

Staffordshire

ISSUE 454 NOVEMBER 2024

# What's On

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

staffordshirewhatson.co.uk



**JONATHAN WILKES**  
**CHRISTIAN PATTERSON** **KAI OWEN**

**Dick Whittington**  
THE PANTOMIME PAVED WITH GOLD

**GINA MURRAY**  
**SAMARA CASTEALLO**

**FRI 13 DEC 2024 -**  
**SUN 5 JAN 2025**

**REGENT THEATRE**  
**STOKE-ON-TRENT**

AN ATG ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

**ATGTICKETS.COM/Stoke**

\*Fees apply.

## inside:

### ON A MISSION!

The Book Of Mormon - back in the Midlands for Christmas



### A TASTY LINE-UP..

culinary delights as the Good Food Show Winter returns

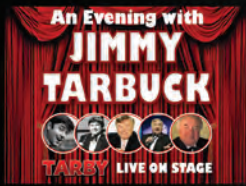


### ALL FOR ONE...

swashbuckling New Vic fun with The Three Musketeers



# gatehouse theatre



An Evening with  
Jimmy Tarbuck  
November 3



Dazzling Diamonds:  
The Comedy  
Variety Drag Show  
November 16



The Rolling Clones  
November 9



Mr Sleepybum  
November 17



A Joke  
November 13



Buddy Holly and  
The Cricketers  
November 19



The Comedy  
of Terrors!  
November 14



The Super Duper  
70s Show  
November 22



Bye Bye Baby  
November 15



Tenors Unlimited:  
Great Songs Tour  
November 23



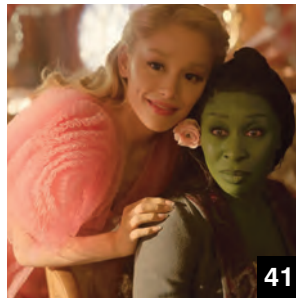
Hauntings  
November 16



Carl Hutchinson:  
Today Years Old  
November 24

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**  
A GIANT PANTOMIME ADVENTURE  
FRI 6 DEC 24 - SUN 5 JAN 25

Eastgate Street, Stafford | 01785 619080 | [gatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://gatehousetheatre.co.uk)



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### What's On

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## New exhibition opens at Wolverhampton gallery

Analogue photography is combined with a state-of-the-art robotic system in a free-to-attend exhibition at Wolverhampton Art Gallery this month.

A Perfect Sentence is artist Oliver Frank Chanarin's first UK solo project. Described as 'an interrogation of the photographic image in the age of the algorithm', the project saw Oliver work with Wolverhampton School of Art and several community groups in the city to capture portraits of local people.

The show runs from Saturday 2 November to Sunday 23 February. More information is available by visiting the gallery's website at [wolverhamptonart.org.uk](http://wolverhamptonart.org.uk)

## Tamworth Castle events to spread Christmas cheer

Tamworth Castle is spreading the festive cheer in the run-up to Christmas via a family-friendly programme of events and activities. The venue kicks off its festive-season celebrations late this month (Thursday 28 November) with Green Matthews' Midwinter Revels, a special show featuring 'Christmas carols, winter folk songs, toe-tapping tunes and a plethora of weird and wonderful instruments'. To check out the popular visitor attraction's whole Christmas programme, visit [tamworthcastle.co.uk](http://tamworthcastle.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, kicks off at Stafford Gatehouse on Wednesday 26 February.

The tour will also visit MAC Birmingham, Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury, the Lichfield Garrick, Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre and Tewkesbury's Roses Theatre. For further information about the show and to book your tickets, visit [labyrinthlive2025.com](http://labyrinthlive2025.com)

## 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](http://bmusic.co.uk)

## The return of Weston Park Christmas markets

If you want to get ahead with all your Christmas shopping, then Weston Park's Christmas Market could well be the destination to head for.

Taking place on Saturday 30 November & Sunday 1 December, the event features a wide selection of gifts created by talented crafters, a range of artisan food & drink, live music, and the chance to take a ride on Weston's miniature railway. More information is available at [weston-park.com](http://weston-park.com)



## Rodgers & Hammerstein tribute to visit the region

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 orchestra's website: [sinfoniaoflondon.com](http://sinfoniaoflondon.com)

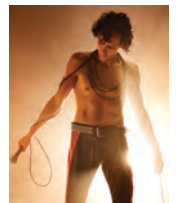
## More Splinters Of Heaven at St Mary's Church

A new Splinters Of Heaven 'son et lumiere' show is visiting St Mary's Church in Shrewsbury on Wednesday 6 November. Using imagery from the 14th-century Jesse window, the interior of the church will be lit from within by thousands of projected shards of light, transforming St Mary's into a giant kaleidoscope.

## Bat Out Of Hell musical back in Stoke in 2025

Award-winning musical *Bat Out Of Hell* will stop off at the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent next year as part of a UK tour. Featuring Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf's greatest hits, the production shows at the venue from Monday 30 June to Saturday 5 July.

To book tickets, visit [atgtickets.com/stoke](http://atgtickets.com/stoke)



## 'Murder most foul' event coming to the Midlands

A 'true crime' talk featuring a live psychopath test is coming to the Midlands.

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 The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, on Thursday 28 November and Stafford Gatehouse Theatre on Saturday 15 February. To find out more and book tickets, visit the venues' websites.

## Midlands date 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 [andrerieu.com](http://andrerieu.com)

## Olly Murs to play Ludlow Castle

Olly Murs will play Ludlow Castle next summer as part of a major UK tour. The one-time X Factor star performs at the Shropshire venue on Saturday 26 July, with ticket information available at [futuresound.seetickets.com](http://futuresound.seetickets.com)



## Paul Chowdhry out on tour

Comedian Paul Chowdhry will be stopping off at two Midlands venues next year as part of an extensive stand-up tour. Paul will bring new show Englandia to Stoke's Victoria Hall on Friday 21 March and Birmingham's Utilita Arena on Saturday 31 May. To find out more and book tickets, visit [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk)



## 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](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

## Rick swinging into Christmas...

Eighties pop favourite Rick Astley is visiting the Midlands next month with his brand-new big-band touring show. Rick's Swinging Christmas, featuring a host of festive classics, stops off at University of Wolverhampton at The Halls on Saturday 14 December. For further information and to book tickets, visit [tix.to/RASC2024](http://tix.to/RASC2024)



## Shakespeare's Hamlet, Radiohead style!

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](http://rsc.org.uk)



## Iconic Glass Cone reopens its doors

With the £1.5million restoration of Stourbridge's Red House Glass Cone nearing completion, members of the general public are now being invited to take a sneak peek inside the building. The Dudley Council-run site has been partially closed for the last 12 months while essential but sensitive work has been carried out to protect and conserve the building for future generations. While the team is busy completing the finishing touches, it's now safe for people to go into the Cone and see the progress being made. The Cone is free to enter. Opening times are Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm and Saturday & Sunday from 11am to 4pm.

## 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 Stafford Gatehouse on Thursday 13 February, Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn (Sunday 2 March) and Lichfield Garrick (Tuesday 4 March).



## Garrick launches this year's Big Ticket Appeal

Lichfield Garrick Theatre has launched its rebranded Big Ticket Appeal, formerly known as the Christmas Ticket Appeal. The hugely popular initiative helps young people who may have experienced trauma, bereavement, illness or financial problems to attend the Garrick's pantomime 'and experience the magic of Christmas no matter what their circumstances'.

Individuals can donate to the Appeal on the theatre's website ([lgtl.ink/bigticket](http://lgtl.ink/bigticket)) or in person when they attend this year's pantomime. Businesses which would like to become a sponsor should email [matthew.clay@lichfieldgarrick.com](mailto:matthew.clay@lichfieldgarrick.com). This year's Garrick panto, Jack And The Beanstalk, opens this month, on Friday the 22nd.

## The hunt is on for the next Young Poet Laureate

The hunt is on for Wolverhampton's next Young Poet Laureate and Primary Poet Champion.

As part of the 2025 Wolverhampton Literature Festival, the council's library service has launched a competition for local schools to find a Young Poet Laureate aged between 12 and 18 and a Primary Poet Champion aged seven to 11.

To enter, children and young people are asked to write a poem about friendship entitled 'Life is better with friends'.

Entries should be emailed to [els@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:els@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

The deadline for submissions is Friday 29 November. Finalists will be invited to a live event to find the overall winner in each age category.



## 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](http://ANightToRememberShow.com)

## First acts announced 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 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](http://mostlyjazz.co.uk)

## Sting to play Cannock Chase Forest in 2025

Next year's Forest Live programme of events, taking place in Cannock Chase Forest, will be headlined by Sting.

The award-winning solo star and one-time frontman of The Police will perform in the Staffordshire woodland on Friday 27 June. Ticket information is available at [forestlive.com](http://forestlive.com)



## Enjoy a festive roast at Newhampton Arts Centre

RuPaul's Drag Race UK contestant Michael Marouli is making a stop-off at Wolverhampton's Newhampton Arts Centre

early next month with a brand-new show. Michael Marouli's Christmas Roast visits the venue on Wednesday 4 December. For more information and to book tickets, visit [newhamptonarts.co.uk](http://newhamptonarts.co.uk)

## Horror film festival returning for a fifth year

A popular celebration of the horror-film genre is returning to Stourbridge next month.

The fifth Black Country Horror Shorts Film Festival takes place at the town's Ruskin Glass Centre on Saturday 7 December. To book tickets, visit [blackcountryhorror.com](http://blackcountryhorror.com)




## Hit play Handbagged to tour to Wolverhampton

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 the Midlands next year as part of a national tour.

Moira Buffini's Handbagged stops off at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Thursday 27 February to Saturday 1 March. For further information and to purchase tickets, visit the venue's website: [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk)

# B:Music

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

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**Everybody Dance with  
Claire Richards**  
03 Nov | Town Hall



**Max Richter**  
05 Nov | Symphony Hall



**Ultimate Boyband  
Party Show**  
07 Nov | Town Hall



**Dick & Angel: Forever Home**  
08 Nov | Symphony Hall



**Pat Metheny:  
Dream Box/MoonDial Tour**  
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®**  
11am-4pm Mon-Sat & pre-show

  
**bmusic.co.uk**

  
There's something for everyone this November!

## Church to host candlelit Christmas concert

Wolverhampton's St Peter's Collegiate Church will next month host a candlelit Christmas concert featuring the critically acclaimed Anthem! choir. Taking place on Thursday 12 December, the concert is raising funds for Wolverhampton Samaritans, to help the organisation carry out its vital work 'providing essential emotional support to those who need it most'. Tickets can be purchased from [samaritanscommunity.enthuse.com](http://samaritanscommunity.enthuse.com)

## Tibetan monks to visit Shrewsbury theatre

Eight Tibetan monks are visiting Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn this month to present 'an exhilarating programme of mantras, music and dance'. The monks, all of whom hail from Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, make a stop-off at the venue on Tuesday 19 November. Tickets are available at [theatresevern.co.uk](http://theatresevern.co.uk)

## New exhibition tells Shropshire war story

The details of a fascinating First World War story have been revealed thanks to a brand-new display at Shrewsbury Castle's Soldiers Of Shropshire Museum. Featuring a selection of mementoes which had been kept in a suitcase, the exhibition focuses on Emmie Chester, a young woman who left her comfortable family life in Shrewsbury to embark on a journey to Rouen in France as a member of the newly established Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. The display of Emmie's mementoes has been made into a permanent exhibit at the museum.



## First phase of Telford 'theatre quarter' now complete

The first phase of Telford & Wrekin Council's Oakengates Theatre Quarter project has been revealed. The hoarding from Units 10 to 22 Limes Walk has been removed by the Council's appointed contractor, Morris Property, to reveal the development which is taking shape behind - the conversion of dated 1960s

retail units into modern retail units, complete with new residential units above. The Theatre Quarter project aims to regenerate the town centre and boost footfall into Oakengates - 'transforming the 1960s shopping precinct into a modern, welcoming shopping experience for residents and visitors'.

## Follow The Star... to a Staffordshire village

St Chad's Church in the Staffordshire village of Pattingham is next month hosting a brand-new Christmas attraction called Follow The Star. The three-day community event (Friday 13 - Sunday 15 December) will see the church festooned with decorated and illuminated stars 'of all sizes and colours, all created by villagers and their supporters from Pattingham'.

evening of the 8th). Tickets are free and can be booked at [ticketsource.co.uk/women-theatre](http://ticketsource.co.uk/women-theatre)

## Time to sup up as Dudley beer fair makes a return

The annual Dudley Winter Ales Fayre returns to Dudley Town Hall this month. The popular event, which is organised by the Dudley & South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale, will feature 72 beers and runs from Thursday 28 to Saturday 30 November. To buy tickets in advance, visit [camra.org.uk](http://camra.org.uk)

## New Women & Theatre show tours the Midlands

A new one-woman show from a critically acclaimed local theatre company is touring to Midlands venues this month. Women & Theatre's Miss Ida - 'Tek charge of yuh health' is a celebration of 'the highs and lows of our autumn years, exploring lifestyle and wellbeing'. The production premiered during Black History Month and is visiting three venues in November: Birmingham's Legacy Centre (on Thursday the 7th), Smethwick's Brasshouse (the afternoon of Friday the 8th) and Shiloh Church in West Bromwich (the

## Dawn of history explored in brand-new exhibition

Midlands historians are being invited to step into the ancient Shropshire landscape this month, courtesy of a brand-new exhibition at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery. Opening on Saturday 2 November, Sun & Fire: Life And Death At The Dawn Of History takes a look at life in the county between 4,500 and 2,000 years ago. The interactive exhibition will remain available to view until Wednesday 30 April.



# WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT

# ATG TICKETS

## Regent Theatre



The international smash hit returns  
**Ghost the Musical**  
Tue 12 – Sat 16 Nov



Legendary soul group  
**The Stylistics**  
Tue 19 Nov



The 'sexiest musical ever'  
**Chicago**  
Mon 25 – Sat 30 Nov



You'd be a plonker to miss this  
**Only Fools & Horses  
The Musical**  
Mon 2 – Sat 7 Dec



The Pantomime paved with gold  
**Dick Whittington**  
Fri 13 Dec – Sun 5 Jan



Experience China  
Before Communism  
**Shen Yun**  
Tue 28 & Wed 29 Jan

## Victoria Hall



Dust off your air guitars!  
**The Ultimate  
Classic Rock Show**  
Sat 2 Nov



A celebration of The Eagles  
**The Illegal Eagles**  
Sun 10 Nov



Europe's most successful  
Elvis Presley tribute artist  
**One Night of Elvis –  
Lee 'Memphis' King**  
Fri 29 Nov



Get ready for a  
swingin' Christmas!  
**The Rat Pack: A Swingin'  
Christmas at the Sands**  
Sat 30 Nov

# EX CATHEDRA

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Moseley  
London  
Wolverhampton  
Coventry  
Birmingham

Touring 4 – 20 December



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# B:Festive

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

## Christmas Cheer starts with B:Music!

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[bmusic.co.uk/bfestive](http://bmusic.co.uk/bfestive)



Classical music from across the region...



**Halle Orchestra** Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 8 November

The Manchester-based Halle are admired around the world for their extensive orchestral repertoire. This latest Victoria Hall appearance sees Olari Elts (pictured) picking up the baton to conduct a concert featuring compositions

by Beethoven (Egmont Overture), Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto) and Tchaikovsky (Symphony No6; Pathétique). The soloist for the evening is acclaimed Dutch violinist Rosanne Philippens.

**London Concertante**

Lichfield Cathedral, Sun 10 November

While it's a given that they take the business of musicmaking extremely seriously, there's certainly nothing stuffy about London Concertante. Indeed, 50 percent of people who attend a performance by this 33-year-old chamber orchestra are first-time classical music concert-goers - a statistic which speaks volumes for the ensemble's commitment to remaining at all times light-of-touch and refreshingly accessible. The Concertante here present a candlelit performance of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Ralph Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending.

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 No2.



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.

**Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 30 November

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

**Three Tenors by Candlelight**

Shrewsbury Abbey, Sat 16 November

Operatic classics and timeless favourites abound in this candlelit experience presented by three highly praised tenors: Samuel Kibble, William Searle and Rhys Meilyr. The concert's publicity is promising 'an unforgettable night of music that will stir your soul and leave you spellbound'.

**The Phoenix Singers: Gloria!**

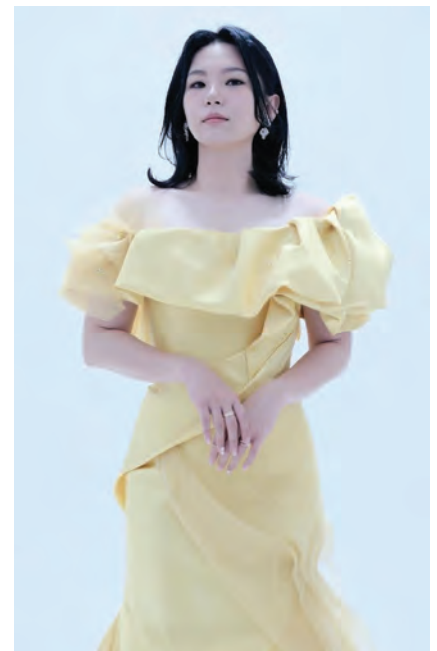
St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, Sat 16 November

Next year celebrating their 60th birthday, Shrewsbury-based chamber choir The Phoenix Singers perform a repertoire that encompasses a wide variety of music. Their concert this month is a celebration of Baroque masterpieces from the greatest composers of the age. Featured works are Handel's Dixit Dominus, Vivaldi's Gloria, and two pieces by Bach - his joyful motet, Lobet den Herrn, and his dazzling Concerto For Violin & Oboe. The choir is joined by Noxwode Baroque on period instruments.

**Classical Spectacular**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 10 November

This annual extravaganza serves up lights, lasers, and more 'spectacular classics' than you can shake a conductor's baton at. Much-loved compositions being given an airing include Ravel's Bolero, Strauss' Also Sprach Zarathustra, Handel's Zadok The Priest, Sibelius' Finlandia and Parry's Jerusalem. Featuring the London Concert Orchestra with conductor Anthony Inglis, the event also includes contributions from the London Concert Choir and the City of Birmingham Choir. The soloists are soprano Haegee Lee (pictured) and tenor Elgan Llŷr Thomas.



# PANTO AT THE DOUBLE!

The festive season is drawing ever closer... and we all know what that means, don't we? Yep, that's right, it's Panto time! Oh, yes it is!

At the heart of every great pantomime is a fabulous comedy double-act - two top-quality laughter merchants poised and ready to provide their audience with slapstick, silliness, and a good old-fashioned 'ghost gag' or several.

It might feel like Christmas has crept up on us, but most of these funny folk have had their heads in Pantoland for many a month in preparation. As directors, writers, performers and all-round agents of chaos, they really have seen it all, from costume malfunctions to the hazards of slosh. And they all have one very important thing in common - the power to warm hearts with a good giggle at the chilliest time of the year. We spoke to delightful duos from all around the region, to discover what they've got in store for 2024...

## Beauty And The Beast at Wolverhampton Grand

This year sees the return of panto dame Ian Adams, as Madame Fifi Fou-Fou, and comic Tam Ryan, as Joey. The pair have already started their collaboration, writing the show together for the second year running!

This year's script is now signed off and ready! Do you ever have a difference of opinion during the writing process?

**Ian:** We stopped tinkering last week, didn't we? I think Tam came up with the first idea, the opening number. We've got a funny relationship with music. I'll suggest something, and if Tam doesn't like it, he'll say 'Ooh, it's a bit plinky-plonky'...

**Tam:** I do say plinky plonky! It's an under-used term.

**Ian:** ...and I always say 'Trust me' - unless I think he's right!

And how does your working relationship transfer from the page to the stage?

**Tam:** Working with Ian, we've got a really good rapport, which actually keeps getting better. He knows when I'm going to run off with the ball, and I can see something in his eyes - he doesn't have to signal to me, he doesn't have to give me a pinch. We get each other.

**Ian:** And when we're writing, I write it because I know that's what he would say!

**Beauty And The Beast shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Saturday 30 November until Sunday 5 January**



## Jack And The Beanstalk at Lichfield Garrick

Panto favourites Sam Rabone and Ben Thornton return to Lichfield for a Giant of a show. It's the fifth time the pair have walked the boards together at Christmas - and they're ready for anything!

What's it like performing together on stage?

**Sam:** Awful! I'm quite a good actor really, because people think I like him! He makes me look good as well - the fact he's got no hair, and I have.

**Ben:** It's lovely having a rapport with someone who you know - it's just easy. You can't rehearse that.

**Sam:** Being able to let each other breathe as well.

Sometimes when you work with somebody new, you don't know their rhythm.

And what are you most excited about in this year's show?

**Sam:** We've put a twist on the story, which I really like. I'm excited that it's a different version of Jack And The Beanstalk, which you probably haven't seen around here before. And... we've got slosh back!

**Ben:** Yeah! Slosh is good - I think I'm going to get my revenge on you this year; that's all I'm saying.

**Sam:** Revenge of the Slosh! It's going to be the biggest panto we've had.

**Jack And The Beanstalk shows at Lichfield Garrick Theatre from Friday 22 November until Sunday 12 January**

## Sleeping Beauty at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury's favourite Dame, Brad Fitt, is back this year. As well as directing the show, he's also starring as Nurse Nellie alongside returning sidekick Tommy J Rollason, who'll be bringing his circus skills to the stage as Jangles.

**Are you both excited about bringing your characters to life?**

**Brad:** I have been Nurse Nellie before. I think this is only my second Sleeping Beauty. At Theatre Severn, we've done lots of different titles. It's good that we're only just starting to repeat them now.

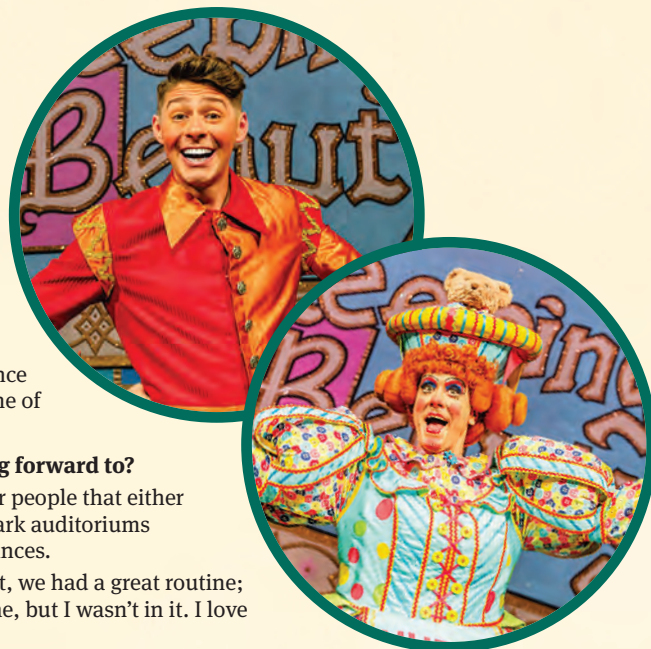
**Tommy:** My role is to keep the energy up in the show. I like to think I'm part of the audience, really. If anything goes wrong - which it does in panto - the audience can relate to me and Brad. I'm Jangles, who is a jester, so I'll be able to bring some of my juggling tricks along!

**You have a long run of shows ahead - is there anything you're really looking forward to?**

**Brad:** One of my favourite shows is the Relaxed performance; I love them. It's for people that either have sensory issues, or maybe they're neurodivergent, or maybe they just find dark auditoriums challenging. We have a great time, and it's become one of my favourite performances.

**Tommy:** I would say the slosh! When I first came here, for Beauty And The Beast, we had a great routine; it was manic. Then Jack And The Beanstalk last year, we had a great slosh routine, but I wasn't in it. I love physical comedy.

**Sleeping Beauty shows at Theatre Severn from Friday 29 November until Sunday 12 January**



## Peter Pan at Birmingham Hippodrome

Hippodrome legend Matt Slack is ready to shiver his timbers as salty seadog Smee in what will be his 11th consecutive panto at the venue. Birmingham's very own Alison Hammond can't wait to join him on stage for a second year running, this time as the Magical Mermaid.

**Alison, what was your favourite moment last year?**

**Alison:** The Strictly dance with Matt! There's always a little moment with me and him - that was one reason I wanted to come back. The only problem is, in that dress, I can't dance! I can't even sit down, because there's glass bubbles on the bottom!

**When chaos and silliness reign, how do you keep the show on track, Matt?**

**Matt:** I think we've been doing it for so long now, it just comes naturally - it always has with me. You've got to know where to draw the line, and push the boundaries. We are aimed towards a family audience, but we also want to entertain the adults. It's all about double entendre and disguising it - as long as it goes over the kids' heads and the adults are laughing, that's a job done!

**Alison, is there anything that you really want to bring back?**

**Alison:** I'd like to have a little dance moment, and I'd like to sing - I didn't sing last year, really. I think we should have a little Ariel moment. People need to hear what I can unleash!

**Peter Pan shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Saturday 21 December until Sunday 2 February**



## Dick Whittington at Stoke's Regent Theatre

Local lad Jonathan Wilkes appears as Dick Whittington and celebrates 20 years since his Regent Theatre panto debut. The show sees him reunited with Christian Patterson, who will be whipping up a storm as Sarah the Cook...

**After many years performing in the Regent panto, do you recall any mishaps?**

**Christian:** What about when we were doing Peter Pan, Jonny? We did the Mastermind sketch, and you fell off a chair and ripped your trousers from... well, let's just say, from Lands End to John O' Groats!

**Jonny:** It wasn't a good look. Christian couldn't continue without laughing at me - I just went with it!

**Jonny, this is your 20th year in panto at Stoke. How does that feel?**

**Jonny:** My 20th year means the world to me - I still get emotional thinking that I've been asked to do this for 20 years. You could get somebody else, but I tell you what, you wouldn't get the love, care and passion I bring.

**And what is it about the audiences that keeps you coming back?**

**Christian:** They're the absolute best!

**Jonny:** Pantomime is sometimes the first time a young child ever comes into this theatre. It's our responsibility to make them believe what theatre's about - it's a magical place.

**Dick Whittington shows at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Friday 13 December until Sunday 5 January**



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# It's Panto time! Oh, yes it is!

## Goldilocks And The Three Bears at Telford International Centre

This year, Telford's panto has temporarily relocated, while the theatre is undergoing exciting renovations. Don't fret, though - regular comedy twosome Ian Smith and Carl Dutfield are back to wow the crowds as the Circus Ringmistress and Clown...

You two have worked together many times before - what's it like getting back on stage?

**Ian:** I'm reunited with my son Carl! I think this is probably our 10th year working together now. We first got together in 2014 and then did some tours as well - it's our fourth year together in Telford.

**Carl:** He was one of my very first panto Dames, when I used to work for a holiday company. Years later we came to Telford together and it's been good ever since!

And what is it about Telford audiences that you love?

**Carl:** How unexpected they can be. I believe the more unpredictable an audience can be, the better you can become as a performer.

**Ian:** A comic, someone like Carl, the kids love him; they absolutely adore him. I think the Dame is for the family, but I play mine to the dads and the grannies. Dad's worked really hard to take his family to the theatre to make this memory, so I've got to make sure Dad laughs!

**Goldilocks And The Three Bears shows at Telford International Centre from Tuesday 17 December until Thursday 2 January**



## Jack And The Beanstalk at Stafford Gatehouse

Wink Taylor and Wendy Abrahams are a longstanding double act both on and off the stage - and they will be joined yet again by the ever-popular (and ever-unruly) Theo the Mouse...

Which characters are you all playing in Jack And The Beanstalk?

**Wendy:** Well, I'm going to be playing the fairy, and Theo is going to be my sidekick. You're going to be working in the dairy, aren't you?

**Theo:** Yeah, I'm the chief cheese taster! I'm going to eat all the props and everyone will say, 'Oh no, not that mouse. I camembert him!'

**Wendy:** ...I'm so sorry, it's all started way too early.

**Wink:** Oh, Edam you all... Theo's cheesy by nature, he really is! I'm going to be playing Squire Penkridge.

So, can we expect Theo to be just as mischievous in this year's panto?

**Wink:** Oh yes! Last year people were cheering for Wendy and Theo as soon as they arrived.

**Wendy:** They just know that something naughty and funny is going to happen.

**Theo:** How dare you, Wendy, you'll be hearing from my solicitors!

**Wendy:** I think he's going to be far naughtier this year, for some reason...

**Jack And The Beanstalk shows at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre from Friday 6 December until Sunday 5 January**

Read the full interviews with our panto stars at [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)

# ENTERTAINMENT CANNOCK CHASE at the PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE

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### LEGEND - THE MUSIC OF BOB MARLEY

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### DREAMS OF FLEETWOOD MAC

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### CRISSY ROCK

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### BRYAN ROBSON

Football legend talks about his illustrious and action-packed career  
Wednesday 13 November



### THE GLAM ROCK SHOW

Grab your *Tiger Feet* as we say *Bye Bye Baby* to the *Spirit in the Sky*  
Friday 15 November



### THE MANFREDS

One of the greatest 1960s bands with their *Hits & More in '24* tour  
Saturday 16 November



### ALED JONES

Featuring never-before-heard music and his story in his own words  
Thursday 21 November



### JIMMY CARR

Back for another Dudley double with shows at both 7pm and 10pm  
Friday 22 November



### LEGEND

An unforgettable celebration of the music of reggae icon Bob Marley  
Saturday 23 November



### MOONLIGHT SINATRA

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Sunday 24 November



### LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND

An evening of pure joy filled with Victoria Wood's best-loved songs  
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### STARSAILOR

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Live music from across the region...

## Hard-Fi

The Wulfrun at The Halls Wolverhampton,  
Fri 22 November

Noughties favourites Hard-Fi visit the region this month in support of their first new material in 10 years. Having made a splash with debut album *Stars Of CCTV* back in 2005 - following up with a second chart-topper, *Once Upon A Time In The West*, two years later - the band called it a day in 2014, finally re-forming a couple of years ago. The Staines-upon-Thames four-piece's Wolverhampton stop-off will see them performing songs from EP *Don't Go Making Plans*, released this very month.



## Welly

Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury, Fri 29 November

Welly's musical influences are many and varied, including The Human League, the poppy-disco of Sophie Ellis-Bextor, New Radicals and Mika, and numerous television programmes - among them, er, *Postman Pat* and *Fireman Sam*!

Hailing from Southampton and teaming up with guitarists Joe and Matt, bass player Jacob and percussionist Hannah, Welly (aka Elliot Hall) is setting out his stall to write songs that capture a sense of modern-day suburban life. "In the past 100 years, this country's become so diverse, and there's so many people doing amazing different things," he recently told NME. "England doesn't export steel or cars anymore; we export media. There's so many amazing artists, thinkers, musicians - we should focus on that."



## The Carrivick Sisters

Burton Folk Club, Staffordshire, Fri 15 November; Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Sat 16 November

Twins Laura and Charlotte have been performing together since 2006, showcasing their original songs alongside a few

carefully chosen covers on guitar, mandolin, fiddle, clawhammer banjo and dobro. Drawing inspiration from their passion both for English folklore and traditional American bluegrass and old-time music, the pair have performed at major festivals in Canada and mainland Europe.

## Elkie Brooks

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
Wed 6 November

With an impressive 60-plus years in the music industry behind her and 20 albums under her belt, Elkie Brooks quite rightly continues to hold the title of British Queen of Blues.

Having kicked off her new tour, *The Long Farewell*, at Shrewsbury Folk Festival back in the summer, she's this month returning to the town to present a gig featuring all her greatest hits, including Pearl's *A Singer*, *Fool (If You Think It's Over)*, *Don't Cry Out Loud* and *Sunshine After The Rain*.

## Henge

The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 21 November

"Attention Earth! This is Henge. We bring you the gift of cosmic dross - a kind of music new to your world. There are no Earth words to describe these sounds, but you will learn how to love and dance again!"

So speaks the phenomenon that is Henge, a band of extraterrestrial joymongers who've been providing their ever-expanding fanbase with an out-of-this-world experience for the better part of a decade. The cosmic dross of which they speak is a music that aims to defy definition, lurking somewhere between rave and prog rock in a space 'that nobody knew existed'. As you might imagine with visitors from another

planet, the boys sport a somewhat unusual on-stage appearance - expect reptilian masks and plasma-ball headwear...

## Beans On Toast

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,  
Wed 13 November

Self-confessed hippie drunkard Beans On Toast selected his name because he wanted to be called something basic and simple - to reflect his music!

"I'm not the greatest guitarist in the world," he once admitted to *Listen Up Manchester*. "I play simple three-chord folk songs, but if I see something that interests me, something that intrigues or angers me, I pick up my guitar and I write a song." Emerging from the London folk scene over a decade ago and mainly singing about sex, drugs and politics, Beans On Toast is a surefire bet for an entertaining evening out.





ON AIR

# Christmas

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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

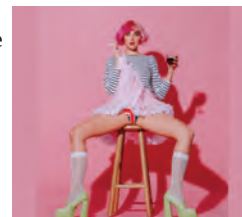
Observational comedian Carl Hutchinson makes a welcome return with a show that covers all manner of common-or-garden topics. Prior to becoming a full-time stand-

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 Verney

REWRITES

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PERFORMED LIVE WITH DANCERS

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**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

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THE NEXT GENERATION

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Wed 19 Feb - Sat 1 Mar 2025

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**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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## 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**

# REBELS

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## 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](http://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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Sunday Times



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ENGLAND

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



### The Textile Fair

Fri 8 – Sun 10 Nov

Browse an exciting and abundant range of  
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items available for every budget.



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### Neon Naked Life Drawing

Sat 16 Nov

Under UV lights, draw models adorned in  
neon body paint, accompanied by music,  
food and drinks.



### After Hours

Fri 29 Nov

Explore themes of body adornment and  
identity as Compton Verney comes alive  
After Hours.

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## WORKSHOPS



### Introduction to Pottery

Thu 21 Nov



### Wreath Making

Fri 29 and Sat 30 Nov

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



EXHIBITION  
**CHILA  
KUMARI  
SINGH  
BURMAN**

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.

.....  
**For further information about Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, including opening times, exhibitions and associated activities, visit the venue's website: [birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://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, 11 am - 5 pm

Booking essential, Pay what you choose

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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Your week-  
by-week  
listings guide  
November 2024

# the list



Chicago at Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent - Mon 25 - Sat 30 November

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

## What's On

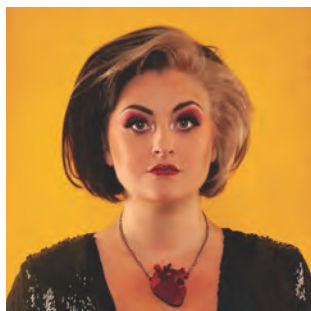
Fri 1 - Sun 10 November



Fairytale of New York -  
Lichfield Garrick

**Sun 3 - Mon 4 November**

Mon 11 - Sun 17 November



Kiri Pritchard-McLean -  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**Thurs 14 November**

Mon 18 - Sun 24 November



Aled Jones: Full Circle -  
Dudley Town Hall

**Thurs 21 November**

Mon 25 - Sat 30 November



Shazia Mirza - Edge Arts Centre,  
Much Wenlock, Shropshire

**Sat 30 November**

## VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

### Barber Institute of Fine Arts

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

**SCENT AND THE ART OF THE PRE-RAPHAELITES** Exhibition exploring scent as a key motif in paintings by the artists of the Pre-Raphaelite and Aesthetic movements. Visitors can participate in an optional experience to enliven the scents suggested in certain paintings, until Sun 26 Jan

### 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.

### Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**FRIENDS IN LOVE AND WAR – L'ÉLOGE DES MEILLEUR-ES ENNEMI-ES** Curated collaboratively, the exhibition interrogates friendship as a fundamental human relationship essential to individual wellbeing and society, until Sun 23 Feb

### New Art Gallery, Walsall

**COMMUNION** Exhibition of work from emerging Black Country artists Leah Hickey, Jamal Lloyd Davis and Tomilola Olumide. Their works share themes of being in communion with oneself and others, sharing intimate space, and the re-contextualisation of faith, until Sun 17 Nov

**REFLECTOR** Exhibition marking the culmination of a 10-month development programme for emerging photographers, artists and curators from diverse backgrounds from across England. Each works with photography but with different approaches and perspectives, until Sun 9 Mar

**EQUAL + ABLE = NOT A LABEL** Exhibition exploring ableism through the New Art Gallery Walsall Collections, until Sun 18 May

### The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**MAURICE WADE: A PAINTER FROM NO.57** Local artist Maurice Wade was inspired by the stark beauty and

atmospheric melancholy of the various landscapes of North Staffordshire. This exhibition includes over 90 paintings highlighting his enduring fascination with the region, until Sun 26 Jan

**NO GOING BACK** Display of photographs and memorabilia by North Staffs Miners Wives marking the 40th anniversary of the Miners' Strike, until Sun 2 March 2025

### Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

**DISCOVERING LILY CHITTY** Exhibition and film exploring the pioneering work of archaeologist Lily Chitty and her impact on our understanding of Stone Age Shropshire, until Thurs 14 Nov

**SUN & FIRE: LIFE AND DEATH AT THE DAWN OF HISTORY** Step into the ancient Shropshire landscape in an interactive exhibition exploring the lives of the people who lived there before written records, Sat 2 Nov - Wed 30 April

### Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**POP THROUGH A QUEER LENS** Exhibition co-produced by members of Wolverhampton's LGBTQIA+ community, presenting new ways of understanding some of the gallery's best-loved artworks, until Sun 3 Nov

**A PERFECT SENTENCE** Oliver Frank Chanarin's new exhibition interrogates the photographic image in the age of the algorithm. At the centre of the installation are two machines made by the artist in collaboration with Tom Cecil and Ruairi Glynn, continuously rehanging framed photographs, Sat 2 Nov - Sun 23 Feb

### Elsewhere:

**CONTEMPORARY GLASS SOCIETY: NEW HORIZONS** Exhibition featuring contemporary glasswork that challenges and explores the boundaries of the medium, showcasing traditional and modern techniques, until Sat 16 Nov, Stourbridge Glass Museum

**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, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**WEAVE ONLY A TRACE** An exhibition of basketry, wood and natural plant fibres, with demonstrations and talks, workshops, a willow bed tour and a pop-up shop selling unique hand-crafted gifts, Fri 8 - Sun 17 Nov, Footprint Gallery, Telford



Blossoms - O2 Academy, Birmingham

## Gigs

**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 + CHRISSIE DUX + SECOND CITY SIN + ROOD END** Fri 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**BLOSSOMS** Fri 1 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**PYNCH** Fri 1 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth, B'ham

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

**LAVA LA RUE** Fri 1 Nov, Mama Roux's, B'ham

**THE MAJOR TOMS** Fri 1 Nov, The Rhodhouse, Sutton Coldfield

**KAMELOT + AD INFINITUM + BLACKBRIAR + FROZEN CROWN** Fri 1 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, W'hampton

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

**WAYWARD SONS** Fri 1 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**WEST COAST EAGLES** Fri 1 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**KEITH CHRISTMAS** Fri 1 Nov, The Albion, Burton upon Trent

**AMY - A TRIBUTE TO AMY WINEHOUSE** Fri 1 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Staffs

**LET'S ROCK THE 70S** Fri 1 Nov, The Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**FRED ZEPPELIN** Fri 1

Nov, Lichfield Guildhall

**NOASIS** Fri 1 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**SHAM 69** Fri 1 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**CAPTAIN STINGRAY'S GROOVE MACHINE** Fri 1 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**SMOKE LIKE A FISH + PACKET RACKET** Fri 1 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**FLEISCH + SIOUXSIE SUICIDE + DEATH INGLORIA + CELAVI** Fri 1 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**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

**BEN PORTSMOUTH - THIS IS ELVIS** Sat 2 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

**MÖTLEY CRÛDE + SNOG + OZZBEST** Sat 2 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**MATT JOHNSON & THE REPROBATES** Sat 2 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**ROYAL REPUBLIC + DEA MATRONA** Sat 2 Nov,

KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**BOLLYWOOD TIME MACHINE** Sat 2 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

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

**LIMEHOUSE LIZZY** Sat 2 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE FLEETWOOD MAC LEGACY** Sat 2 Nov, Octagon, Stoke-on-Trent

**RAINBOW RISING + DEEPEST PURPLE** Sat 2 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**BIG COUNTRY + MIKE PETERS** Sat 2 Nov, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent

**JAH WOBBLE AND THE INVADERS OF THE HEART** Sat 2 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**SHAPE OF YOU - THE MUSIC OF ED SHEERAN** Sat 2 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**THE SALTS** Sat 2 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**MOTEL SUNDOWN** Sat 2 Nov, The Dog House, Stafford

**ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE** Sat 2 Nov, Two Gates Club, Tamworth

**A COUNTRY NIGHT IN NASHVILLE** Sat 2 Nov, The Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**CAPTAIN STINGRAY'S GROOVE MACHINE** Sat 2 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**BLOWFISH KISS** Sat 2 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**THE BEACH BOYZ** Sat 2 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**ALL NEW STICKY WICKET'S RHYTHM BAND** Sat 2 Nov, SpArC, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

**ICE SPICE** Sun 3 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**QUILL** Sun 3 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

**WEDNESDAY 13 + SOUTH OF SALEM** Sun 3 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

## Classical Music

**HALESOWEN CHORAL SOCIETY: AUTUMN CONCERT** Featuring Imogen Russell, Suzie Pukis, Daniel Marles & Tom Lowen (soloists), David Gregory (Leader) & Stephen Davis (conductor). Programme includes works by Haydn & Mozart, Sat 2 Nov, Quinton Methodist Church, Halesowen

**JOHN WRIGHT ORGAN CONCERT** Sat 2 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

**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

**PAUL CARR ORGAN CONCERT** Programme includes works by Widor, Vierne & Saint-Saëns, Sun 3 Nov, Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley

## Comedy

**ELF LYONS, RADU ISAC, JARRED CHRISTMAS, MARTIN MÓR & SIMON HALL** Fri 1 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**EMMA DORAN** Fri 1 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ANGELOS EPITHEMIU, ADAM GREENE, KIRK FONTAINE & JACK MILLER** Fri 1 Nov, Two Gates Club, Tamworth

**DANIEL O'REILLY** Fri 1 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre



**MARK WATSON** Fri 1 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**OMID DJALILI** Fri 1 - Sat 2 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

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

**BARBARA NICE** Sat 2 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**MARK WATSON** Sat 2 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

**MILO EDWARDS** Sun 3 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

## Theatre

**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

**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

**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



**PERFECT PITCH** John Godber's acclaimed comedy follows Matt and Rose as they're inducted into the world of caravanning and karaoke, until Sat 2 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM** Starcross Theatre Company present an amateur version of the Steven Sondheim classic, until Sat 2 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE WIZARD OF OZ** Amateur version of the iconic musical, until Sun 3 Nov, The Little Theatre, Donnington, Telford

**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

**YOU CHOOSE** Brand-new interactive musical production for all the family, with different characters and story at each show, Fri 1 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**STORIES IN THE DUST** Live music, puppetry and clowning combine as two intrepid explorers make up songs and tell stories inspired by the treasures from a time gone by, Fri 1 Nov, Brushstrokes Community Project, Smethwick

**WINDRUSH SECRET** One-man drama in which Rodreguez King-Dorset plays three characters, Fri 1 - Sat 2 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

**FROZEN JR** Amateur version of the Disney favourite, Fri 1 - Sat 2 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**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

**THE LITTLE MERMAID** Amateur version of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale, Sat 2 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**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, Sat 2 Nov, Bleakhouse Library, Oldbury

**SUPER CHEFS** Sing, dance and cook with a Latin American family in London as they celebrate food, question traditional roles and work together when the cooking plans are upended!, Sun 3 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

## Kid's Theatre

**DISNEY ON ICE: ROADTRIP ADVENTURES** Mickey Mouse and friends take audiences on a wild ride to some favourite Disney destinations, Wed 30 Oct - Sun 3 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

**THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN** Louis Pearl (aka The Bubble Man) creates impressive bubbles of all shapes and sizes, Fri 1 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton



**THE ULTIMATE BUBBLE SHOW** Fast-paced show presented by international bubbleologist and Guinness World Record holder Ray Bubbles, Sat 2 Nov, Mitchell Arts Centre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

## Dance

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

## 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

**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

**THE GREAT BALDINI FAMILY MAGIC** A show packed with magic, puppetry, escapology - and the hunt for a child with royal heritage, Sat 2 Nov (5pm), Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire



**THE GREAT BALDINI MAGIC CABARET** Join the award-winning stage magician for what's described as a 'joyously silly romp through magic', Sat 2 Nov (7.30pm), Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**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

**AN EVENING WITH JIMMY TARBUCK LIVE ON STAGE** Featuring a huge collection of anecdotes and video clips highlighting a glittering career, Sun 3 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**CROONERS UNCAGED** A homage to some of the greatest crooners of all time. Featuring comedy, dance, music, and the nine-piece Mini Big Band, Sun 3 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**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, Sun 3 & Mon 4 Nov, Lichfield Garrick





*Cake International - NEC Birmingham*

## Events

**SPOOKY SPIRITS & SPIDERS** Use black & white art materials to make a ghost or spider, until Fri 1 Nov, The New Art Gallery Walsall

**HOGWEED'S SCHOOL OF MAGIC** Calling all young witches and wizards... your classes await..., until Fri 1 Nov, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

**SHRIEKS AND TREATS** The Victorian townspeople celebrate Halloween with a host of activities for the whole family to enjoy, until Sun 3 Nov, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

**POTIONS AND NOTIONS** Drop-in event during which kids can make spooktacular clay creations to hold their imaginary potions and spells, until Sun 3 Nov, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge

**SCAREFEST** Award-winning event, until Sun 3 Nov, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

**GANDEYS CIRCUS** Brand-new 'Halloween spooktacular big-top show for all the family', until Sun 3 Nov, Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

**SPOOKS & SLIDE** Venture down into the ice crypt, where the spirits of yesteryear still linger, until Sun 3 Nov, SnowDome, Tamworth

**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

**GANDEYS HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR** Featuring an international cast of skeletons, vampires, Jack-o'-lanterns and circus artistes, until Sun 3 Nov, Merry Hill, Dudley

**HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM** Solve creepy clues and gruesome tasks, until Sun 3 Nov, Stokesay Castle, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

**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

**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

**BINGO LOCO** A bingo rave with random prizes, Fri 1 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

**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

**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

**Unlock The Festive Fun!**

**VISIT SANTA'S GROTTTO**

**14TH & 15TH DEC**

West Midlands Police MUSEUM.WEST-MIDLANDS.POLICE.UK

TALCOTE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL

**ROBIN HOOD**

THE MERRIEST PANTO IN THE LAND

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SCAN TO BOOK

# Friday 1 - Sunday 3 November

music and Bollywood glamour, Sat 2 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**DIWALI 2024 FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**  
Celebrate the Festival of Lights with the community, Sat 2 Nov, The New Art Gallery Walsall

**BONGO'S BINGO: THE HAUNTED HOUSE**  
Halloween special, Sat 2 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**DIWALI** Celebrate the Festival of Lights with traditional music, dance and craft activities, Sat 2 Nov, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**CREATE AND CONNECT** Bringing together refugee and local families in a fun, welcoming and supportive environment, Sat 2 Nov, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

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

**FROST FAIR** Featuring a wide selection of handmade crafts and Christmas gifts, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Nov, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

**BREATHE WRESTLING** Two hours of high-flying, hard-hitting, heart-

stopping action, Sun 3 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

## Fireworks & Bonfires

**APLEY FIREWORKS DISPLAY** Fri 1 Nov, Apley Estate, Shropshire

**STOURBRIDGE BONFIRE & FIREWORKS** Fri 1 Nov, Stourbridge Rugby Club, Stourbridge

**WOLVERHAMPTON FIREWORKS** Two displays on the night, with the first being for children, Fri 1 Nov, West Park, Wolverhampton

### BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

**EXTRAVAGANZA** An evening of family-friendly fun, Sat 2 Nov, Alderford, Shropshire

### WEST MIDLANDS SHOWGROUND BONFIRE AND FIREWORK SPECTACULAR

Large-scale event with a roaring bonfire and fireworks, Sat 2 Nov, West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury

**HIMLEY FIREWORKS** A 30-minute spectacular, taking the theme 'a splash of colour', Sat 2 Nov, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley



Bonfire & Fireworks Night - Weston Park

**BIDDULPH MOOR FIREWORKS** Featuring a lantern parade, a bar, food and more, Sat 2 Nov, Biddulph Moor Village Hall, Staffordshire

**FIREWORKS NIGHT** Soak up the carnival atmosphere before watching the fireworks display, Sat 2 Nov, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

**FIREWORKS** 'Two nights of dazzling fireworks', Sat 2 - Sun 3 Nov, Drayton Manor Resort, Staffordshire

**STAFFORDSHIRE FIREWORK EXTRAVAGANZA** Presented by the Rotary Club of Stafford Castle, Sun 3 Nov, Staffordshire County Showground

**BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT** Taking place in the historic parkland of Weston Park, one of the region's biggest bonfire nights returns for 2024, Sun 3 Nov, Weston Park, Shropshire / Staffordshire border



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SELECTED  
DATES FROM  
30 NOVEMBER

## Gigs

**OCTOBER DRIFT** Mon 4 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**MILITARY GENIUS** Mon 4 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**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

**ELKIE BROOKS** Mon 4 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THE ALMHOUSE ALL STARS** Mon 4 Nov, Bill's Cafe, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**THE FELICE BROTHERS** Tues 5 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

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

**CELESTE** Tues 5 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

**HANNAH SCOTT** Tues 5 Nov, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

**KATATONIA + COBRA THE IMPALER** Tues 5 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**ED HARCOURT** Wed 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**THE DREAM MACHINE + FERGY LH** Wed 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**ABIGAIL HUDSON + LATIFA + MOLLYXO + TANA CHANTEL + HOLLY ROLFE** Wed 6 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

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

**EZRA COLLECTIVE** Wed 6 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

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

**SOFT CULT** Wed 6 Nov, The Flapper, 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, B'ham

**NASHVILLE AT HEART** Wed 6 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**PAUL D'ANNO + ELECTRIC GYPSY + AIRFORCE** Wed 6 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**AURELIO VOLTAIRE** Wed 6 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton



**DELILAH BON** Thurs 7 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**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, B'ham

**GILLIAN CARTER** Thurs 7 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

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

**HEIDI TALBOT & BOO HEWERDINE** Thurs 7 Nov, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

**BACK INTO HELL - MEAT LOAF + JIM STEINMAN TRIBUTE** Thurs 7 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**EMPIRICAL** Thurs 7 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**THE SOUND OF**

**SPRINGSTEEN** Thurs 7 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**LOST IN MUSIC** Thurs 7 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

**WILL BARNES QUARTET** Thurs 7 Nov, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**HANNAH SANDERS & BEN SAVAGE** Thurs 7 Nov, Hermon Arts, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**THE MANFREDS** Thurs 7 Nov, Aston Hall, Wrexham

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

**SHAM 69** Fri 8 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

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

**BRADLEY SIMPSON** Fri 8 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

**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

**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, Birmingham

**RATS IN THE KITCHEN** Fri 8 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** Fri 8 Nov, The River

Rooms, Stourbridge

**THE MODERATORS** Fri 8 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**SOIL + HED PE + NONPOINT + THE UNION UNDERGROUND** Fri 8 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**IMPERIAL AVENUE + RAT SALAD + LOVE NOR MONEY + ROOT 5 + LEYTON YATES** Fri 8 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

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

**SECRET AFFAIR** Fri 8 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**FOO FIGHTERS GB** Fri 8 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**PETE COE** Fri 8 Nov, Fenton Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**EIGHTY EIGHT MILES** Fri 8 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**MICHAEL HEAD & THE RED ELASTIC BAND** Fri 8 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**SUNNY SWEENEY** Fri 8 Nov, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

**JOACHIM COODER** Fri 8 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury



**XENNA AS TAYLOR SWIFT** Fri 8 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**GOOD TO GO** Fri 8 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**TRANSMISSION: THE SOUND OF JOY DIVISION** Fri 8 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**BLACK DOLDRUMS +**

**FALLEN HORSE** Fri 8 Nov, The Firefly, Oakengates, Telford

**THE BARTELLS** Fri 8 Nov, Hermon Arts, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**THE ENDINGS** Fri 8 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, W'hampton

**TALON** Fri 8 - Sat 9 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

**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, B'ham

**JUST RADIOHEAD** Sat 9 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth, B'ham

**THE KING BLUES + SO GOOD** Sat 9 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

**SPIZZERNERGI** Sat 9 Nov, The Flapper, Birmingham

**UB40 + SOUL II SOUL** Sat 9 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, B'ham

**NEARLY DAN** Sat 9 Nov, The Crossing, Birmingham

**ELVIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE DIXY ROCK N ROLL BAND** Sat 9 Nov, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**MADE IN TENNESSEE** Sat 9 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**ALL4INDIE & BRITPOP UNITED** Sat 9 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**LAID - JAMES TRIBUTE** Sat 9 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**WSO ALL DAYER** Sat 9 Nov, Katie

Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**FROM THE JAM + RUTS DC** Sat 9 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**THE BAR-STEWARD SONS OF VAL DOONICAN** Sat 9 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

**BLACK PARADE + MANTRA** Sat 9 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**FM PLUS WHITE SKIES** Sat 9 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA** Sat 9 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**DEATH OF ME + OUT OF LOVE + GRAYWAVE + TAKE BREATH** Sat 9 Nov, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

**SUNNY SWEENEY** Sat 9 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**THE ROLLING CLONES** Sat 9 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**BLACK COUNTRY BEATLES** Sat 9 Nov, The Station, Cannock

**TRANSMISSION: THE SOUND OF JOY DIVISION** Sat 9 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**ASPYRIAN** Sat 9 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**THE BEAT** Sat 9 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**THE ENDINGS** Sat 9 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**JACK JONES** Sat 9 Nov, Albert & Co, Shrewsbury

**AUDIOSHIFTER** Sat 9 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**SCRIMSHIRE + IRINI ARABATZI** Sat 9 Nov, Unitarian Church, Shrewsbury

**THE GTS** Sat 9 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**LAZY MARMALADE**

Sat 9 Nov, The Firefly, Oakengates, Telford

**RYAN YOUNG** Sat 9 Nov, Hermon Arts, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**BLACK HEART SINNERS + SHERRY COUNSELLORS** Sat 9 Nov, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**CHRISTINE TASSAN ET LES IMPOSTEURS** Sat 9 Nov, Chelmarsh Parish Hall, Shropshire

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

**GURRIERS** Sun 10 Nov, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**ARTEMAS** Sun 10 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

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

**REJJIE SNOW** Sun 10 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

**CREDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW** Sun 10 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

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

**SPLINTERING HEART - MARILLION TRIBUTE** Sun 10 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**THE ILLEGAL EAGLES** Sun 10 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE NICK DEWHURST TRIO** Sun 10 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**RICH PARSONS** Sun 10 Nov, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

**JOSIENNE CLARKE** Sun 10 Nov, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

**GAMELAN SEKAR PATEK** Sun 10 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire



## Classical Music

### THOMAS TROTTER ORGAN CONCERT

Programme includes works by Duruflé, JS Bach, Laurin, Pierné & Wagner, Mon 4 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

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

**LETTERS HOME: A REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION** Featuring students of Shrewsbury School. Programme features music and letters from both world wars. Tues 5 Nov, St Alkmunds Church, Shrewsbury

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

**HALLÉ: MENDELSSOHN'S VIOLIN MASTERPIECE** Featuring Rosanne Philippens (violin) & Olari Elts (conductor). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn & Tchaikovsky, Fri 8 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**JENEBÄ KÄNNEH-MASON IN CONCERT** Programme includes works by Chopin, Scriabin, Scarlatti & Prokofiev, Sat 9 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**NORTH STAFFS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: CONCERT MAGNIFIQUE** Featuring Juan Ortuño (conductor). Programme includes works by Saint-Saëns & Berlioz, Sat 9 Nov, St John Fisher Catholic College, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**CBSO: GOLDBERG VARIATIONS** Featuring Eugene Tzikiandean (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 Liÿr Thomas (tenor). Programme includes works by Ravel, Handel, Puccini, Sibelius & more..., Sun 10 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## Comedy

**HENRY ROWLEY** Tues 5 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

**ALFIE BROWN** Wed 6 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



**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

**SARAH MILLICAN** Thurs 7 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**PADDY LENNOX, IAN CRAWFORD, JIM BROWN & DAVE TWENTYMAN** Thurs 7 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffordshire

**THE BOYS FROM THE ALL NIGHT CHEMIST, PETER EDGE, MIKE CARTER & DAN SMITH** Thurs 7 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

**TOM WARD** Thurs 7 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ANDY PARSONS** Thurs 7 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**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

**FREDDY QUINNE** Fri 8 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**GRACE CAMPBELL** Sat 9 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

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

**AMY GLEDHILL** Sun 10 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ALISTAIR BARRIE** Sun 10 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**THE NOISE NEXT DOOR** Sun 10 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**SCOTT BENNETT, ADAM BEARDSMORE, STUART THOMAS & PHIL CHAPMAN** Sun 10 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## 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, Birmingham

**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, Tues 5 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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



**NIGHT WATCH** Stafford Players present an amateur version of Lucille Fletcher's suspenseful and mysterious story, Tues 5 - Sat 9 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**SHAKEITUP SHAKESPEARE** Improv show in which a brand-new Shakespeare play is created live on stage complete with live music, songs and lots of audience participation, Wed 6 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR - THE LOST EPISODES** Three episodes of the legendary sitcom, recreated live on stage: The Bequest, The Auction and The Russian Prince, Wed 6 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

**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

**PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT** Brownhills Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of the comedy jukebox musical, Wed 6 - Sat 9 Nov, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**PEPPER AND HONEY** A poignant, subtle and timely play about 'the journey of change', cultural differences, and the tension between upholding tradition and embracing change, Thurs 7 Nov, Beckbury Village Hall, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire

**THE PLOT THICKENS** Just Some Theatre present a new comedy-thriller in which secrets are revealed, alliances are tested and backs are stabbed, Thurs 7 Nov, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

**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

**PEPPER AND HONEY** A poignant, subtle and timely play about 'the journey of change', cultural differences, and the

tension between upholding tradition and embracing change, Fri 8 Nov, Bedstone and Hopton Castle Village Hall, Clun Valley, South Shropshire

**THE PLOT THICKENS** Just Some Theatre present a new comedy-thriller in which secrets are revealed, alliances are tested and backs are stabbed, Fri 8 Nov, Alveley Parish Memorial Hall, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**A CHRISTMAS STORY** A festive adventure featuring an ice queen, playful elves, snowmen, reindeer and a snow princess, Sat 9 Nov, Mitchell Arts Centre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**TRASH TEST DUMMIES CIRCUS** The award-winning troupe return to present another action-packed family adventure featuring acrobatics and slapstick comedy, Sat 9 Nov, Festival Drayton, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**PEPPER AND HONEY** A poignant, subtle and timely play about 'the journey of change', cultural differences, and the tension between upholding tradition and embracing change, Sat 9 Nov, Farlow and Oreton Village Hall, Nr Bridgnorth, South Shropshire



**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-synching, 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

**SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE: THE PLAY** Amateur version of the heartwarming romantic comedy, Fri 8 - Sat 16 Nov, The Crown Wharf Theatre, Stone

**THE PLOT THICKENS** Just Some Theatre present a new comedy-thriller in which secrets are revealed, alliances are tested and backs are stabbed, Sat 9 Nov, Chapel Lawn Village Hall, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

**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



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 <p>6 November, 7.30pm <b>Hancock's Half Hour - The Lost TV Episodes</b> Tickets: £19.50; Groups of 4+ £18 each</p>	 <p>15 November, 8pm <b>Floyd in the Flesh: The Greatest Hits of Pink Floyd</b> Tickets: £17</p>
 <p>8 November, 7.30pm <b>Eighty Eight Miles</b> Tickets: £10 advance; £15 on the door</p>	 <p>19 November, 7.30pm <b>Connect With David: The Live Experience</b> Tickets: £22.50</p>
 <p>13 November, 8pm <b>Andy Parsons: Bafflingly Optimistic</b> Tickets: £17, £15 conc</p>	 <p>20 November, 7.30pm <b>Granny's Attic</b> In association with Burton Folk Club Tickets: £16; £12 under 16s</p>
 <p>14 November, 8pm <b>Rich Hall: Shot From Cannons</b> Tickets: £17</p>	 <p>21 November, 8pm <b>Ivo Graham: Grand Design</b> Tickets: £17</p>

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Touring 4 – 20 December





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, Tues 5 - Wed 6 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**SNUG AND GRUB CATCH A BUG!** Garlic Theatre present a funny bug-tastic adventure for younger audiences featuring clowning, puppetry and foot-tapping music, Wed 6 Nov, Bilston Library

**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

**SEEDHEART** Indigo Moon Theatre present a small puppet show about human impact on the environment, Sat 9 Nov, Caldmore Community Garden, Walsall

## Dance

**ECHOES BY MI FLAMENCO** Dance and music combine to immerse audiences in Andalusian culture, Thurs 7 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire



## 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', Wed 6 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

**BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR** A brand-new collection of short films featuring extreme journeys, untamed characters and captivating cinematography, Wed 6 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY CHRISTMAS SHOW** Evening of music and comedy sketches, with renditions of favourite Christmas songs, Thurs 7 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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

**SOLVE-ALONG-A-MURDER-SHE-WROTE: SING A SONG OF MURDER** Crime-cracking entertainment hosted by super fan Tim Benzie and featuring a race to solve the crime. A Cabot Cove quiz and a singalong to the theme tune - complete with new lyrics - also feature, Thurs 7 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

**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

**BOX OF FROGS** High-octane show comprising songs, sketches and scenes, all made up on the spot, Fri 8 Nov, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield

**THE DOLLY SHOW** The 'ultimate UK and international Dolly Parton tribute', Fri 8 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**AN EVENING WITH CRISSY ROCK** A show of two halves in which audiences can find out how Christine Murray became Crissy Rock (first half) and then enjoy some stand-up comedy (second half), Fri 8 Nov, Halesowen 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, Fri 8 - Sat 9 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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', Sat 9 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE LODGER: A STORY OF THE LONDON FOG** Silent film with live musical accompaniment from Minima Music,

Sun 10 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**FAULTY TOWERS: THE DINING EXPERIENCE** Highly interactive tribute to the classic BBC sitcom, bringing together 'a three-course meal and five-star comedy', Sun 10 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

## 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, Tues 5 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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

**HARRY REDKNAPP** Join the former footballer and 'King of the Jungle' as he regales audiences with stories from his career on and off the pitch, Sun 10 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## Events

**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

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

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR** With a wide range of stalls and gifts, Sat 9 Nov, Himley Hall, Dudley

**ARTISAN MARKET** Featuring local craftspeople and producers, Sat 9 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

**DISCOS FOR GROWN UPS** Pop-up disco

party featuring music from the 1970s, 80s and 90s, Sat 9 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

**STARGAZING FROM COALBROOKDALE** Learn about astronomy and the use of telescopes to identify celestial objects, Sat 9 Nov, The Old Furnace, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire

**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

**UJALA** Join Sampad South Asian Arts & Heritage and the University of Birmingham for a vibrant celebration of community, unity, and the illuminating power of light, Sat 9 Nov, The Exchange: 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham

**GEOLOGY ROCKS** A weekend all about geology, inspired by the garden's Geological Gallery, Sat 9 - Sun 10 Nov, Biddulph Grange Garden, Staffs

**SCALE MODEL WORLD** Scale-model show, Sat 9 - Sun 10 Nov, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

**ENGUINITY EARLY BIRD CALM SESSIONS** Suitable for visitors of all ages with autism or other sensory processing conditions, Sun 10 Nov, Enguinity, Ironbridge

## Fireworks & Bonfires

**SYCAMORE ADVENTURE FAMILY FIREWORK DISPLAY** Mon 4 Nov, Sycamore Adventure, Dudley

**WEM FIREWORKS** All proceeds go to Wem Sports & Social Association, Tues 5 Nov, Bownshill, Shropshire

**BAYSTON HILL FIREWORKS** Hot food, bar, fairground stalls, games and more... Tues 5 Nov, Oakmeadow School, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury

**SUTTON COLDFIELD RFC BONFIRE & FIREWORKS** Tues 5 Nov, The Roger Smoldon Ground, Sutton Coldfield

**WOLVERHAMPTON RUFC BONFIRE NIGHT** An evening of fireworks, food and fun, Fri 8 Nov, Wolverhampton Rugby Club

**HALESOWEN CRICKET CLUB BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS** Featuring two fireworks displays, fairground rides and much more, Fri 8 Nov, Halesowen Cricket Club

**FIREWORKS ON THE FARM** Including a fairground, live music and a brand-new fire show, Fri 8 - Sat 9 Nov, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

**ULTIMATE FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR** Enjoy a fireworks display and ride the coasters after dark, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Nov, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

## 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

**ROLE MODEL** Tues 12 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**CLEO** Tues 12 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**LEWIS BARFOOT** Tues 12 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**PARTY DOZEN** Wed 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**TC & THE GROOVE FAMILY + NEONE** Wed 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

**STILL WOozy + MAZIE** Wed 13 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**LISSIE + TYLER RAMSEY** Wed 13 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

**FRENCH POLICE** Wed 13 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**RACHEL CHINOIRI** Wed 13 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

**TFS** Wed 13 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**JAMIE CULLUM** Wed 13 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CAMERON SANDERSON** Wed 13 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

**PUNK ROCK FACTORY + 4FT FINGERS + LUNAFALL** Wed 13 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**BEANS ON TOAST** Wed 13 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETERS** Wed 13 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**CHINA CRISIS** Thurs 14 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SNAZZBACK** 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

**ELVIS LEGACY** Thurs 14 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**NAS** Thurs 14 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

**QUILL** Thurs 14 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**LEGEND - THE MUSIC OF BOB MARLEY** Thurs 14 Nov, The Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**BÖHMEN** Thurs 14 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**TAPESTRY: AN EVENING IN LAUREL CANYON** Thurs 14 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**SAM LEWIS** Thurs 14 Nov, Hermon Arts, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**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

**SPORTS TEAM** Fri 15 Nov, Castle & Falcon, 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

**REMEMBER MONDAY** Fri 15 Nov, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

**DREADZONE** Fri 15 Nov, 45Live, Kidderminster

**GET IT ON!** Fri 15 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

**THE KAISER MONKEY KILLERS** Fri 15 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**ELVANA - ELVIS FRONTED NIRVANA** Fri 15 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**ABDOUJAPAROV** Fri 15 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**BLACK STAR RIDERS + THE ANSWER + DAN BYRNE** Fri 15 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

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

**WARGASM** Fri 15 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**OASISH** Fri 15 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**FLOYD IN THE FLESH** Fri 15 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**THE CARRIVICK SISTERS** Fri 15 Nov, The Albion, Burton upon Trent

**THE MUSIC OF FRANKIE VALLI & THE**

**FOUR SEASONS** Fri 15 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**THE MANFREDS** Fri 15 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**80'S MANIA** Fri 15 Nov, The Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**KORN AGAIN + NIN UK + SPOUKY KIDS** Fri 15 Nov, The Station, Cannock

**DEELEE DUBÉ** Fri 15 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**BON GIOVI** Fri 15 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**VOODOO SIOUX** Fri 15 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**THE FLEETWOOD MAC SONGBOOK** Fri 15 Nov, The Firefly, Oakengates, Telford

**CHRISTINE TASSAN ET LES IMPOSTEURS** Fri 15 Nov, Clungunford Village Hall, Shropshire

**ULTIMATE MADNEZZ** Sat 16 Nov, The Night Owl, B'ham

**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

**MARUJA** Sat 16 Nov, The Flapper, B'ham

**THE DUBLINERS ENCORE** Sat 16 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

**WAYNE DILKS - THE GEORGE MICHAEL LEGACY** Sat 16 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**SYNTH + PET SHOP BOYS, ACTUALLY!** Sat 16 Nov, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

**SUPREME QUEEN** Sat 16 Nov, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

**THE MANFREDS** Sat 16 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

**MAN THE LIFEBOATS** Sat 16 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**DELAIN + STONE BROKEN + DAMIAN WILSON** Sat 16 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

**THE CARRIVICK SISTERS** Sat 16 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

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

**STRANGE BREW** Sat 16 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**DREAMS OF FLEETWOOD MAC** Sat 16 Nov, The Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**THE JEEPS** Sat 16 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**CHRIS QUINN** Sat 16 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**WATERMELON CHRONICLES** Sat 16 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**CALIFORNIA DREAMERS** Sat 16 Nov, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**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, Birmingham

**CAPERCALLIE** Sun 17 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

**KALEO** Sun 17 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

**PHIL BEER TRIO** Sun 17 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## Classical Music

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

**OSIAN ENSEMBLE** Featuring students from the Royal Northern College of Music, Tues 12 Nov, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury

**FOUR HANDS AT ONE PIANO** Featuring Pavel Kolesnikov & Samson Tsoy. Programme includes works by Stravinsky & Schubert, Thurs 14 Nov, Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

**ARCHANGEL: A FORAY INTO FAURÉ** Featuring Fenella Humphreys (violin), Viv McLean (piano) & Jessica Duchon (narrator). Programme includes works by Fauré, Viardot, Saint-Saëns,

Chausson & Ravel, Fri 15 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

**SHREWSBURY SCHOOL: ST CECILIA** Featuring Shrewsbury School Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Wind Orchestra & Concert Band. Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky & Rachmaninov, Fri 15 Nov, Shrewsbury School

**SHREWSBURY SCHOOL: ST CECILIA** Featuring Shrewsbury School Community Choir, Chapel Choir, & Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes Christopher Tim's To Shiver The Sky & more..., Sat 16 Nov, Shrewsbury School

**A MUSICAL WORLD TOUR** Featuring Staffordshire Choirs Association & Ashley Mellor (musical director), Sat 16 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE PHOENIX SINGERS: GLORIA!** Programme includes works by Handel, Vivaldi & Bach, Sat 16 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

**3 TENORS BY CANDLELIGHT** Featuring Samuel Kibble, William Searle & Rhys Meilyr (tenors). Programme includes operatic classics and timeless favourites, Sat 16 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

**AUTUMN CONCERT** Featuring Jonathan Lyness (conductor) & Claire Tocknell (leader). Programme includes works by Mozart, Dvořák & Beethoven, Sat 16 Nov, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

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

## Comedy

**FRANK SKINNER** Mon 11 - Thurs 14 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

**KEVIN BLOODY WILSON** Wed 13 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**ANDY PARSONS** Wed 13 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**DAN NIGHTINGALE, MARK NELSON & ANDY ROBINSON** Wed 13 Nov, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

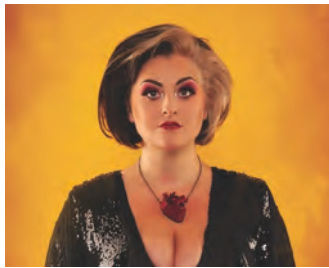
**MARK THOMAS** Wed 13 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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

**RICH HALL** Thurs 14 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**KIRI PRITCHARD-MCLEAN** Thurs 14 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



**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

**COMEDY IN THE MET** Fri 15 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**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

**DAN ANTOPOLOSKI, JON CAPEWELL, DAMION LARKIN & COMIC TBC** Sat 16 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**SARA PASCOE, MICK FERRY, HASAN AL-HABIB & WAYNE BEESE** Sat 16 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**MARK SIMMONS** Sun 17 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

## Theatre

**A JOKE** Smash-hit stage comedy featuring three characters - one English, one Irish and one Scottish - with no memory of where they are, or why..., Tues 12 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**DRACULA** Blackeyed Theatre Company presents Bram Stoker's gothic horror, Tues 12 - Wed 13 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**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 12 - Sat 16 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**42ND STREET** A Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society version of the iconic toe-tapping musical, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

**A JOKE** Smash-hit stage comedy featuring three characters - one English, one Irish and one Scottish - with no memory of where they are, or why..., Wed 13 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**BLEAK EXPECTATIONS** Studio 61 present the story that Charles Dickens might have written after drinking too much gin, Wed 13 - Fri 15 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**NATIVITY! THE MUSICAL** Amateur version of the heartwarming festive story, Wed 13 - Sun 17 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE COMEDY OF TERRORS!** A fast-moving madcap comedy filled with multiple mistaken identities, Thurs 14 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**ELF THE MUSICAL** Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur stage version of 'everyone's favourite film', Thurs 14 - Sun 17 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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

**A JOKE** Smash-hit stage comedy featuring three characters - one English, one Irish and one Scottish - with no memory of where they are, or why..., Fri 15 Nov, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**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

**THE THREE MUSKETEERS** Innovative and fast-paced staging of one of the greatest adventure stories ever told. Adapted and directed by Theresa Heskins, Fri 15 Nov - Sat 25 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**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, Sat 16 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

## Kid's Theatre

**MR SLEEPYBUM** High-energy and seriously silly comedy show for the whole family, Sun 17 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

## Light Entertainment

**FOSTER & ALLEN** Concert tour in celebration of 50 years in the music business, Tues 12 Nov, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**DAD'S ARMY RADIO SHOW** Three episodes of Perry & Croft's classic BBC comedy are brought to life in a production that sees two actors play 25 characters, Sun 13 Nov, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**THE LODGER: A STORY OF THE LONDON FOG** Silent film with live musical accompaniment from Minima Music, Wed 13 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**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

**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, Thurs 14 - Fri 15 Nov, The Anstice, Madeley, Telford

**DEEP FILL DOUBLE BILL** West End superstar and legendary drag king Richard Energy joins Fatt Butcher for an evening of 'unforgettable music and outrageous laughs', Fri 15 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

**RAVE ON** Nostalgic show featuring hits from the 1950s and 60s and starring leading performers from The Buddy Holly Story, Million Dollar Quartet and Dreamboats & Petticoats, Fri 15 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

**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

**CONNECT WITH DAVID: THE LIVE EXPERIENCE** An evening of psychic mediumship with David Maddock, Tues 19 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**DAZZLING DIAMONDS - THE COMEDY DRAG VARIETY SHOW** Featuring 'high-energy dance routines, spectacular live vocals and side-splitting comedy

sketches', Sat 16 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

## Talks & Spoken Word

**GEE ATHERTON - HOLD FAST** Join the mountain-biking legend as he shares stories from his 'riding life', Mon 11 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**AN EVENING WITH BRYAN ROBSON** Join the football legend as he shares stories from his illustrious career, Wed 13 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

## Events

**LUDLOW CHRISTMAS FAIR** Featuring 50-plus hand-picked stalls from all corners of the country, Tues 12 Nov, Ludlow Racecourse, South Shropshire

**VICTORIAN PRINTERS EXPERIENCE DAY** Learn the art of printmaking as you design and typeset your very own poster, Wed 13 Nov, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

**ITALIAN EXTRAVAGANZA** An evening of food, wine and music - the Italian way, Wed 13 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

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

**MIDDLEPORT POTTERY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL** Featuring entertainment, children's activities, live music and stalls, Fri 15 Nov, Middleport, Stoke-on-Trent

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

**BONGO'S BINGO** The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 16 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND** Featuring real snow, real animals and the all-new winter wonderland show, Sat 16 - Sun 17 Nov, SnowDome, Tamworth

**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

**MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS** Join Father Christmas and his loveable elf at Trentham's North Pole, Sat 16 Nov - Tues 24 Dec, Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

**KICKASS WESTON PARK 10K AND 5K** Taking in all the sites of the park, the route is run over a combination of concrete, tarmac and gravel paths, Sun 17 Nov, Weston Park, Shropshire

## Gigs

**CHARLIE MCDERMOTT** Mon 18 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**WES NELSON + PRINZ** Mon 18 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

**LIZ LAWRENCE** Mon 18 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**THORNHILL + GRAPHIC NATURE + LOVE IS NOISE** Mon 18 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

**BLACK STONE CHERRY** Mon 18 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, B'ham

**ECHOBELLY + BLUE VIOLET** Mon 18 Nov, The Rainbow, B'ham

**ALBERTA CROSS** Mon 18 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**DEARY + HONGZA** Tues 19 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**WASIA PROJECT + HOHNEN FORD** Tues 19 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

**GODIVA + VOODOO + CARNIWHORE** Tues 19 Nov, The Flapper, Birmingham

**SEASICK STEVE** Tues 19 Nov, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton

**THE STYLISTICS** Tues 19 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**JAMIE WEBSTER + THE LOTTERY WINNERS + FLORENTENES** Tues 19 Nov, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent

**BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS** Tues 19 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**GLEN MATLOCK** Wed 20 Nov, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**SIM + FROZEMODE** Wed 20 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**OLD MERVS** Wed 20 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**POKEY LAFARGE** Wed 20 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**FONTAINES D.C. + SORRY** Wed 20 Nov, The Civic at The

Halls Wolverhampton

**THE PUPPINI SISTERS** Wed 20 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**GRANNY'S ATTIC** Wed 20 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**ELEANOR MCEVOY** Wed 20 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**STEVE KNIGHTLEY** Wed 20 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

**SHE'S IN PARTIES** Thurs 21 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SKIES BEHIND** Thurs 21 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**CHRISSEY COSTANZA + VOILÀ** Thurs 21 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

**KINGFISHR** Thurs 21 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**LOST ROMANTIC** Thurs 21 Nov, The Victoria, Birmingham

**MAZZ MURRAY: THE MUSIC OF DUSTY SPRINGFIELD** Thurs 21 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**MUD** Thurs 21 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**HENGE** Thurs 21 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**THE ELO SHOW** Thurs 21 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**KATVARI + BLNDEYE + THE SPOILS + HONEY, I SHOT THE PRESIDENT** Thurs 21 Nov, The Station, Cannock

**FRET AND FIDDLE** Thurs 21 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**FALSE INDIGO + GAUCHE** Thurs 21 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**DUB PISTOLS** Fri 22 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**A VOID + FÜTUMCHE** Fri 22 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**THE DURAN DURAN EXPERIENCE + LOVE DISTRACTION** Fri 22

Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**VALIANT** Fri 22 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

**MOVING PICTURES** Fri 22 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**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 B'ham

**VEHICLE** Fri 22 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

**CAESARIA** Fri 22 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, B'ham

**BIG IMAGE** Fri 22 Nov, Mama Roux's, B'ham

**ELECTROMANTICS** Fri 22 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**THE ILLEGAL EAGLES** Fri 22 Nov, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

**TOOLSHED - TOOL TRIBUTE** Fri 22 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**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

**WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT** Fri 22 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE CARPENTERS STORY** Fri 22 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**GLEN MATLOCK** Fri 22 Nov, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

**SINGAROUND** Fri 22 Nov, The Albion, Burton upon Trent

**MAJESTY - QUEEN TRIBUTE** Fri 22 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**THE SMITHS LTD** Fri 22 Nov, The Station, Cannock

**KASABIAIN'T V THE SPIKE ISLAND ROSES** Fri 22 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

**PINK LIVE - STARRING**

**VICKY JACKSON** Fri 22 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**DAVID BUSBY PERFORMS ED SHEERAN** Fri 22 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**UNF + MISSING FINGERS** Fri 22 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**TOTAL REX** Fri 22 Nov, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**LACK OF AFRO** Sat 23 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**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, Birmingham

**JOEY VALENCE & BRAE** Sat 23 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**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

**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

**CHAKA - THE MUSIC OF CHAKA KHAN** Sat 23 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**GHOST & FAITH NO MORE TRIBUTES** Sat 23 Nov, 45Live, Kidderminster

**LEGEND - THE MUSIC OF BOB MARLEY** Sat 23 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

**ULTRA 90S VS ULTRA 2000S** Sat 23 Nov, The River Rooms,

Stourbridge

**COUNTERFEIT STONES** Sat 23 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**JASON ISBELL AND THE 400 UNIT** Sat 23 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

**DEMON** Sat 23 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

**TENORS UNLIMITED** Sat 23 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**PAUL WALKER & KAREN PFEIFFER** Sat 23 Nov, All Saints Church, Stafford

**MAGIC OF MOTOWN** Sat 23 Nov, The Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**MARK MORRIS** Sat 23 Nov, Albert & Co, Shrewsbury

**LONGDEN CALLING** Sat 23 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

**BREAK THE RECORD** Sat 23 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

**WILD RIVERS + RILEY PEARCE** Sun 24 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

**JAMIE WEBSTER** Sun 24 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**BOUNTY KILLER** Sun 24 Nov, Forum, Birmingham

**JON WILKS** Sun 24 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

**THE UPBEAT BEATLES** Sun 24 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**MOONLIGHT SINATRA** Sun 24 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

**REBELLION FESTIVAL** Sun 24 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**JULIANE DEIL QUARTET** Sun 24 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**EXTC** Sun 24 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**THE SEARCHERS** Sun 24 Nov, The Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**LUKE COMBS UK** Sun 24 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

## Classical Music

**THOMAS TROTTER ORGAN CONCERT** Programme includes works by Ireland, Mendelssohn, Distler, Dupré & Ponchielli, Mon 18 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

**PIANO DUET RECITAL** Featuring Gill Styles & Richard Walker (piano), Tues 19 Nov, St Alkmunds Church, Shrewsbury

**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

**ROSCOE PIANO TRIO** Featuring Martin Roscoe (piano), Fenella Humphreys (violin) & Jessica Burroughs (cello). Programme includes works by Bridge, Dvořák & Beethoven, Wed 20 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**RUSSELL WATSON: MAGNIFICENT BUILDINGS CONCERT SERIES** Also featuring Nancy May (soprano) & Mike Moran (accompanist), Fri 22 - Sat 23 Nov, Shrewsbury Abbey

**SHREWSBURY CANTATA CHOIR** Featuring Gemma King, Natasha Hendrickse-Welsh, Isabella Abbot Parker, Russell Painter, Piran Legg (soloists) & Tony Coupe (conductor). Programme includes works by Haydn, Handel, & Mozart, Sat 23 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

**BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: THE RAINBOW COMES & GOES** Programme includes works by Rawsthorne, Britten, Ireland & Bennet, Sat 23 Nov, St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**WINTER LIGHT** Featuring Nadia Eide (soprano). Programme includes festive favourites and classic songs, Sat 23 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

**NANTWICH SINGERS** Featuring Ian Crawford (director) & Tim Sagar (organ). Programme includes works by Elert, Tavener, Berlioz & more..., Sat 23 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**SHREWSBURY CANTATA CHOIR** Programme includes works by Haydn, Handel & Mozart, Sat 23 Nov, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

**STAFFORD CHORAL SOCIETY: AUTUMN CONCERT** Programme includes works by Haydn, C McDowall & Coleridge-Taylor, Sat 23 Nov, Rising Brook Community Church, Stafford

**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

## Comedy

**COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, ANDREW MAXWELL & DAISY EARL** Thurs 21 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**IVO GRAHAM** Thurs 21 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent

**LUCY BEAUMONT** Thurs 21 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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

**JIMMY CARR** Fri 22 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

**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

**HAL CRUTTENDEN** Sat 23 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**TOM WARD** Sun 24 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**KIRI PRITCHARD-MCLEAN** Sun 24 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

**CARL HUTCHINSON** Sun 24 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**MAUREEN YOUNGER** Sun 24 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**ANDREW MENSAH** Sun 24 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

## Theatre

**SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET** Stoke Youth Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of Stephen Sondheim's musical thriller, Tues 19 - Sat 23 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**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 20 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

**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 20 Nov,

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**CONSPIRACY TO MURDER** Stourbridge Theatre Company presents an amateur version of David Morris' murder-mystery, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

**WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN** New musical based on Pedro Almodovar's black comedy about women - and the men who pursue them, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall

**WHAT THE DICKENS?** A cast of seven act, sing, dance and play instruments in a work of theatre which is set on Charles Dickens' last Christmas Eve, Fri 22 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**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

**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, Sat 23 Nov, Quatt Village Hall, Shropshire

## Panto

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** A giant family pantomime starring Sam Rabone, Ben Thornton and Gill Jordan, Fri 22 Nov - Sun 12 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

**ALADDIN** Family favourite panto filled with magic, romance and comedy, Fri 22 Nov - Sun 8 Dec, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

## 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

**DIWALI UTSAV, SITARON KE SANG** Jaivant Patel Company present an evening of South Asian dance in celebration of Diwali, the Festival of

Light, Sat 23 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

## Light Entertainment

**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', Mon 18 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**TIBETAN MONKS** Eight Tibetan monks from Tashi Lhunpo Monastery present a programme of mantras, music and dance to provide an insight into a world of reincarnation and mysticism, Tues 19 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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

**ALED JONES: FULL CIRCLE** One-man show in which the classical crossover artist looks back on his remarkable career, Thurs 21 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

**RAVE ON** Nostalgic show featuring hits from the 1950s and 60s and starring leading performers from The Buddy Holly Story, Million Dollar Quartet and Dreamboats & Petticoats, Thurs 21 Nov, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**MARK RADCLIFFE AND DAVID BOARDMAN** Two voices, two guitars, some great original songs, the odd carefully chosen cover and the occasional rambling anecdote..., Thurs 21 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**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

**TENORS UNLIMITED: GREAT SONGS TOUR** Sat 23 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**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

## Talks & Spoken Word

**RANDALL MUNROE: WHAT IF?** Join the former NASA roboticist, bestselling author and cartoonist as he gives scientific answers to absurd hypothetical questions..., Mon 18 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

**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, Mon 18 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**THE MAKINGS OF A MURDERER 2** All-new show in which former Metropolitan Police investigating officer Colin Sutton shares stories about how he caught some of the UK's most evil murderers, Tues 19 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## Events

**CREATIVE LATES - LINO PRINTING** Learn the art of lino printing, Thurs 21 Nov, Eignuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**SHREWSBURY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON** Featuring family entertainment, the switch-on of Shrewdolf and complimentary mince pies and mulled wine in Shrewsbury Market Hall, Wed 20 Nov, The Square, Shrewsbury

**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

**OSWESTRY CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON** Featuring performances by local schools, colleges, dance and drama groups, Thurs 21 Nov, Bailey Head, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**WEDNESFIELD CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON** Thurs 21 Nov, High Street, Wednesfield

**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

**SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND** Featuring real snow, real animals and the all-new winter wonderland show, Thurs 21 - Mon 25 Nov, SnowDome, Tamworth

**ALDERFORD'S SANTA ISLAND EXPERIENCE** Enjoy festive activities and meet Santa, Thurs 21 Nov - Mon 23 Dec, Alderford, Shropshire

**ICE SKATING** Enjoy a day of winter wonder out on the rink, Thurs 21 Nov - Sun 5 Jan, Alderford, Shropshire

**CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS: A TRIBUTE TO**



### Elf Cadets

Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford, Sat 30 November & Sun 1 December and Sat 7 & Sun 8 December

Have you always wondered how Santa delivers all those presents in a single night? Well... we'll let you into a little secret: he brings in the experts - the RAF! This Christmas, little ones can train to become an RAF Elf Cadet. Learn how to load the sleigh, pick the

right aircraft for the job, and map out a route for Santa. Suitable for all the family to enjoy, Elf Cadet Training combines the best of the RAF with a great big dollop of festive fun. The event takes place inside the museum's hangars.

**TAYLOR SWIFT** A 60-minute concert performed by The Sekine Quartet, Fri 22 Nov, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**BILSTON CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON** Fri 22 Nov, Church Street, Bilston

**NEWPORT CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON** Fri 22 Nov, Newport, Shropshire

**CHRISTMAS MARKET** Find all you need to prepare for Christmas, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Nov, Apley Estate, Shropshire

**THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE** Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and intrigue of this classic children's tale, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Nov, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

**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

**ARLEY ESTATE CHRISTMAS FAIR** A range of handmade goodies from talented independent sellers, Sat 23 Nov, Arley House & Gardens, Bewdley

**ULTRA WHITE COLLAR BOXING** An evening of boxing bouts raising money for charity, Sat 23 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**TETTENHALL CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH**

ON Sat 23 Nov, Upper Green, Tettenhall

**WEST BROMWICH CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON** Lights switched on by boyband Damage, Sat 23 Nov, Princess Parade, West Bromwich

**SHIFNAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & MARKET** Shifnal's annual Christmas event, Sat 23 Nov, Shifnal, Shropshire

**SANTA HUNTS** Take your little ones on a search for Santa, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF RAILWAY MODELLING 2024** The 'ultimate event for the railway modelling enthusiast', Sat 23 - Sun 24 Nov, NEC, B'ham

**NORTH POLE ADVENTURE** A 'magical journey to the North Pole to meet Father Christmas', Sat 23 - Sun 24 Nov, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

**MEET SANTA EXPERIENCE** Say a big hello to Santa & Mary Claus, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Nov, Middleport Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent  
**LICHFIELD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON** Featuring a festive market, carol singing and more, Sun 24 Nov, Market Square, Lichfield

A WY WITH MEDIA PRODUCTIONS LTD PROUDLY PRESENT

# SHAWN RYDER

## HAPPY MONDAYS

AND FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS, AND SUNDAYS

SUN 27 APRIL 2025

THE BUTTERMARKE  
SHREWSBURY

STOKE Rep Players

# ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR

By Alan Ayckbourn

10~14 December 2024

This amateur production of "Absurd Person Singular" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Stoke Rep Theatre  
Leek Road | Stoke-on-Trent | ST4 2TR



### Gigs

**METZ** Mon 25 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**PENGUIN CAFE** Mon 25 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall  
**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  
**STEVIE NIMMO** Tues 26 Nov, The Robin, Bilston  
**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  
**BARS AND MELODY** Wed 27 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham  
**PARIS PALOMA + LUVCAT** Wed 27 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE DAMN TRUTH + ASHLEY SHERLOCK BAND** Wed 27 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton  
**MARTIN HARLEY** Wed 27 Nov, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury  
**JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA** Wed 27 - Thurs 28 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**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  
**NOT RADIOHEAD +**

### SMASHED IN PUMPKINS

Thurs 28 Nov, The Robin, Bilston  
**MICHAEL MONROE** Thurs 28 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton  
**THE ZUTONS** Thurs 28 Nov, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent  
**COLDPLACE** Thurs 28 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms  
**PROJECT SMOK** Thurs 28 Nov, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire  
**SURGEON + JAMES HOLDEN + FRIENDS** Fri 29 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**N'FAMADY KOUYATE** Fri 29 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**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  
**SKINNY LISTER + RUSTY SHACKLE + BEN BROWN** Fri 29 Nov, Castle & Falcon, 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  
**THE HOUSE OF LOVE + THE PRIMITIVES** Fri 29 Nov, The Crossing, Birmingham  
**STARSAILOR** Fri 29 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall  
**BUDDY HOLLY - HOLLY AT CHRISTMAS** Fri 29 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall  
**THE ALMIGHTY + GIRLSCHOOL** Fri 29 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton  
**ZAYN** Fri 29 Nov, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton  
**THE GERRY CINNA-MAN EXPERIENCE + NOEL GALLAGHERS HIGH FLYING CARPETS** Fri 29 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**COLDPLACE** Fri 29 Nov, Octagon, Stoke-on-

### Trent

**RENEGADE** Fri 29 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent  
**LEE 'MEMPHIS' KING** Fri 29 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent  
**STEVE & CHRIS WILSON** Fri 29 Nov, The Albion, Burton upon Trent  
**A LITTLE RESPECT - ERASURE TRIBUTE** Fri 29 Nov, Two Gates Club, Tamworth  
**THE GUNS & ROSES EXPERIENCE** Fri 29 Nov, The Station, Cannock  
**AMINGTON BRASS BAND** Fri 29 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield  
**R.E.M. BY STIPE** Fri 29 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury  
**WELLY** Fri 29 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury  
**LUNA KISS + WEEKEND DAD** Fri 29 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford  
**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  
**A CORY TRILOGY: PART 2** Sat 30 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall  
**SPOON SPEAKER MAN** Sat 30 Nov, Halesowen Town Hall  
**BORN IN THE EIGHTIES** Sat 30 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**MAETLIVE** Sat 30 Nov, The Robin, Bilston  
**ELLES BAILEY + TRUE STRAYS + DEMI MARRINER** Sat 30 Nov, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton  
**SHOWADDYWADDY** Sat 30 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls, Wolverhampton  
**SCOTT CLAY** Sat 30 Nov, The Dog House, Stafford  
**FABIANO DO NASCIMENTO + REBELSKI** Sat 30 Nov, Unitarian Church, Shrewsbury  
**MICROBABY** Sat 30 Nov, Albert's Shed, Southwater, Telford

### Classical Music

**ALEX TROLESE PIANO RECITAL** Tues 26 Nov, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury  
**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: AFRICAN RHAPSODIES** Featuring Seckou Keita (kora), Suntou Susso (guest artist), Clark Rundell (conductor), Wed 27 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall  
**SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring John Moore (conductor) & Alex Postlethwaite (leader). Programme includes works by Coleridge-Taylor, Copeland & Beach, Wed 27 Nov, Shrewsbury School  
**SHREWSBURY SCHOOL SINGERS** Tues 28 Nov, St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury  
**AMINGTON BRASS BAND: CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Featuring Chris Barker (musical director), Fri 29 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's Lichfield  
**NORTHERN SOUL ORCHESTRATED** Curated by Stuart Maconie and featuring Joe Duddell & the BBC Concert Orchestra, Fri 29 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**CHRISTMAS WITH CONTREPOINT** Programme includes works by Mouton, Praetorius, Massey & more..., Fri 29 Nov, Hereford Cathedral  
**AMINGTON BRASS BAND: CHRISTMAS CONCERT** A night of quintessential festive entertainment and yuletide music, Fri 29 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield  
**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  
**STAFFORD SINFONIA: ROMANCE & REVOLUTION** Featuring Nathan Isaac (clarinet) & Jack Lovell-Huckle (conductor). Programme includes works by Brahms, Rossini & Weber, Sat 30 Nov, Rising Brook Community Church, Stafford  
**ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: MIDWINTER** Featuring David Le Page (director). Programme includes works by Corelli, Vivaldi, Purcell & more..., Sat 30 Nov, Heightington Village Hall, Bewdley, Worcestershire

### 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  
**COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, ERIC RUSHTON & COMIC TBC** Thurs 28 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**THE LATE NIGHT SWEET SHOP** Thurs 28 Nov, Cherry Reds, 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  
**FITZ OF LAUGHTER - COMICS TBC** Sat 30 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge  
**TROY HAWKE** Sat 30 Nov, The Civic at The Halls, Wolverhampton  
**SHAZIA MIRZA + MITCH BENN + SHACHIN KUMARENDRAN** Sat 30 Nov, Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

### Theatre

**CHICAGO** Faye Brookes stars as Roxie Hart alongside Kevin Clifton as Billy Flynn and Sinitta as Mama Morton in a new version of the iconic musical, Mon 25 - Sat 30 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**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  
**ERIC'S FULL MONTY 2024** The New Vic's favourite entertainer is back. Expect 60s music and laughter aplenty as Eric reluctantly embarks on a 'get rich quick' adventure - Chippendales style!, Mon 25 Nov - Tues 10 Dec, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme  
**NATIVITY! THE MUSICAL** Little Theatre Company present an amateur version of the heartwarming festive story, Tues 26 - Sat 30 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent  
**NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND** Highbury Players present an amateur stage adaptation of Bill Bryson's bestselling book, Tues 26 Nov - Sat 7 Dec, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield  
**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

**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 27 Nov, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY** Five Towns Theatre present an amateur version of the kooky comic musical, Wed 27 - Sat 30 Nov, Stoke Rep Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**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, Thurs 28 Nov, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, South Shropshire

**A VICAR OF DIBLEY CHRISTMAS**

Presented by Ludwig Theatre Arts and based on the original TV series written by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**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 29 Nov, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**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, Sat 30 Nov, The Talbot Theatre, Whitchurch

## Panto

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** A giant family pantomime starring Sam Rabone, Ben Thornton and Gill Jordan, until Sun 12 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

**MOTHER GOOSE PANTOMIME** An excellent festive production for all the family, Thurs 28 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Festival Drayton, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**SLEEPING BEAUTY** Fun-filled family pantomime starring Brad Fitt, Tommy J Rollason (Britain's Got Talent), Dionne Ward-Anderson (Six The Musical) and Gemma Sutton (Strictly Ballroom), Fri 29 Nov - Sun 12 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Festive family fun. Casting includes panto favourites Tam Ryan and Ian Adams, alongside

Gladiator's Giant, SIX actor Jarneja 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

**JUNGLE BOOK** Indigo Moon Theatre's innovative version of Rudyard Kipling's story, using shadow puppetry, original music and digital projections, Sat 30 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

## Light Entertainment

**LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND: THE MUSIC OF VICTORIA WOOD** Paulus The Cabaret Geek celebrates the life and work of the much-loved entertainer, Tues 26 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

**MURDER:STAGED** Research psychologist & psychopathy expert Cheish Merryweather hosts an evening for true crime fans featuring forensics, reconstructed real-life crime-scene walk-throughs and 'a deep dive into cases that have not been seen on stage live before', Thurs 28 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS** Aldridge Musical Comedy Society present a musical theatre-themed Christmas concert, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 Nov, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**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

**THE RAT PACK - A SWINGIN' CHRISTMAS AT THE SANDS** Three talented performers star as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr, Sat 30 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

## Dance

**THE NUTCRACKER** Birmingham Royal Ballet present Sir Peter Wright's iconic version of the festive classic, until Sat 14 Dec, Birmingham Hippodrome

**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, Fri 29 - Sat 30 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

## Events

**SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND**

Featuring real snow, real animals and the all-new winter wonderland show, Wed 27 Nov, SnowDome, Tamworth

**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

**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

**CHRISTMAS DOOR WREATHS WITH KERRY GOODYEAR** Two-hour festive wreath-making workshop, Fri 29 Nov, Weston Park, Shropshire

**MCM COMIC CON** Featuring all things comics, gaming, anime and more, Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

**CLASSIC ANTIQUE FAIRS** Featuring up to 100 specialist dealers offering a wide variety of high-quality pieces, Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

**FOLLIES SAFARI** Enjoy a magical 4x4 journey to see Santa in his hillside grotto, Fri 29 Nov - Mon 23 Dec, Hawkstone Park & Follies, North Shropshire

**WINTER LIGHT TRAIL** All-new illuminated light trail, Fri 29 Nov - Tues 31 Dec, Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

**WIGHTWICK MANOR DECORATED FOR A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS** Check out the handiwork of talented volunteers as you enjoy 'the real decorated trees and arrangements lit by candlelight throughout the ground floor of the manor', Fri 29 Nov - Sun 5 Jan, Wightwick Manor & Gardens, Wolverhampton

**SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND** Featuring real snow, real animals and the all-new winter wonderland show, Fri 29 Nov - Sun 5 Jan, SnowDome, Tamworth

**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

**BEWLEY LIGHTS SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICE** Travel in style to see the Christmas lights switch-on event in Bewdley, Sat 30 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

**BONGO'S BINGO CHRISTMAS SPECIAL** The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 30 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

**MADE ON THE BORDERS: HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL** Show

supporting local crafters and makers, Sat 30 Nov, British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**OAKENGATES CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS** Featuring a Christmas light switch-on, live music and funfair rides, Sat 30 Nov, Market Street, Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire

**MADELEY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON** Christmas market, Santa's grotto and more..., Sat 30 Nov, Madeley Centre, Telford, Shropshire

**WELLINGTON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON** Sat 30 Nov, Market Square, Wellington, Shropshire

**SANTA HUNTS** Can you and your little ones find Santa?, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**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

**THE SANTA EXPERIENCE** Say hello to Santa and his elves, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**WESTON'S CHRISTMAS MARKET** Featuring a selection of talented crafters and festive fayre, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Weston Park, Shropshire

**STORYTIME IN SANTA'S GROTTTO** Interactive storyline experience featuring a selection of stories narrated by Santa, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, World of Wedgwood, Stoke-on-Trent

**ELF CADETS** Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford

**NORTH POLE ADVENTURE** Enjoy 'a magical journey to the North Pole to meet Father Christmas', Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

**MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS** Father Christmas will be meeting families in his traditional museum workshop, Sat 30 Nov - Mon 23 Dec, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

**SANTA'S GROTTTO** Visit Santa in his grotto, set within the walls of the 11th-century castle, Sat 30 Nov - Tues 24 Dec, Dudley Zoo & Castle

**THE CHRISTMAS GROTTTO** Wander through a Christmas village, where there's a surprise around every corner, Sat 30 Nov - Tues 24 Dec, Webbs at West Hagley, Stourbridge

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL A** collection of real Christmas trees, decorated by local businesses, schools and charities, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 5 Jan, Lichfield Cathedral

# 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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