to be in the production.

"I've been a lifelong fan of Mark Gatiss, both as a writer of TV and sketch *and* as a novelist in his own right. I've read a lot of Mark Gatiss, and I'm fairly familiar with his taste and how he likes things to sit. There's always an element of real class and theatricality, so Mark's version of A Christmas Carol was always going to be very thrilling to me."

Rufus is playing the ghost of Jacob Marley, who visits the miser Ebenezer Scrooge (played by Matthew Cottle) on Christmas Eve. Marley warns Scrooge, his former business partner, to change his ways or suffer in the afterlife - just as Marley himself, who is laden with heavy chains, is doing.

"The role they were offering me in the show was the role Mark himself had played when it was first staged," says Rufus. "So the idea of being in something written by Mark Gatiss which Mark had ostensibly written for himself was too good an opportunity to miss."

Christmas Carols come in all shapes and sizes, and by including 'A Ghost Story' in its title and featuring an age recommendation of 12-plus, this production nails its colours firmly to the mast.

So how has Rufus, who first made his name as a stand-up comedian before moving into theatre and television drama, approached

the challenge of creating the spooky Marley? "In this version of the show, Marley is the embodiment of the things Scrooge should be trying to avoid. With this version being a ghost story that's set at Christmas, Marley is all of the things that make the ghosts horrifying.

"In a funny kind of way, with Marley being Scrooge's ex-best friend, it makes him more scary. If we're walking down the street and see someone looking pretty scary, that's bad enough, but if we walk down the street and see someone *we know* looking really off, that's genuinely terrifying. I think Marley being the first ghost that Scrooge meets means he's the one that really sets Scrooge up for the transformative horror that is about to visit him."

Which moves us onto the subject of just why Charles Dickens' novella has remained so popular with audiences of films, television shows, musicals and stage drama.

"I think I'm probably not alone in that I know the story of A Christmas Carol intimately and yet I've never read it. I've never even been tempted to pick up a copy of it because some stories are just so prevalent.

"I don't think many kids much past the age of six wouldn't be familiar with the idea that an old miser who is mean to everyone and hates Christmas is visited by three ghosts, one from the past, one from the present and one from the future. And upon having it demonstrated to him just how wrong he's getting everything, he wakes up on Christmas morning with a different attitude altogether and sets about mending his evil ways. That, as an archetypal story, is one that every British person is aware of."

So much so, says Rufus, that nobody can resist having a go at adapting the Dickens classic.

"Now does that mean that you've then watched The Muppet Christmas Carol, or does it mean you've seen any one of the thousands of shows that have taken that blueprint and then made it their own?"

"There's a Blackadder version of A Christmas Carol; there's a Catherine Tate version of A Christmas Carol. I don't think there are many long-running TV shows which didn't get to

the Christmas special and think 'We'd better do A Christmas Carol!' Even Upstart Crow did A Christmas Carol, and that was set 200 years before the thing was even written!

"As an archetypal tale, the idea that you could, on any given night, be visited by the ghosts of your past, present and future, who then ask you to take stock of yourself, is something that we are all familiar with, and also somewhat rely on for our own moral guidance.

"I think we all know that there's a difference between just getting on with what we were getting on with, and then having a moral pang of some kind that makes us think that maybe we shouldn't have done that."

Rufus' previous stage roles have included Sancho Panza in the Royal Shakespeare Company production of Don Quixote, Dennis' Dad in the RSC's adaptation of David Walliams' The Boy In The Dress, and Garry Essendine in Noel Coward's Present Laughter at Chichester Festival Theatre.

Now he's looking forward to performing A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story at Birmingham Rep.

"I've spent a good bit of time in this bit of the Midlands. I've spent two years living in Stratford-upon-Avon pretty much. In my stand-up career, I did loads of gigs in Birmingham, in Kings Heath and places like that. I love Birmingham to pieces; it's one of my favourite places to be. I love the Midlands.

"Christmas can be a million things, many of them day-glo and sparkly, but it can also be a time to reflect. In that period of quiet contemplation, you may find yourself yearning for a story which has a little more meat on the bone, and a little more to say about the human condition than, for example, Sleeping Beauty might. And to those people, I would say, you'll find nothing finer on a stage in this country than A Christmas Carol at the Birmingham Rep."

.....
A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story shows at The Rep, Birmingham, from Thursday 14 November to Sunday 5 January

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Light entertainment from around the region



Austentatious: An Improvised Jane Austen Novel

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 24 November

Austentatious returns to the Midlands having garnered plenty of praise on its previous visits. Lighthearted and delightfully throwaway, the show sees the performers utilising audience suggestions to develop a play that not only pays homage to Jane Austen but also generates plenty of laughter along the way.

Performed in period costume with live musical accompaniment, the production is described by its publicity as 'a riotous, razor-sharp show where swooning is guaranteed'.

Looking For Me Friend

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 14 November; Stourbridge Town Hall, Tues 26 November; Black Heath Library, Sandwell, Fri 7 March

Eight years after Victoria Wood's untimely death, Paulus The Cabaret Geek is touring this well-reviewed tribute to the comedy legend. As well as providing a whistle-stop tour of some of Victoria's best-loved songs - including, of course, the iconic Ballad Of Barry & Freda (Let's Do It) - the show also aims to offer a beginner's guide to the comedian's career for anybody yet to discover her.



The Rat Pack - A Swingin' Christmas At The Sands

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 30 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 5 December

The warm and authentic friendship between Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr - particularly during its heyday in the late 1950s and early 1960s - continues to be the stuff of legend.

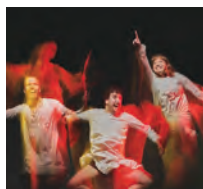
The three superstar singers, affectionately known as The Rat Pack, were fun-loving guys who brought entertainment to millions with a nice'n'easy style it was hard to dislike... This seriously impressive touring show, paying loving tribute to Frank, Dean and Sammy, is packed to its yuletide rafters with memorable tunes - from Frank's My Way, through Dean's Amore, to Sammy's Mr Bojangles. It also features a host of festive favourites, including Winter Wonderland and White Christmas.

Tarot: Shuffle

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Fri 29 November

"We were the best show of 2019, according to Chortle," say Tarot. "And the sixth-best show of 2022, according to the Guardian. Come watch us continue our slow descent into mediocrity!"

They continue: "Joyously silly and uproariously live and in-the-room, we would call it improv, but we've got some self-respect: this is sketch in nighties. Come watch a new tour of big, daft and, above all, live comedy, conjured up in front of your very eyes..."



Tim Murray Is Witches

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 19 & Wed 20 November

US comedian Tim Murray presents a tribute to the LGBTQIA community via a show about his favourite pop-culture witches, along the way making reference to The Craft, Wicked, Hocus Pocus' Sanderson Sisters and Sabrina the Teenage Witch.

"This show was such a risk," Tim told broadwayworld.com. "I thought it might be too niche, but instead it's made people feel so seen. The people who come to see it are so down to have a good time, and I think that because it's so specific, people just lose their minds for it."



Dazzling Diamonds

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 16 November; Brierley Civic, Fri 21 February; Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Sat 22 February; Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 1 March

If you've been on the lookout for a comedy variety drag show, then your search is at an end! Bringing together 'high-energy dance routines, spectacular live vocals, side-splitting comedy sketches and spectacular costumes', Dazzling Diamonds features three critically acclaimed drag artists who are promising their audience an evening awash with 'glamour, laughter and fun'.

Dad's Army Radio Show

Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock, Wed 13 November

You've seen the television show, now listen to the radio broadcast, with a pair of talented actors taking up position behind their microphones to play more than 25 characters between them.

Working from original radio scripts - many of the TV episodes of Dad's Army were remade for BBC Radio Four with the original cast - the actors will present three much-loved episodes of Jimmy Perry & David Croft's classic 1970s' sitcom, complete with sound effects and vintage music.



BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Director Carlos Acosta

Sir Peter Wright's

The Nutcracker

22 November – 14 December

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Dance previews from across the region



The Nutcracker

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 22 November - Sat 14 December

Sir Peter Wright's version of this firm festive family favourite returns to the Hippodrome courtesy (of course) of Birmingham Royal Ballet. Created in 1990 as a thank-you to the city for its support of the company following its move to the Midlands from London's Sadler Wells, Sir Peter's production is seen by many as the finest

interpretation of Tchaikovsky's magnificent and mesmerising score. In true Christmas spirit, the story follows the young Clara as she's swept up in a fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery, before finally being transformed into a beautiful ballerina. A magical, must-see show for theatre-going dance lovers everywhere, the production was two years ago enhanced by a £1million makeover. BRB's first-ever 'relaxed performance' of The Nutcracker will take place on the 3rd of December at 12.45pm.



Imperial Classical Ballet: Swan Lake

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 4 & Tues 5 November; Malvern Theatres, Sun 24 November

Imperial Classical Ballet here presents a spectacular production of a timeless classic. Set to Tchaikovsky's mesmerising score, Swan Lake tells the story of Odette, a beautiful princess who, caught under the wicked spell of the evil Von Rothbart, must spend the daytime hours as a swan,

returning to human form only when night falls... A sumptuous visual feast, Swan Lake is ideal not only for the seasoned dance-goer but also the first-time trier.

Rhythm Of The Dance: Christmas Special

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 6 November; Malvern Theatres, Thurs 7 November; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 9 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 18 November

Rhythm Of The Dance has so far been seen in over 50 countries by more than seven million people. If you're not yet among them, this latest version (coming complete with a collection of Christmas songs) provides a perfect opportunity to catch up with one of the most popular Irish step dance offerings in the world.

PCK Dance: Imago

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Wed 13 November

Following long and impressive careers with Company Wayne McGregor, elite dancers Travis Clausen-Knight and James Pett have teamed up to present what they describe as a sophisticated and daring dance duet.

"Imago is a very particular universe that you step into," James explained to the website SeeingDance. "We want the audience to experience a sort of isolated island that they can really hone in on. Our ideas come from an immediate realisation of something in ourselves; our personal experience. In Imago, it was about moments in relationships where we saw destructive behaviour, both in ourselves and in others."



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EVENTS



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Neon Naked Life Drawing

Sat 16 Nov

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After Hours

Fri 29 Nov

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Chila Kumari Singh Burman, Mermaid, 2022, glass neon. Courtesy the artist



EXHIBITION
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until SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2025

Film highlights in November...



Gladiator II CERT tbc (150 mins)

Starring **Paul Mescal, Pedro Pascal, Denzel Washington, Joseph Quinn, Connie Nielsen, Derek Jacobi** Directed by **Ridley Scott**

Paul Mescal has certainly come a long way in a short time. Pretty much unknown five years ago, his big break arrived courtesy of *Normal People*, a television adaptation of the same-named novel by Sally Rooney, which was screened on BBC Three. Fast forward to 2024, and he's now starring in this blockbuster sequel to an equally blockbusting movie - with no less a legend than Ridley Scott taking the directorial reins! Mescal plays the part of Lucius Verus, a young man who is forced to enter the Colosseum after his home is conquered by the tyrannical emperors who rule Rome with an iron fist. With rage in his heart and the future of the Empire at stake, Lucius must look to his past and somehow find the strength required to return the glory of Rome to its people...

Released Fri 15 November



Heretic CERT 15 (110 mins)

Starring **Hugh Grant, Sophie Thatcher, Chloe East, Elle Young, Julie Lynn Mortensen, Haylie Hansen** Directed by **Scott Beck and Bryan Woods**

He may have become a major movie star via a talent for playing charming, foppish and engagingly bumbling young men in British romcoms, but Hugh Grant's career has taken a decidedly sinister turn in recent years. Having been a cinematic baddie in *Paddington 2* and *Dungeons & Dragons*, and a suave but narcissistic oncologist who beats

his mistress to death in television miniseries *The Undoing*, Grant now shifts into no-holds-barred diabolical mode in this critically acclaimed R-rated horror movie... When two young female Mormon missionaries, Sister Barnes and Sister Paxton, knock on the door of Mr Reed, they initially think he's a suitable candidate for conversion. But, after their conversation takes an unexpectedly dark turn, the sisters find themselves suddenly ensnared in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse...

Released Fri 1 November

Paddington In Peru

CERT PG (103 mins)

Starring **Olivia Colman, Emily Mortimer, Antonio Banderas, Julie Walters** and the voices of **Imelda Staunton** and **Ben Whishaw** Directed by **Dougal Wilson**

Given the sensational success of the original film and its sequel, the fact that Michael Bond's marmalade-sandwich-loving bear is returning for a third cinematic outing comes as absolutely no surprise.

This latest adventure sees Paddington and the Brown family heading to Peru to visit Aunt Lucy. But as you might expect, not everything goes entirely according to plan. Before too long, the intrepid travellers find themselves plunged into an unexpected mystery - one that sees them taking a perilous journey through the Amazon rainforest...

Watch out for a splendid turn from Antonio Banderas as a dashing riverboat captain.

Released Fri 8 November



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Film highlights in November...

Wicked CERT PG

Starring **Cynthia Erivo, Ariana Grande, Jonathan Bailey, Marissa Bode, Ethan Slater, Michelle Yeoh** Directed by **Jon M Chu**

You've seen the stage musical (haven't you?), now check out the film - well, the first of two films, anyway.

The prequel to *The Wizard Of Oz*, *Wicked* offers a different and imaginative perspective on Frank L Baum's original much-loved story, chronicling the untold tale of the witches of Oz.

Focusing on the unlikely friendship between the misunderstood Elphaba - the future Wicked Witch of the West - and the popular Glinda - The Good Witch of the North - the story delves into the events leading up to Dorothy's unexpected arrival...

The sequel film, *Wicked Part Two*, is scheduled for release in November 2025.

Released Fri 22 November



Conclave CERT 12A (120 mins)

Starring **Ralph Fiennes, Jacek Koman, Lucian Msamti, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, Isabella Rossellini** Directed by **Edward Berger**

With the Pope dead, it falls to Cardinal Lawrence to lead the Conclave in the sober and serious business of selecting the new leader of the Catholic world.

But as high-ranking cardinals gather, Lawrence discovers a secret that could well shake the Church to its very foundations... This film adaptation of Robert Harris' 2016 novel is blessed with an all-star cast and a host of positive reviews.

Ralph Fiennes is seriously impressive as Lawrence. Having twice been an Academy Award nominee - for *Schindler's List* and *The English Patient* - there's every chance he might finally be taking Oscar home with him... And watch out, too, for Isabella Rossellini, who's in splendid scene-stealing form as an observant nun...

Conclave's director, Edward Berger, scored a massive success a couple of years back with epic anti-war film *All Quiet On The Western Front*.

Released Fri 29 November



Moana 2 CERT PG (100 mins)

With the voices of **Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Alan Tudyk, Rachel House, Temuera Morrison, Nicole Scherzinger** Directed by **David G Derrick Jr, Jason Hand and Dana Ledoux Miller**

After enjoying an unexpected hit with the first film some eight years ago, Disney are now releasing this *Moana* sequel - and will no doubt have high expectations of a similarly impressive box-office return.

Set three years after the events of the

original movie, the story finds Moana and Maui embarking on an expansive new voyage alongside a crew of unlikely seafarers. After receiving an unexpected call from her wayfinding ancestors, Moana journeys to the far seas of Oceania and into dangerous, long-lost waters 'for an adventure unlike anything she's ever faced'. Auli'i Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson once again lend their voices to the lead characters.

Released Fri 29 November



BMAG IS BACK!

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) has reopened more of its spaces following four years of closure due to essential maintenance works.

A jewel in the city's crown, the venue is home to, among other treasures, the world's finest collection of art by the Pre-Raphaelites and a wealth of non-figurative

contemporary British 20th-century paintings...

And there's plenty more to recommend BMAG, too. The architecture of the building alone is something at which to marvel, while the iconic tearooms provide the perfect stop-off in which to recharge your batteries and enjoy a cuppa or something

more substantial.

New exhibitions showcasing Birmingham past and present, family-focused areas and a world-renowned touring exhibition mean that there's now more than ever to see and do at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

The Bridge Gallery

New for 2024, Modern Muse by Arpita Shah is a series of photographic portraits celebrating the identities and experiences of young South Asian women from Birmingham and the West Midlands.

Arpita took the photographs in 2019, and each portrait is paired with snippets from conversations between her and her sitters. Discussing identity, heritage and representation, they answer the question 'Where do you come from?'

The series was commissioned by GRAIN Projects, with the acquisition funded by a gift in the Will of Tessa Sidey, 2022.

The display also features BMAG's important miniature portrait of Arjumand Banu Begum (Mumtaz Mahal) - the Taj Mahal was built as her tomb - and modern miniatures in the same style.



Industrial Gallery

This spectacular double height space features striking architectural design and imposing gas lights which serve as a reminder of the museum's history.

The Industrial Gallery is now home to Made In Birmingham - a new display exploring some of the characteristics of the city. The display looks beyond the stereotypes to examine the real Birmingham, providing a snapshot - from the 18th century to the present day - of the people, the places and the manufacturing which have helped make Birmingham what it is today.

The complicated relationship many people have with Birmingham is also explored, as is the sense of a warm welcome that the city and its inhabitants provide.

Birmingham as a city of makers - producing everything from HP Sauce to Cadbury's

chocolate, buttons to bicycles, fancy metalwork to industrial metalwork, is also acknowledged.

The Round Room

The spectacular Round Room (left image) has showcased Birmingham's art collection for almost 150 years. It's also home to Jacob Epstein's bronze Lucifer and the much-loved penguins Dominicans In Feathers.

One Fresh Take is a new display about how art can be a way to see the world differently. The display features works by numerous renowned artists - from David Cox to Lubaina Himid, and Bridget Riley to Cold War Steve - each showcasing their own fresh take on places which have meaning for them.

Pixel Studio

A brand-new digital gallery and activity space, the Pixel Studio will facilitate screenings of digital work and provide immersive experiences created by local artists and producers. Collaborations using the collections as an inspiration, digital activities, games and workshops will also feature. Films currently on display - and repeated throughout the day - include *The Tiny Spark* and *Excerpt: Mixed Milk*.



The Tiny Spark is Pogus Caesar's 2023 film reimagining the 1985 Handsworth Riots. The film - which is on loan from the artist and runs for 16 minutes 44 seconds - includes poetry from Benjamin Zephaniah, a specially composed soundscape by eclectic underground artist Taber-Cayon, emotive performances from spoken-word artists Juice Aleem, Chauntelle Madondo and Samiir Saunders, and artworks by Caesar himself.

Excerpt: Mixed Milk is the work of Birmingham-based filmmaker, animator & artist Martin McNally. The film showcases selected details from museum objects in Birmingham's collection, re-sequencing and binding them according to their similarities, while at the same time exposing hidden narratives and shining a light on intimacy and connection.



Wild City

Two new galleries dedicated to children and families, *Wild City* tells stories about nature, wildlife and the natural environment in the past, present and future. It also explores the city's historic links to animals, encouraging children to look at and understand the nature we can see on our doorstep today, while also relaying children's hopes for the future.

The space includes the famous portrait of the Official Rat Catcher to the City of Birmingham by Arthur Charles Shorthouse (1870 - 1953). Children's artworks and a small soft play and coffee area also feature.

Curtis Holder: Drawing Carlos Acosta

Curtis Holder, winner of Sky Arts' Portrait Artist Of The Year competition in 2020, was commissioned to draw Birmingham Royal Ballet's director, Carlos Acosta. The display features the Acosta drawing - and Holder's working sketches - as well as drawings of other familiar figures. Holder was inspired by some of the Pre-Raphaelite art in the city collection. Six of the Briar Rose Series by Edward Burne-Jones (1833 - 1898) are also on display.



Temporary Exhibitions

Deviance & Difference

Artworks by graduates from Birmingham City University's School of Art here sit alongside pieces from the museum's historic art collection, with works by Francis Bacon, Donald Rodney and Barbara Hepworth all featuring.



The display is curated by internationally acclaimed artist Osman Yousefzada, who has created a way for the artworks to talk to each other, combining pieces from Birmingham's collection with his de-colonial teaching practice. The graduates' artworks are shown next to pieces from the city's collection, and together they create new ideas and connections that might not have been noticed. Showing until Sunday 8 December.

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

This returning exhibition, on loan from the Natural History Museum in London, features a wealth of exceptional imagery and showcases photographic skills in a number of different categories, with participants hailing from 117 countries and territories all over the world. Showing until Sunday 20 April 2025.

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For further information about Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, including opening times, exhibitions and associated activities, visit the venue's website: birminghammuseums.org.uk



Painted Dreams: The Art Of Evelyn De Morgan

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sun 9 March

Pre-Raphaelite artist Mary Evelyn Pickering De Morgan (1855 - 1919) painted in an elegant style inspired by Italian Renaissance paintings - particularly the work of Botticelli - and often featured female figures and mythological or allegorical subjects in her work.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery is currently displaying 30 of De Morgan's oil paintings and drawings, recreating an exhibition which was held at the venue in 1907.

The original show, the largest of De Morgan's career, certainly made an impression. One reviewer at the Wolverhampton Express & Star newspaper called the pictures "painted dreams", an evocative description which has provided the gallery's current exhibition with its title.

The artworks, here reunited for the first time in more than 100 years, have been loaned from private collections and by the Trustees of the De Morgan Foundation.

WASTE AGE

WHAT CAN DESIGN DO?

Sat 26 Oct 2024 - Sun 23 Feb 2025

Open daily, 11am - 5pm

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From fashion to food and electronics to packaging - this exhibition explores the lost value in our trash and imagines how a future of clean materials and a circular economy could point the way out of the Waste Age. MAC is the only UK tour venue for this Design Museum exhibition.

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Visual Arts previews from around the region



Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sunday 20 April

“We are facing urgent biodiversity and climate crises, and photography is a powerful catalyst for change.” So says Dr Doug Gurr, director of the Natural History Museum, which has developed and produced this prestigious competition. “As we celebrate 60 years of Wildlife Photographer Of The Year,” adds Dr Gurr, “we also celebrate the generations of

visitors who have been inspired by the beauty and majesty of its images, and the millions of connections made with nature.” Visiting Birmingham as part of an extensive national and international tour, the show features a host of awe-inspiring images capturing fascinating animal behaviour and breathtaking landscapes.

Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists And Textiles

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Sun 15 December

Hayward Gallery Touring’s new exhibition explores how simple everyday materials are being used to surprise and provoke, ‘creating worlds and telling stories ranging from the personal to the cosmic’. Speaking about the show, its curator, Caroline Achaintre, said: “I wanted the exhibition to emphasise the transition from something quite everyday, domestic and supposedly unspectacular, into the creation of fantastical and extraordinary works, worlds, and visions.”



Rae-Yen Song, song dynasty (2021)



Peace And Noise: Sounds Of The Landscape

Barber Institute, Birmingham, Sat 16 November - Sunday 26 January

Peace And Noise aims to introduce visitors to the elements of implied sound evident in historical landscapes. The exhibition brings together some of the most sonically interesting examples of landscape prints and watercolours in the Barber’s collection, from rural Dutch scenes of the 17th century, through Gainsborough’s drawings of the rolling English countryside, to noisy, bustling Hogarth cityscapes.

The Reflected Self: Portrait Miniatures 1540 - 1850

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, until 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 current 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. Work by contemporary artists - demonstrating the miniatures’ ongoing relevance and ability to captivate - also features.



Waste Age: What Can Design Do?

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, until Sun 23 February

MAC’s first collaboration with the Design Museum is a group exhibition focusing on a new generation of designers who are ‘rethinking our relationship to everyday things’. Telling the story of the environmental crisis, the show explores how design can transform waste into valuable resources. The exhibition features a new sculptural commission - created by Birmingham-based artist Abdulrazaq Awofeso - which has been inspired by clothes waste markets in Nigeria.

Greener Glass

Stourbridge Glass Museum, until Sun 27 July

With an emphasis on eco-friendly practices and the artistic exploration of environmental themes, the future of glassmaking is brought firmly into focus in this long-running exhibition. The show - co-curated by UK artists in collaboration with University of Birmingham students - features a diverse array of glass artworks produced using a wide range of techniques, including kiln work, glass blowing, mosaic, flame working and cast glass.



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Coming to the NEC this month...



Good Food Show Winter NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 November

The Good Food Show Winter is set to warm up the NEC this month. The festive foodie experience will be bursting with recipe inspiration, tips and tricks from top chefs and experts, hands-on workshops and tastings, unique dining experiences and a huge variety of producers and brands. In the Big Kitchen, the very best celebrity

chefs will be cooking dishes live on stage, with James Martin, Tom Kerridge, Nadiya Hussain and Michel Roux among the well-known names making a contribution. The show also provides the ultimate foodie shopping experience, offering visitors the chance to stock up on festive ingredients, upgrade their cookware, and discover gifts they won't find on the high street.

Mind Body Spirit Festival

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 15 - Sun 17 November
Featuring inspirational and motivational speakers, musicians, artists and performers from across the globe, Mind Body Spirit Festival is described as 'a three-day celebration of wellness'. The event covers a wide range of subjects, from feng shui to meditation, and also features a wellbeing studio offering free classes in yoga, dance and movement. For those in need of peace and calm, the Alchemy of Sound provides meditation sessions and immersive sound experiences, whilst the Ceremony Space is a sanctuary in which to relax and recharge. Visitors can also browse a host of health & wellbeing products, jewellery, supplements and organic foods.



Motorcycle Live

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 16 - Sun 24 November
The UK's biggest motorcycle show, Motorcycle Live returns to the NEC this month with a brand-new festival vibe, 'electrifying' entertainment, live music, gourmet street food and wall-to-wall bikes (with plenty of opportunities to ride). The 2024 edition of the event sees Grace Webb heading up the Expert Lab - a new element of the show that boasts a jam-packed schedule of engaging, informative and entertaining sessions featuring a line-up of expert guests.

Cake International & Bake International

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 1 - Sun 3 November
Cake International is celebrating its 30th birthday this month. The popular cake decorating and sugarcraft event is marking the occasion with a show that brings together an impressive line-up of suppliers, a host of talented artists and a selection of interactive and inspiring displays. The event also incorporates 'the biggest and most reputable cake competition in the world'. Exhibits to look out for include lifesize creations of Queen Elizabeth I and Taylor Swift. Taking place alongside Cake International is Bake International - a 'baking paradise' that visitors can explore via the same ticket.



The National Festival of Railway Modelling

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 23 & Sun 24 November
Railway modelling enthusiasts are in for a treat this month when the brand-new National Festival of Railway Modelling event debuts at the NEC. The show features more than 60 model railway layouts, free-to-use rail simulators - giving visitors the chance to 'drive' their favourite locomotive - and 100-plus leading manufacturers, retailers, specialist suppliers, clubs and societies. Other show highlights include the Innovation Zone and the World of Railways Cinema.





thinktank
Birmingham science museum



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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...



Ice Skate Birmingham

Centenary Square, Birmingham, Fri 1 November - Sun 5 January

Ice Skate Birmingham and the Big Wheel make a welcome return to Centenary Square this month.

While the wheel offers the opportunity to enjoy fantastic views across the city, the weather-proofed ice rink accommodates up

to 300 people per session. And when skaters have finished their Torvill & Dean routine, they can warm themselves up with some festive fare in the nearby Ice Lounge and double deck rooftop bar.



Santa Trains

Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster, weekends from Sat 30 November - Tues 24 December

Experience a magical rail journey courtesy of Severn Valley Railway's Santa Trains. After walking through a winter wonderland at Kidderminster station, board the steam train for a journey to Arley station. Once there, enjoy a live panto stage show, featuring a host of festive characters appearing alongside Father Christmas as he

prepares for the biggest night of the year. The train journey back to Kidderminster comes complete with a 'present-shaped surprise' for every child. New for 2024, selected trains will offer the chance to break the return journey with a stop at Bewdley, to enjoy all that the riverside town has to offer.

Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market

Birmingham City Centre, Fri 1 November - Tues 24 December

A firm favourite in Birmingham's annual events calendar, the Frankfurt Market this month returns to the city to offer some atmospheric festive cheer in the run-up to Christmas. Filling Victoria Square and running along New Street, the market features a wide variety of stalls selling a tempting array of food & drink, traditional toys, ornaments and gifts.



Visit Santa: Vintage Sleigh Experience

Coventry Transport Museum, Fri 22 November - Mon 23 December

The Vintage Sleigh Ride experience returns to Coventry Transport Museum this month. Wander through a magical winter wonderland of festive activities and snowy scenes before taking a ride on an enchanting vintage sleigh pulled by two trusty reindeer. Your next stop? Lapland. Meet Santa, tell him your Christmas wishes and collect a special gift!... The Vintage Sleigh Ride experience includes museum admission tickets for the day of your visit.



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listings guide
November 2024

the list



Microworld Coventry at Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry - until Sun 23 February 2025

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

What's On

Fri 1 - Sun 10 November



Maisie Adam - Royal Spa Centre,
Leamington Spa

Sat 2 November

Mon 11 - Sun 17 November



The Puppini Sisters -
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Wed 13 November

Mon 18 - Sun 24 November



Sheelenagig - Malvern Cube

Fri 22 November

Mon 25 - Sat 30 November



Enchanted Express -
Severn Valley Railway

From Sat 30 November

VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

DEVIANCE & DIFFERENCE Exhibition curated by internationally acclaimed artist Osman Yousefzada, featuring artworks by graduates from Birmingham City University's (BCU) School of Art, along with pieces from Birmingham's art collection, until Sun 8 Dec

MODERN MUSE BY ARPITA SHAH A series of photographic portraits celebrating the identities and experiences of young South Asian women from Birmingham and the West Midlands.

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

CHILA KUMARI SINGH BURMAN: SPECTACULAR DIVERSIONS The largest exhibition by the leading contemporary artist, featuring a dazzling array of works including drawings, prints, collage, sculpture, neons and installation, until Sun 26 Jan

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

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 a tributes to 'The Specials' Terry Hall and Roddy 'Radiation' Byers.

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

MICROWORLD COVENTRY Immersive and interactive artwork for all ages, filled with digital creatures, until Sun 23 Feb

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

COVENTRY RUGBY CLUB A new display celebrating 150 years of Coventry Rugby Club, until Tues 30 Sept

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

until Sat 21 Feb 2026

DIPPY IN COVENTRY: THE NATION'S FAVOURITE DINOSAUR Dippy the diplodocus is in Coventry on a three-year loan from the Natural History Museum

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

25 YEARS | 25 OBJECTS | 25 ARTISTS Celebrating 25 years of Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum at the Royal Pump Rooms. Twenty-five artists, including recent winners of the Open 2024, will display and sell artworks that will form part of a pop-up shop within the exhibition space, until Sun 12 Jan

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

A LIFETIME OF ART: MELVYN GUNN A retrospective of local artist Melvyn Gunn's work, including watercolours, photography, computer-aided designs and collage, until Sun 26 Jan

Rugby Art Gallery

JULIE KRAJICEK: FOUND FAMILY A series of highly colourful, symbolic and life-affirming paintings by Julie Krajicek, winner of the 2023 Rugby Open Art Exhibition. Julie's paintings are taken from found photographs in a pre-digital age, Wed 27 Nov - Mon 16 Dec

ALIX SMITH: MIXED MEDIA MADNESS Popular local artist Alix Smith presents a collection of joyous, colourful artworks (many 3D), Mon 25 Nov - Sat 4 Jan

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

ATCHIN TAN: TRAVELLING THROUGH ART A visual journey through time, co-curated with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Works by Turner, Munnings and Gainsborough hang alongside newly commissioned artworks by Romani artists, until Sun 5 Jan



WORCESTER SOCIETY OF ARTISTS: 76TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Annual exhibition celebrating and supporting local artists, and illustrating the wealth of creative talent in Worcestershire, Sat 9 Nov - Jan 2025

Gigs

CAOILFHIONN ROSE Fri 1 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LUCAS D AND THE GROOVE GHETTO Fri 1 Nov, The Night Owl, Birmingham

THE STORY SO FAR Fri 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

HEADWIRED + STUCK ON VIOLET + CHRISSE DUX + SECOND CITY SIN + ROOD END Fri 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BLOSSOMS Fri 1 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HUEY MORGAN Fri 1 Nov, Stratford Playhouse

THE EVIL LITTER + WHAT ABOUT ERIC? + OVERLOVER Fri 1 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

GORDON GILTRAP Fri 1 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

PNYNCH Fri 1 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth, B'ham

LEGENDS: THE DIVAS Fri 1 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

NINE BELOW ZERO & DR FEELGOOD Fri 1 Nov, The Crossing, Birmingham

VINCENT FLATTS Fri 1 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

MIDNIGHT CITY SOUL BAND Fri 1 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

LAVA LA RUE Fri 1 Nov, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

NO CIGAR + THE GLASS HEARTS + THE WHITE LAKES Fri 1 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

VICKY JACKSON - PINK TRIBUTE Fri 1 Nov, hmv Empire, Coventry

DRONGOS + DECAY 87 + SUBURBAN TOYS + COVID 21 Fri 1 Nov, Arches Venue, Coventry

SLADY Fri 1 Nov, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

DIZZY LIZZY Fri 1 Nov, Marrs Bar, Worcester

JOHN OTWAY AND WILD WILLY BARRETT Fri 1 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

ROBBIE WILLIAMS & GARY BARLOW TRIBUTE SHOW Fri 1 Nov, 45Live,



Calan - Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Kidderminster

INTERPOL + DUST Fri 1 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

SUPERCAAN + MANZONI GARDENS Sat 2 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE SONS OF PITCHES Sat 2 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ALICE LILY + KING CERULEAN + WURLITZER + SANTALUM Sat 2 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

GENE LOVES JEZEBEL + BELOUIS SOME Sat 2 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CUSP Sat 2 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth, B'ham

EVIL SCARECROW + COBRA THE IMPALER + RECALL THE REMAINS + BORN ZERO Sat 2 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

GOSPEL GOES CHARITY Sat 2 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

KIDS IN GLASS HOUSES Sat 2 Nov, The Crossing, Birmingham

METROPOLITAN NASH Sat 2 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

LIGHTNING THREADS Sat 2 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

49TH & MAIN Sat 2 Nov, Mama Roux's, B'ham

THE GLAM ROCK SHOW Sat 2 Nov, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

ROB HERON AND THE TEA PAD ORCHESTRA Sat 2 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

DUCK THIEVES Sat 2 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

EMO FESTIVAL Sat 2 Nov, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE BEST OF GROHL Sat 2 Nov, Arches Venue, Coventry

AN EVENING OF INDIAN PERCUSSION Sat 2 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LINK N PARK Sat 2 Nov, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

FAUX FIGHTERS Sat 2 Nov, Marrs Bar, Worcester

FAIRPORT CONVENTION Sat 2 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

MY HEART WILL GO ON - CELINE DION TRIBUTE Sat 2 Nov, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE CULT + JONATHAN HULTEN Sat 2 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

WARMDUSCHER Sat 2 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton

MIKKI EVANS Sun 3 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DANNY MELLIN Sun 3 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BOB VYLAN + HYPHEN + CLT DRP Sun 3 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ICE SPICE Sun 3 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ALPHA MALE TEA PARTY + POLY-MATH + SOLARS + JEREMIAH AD Sun 3 Nov, The Flapper, Birmingham

THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO FT JUDY BLU Sun 3 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

QUILL Sun 3 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

OASIS Sun 3 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SKA TRAIN Sun 3 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KITTY O'NEAL Sun 3 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

10CC Sun 3 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

RYAN YOUNG Sun 3 Nov, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

CALAN Sun 3 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME RECITALS SERIES Featuring Clive Letchford (tenor) & Gillian Parsons (piano), Fri 1 Nov, St Mary's Church, Warwick

BARBER EVENING CONCERT Featuring Masabane Cecilia Ranganwasha (soprano) & Joseph Middleton (piano). Programme includes works by Barber, Strauss & Mahler, Sat 2 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

DA CAPO: MUSIC & WORDS Programme comprises Duarte Lobo's *Missa Pro Defunctis* & thought-provoking readings, Sat 2 Nov, St Mary's Church, Warwick

CBSO: YOUTH ORCHESTRA Featuring Kazuki Yamada (conductor) & Hana Chang (violin). Programme includes works by Fanny Mendelssohn, Bruch & Felix Mendelssohn, Sun 3 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

ELF LYONS, RADU ISAC, JARRED CHRISTMAS, MARTIN MÓR & SIMON HALL Fri 1 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham

EMMA DORAN Fri 1 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL FOOT Fri 1 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

ELF LYONS, RADU ISAC, JARRED CHRISTMAS & MARTIN MÓR Sat 2 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MAISIE ADAM Sat 2 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



MILO EDWARDS Sun 3 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK WATSON Sun 3 Nov, Evesham Town Hall

ROB NEWMAN Sun 3 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Theatre

THE WICKED LADY A spinechilling theatrical experience recommended for audiences aged 14-plus, until Sat 2 Nov, Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

SHEILA'S ISLAND The Crescent Theatre Company present an amateur version of Tim Firth's comedy, set during an outward-bound team-building weekend in the Lake District, until Sat 2 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

THE ADDAMS FAMILY Five Towns Theatre present an amateur version

of the kooky comic musical, until Sat 2 Nov, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

COPENHAGEN The Nonentities Society present an amateur version of Michael Frayn's play concerning the meeting between physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg, until Sat 2 Nov, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

BECOMING NANCY A new musical about first love and finding your voice. Based on Terry Ronald's best-selling novel, until Sat 2 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

THE NEW REAL David Edgar's epic, panoramic play about how the political fault line was redrawn, until Sat 2 Nov, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon



UNCLE VANYA David Fletcher's new version of Anton Chekhov's exploration of human frailty, until Sat 2 Nov, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

PIED PIPER A raucous and musical re-imagining of a medieval fairytale, featuring a talented cast of beatboxers, musicians and special guest performers from the local community, until Sat 2 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS COMIC present an amateur version of the cult musical, until Sat 2 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CARNIVAL MACABRE A spooktacular show filled with thrills and chills for all the family, until Sat 2 Nov, The Henrician, Evesham

OTHELLO John Douglas Thompson takes the lead in a new production of Shakespeare's tragedy. Juliet Rylance (McMafia, Perry Mason) stars as Desdemona, with Will Keen (Operation Mincemeat, Wolf Hall) as Iago, until Sat 23 Nov, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

CONFESSIONS OF SWEENEY TODD An audience with the infamous Demon Barber of Fleet Street - a one-man show featuring Jonathan Goodwin, Fri 1 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

HAUNTINGS One-man show in which Gerald Logan presents three tales of the supernatural, taking audiences into the world of invisible (but terrifyingly present) spirits, Fri 1 Nov, Swan Theatre, Worcester

PLEASE RIGHT BACK Award-winning company 1927 combine handcrafted animation and bold storytelling to

take audiences into a magical, mysterious world inspired by a true story, Fri 1 - Sat 2 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

OLD HERBACEOUS Giles Shenton stars as Herbert Pinnegar in a one-man play telling the humorous love story of a single-minded yet gentle man with a passion for plants..., Fri 1 - Sat 2 Nov, The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

AFTER THE ACT A new 1980s-inspired musical about pride, protest... and abseiling lesbians, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

DESPERATE TIMES The story of Lucky, a teacher by day and thief by night who feels invincible until she tells a lie that not even she can charm her way out of, Sat 2 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

AN EVENING WITH LAUREL & HARDY Neil Brand celebrates the iconic comedy duo via stills, clips and the screening of two classic short films: *Big Business* and *Liberty*, Sat 2 Nov, Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon

JUNGLE BOOK Indigo Moon Theatre's innovative version of Rudyard Kipling's story, using shadow puppetry, original music and digital projections, Sat 2 Nov, Macready Theatre, Rugby



Kid's Theatre

DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS ROAD TRIP ADVENTURES Join Mickey Mouse and friends for a wild ride to your favourite Disney destinations, until Sun 10 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

THE HIGHLAND JOKER: THE BUBBLE SHOW A unique blend of magic, storytelling, science and bubble art, Fri 1 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

DEAR ZOO An interactive show for younger audiences based on Rod Campbell's classic lift-the-flap children's book, Sat 2 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

Dance

BALANCE Dance-theatre performance, by Keneish Dance, celebrating the human body, until Fri 1 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

SWAN LAKE Crown Ballet presents its version of the 'greatest romantic

ballet of all time', Fri 1 Nov, The Roses, Tewkesbury

Light Entertainment

I SCREAMED A SCREAM: A VILLAINS CABARET Concert performance featuring songs from 'the best baddies of stage and screen', Wed 30 Oct - Fri 1 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CIRQUE DU MAGIQUE Featuring 'mind-blowing magic, world-class circus acts and death-defying stunts that will leave you on the edge of your seat', Thurs 31 Oct - Sat 2 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

LEGENDS: THE DIVAS Celebrate the soundtrack of your life with a brand-new show featuring the music of Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Beyonce Knowles, Fri 1 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

DIAL MEDICINE FOR MURDER Join the High Sheriff for Worcestershire in an exploration of the lives of infamous physicians Harold Shipman and John Bodkin, Fri 1 Nov, The Regal, Tenbury Wells

FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Irish culture as a cast of talented singers, musicians and dancers perform festive favourites, Fri 1 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET The 'creme de la creme' of the cabaret world take to the stage to surprise and delight... Sat 2 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DREAMCOAT STARS: A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS Christmas carols, festive favourites and a sprinkling of musical hits, showcased by the stars of Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Sat 2 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

SPOOKY SAUCE A night of high camp and gruesome fun celebrating all things Halloween, Sat 2 Nov, Swan Theatre, Worcester

EVERYBODY DANCE WITH CLAIRE RICHARDS Brand-new concert tour featuring Claire's powerhouse vocals and a dynamic cocktail of dance styles - including salsa, mambo, jazz and hip hop, Sun 3 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall



CROONERS UNCAGED A homage to some of the greatest crooners of all time. Featuring comedy, dance,



Spires Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus

Conductor: Jack Lovell-Huckle Leader: Alistair Kennedy

Advent Concert

an afternoon of sublime string orchestra and choral music

Vaughan Williams *Five Variants Dives & Lazarus*
Saint-Saens *Christmas Oratorio*
Handel *Dixit Dominus*
Bach *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

Saturday 23rd November 2024
2:30pm

United Reformed Church
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Favourite Dame
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DATES FROM
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music, and the nine-piece Mini Big Band, Sun 3 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Talks & Spoken Word

AN EVENING WITH MONTY DON Join the BBC Gardeners' World presenter and gardening writer as he shares his passion for gardens, and the unique role they play in human inspiration and wellbeing, Fri 1 Nov, Malvern Theatres

KENTON COOL'S K2: THE SAVAGE MOUNTAIN Join Britain's most successful Himalayan climber as he takes audiences on a rollercoaster history of the world's most notorious mountains, Sun 3 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



Events

SKULLS, SPOOKY SKELETONS & ANIMALS Craft vibrant chalk drawings, collaborative art pieces, cotton skeletons and more, until Sat 2 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

HALLOWEEN AT TUDOR WORLD Enjoy family fun during the day, with ghost tours, mediumship and seances by night, until Sat 2 Nov, Tudor World, Stratford-upon-Avon

HAUNTED HOUSE FAMILY TRAIL What monsters and spooks can you find in Worcester's historic Commandery?, until Sun 3 Nov, The Commandery, Worcester

HALLOWEEN AT THE ZOO Prepare for a spooktacular adventure, solve creepy-crawly mysteries, and encounter the more mysterious animals that lurk within the zoo, until Sun 3 Nov, Twycross Zoo, Atherstone

SPOOKY SPECTACULAR Fang-tastic activities for all ages, including a silly science show and monster mystery trail, until Sun 3 Nov, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

HALLOWEEN HALF TERM FUN Explore the castle grounds via a mythical medieval trail and encounter friendly medieval monsters, until Sun 3 Nov, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

'VILE VEGETABLE' OCTOBER HALF-TERM TRAIL Discover fun vegetable games and earn a non-pumpkin-based prize,

until Sun 3 Nov, Charlecote Park, Warwick

OCTOBER HALF TERM Celebrating the Monarch butterfly and its incredible migration story, until Sun 3 Nov, Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm

THE HAUNTED CASTLE Featuring over 15 live shows and attractions, explore a thousand years of spooktacular history, until Sun 3 Nov, Warwick Castle

SPOOKY SKELETON HALLOWEEN TRAIL See if you can find all the Halloween visitors hiding along this brand-new trail, until Sun 3 Nov, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

OCTOBER HALF TERM Featuring spooky performances, hands-on activities, a new family-friendly trail and Supernatural Shakespeare, until Sun 3 Nov, across Shakespeare Birthplace Trust venues, Stratford-upon-Avon

HALLOWEEN TRAIL Take a journey through the grounds and check out the neon spider pumpkins concealed in hidden areas, until Sun 3 Nov, Charlecote Park, Warwick

OCTOBER HALF TERM HALLOWEEN TRAIL Hunt around the grounds for spooky shapes lurking in the garden, until Sun 3 Nov, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

OCTOBER HALF TERM PUMPKIN TRAIL Solve the mystery of the missing pumpkins, until Sun 3 Nov, Packwood House, Warwickshire

SEWING FOR PLEASURE WINTER EDITION Featuring must-have supplies and workshops, until Sun 3 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

SIMPLY CHRISTMAS Featuring stall holders showcasing bespoke and unusual gifts, until Sun 3 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW The UK's biggest mixed-craft event offers visitors access to five shows via just one ticket, until Sun 3 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

AUTUMN COLOURS TOUR A guided walk with esteemed landscape manager Fiona Tansey, until Fri 22 Nov, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

SPOOKY SCIENCE NIGHT: TRICK-OR-TREAT Go trick-or-treating at five treat stations spread throughout the museum, Fri 1 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

GIN TRAIN A luxurious gin train experience, Fri 1 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

BAKE INTERNATIONAL Show bringing together a line-up of celebrity bakers, big-name brands and baking fun, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

CAKE INTERNATIONAL The biggest cake decorating and baking event in the world celebrates 30 years, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

THE BABY & TODDLER SHOW Bringing



Cake International - NEC, Birmingham

together everything you need to give your baby the best start in life, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Nov, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET BIRMINGHAM The largest authentic German Christmas market outside of Germany or Austria, Fri 1 Nov - Tues 24 Dec, Birmingham City Centre

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT Discover sound, light and dance experiences inspired by Diwali, with traditional South Asian music and Bollywood glamour, Sat 2 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

JAGUAR BREAKFAST MEET Open to all Jaguar owners and enthusiasts, regardless of affiliation with a club, forum or group, Sat 2 Nov, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

PATCHWORK WORKSHOP Create some simple colourful patchwork and enjoy one another's company, Sat 2 Nov, Coventry Cathedral

LIAM DAVIES VS SHABAZ MASOUD The eagerly awaited super bantamweight showdown, Sat 2 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

THE SUPER WEEKENDER 2024 The Midlands' largest dance convention for dancers, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

THE PIE TRAIN A relaxing and leisurely journey through the Severn valley with Paisley Flour, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

FIT XPO BIRMINGHAM The UK's fastest-growing fitness expo, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

MALVERN ANTIQUES, VINTAGE & COLLECTORS FAIR Featuring up to 150 exhibitors, Sun 3 Nov, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

Fireworks & Bonfires

BROMSGROVE RFC BONFIRE NIGHT

FUNDRAISER Featuring fireworks display and food vendors, Fri 1 Nov, Bromsgrove Rugby Football Club

FIREWORKS & FOOD STOURPORT Join Social Eats for a firework display, food and drinks, Fri 1 Nov, Stourport Sports Club, Stourport-on-Severn

ALCESTER RUGBY CLUB BONFIRE & FIREWORK FESTIVAL A night of fun, food and fireworks, Fri 1 Nov, Alcester Rugby Football Club

ROWHEATH PAVILION FIREWORKS Community event with fireworks display, Fri 1 Nov, Rowheath Pavilion, Birmingham

BLOSSOMFIELD BONFIRE NIGHT Fireworks display and blazing bonfire, Fri 1 Nov, Blossomfield Cricket Club, Solihull

WARWICK TOWN BONFIRE Traditional bonfire night with a fireworks show, Sat 2 Nov, Warwick Racecourse

DROITWICH RUGBY FIREWORKS Droitwich RFC's annual spectacular, Sat 2 Nov, Droitwich Ruby Club

KENILWORTH ROUND TABLE FIREWORKS One of the Midlands' biggest firework displays, Sat 2 Nov, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

SOLIHULL ROUND TABLE FIREWORKS Enjoy a 20-minute professional fireworks display and bonfire, Sat 2 Nov, Tudor Grange Park, Solihull

FIREWORKS AT SIXWAYS Featuring a funfair, wide variety of food & drink and entertainment on the pitch, Sat 2 Nov, Sixways Stadium, Worcester

BONFIRE NIGHT Live music, bonfire and fireworks display, Sat 2 Nov, The Angel, Pershore

NUNEATON CHARITY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS Sat 2 Nov, Jubilee Sports Centre, Nuneaton

HATTON WORLD FIREWORKS BONANZA A family-friendly evening of fireworks and entertainment, Sat 2 Nov, Hatton Country World, Warwick

FIREWORKS & FOOD HARTLEBURY Join Social Eats for a firework display, food and drinks, Sun 3 Nov, Hartlebury Caste, Worcestershire

Gigs

OCTOBER DRIFT Mon 4 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SCOOTER + NEPTUNICA Mon 4 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE STYLISTICS Mon 4 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DEEP PURPLE Mon 4 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

BRAVE RIVAL Mon 4 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE FELICE BROTHERS Tues 5 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ARXX + PHOEBE GREEN Tues 5 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

CELESTE Tues 5 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

KOYO Tues 5 Nov, The Victoria, B'ham

RÍOHNACH CONNOLLY & HONEYFEET Tues 5 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ED HARCOURT Wed 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DADDY LONG LEGS + STREET SERMONS Wed 6 Nov, The Night Owl, B'ham

EZRA COLLECTIVE Wed 6 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

KRUELTY + CELESTIAL SANCTUARY + SLIMELORD Wed 6 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

SOFT CULT Wed 6 Nov, The Flapper, Birmingham

JOE TOPPING + NICK & GEOFF Wed 6 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

THE ELO SHOW Wed 6 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

TOM MCRAE + LOWRI EVANS Wed 6 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LUKE JACKSON Wed 6 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

TANNAHILL WEAVERS Wed 6 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE BLUETONES Wed

6 Nov, hmv Empire, Coventry

JAMES DELARRE & SAUL ROSE Wed 6 Nov, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

DELILAH BON Thurs 7 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BARE JAMS Thurs 7 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SWITCHFOOT Thurs 7 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FAITHLESS Thurs 7 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ZEKE Thurs 7 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

DOG UNIT Thurs 7 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

GILLIAN CARTER Thurs 7 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

DEFECTS + PROFILER + KNIFE BRIDE Thurs 7 Nov, The Flapper, Birmingham

HANNAH WHITE Thurs 7 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE TANNAHILL WEAVERS Thurs 7 Nov, Number 8, Pershore

TURIN BRAKES Thurs 7 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THE MUSIC OF LUTHER VANDROSS Thurs 7 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC - ABBA TRIBUTE Thurs 7 Nov, Malvern Theatres

THE SKINNER BROTHERS Fri 8 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHAM 69 Fri 8 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

OUR MOTHER THE MOUNTAIN Fri 8 Nov, The Dark Horse, Moseley, B'ham

BRADLEY SIMPSON Fri 8 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SAM TOMPKINS Fri 8 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MARISA AND THE MOTHS Fri 8 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

VICKY JACKSON AS PINK + ALANIS MOREORLESS Fri 8 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GILBY CLARKE Fri 8 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

BUGEYE Fri 8 Nov, The Victoria, B'ham

CHICKENBONE JOHN BLUES BAND Fri 8 Nov, The Brasshouse, B'ham

HUE AND CRY Fri 8 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

KASABIAN Fri 8 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

STONE FOUNDATION Fri 8 Nov, The Crossing, B'ham

STEVE AJAO BLUES GIANTS Fri 8 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, B'ham

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Fri 8 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

GENESIS CONNECTED Fri 8 Nov, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

BALAAM AND THE ANGEL + INKUBUS SUKKUBUS Fri 8 Nov, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

CHEAP DIRTY HORSE + SEPTIC AND THE TANKS + THE CAROLINE BOMB Fri 8 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

SISSOKO, SEGAL, PARISIEN, PEIRANI: LES EGARÉS Fri 8 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

TRIBUTE TO ADELE BY NATALIE BLACK Fri 8 Nov, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

QUO CONNECTION Fri 8 Nov, The Benn Hall, Rugby

SWIFT & STYLES TRIBUTES Fri 8 Nov, Regal, Tenbury Wells

HAWKLORDS + THE ARBORETUM Fri 8 Nov, Marris Bar, Worcester

THE ROY ORBISON STORY Fri 8 Nov, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE ELVIS YEARS Fri 8 Nov, Palace Theatre,

Redditch

THE ELO SHOW Fri 8 Nov, Malvern Theatres

SLEEPER Fri 8 Nov, 45Live, Kidderminster

KIT HAWES & AARON CATLOW Fri 8 Nov, Malvern Cube

SCOUTING FOR GIRLS + JAMIE LAWSON + VINCE FREEMAN Fri 8 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE SONGS OF BOB DYLAN Fri 8 - Sat 9 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KING ABYSS + CRUCIBLE + MONTOPIA Sat 9 Nov, The Dark Horse, Moseley, B'ham

MARCUS KING Sat 9 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BLACKOUT PROBLEMS + LAKE MALICE Sat 9 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GRIFF Sat 9 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

MOLESTA EWENEMENT Sat 9 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

JUST RADIOHEAD Sat 9 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

THE KING BLUES + SO GOOD Sat 9 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

SPIZZNERGI Sat 9 Nov, The Flapper, Birmingham

BOHREN & DER CLUB OF GORE Sat 9 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

UB40 + SOUL II SOUL Sat 9 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

BOLLYWOOD TIME MACHINE Sat 9 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ELLIE GOWERS Sat 9 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES Sat 9 Nov, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE KILLERS KOLLECTIVE Sat 9 Nov, The Henrician, Evesham

ALL OUT EMO Sat 9 Nov, Queens Hall,

Nuneaton

SIX LITTLE FINGERS Sat 9 Nov, Marris Bar, Worcester

PHIL BEER TRIO Sat 9 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

DARK SIDE OF THE WALL Sat 9 Nov, Swan Theatre, Worcester

WALK RIGHT BACK Sat 9 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BOB DYLAN Sat 9 - Sun 10 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

GURRIERS Sun 10 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JEREMY JOHNSON + PADDY JAMES Sun 10 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ARTEMAS Sun 10 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AMYL AND THE SNIFFERS Sun 10 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

REJJIE SNOW Sun 10 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW Sun 10 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

VINNY PECULIAR PLAYS THE FREAKS Sun 10 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

MAZ MITRENKO BAND Sun 10 Nov, The Brasshouse, B'ham

CLARINET MARMALADE Sun 10 Nov, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

TENNESSEE COUNTRY CHRISTMAS Sun 10 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

EASY 3 Sun 10 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

MATTERS + LOOKING GLASS ALICE Sun 10 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

MIKE OLDFIELD'S TUBULAR BELLS LIVE Sun 10 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

TALON Sun 10 Nov, Regal, Tenbury Wells

Classical Music

THOMAS TROTTER ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Duruffé, JS Bach, Laurin, Pierné & Wagner, Mon 4 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ARMONICO CONSORT ACADEMY SCHOLARS Featuring Mark Swinton (organ) & Christopher Monks (director). Programme comprises Fauré's Requiem, Tues 5 Nov, All Saints Church, Leek Wooton, Warwickshire

MAX RICHTER Programme includes works by Richter for strings, Tues 5 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT: BACH BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS Programme comprises Bach's Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 2 - 6, Wed 6 Nov, Malvern Theatres

ARMONICO CONSORT: AFRICA - A SINGING CONTINENT! Featuring Christopher Monks (director). Programme includes traditional and contemporary African songs, Wed 6 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CBSO: GREIG & BEETHOVEN Featuring Kerem Hasan (conductor) & Steven Osborne (piano). Programme includes works by Coleman, Greig & Beethoven, Thurs 7 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JUBILEE STRING QUARTET Featuring Tereza Privratska & Julia Loucks (violins), Lorena Cantó Woltèche (viola) & Toby White (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, Webern & Smetana, Fri 8 Nov, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

ROSSINI: PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE Featuring Coventry Cathedral Chorus, Sat 9 Nov, Coventry Cathedral

EX CATHEDRA: FAIRE IS THE HEAVEN Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor) & Martyn Rawles (organ). Programme includes works by Bainton, Bates, Parry, Fauré & more..., Sat 9 Nov, St Francis Church, Bourneville

WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERT Featuring Irina Lyakhovskaya (piano), Dan Watson (conductor) & Graham Longfils (leader). Programme includes works by Humperdinck, R Schumann & Tchaikovsky, Sat 9 Nov, Pershore Abbey

CBSO: GOLDBERG VARIATIONS Featuring Eugene Tzikindelean (violin). Programme comprises Bach's Goldberg Variations, Sun 10 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR Featuring London Concert Orchestra, London

Concert Choir, City of Birmingham Choir, Anthony Inglis (conductor), Haegge Lee (soprano) & Elgan Llyr Thomas (tenor). Programme includes works by Ravel, Handel, Puccini, Sibelius & more..., Sun 10 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LEON MCCAWLEY PIANO RECITAL

Programme includes works by Beethoven, Rachmaninov, Mendelssohn & more, Sun 10 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Comedy

HENRY ROWLEY Tues 5 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ESTHER MANITO, JASON NEALE, ERIC RUSHTON & ALEX KEALY Wed 6 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, SCOTT BENNETT & CELYA AB Thurs 7 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARK THOMAS Thurs 7 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HARRIET KEMSLEY Thurs 7 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



THE SCUMMY MUMMIES Thurs 7 Nov, Regal, Tenbury Wells

STEFFAN ALUN, DARRYL PURVIS, SCOTT BENNETT, CELYA AB & TONY BASNETT Fri 8 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TRAVIS JAY Fri 8 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

AMY MATTHEWS Fri 8 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

SUKH OJLA, SHALAKA KURUP, SINTHUJHA KUMARASAMY, RAJ POOJARA & PREET SINGH Fri 8 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ED PATRICK Fri 8 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



JAY SODAGAR, SHALAKA KURUP, SINTHUJHA KUMARASAMY, RAJ POOJARA & PREET SINGH Fri 8 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

FRANK SKINNER Fri 8 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

RICH HALL Fri 8 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

GRACE CAMPBELL Sat 9 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

STEFFAN ALUN, DARRYL PURVIS, SCOTT BENNETT & CELYA AB Sat 9 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JEFF INNOCENT Sat 9 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

JIMMY CARR Sat 9 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AMY GLEDHILL Sun 10 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHABZ KARIEM, KAYLEIGH LOUDMOUTH, LES BLAIR, TOJU, KAZEEM JAMAL, LATEEF LOVEJOY & KAT BOYCE Sun 10 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

FELICITY WARD Sun 10 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ALFIE MOORE Sun 10 Nov, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Theatre

WHY I STUCK A FLARE UP MY ARSE FOR ENGLAND A 'blisteringly funny new play' which asks what it means to belong to a club that you live for. Visiting Birmingham following a five-star sell-out Edinburgh Festival run, Mon 4 - Wed 6 Nov, The Rep, B'ham

NEVER THE SINNER Amateur version of a thought-provoking stage play that unravels the shocking true-life crime drama of two young men whose lives took a chilling turn in the 1920s, Mon 4 - Sat 9 Nov, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

COME FROM AWAY Award-winning musical that tells the uplifting real-life story of the 7,000 air passengers who were grounded in Canada in the wake of 9/11, and the small Newfoundland community that invited them into their lives with open hearts, Tues 5 - Sat 9 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



SUMMER 1954 Nathaniel Parker, Siân Phillips, Lolita Chakrabarti and Alexandra Dowling star in a new staging of Terrence Rattigan's one-act masterpieces, Table Number Severn and The Browning Version, Tues 5 - Sat 9 Nov, Malvern Theatres

MAKE GOOD - THE POST OFFICE SCANDAL Pentabus Theatre present a new musical telling the story of the resilience of the sub-postmasters and their families, in what is now recognised to be one of the gravest miscarriages of justice in British history, Wed 6 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

FEEL ME The Paper Birds fuse live performance with projection, dance and music to explore the subject of empathy, and how we connect to stories in the modern digital world, Wed 6 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - LIVE ON STAGE

TV favourites Colin Baker and Peter Purves lead the cast in a radio-play staging of Charles Dickens' Christmas classic, Wed 6 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE GIRL IN THE GREEN ROOM An atmospheric one-man ghost story, Wed 6 - Thurs 7 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

PLAY ON! A stylish retelling of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night which fuses the music of Duke Ellington with street dance choreography, Wed 6 - Sat 9 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

Amateur version presented by Coventry Youth Operetta Group (YOG), Wed 6 - Sat 9 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

FOOTLOOSE Amateur version presented by Stratford Musical Theatre Company, Wed 6 - Sat 9 Nov, Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Limelight present an amateur version of the iconic musical, featuring disco classics Stayin' Alive, Jive Talkin', Night Fever, Disco Inferno and more..., Thurs 7 - Sat 9 Nov, The Civic, Stourport

THE RED SHOES New production based on Hans Christian Andersen's dark fairytale concerning a young woman and her beautiful pair of red shoes that take her places she doesn't wish to go..., Thurs 7 Nov - Sun 19 Jan, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

SECRET LIFE OF ENID BLYTON Liz Grand's one-woman show in which she tells the incredible story of the controversial children's author, Fri 8 Nov, The Henrician, Evesham

THE MAN WHO THOUGHT HE KNEW TOO MUCH Accusations, accidents and accents abound in a multi-award-winning cinematic caper described as 'Hitchcock meets Spaghetti Western'. The production features live, original music and virtuosic acrobatics, Fri 8 - Sat 9 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

THAT GIRL VS THE WORLD An all lip-syncing, all singing, all dancing extravaganza focusing on the power of community and finding the strength within when a media storm rages around you, Fri 8 - Sat 9 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

HERE & NOW - THE STEPS MUSICAL Brand-new musical, directed by Rachel Kavanaugh, which follows

four supermarket colleagues as they steer their way through a summer filled with happiness, heartache, hurt and humour - all set to the iconic tunes of pop group Steps, Sat 9 - Sat 30 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

Kid's Theatre

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW

Much-loved show for younger audiences based on four of Eric Carle's storybooks - Brown Bear, Brown Bear; 10 Little Rubber Ducks; The Very Busy Spider and The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Thurs 7 - Fri 8 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

STORIES OF A WATERSPRITE Dance, puppetry and storytelling come together in a magical show for younger audiences in which a watersprite explores the underwater world, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

DISNEY ON ICE: ROADTRIP ADVENTURES Mickey Mouse and friends take audiences on a wild ride to some favourite Disney destinations, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

HOW A JELLYFISH SAVED THE WORLD - A CHILDREN'S MUSICAL Jam Jar Theatre Company presents a family-friendly tentacle-tapping puppetry musical, Sun 10 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MR SLEEPYBUM High-energy and seriously silly comedy show for the whole family, Sun 10 Nov, The Core, Solihull



Dance

SWAN LAKE Timeless ballet presented by Imperial Classical Ballets and featuring a live 30-piece orchestra, Mon 4 - Tues 5 Nov, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

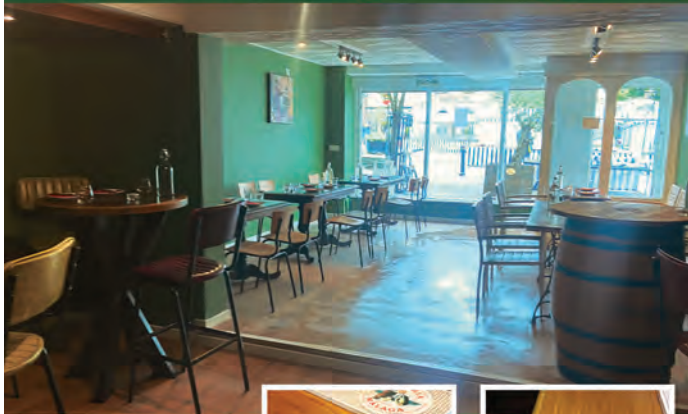
SWAN LAKE Crown Ballet presents its version of the 'greatest romantic ballet of all time', Tues 5 Nov, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE NUTCRACKER Lavish festive ballet presented by Imperial Classical Ballets and featuring a live 30-piece orchestra, Wed 6 Nov, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

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Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, Hammersmith, London W6 7BT. Company number 02708675.

Light Entertainment

GARETH MALONE: SING-ALONG-A-GARETH A captivating blend of biography and music featuring iconic songs from the 1960s right up to the present day, Mon 4 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

HENRY ROWLEY: JUST LITERALLY Fast-paced stand-up and character sketch comedy featuring 'some familiar faces', Tues 5 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Irish culture as a cast of talented singers, musicians and dancers perform festive favourites, Wed 6 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



RHYTHM OF THE DANCE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL The 25th anniversary tour, featuring festive songs performed live by 'world-class musicians and star vocalists, accompanied by world-champion dancers', Thurs 7 Nov, Malvern Theatres

ULTIMATE BOYBAND PARTY SHOW Tribute show celebrating the music of 90s boybands, including Blue, Boyzone, Westlife, Take That and more..., Thurs 7 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

AN IMPROVISED MURDER Foghorn Unscripted create a classic whodunnit - minus a script or plot..., Thurs 7 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DREAMCOAT STARS: A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS Christmas carols, festive favourites and a sprinkling of musical hits, showcased by the stars of Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Thurs 7 Nov, The Roses, Tewkesbury

DICK AND ANGEL: FOREVER HOME An evening with the stars behind hit Channel Four show *Escape To The Chateau*. Expect 'untold stories and laughs aplenty' as Dick and Angel shine the spotlight on their audience in a highly interactive show, Fri 8 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BROMSGROVE REMEMBERS Join Bromsgrove British Legion to commemorate and celebrate with music and song, Sat 9 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

TENNESSEE COUNTRY CHRISTMAS 'Dolly Parton and friends' festive tribute show, Sun 10 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Talks & Spoken Word

NED BOULTING'S MARGINAL MYSTERY TOUR: 1923 AND ALL THAT Murder, mystery, drama and French farce collide as Ned explores the story, characters and tragedies of the 1923 Tour de France, Wed 6 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

OPEN MIC SESSION Drop-in sessions open to singers, instrumentalists, poets, MCs, and any other kind of musical performer, Thurs 7 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE YORKSHIRE RIPPER: WHAT WENT WRONG Join former West Midlands Police murder detective James McManus as he discusses the case of the Yorkshire Ripper and explains what went wrong for the officers investigating the attacks, Fri 8 Nov, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH NEIL LENNON The former Celtic player and manager discusses his career in football, Fri 8 Nov, Christ the King Club, Coventry

RONNIE, REGGIE, AND ME - FRED DINENAGE A definitive insight into the real life of Britain's most notorious gangsters, as told by their trusted official biographer, Sun 10 Nov, The Civic, Stourport

Events

MUSEUM DETECTIVES TRAIL Eight items on display have been chosen for you to find - can you spot them all?, Tues 5 Nov - Fri 13 Dec, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

LAND, LEISURE AND TOURISM SHOW The UK's largest event for rural businesses, holiday parks, leisure and attractions, Wed 6 - Thurs 7 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM TOUR A 45-minute guided tour of a selection of key Birmingham-built objects. Learn about their importance to the city of 1,000 trades and the people who made them, Thurs 7 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

HAUNTED BIRMINGHAM A relaxed evening of spooky tales to launch Haunted Birmingham, National Literacy Trust's new story-writing campaign, Thurs 7 Nov, The Exchange: 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham

SUPPER CLUB WITH ADAM HENSON Event promising 'an unforgettable tour and dining experience', set against the stunning backdrop of the picturesque farm, Thurs 7 Nov, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

FIRE GARDEN A 'blazing installation' of unique fire sculptures, Fri 8 - Sat 9 Nov, Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre,



The Textile Fair - Compton Verney

West Bromwich

THE TEXTILE FAIR Browse a range of stalls showcasing independent artists & makers who use textiles and textile processes in their art, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Nov, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

YOUR HORSE LIVE The UK's biggest equestrian shopping event, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Nov, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

LANCASTER INSURANCE CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW Event showcasing over 3,000 classic cars and 350-plus

exhibitors, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

THE LOCK UP REMEMBERS An event to commemorate the police officers of the West Midlands who fought and died during the world wars, Sat 9 Nov, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

SKYFIRE - BONFIRE NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA Fireworks to James Bond-themed music, Sat 9 Nov, Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club

THE OLD JOINT STOCK PRESENTS

Book and Lyrics by
ALEXANDER DINELARIS

Music, Book & Lyrics by
TIM ACITO

Directed by
SCOTT LE CRASS

Choreographed by
DAVID WINTERS

WED 4TH - SUN 15TH DECEMBER

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham B2 5NY | www.OLDJOINSTOCK.CO.UK

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Gigs

VANESSA FORERO & THE VINES Mon 11 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MOONCHILD SANELLY Mon 11 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

UPSAHL + ELLIE DIXON Mon 11 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

JOACHIM COODER Mon 11 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

JOHN COGHLAN'S QUO - RE-IMAGINED Mon 11 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ASHLEY SINGH Tues 12 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ROLE MODEL Tues 12 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CLEO Tues 12 Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

LEWIS BARFOOT Tues 12 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

SARAH JANE MORRIS Tues 12 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

PARTY DOZEN Wed 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TC & THE GROOVE FAMILY + NEONE Wed 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

ALICE LONGYU GAO Wed 13 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JACOB LEE Wed 13 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

MOLASS Wed 13 Nov, The Night Owl, Birmingham

STILL WOOLY + MAZIE Wed 13 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LISSIE + TYLER RAMSEY Wed 13 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FRENCH POLICE Wed 13 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

RACHEL CHINOURIRI Wed 13 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

TFS Wed 13 Nov,

Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

JAMIE CULLUM Wed 13 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE SWAPS + THOMAS HEPPLELL + GREG BRICE Wed 13 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE PUPPINI SISTERS Wed 13 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



CHINA CRISIS Thurs 14 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GINA LARNER Thurs 14 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

WALT DISCO Thurs 14 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

YELLOWCARD + STORY OF THE YEAR + THIS WILD LIFE Thurs 14 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE ORB + OZRIC TENTACLES Thurs 14 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HIBUSHIBIRE + BLACK HELIUM Thurs 14 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

PAT METHENY Thurs 14 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE CORRS Thurs 14 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

SUNNY SWEENEY Thurs 14 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

LIZZY HARDINGHAM Thurs 14 Nov, Bromsgrove Folk Club

NICK HARPER Thurs 14 Nov, hmv Empire, Coventry

CHUBE Thurs 14 Nov, Marris Bar, Worcester

FREYA BEER Thurs 14 Nov, Drummonds, Worcester

MOSCOW DRUG CLUB Thurs 14 Nov, Huntingdon Hall,

Worcester

THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE Thurs 14 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

NAS Thurs 14 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

MERYL STREEK Fri 15 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

AMBLE Fri 15 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PENETRATION Fri 15 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ARTHUR HILL + CALUM BOWIE Fri 15 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BEABADOOBEE Fri 15 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HIFI SEAN + DAVID MCALMONT Fri 15 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

TORTURED DEMON + 7 YEAR WAR Fri 15 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

THE CHASE Fri 15 Nov, The Victoria, Birmingham

SISTER SLEDGE Fri 15 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS Fri 15 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

TAXI FOR JESUS Fri 15 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

GORDON HENDRICKS - THE KING'S VOICE Fri 15 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THE ABSOLUTE STONE ROSES + NEAR LIAM GALLAGHER Fri 15 Nov, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

MARTIN HARLEY Fri 15 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

HELD BY TREES Fri 15 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

HAWKLOARDS Fri 15 Nov, Arches Venue, Coventry

THE WORLD FAMOUS ELVIS SHOW Fri 15 Nov, Albany Theatre, Coventry

BEAST DECOYS + THE MACHINE RAGES + CYPRISS HILL Fri 15

Nov, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

WHO'S NEXT Fri 15 Nov, Marris Bar, Worcester

CODA - A TRIBUTE TO LED ZEPPELIN Fri 15 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

MERCURY - QUEEN TRIBUTE Fri 15 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE SAW DOCTORS Fri 15 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

SAM REDMORE & THE TROPICAL SOUNDCLASH Sat 16 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DAMAGE Sat 16 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

ALIEN ANT FARM + CKY + THE NOCTURNAL AFFAIR Sat 16 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE HOWL & THE HUM Sat 16 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE GERRY CINNAMAN EXPERIENCE + NOEL GALLAGHER'S HIGH FLYING CARPETS Sat 16 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

DEATH OVER DIGBETH Sat 16 Nov, Dead Wax, Birmingham

TEN YEARS TOO LATE Sat 16 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

MARUJA Sat 16 Nov, The Flapper, B'ham

THE DUBLINERS ENCORE Sat 16 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE SKIDS + SPEAR OF DESTINY Sat 16 Nov, The Crossing, Birmingham

BIG Q FISH Sat 16 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

THE SMYTHS Sat 16 Nov, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

STEIN'S ALL-STARS Sat 16 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ERROL LINTON BAND Sat 16 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

NYOTAA + SERENA JASMINE + NII Sat 16

Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

BLONDIE UK Sat 16 Nov, Arches Venue, Coventry

SHAPE OF YOU - THE MUSIC OF ED SHEERAN Sat 16 Nov, Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE GO 90S Sat 16 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Coventry

FROM GOLD TO RIO Sat 16 Nov, The Henrician, Evesham

DUB CATALYST Sat 16 Nov, Marris Bar, Worcester

NEARLY DAN Sat 16 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

LEGEND - THE MUSIC OF BOB MARLEY Sat 16 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE ROCK ORCHESTRA BY CANDLELIGHT Sat 16 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE ICICLE WORKS Sun 17 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TWIN ATLANTIC + DAYTIME TV Sun 17 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RAG'N'BONE MAN Sun 17 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

AFFLECKS PALACE Sun 17 Nov, Dead Wax, Birmingham

PETE HYDE & THE VIEILLARDS Sun 17 Nov, The Brasshouse, B'ham

CAPERCALLIE Sun 17 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CHANTEL MCGREGOR Sun 17 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

FRASER MORGAN AND THE GREAT CATASTROPHES + DUCK THIEVES + MIXTAPE SAINTS Sun 17 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Sun 17 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LINDISFARNE Sun 17 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Classical Music

CBSO: TCHAIKOVSKY 6 Featuring Anna Rakitina (conductor) & Jaemin Han (cello). Programme includes works by Smetana & Tchaikovsky, Tues 12 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE BINCHOIS CONSORT Featuring Matthew Farrell & Tom Lilburn (altos), Dominic Bland, Tom Castle, Mark Dobell & George Pooley (tenors), Andrew Kirkman (director) & Jamie Savan (slide trumpet). Programme includes works by Guillaume Du Fay, Tues 12 Nov, St Mary's Church, Warwick

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: THE LONG ROAD Featuring David Le Page. A performance of deeply personal stories, narrated by members of the Warwickshire community.

Programme includes works by Rameau, Corelli, Buxtehude & more..., Tues 12 Nov, Stratford Playhouse

VICTORIA DAVIES HARP RECITAL Thurs 14 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LUMAS WINDS Featuring Beth Stone (flute), Ewan Millar (oboe), Rennie Sutherland (clarinet), Flo Plane (bassoon) & Benjamin Hartnell-Booth (french horn). Programme includes works by Barber, Haas, Mozart & Mathias, Fri 15 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

LUNCHTIME RECITALS SERIES Featuring Benedict Adams (percussion), Fri 15 Nov, St Mary's Church, Warwick

WARWICK & KENILWORTH CHORAL SOCIETY Featuring Laura Baile (conductor) & Colin Druce (organist). Programme includes works by Haydn & Schubert, Sat 16 Nov, St Nicholas Church, Warwick

RUSSELL WATSON MAGNIFICENT BUILDINGS CONCERT SERIES Featuring Russell Watson (tenor), Nancy May (soprano) & Mike Moran (accompanist), Sat 16 Nov, St Mary's Church, Warwick

VIENNESE CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring London Concertante. Programme includes works by Strauss, Tchaikovsky & Brahms, Sat 16 Nov, Worcester Cathedral

WORCESTERSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Keith Slade (conductor). Programme includes works by Debussy, Rachmaninov & Brahms, Sat 16 Nov, Pershore Abbey

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: GEORGE ELIOT IN WORDS AND MUSIC Featuring Harriet Walter (narration), SuRie (vocals) & David Le Page (music)

direction), Sat 16 Nov, St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry

STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: OUT OF THIS WORLD Featuring Dan Watson (conductor) & Phil Houghton (leader). Programme includes works by Williams, Strauss, Holst & more..., Sun 17 Nov, Stratford Play House

NUREMBERG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Jonathan Darlington (conductor) & Federico Colli (piano). Programme includes works by Weber, Beethoven & Brahms, Sun 17 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MARIA WŁOSZCZOWSKA (VIOLIN) & ALASDAIR BEATSON (PIANO) IN CONCERT Programme includes works by Schubert, Fauré & Strauss, Sun 17 Nov, Malvern Theatres

Comedy

FRANK SKINNER Mon 11 - Thurs 14 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

JACK DEE Wed 13 Nov, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, RACHEL FAIRBURN & JOHN LYNN Thurs 14 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

A CELEBRATION OF FATHER TED WITH JOE ROONEY Thurs 14 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LUCY BEAUMONT Thurs 14 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MAUREEN YOUNGER, JIN HAO LI, RACHEL FAIRBURN, JOHN LYNN & MARTIN WESTGATE Fri 15 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PETER KAY Fri 15 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

RUSSELL KANE Fri 15 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

ALFIE MOORE Fri 15 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ARTHUR SMITH & COMICS TBC Fri 15 Nov, Henley-in-Arden Memorial Hall, Warks

KIRI PRITCHARD-MCLEAN Fri 15 Nov, Stratford Playhouse

TATTY MACLEOD Fri 15 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

PAUL MCCAFFREY, MATT STELLINGWERF, NIPPER THOMAS & RYAN GOUGH Fri 15 Nov, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

RHOD GILBERT Fri 15 - Sat 16 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MAUREEN YOUNGER, JIN HAO LI, RACHEL FAIRBURN & JOHN LYNN Sat 16 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RUBY WAX Sat 16 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JACOB HAWLEY Sat 16 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

KIRI PRITCHARD-MCLEAN Sat 16 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ED GAMBLE Sat 16 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Theatre

THE WEIR Chilling tales of the supernatural with a comedic twist, Mon 11 - Sat 16 Nov, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS Michael Maloney (Belfast, Young Victoria, The Crown) stars as the Belgian sleuth in a brand-new staging of Agatha Christie's famous masterpiece, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Nov, Malvern Theatres

STAND BY ME Musical spectacular presented by Worcester Musical Theatre Company in support of two local charities, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Nov, Swan Theatre, Worcester

OLIVER! St Augustine's MTC present an amateur version of Lionel Bart's classic musical, Tues 12 - Sun 17 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET Warwick School and King's High School present an amateur version of Stephen Sondheim's musical thriller, Wed 13 - Sat 16 Nov, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA Amateur version of Federico Garcia Lorca's modern masterpiece, Thurs 14 - Sat 16 Nov, Playbox Theatre at The Dream Factory, Warwick

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A GHOST STORY Mark Gattis' acclaimed retelling of Dickens' festive classic. Matthew Cottle stars as Scrooge, with Rufus Hound as Jacob Marley, Thurs 14 Nov - Sun 5 Jan, The Rep, B'ham

ROTTEN Hitchcock meets Lord Of The Flies in a new comedy-thriller from emerging writer Josie White, Fri 15 - Sat 16 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

DEATH AT SEA Our Star Theatre Company present the story of a small theatre company performing a new murder-mystery - but despite their best efforts, everything goes wrong, Sun 17 Nov, The Henrician, Evesham

Kid's Theatre

SEEDHEART Indigo Moon Theatre present a small puppet show about human impact on the environment, Sun 17 Nov, Regal, Tenbury Wells

THE GLASS SLIPPERS Tutti Frutti Productions present a classic story for younger audiences, complete with some added twists and turns, Sun 17 Nov, The Hive, Worcester

Dance

ROMEO & JULIET Ballet Cymru presents its acclaimed adaptation of the world's greatest love story, Tues 12 - Wed 13 Nov, Malvern Theatres

CINEMATIC CATS Dance Company

present a choreographed tribute to 'favourite and much-loved films', Thurs 14 - Sat 16 Nov, Rugby Theatre

Light Entertainment

A DAY TO REMEMBER Be transported back to the 1940s with a Remembrance Day singalong.

Featuring hits from Vera Lynn, Noel Coward, Billie Holiday, George Formby and others..., Tues 12 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND: THE MUSIC OF VICTORIA WOOD Paulus The Cabaret Geek celebrates the life and work of the much-loved entertainer, Thurs 14 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

QUEENZ: DRAG ME TO THE DISCO! Brand-new drag-stravaganza in which the Dancing Queenz and disco dreams collide, Fri 15 - Sat 16 Nov, The Roses, Tewkesbury

JANE MCDONALD: WITH ALL MY LOVE An evening filled with 'love, glamour and Jane's warm Yorkshire wit', Sat 16 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

DEFYING GRAVITY - WEST END WOMEN A musical celebration of women who have made their mark on the West End stage, Sat 16 Nov, Malvern Theatres

THE RAT PACK CHRISTMAS IN VEGAS Direct from London's West End and featuring three talented performers as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr, Sat 16 Nov, Regal, Tenbury Wells

CHARLES & DIANA: THE REUNION TOUR Join Tracey Collins and Russell Lucas for a musical cruise through the cultural commonwealth of the 1980s as they revisit a time when 'life was tough but the music was brave', Sat 16 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Talks & Spoken Word

AN EVENING WITH SHANE WILLIAMS MBE Join the rugby winger as he shares an evening of stories and insights about a glittering career, Wed 13 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Events

WORLD NURSERY RHYME WEEK SPECIAL Sing along to a selection of nursery rhymes and play along with movement and sensory toys, Tues 12 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

LET'S CHILL: BABY HANGOUT Hang out

with fellow parents and enjoy some 'cathedral zen', Wed 13 Nov, Coventry Cathedral

CHRISTMAS IN CATHEDRAL SQUARE CRAFT MARKET Offering visitors an alternative to the usual shopping experience, Wed 13 Nov - Sun 22 Dec, Cathedral Square, Birmingham

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM TOUR A 45-minute guided tour of a selection of key Birmingham-built objects. Learn about their importance to the city of 1,000 trades and the people who made them, Thurs 14 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

FESTIVE GIFT FAIR Featuring thousands of unusual gifts, stocking fillers, decorations and artisan food & drink, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

MIND BODY SPIRIT FESTIVAL A celebration of wellness, personal growth and spiritual exploration, Fri 15 - Sun 17 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

THE ENCHANTED GARDENS WONDERLAND Tumble down the rabbit hole with Alice for a journey through Wonderland via this new light trail, Fri 15 Nov - Thurs 2 Jan, Webbs at Wychbold, Droitwich Spa

NEON NIGHT: NEON NAKED LIFE DRAWING With neon materials in one hand and a drink in the other, let your creativity flow as you draw models adorned in neon body paint under UV light, Sat 16 Nov, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

COLOURS OF MY WAGON A storytelling and woodcraft performance which brings to life the ever-changing and adapting culture of Romani people, Sat 16 Nov, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

COVENTRY START FOR LIFE HOSTS BABY WEEK Featuring a diverse array of activities for babies and their parents, Sat 16 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

BOOK EXTRAVAGANZA Featuring a diverse range of stalls, Sat 16 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

80S, 90S & 00S SILENT DISCO Event playing 'all your favourite tunes in the stunning, illuminated surroundings', Sat 16 Nov, Coventry Cathedral

MOTORCYCLE LIVE IN ASSOCIATION WITH BIKESURE The UK's largest motorcycle show, supported by over 50 motorcycle and scooter manufacturers, Sat 16 - Sun 24 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

SPETCHLEY ARTISAN CHRISTMAS MARKET Featuring local designers & makers, including food & drink specialists, Sun 17 Nov, Spetchley Park Estate, Worcester

TOY COLLECTORS FAIR Featuring a wide range of stalls, with many obsolete toys and models for sale, Sun 17 Nov, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

Gigs

CHARLIE MCDERMOTT Mon 18 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

LEWIS FITZGERALD Mon 18 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

WES NELSON + PRINZ Mon 18 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LIZ LAWRENCE Mon 18 Nov, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

THORNHILL + GRAPHIC NATURE + LOVE IS NOISE Mon 18 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

BLACK STONE CHERRY Mon 18 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

ECHOBELLY + BLUE VIOLET Mon 18 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth, B'ham

ALBERTA CROSS Mon 18 Nov, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

CHRISTINE COLLISTER Mon 18 Nov, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

DEARY + HONGZA Tues 19 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

DEFENCES + THOUSAND THOUGHTS Tues 19 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

FUK Tues 19 Nov, The Dark Horse, Moseley, B'ham

WASIA PROJECT + HOHNEN FORD Tues 19 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

GODIVA + VOODOO + CARNIWHORE Tues 19 Nov, The Flapper, Birmingham

HANNAH JAMES AND TOBY KUHN Tues 19 Nov, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

KING CREOSOTE Tues 19 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

GRANNY'S ATTIC Tues 19 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SEASICK STEVE Tues 19 Nov, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton

GLEN MATLOCK Wed 20 Nov, The Night Owl, Birmingham

SIM + FROZEMODE Wed 20 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

OLD MERVS Wed 20 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

POKEY LAFARGE Wed 20 Nov, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

BEN WALKER & KIRSTY MERRYN + SUE STEVENS Wed 20 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

WILLIE EDWARDS Wed 20 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

FONTAINES D.C. + SORRY Wed 20 Nov, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton

SHE'S IN PARTIES Thurs 21 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE REAL THING Thurs 21 Nov, The Jam House, Birmingham

SKIES BEHIND Thurs 21 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CHRISSE COSTANZA + VOILA Thurs 21 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

KINGFISHR Thurs 21 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BREED 77 + RED METHOD + BLACK WATER FIEND Thurs 21 Nov, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

LOST ROMANTIC Thurs 21 Nov, The Victoria, B'ham

NIWEL TSEMBU Thurs 21 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MAZZ MURRAY: THE MUSIC OF DUSTY SPRINGFIELD Thurs 21 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WALT WEISKOPF PRESENTS Thurs 21 Nov, Royal Birmingham

Conservatoire

KEITH JAMES: THE SONGS OF NICK DRAKE Thurs 21 Nov, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

WHEN RIVERS MEET Thurs 21 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

STEVE TILSTON Thurs 21 Nov, Stratford Playhouse

999 + THE SAMPLES Thurs 21 Nov, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE SENSATIONAL 60'S EXPERIENCE Thurs 21 Nov, Malvern Theatres

DUB PISTOLS Fri 22 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

A VOID + FÜTUMCHE Fri 22 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

DESPERATE JOURNALIST Fri 22 Nov, The Dark Horse, Moseley

86TVS Fri 22 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE DURAN DURAN EXPERIENCE + LOVE DISTRACTION Fri 22 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

VALIANT Fri 22 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MOVING PICTURES Fri 22 Nov, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

BRYDE Fri 22 Nov, The Victoria, B'ham

BELLOWHEAD Fri 22 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DISCO INFERNO Fri 22 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE SCRIPT + TOM WALKER Fri 22 Nov, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

VEHICLE Fri 22 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

CAESARIA Fri 22 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

BIG IMAGE Fri 22 Nov, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

JIMMY REGAL AND THE ROYALS Fri 22 Nov, The Core

Theatre, Solihull

NINE BELOW ZERO + DR. FEELGOOD Fri 22 Nov, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

XANDER AND THE PEACE PIRATES Fri 22 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

HERMANS HERMITS Fri 22 Nov, Stratford Playhouse

VOYEAHS + MODERN LITERATURE + FUN SPONGE Fri 22 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

SKOLIM Fri 22 Nov, hmv Empire, Coventry

TURIN BRAKES Fri 22 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE QUIREBOYS Fri 22 Nov, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MUD Fri 22 Nov, The Benn Hall, Rugby

GAZ BROOKFIELD + HUMDRUM EXPRESS Fri 22 Nov, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE BLACK CHARADE + FELL OUT BOY Fri 22 Nov, 45Live, Kidderminster

SHEELANAGIG Fri 22 Nov, Malvern Cube

ANTHRAX + KREATOR + TESTAMENT Fri 22 Nov, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton

HARD-FI + BETTER JOY Fri 22 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls, Wolverhampton

BARRY STEELE'S ROY ORBISON STORY Fri 22 - Sat 23 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LACK OF AFRO Sat 23 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

BIG SKY ORCHESTRA Sat 23 Nov, The Dark Horse, Birmingham

YOUNG ELTON Sat 23 Nov, The Night Owl, Birmingham

THE HIGH KINGS Sat 23 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

JOEY VALENCE & BRAE Sat 23 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham



Sheelanagig - Malvern Cube

CLOUDS OF EVERMORE + BLACK OUT BLINDS + BRAINROT + LAST CONSPIRACY + PARLEY Sat 23 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE SMYTHS Sat 23 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LANSDOWNE Sat 23 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

MASTIFF + GORGONCHRIST + SHRYKULL Sat 23 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE SUN'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE NIGHT Sat 23 Nov, Subside Bar, B'ham

COUNTRY ROADS Sat 23 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

NATHAN CARTER Sat 23 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

COURTEENERS + DMA'S + MYSTERY JETS Sat 23 Nov, Utilita Arena, Birmingham

STEVE KNIGHTLEY Sat 23 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

MIDNIGHT CITY Sat 23 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

THE MATT PROJECT Sat 23 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

SUNNY SIDE DOWN Sat 23 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

FRANKIE LEE AND THE CASUALS Sat 23 Nov, The Civic at The Halls

AMY A TRIBUTE Sat 23 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

HELLBOUND + HANDS OF ATTRITION + CRUCIBLE Sat 23 Nov, Arches Venue, Coventry

ELIZA CARTHY & THE RESTITUTION + THE YOUNG'UNS Sat 23 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BEATLES COMPLETE Sat 23 Nov, The Henrician, Evesham

BRUCE JUICE Sat 23 Nov, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

DARK SIDE OF THE WALL Sat 23 Nov, The Benn Hall, Rugby

THE FLEETWOOD MAC SONGBOOK Sat 23 Nov, Regal, Tenbury Wells

STRAIGHTEN OUT - THE STRANGLERS TRIBUTE Sat 23 Nov, Marris Bar, Worcester

GHOST & FAITH NO MORE TRIBUTES Sat 23 Nov, 45Live, Kidderminster

THE FEZZ - STEELY DAN TRIBUTE Sat 23 Nov, West Malvern Social Club

DO IT AGAIN DAN - STEELY DAN TRIBUTE Sat 23 Nov, Malvern Cube

ABBA ALIKE Sat 23 Nov, Civic, Stourport

JASON ISBELL AND THE 400 UNIT Sat 23 Nov, The Civic at The Halls

Wolverhampton
W.H. LUNG + PEM Sun 24 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

D'YANI Sun 24 Nov, The Jam House, Birmingham

WILD RIVERS + RILEY PEARCE Sun 24 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

JAMIE WEBSTER Sun 24 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

BLACKLIST + EXORCISM Sun 24 Nov, Subside Bar, Birmingham

JENNIFER BOLTON AND FRIENDS Sun 24 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

VILLANELLE Sun 24 Nov, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

JON WILKS Sun 24 Nov, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

CHASING DEER Sun 24 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

HOUSE OF HARM Sun 24 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

BOLLYWOOD TIME MACHINE Sun 24 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

A FISTFUL OF SPOOKIES Sun 24 Nov, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

ELIZA CARTHY Sun 24 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS Sun 24 Nov, Evesham Town Hall

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Featuring Thomas Trotter (organ). Programme includes works by Ireland, Mendelssohn, Distler, Dupré & Ponchielli, Mon 18 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

RBC PIANO RECITAL Featuring Peter Donohoe (piano). Programme includes works by Debussy, Ravel, Messiaen & more..., Mon 18 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE MUSIC OF ERROLLYN WALLEN Featuring Sarah O'Flynn (flute), Clare O'Connell (cello) & Roderick Chadwick (piano). Programme includes Wallen's Dervish, and premier performances of work from five RBC student composers, Tues 19 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: THE MUSIC MAKERS Featuring Sofi Jeannin (conductor), Dame Sarah Connolly (mezzo soprano), CBSO Chorus, CBSO Youth Chorus & CBSO Children's Chorus. Programme includes works by Weir, Muhly, Britten & Elgar, Wed 20 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: CUPPA CONCERT Featuring ensemble musicians from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme comprises a short relaxed concert of familiar music, for those living with dementia and their carers, Fri 22 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

MARK SWINTON ORGAN RECITAL Fri 22 Nov, St Mary's Church, Warwick

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Martin Rajna (conductor) & Isata Kanneh-Mason (soloist). Programme includes works by Weber, Beethoven & Dvořák, Fri 22 Nov, Malvern Theatres

NADIA EIDE: WINTER LIGHT Programme includes festive favourites and classic songs, Sat 23 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

PASSION AND FATE: FROM VIENNA TO VERACRUZ Featuring Leamington Sinfonia, Joe Davies (conductor) & Edward Boothroyd (leader). Programme includes works by Mahler & Marquez, Sat 23 Nov, All Saints Church, Warwickshire

ARMONICO: COME AND SING HANDEL'S MESSIAH Featuring Christopher Monks (director) & members of Armonico Consort, Sat 23 Nov, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

SPIRES: ADVENT CONCERT Featuring Spires Philharmonic Orchestra, Victoria Meteyard & Audrey Mullender (sopranos), Heather Nadin & Gaynor Keeble (mezzo-soprano), Edward Harrison (Tenor) & Peter Lidbetter (Bass). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Saint-Saëns, Handel & Bach, Sat 23 Nov, United Reformed Church,

Baginton Rd, Coventry

WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY Featuring Brittany King (soprano), Frances Gregory (mezzo soprano), Greg Tassell (tenor), Peter Edge (baritone) & Samuel Hudson (conductor). Programme includes works by Mozart & Fauré, Sat 23 Nov, Worcester Cathedral

STANFORD & FRIENDS Featuring Pershore Choral, Charles Matthews (organist) & Carleton Etherington (conductor). Programme includes works by Stanford, Parry, Coleridge Taylor & Vaughan Williams, Sat 23 Nov, Pershore Abbey

CBSO FAMILY CONCERT: MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), Catherine Arlidge MBE (presenter) & Sarah Butt BSL Interpreter). Programme includes soundtracks by John Williams, Lin-Manuel Miranda & more..., Sun 24 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FAMILY CONCERT: THE MAGIC OF ANIMALS Featuring Paul Leddington Wright (conductor). Programme includes Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf - and other 'animal' extracts, Sun 24 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Comedy

JOE PASQUALE Wed 20 Nov, Regal, Tenbury Wells

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, ANDREW MAXWELL & DAISY EARL Thurs 21 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARCEL LUCONT, ALEX CAMP, JOHN NEWTON & DOUGLAS CARTER Thurs 21 Nov, hmv Empire, Coventry

GRACE CAMPBELL Thurs 21 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

DANE BUCKLEY, DAVE FULTON, ANDREW MAXWELL, DAISY EARL & CALEB JAMES Fri 22 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham

SOOZ KEMPNER Fri 22 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE CHAWNER, GARY DELANEY, KYRAH GRAY & IMRAN YUSUF Fri 22 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

JOE PASQUALE Fri 22 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JO ENRIGHT & COMICS TBC Fri 22 Nov, Alvechurch Village Hall, Worcestershire

RICHARD MORTON, MAD RON, SEAN PERCIVAL & DEMITRIS DEECH Fri 22 Nov, South Redditch Sports & Social Club

OMID DJALILI Fri 22 - Sat 23 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

PAUL F TAYLOR, ALEX CAMP, ANDREW DANE BUCKLEY, DAVE FULTON, JOSH PUGH & DAISY EARL Sat 23 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE CHAWNER, GARY DELANEY, KYRAH

GRAY & TOMMY SANDHU Sat 23 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

KANE BROWN Sat 23 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

LUCY PORTER Sat 23 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE COMEDY STORE ON THE ROAD Sat 23 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

TOM WARD Sun 24 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

SHŌN DALE-JONES: THE DUKE A playful show that 'gently challenges our priorities in a world full of crisis', Tues 19 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME Redditch Operatic Society presents an amateur version of Victor Hugo's epic novel, Tues 19 - Sat 23 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BIRDSONG Brand-new version of Sebastian Faulks' epic story of love and loss. Max Bowden (Ben Mitchell in EastEnders), James Esler (Litvinenko) and Charlie Russell (The Goes Wrong Show), star, Tues 19 - Sat 23 Nov, Malvern Theatres

NIGHTMARES Featuring three classic ghost stories, performed live on stage in a gothic show which promises to leave audiences 'quaking' in their seats', Fri 22 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

MAKE GOOD - THE POST OFFICE SCANDAL Pentabus Theatre present a new musical telling the story of the resilience of the sub-postmasters and their families, in what is now recognised to be one of the gravest miscarriages of justice in British history, Fri 22 Nov, Feckenham Village Hall, Redditch

MATILDA THE MUSICAL JR Amateur version presented by the Pauline Quirke Academy, Fri 22 & Sun 24 Nov, The Henrician, Evesham

REWRITES - CHOSEN A pop-rock comedy musical about Sue, an IT support technician in her 60s, who wakes from a coma to discover that half the world has been zombified... Rewrites is a partnership programme showcasing work-in-progress new musicals at the start of their journey, Fri 22 - Sat 23 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

IS THAT A WHIP IN YOUR HAND? A comedy spoof in which Indiana

Jones meets National Treasure meets Lara Croft, Sat 23 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

AUSTENTATIOUS: AN IMPROVISED JANE AUSTEN NOVEL An 'all-star cast' improvise a new Jane Austen novel from a title given by the audience. Performed in period costume with live musical accompaniment, Sun 24 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Jonathan Goodwin portrays Charles Dickens in a one-man show based on the legendary writer's most festive of tales, Sun 24 Nov, Regal, Tenbury Wells

Pantos

DICK WHITTINGTON Iain Laughlan stars in a festive favourite, with plenty of laughter guaranteed, Wed 20 Nov - Sat 4 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK A giant family pantomime starring Sam Rabone, Ben Thornton and Gill Jordan, Fri 22 Nov - Sun 12 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

SLEEPING BEAUTY Amateur version presented by Nouveau Theatre School, Sun 24 Nov, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

Kid's Theatre

FINDING SANTA Little Angel Theatre present a funny and heartwarming Christmas show that invites you and your family to decide how the story unfolds, Wed 20 Nov - Sun 29 Dec, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Dance

THE NUTCRACKER Birmingham Royal Ballet present Sir Peter Wright's iconic version of the festive classic, Fri 22 Nov - Sat 14 Dec, Birmingham Hippodrome

SPELLBOUND: LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! A fusion of different dance styles bring the magic of the movies to the stage, Sat 23 Nov, Warwick Hall, Warwick

SWAN LAKE Timeless ballet presented by Imperial Classical Ballets and featuring a live 30-piece orchestra, Sun 24 Nov, Malvern Theatres

Light Entertainment

WONDERS OF OUR UNIVERSE - THE AVERAGE SCIENTIST Storytelling and visuals combine in an evening of cosmic exploration, Tues 19 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

TIM MURRAY IS WITCHES A fusion of stand-up and original comedy about Tim's favourite pop-culture witches. The show is a tribute to LGBTQIA people 'and how they discover their magic once they find their coven', Tues 19 - Wed 20 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

YOUNG GAY AND A THIRD THING Join fast-rising stand-up Andrew White for a 'hilarious' new show tackling identity, authenticity and musical theatre-themed weddings, Thurs 21 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THAT'LL BE THE DAY CHRISTMAS SHOW Evening of music and comedy sketches, presented alongside renditions of favourite Christmas songs, Thurs 21 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

BINGO IN THE CITY WITH SAMANTHA GROANS Brand-new comedy bingo extravaganza 'sizzling with innuendo and joy', Fri 22 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

WESTENDERS: LES MIZ MAGIC & THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICALS Featuring scores from West Side Story, Phantom Of The Opera, Hamilton, Blood Brothers and many more..., Fri 22 Nov, Number 8,

Pershore

KERRY ELLIS: QUEEN OF THE WEST END Join Kerry for an evening of songs from the biggest musicals and stories about the roles she's played, Sat 23 Nov, Malvern Theatres



THE RAT PACK CHRISTMAS IN VEGAS Direct from London's West End and featuring three talented performers as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr, Sun 24 Nov, Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon

Talks & Spoken Word

JOHN SUCHET IN SEARCH OF BEETHOVEN A special talk to mark the release of John's new book - a deeply personal

account of his relationship with the great composer, Sun 24 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

GEE ATHERTON - HOLD FAST Join the mountain-biking legend as he shares stories from his 'riding life', Sun 24 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Events

MINI MOTORISTS MONDAY Event featuring a reading of Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus, some hands-on craft making and the chance to decorate some cardboard box cars, Mon 18 Nov, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

LETTERPRESS CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP Create your very own festive greeting cards, Mon 18 Nov, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

LETTERPRESS CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP Create your very own festive greeting cards, Thurs 21 Nov, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

POTTERY WORKSHOP Introductory pottery workshop, Thurs 21 Nov, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM TOUR A 45-minute guided tour of a selection of key Birmingham-built objects. Learn about their importance to the city of 1,000 trades and the people who made them, Thurs 21 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

GOOD FOOD SHOW WINTER Experience the joy of the season as top chefs share their favourite seasonal recipes, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM A festive wonderland, with a chance to meet Father Christmas and his elves, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Nov, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

ENCHANTED LIGHT TRAIL Family-friendly illuminated light trail, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Nov, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

VISIT SANTA: VINTAGE SLEIGH RIDE EXPERIENCE Wander through a magical winter wonderland and snowy scenes before taking a ride on a vintage sleigh, Fri 22 Nov - Mon 23 Dec, Coventry Transport Museum

SANTA SAFARI Combining a four-mile winter safari and a visit to Santa in his grotto, Fri 22 Nov - Tues 24 Dec, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster



New for 2024
Autism friendly
quiet hour 9-10am
Saturday 7, 14 and 21
and Monday 23
December

Christmas Tree Festival Thursday 5 December until Monday 6 January

It's back and it's even bigger than ever! With more trees from charities, schools, businesses, community groups and others from across the region to enjoy.

'All is Calm, All is Bright' - Your Cathedral at Night

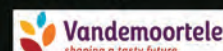
Thursday 12, Monday 16 and Thursday 19 December, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Explore the building with members of our team providing a Christmas themed insight into its history, and enjoy an exclusive evening viewing of the Christmas Tree Festival too.



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Generously sponsored by



WorcesterCathedral

worcestercathedral.org.uk

Gigs

METZ Mon 25 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PENGUIN CAFE Mon 25 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CHRISTINE COLLISTER Mon 25 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

THE RAT PACK Mon 25 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE SOUTHERN RIVER BAND Tues 26 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ARZ Tues 26 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

KARD Tues 26 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GRUFF RHYS + BILL RYDER JONES Tues 26 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? Tues 26 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

HAZLETT Wed 27 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

MODERN LITERATURE + THE VOYEAHS + MONOXIDE BROS Wed 27 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FIT FOR AN AUTOPSY + SYLOSIS + DARKEST HOUR + HERIOT Wed 27 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BARNS AND MELODY Wed 27 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PARIS PALOMA + LUVCAT Wed 27 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA Wed 27 -

Thurs 28 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

IMMERSION Thurs 28 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GULZ + SLUGMAN + YAKOV MCINTOSH Thurs 28 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

KEZIA GILL + BLAKE O'CONNOR Thurs 28 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

JUSTIN NOZUKA Thurs 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LAURA JANE GRACE + THE TRAUMA TROPES + PET NEEDS Thurs 28 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

SLEEP TOKEN + BILMURI Thurs 28 Nov, Utilita

Arena Birmingham

BELLA HARDY Thurs 28 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

ROB LAMBERTI PRESENTS PERFECTLY GEORGE Thurs 28 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

NED'S ATOMIC DUSTBIN + POWER OF DREAMS Thurs 28 Nov, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

KING HERON Thurs 28 Nov, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE URBAN FOLK QUARTET Thurs 28 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SURGEON + JAMES HOLDEN + FRIENDS Fri 29 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

N'FAMADY KOUYATE Fri 29 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham



OASIS MAYBE Fri 29 Nov, The Night Owl, B'ham

INME Fri 29 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE SNUTS + SIOBHAN WINIFRED Fri 29 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE VIEW Fri 29 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE QUIREBOYS Fri 29 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

NORTHERN SOUL ORCHESTRATED Fri 29 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PALACE Fri 29 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CHARLI XCX Fri 29 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham



PETE GATES AND THE BLUETONES + THE CHRISTINA ALDEN AND ALEX PATTERSON Fri 29 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

FROM THE JAM Fri 29 Nov, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE STYLISTICS Fri 29 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

PLATINUM QUEEN Fri 29 Nov, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE SOUNDS OF SIMON Fri 29 Nov, The Benn Hall, Rugby

A BAND CALLED MALICE Fri 29 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

IAN PARKER BAND Fri 29 Nov, Malvern Cube

ZAYN Fri 29 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE LUKA STATE + KROOKED TONGUE Sat 30 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

EMBRACE Sat 30 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

THEN JERICO Sat 30 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

RICO Sat 30 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

PIP BLOM Sat 30 Nov, Castle & Falcon, B'ham

A CORY TRILOGY: PART 2 Sat 30 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

DANIEL BARRIE AND THE DROP D'S Sat 30 Nov, Temperance, Leamington Spa

A CELEBRATION OF NEIL YOUNG Sat 30 Nov, Stratford Playhouse

QUARTZ + BILL BEADLE'S SACRILEGE + GENERAL JACK + THE KINGCRAWLERS Sat 30 Nov, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MANCHESTER IN THE AREA Sat 30 Nov, The Benn Hall, Rugby

ABBA SENSATION Sat 30 Nov, Regal, Tenbury Wells

OLLY IRWIN FEST Sat 30 Nov, Marrs Bar, Worcester

CARPENTERS GOLD Sat 30 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

PETER GILL Sat 30 Nov, Malvern Cube

Classical Music

CBSO: AFRICAN RHAPSODIES

Featuring Seckou Keita (kora), Suntou Susso (guest artist), Clark Rundell (conductor) & the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Wed 27 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

G4 CHRISTMAS Featuring Duncan Sandilands, Jonathan Ansell, Mike Christie & Jai McDowall (voices). Programme includes traditional carols, sacred contemplations, classical favourites and modern festive hits, Wed 27 Nov, Hereford Cathedral

NORTHERN SOUL ORCHESTRATED

Curated by Stuart Macionie and featuring Joe Duddell & the BBC Concert Orchestra, Fri 29 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK CHAMBER CHOIR: THE TIMES THEY ARE CHANGIN' Programme includes works by A Pärt, F Price, R Vaughan Williams & M B James, Fri 29 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CHRISTMAS WITH CONTREPOINT

Programme includes works by Mouton, Praetorius, Massey & more..., Fri 29 Nov, Hereford Cathedral

VIVALDI FOUR SEASONS BY CANDLELIGHT

Featuring The Piccadilly Sinfonietta, Warren Mailley-Smith (piano) & Martyn Jackson (violin). Programme includes works by Pachelbel, Rachmaninov & Vivaldi, Sat 30 Nov, Coventry Cathedral

HUNGARIAN RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Riccardo Frizza (conductor) & Jeneba Kanneh-Mason (piano). Programme includes works by Kodály, Chopin, Liszt & Beethoven, Sat 30 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

A CORY TRILOGY: PART 2 Featuring the Cory Brass Band. Performance includes the screening of a mystery classic movie to help mean-spirited conductor 'Edwyn Scrooch' mend his ways... Sat 30 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

TOM STADE Tues 26 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MIKE RICE Wed 27 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LARRY DEAN Wed 27 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JONNY AWSUM, GBEMI OLADIPO, DAVE TWENTYMAN & COMIC TBC Wed 27 Nov, Macready Theatre, Rugby

GARY DELANEY AND FRIENDS Wed 27 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, ERIC RUSHTON & COMIC TBC Thurs 28 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

IAN STONE Fri 29 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JASON MANFORD Fri 29 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

ALI WOODS, DARREN HARRIOTT, ALEXANDRA HADDOW & JACOB HAWLEY Fri 29 - Sat 30 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MO GILLIGAN Sat 30 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham



TROY HAWKE Sat 30 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

ANDY ZALTZMAN Sat 30 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

DANIEL O'REILLY Sat 30 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Theatre

A TOMB WITH A VIEW The Nonentities present an amateur version of Norman Robbins' murder-mystery play, Mon 25 - Sat 30 Nov, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

GHOST THE MUSICAL Touring production based on one of cinema's biggest all-time hits.

Casting includes Rebekah Lowings as Molly Jenson, Jacqui Dubois as Oda Mae Brown, Josh St. Clair as Sam and James Mateo-Salt as Carl Bruner. Les Dennis also stars, Tues 26 - Sat 30 Nov, Malvern Theatres

THE WIZARD OF OZ Journey to the Emerald City with Birmingham Ormiston Academy's festive show, Tues 26 Nov - Tues 31 Dec, The Old Rep, Birmingham

GLORIOUS! Amateur production of Peter Quilter's play, which tells the true story of Florence Jenkins - 'the worst singer in the world', Wed 27 Nov - Sat 7 Dec, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

WILDE ABOUT OSCAR Join Oscar Wilde for a sparkling and sprightly one-man show in which stories will be told and perhaps a few tears shed. Performed by Jonathan Goodwin, Fri 29 Nov, The Henrician, Evesham

BAH HUMBUG! Liz Grand and Katherine Parker-Jones star in a bitter-sweet comedy that brings a

modern twist to the Scrooge experience, Fri 29 - Sat 30 Nov, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

Panto

CINDERELLA: THE PANTOMIME Fun-filled festive show for all the family, Sat 30 Nov - Sat 4 Jan, The Roses, Tewkesbury

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Festive family fun. Casting includes panto favourites Tam Ryan and Ian Adams, alongside Gladiator's Giant, SIX actor Jarneia Richard-Noel, Blood Brothers' Timothy Lucas and Waitress star Olivia Mitchell. Tom Lowe, who recently starred as King Triton in Unfortunate, also features, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 5 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Kid's Theatre

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW Much-loved production for younger audiences based on four of Eric Carle's storybooks - Brown Bear, Brown Bear; 10 Little Rubber Ducks; The Very Busy Spider and The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Wed 27 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Malvern Theatres

THE SMEDS AND THE SMOOS Stage version of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's joyful story about star-crossed aliens who fall in love and zoom off into space together. Suitable for audiences aged three-plus, Tues 26 Nov - Sun 29 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER A festive interactive musical adventure where every child gets a present from Santa, Sat 30 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

Light Entertainment

THE RAT PACK CHRISTMAS IN VEGAS Direct from London's West End and featuring three talented performers as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr, Mon 25 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DREAMCOAT STARS: A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS Christmas carols, festive favourites and a sprinkling of musical hits, showcased by the stars of Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Wed 27 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET The 'creme de la creme' of the cabaret world take to the stage to surprise and delight..., Thurs 28 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

IAN ASHPITEL AND JONTY STEPHENS AS ERIC AND ERN AT CHRISTMAS A homage to iconic comedy duo

Morcambe & Wise featuring classic routines, songs, sketches and a musical guest, Thurs 28 Nov, The Regal, Tenbury Wells

MASKS OFF Stourbridge-based Side By Side Theatre present a show celebrating the talents of the company's neurodiverse community, Fri 29 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

GOOD EVENING MR. BUBLÉ CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Tribute show featuring hits from Michael's most successful album: Christmas, Fri 29 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET The 'creme de la creme' of the cabaret world take to the stage to surprise and delight..., Sat 30 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

Dance

FABRIC - A BEGINNING #16161D An immersive journey from darkness to light, Thurs 28 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

TOM CASSINI'S ITERATIONS A contemporary exposé of the magician's practice, which centres on Cassini's 15-year obsession with skill and sleight-of-hand, Fri 29 - Sat 30 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks & Spoken Word

GEE ATHERTON - HOLD FAST Join the mountain-biking legend as he shares stories from his 'riding life', Mon 25 Nov, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

AN EVENING WITH SIMON PARKER: A RIDE ACROSS AMERICA Join award-winning travel writer, public speaker & filmmaker Simon Parker for 'a night of adventure'. Featuring a multimedia presentation of tall tales, short films, maps, photos, audio clips and book readings, Thurs 28 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

ANTIQUES EXPERT ON THE ROAD Join Mark Smith as he explores the details and instigation of the Victoria Cross and shares stories of some of the men who have received the country's highest award for bravery, Fri 29 Nov, Stratford Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon

Events

A NIGHT AT THE DARTS Top professional players, including world number one Luke Humphries, go head-to-head, Wed 27 Nov, Cheltenham Racecourse

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP Join Croome's expert

florists as they create floral displays, then make your own festive wreath to take home, Wed 27 Nov, Croome, Worcester

WARWICKSHIRE GIN TASTING Featuring a gin talk, canapés, live music and a backstage tour of the theatre, Thurs 28 Nov, Albany Theatre, Coventry

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM TOUR A 45-minute guided tour of a selection of key Birmingham-built objects. Learn about their importance to the city of 1,000 trades and the people who made them, Thurs 28 Nov, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP Create your own Christmas wreath in the atmospheric surroundings of the Garden Cafe, Thurs 28 Nov, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

WORCESTER VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS FAYRE A Victorian street market with 200 stalls, Thurs 28 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Worcester City Centre

THE BACK TO BACKS BY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS TOUR See the houses decorated for Christmas by the glow of candlelight, Thurs 28 Nov - Thurs 12 Dec, Birmingham Back to Backs

AFTER HOURS Birmingham's Fatt Projects take over the galleries to explore themes of body adornment and identity, Fri 29 Nov, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

CHRISTMAS CARD PRINTING WORKSHOP Make a set of 10 hand-printed Christmas cards and learn print-making skills from art practitioner Maggi, Fri 29 Nov, Croome, Worcester

THE BIG SLEEPOUT Sleep rough for one night to raise funds for St Basils, Fri 29 Nov, Millennium Point, Birmingham

CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS An intimate and extended tour of William Shakespeare's childhood home, Fri 29 - Sat 30 Nov, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM Festive wonderland with a chance to meet Father Christmas and the elves, Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE Check out the work of some of the best craft makers in the region, Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

ENCHANTED LIGHT TRAIL Family-friendly illuminated light trail, Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

MCM COMIC CON Featuring all things comics, gaming, anime and more, Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, NEC, B'ham

CLASSIC ANTIQUE FAIRS Featuring up to 100 specialist dealers offering a wide variety of high-quality pieces, Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, NEC, B'ham

FESTIVE CRAFT MORNING Make

yourself a Christmas wreath or garland, Sat 30 Nov, The Commandery, Worcester

LIGHT UP FEST: CANNON HILL PARK LANTERN PROCESSION MAC's first magical lantern procession - transforming Cannon Hill Park into a glowing wonderland, Sat 30 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

PEOPLE'S DAY Expect workshops, performances and pop-up activity, Sat 30 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BEWDLEY LIGHTS SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICE Travel in style to see the Christmas lights switch-on event in Bewdley, Sat 30 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

ART MASTERCLASS: FESTIVE CANDLE PAINTING Design your own large candles with vibrant acrylic paints, Sat 30 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

SANTA TRAINS Take a 'magical' journey to Arley to see the new Christmas Show, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

ENCHANTED EXPRESS Meet Father Christmas on a steam train, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS KINGDOM Featuring festive activities and entertainment, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Hatton Adventure World, Warwick

ELF CADETS Learn how to load the sleigh, pick the right aircraft for the job and map a route for Santa, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford



FESTIVE FUN Listen to tales of Christmases past and take part in a mini panto, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

FATHER CHRISTMAS Meet the man himself and listen to some seasonal stories around the Christmas tree, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

REINDEER ROUNDUP Santa's reindeer have escaped and they're hiding all around The Commandery. Can you find them all?, Sat 30 Nov - Tues 31 Dec, The Commandery, Worcester

BODENHAM ARBORETUM CHRISTMAS TRAIL Christmas takes over the grounds with two themed trails, Sat 30 Nov - Fri 1 Jan, Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster

WHAT'S ON 2025

LIVE EVENTS IN SHREWSBURY SPRING 2025/SUMMER 2025

Fri 22 Nov:	Vicky Jackson as P!NK
Sun 24 Nov:	Luke Combs UK Tribute
Thu 28 Nov:	Murder: Staged
Fri 29 Nov:	Stripe - Ultimate R.E.M Tribute
Sat 30 Nov:	Christmas Bongo's Bingo
Sun 1 Dec:	Frozen Party 11.30am & 2.15pm
Sun 1 Dec:	Jason Allan Live
Fri 6 Dec:	Massaoke Christmas Singalong
Sat 7 Dec:	Christmas Bongo's Bingo
Thu 12 Dec:	Robbie Williams by Dan Budd
Fri 13 Dec:	Christmas Bongo's Bingo
Sat 14 Dec:	The Emo Fest
Sun 15 Dec:	Christmas Motown Legends Live Show
Wed 18 Dec:	Christmas Rat Pack Live
Thu 19 Dec:	Gordon Hendricks as Elvis
Fri 20 Dec:	Showaddywaddy Live
Sat 21 Dec:	Mercury - Queen Tribute
Sun 22 Dec:	Rob Lamberti Perfectly George
Fri 27 Dec:	The ABBA GOLD Party
Sat 28 Dec:	Big 80s Party ft Erasured/Pet Shop Boys
Sun 29 Dec:	The Dolly Show
Tue 31 Dec:	Bongo's Bingo NYE Special
Fri 10 Jan:	Dookie - Green Day tribute
Sat 11 Jan:	Glam 45 live - the ultimate 70s party!
Fri 17 Jan:	These Smiths
Sat 18 Jan:	The Upbeat Beatles - back by demand!
Sun 19 Jan:	The Princess Party 11.30am & 2.15pm
Fri 24 Jan:	The Moderators - SKA/2 TONE Band
Sun 26 Jan:	Ryan Evans Country Music Show
Fri 31 Jan:	Young Elton - tribute to Elton John
Sat 1 Feb:	Martin Kemp - Back to the 80s
Fri 7 Feb:	Chasing Mumford
Sun 9 Feb:	An Evening of Adele
Fri 14 Feb:	The Diana Ross Story
Sun 16 Feb:	Taylor Swift Eras Party
Fri 21 Feb:	DS:UK - Dire Straits Tribute
Sat 22 Feb:	Meat Loaf's Greatest Hits
Wed 26 Feb:	Marilyn & Tia - Psychic Night
Thu 27 Feb:	Tom Petty - Heartbreak Show
Fri 28 Feb:	Coldplace - ultimate Coldplay tribute
Fri 7 March:	Kate Bush - Moments of Pleasure
Sat 8 March:	Sounds of Seattle - Let's Rock!
Fri 14 March:	Moremetallic + Support: Ruffnecks
Fri 21 March:	The Indie Fest
Sun 23 March:	Faulty Towers Dining Experience
Fri 28 March:	ELO 2 Star Phil Bates in The Cellars
Fri 28 March:	Gold to Rio + Duran Duran/Spandau Ballet
Fri 4 April:	Fleeting Rumours + Toto UK
Sat 5 April:	90s Revival - all day 90s Party
Sun 6 April:	Beauty & The Beast 11.30am & 2.15pm
Fri 11 April:	Guns 2 Roses
Fri 18 April:	Gerry Cinnamon Experience
Fri 25 April:	New Purple Celebration
Sat 26 April:	Black Charade/Fall Out Boy tribute
Sun 27 April:	Shaun Ryder (Happy Mondays)

PLUS MANY MORE GIGS & EVENTS ANNOUNCED!

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