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ISSUE 454 NOVEMBER 2024

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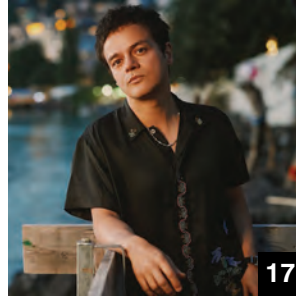
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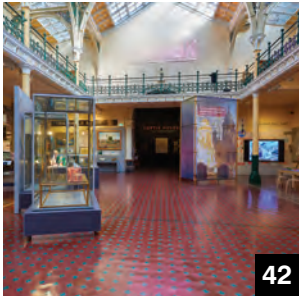
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A spring season of hits at the Birmingham Rep

A new stage version of award-winning 1980s television series *Boys From The Blackstuff* is among the highlights of Birmingham Repertory Theatre's Spring 2025 line-up of shows.

The production, visiting the venue direct from the National Theatre and West End, takes its place in a programme that also features *A Thousand Splendid Suns* - the sequel to Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* (pictured). Other shows include *The Shark Is Broken* - celebrating the 50th anniversary of cult horror movie *Jaws* - and a new version of Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic, *Death Of A Salesman*. To check out the full line-up of productions, visit the theatre's website at birmingham-rep.co.uk

Lichfield Garrick launches Big Ticket Appeal 2024

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.inlink/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. This year's Garrick panto, *Jack And The Beanstalk*, opens this month, on Friday the 22nd.

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



Light Up Fest comes to Cannon Hill Park

A family-friendly 'magical lantern parade' will take place in Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park on Saturday 30 November (from 4.30pm).

Commissioned by Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) and organised in collaboration with local company Autin Dance Theatre, Light Up Fest will be led by 'a glorious array of performers, musicians and a community cast'. To find out more about the event, visit macbirmingham.co.uk



Birmingham theatre to stage queer fairytale

A brand-new version of queer fairytale *Zanna, Don't!* is showing at Birmingham's Old Joint Stock Theatre next month.

Described as 'a heartwarming and whimsical journey of love, acceptance, and the magic of being yourself', the production runs at the venue from Wednesday 4 to Sunday 15 December.

Further information and tickets are available via the venue's website: oldjointstock.co.uk

Rodgers & Hammerstein tribute at Symphony Hall

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

A comedy and jazz combo at the Conservatoire

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC) is to host a brand-new event next month. Debuting on Friday 6 December - and featuring Chelsea Birkby, RBC jazz musicians and headliner Simon Munnery - *A Laugh Supreme* is described as 'a series of shows bringing together the best of comedy and jazz in the incredible Eastside Jazz Club'.

To find out more and check ticket availability, visit bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire



Eric to tour new show to the Glee

Comedian Eric Rushton is touring his new stand-up show to Birmingham's Glee Club in the new year.

Eric stops off at the venue on Sunday 23 February.

To check out ticket availability, visit ericrushton.com



Father Christmas at Police Museum

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

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

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

Cliff on tour at 84

Sir Cliff Richard is to visit Birmingham late next year as part of a UK tour.

The 84-year-old singer will be bringing his Can't Stop Me Now show to the city's Symphony Hall on Tuesday 2 December 2025. For further information and to book tickets, visit the website livenation.co.uk



Moulin Rouge to can-can into Birmingham Hippodrome

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

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 Saturday 10 May.

For further information and to book tickets, visit André's website at andrerieu.com



Annual Christmas festival making a welcome return to Symphony Hall

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

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

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

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



Birmingham choir return with Handel's Messiah

Midlands classical music lovers have the chance to get themselves in the Christmas spirit good and early next month, when the City of Birmingham Choir once again perform Handel's Messiah. Being presented at Symphony Hall on Friday 6 December, the performance also features the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and will last for two hours and 20 minutes. For further information and to book tickets, visit cbso.co.uk

Musical parody at the Old Joint Stock Theatre

Popular comedian Tracey Collins makes a welcome return to Birmingham this month with a Sex And The City musical parody. Tracey, whose comedy creations include Shell Suit Cher and Audrey Heartburn, will present Bingo & The City With Samantha Groans! at the Old Joint Stock Theatre on Friday 22 November. Tickets are available at oldjointstock.co.uk

A Christmas gift for fans of radio soap The Archers

Fans of long-running BBC Radio Four series The Archers have a brand-new book about their favourite show to add to their Christmas wish list.

The Archers Unseen: A Secret History Of Ambridge has been written by local author and series producer Julie Beckett (pictured). More information about the title is available at penguin.co.uk



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

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



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 evening of the 8th).

Tickets are free and can be booked at ticketsource.co.uk/women-theatre

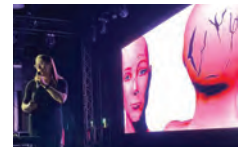
Arts Market back at MAC

Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre is hosting a special Christmas Arts Market at the end of the month.

Taking place at the Cannon Hill Park venue on Saturday 30 November & Sunday 1 December - and then again on Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 December - the market will feature a festive selection of 'some of the best work from designer-makers in Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond'. To find out more, visit macbirmingham.co.uk

'Murder most foul' event coming to Birmingham

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



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 city's Crescent Theatre on Thursday 7 November. To find out more and book tickets, visit the venue's website.

New night set to launch at iconic Birmingham pub

A new prog house and breaks night is this month being launched at iconic Birmingham pub the Hare & Hounds. Titled WeAreConnected, the event debuts at the Kings Heath-located venue on Saturday 16 November. Tickets for the gig are available at skiddle.com

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Penguin Cafe: Music from The Penguin Cafe Orchestra
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Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues Band
27 & 28 Nov | Symphony Hall



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



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There's something for everyone this November!

New festive ballet to debut at The Dovehouse

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

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

Small-screen festival back for a fourth edition

A popular event celebrating iconic shows on the small screen is returning for its fourth edition this month.

Taking place at three Birmingham venues - Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Mockingbird Cinema and The Heath Bookshop - Square Eyes TV Festival (Friday 1 - Sunday 10 November) features a carefully curated programme of screenings and talks based around much-loved television series. Shows being featured during this year's festival include *The Sopranos*, *Trigger Happy TV*, *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* and *Prisoner Cell Block H*.

Beer festival back in the region after 42-year break

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

The Campaign for Real Ale's flagship event, which 'celebrates the best of UK brewing and beyond', will take place at Birmingham's NEC from Tuesday 5 to Saturday 9 August. The well-established festival, now in its 47th year, features hundreds of beers as well as bars dedicated to cocktails, real cider and perry.

Olly Alexander and Sugababes to play Brum

Sugababes (pictured), Olly Alexander, Ella Henderson and Tom Walker are among the performers taking to



Birmingham's bp pulse LIVE stage this month when Hits Radio Live makes a welcome return (Friday 22 November). The line-up also features Leigh-Anne, Sigala and Joel Corry. Tickets for the show can be purchased at hitsradio.co.uk



A 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

Follow the yellow brick road to The Alexandra

Birmingham theatre The Alexandra is offering children and young people the chance to take a trip along the yellow brick road next summer.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Stage Experience, the Alex's annual youth theatre programme, the venue is presenting a large-scale theatrical production of *The Wizard Of Oz* - and inviting young people aged between nine and 24 to get involved. Applications are now open, with places available for budding performers and technicians.

To find out more about how to apply - the deadline is Friday 11 April - visit careers.atg.co.uk

Hit play Handbagged to tour to the Midlands

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

Moira Buffini's *Handbagged* stops off at

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

Early-morning theatre at the RSC's Other Place

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

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

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

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

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SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS

This Christmas, Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) is hosting Finding Santa, an interactive play for young audiences performed by Little Angel Theatre. Featuring lovable puppets and fabulous festive fun, the show presents a heartwarming Choose Your Own Adventure story that answers the age-old question of how letters get to Santa at the North Pole - and what happens when things don't go quite according to plan! What's On spoke to director Samantha Lane of Little Angel Theatre to find out more...

Tell us about Finding Santa, Samantha. The play is quite interactive - how do audiences get involved in the show?

The crux of the story is that two elves, Tatty and Pumpkin, are on their way to bring the Christmas letters to Santa on Christmas Eve. A little accident happens, and the sleigh overturns. Pumpkin and Tatty fall out, as do all the letters, and the sleigh carries on flying back to Santa. They've got to make their way back to the North Pole, find the letters and get them back to Santa in time for Christmas Eve, so that he can deliver all of the Christmas presents!

It's a Choose Your Own Adventure. I don't know whether you've ever come across those books, where you read a couple of pages and it will say "If you want to take the left path, turn to page 15; if you want to take the right path, turn to page 16..." The direction the story takes depends on the choice that you make. It's exactly the same concept - the performers actually have to learn multiple versions of the show, and at various points they ask the audience to help them make a choice about which direction they take.

All of Little Angel's productions involve puppetry. How does working with puppets change the way a show develops?

I love puppetry for the same reason that I love working with children - it asks much more of its audience, because it asks you to believe that an inanimate object is alive... Children don't want to block that; they instantly want to believe it, too. They are working with you in a way that's just absolutely incredible. The combination of those two things is just pure magic, pure theatre.

It's vital that we're working with really strong, skilled puppeteers. There is a belief that if you're an actor, you can puppet, but it's simply not true, they're very different skills... Finding Santa is an example of a show that requires puppetry and acting. The reason I work in theatre is because it's a collaborative art form... You're bringing a whole group of different creative people together in one room and finding solutions to bring that show to life collectively. For me, that's the joy of making theatre.

Little Angel Theatre have performed at MAC many times - why does the venue suit your style of show?

It's a great venue in its commitment to family work... It gives such a good long run of a show to young audiences. I think it's the perfect venue for that - it's a great location, and it's got that commitment to its community, and the people who live around it, which is at the heart of our ethos as well.

What's the recommended age range for Finding Santa audiences? Is there an age that might be too young?

It's quite wordy - if you're super-little and you haven't got the grasp of language, I think you're going to miss some moments. That's not to say a two-year-old can't come along with their five- or six-year-old sibling... Tatty and Pumpkin talk their way through all of these scenarios, and the way they engage with the audience is through chat as well, so it's a wordy show. I'd say up to the age of four, it's more difficult to follow what's going on, but there are some really gorgeous moments with the puppets that are really visual, so you'll get something out of it.

How do you make sure that all audiences feel relaxed and empowered to join in?

My two kids hate the idea of being singled out, or the idea that you might get called up on to the stage - they're quite introverted in that sense. Some kids, honestly, their hands wouldn't stretch high enough for how much they want to be on stage!

I think with this particular show, it doesn't put anybody on the spot in an awful way. Before the show starts, Pumpkin and Tatty, the two elves, are out in the audience, talking to people, telling them jokes, really engaging with the children - and in particular, those children who might feel a little bit less inclined to get involved.

When they do make that first approach to the audience, it's not a complete shock - they've met them already. The audience sees that they're kind, and Tatty particularly is silly. It's just about warming people up to that idea. In the end, the decisions are made collectively by the whole audience, so no one is made to feel awkward in any way.

There are lots of fun characters in Finding Santa. Do you have a favourite?

I don't want to give any of the puppet characters away - at every point of the journey, Pumpkin and Tatty will meet a different character portrayed by a puppet, and that puppet will help them - or not - on their journey.

I absolutely adore Pumpkin and Tatty, who are not puppets but human actors. Pumpkin is incredibly serious and believes in sense and logic, and Tatty is the complete opposite, thinking that you can get through life just by tomfoolery! It's really interesting to see those two characters thinking that *their* way is the right way... The way that the relationship between the elves changes over the course of the show is really nice.

Finding Santa shows at Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) from Wednesday 20 November until Sunday 29 December



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Classical music from across the region...



Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra

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

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

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

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

City of Birmingham Choir

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire,
Sun 17 November

The ever-impressive City of Birmingham Choir make a welcome return to the limelight, this time to perform their first-ever concert in Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's Bradshaw Hall. The programme features Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor and Cecilia McDowall's Da Vinci Requiem. The latter is a seven-movement work, written in 2019, that brings together extracts from Leonardo Di Vinci's notebooks with texts from the Latin Missa pro defunctis. Adrian Lucas conducts.



Ex Cathedra: Faire Is The Heaven

St Francis Church, Bournville, Birmingham,
Sat 9 November

"Faire Is The Heaven takes place in the idealistic utopian Birmingham village of Bournville,"



explains Ex Cathedra founder Jeffrey Skidmore (pictured) in talking about this latest concert. "From a council estate in Northfield, I went to school there and was a chorister at St Francis Church. "This programme includes music from Ex Cathedra's first 20 years or so, when I was a full-time teacher in four comprehensive schools in the region... Well-loved, popular and typically innovative repertoire was mixed with commissions from John Joubert and Martin Bates, and much of the music brings to mind the group's 'legendary' trips to Cork, Lyon, Leipzig and Milan. These special occasions built the ethos of the choir."

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.



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.

Birmingham Bach Choir

St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter,
Birmingham, Sat 23 November

One of the city's oldest and most distinguished musical groups, Birmingham Bach Choir here presents a concert of 20th-century music based around the theme of 'nature'. Featuring works by Eric Whitacre, Alan Rawsthorn, Benjamin Britten and John Ireland, the concert concludes with a performance of Richard Rodney Bennett's The Glory And The Dream, a setting of the William Wordsworth ode Intimations Of Immortality.

COMPLETE BEDLAM



BEDLAM, a unique festival celebrating the arts and mental health & wellbeing, returns this month, presenting a diverse programme of entertainment that promises to have something for everyone...

This year's highly anticipated BEDLAM Showcase at Birmingham Rep features dance, theatre, burlesque and comedy, presented by professional and non-professional performers across two entertainment-packed evenings.

The showcases bring together performances created during wellbeing workshops with work being shared by professional artists around the themes of mental health and wellbeing.

BEDLAM is a partnership of organisations aiming to use the arts to promote mental health. The showcase celebrates this work with performances that aim not only to entertain but also encourage audiences to explore and discuss mental health and mental ill health.

"The aim of the showcases goes back to the original aims of the BEDLAM festival when it was founded more than 10 years ago, which were around reducing stigma and challenging prejudices and misconceptions," explains BEDLAM co-producer Sabra Khan. "Although we are talking more about mental health these days than 10 years ago, I don't think mental health literacy has necessarily been achieved. There are still people who want to learn more about it; we are still challenging the stigma that exists and increasing mental health literacy."

The benefits are experienced by the participants in the workshops, who have been learning their new skills in a safe environment that encourages discussion around mental health and wellbeing.

"Creating spaces where people can be open about their stories is part of what's really important for us," Sabra says. "[It's also important] just to have those spaces where you can help people develop tools and use the arts as a way of developing their own resilience.

"They come to the sessions and take part, but being able to take those tools outside of the sessions, should they need them, is an important part as well.

"We at BEDLAM are able to provide community spaces which allow people to have mindful participation. So in a way they can also park at the door any problems or issues that they have, come in and take part in work that helps them to connect to others. "We know that the programmes help to reduce isolation and loneliness, they help to

connect to artists, they create a sense of community, and they allow people to be mindful in that moment. In that hour, they can concentrate on taking part in artistic activity and enjoying that."

And the benefits are manifold.

"Loneliness is such a big issue for society now," says Sabra. "One of the things most people talk about when coming to BEDLAM and taking part in BEDLAM activity is about how it helped them to get out through the door. It has given them something to look forward to, and it's given them connections with other people.

"The arts is one of the best ways of bringing people together, whether that's to take part, to watch, or to perform in one of the showcases."

The BEDLAM partners include Sampad South Asian Arts & Heritage, Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham Rep and Red Earth Collective. All these groups will see their work featured in the showcases.

"The two will be very different evenings," says co-producer Steve Ball. "And we hope people will come to both.

"On the Thursday there's a musician from Red Earth Collective and an extract from Positive Risk, which is a play in development around mental health. There's stand-up comedy from LGBTQTeeHee - a community facilitated by Birmingham Rep - and Company Chameleon, a dance company performing a piece called Witness.

"On the Friday there's Journey LGBT+ Asylum Group - who have worked with the artist Ash Mukherjee - Payal Ramchandi, with an evocative dance performance, more stand-up comedy and the Red Earth Collective musician. A burlesque cabaret finishes off the evening with Crying Shame by Sweet Beef Theatre."

All the works turn the spotlight on issues around mental health and aim to encourage understanding and discussion.

"I hope that audiences will be entertained and have fun," says Steve. "but I hope they will also have some of their views around mental health, wellbeing and neurodiversity challenged. I hope they will see and be able to put themselves in the shoes of other people in ways they may not have been able to do before.

"What the showcases are doing, and what BEDLAM has done in the past, is to celebrate this work and to give people a sense of occasion and a sense of achievement.

"It is quite something for someone who is maybe a shy participant lacking confidence in the LGBTQTeeHee programme, 10 weeks later to be standing on the stage in the Birmingham Repertory Theatre performing stand-up comedy. It is a major achievement - and in terms of their own self-esteem and confidence journey, that's very important."

Each performance is part of a bigger picture of activities organised by BEDLAM over the past decade. Steve and Sabra firmly believe that the ongoing initiative has helped people and communities open up and explore often-stigmatised subjects around mental health.

"Since BEDLAM was launched," continues Steve, "it has really helped to develop and strengthen the partnership between arts organisations in the city and mental health services.

"I think it has really helped to encourage positive dialogue around neurodiversity, wellbeing and mental health. Most importantly, I think it has really helped participants, whether or not they are inpatients or outpatients of mental health services or not, to develop their confidence, creativity, self-esteem and communication skills.

"It's really important that we create synergies and partnerships, so that the participants we are working with can get the very best experience from a venue, from artists and from mental health professionals. All of those things are essential for a positive creative experience.

"The cultural spaces in the city, be that Birmingham Rep or MAC, belong to the citizens of the city, and it's really important that, whatever their background, they have access as audiences and performers at those venues."

.....

The BEDLAM Showcase takes place at The Rep, Birmingham, on Thursday 28 & Friday 29 November. An accompanying exhibition shows at Birmingham Library from Thursday 28 November to Saturday 25 January. Visit bedlamfestival.co.uk for information on the complete programme



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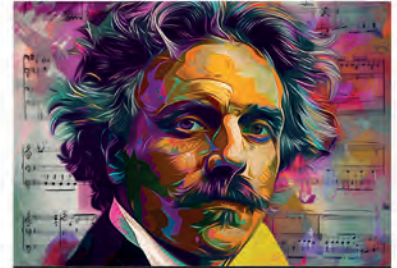
4-10 Nov

Supersonic: Bohren &
Der Club of Gore



Sat 9 Nov

Fauré and His World



11-15 Nov

Manchester Collective &
Abel Selacoe



Tue 12 Nov

Walt Weiskopf



Thu 21 Nov

Errollyn Wallen and Thallein
Ensemble



Fri 22 Nov

Swing Into Christmas



Sat 30 Nov

Jokes & Co: Simon Munnery,
Chelsea Birkby & Alex Milner



Fri 6 Dec

Julius Caesar
(The Crescent Theatre)



Fri 22 Nov

Macbeth
(The Crescent Theatre)



12-14 Dec

It's Beginning to Look a
Lot Like Christmas



Mon 16 Dec

Dustin O'Halloran



Sat 22 Feb

Live music from across the city...

Jamie Cullum

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Wed 13 November

Having wowed local crowds with his jazz piano while still a teenager, Jamie Cullum was encouraged by fellow musicians to play some bigger venues. He soon had the likes of Michael Parkinson, on his BBC Radio Two show, championing his melodic voice and syncopated rhythms.

He arrives at Symphony Hall this month a well-established name on the global stage, with nine albums and a multi-award-winning career as a music broadcaster under his belt.



Alice Longyu Gao

The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham,
Wed 13 November

Alice Longyu Gao's music has been widely praised for its bold hyperpop production, with her ever-increasing fanbase including no less a luminary than Lady Gaga. Based both in New York City and Los Angeles, and describing herself as a queer, pansexual woman, Alice harbours big ambitions for the future, but has also got both feet planted firmly on the ground. "It would be sick if I can be a stadium-type artist," she told AP. "But also, if I am so self-sufficient to the level of 'every single show, it's like 500 people, always sold out, everybody has fun, I can pay for my electricity bills,' that sounds good to me, too."



Ezra Collective

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Wed 6 November

Making music that blends elements of afrobeat, calypso, hip-hop, jazz, reggae and soul, Ezra Collective are back on the road in

support of their recently released third record, *Dance, No One's Watching*. The London-based quintet arrive in the Midlands on the crest of a wave, having last year bagged the Mercury Prize for their sophomore album, *Where I'm Meant To Be*.

Amyl And The Sniffers

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sun 10 November

Generating a sound that's been compared to The Damned and Iggy Pop & The Stooges, Australian pub and punk rockers Amyl And The Sniffers are touring to the Midlands in support of recently released third album *Cartoon Darkness*. The band have been causing a stir on the international scene for a good while now, and cite AC/DC and Dolly Parton among their influences.



go live," says Nick. "It never, ever occurs to me. The lyric-writing process is way too hard to take ideas like that into consideration. But, when I listen to *Wild God* now, I think we can really do something epic with these songs live. We're really excited about that; the record just feels like it was made for the stage."

Deary

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,
Tues 19 November

London-based musicians Ben and Dottie came together during lockdown and have since been making a name for themselves via a musical output that imaginatively incorporates elements of shoegaze and dream pop. The duo have been likened to Slowdive and the Cocteau Twins.

Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds

bp pulse Live, Birmingham, Fri 15 November

Variously described as a maverick, a prolific songwriter and an idiosyncratic genius, Nick Cave is undoubtedly one of the world's most enduring performers. With his band, The Bad Seeds, which formed after the break-up of Australian post-punk legends The Birthday Party in 1983, he visits the region this month in support of new album *Wild God*.

"I never think about how a record is going to



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SCAN ME



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.”

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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

Icons: Touch Tour, CAP

RUSSELL KANE

HYPER ACTIVE

Fri 15 Nov

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Sir Peter Wright's **The Nutcracker**

Fri 22 Nov - Sat 14 Dec

Icon: R

Chosen

By Taiyo Yoshida & Dominic Verney

Fri 22 - Sat 23 Nov

Icon: R

YOUR FAVOURITE HIT SONGS FROM INDIAN CINEMA

Bollywood Time Machine

PERFORMED LIVE WITH DANCERS

Sat 7 Dec

MY FIRST MUSICAL

THE JINGLECLAW

Fri 13 Dec - Sat 4 Jan 2025

Icon: R

ALISON HAMMOND MATT SLACK DANNY MAC

Peter Pan

THE HIGH FLYING PANTO ADVENTURE

Sat 21 Dec - Sun 2 Feb 2025

Icons: Touch Tour, CAP, R

10 NIGHTS

Thu 6 - Sat 8 Feb 2025

NEW ADVENTURES

'THE SHOW THAT CHANGED THE DANCE LANDSCAPE FOREVER'

MATTHEW BOURNE'S

SWAN LAKE

THE NEXT GENERATION

Thu 6 - Sat 15 Feb 2025

Icon: R

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Cinderella

Wed 19 Feb - Sat 1 Mar 2025

Icon: R

A TRULY SCRUMPTIOUS NEW PRODUCTION

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

Tue 4 - Sun 9 Mar 2025

Icon: R

THE WHIP CRACKIN' MUSICAL CLASSIC

UK AND IRELAND TOUR

CALAMITY JANE

STARRING CARRIE HOPE FLETCHER

Tue 18 - Sat 22 Mar 2025

Icons: Touch Tour, CAP, R



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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DANNY MAC**



Peter Pan

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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 Trot. 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



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Theatre for younger audiences



The Smeds And The Smoos

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

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

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

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

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

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



Disney On Ice Live: Road Trip Adventures

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

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

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

Sophie Nüzel: Stories Of A Watersprite

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

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

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

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



How A Jellyfish Saved The World

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Sun 10 November

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

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



Dinosaur World Live

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

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

HOUNDED BY THE DEAD

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



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

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

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

He then says to me: "Don't ask any difficult questions, as we've literally just started."

Fortunately I was planning a more general discussion about the show. Adapted by Mark Gatiss, it premiered at Nottingham Playhouse, transferred to London, and now comes to Birmingham Rep for nearly two months.

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

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

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

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

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

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

the challenge of creating the spooky Marley?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Austentatious: An Improvised Jane Austen Novel

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 24 November

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

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

Looking For Me Friend

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

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



The Rat Pack - A Swingin' Christmas At The Sands

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

The warm and authentic friendship between Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr - particularly during its heyday in the late 1950s and early 1960s - continues to be the stuff of legend. The three superstar singers, affectionately known as The Rat Pack, were fun-loving guys who brought entertainment to millions with a nice'n'easy style it was hard to dislike... This seriously impressive touring show, paying loving tribute to Frank, Dean and Sammy, is packed to its yuletide rafters with memorable tunes - from Frank's My Way, through Dean's Amore, to Sammy's Mr Bojangles. It also features a host of festive favourites, including Winter Wonderland and White Christmas.

Tarot: Shuffle

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

"We were the best show of 2019, according to Chortle," say Tarot. "And the sixth-best show of 2022, according to the Guardian. Come watch us continue our slow descent into mediocrity!" They continue: "Joyously silly and uproariously live and in-the-room, we would call it improv, but we've got some self-respect: this is sketch in nighties. Come watch a new tour of big, daft and, above all, live comedy, conjured up in front of your very eyes..."



Tim Murray Is Witches

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

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

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



Dazzling Diamonds

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

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

Dad's Army Radio Show

Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock, Wed 13 November

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

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



BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Director Carlos Acosta

Sir Peter Wright's

The Nutcracker

22 November - 14 December

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Sunday Times



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

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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

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Thu 21 Nov



Wreath Making

Fri 29 and Sat 30 Nov

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



EXHIBITION
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until **SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2025**

Film highlights in November...



Gladiator II CERT tbc (150 mins)

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

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

Released Fri 15 November



Heretic CERT 15 (110 mins)

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

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

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

Released Fri 1 November

Paddington In Peru

CERT PG (103 mins)

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

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

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

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

Released Fri 8 November



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Film highlights in November...

Wicked CERT PG

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

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

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

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

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

Released Fri 22 November



Conclave CERT 12A (120 mins)

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

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

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

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

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

Released Fri 29 November



Moana 2 CERT PG (100 mins)

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

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

Set three years after the events of the

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

Released Fri 29 November



BMAG IS BACK!

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

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

contemporary British 20th-century paintings...

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

more substantial.

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

The Bridge Gallery

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

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

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

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



Industrial Gallery

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

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

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

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

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

The Round Room

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

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

Pixel Studio

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



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

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



Wild City

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

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

Curtis Holder: Drawing Carlos Acosta

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



Temporary Exhibitions

Deviance & Difference

Artworks by graduates from Birmingham City University's School of Art here sit alongside pieces from the museum's historic art collection, with works by Francis



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

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

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

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



Painted Dreams: The Art Of Evelyn De Morgan

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sun 9 March

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

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

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

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

WASTE AGE

WHAT CAN DESIGN DO?

Sat 26 Oct 2024 - Sun 23 Feb 2025

Open daily, 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.

Kindly supported by Eversheds Sutherland, headline sponsor of Waste Age.



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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.

LABOURS OF LOVE

Friendship and conflict meet at Birmingham's Ikon Gallery



For the winter season, Ikon Gallery is hosting an exhibition that connects the art of Birmingham and its partner city, Lyon. The show explores the theme of friendship, from the personal to the political, and features vastly different works donated by contemporary artists, or sourced from macLYON and the British Council Collection. What's On spoke to three Birmingham artists who have contributed to the show - Pogus Caesar, Tereza Bušková and Luke Routledge - to find out more...

The Ikon Gallery concludes its 60th-year celebrations with a varied exhibition, curated in collaboration with The Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon - or macLYON. The exhibition's appropriately bilingual title, *Friends In Love And War - L'Éloge des meilleur-es ennemi-es*, hints at the notion that, lurking beneath the surface of supposedly amicable relationships, there might be more complex ideas at play. The cities of Birmingham and Lyon have been twinned since 1951. It's no coincidence that many of the works collected for the exhibition explore the idea of diplomatic and political partnerships. The show has already completed its first edition at macLYON, between March and July of this year, and now shows at Ikon until Sunday 23 February. Many works were gathered from the archives of macLYON and the British Council Collection, and the style often ventures into bold, strange, surreal places. On first entering the building, regular visitors will notice the addition of a striking mural sprawling the walls of the foyer, created by contributing artist Fabien Verschaere. This is the first indication that upstairs, across both of the venue's main galleries, sits something extraordinary.

While many of the contributing artists must travel across la Manche to see their work on display in its new situation, for some artists, Ikon is a lot closer to home. Renowned photographer Pogus Caesar grew up in Birmingham, and Tereza Bušková and Luke Routledge currently live and work in the city. The three artists - whose work on the surface could not seem more different - spoke about involvement in the exhibition.

Pogus Caesar's offering consists of black & white photographs from his huge series of work, *Schwarz Flaneur*. Taken between 1983 and the present day, the complete series comprises over 17,000 images, each captured on 35mm film. Considering the dizzying scale of the project, it seems extraordinary that only 10 images have been selected for the exhibition; as the artist says, "This is 10 seconds out of my life."

Working with film has its limitations - but this is something that Pogus embraces: "The joy for me about working with 35mm film, it's great because you've only got 36 opportunities. You're very selective in what you take, as opposed to digital, where you

can take hundreds and hundreds. With 35mm, you can't see what you've taken." Pogus can pinpoint which photograph he would choose, if he could only pick one to represent *Friends In Love and War*. "It would be *Dinner Ladies*. When that was taken, I used to have a tiny little office in a school in Handsworth. We didn't have any lunch breaks. I always remember, when you go somewhere, befriend the security guard and the people in the canteen..." The image shows a moment of playfulness and laughter between the school's dinner ladies. "When we first came to England, Black and Irish people, we worked together, and there was friendship as well. I think that from a multicultural point of view, that image says so much. You don't know what they're saying - they were quite saucy! There's a cheekiness in their eyes."

In complete contrast with Pogus' snapshots of real life, Luke Routledge's work enters a world of imagination and sits firmly in three dimensions. Entitled *Strangelets*, the sculptural piece includes large, brightly coloured and quite grotesque figures. It feels like the installation draws from both history and an imagined future. "I've always tried to make it ambiguous as to whether it's the past or the future," Luke explains. "All of the work that I make is becoming a constructed universe."

The sensory experience of the sculpture contributes to this idea, with a rubbery smell emanating from the mass of strange materials used. Luke gives some insight into how the *Strangelets* are really constructed: "They're usually made with a wooden armature. I'll make a skeleton of the figures, then I'll build up a wire mesh. The predominant material that I use is an air-dry clay that I make myself, as well as epoxy clays, resins and silicons. The work is a material assemblage. That idea of assemblage is critical to the work - pulling different ideas from different places. It's an idea assemblage as well as a material assemblage. It's like a big collage world."

Tereza Bušková offers another entirely new perspective on the exhibition's theme. She presents a work named *Clipping The Church*, a video in which she revives and celebrates an ancient English custom. The practice involves a community holding hands to encircle a church, which she recreated in Erdington.

Originating from Prague in the Czech Republic, Tereza has lived and worked in Birmingham since 2013. While appreciating the importance of building a connection with the communities, she also wanted to bring something of her own cultural tradition into the mix.

"When I revived this custom, I wanted to bring something Slavic to the procession. You can see a wooden structure, almost like a pyramid, covered in pastry: this custom comes from south Bohemia. It was used for weddings, carried through the village, and then shared amongst everyone. I wanted to bring that to Birmingham. I knew this pastry - I used to make it with my mum and my grandma. I discovered that it used to be given to mothers after birth to give them strength. *Clipping The Church* being linked to *Mothering Sunday*, it felt like a perfect addition to the artwork."

Although the piece was originally filmed in 2016, Tereza is glad of the opportunity to further celebrate the work: "It hasn't had a proper screening where I could invite the different communities from Birmingham, and those who participated, to see the work... I look at it as a very poignant work, very relevant for current times, because there is so much division, and I believe through art you can build bridges and find a common ground."

Perhaps this is the nucleus of the whole exhibition - the capacity of art to represent, build and facilitate human connections. It is a collection of different perspectives, covering topics from the introspective individual, to global politics. Vastly different, but somehow linked.

As Pogus Caesar summarises: "It's just about bringing things together, showing that we can coexist with each other, especially with what's happening in the world today. We were friends once, now we're at war, but out of war, you can then become friends. This exhibition brings together such a diverse range of magnificence."

.....

Friends In Love And War - L'Éloge des meilleur-es ennemi-es shows at Birmingham's Ikon Gallery until Sunday 23 February.



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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.





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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



BRB: The Nutcracker at Birmingham Hippodrome - Fri 22 November - Sat 14 December

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

What's On

Fri 1 - Sun 10 November



The Man Who Thought He Knew
Too Much - The Rep, Birmingham

Fri 8 - Sat 9 November

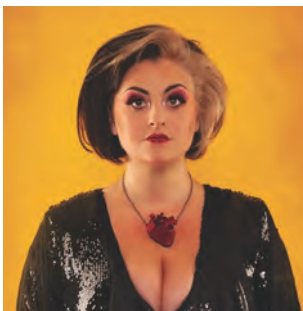
Mon 11 - Sun 17 November



Charles & Diana: The Reunion
Tour - Old Joint Stock Theatre

Sat 16 November

Mon 18 - Sun 24 November



Kiri Pritchard-McLean -
Midlands Arts Centre (MAC)

Sun 24 November

Mon 25 - Sat 30 November



CBSO: African Rhapsodies -
Birmingham Town Hall

Wed 27 November

VISUAL ARTS IN BIRMINGHAM

Barber Institute of Fine Arts

THE HIDDEN LIVES OF PLANTS

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

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

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, alongside 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.

CURTIS HOLDER: DRAWING CARLOS ACOSTA Curtis Holder, winner of Sky Arts Portrait Artist Of The Year competition in 2020, was commissioned to draw Carlos Acosta, director of Birmingham Royal Ballet. This display brings together portraits Curtis made during the competition and his working sketches.

The Exchange, Centenary Square, Birmingham

AI DIALOGUES Digital experience featuring leading academics from across the University of Birmingham. The interactive touch screen invites you to physically touch the future and gain firsthand insights into the advances in artificial intelligence which are shaping our world, until November

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

WE NEED 2 TLK: EXODUS CROOKS A new work by Midlands-based artist Exodus - intersecting with a University of Birmingham Archive Project - which seeks to expand

public engagement with the work of celebrated Jamaican British academic & cultural theorist Professor Stuart Hall, until Sat 2 Nov

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

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

(RE)CODED Collaborative research project sharing perceptions of data collection, use, dissemination, and how these are understood and acted upon by Birmingham's inner-city Caribbean diasporic communities, until Sun 17 Nov

Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham

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

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

GREENWOOD PRESENTS: FOR THE CULTURE Exhibition of work, by established and emerging artists, that responded to the theme, For the Culture, until Sat 9 Nov

RBSA SOLO EXHIBITIONS Featuring 3D works by Stephen Farley ARBSA, minimalism on paper from Steve Evans PPRBSA, and ceramic pieces by Mary Flitcroft ARBSA, until Sat 9 Nov

Elsewhere:

NELA MILIC: EXPLORING MEMORY, CONFLICT, AND COMMUNITY The final highlight of Centrala's 2024 Hybrid Landscapes project. The residency offers a rare opportunity to witness Milic's creative process in action, until Sat 9 Nov, Centrala, B'ham

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

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



Blossoms - O2 Academy

Gigs

CAOILFHOINN ROSE Fri 1 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

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

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

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

BLOSSOMS Fri 1 Nov, O2 Academy

PYNCH Fri 1 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

ELTON JOHN BY CANDLELIGHT Fri 1 Nov, The Alexandra

NINE BELOW ZERO + DR FEELGOOD Fri 1 Nov, The Crossing, Digbeth

VINCENT FLATTS Fri 1 Nov, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

MIDNIGHT CITY SOUL BAND Fri 1 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

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

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

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

ELLE-J WALTERS BAND Fri 1 - Sat 2 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr

SUPERCAAN + MANZONI GARDENS Sat 2 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE SONS OF PITCHES Sat 2 Nov, Hare &

Hounds, Kings Heath

THE DEADSHOTS Sat 2 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

ALICE LILY + KING CERULEAN + WURLITZER + SANTALUM Sat 2 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

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

NOASIS Sat 2 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

CUSP Sat 2 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

EVIL SCARECROW + COBRA THE IMPALER + RECALL THE REMAINS + BORN ZERO Sat 2 Nov, The Asylum, Hampton Street

GOSPEL GOES CHARITY Sat 2 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

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

METROPOLITAN NASH Sat 2 Nov, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

LIGHTNING THREADS Sat 2 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

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

EMO FESTIVAL Sat 2 Nov, hmv Empire, Coventry

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



10CC - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

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

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

Comedy

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

EMMA DORAN Fri 1 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

OMID DJALILI Fri 1 - Sat 2 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

LINDSEY SANTORO, LIAM TUFFY, CHANTEL NASH & DAVE TWENTYMAN Sat 2 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

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

MILO EDWARDS Sun 3 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROB NEWMAN Sun 3 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Theatre

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

PLEASE RIGHT BACK Award-winning company 1927 combine handcrafted animation and bold storytelling to take audiences into a magical, mysterious world inspired by a true story, Fri 1 - Sat 2 Nov, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

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

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

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

SÚPER 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Town Hall

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

Events

BRICK OR TREAT: MONSTER PARTY Spooktacular activities across the month, until Sun 3 Nov, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

ASCARIUM: TRICKS & TREATS Follow an immersive trail to help the witches and warlocks find their missing potion ingredients, until Sun 3 Nov, National SEA LIFE Centre Birmingham

FREDDO'S SPOOKTACULAR STAGE SHOW Expect plenty of spooks, surprises, tricks, treats and games, until Sun 3 Nov, Cadbury World, Bournville

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

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

TREATS & CHILLS The Wicked Witch of the North has cast a spell over the venue this Halloween, until Sun 3 Nov, SnowDome, Tamworth

DETECTIVE SCIENCE WORKSHOP Solve a whodunnit mystery using science experiments, until Sun 3 Nov, Ingenuity, Ironbridge

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

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

REEL AND MEAL: THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW A Halloween Reel &

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Music, Book & Lyrics by **TIM ACTO**

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Choreographed by **DAVID WINTERS**

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ZANNA DON'T! is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 122-124 Regent St, London, W1B 5SA, +44 (0) 20 7101 9596 www.theatricalrights.com

Meal special, Fri 1 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

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

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

THE BABY & TODDLER SHOW Bringing together everything you need to give your baby the best start in life, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Nov, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

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

CANDLELIGHT: A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN A live, multi-sensory musical experience, Sat 2 Nov, Birmingham Cathedral

CANDLELIGHT: THE BEST OF HANS ZIMMER A live, multi-sensory musical experience, Sat 2 Nov, Birmingham Cathedral

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

Birmingham

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

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

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

BIG FISH LITTLE FISH FAMILY RAVE: MONSTER MASH Shake your bones to a spooky soundtrack from DJ Raks, Sun 3 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

Fireworks & Bonfires

BROMSGROVE RFC BONFIRE NIGHT FUNDRAISER Featuring fireworks display and food vendors, Fri 1 Nov, Bromsgrove Rugby Football Club

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



Cake International - NEC, Birmingham

Park, Wolverhampton

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

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

WYTHALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS The event includes a bonfire and two fireworks displays, Sat 2 Nov, Wythall Park

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

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



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SELECTED DATES FROM 30 NOVEMBER

Gigs

OCTOBER DRIFT Mon 4 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SCOOTER + NEPTUNICA Mon 4 Nov, O2 Academy

THE STYLISTICS Mon 4 Nov, Symphony Hall

DEEP PURPLE Mon 4 Nov, bp pulse LIVE

THE FELICE BROTHERS Tues 5 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

ARXX + PHOEBE GREEN Tues 5 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

CELESTE Tues 5 Nov, The Asylum, Hampton Street

KOYO Tues 5 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright St

HANNAH SCOTT Tues 5 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

ED HARCOURT Wed 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE DREAM MACHINE + FERGY LH Wed 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

HAMILTON LOOMIS Wed 6 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

DADDY LONG LEGS + STREET SERMONS Wed 6 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

EZRA COLLECTIVE Wed 6 Nov, O2 Institute

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

SOFT CULT Wed 6 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

THE ELO SHOW Wed 6 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

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

LUKE JACKSON Wed 6 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

AURELIO VOLTAIRE Wed 6 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

DELILAH BON Thurs 7 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

BARE JAMS Thurs 7 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

SWITCHFOOT Thurs 7 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

FAITHLESS Thurs 7 Nov, O2 Academy

ZEKE Thurs 7 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

DOG UNIT Thurs 7 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

GILLIAN CARTER Thurs 7 Nov, The Asylum, Hockley

DEFECTS + PROFILER + KNIFE BRIDE Thurs 7 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

JOHN STOWELL AND ALEX MERRITT Thurs 7 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

HEIDI TALBOT & BOO HEWERDINE Thurs 7 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

THE SKINNER BROTHERS Fri 8 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SHAM 69 Fri 8 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

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

BRADLEY SIMPSON Fri 8 Nov, O2 Institute

SAM TOMPKINS Fri 8 Nov, O2 Institute

MARISA AND THE MOTHS Fri 8 Nov, O2 Institute

GILBY CLARKE Fri 8 Nov, The Asylum, Hockley

BUGEYE Fri 8 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright St

REKESH CHAUHAN Fri 8 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

HUE AND CRY Fri 8 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

KASABIAN Fri 8 Nov, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

THE DESTROYERS Fri 8 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Edgbaston

STONE FOUNDATION Fri 8 Nov, The Crossing, Digbeth

STEVE AJAO BLUES GIANTS Fri 8 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

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

WIRED FOR SOUND - THE CLIFF RICHARD SHOW Fri 8 Nov, Sutton Coldfield

Town Hall

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

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

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

MARCUS KING Sat 9 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BLACKOUT PROBLEMS + LAKE MALICE Sat 9 Nov, O2 Academy

GRIFF Sat 9 Nov, O2 Academy

MOLESTA EWENEMENT Sat 9 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

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

SPIZZERNERGI Sat 9 Nov, The Flapper, Digbeth

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

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

NEARLY DAN Sat 9 Nov, The Crossing, Digbeth

BOB DYLAN Sat 9 - Sun 10 Nov, The Civic at The Halls W'hampton

GRAINNE DUFFY Sun 10 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

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

ARTEMAS Sun 10 Nov, O2 Institute

AMYL AND THE SNIFFERS Sun 10 Nov, O2 Academy

CREDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW Sun 10 Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

MAZ MITRENKO BAND Sun 10 Nov, The Brasshouse, Broad St

KATY ROSE BENNETT Sun 10 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Edgbaston

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

Classical Music

THOMAS TROTTER ORGAN CONCERT

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

RBC LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Samuel Franks (trombone), Joanne Sealey (piano) & Meizhu Chen (piano). Programme includes works by Martin, Debussy, Schubert & more...., Mon 4 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RBC ORGAN FESTIVAL Featuring Daniel Moul, Nicholas Wearne, Anna-Victoria Baltrusch, Carolyn Craig and Henry Fairs (organ).

A week-long festival to inaugurate the Conservatoire's new 'Juliet' organ in a programme of concerts, talks & masterclasses, featuring works by Elgar, Parry, Saint-Saëns, Franck, Schumann & more...., Mon 4 - Sun 10 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

NIO PERCUSSION DUO Featuring Hsuan Wu & Jin-Wei Huang. Programme includes works by Ravel, Morag, Rachmaninoff & more...., Tues 5 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

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

ROSAMUNDE TRIO Featuring Martino Tirimo (piano), Ben Sayevich (violin) & Daniel Veis (cello). Programme includes works by Lalo & Smetana, Wed 6 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

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

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

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: BRASS QUINTET Featuring Jason Lewis & Jonathan Quirk (trumpets), Elspeth Dutch (horn) & Richard Watkin (trombone). Programme includes works by Maynard, Gough, Bach & more...., Fri 8 Nov, CBSO Centre, B'ham

BARBER LUNCHTIME CONCERT: NEW VIALLES - EX TEMPORE Featuring Caroline Ritchie & Henrik Persson (bass viols) & Lynda Sayce (theorbo). Programme includes works by Simpson, Young, Jenkins & Hely, Fri 8 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: FAIRE IS THE HEAVEN

Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor) & Martyn Rawles (organ). Programme includes works by Bainton, Bates, Parry, Fauré & more...., Sat 9 Nov, St Francis Church, Bournville

DURUFLÉ REQUIEM Featuring Birmingham Cathedral's Choir of Girls and Lower Voices, Sat 9 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: GOLDBERG VARIATIONS Featuring Eugene Tzinkidelean (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), Haegee Lee (soprano) & Elgan Llyr Thomas (tenor). Programme includes works by Ravel, Handel, Puccini, Sibelius & more...., Sun 10 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FAURÉ REQUIEM - COME AND SING Featuring Birmingham Festival Choral Society's Music Director, David Wynne. The event includes an afternoon rehearsal and evening performance with a chorus and orchestral accompaniment, Sun 10 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

HENRY ROWLEY Tues 5 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CARL DONNELLY, PAUL THORNE, MIKE RICE & FREDDY QUINNE Wed 6 Nov, Herberts Yard, Birmingham

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

MARK THOMAS Thurs 7 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HARRIET KEMSLEY Thurs 7 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

TRAVIS JAY Fri 8 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

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

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

FRANK SKINNER Fri 8 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

GRACE CAMPBELL Sat 9 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

QUINCY, AARON WOOD, CHANTEL NASH & DAVE LONGLEY Sat 9 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

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

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

JIMMY CARR Sat 9 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AMY GLEDHILL Sun 10 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

FELICITY WARD Sun 10 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Theatre

WHY I STUCK A FLARE UP MY ARSE FOR ENGLAND A 'blisteringly funny new play' which asks what it means to belong to a club that you live for.

Visiting Birmingham following a five-star sell-out Edinburgh Festival run, Mon 4 - Wed 6 Nov, The Rep, B'ham

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HERE & NOW - THE STEPS MUSICAL Brand-new musical, directed by Rachel Kavanaugh, which follows four supermarket colleagues as they steer their way through a summer filled with happiness, heartache, hurt and humour - all set to the iconic tunes of pop group Steps, Sat 9 - Sat 30 Nov, The Alexandra, Birmingham

Kid's Theatre

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

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

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

Dance

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

Theatre, Coventry

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

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

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 7 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

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

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

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 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

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

CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS: THE BEST OF JOE HISAISHI Performed by The Sekine Quartet, Sat 9 Nov (6pm), Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS: THE BEST OF BOLLYWOOD AND TOLLYWOOD ON STRINGS Performed by The Sekine Quartet, Sat 9 Nov (8.30pm), Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Events

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

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

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

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

LANCASTER INSURANCE CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW Event showcasing over 3,000 classic cars and 350-plus exhibitors, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

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

EDGBASTON VILLAGE LIGHTS SWITCH-ON This event takes place alongside the Edgbaston Village Artisan Market, Sat 9 Nov, Edgbaston Village

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

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7.00pm

Soprano:
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Alto:
Jess Dandy

Tenor:
Bradley Smith

Harpsichord:
Thomas Trotter

Bass:
James Cleverton

Conductor:
Adrian Lucas

Ticket Prices:

£25.00 £35.00 £41.00 £49.00

(Includes ticket commission)

Concessions:

18 - 30: **£10.00** Child Under 18: **FREE**

Benefit Recipients & Students: **£5.00**

For more information on the choir and our concerts, visit

www.citychoir.org.uk  

Gigs

VANESSA FORERO & THE VINES Mon 11 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

MOONCHILD SANELLY Mon 11 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queenway

UPSAHL + ELLIE DIXON Mon 11 Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

JOACHIM COODER Mon 11 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

ASHLEY SINGH Tues 12 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

ROLE MODEL Tues 12 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

CLEO Tues 12 Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE & ABEL SELAOCOE Tues 12 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

LEWIS BARFOOT Tues 12 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

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

PARTY DOZEN Wed 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

TC & THE GROOVE FAMILY + NEONE Wed 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

EDGAR MACÍAS QUINTET Wed 13 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr

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

JACOB LEE Wed 13 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

MOLASS Wed 13 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

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

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

FRENCH POLICE Wed

13 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

RACHEL CHINOURIRI Wed 13 Nov, O2 Academy

TFS Wed 13 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

JOSHUA BURNELL TRIO + LUCA FALCOMER-DAWSON Wed 13 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Rd

JAMIE CULLUM Wed 13 Nov, Symphony Hall

CAMERON SANDERSON Wed 13 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth

THE SOUNDS OF SIMON Wed 13 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

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

CHINA CRISIS Thurs 14 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SNAZZBACK Thurs 14 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

GINA LARNER Thurs 14 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

WALT DISCO Thurs 14 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

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

THE ORB + OZRIC TENTACLES Thurs 14 Nov, O2 Academy

HIBUSHIBIRE + BLACK HELIUM Thurs 14 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

WAILING BANSHEE Thurs 14 Nov, Subside Bar, Birmingham

TORUS + CITY DOG Thurs 14 Nov, The Victoria, Vicarage Road

PAT METHENY Thurs 14 Nov, Symphony Hall

THE CORRS Thurs 14 Nov, bp pulse LIVE

SUNNY SWEENEY Thurs 14 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

NAS Thurs 14 Nov,



Capercaillie - Birmingham Town Hall

The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

MERYL STREEK Fri 15 Nov, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

BLONDIED Fri 15 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

AMBLE Fri 15 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

PENETRATION Fri 15 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BEABADOOBEE Fri 15 Nov, O2 Academy

SPORTS TEAM Fri 15 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

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

TORTURED DEMON + 7 YEAR WAR Fri 15 Nov, The Asylum, Hockley

THE CHASE Fri 15 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

SISTER SLEDGE Fri 15 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

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

MARTIN MCALOON Fri 15 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Edgbaston

RUTH GOLLER'S SKYLLA + TRAINING Fri 15 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Edgbaston

CARGO Fri 15 Nov, The Crossing, Digbeth

TAXI FOR JESUS Fri 15 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

REMEMBER MONDAY Fri 15 Nov, Mama

Roux's, Digbeth

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

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

ULTIMATE MADNEZZ Sat 16 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

DAMAGE Sat 16 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

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

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

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

DEATH OVER DIGBETH Sat 16 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

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

MARUJA Sat 16 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

THE DUBLINERS ENCORE Sat 16 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

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

BIG Q FISH Sat 16 Nov, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

THE ROOTERS Sat 16 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

WAYNE DILKS - THE

GEORGE MICHAEL LEGACY Sat 16 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

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

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

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

THE ICICLE WORKS Sun 17 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

TWIN ATLANTIC + DAYTIME TV Sun 17 Nov, O2 Academy

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

AFLECKS PALACE Sun 17 Nov, Dead Wax, Digbeth

PETE HYDE & THE VIELLARDS Sun 17 Nov, The Brasshouse, Broad Street

MICA MILLAR Sun 17 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

ELEANOR MCEVOY Sun 17 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

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

KALEO Sun 17 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

CAPERCAILLIE Sun 17 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

Classical Music

FAURÉ AND HIS WORLD - A CENTENARY CELEBRATION RBC's centenary celebration of Gabriel Fauré, featuring Pascal Rogé (piano) & more..., Mon 11 - Fri 15 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

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

MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE & ABEL SELAOCOE (CELLO) Also featuring Rakhi Singh (violin), Simmy Singh (violin), Ruth Gibson (viola), Alan Keary (bass guitar) & Sidiki Dembele (percussion). Programme includes a fusion of South African folk and Classical strings, Tues 12 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: DOUBLE BASS & FRIENDS Programme & performers to be announced, Wed 13 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

NSPCC FUNDRAISING CONCERT Thurs 14 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

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

SEPTURA Programme includes works by Joplin, Lassus, Prokofiev & Gershwin, Fri 15 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham



BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY: MUSIC FROM AMERICA Featuring David Wynne (conductor), Kevin Gill (piano & organ) & Tom Peverelle (percussion). Programme includes works by Bernstein, Whitacre & more..., Sat 16 Nov, St George's Church, Edgbaston

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

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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR Featuring Hannah Davey & Nina Bennet (sopranos), Tim Burton (tenor), Thomas Humphreys (bass), Adrian Lucas (conductor) & The Westminster Chamber Orchestra. Programme includes works by Mozart & C McDowall, Sun 17 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

FRANK SKINNER Mon 11 - Thurs 14 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

NAT'S WHAT I RECKON Tues 12 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

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

LUCY BEAUMONT Thurs 14 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



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

PETER KAY Fri 15 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

RUSSELL KANE Fri 15 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome



ALFIE MOORE Fri 15 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull

TATTY MACLEOD Fri 15 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

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

ED GAMBLE Sat 16 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MARK SIMMONS Sun 17 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANGELOS EPITHEMIU + MARKUS BIRDMAN + MAUREEN YOUNGER +

WAYNE BEESE Sun 17 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

Theatre

OUR HOUSE St Alphege Musical Production Society present an amateur version of the Madness musical, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

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

THE GAME'S AFOOT Erdington Players present an amateur staging of Ken Ludwig's festive thriller, Wed 13 - Sat 16 Nov, URC Church, Erdington

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

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

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

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

KING LEAR Amateur version presented by the Crescent Theatre Company, Sat 16 - Sat 30 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

PCK DANCE: IMAGO A sophisticated and daring dance duet exposing the intricate and often hidden dysfunctions in relationships.... Wed 13 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

DEEPAVALI - THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT Jaivant Patel Company present a showcase of dance styles in celebration of the Festival of Light, Sat 16 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

EXPRESS YOURSELF LIVE TOUR 2024 Birmingham regional heat featuring competitive performances, live challenges and awards, Sun 17 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

BOX OF FROGS High-octane show comprising songs, sketches and scenes, all made up on the spot,



Charles & Diana: The Reunion Tour - The Old Joint Stock Theatre

Wed 13 Nov, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

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, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

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, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BOWIE BY CANDLELIGHT Fri 15 - Sat 16 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

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, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Events

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

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

CLOTHES SWAP Take up to 10 clean

items, get a token and choose nearly-new ones with help from a fashion stylist and sewing crew, Thurs 14 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

BABY SCIENCE Join researchers from the University's Babylab for a morning of baby-friendly activities, Thurs 14 Nov, The Exchange: 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham

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

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



BOOK EXTRAVAGANZA Featuring a diverse range of stalls, Sat 16 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

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

Gigs

CHARLIE MCDERMOTT
Mon 18 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

LEWIS FITZGERALD
Mon 18 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

WES NELSON + PRINZ
Mon 18 Nov, O2 Academy

LIZ LAWRENCE Mon 18 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

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

BLACK STONE CHERRY
Mon 18 Nov, bp pulse LIVE

ECHOBELLY + BLUE VIOLET Mon 18 Nov, The Rainbow, Digbeth

ALBERTA CROSS Mon 18 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

DEARY + HONGZA
Tues 19 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

DEFENCES + THOUSAND THOUGHTS
Tues 19 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

FUK Tues 19 Nov, The Dark Horse, Moseley

WASIA PROJECT + HOHNEN FORD Tues 19 Nov, O2 Academy

GODIVA + VOODOO + CARNIWHORE Tues 19 Nov, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

HANNAH JAMES AND TOBY KUHN Tues 19 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

KING CREOSOTE Tues 19 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

AN EVENING WITH... TINA TURNER & DONNA SUMMER Wed 20 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

GLEN MATLOCK Wed 20 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

SIM + FROZEMODE
Wed 20 Nov, O2 Institute

OLD MERVS Wed 20 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

POKEY LAFARGE Wed 20 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

BEN WALKER & KIRSTY MERRY + SUE STEVENS Wed 20 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Rd

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

SHE'S IN PARTIES
Thurs 21 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath



THE REAL THING Thurs 21 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Qtr

SKIES BEHIND Thurs 21 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

CHRISSEY COSTANZA + VOILA Thurs 21 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

KINGFISHR Thurs 21 Nov, O2 Academy

BREED 77 + RED METHOD + BLACK WATER FIEND Thurs 21 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

LOST ROMANTIC Thurs 21 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright Street

NIWEL TSEMBU Thurs 21 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

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

WALT WEISKOPF PRESENTS Thurs 21 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

KEITH JAMES: THE SONGS OF NICK DRAKE
Thurs 21 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

MUD Thurs 21 Nov,

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

DUB PISTOLS Fri 22 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

A VOID + FÜTUMCHE
Fri 22 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

DESPERATE JOURNALIST Fri 22 Nov, The Dark Horse, Moseley

86TVS Fri 22 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE DURAN DURAN EXPERIENCE + LOVE DISTRACTION Fri 22 Nov, O2 Academy

VALIANT Fri 22 Nov, O2 Academy

MOVING PICTURES Fri 22 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

BRYDE Fri 22 Nov, The Victoria, John Bright St

VALENTINA FIN Fri 22 Nov, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

BELLOWHEAD Fri 22 Nov, Symphony Hall

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, Pershore Road

CAESARIA Fri 22 Nov, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

BIG IMAGE Fri 22 Nov, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

ELECTROMANTICS Fri 22 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

TURIN BRAKES Fri 22 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

LACK OF AFRO Sat 23 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

BIG SKY ORCHESTRA
Sat 23 Nov, The Dark



Pokey LaFarge - Castle & Falcon

Horse, Moseley

YOUNG ELTON Sat 23 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

THE HIGH KINGS Sat 23 Nov, O2 Institute

JOEY VALENCE & BRAE
Sat 23 Nov, O2 Institute

CLOUDS OF EVERMORE + BLACK OUT BLINDS + BRAINROT + LAST CONSPIRACY + PARLEY Sat 23 Nov, O2 Institute

THE SMYTHS Sat 23 Nov, O2 Academy

LANSDOWNE Sat 23 Nov, The Asylum, Hockley

MASTIFF + GORGONCHRIST + SHRYKULL Sat 23 Nov, The Asylum, Hockley

COUNTRY ROADS Sat 23 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

NATHAN CARTER Sat 23 Nov, Symphony Hall

TARA LILY Sat 23 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

COURTEENERS + DMA'S + MYSTERY JETS Sat 23 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

STEVE KNIGHTLEY Sat 23 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

MIDNIGHT CITY Sat 23 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

THE MATT PROJECT
Sat 23 Nov, Joe Joe

Jims, Birmingham

ELIZA CARTHY & THE RESTITUTION + THE YOUNG'UNS Sat 23 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

W.H. LUNG + PEM Sun 24 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

D'YANI Sun 24 Nov, The Jam House, Birmingham

WILD RIVERS + RILEY PEARCE Sun 24 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JAMIE WEBSTER Sun 24 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BLACKLIST + EXORCISM Sun 24 Nov, Subside Bar, Birmingham

OFFICIAL DECEIVERS
Sun 24 Nov, The Brasshouse, Birmingham

JENNIFER BOLTON AND FRIENDS Sun 24 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

VILLANELLE Sun 24 Nov, Mama Roux's, 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

Classical Music

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

PETER DONOHOE PIANO RECITAL
Programme includes works by Debussy, Ravel, Messiaen & more..., Mon 18 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE MUSIC OF ERROLLYN WALLEN
Featuring Sarah O'Flynn (flute), Clare O'Connell (cello) & Roderick Chadwick (piano). Programme includes Wallen's Dervish and premier performances of work from five RBC student composers, Tues 19 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

TRAVEL & PLACE Featuring RBC Musicians. A mesmerising experience through unpredictable chromatic worlds created by ten pianos and ten flautists. The audience is invited to sit or lie on the floor or travel around the room, Tues 19 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: THE MUSIC MAKERS Featuring Sofi Jeannin (conductor), Dame Sarah Connolly (mezzo soprano), CBSO Chorus, CBSO Youth Chorus & CBSO Children's Chorus. Programme includes works by Weir, Muhly, Britten & Elgar, Wed 20 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WILLIAM HOWARD PIANO RECITAL
Programme includes works by Skempton, Weir, & Chang Ge, Thurs 21 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RBC BAROQUE ORCHESTRA Featuring Lucy Russell (leader & violin). Programme includes works by JC Graun, JCF Fischer & Locatelli, Thurs 21 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

OPERA SCENES Featuring Lysanne van Overbeek (director), Mark Austin (conductor) & RBC Musicians. An annual showcase of talent from the Conservatoire's vocal department, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 Nov, The Lab, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

TIM STEWART ORGAN RECITAL Fri 22 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

CBSO: CUPPA CONCERT Featuring ensemble musicians from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme comprises a short relaxed concert of familiar music for those living with dementia, and their carers, Fri 22 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

BARBER LUNCHTIME CONCERT: SCENT AND THE ART OF THE PRE-

RAPHAELITES Featuring Katy Thomson (soprano), Angharad Rowlands (mezzo-soprano), Choir of The Queen's College Oxford & Owen Rees (director). Programme includes works by Debussy, Vaughan Williams, Ireland, & Finzi, Fri 22 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

AN EVENING OF ENGLISH SONG Featuring James Gilchrist (tenor) & Eric McElroy (piano). Programme includes works by Butterworth, Carwithen, McElroy & more..., Fri 22 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ERROLLYN WALLEN AND THALLEIN ENSEMBLE Also featuring Daniele Rosina (conductor). Programme includes Wallen's own work alongside new compositions by RBC students. The concert is followed by a talk with Errollyn Wallen in conversation with Joe Cutler, Fri 22 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

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



BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY SINGERS AND UNIVERSITY UPPER VOICES Featuring Bob Chilcott & Mariana Rosas (conductors). Programme includes works by Aleotti, Panufnik, Poulenc & more..., Sat 23 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

TARA LILY SPOTLIGHTING BANGLA WEEK: CLOSING NIGHT CONCERT Featuring Tara Lily & members of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sat 23 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

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

WIND BAND AND SAXOPHONE CHOIR Featuring Angus Winton, Thomas Wykes, Louise Akroyd (conductor). Programme includes a selection of arrangements of show tunes and movie themes, Sun 24 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

Comedy

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

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

PAUL F TAYLOR, ALEX CAMP, ANDREW WHITE & ADAM BEARDSMORE Sat 23 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

DANE BUCKLEY, DAVE FULTON, JOSH PUGH & DAISY EARL Sat 23 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

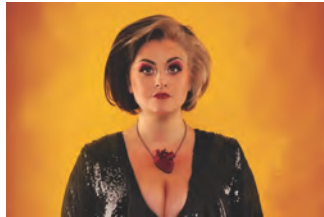
DAVE CHAWNER, GARY DELANEY, KYRAH GRAY & TOMMY SANDHU Sat 23 Nov, The Rep, Birmingham

LUCY PORTER Sat 23 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

TOM WARD Sun 24 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HARE OF THE DOG COMEDY Sun 24 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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



Theatre

SHŌN DALE-JONES: THE DUKE A playful show that 'gently challenges our priorities in a world full of crisis', Tues 19 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME Redditch Operatic Society presents an amateur version of Victor Hugo's epic novel, Tues 19 - Sat 23 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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 21 Nov, Wythall Community Club, Birmingham

NIGHTMARES Featuring three classic ghost stories, performed live on stage in a gothic show which promises to leave audiences 'quaking' in their seats', Fri 22 Nov, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

MAKE GOOD - THE POST OFFICE SCANDAL Pentabus Theatre present a new musical telling the story of the resilience of the sub-postmasters and their families, in what is now recognised to be one of the gravest miscarriages of justice in British history, Fri 22 Nov, Feckenham Village Hall, Redditch

REWRITES - CHOSEN A pop-rock comedy musical about Sue, an IT support technician in her 60s, who wakes from a coma to discover that half the world has been zombified... Rewrites is a partnership programme showcasing work-in-progress new musicals at the start of their journey, Fri 22 - Sat 23 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

IS THAT A WHIP IN YOUR HAND? A comedy spoof in which Indiana Jones meets National Treasure meets Lara Croft, Sat 23 Nov, The Core Theatre, Solihull



AUSTENTATIOUS: AN IMPROVISED JANE AUSTEN NOVEL An 'all-star cast' improvise a new Jane Austen novel from a title given by the audience. Performed in period costume with live musical accompaniment, Sun 24 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

Panto

DICK WHITTINGTON Iain Laughlan stars in a festive favourite, with plenty of laughter guaranteed, Wed 20 Nov - Sat 4 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

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

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



Light Entertainment

WONDERS OF OUR UNIVERSE - THE AVERAGE SCIENTIST Storytelling and visuals combine in an evening of cosmic exploration, Tues 19 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

TIM MURRAY IS WITCHES A fusion of stand-up and original comedy about Tim's favourite pop-culture witches. The show is a tribute to LGBTQIA people 'and how they discover their magic once they find their coven', Tues 19 - Wed 20 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

YOUNG GAY AND A THIRD THING Join fast-rising stand-up Andrew White for a 'hilarious' new show tackling identity, authenticity and musical theatre-themed weddings, Thurs 21 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ALED JONES: FULL CIRCLE One-man show in which the classical crossover artist looks back on his remarkable career, Sat 23 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

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



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 dollop of festive fun. The event takes place inside the museum's hangars.

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

POETRY AFTER CHAI A night of poetry, prose and stories, presented by Bangladeshi Artist Development Agency, Thurs 21 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS: A TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR SWIFT 60-minute concert performed by The Sekine Quartet, Fri 22 Nov, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Events

MINI MOTORISTS MONDAY Event featuring a reading of Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus, some hands-on craft making and the chance to decorate some cardboard box cars, Mon 18 Nov, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM TOUR A 45-minute guided tour of a selection of key Birmingham-built objects. Learn about their importance to the city of 1,000 trades and the people who made them, Thurs 21 Nov, Thinktank

Birmingham Science Museum

GOOD FOOD SHOW WINTER EXPERIENCE Wander through a magical winter wonderland and snowy scenes before taking a ride on a vintage sleigh, Fri 22 Nov - Mon 23 Dec, Coventry Transport Museum

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

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, Birmingham

THE GREAT BRITISH LAND ROVER SHOW Featuring everything from parts and accessories to bespoke vehicle builds and incredible restorations, Sun 24 Nov, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

Upcoming Exhibition



LUMEN STUDIOS

Microworld Coventry

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

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

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

Herbert
Art Gallery & Museum

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

SCAN ME



TO FIND OUT MORE...

Gigs

METZ Mon 25 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

PENGUIN CAFE Mon 25 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CHRISTINE COLLISTER Mon 25 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

THE SOUTHERN RIVER BAND Tues 26 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

ARZ Tues 26 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

KARD Tues 26 Nov, O2 Academy

GRUFF RHYS + BILL RYDER JONES Tues 26 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? Tues 26 Nov, Symphony Hall

HAZLETT Wed 27 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

MODERN LITERATURE + THE VOYEYHS + MONOXIDE BROS Wed 27 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

FIT FOR AN AUTOPSY + SYLOSIS + DARKEST HOUR + HERIOT Wed 27 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BARS AND MELODY Wed 27 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

PARIS PALOMA + LUVCAT Wed 27 Nov, O2 Academy

KAREN PFEIFFER & PAUL WALKER + JOHN NAPIER Wed 27 Nov, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Road

SCOTT LAVENE Wed 27 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA Wed 27 - Thurs 28 Nov, Symphony Hall

MUIREANN BRADLEY Thurs 28 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

IMMERSION Thurs 28 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

DEL CAMINO Thurs 28 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

GULZ + SLUGMAN + YAKOV MCINTOSH Thurs 28 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook



Kard - O2 Academy

Queensway

KEZIA GILL + BLAKE O'CONNOR Thurs 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

JUSTIN NOZUKA Thurs 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

LAURA JANE GRACE & THE TRAUMA TROPES + PET NEEDS Thurs 28 Nov, The Asylum, Hockley

RBC BANDA BRASILEIRA Thurs 28 Nov, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

SLEEP TOKEN + BILMURI Thurs 28 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham

BRIGITTE BERAHA'S LUCID DREAMERS Thurs 28 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Edgbaston

BELLA HARDY Thurs 28 Nov, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

SURGEON + JAMES HOLDEN + FRIENDS Fri 29 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

N'FAMADY KOUYATE Fri 29 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

OASIS MAYBE Fri 29 Nov, The Night Owl, Digbeth

INME Fri 29 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE SNUTS + SIOBHAN WINIFRED Fri 29 Nov, O2 Academy

THE VIEW Fri 29 Nov, O2 Academy

SKINNY LISTER + RUSTY SHACKLE + BEN BROWN Fri 29 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

THE QUIREBOYS Fri 29 Nov, The Asylum, Hockley

NORTHERN SOUL ORCHESTRATED Fri 29 Nov, Symphony Hall

PALACE Fri 29 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CHARLI CX Fri 29 Nov,

bp pulse LIVE

MARTIN SIMPSON Fri 29 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Edgbaston

THE HOUSE OF LOVE + THE PRIMITIVES Fri 29 Nov, The Crossing, Digbeth

PETE GATES AND THE BLUETONES + THE FEARLESS SCOUNDRELS Fri 29 Nov, Tower Of Song, Birmingham

THE STYLISTICS Fri 29 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ZAYN Fri 29 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE Fri 29 - Sat 30 Nov, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

MORGAN Sat 30 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook, Queensway

THE LUKA STATE + KROOKED TONGUE Sat 30 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

EMBRACE Sat 30 Nov, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THEN JERICO Sat 30 Nov, O2 Academy

RICO Sat 30 Nov, O2 Academy

PIP BLOM Sat 30 Nov, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

CANE HILL + THE GLOOM IN THE CORNER + NAMELESS Sat 30 Nov, The Asylum, Hockley

A CORY TRILOGY: PART 2 Sat 30 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

XHOSA COLE Sat 30 Nov, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Edgbaston

THE MELVIN HANCOX BAND Sat 30 Nov, Tower Of Song, Pershore Rd

SHOWADDY WADDY Sat 30 Nov, The Wulfrun at The Halls W'hampton

Classical Music

RBC LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Maia Roberts (flute/piccolo), Joanne Sealey (piano) & Jiayi Chen (piano). Programme includes works by Harberg, Karg-Elert, Prokofiev & Debussy, Mon 25 Nov, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: AFRICAN RHAPSODIES Featuring Seckou Keita (kora - pictured), Suntou Susso (guest artist) & Clark Rundell (conductor). Programme puts the spotlight on the multi-stringed african instrument, the kora, Wed 27 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall



SECRET KISS Featuring Alice Rossi (soprano), Meg Kubota (reciter) & Geoffrey Paterson (conductor). Programme features a premiere of Peter Eötvös' Secret Kiss, and works by R Saunders, J Anderson & more..., Wed 27 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

AMINGTON BRASS BAND: CHRISTMAS CONCERT Featuring Chris Barker (musical director), Fri 29 Nov, The Hub at St Mary's Lichfield

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: CELLO ENSEMBLE Featuring Kate Setterfield, Catherine Ardagh-Walter, Sarah Berger, Helen Edgar, Jacqueline Tyler (cello) & Katherine Thomas (harp), Fri 29 Nov, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

NORTHERN SOUL ORCHESTRATED Curated by Stuart Maconie and featuring Joe Duddell and the BBC Concert Orchestra, Fri 29 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BARBER LUNCHTIME CONCERT Featuring Elisabeth Brauß (piano). Programme includes works by Beethoven, R Schumann, Prokofiev & Hough, Fri 29 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

FLUTE CHOIR AND CLARINET CHOIR Featuring Gemma Fletcher & William Ashley (conductor). Programme includes works by Gershwin, Holst, Grieg & more..., Fri 29 Nov, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

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 BRASS BAND - TRILOGY: PART 2 The performance includes the screening of a mystery classic movie to help mean-spirited conductor 'Edwyn Scrooch' mend his ways, Sat 30 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

TOM STADE Tues 26 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MIKE RICE Wed 27 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LARRY DEAN Wed 27 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

ALISTAIR BARRIE, HANNAH PLATT, JORDAN DUCHARME & PETE OTWAY Sat 30 Nov, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

MO GILLIGAN Sat 30 Nov, Utilita Arena Birmingham



TROY HAWKE Sat 30 Nov, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton

Theatre

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

GREASE The Arcadians Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of the iconic high-school musical, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Panto

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Festive family fun. Casting includes panto favourites Tam Ryan and Ian Adams, alongside Gladiator's Giant, SIX actor Jarneia Richard-Noel, Blood Brothers' Timothy Lucas and Waitress star Olivia Mitchell. Tom Lowe, who recently starred as King Triton in Unfortunate, also features, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 5 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Kid's Theatre

THE SMEDS AND THE SMOOS Stage version of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's joyful story about star-crossed aliens who fall in love and zoom off into space together. Suitable for audiences aged three-plus, Tues 26 Nov - Sun 29 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Light Entertainment

THE RAT PACK CHRISTMAS IN VEGAS

Direct from London's West End and featuring three talented performers as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr, Mon 25 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

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

BOX OF FROGS High-octane show comprising songs, sketches and scenes, all made up on the spot, Wed 27 Nov, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET The 'creme de la creme' of the cabaret world take to the stage to surprise and delight... Thurs 28 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

GOOD EVENING MR. BUBLÉ CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Tribute show featuring hits from Michael's most successful album: Christmas, Fri 29 Nov, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET The 'creme de la creme' of the cabaret world take to the stage to surprise and delight... Sat 30 Nov, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

CANDLELIGHT: A TRIBUTE TO ABBA A live, multi-sensory musical

experience, Sat 30 Nov, Birmingham Cathedral

CANDLELIGHT: A TRIBUTE TO COLDPLAY A live, multi-sensory musical experience, Sat 30 Nov, Birmingham Cathedral

Dance

FABRIC - A BEGINNING #16161D An immersive journey from darkness to light, Thurs 28 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome



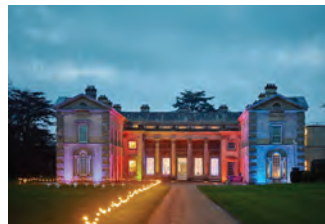
TOM CASSINI'S ITERATIONS A contemporary exposé of the magician's practice, which centres on Cassini's 15-year obsession with skill and sleight-of-hand, Fri 29 - Sat 30 Nov, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

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 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

AFTER HOURS Birmingham's Fatt Projects take over the galleries to explore themes of body adornment and identity, Fri 29 Nov, Compton Verney, Warwickshire



THE BIG SLEEPOUT Sleep rough for one night to raise funds for St Basils, Fri 29 Nov, Millennium Point, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM Festive wonderland with a chance to meet Father Christmas and the elves, Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

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

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

LUMINATE 2024 Mile-long trail featuring 'stunning lighting elements and fabulous light play, all set to music', Fri 29 Nov - Wed 1 Jan, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

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



BEWDLEY 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

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

ELF CADETS Learn how to load the sleigh, pick the right aircraft for the job and map a route for Santa, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Royal Air Force Museum Midlands, Cosford

CHRISTMAS ARTS MARKET A festive selection of some of the best work by Birmingham designer makers, Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

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

JP McCUE SEAN DODDS

ELLIE MOLONY SELEN BERRY HARRY PUDWELL

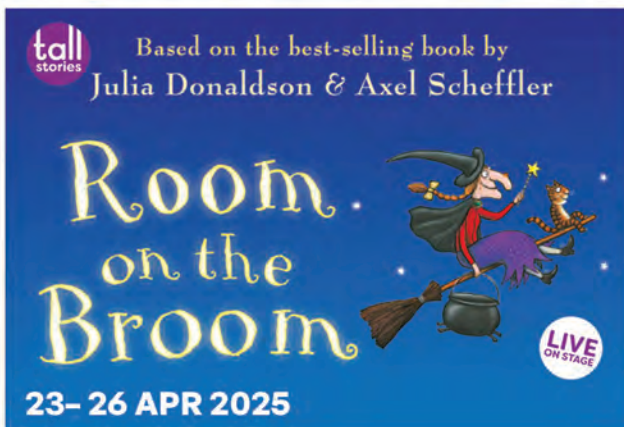
Beauty and the Beast

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